

The voice of graduates

3 AGL graduates have completed the program and ventured into the real world.

report 02

Ayako Yagi

AGL 1st term student. Ph.D. in Engineering
2012 Joined AGL
2016 Completed the doctoral program of the Graduate School of Science and Engineering
Work at Weathernews Inc.



Akihiro Kimura

AGL 2nd term student. Ph.D. in Engineering
2013 Joined AGL
2016 Completed the doctoral program of the Graduate School of Science and Engineering
Work at Konica Minolta, Inc.

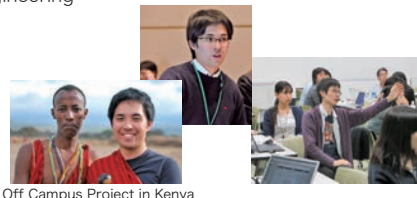


Uechi Joju

AGL 1st term student. Ph.D. in Engineering
2012 Joined AGL
2016 Completed the doctoral program of the Interdisciplinary Graduate School of Science and Engineering
Work at Renova, Inc.



Interview with Mr. Uechi on behalf of the graduates



Please tell us your profile and career options.

I completed the doctoral program of the Interdisciplinary Graduate School of Science and Engineering and the AGL program in 2016. My research topic was social acceptance of geothermal power developments. Currently, I work for Renova Inc., which leads innovations in renewable energy development.

Why did you choose to participate in AGL?

When I entered the Master's course, I wanted to contribute as a researcher to solutions for global environmental problems. I applied for AGL because it provided unique opportunities to be active globally through studying and discussing various topics with other motivated individuals.

What are your fondest experiences in AGL?

One of the most impressive programs of AGL is the business development training called the lean launch pad. In this program, participants not only create new business ideas but also build prototypes of products or services, find potential users, and verify their needs. My team's idea was an umbrella rental service. We tried to conduct numerous interviews with potential users and partner companies. Other teams built real applications or launched services. Through this experience, I became aware of my aptitude for such activities.

How did AGL impact you?

I used to think that the most important thing was to find new big problems and research potential solutions. Through the AGL curriculum, I began to reevaluate my role and contributions to addressing issues, and I discovered that it is more valuable to implement practical solutions to solve real problems. AGL greatly influenced my career choice. When I started, I thought I wanted to be a researcher. However, I chose to work for a company that focuses on business development. In addition, my AGL experience helped me become more confident and active.

What are your career plans?

Luckily, I have a meaningful job and work with excellent team members. I use the knowledge and network I gained through my research in the doctoral course, and I'm currently quickly gaining practical experience. However, I have much more to learn about achieving energy infrastructure development. Because energy infrastructure development projects take a long time to complete, I am consistently working hard on my first project. After gaining more experience, I plan to evaluate my next step: I'm unsure whether I'll continue with project development, become a specialist in one area, or return to research. Currently, I'm interested in developing new businesses to create totally new values, and I'm always thinking of new business ideas.

Do you have any advice for someone who strives to be a global leader?

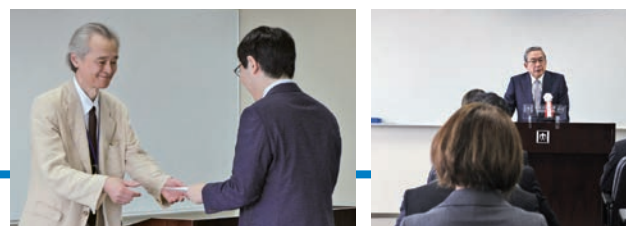
It is difficult without a specialty to not only be a leader but also to acquire a position on a team. If you have great specialty, your value will be recognized, leading to opportunities to make a difference globally. In addition, I wholeheartedly believe that a strong human network is very important as it provides connections and assistance when you face difficult situations. AGL students will become leaders in their respective fields. Together we can develop our professional networks.

