IICP NEWSLETTER
JICA International Intellectual Circulation Program for Space Development
Autumn 2025
Office for Science, Technology and Innovation, and Digital Transformation (STI & DX), Governance and Peacebuilding Department, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)
https://www.jica.go.jp/english/about/dx/six_pillars/pillar_6/

Space Is for Everyone

TICAD9 Thematic Event "Space Technologies for Boosting Transformation of Africa"
Question-and-Answer: IICP Program Participants
Calendar of Events Related to IICP

TICAD9 Thematic Event
"Space Technologies for Boosting Transformation of Africa"

The TICAD9 thematic event was held in a hybrid format on 22 August 2025, with the cooperation of JAXA and cross U, and concluded with great success. About 180 people participated both online and at the Yokohama venue.

The purpose of this thematic event, Space Technologies for Boosting Transformation of Africa, was to explore the challenges and opportunities in utilizing space technology and related space and spatial data utilization, and to explore potential paths to accelerating African development. JICA Executive Senior Vice President Miyazaki Katsura delivered opening remarks, followed by featured keynote presentations and panel discussions by high-level representatives of space agencies from several African countries, and representatives from both academic and private sectors.

Members of the JICA Knowledge Co-Creation Program (KCCP) short term space-related training course "Capacity Development of Space Technology Utilization for SDGs," who were visiting Japan at the time, also participated in the Yokohama event as observers.

Comment from a KCCP short-term trainee:

The panel highlighted how international cooperation remains essential for sustainable space development. My impression is that collaboration is no longer limited to technology transfer but is evolving into partnerships based on shared knowledge, co-development, and mutual capacity building.

Further details **Space Technologies for Boosting Transformation of Africa**
https://ticad9event.jica.go.jp/en/event/detail_020.html

Question-and-Answer: Program Participants

In this issue, we are pleased to introduce Mr. The Soat Le, who is in a doctoral course at the University of Tokyo, as well as Ms. Julie Ann Delda, who completed a master's degree at Keio University in September 2025.

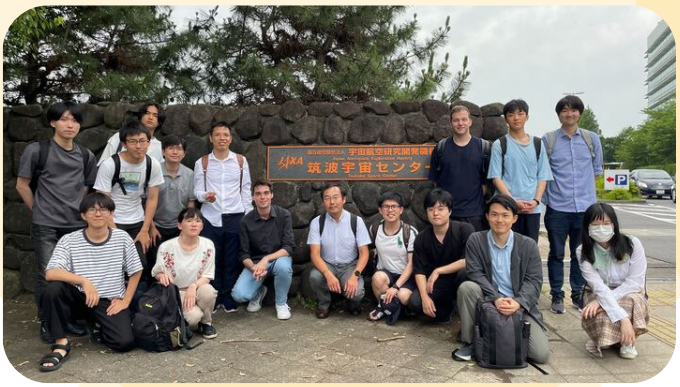
Vietnam National Space Center (VNSC)

Mr. The Soat Le

Doctoral Course, AI Lab, Research Center for Advanced Science and Technology of the University of Tokyo

Q Please tell us your motivation for participating in the JICA's long-term program, studying at a graduate school in Japan, and how you want to use your experience in the program to contribute to solving social issues in your home country.

A I am from VNSC and currently pursuing a doctoral degree at the University of Tokyo. In Vietnam, there is an urgent need to develop space technology to address recurring natural disasters such as storms, floods, and landslides, as well as to monitor our seas, islands, and the sovereignty of national territorial borders. However, there is a shortage of qualified human resources in this field. As a result, our primary goal is to first master the technology for manufacturing small earth observation satellites. In this effort, learning and international cooperation particularly with countries like Japan are always prioritized and given the utmost importance.



I am working on the GN&C (Guidance, Navigation, and Control) system, which plays a critical role in making satellites. In this course, my research focuses on the optimization aspect, aiming to solve problems such as minimizing fuel consumption for propulsion systems, orbital transfer, and attitude control. Moreover, the outcomes of this optimization research can also be applied to other problems such as optimizing power usage, structure design, and beyond.

Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA)

Ms. Julie Ann Delda

Master's degree from Graduate School of System Design and Management, Keio University

Q Congratulations on completing your master's degree and this program. After returning to your home country, how do you plan to use the space technology you researched at graduate school in Japan to solve problems in your home country?

A Over the past two years, I have gained valuable insights from the program. My next step is to organize an echo seminar to share these learnings with PAGASA colleagues. The seminar will cover not only space technology but also systems thinking and design thinking. For my research, I utilize Copernicus Climate Data, especially the Thermal Comfort Indices derived from ERA5 reanalysis, and social media to understand better how thermal comfort is expected to change when transitioning between different climatic regions. This brings new value to international students and tourists, supporting more effective adaptation and travel planning. My future goal is to collaborate with colleagues to identify the new value derived from problems that we want to turn into a new product or service. Once we clearly define this value, we can contribute meaningfully to our home country and make the adoption of space technology more feasible.

Q Please tell us of any memorable interactions you had with Japanese researchers or international students.

A I interact regularly with both Japanese and international students. Recently, I participated in the Global Students' Idea Factory 2025, collaborating with a diverse team from Nepal, Germany, and Japan. Our efforts for the agriculture theme were recognized with a JICA Prize, making it a memorable experience that I will always cherish.

15th Anniversary of the Sensing & Design Laboratory held on 6 October, 2024

Thesis Camp Summer 2024

Award ceremony held in JICA Kojimachi on 7 August, 2025

Calendar of Events Related to IICP

CALENDAR

- **New JICA scholarship students arrive in Japan**
  From October 2025
- **Rwanda Space Week**
  4-10 October 2025, Kigali, Rwanda
- **Thailand Space Expo**
  16-18 October 2025, Bangkok, Thailand
- **The Eleventh UNISEC-Global Meeting**
  1-4 November 2025, Tokyo, Japan
- **APRSAF-31**
  18-21 November 2025, Cebu, Philippines
- **New JICA scholarship students arrive in Japan**
  From April 2026