

Alumni Newsletter

Special Graduate Program in Civil Engineering & Infrastructure Management Program
YOKOHAMA National University, JAPAN

Greetings: Reflections on the World Bank Visit & Alumni Voices

September, 2025

Dear colleagues and friends,

My name is Kimitoshi Hayano, and I serve as Director of the Infrastructure Management Program (IMP) and Faculty Staff Organizer (FSO) in the Civil Engineering Department at Yokohama National University for the year 2025.



On June 18, we had the privilege of hosting Ms. Mercy Tembon, Vice President and Corporate Secretary of the World Bank, for a special lecture titled *"Working Together for Creating a World Free of Poverty on a Livable Planet."* Her talk, followed by an engaging Q&A session, offered valuable insights into the global challenges we face and the collaborative efforts needed to overcome them.

The event welcomed over 60 attendees, including six international students from the IMP—supported by the World Bank—as well as graduate students from various disciplines such as engineering, economics, and management. With participants representing more than 20 countries, the gathering truly embodied the spirit of international cooperation.

Ms. Tembon's message highlighted the power of unity across borders and fields of study in building a sustainable and equitable future. We hope that each attendee will carry her message forward and share it within their own communities.

Continuing our *Voices of Alumni* series, we are delighted to feature contributions from Dr. Bhowmik Sharmily (MEXT Special Graduate Program alumnus, Bangladesh) and Mr. Chol David Deng (JJ/WBGSP IMP alumnus, South Sudan). Their reflections and updates offer meaningful perspectives on life after graduation and the impact of their experiences at YNU. I extend heartfelt thanks to both for their participation.

I would also like to express my appreciation to the administrative team in the Civil-FSO/IMP Office for their dedicated support in making this initiative possible.

We hope this message serves as a bridge between past and present students, and encourages continued dialogue and connection within our growing global community.

Warm regards,

Kimitoshi Hayano

Professor, Civil Engineering Department
Yokohama National University

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Voices of SGP Alumni

Special Graduate Program

Dr. Bhowmik Sharmily

-Design Engineer, 清水建設株式会社
(Shimizu Corporation) , from Bangladesh

-A graduate of the Special Graduate Program under the MEXT scholarship (2018-2023)



I first met YNU on a fine snowy morning in February 2018. After seeing the campus, I felt reassured that my decision to come to a completely new country and start life among strangers was not so frightening after all. I could survive, perhaps even thrive, in this beautiful campus. As the cherry trees bloomed, my journey unfolded—page after page filled with learning, friendships, and memories. One year blended into the next, until my bittersweet story with YNU concluded in 2024, when I stepped into a new chapter as a Design Engineer at Shimizu Corporation, Tokyo. After completing both a Master's and PhD in geotechnical engineering at YNU, I am now engaged in various aspects of geotechnical and structural design as part of a general contractor.

Working as a designer in a construction company, I soon realized how different the world of a researcher is from that of a practicing engineer. Both come with their own challenges and rewards. At YNU, I did not just gain technical knowledge—I also developed the discipline to think critically, the patience to analyze deeply, and mostly, the courage to embrace uncertainty. These skills have become my toolkit in the fast-paced world of engineering design, where decisions must balance technical precision, cost, and practicality.

What I learned at YNU continues to guide me in navigating real-world challenges, from tackling complex soil behavior in design to communicating effectively with multidisciplinary teams. University life prepared me not only to solve equations, but also to solve problems that affect people, cities, and society.

To current students, I would say this: cherish your time at YNU. Learn with curiosity, question with humility, and embrace every challenge as preparation for the journey ahead. The lessons you absorb here will travel with you far beyond the campus gates. And as a bonus, our beloved campus has one of the most beautiful cherry blossoms.



At the YNU Graduation Ceremony

Mr. Chol David Deng

-Projects Coordinator, Ministry of Roads and Bridges (MRB), from South Sudan

-A graduate of the Infrastructure Management Program under the JJ/WB Graduate Scholarship Program (2018-2020)

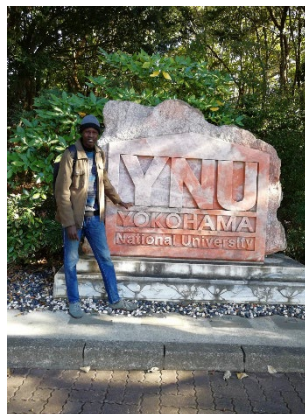


Job description:

- Coordinate planning, execution, and monitoring of road and bridge infrastructure projects.
- Act as liaison between the MRB, contractors, consultants, donors, and government stakeholders.
- Support procurement, contract management, and compliance with technical and financial requirements.
- Monitor project progress, conduct site inspections, and prepare reports for senior management.
- Ensure quality assurance, safety, and environmental safeguards in project implementation.
- Assist in risk management, issue resolution, and stakeholder consultations.
- Capacity building and documentation of best practices within the Ministry.



Welcoming Party of the IMP 13th Cohort



November 15, 2018

Yokohama National University (YNU) is more than a place of learning; it is where future civil engineers and leaders are shaped. From my experience, YNU offers not only academic excellence but also a nurturing environment that connects theory with practice. Its international setting, research strength, and location in the vibrant city make it ideal for those who aspire to build resilient infrastructure and serve society. Being in Yokohama, one of Japan's most dynamic cities and close to Tokyo, provides a strategic advantage for both personal growth and career development.

For anyone passionate about civil engineering and making a lasting impact, YNU provides the knowledge, skills, and vision to design solutions that truly matter.

**Voices
of
IMP
Alumni**

Infrastructure Management Program



With Family in Japan, 2020

My days at Yokohama National University remain some of the most memorable and life-changing moments of my journey. As a civil engineering student, I found myself in an environment that nurtured both academic growth and personal development. The lectures were inspiring, the research facilities world-class, and the friendships I built with colleagues from different countries are unforgettable. Life in Yokohama was equally rewarding, balancing studies with cultural discovery and family life.

One of my most cherished memories is that my daughter, Lueth, was born at Saiseikai Yokohamashi Tobu Hospital on October 19, 2019, while my wife and two boys were with me in Japan. YNU was not only a place of learning, but also the backdrop to some of my family's happiest milestones.

What's New

2025 Japanese Language Class Completion Ceremony

On July 29, 2025, the Department of Civil Engineering hosted the Completion Ceremony for the Japanese Language Classes offered during the academic year.

These classes—now known as “International Infrastructure Studio in Basic Japanese” and “International Infrastructure Practice in Basic Japanese”—have been a cornerstone of the department’s international education efforts for over 20 years.

After receiving their certificates, 13 students delivered impressive speeches in Japanese, sharing their research topics and reflecting on their learning journey.

The ceremony concluded with a lively reception, where students and faculty celebrated the end of the spring semester in a warm and festive atmosphere.



Civil-FSO/IMP Office

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