

Voices from Participants 2024

Visit to IIT-Kanpur

Visiting period: September 7-16, 2024

(This text was translated using Google Translate.)

What I learned in terms of training and language at the host university
I was mainly active in the research lab. On the first day, I was introduced to several labs, and from there I chose the one that interested me and stayed there for a week. I was introduced to a professor who had previously been an assistant professor at Yokohama National University and had conducted research with my supervisor, and I was able to learn about a topic that was quite similar to my own research. In addition to learning about research, I was shown around the campus, where everything was provided, including accommodation and temples, and was allowed to participate in classes for graduate students, which gave me an insight into the structure of Indian universities. As for the language, I had a hard time at first listening to the slightly idiosyncratic Indian English, but once I got used to it, I was able to enjoy technical discussions and everyday conversations.
What I learned about the lifestyle, culture and society of the host country
I felt that learning about the world outside of Japan also meant rethinking Japan. What I particularly felt was the difference in awareness between Indians and Japanese regarding politics and religion. Most of the Indian students knew the names of places like "Hiroshima" and "Nagasaki" and had strong opinions about the atomic bomb and war. While they were able to explain in detail about religious circumstances in India, I was unable to give a clear explanation when asked about religion in Japan, and I felt that they knew a lot more about India than about Japan. I was also able to visit several famous places and got a real sense of the size of the country of India and the diversity of its languages and cultures.
What I learned in terms of training and language at the host university
Although the research lab I stayed in was not in my field of expertise, we used the same numerical analysis software, and by asking questions repeatedly, I was able to deepen my understanding. By communicating keywords with gestures, I was able to experience the joy of bridging the gap in our understanding. During discussions about my research, I was given ideas on how to evaluate the analysis results, which I was struggling with at the time, and I was able to set a course for my future. I was greatly inspired by the IITK students who studied and played with all their might, and my motivation to study has increased since returning to Japan.
What I learned about the lifestyle, culture and society of the host country

I was surprised by many things, such as the relaxed attitude towards time, the atmosphere of the town, and the plumbing. It was also impressive that I was often asked about my thoughts on topics that are rarely discussed in Japan, such as politics, the atomic bomb, and nuclear power. In a country with a large land area and large population, I felt that in order to respect and coexist with others, it is important to know each other and accept each other's thoughts.

What I learned in terms of training and language at the host university

Regarding language, I was able to improve my English communication skills through communication with the local people. When I spoke to the local people in English, they spoke too fast and I couldn't hear them, but in those cases I checked the meaning of what they said. Also, in the first few days, I had a hard time conveying my opinions to the other person, but I tried to use simple English expressions and paraphrases so that the other person could understand me.

What I learned about the lifestyle, culture and society of the host country

I found the differences in food culture between Japan and India particularly interesting. In India, there is a distinction between vegetarians and non-vegetarians, people do not use their left hand when eating, and there are many other things that I felt were different from Japan, such as spicy seasonings. I ate the recommended dishes with some students and was able to deepen my understanding of the local food culture.

