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~~~Member Interview~~~

**Ms. Arati has studied at the University of Tokyo from Nepal**

Ms. Arati Shrestha is one of the four second-term students in “the Collaboration Program between the University of Tokyo and JICA”. The program is two years long term training program on water engineering and utility management to bring up future leaders and started in the fall of 2019”. She is the first student selected from Nepal.

She joined WaQuAC-NET interview on August 2, after the submission of her master's thesis.

The interview was conducted by Mr. Saiki (former JICA Nepal expert) and Mr. Ozaki (belongs to Sakai City Waterworks and sewerage Bureau and former JICA expert in Nepal). By using ZOOM, Ms. Arati from Tokyo, Mr. Ozaki from Osaka and Saiki from Cambodia were able to conduct remote interview. The photo on the right is the scene.



(Mr. Saiki). *From top; Ms. Arati, Mr. Ozaki, Mr. Saiki*

**1. Studying in Tokyo under the infection of Covid-19.**

**Q (Saiki):** What was your first impression of living in Tokyo?

**A (Arati):** Tokyo is crowded just like Kathmandu, where I used to live, but what surprised me most was how punctual everyone was. Also, I was surprised that the transportation was mainly trains, not motorbikes.



**Q:** Ms. Arati replied to my email immediately, you were like a Japanese person.

(Arati, Ozaki, Saiki): We all laughed.

**Q (Ozaki):** Were you able to go back to Nepal during your study period?

**A:** Due to the effects of Covid-19, I was able to go home only once in two years. Instead, I was in contact with my husband and family by SNS every day.

**Q:** How is the weather in Tokyo?

**A:** The climate in Tokyo has four seasons just like Kathmandu. However, Tokyo is very hot in the summer and cold in the winter.

**Q:** Did you have any problems in your life in Tokyo?

**A:** To prevent the spread of the covid-19 infection, I was not able to attend university satisfactorily.

**Q:** What helped you to relax during that period?

**A:** I used to go cycling along the nearby river to

refresh myself.

**Q:** Were the sweets in Japan different from those in Nepal?

**A:** It's different. I've grown to love matcha ice cream.

**Q:** What kind of food did you like in Japan?

**A:** Sushi! At first, I didn't like wasabi, but now I love it. My favorite sushi items are salmon and shrimp.

**Q:** Did you make many friends?

**A:** I studied in the international course, so I made friends with many international students. Especially, I had a good relationship with my friend who I shared a room with.

## 2. A piece of memory

**Q:** The photo you have prepared today is also a photo of you and your friends. Could you tell us what kind of memories you have in this photo?

**A:** This is a picture with my friends of international students. After finishing the defense of master's thesis in the end of last month (July, 2021), we gathered a little for celebration at a Vietnamese restaurant in Shin-Okubo. Taking care about Covid-19 infection, we all talked about our accomplishment and happiness while eating Pho.



*Photo: in the left line, from front, Ms. Asti (Indonesia), Ms. Tin (Philippines), Ms. Tuti (Indonesia), in the right line, from front, Ms. Shiela (Philippines), Ms. Nwe (Myanmar, roommate of Ms. Arati), Ms. Arati.*

After this, we went to the game center and one of my friends got a pretty doll from UFO Catcher. I watched it and enjoyed very much.

## 3. Master's thesis at the University of Tokyo

**Q:** What kind of work did you do in your affiliation in Nepal?

**A:** I was working as a national government officer. I was in charge of collecting, organizing, and analyzing information on operational indicators and other aspects of community water supply.

**Q:** What did you major in university?

**A:** My major was civil engineering and had a bachelor's degree from the Pulchowk Campus of the Institute of Engineering in Nepal.

**Q:** What is the title of your master's thesis at the University of Tokyo?

**A:** My master's thesis is entitled "Quantitative analysis on service levels and water consumption inequalities of community-managed water supply systems in Nepal".

**Q:** What did you learn through this research?

**A:** I learned how to acquire data through this research. Also, my supervisor, Dr. Takizawa, taught me carefully about the accuracy of the data, how to read it, and how to use it.

**Q:** WaQuAC-Net is also paying attention to community water supply in local level, so would you please introduce it if you have a chance?

**A:** Yes.

(Ozaki and Saiki understood it as "willing consent.")

