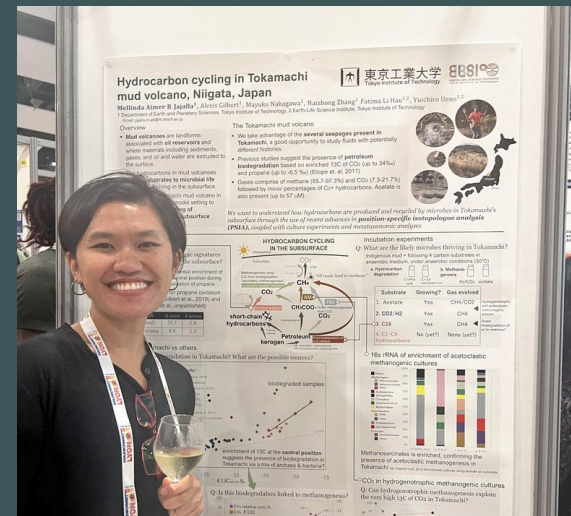
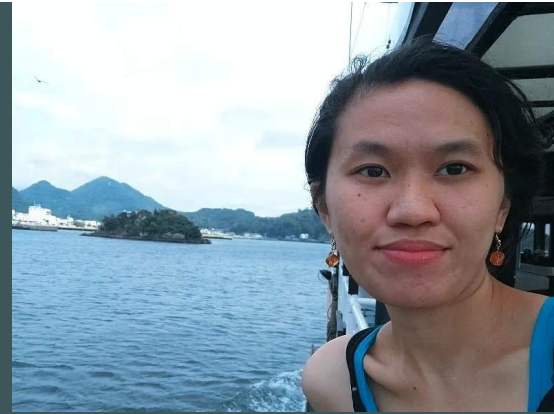


My experience as an ADB scholar in Tokyo Tech

Mellinda Aimee B. Jajalla, Philippines
Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences

I first came to Japan in 2016 as an undergraduate exchange student in Tokyo Tech. I fell in love with Japan that year, and I left the program determined to return. Thanks to the ADB-JSP scholarship, I have been able to come back to the same university and laboratory to do research in a field that I deeply love.

The past two years in Japan have been faced with difficulties, but they were also precious years of growth in both my research and personal life. I was involved in a study that allowed me to collaborate with scientists from different fields—for the love of microbes and isotopes! I worked in a laboratory where the possibilities of asking questions about the Earth are endless, and the whole experience strengthened my dream of one day becoming a “marine scientist for the people” in my beloved Philippines..





I am sure that I will be leaving Japan this time with an even greater admiration for this country and its people, more than I had the first time I left in 2017. Thank you so much to the ADB staff at Tokyo Tech, whose patience and dedication to the scholars has guided us in all the two years; and to Abe-sensei, whose firm support has allowed me to finish the program, through and through, with funding.

I will go back to the Philippines bringing with me all the lessons (in science and life) that I have learned in the past two years. I am thankful.