Other Activities

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Enrollment Ceremony

AGL enrollment ceremony was held on September 27 at Tokyo Tech Ookayama Campus Ishikawadai Bldg. 3 Room 308. This year, AGL welcomed 12 course students from Tokyo Tech and 10 semester students from the affiliated Hitotsubashi University as the sixth-term students. Each student received a letter of acceptance to AGL from the AGL Director Isao Satoh. President Yoshinao Mishima encouraged the students by saying, "You might have days of challenge. However, don't be afraid of failure. Work unflinchingly on difficult tasks. I have high hopes that you will become a top leader not only in Japan, but also the world. These sixth-term students renewed their resolution to learn leadership through Dojo and Off-campus Programs of the AGL as well as to refine skills and knowledge in their major academic fields.



Inspection of the committee members of Program for Leading Graduate Schools

On August 27, 2016, AGL had an on-site inspection. Members of committees for the Program of Leading Graduate Schools provided valuable opinions, which will be used to guide AGL's future activities.



From Administration Office

AGL is celebrating its sixth year. Affiliated students are becoming accomplished leaders due to the unique education system of the AGL. Additionally, the optional program "Dojo Excursion" is a growth experience for students. Three students have completed the curriculum and ventured into the world. Additionally, we welcomed 12 new affiliated students in September. Please stay tuned for the exciting future of the AGL program.

AGL NEWS

Academy for Global Leadership

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Dojo Excursions

The Aim of AGL's Dojo Excursions

The education system of AGL is designed to be a mechanism that enables each student to develop his or her own abilities in collaboration with others. Namely, in the "fundamentals of humanity," which is a required subject before AGL selection, candidates learn "manners" and basic skills needed to communicate effectively. After selection, AGL students hone the necessary abilities to become global leaders through the Dojo Program, which consists of "introduction," "group work", and "completion project." In the Off-campus Programs, the students develop an understanding of what they should learn through first-hand experiences involving other people and fieldwork to address actual social problems.

In such an education system, it is desirable that students interact with people from diverse backgrounds as they gain experience (both successes and failures) and strengthen their abilities. Although AGL students represent different fields and universities, they all grow by competing against one another. However, the effectiveness of an education system based on competition decreases over time as the students become well acquainted with each other. To cope with this difficulty, AGL provides "Dojo Excursions," in which AGL students are exposed to different learning and growth opportunities through proactive discussions with people while visiting other sites. Specifically, the students initially negotiate the theme and procedures of the Dojo Excursion with the members of the visiting site. Once at the site, they execute the plan and interact with others to obtain new achievements.

In this issue, we feature the achievements of the Dojo Excursion held in Morocco in September 2016. I hope you enjoy the students' activities and impact while in Morocco.

Isao Satoh, Director of AGL

Past Record of Dojo Excursions

Theme	Destination	Period
Cross-border consensus building and entrepreneurship	University of Southern California / Companies in Silicon valley	2013/2/19~27
What is the issue in the disaster area?	Fukushima nuclear disaster area	2013/7/23~24
What is the leadership necessary for developing countries?	Ambassade du Japon au Maroc / Companies in Morocco	2013/9/15~25
Think about the future relationship between Indonesia and Japan	University of Indonesia / Institut Teknologi Bandung	2014/3/11~22
Think about emerging business in China	Companies in Dalian, China	2014/8/3~7
Consider the cooperation with evolving Indian society	Indian Institute of Technology / Companies in India	2014/8/27~9/7
Research of emerging business in Vietnam	Companies in Vietnam	2016/2/28~3/8



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AGL NEWS 008
Issued on November 29, 2016
Edited and published by
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Academy for Global Leadership
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Excursion to Morocco

report 01

Participants

Yoshio Saito
(Master of Dojo for Science and Technology)

Haruko Hirose
(Professor)

Midori Kawaguchi
(1st year Doctoral Student, Graduate major in Information and Communications Engineering, School of Engineering)

Hiroko Shimokawa
(1st year Doctoral Student, Graduate major in Architecture and Building Engineering, School of Environment and Society)

