

- **What was your job in your country and what made you decide to study in Japan?**

I was an assistant professor at Yachay Tech University, Imbabura, Ecuador. I decided to move to Japan because of the healthy balance between work and life, and the low crime rates of this country make me feel secure. I received two other offers from universities in the United States, but the Japanese approach is superior for creating long-term relationships, which will be beneficial in my career.

- **Please briefly describe your study at your university and academic matters you are now working on.**

Currently, I am learning cellular culturing in the Molecular Nutrition Laboratory here at Hiroshima University. My professor, THANUTCHAPORN KUMRUNGSEE, is one of the best myogenic culture experts in the world and is guiding me to the ways to create new ways to feed the world using cutting-edge culture media innovations and techniques, currently, we are working in a methodology to replace fetal bovine serum to plant base ingredients for make this process sustainable for scale and in the future reduce the cost of cellular agriculture developments.

- **Is there any difference between when you just came to Japan and right now?**

For me, the main difference was adjusting to a new life routine, learning how to be a student after holding a leadership position. I am slowly getting along with my day-to-day routine and learning from my fellow students and sensei, continually striving to improve every day. Now I can easily use the public transport and the payment system. The Japanese classes are invaluable, and the other JICA scholars are friends who help me improve every day. Life is good, and Hiroshima is a beautiful city with numerous attractions and activities to enjoy.

- **Please describe the best moment in Japan.**

My best moment was when I learn my first laboratory technique, single myogenic fiber isolation. For me, a food engineer who had never tried this aspect of biology, it was a challenge. Still, with the help and patience of my professor, I was able to do it a couple of days ago, I am the first one in my lab who is doing this, and they told me if i improve more they will let me teach to another student that need that, I am happy to this knowledge cocreation opportunity, I want to learn more techniques and become a important part for my laboratory.

- **How often do you interact with local Japanese people during the stay in Japan? If not, would you like to do something, such as participating in an event, attending for local school visit, to interact with local people? If you join the event, attend school visit, you can talk about that as well.**

All the time, not just with my lab partners, but with other students in the university, too. My priority is to collaborate with others in developing knowledge of Latin America. We are a small number of people from my region, so I will look for opportunities to engage with the good things of my culture, such as delicious food and a happy smile.

Happy to participate in all classes of activities. Especially those related to travel and discovering new places, I love to move and see the beauty that Japan has to offer. I participate in the gardening visits and JICA activities. Hopefully, my lab will organize a hiking trip in the summer, and I really want to join that too.

- **Suppose that the place and some money is given to you, what kind of “international events” would like to organize and how/when/whose target, etc.?**

I don't have experience organizing cultural events, but free Spanish classes can be interesting for some people. They could be just enough for learning simple songs for parties and special occasions, and will be open to all who want to join.

- **Anything you want to share about you, such as hobby, food, Japanese culture, your country, and/or your life experience unique to your living area.**

I enjoy traveling and want to learn more about Japan.

- **After you graduate, how would like to apply what you learned in Japan to your job? Are you planning to keep in touch with Japanese community/people?**

I will return to my position with the PhD I will meet all the requirements to become an associate professor and having my own laboratory, my goal is use the relationship between JICA, Yachay Tech, and Hiroshima University for create cooperation ways, for that reason i want to dig in the Japanese culture, for be the nexus between our countries and help then to grow together.

Message to future JICA participants.

Your life has already changed, accept it, live with it, and enjoy. No matter who you are, if you follow this path, I am confident that you will be very successful. Be kind to yourself, strong in your character, enjoy the ride, and become something you can be proud of.