

International students from Asia, Africa, the Middle East, North America, Latin America and just about everywhere else in the world are studying at TMDU. What are they studying? What are their aspirations? International students currently at TMDU report on their life here.

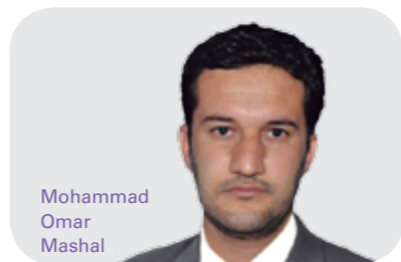
Reports by TMDU Overseas Students

Report 01

Contributing to better global health by cultivating professionals with knowledge and humanity at TMDU: a world-class center of excellence in public health research



Mohammad Omar Mashal
3rd year student, Department of Global Health Entrepreneurship, Graduate School of Medical and Dental Sciences



Mohammad Omar Mashal

ON GRADUATING WITH an MD from Kabul Medical University in Afghanistan, my dream was to pursue quality graduate education so as to contribute to the health and wellbeing of the Afghan people. I therefore joined the Public Health Leadership graduate course at TMDU in 2013.

Prior to TMDU, I was a national coordinator of a polio eradication program with Afghanistan's Ministry of Public Health. This work made me realize the great impact quality public health professionals can have.

The attributes of Japan, and the diverse, multicultural ethos of TMDU, notably the professional mentorship within the Department of Global Health

Entrepreneurship, which draws on decades of experience in international public health research, inspired me. This supportive environment, coupled with the department's more than 10 years of research practice in public health in Afghanistan, has empowered me to gain skills and understanding of public health from a global perspective.

At TMDU, I have had valuable opportunities to participate in public health and disease prevention courses and seminars, interacting with students and experts from different nations and learning from their experiences. The combination of studying on my own, interacting with international students and following a path illuminated by global

experts has helped me enhance my skills while deepening my knowledge.

Evidence-based learning and practice are among my foremost goals as a graduate student. At TMDU I have been doing research relevant to the healthcare financing system in Afghanistan and am currently involved in another project in collaboration with the Ministry of Public Health on school-based non-communicable disease prevention and control in Kabul. I am proud to be an entrepreneur in this regard. Learning at TMDU transcends frontiers.

Japan is renowned for its excellent health indicators, including a universal health coverage system and the highest life expectancy. Evidence-based health research has been a big contributing



With Prof. Nakamura and colleagues at a welcome gathering, October 2014

Special lecture by Dr. Hai Rim Shin on Healthy City, July 2015



factor. Although Afghanistan has been making progress in health care in recent years, there is a need for further improvement in disease prevention and control as well as for a comprehensive evidence-based health system.

In addition to my research, together with my family I am enjoying living in Japan. I will have a wealth of wonderful memories.

On completing the PhD course, I am keen to work with the Ministry of Public Health in Afghanistan. Initially, my

priority will be to help strengthen the health system and community-based prevention and control of communicable and non-communicable diseases. I will be seeking to upgrade my field experience and share it with coworkers in international public health. I hope my academic training plus the professional skills I am acquiring at TMDU will enable me to contribute to a well-functioning public health system in Afghanistan and ultimately to the improvement of human health around the world.



Amid the blossoms at Kamakura, April 2014

Report 02

TMDU, a wonderful educational journey



Minh Nguyet Dao Luong
3rd year student, Department of Cariology and Operative Dentistry, Graduate School of Medical and Dental Sciences



Minh Nguyet Dao Luong

MY STAY IN Japan has turned out to be the most blissful experience in my professional and personal life. Since Japan is one of the world's most desirable destinations with its technology and deeply rooted culture, I had been eager to visit the country since my teens.

After graduating from the University of Medicine and Pharmacy (UMP) in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, I wished to pursue graduate studies with the hope of becoming a lecturer at my faculty. While I was in an internship program in Canada, the dean at UMP informed me about the International Summer Program (ISP) in 2013 organized by TMDU. Japan is very attractive to me as a place to do research because of its prowess in dental materials made by Japanese manufacturers that are well known in Vietnam. This oppor-

tunity to study at TMDU promises to open up possibilities for me in my subsequent career. At ISP, lectures and lab tours at departments followed by cultural activities, such as visits to shrines and doing origami, gave me a very positive impression of TMDU. I passed the PhD Program Special Selection exam at the end of the program, which allowed me to receive a TMDU scholarship funded by Sony Corporation. I knew I had made the right choice when I became a student of the Cariology and Operative Dentistry Department.

My life as a researcher was busy but joyful thanks to the friendly and collaborative atmosphere throughout the department. I also had opportunities to present my work at conferences and expand my professional network.

While studying at TMDU, I have noticed differences in hospital practice between Japan and Vietnam. Besides the use of sophisticated medical technologies in examination, the payment method, handled by clerical staff or automated, is fast and convenient. Administrative departments at hospitals in Vietnam, which have to deal with many patients, could learn from the

Japanese approach.

Besides school, I am seeing as much of Japan as possible. I relish the chance to experience the natural surroundings and culture of this fascinating country. I love the customer service, the food and the hot springs.

I am grateful for this life-changing experience at TMDU that has allowed me to meet and work with wonderful people and enrich my knowledge in ways that should enable me to contribute to dentistry in Vietnam in the future. The memory of when I first met Prof. Tagami and Dr. Alireza Sadr, who also supported me in my work, and the prospect of the day when I can experience the graduation ceremony have motivated me to do my best so that I may deserve this wonderful opportunity at TMDU.



Student Chapter meeting with Prof. Tagami (left) and Dr. Sadr (second from left).



Year-end party with Dr. Shimada (fourth from left) and his research group.