Yuki Taoka
(1st year Doctoral Student, Graduate major in Engineering Sciences and Design, School of Engineering)

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(2nd year Doctoral Student, Environmental Science and Technology, Interdisciplinary Graduate School of Science and Engineering)

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(2nd year Master's Student, Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering, Graduate School of Science and Engineering)

Ibuki Konno
(2nd year Master's Student, Social Engineering, Graduate School of Decision Science and Technology)

Tomoya Hamono
(2nd year Master's Student, Computational Intelligence and Systems Science, Interdisciplinary Graduate School of Science and Engineering)

Yuji Hirai
(1st year Doctoral Student, Graduate major in Global Engineering for Development, Environment and Society, School of Environment and Society)

Tatsuya Matsubara
(1st year Doctoral Student, Graduate major in Mechanical Engineering, School of Engineering)

Zhu Fei
(2nd year Master's Student, Faculty of Economics, Hitotsubashi University)

Schedule

September 17 Depart from Japan

September 18 Moving Day (Dubai → Casablanca → Rabat)

September 19 Visit the Japanese Embassy, JICA, JETRO, and MAScIR – Moroccan Foundation for Advanced Science, Innovation and Research

September 20 Workshop in Cadi Ayyad University

September 21 Workshop in Cadi Ayyad University

September 22 Workshop in Cadi Ayyad University
Tour of Atlas Olive Oil farm

September 23 Visit Safi Energy Company S.A
Tour of ORMVAD – Office Regional de Mise en Valeur Agricole des Doukkala

September 24 Depart from Morocco

September 25 Arrive at Japan

Tour of Atlas Olive Oil farm

Since 1887 Atlas Olive has been a traditional olive company. It owns 6,000 ha farms and factories. The company is vertically integrated; all steps from planting the trees to squeezing fruits are done in-house. The farm we visited was very vast (250 ha) . It was 30 minutes from Marrakesh by car. As we approached the farm, we could see olive trees lining up in a highly dense and orderly fashion as far as the eye could see.

First I wondered how such a rich soil exists on red ground with few native trees and grasses. I learned that the answer was three-fold. First, the dry ground makes it difficult for bugs to survive. Second, the natural environment such as snowmelt from the Atlas Mountains plays a role. Finally, the vast knowledge about olives, including irrigation and harvest technologies, has been accumulating for more than 100 years. Together these factors result in a lot of olives. I gained a strong appreciation for the peoples' effort and blessings of nature. Additionally, I appreciate Mr. Ameziane, Atlas Olive farm manager, for his warm hospitality.

Shenglei Lin, Student in charge

Comment

This study tour to Morocco in northwest Africa was the first time that most of the students stepped foot on the African Continent. Our week in Morocco was filled with diverse experiences. In addition to the main program of workshop at Cadi Ayyad University of Marrakech, they visited many places, including the Japanese Embassy, JICA, JETRO, International University of Rabat, Institute of Advanced Science, an olive farm, and a power plant.

At the workshop, AGL students deployed their knowledge and skills acquired at AGL, and took the initiative to build innovative solutions for sustainable development of society. Each group chose a topic and proposed a solution using analysis assisted by fieldwork. All groups worked well, demonstrating a positivity and cooperation, although the dynamics of the two cultures were at full play; the AGL students were serious and shy while the Moroccan students (mostly females) were cheerful and positive. Fortunately, the professors' initial apprehension of lack of preparation etc. was immediately resolved due to the professionalism and teamwork of the students.

The itinerary of the tours was very ambitious, and AGL students soaked it in like a dry sponge. You could see in their eyes, how they were transformed by this experience with a pro-Japanese country. Conversely, they also left the mark of Japan on the upcoming generations of Morocco.