## 4. Prospects after returning to Nepal

**Q:** You are graduating from the University of Tokyo this fall. What are your plans after you return to Nepal?

**A:** I want to return to my affiliation and use what I studied in Japan. I'd like to support the water supply sector in Nepal, especially with regard to

quantitative evaluation of community water supply. Also, in my private life, I want to cook and eat spicy Nepalese food and visit temples with my family since Dashain festival (a traditional Nepalese event) is coming up.

## 5. Others

**Q:** What would you like to say to the WaQuAC-Net?

**A:** I think WaQuAC-Net has a good environment where people can share their various experiences, webinars are useful, and I can talk to people closely.

**Q:** What would you like to say to future international students?

**A:** 2 years is a long and hard time, but if you have a chance, you should take it! It is a useful opportunity.

**Q Q:** Thank you very much, Ms. Arati. Please enjoy your life in Tokyo until graduation, while taking measures against COVID-19 infection.

(Reported by Mr. Takashi Saiki,  
JICA Expert in Cambodia)



**8<sup>th</sup> WaQuAC-Net Webinar**  
**Current Situation and Future Prospects of Small-scale Water Supply in Japan**

**Presenter: Dr. Mari ASAMI**  
**National Institute of Public Health**

The 8th WaQuAC-Net Webinar was held on July 17, 2021. The theme was "Current Situation and Future Prospects of Small-scale Water Supplies in Japan". Presenter was Dr. Asami. She had given a presentation of the same title at the previous 7th Webinar, along with presentations from Rwanda and Thailand. It had been done successfully. However, many WaQuAC-Net members wanted to know more detail situation of small-scale water supply in Japan.

WaQuAC-Net planed 8<sup>th</sup> webinar which was same title but specializing Japanese case, and contents was more detail. We asked Dr. Asami as a presenter again. She kindly accepted the presentation.

There were 44 participants, including WaQuAC-Net members and people from universities,

governments, water utilities, consultants, water engineering companies. That number was the largest ever.

### 1. Summary of the presentation

The presentation contained the current situation of small-scale water supplies, water quality, technology, budget issues, and future directions. The information was based on the "Integrated research on sustainable maintenance of small-scale water supply system" which was conducted with the Science Research Grant by the Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare.

Since small-scale water supply has been not taken up as the main focus of the government, then the situation of small-scale water supply is not well known. Therefore, 8<sup>th</sup> webinar received a lot of attention.

#### \*Contents of the presentation

Please refer the ppt materials at references in WaQuAC Net website as follow,

[https://www.waquac.net/pdf/data/data\\_20210721.pdf](https://www.waquac.net/pdf/data/data_20210721.pdf)

(\* Language: Japanese)



Participants of WaQuAC-Net 8<sup>th</sup> Webinar

## 2.Question & Answer

In the Q&A session after the presentation, many questions came up and lively discussions were held from various perspectives such as professors, Government official, staffs of water utilities, engineers of water engineering companies, researchers of institutes and etc. It became a very meaningful webinar. Japanese small scale water supplies face many problems and it was confirmed that efforts to resolve these problems are necessary. Participants discussed the need of the introduction of sustainable technologies and the collaboration with other industries such as electricity, gas, welfare and so on. The above ideas could also be used for international cooperation on water supply projects in developing countries. Since this theme is very important, we would like to continue to discuss toward solving the problems of small-scale water supply.

## 3.Questionnaire result after the presentation

### 1) Measures against problems of small-scale water supply

- # I hope it will be a place to solve problems. I also want to cooperate.
  - # Small-scale water supply management is difficult to continue business. The conventional method does not solve the problem.
  - # Collaboration with other industries has room for consideration.
  - # Technologies of experts are needed even in Japan. It is necessary to look domestically
  - # It is also necessary to listen to the opinions of residents more in order to improve small-scale water supply.
  - # Sustainable technologies always do not mean new technology.
  - # We need to think about diversification of water supply.
  - # It requires interdisciplinary study with welfare, city planning and so on.
- ### 2) Opinions and impressions on the theme
- # It was interesting because we discussed widely from technical matters to political measures.
  - # This webinar is also useful for overseas members.
  - # Japan with a declining population and African countries with a growing population have the



same problem in small- scale water supply.

- # It was a good opportunity for interaction.
- # It was difficult to share the image due to the various types of small-scale water supplies.
- # It was an interesting theme and I wanted to hear it before going to developing countries.

### 3) Webinar management

- # It was great to have this kind of meeting on the webinar.
- # Thank you for accepting non-members.
- # A commentator is required when the number of participants is large. (By Mr. Yoshinobu Ono, Yokohama City Water Works Bureau)



WaQuAC-Net held a zoom farewell party on September 10, 2021 for four international students who have completed their master's program and are leaving Japan.