Haruko Hirose, Professor

Excursion Overview

Due to the close relationship with the EU, the Kingdom of Morocco is steadily growing economically compared to other countries in Africa, which have experienced poverty due to epidemics and military conflicts. Morocco is a stable and safe nation politically and economically, and is expected to develop rapidly as a representative of African countries. For these reasons, we decided to take an overseas excursion to Morocco.

We visited the Japanese Embassy, JICA, and JETRO in Morocco. Additionally, we researched actual situations and observed close cooperation with Japanese companies. We toured olive plantations, thermal power plants, and vast plantations with canal irrigation. By inspecting a university and research institute, we exchanged opinions about how to globalize universities and research laboratories.

At Cadi Ayyad University our Japanese students worked with Moroccan students comparing the cultures and the economies of Morocco and Japan. They also participated in a workshop related to business models and cooperation between the two countries for joint economic development. They intensively discussed how to collaborate internationally by considering the traditional conditions of each nation. Consequently, the students built their global professional networks and made close friendships.

Yoshio Saito, master of Dojo for Science and Technology

Workshop in Cadi Ayyad University

Nine students from Cadi Ayyad University participated in our workshop held between 20 and 22 September. We set several missions with the goal of achieving sustainable development. Each team proposed a business model, service, or social system as a solution for their mission.

Our team consisted of two AGL students and two Cadi Ayyad students. We began with a group meeting to narrow down the problems in the mission and brainstorm solutions. Then we conducted field interviews to test our hypothesis and gave a final presentation. Due to the very limited schedule, we completed our final proposal on the third day.

I would like to share two impressive stories from our group work. During our interviews, the respondents' attitudes and behaviors demonstrated a commitment toward the environment. Our group's mission was about citizens' energy use. Many respondents told us that in order to mitigate environmental issues, our attitudes and behaviors are most important solutions. It was an important lesson for me that an environmental friendly attitude was widely shared among the Moroccan students. The other was the communication skills of the Cadi Ayyad students. From the beginning of our workshop, their bright personalities and outstanding communication skills led our discussions. Even during lunch and coffee breaks, they never stop talking. I was strongly impressed as communication skills are essential for global leadership. In addition, I was repeatedly asked that whether I told truth or just followed the majority. From this experience, I learned the importance of advocating for my opinion and providing a safe communication environment for all.

Yuji Hirai / Zhu Fei, Students in charge

Visit Safi Energy Company S.A

We visited a thermal power plant in Safi, a small port town in Morocco. Safi has both a small fishing industry and industrial plants for phosphate rock. As the town grows, the inhabited area is encroaching on the industrial area. Consequently, the Moroccan government decided to build a new industrial port in a town nearby. The Moroccan energy strategies aim to supply electricity to all of the country without imports from Spain while remaining an environmental friendly country. Morocco announced its plan to increase the ratio of renewable energy to 50% by 2030. As their plan involves a thermal power plant to supply stable electricity, they decided to invest in a high-efficiency power plant. The power plant we visited has a highly efficient energy power generation system that was realized by Japanese technology. In addition, the power plant was constructed jointly by a Moroccan company, Mitsui & Co., Ltd., and a French company.

Our visit was hosted by the person in charge of finance of the organization. He briefly explained the project and shared personal experiences of running an international project. I was impressed with his idea that the most important thing to run such projects is trust among people, which can only be built by respecting others. We could infer that efficient use of human resources is one of the most important aspects of being a global leader.

Midori Kawaguchi, Student in charge

Cadi Ayyad University



Safi Energy Company S.A.



Atlas Olive Oils



Upcoming Dojo Excursion (plan)

Excursion in Vietnam (24 February – 5 March 2017) Organized by Matsuki Dojo for Manage and Society

Participants: 8 students

Main Destination: Vietnam National University Ho Chi Minh National University of Natural Science and Technology

Objective:

To establish a network with future leaders through interaction between students of the National University of Vietnam Ho Chi Minh City Natural Science University.

To obtain knowledge leading to the creation of social value by visiting vibrant Vietnamese companies which rapidly growing economical.