They came to Japan in the fall of 2019 under the "Collaboration Program between University and JICA", which was to develop human resources for future leaders in the water supply field.

They conducted research on the issue of water supply in their own country for two years and completed successfully in September this year. Their university, country and organization belonged are as follows;

|                                                                                        |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Mr. Chenda Pharith<br>Toyo University, Cambodia, Phnom Penh Water Supply Authority     |
| Ms. Indrastuti<br>University of Tokyo, Indonesia, Ministry of Public Works and Housing |
| Ms. Tiasti Wening Purwandari, Same as above                                            |

|                                                                                                |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Ms. Arati Shrestha<br>University of Tokyo, Nepal, Department of Water Supply and Sewage (DWSS) |
| Ms. Nwe Nwe Zin*<br>University of Tokyo, Myanmar, Yangon City Development Committee            |

\* Ms. Nwe couldn't participate in the party.

In the farewell party, participants other than guests were Ms. Khodseewong (Nan), Mr. Christopher, Mr. Evode, Mr. Mphatso, Mr. Sasayama, Ms. Kamegai, Ms. Kuniyasu, Mr. Igarashi, Ms. Asami, Ms. Yariuchi and Ms. Yamamoto. Totally 15 persons participated. At the beginning of the party, all the participants introduced themselves, and the brief presentations about the master's thesis were given by four guests. And participants asked several questions to them. (Ms. Nwe was absent because of early return to her homeland). Their themes of master thesis were as follows;

Mr.Chenda; Investigation of non-revenue water and finding causes in Phnom Pent Water Supply Authority (PPWSA).

Ms. Indrastuti; Groundwater quality and household water treatment system (comparing three systems; chlorination, ceramic membrane filtration and RO + UV).

Ms. Tiasti; Performance assessment of sea water reverse osmosis (SWRO) system for water supply on small islands in Indonesia.

Ms. Arati; Quantitative analysis on service levels and water consumption inequalities of community- managed water supply systems in Nepal.

Next program in the party was gametime. A game was explained by moderator. It was that participants except 4 guests guessed what kind of souvenirs the guests chose as Japanese souvenirs. As a result, the guests chose Japanese sake, Japanese tea, coffee, tumblers, instant noodles, and others. Japanese tea and

sake were easily guessed by participants. But, some of them like instant noodles and coffee were unexpected items for Japanese participants.

Then, everyone wrote a short commemorative message on the message board, and Ms. Yariuchi added a picture of all the participants there, as below.

As the end, Mr. Sasayama gave a message to the four guests "Please continue our relationship with WaQuAC-Net even after returning to your countries and participate in online webinars and parties."

We remember WaQuAC-Net year-end party on

December 24, 2019. 5 guests joined the party and we had a friendly talk by face to face.



**2019 Year end party**

After that, we couldn't meet actually because of COVID-19, but they participated in several webinars. We would like to thank them for their cooperation in WaQuAC-Net activities.

(By Keiko Yamamoto, WaQuAC-Net Office)

*We are World Water Family*

10 Sep 2021

Be a leader of water supply!  
(Yasuko Kamegai)

Pls. come to Japan again;  
Sasayama

Unforgettable experience to stay and study in Japan. Thank you so much.  
Indras Tuti

I will listen to the online seminar on 27 Sep. Look forward to see you again then.  
Akiko Kuniyasu, YWWB

Fight for the best, and be happy.  
Tiasti

Keep Your health by Yamamoto

Nice meeting to you all. Thank you!  
Arati

Stay safe and enjoy Japan  
(Pharith)

Be a bridge between your country and Japan  
(Mari Asami)

Congratulacions on your successful graduation. Best of luck in life.  
(Mphatso Mtambo)

With love and pride today and always, Congratulations. Chris

Keep in Touch!  
Mina Yariuchi

I wish you happiness!.  
NAN

All the best in your future career ( Evode)

Congrats! Wish all of you will have success carrier in your country! Jin

**Introduction of new members**

- Anjana Maharjan (Nepal)
- Charles Kachingwe (Malawi)
- Seiji Miwa (Japan)
- Shozo Okada (Japan)

***We welcome new members anytime.  
Please contact us!***

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(Yariuchi, Yamamoto)

URL: <https://www.waquac.net/english/index.html>

**Next Activity**

December: Year-end party 2021

January 15: Newsletter vol.52(in Japanese)

February 15: Newsletter vol. 52 (in English)