

HELLO, FRIENDS !!

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Hello, everyone. Welcome to the world of HELLO, FRIENDS!!

Happy New Year!! “2024” is the Year of the Dragon according to the Japanese Zodiac.

The Dragon looks fierce, but it is traditionally said to bring good luck.

I hope every one of you will climb high like the Dragon, catch your dream, and contribute to society by applying your learnings at Shimane University to help needy people globally.





\\ Let's meet today's guests!! //

Today's guests are **Susdiaman Sudin Yacca-san**, and **Utomo Andi Pangnguriseng-san**, both from the same university in Indonesia.



▶▶▶ Susdiaman Sudin Yacca-san

is in her 4th year of the Ph.D. program and belongs to the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology. My unchanging impression of her is that she is very calm, moderate, and well-balanced. I imagine that she went through a very tough time during the pandemic like others, and that she has a strong will for overcoming difficulty. Let's hear about her experiences and see what she is actually like.

▶▶▶ Utomo Andi Pangnguriseng-san

is also one of those who were forced to take so much time to come to Japan due to the pandemic.

When I finally met him in person for the first time, I somehow felt like I had known him for long. Maybe it's because we exchanged so many e-mails for various student-related enquiries. Anyway, he seems to be enjoying a satisfying campus life now, with lots of friends and playing key roles in some activities, including Eikaiwa Salon, the English conversation session at Izumo campus.



1. First, may I ask why you became interested in Shimane University to study as a Ph.D. or Master's student?

▶ Susdiaman-san:

I came to Japan for the first time in 2014 as a representative of the program organized by the Asian Medical Students Association University of Muslim Indonesia (AMSA-UMI). The destination was University of Tsukuba in Ibaraki prefecture. Through this experience, I came to love Japan so much, and I hoped I could come back for a holiday or for studying, although I knew it would be very difficult to do so by myself. Then, one day, the then Deputy Dean informed me of the partnership program between my university, University of Muslim Indonesia and Shimane University. I had no knowledge about Shimane University, and therefore, I sought information thereof as much as possible from various sources including my university seniors who were studying here at that time. All of them strongly recommended me to follow in their footsteps. Although I worked as a general practitioner in Indonesia, I desired to study obstetrics and gynecology, since both of my workplaces (hospitals) were mother and children hospitals. With the help of my seniors, I successfully contacted Kyo Satoru-sensei, the professor of the Dept. of Obstetrics and Gynecology, and it didn't take long before he accepted me as his future graduate student.

▶ Utomo-san:

When the Dean and other professors of Shimane University visited my university, University of Muslim Indonesia, in 2019 to conclude "MOU", or "Memorandum of Understanding", I was involved in almost all of their itinerary. The experience triggered my interest in Shimane University.

Moreover, because I have an interest in orthopaedics, I looked up how the research in the field was being done in Shimane University, including searching for their papers and research plans on the Internet. I found that they have accomplished great achievements, which motivated my strong willingness to study here as a Ph.D. student. With help from the then Dean, Nabika Toru-sensei, and my seniors who had already been studying here as a Ph.D. student, I was able to contact the professor of the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery, Uchio Yuji-sensei. I explained to him my research field and how I was passionate about studying under his supervision. I was really happy with his positive response to accept me as his student.

2. What has been your biggest culture shock since coming to Japan?

▶ Susdiaman-san:

People talk to each other easily on the train, bus or other public transportation even if they're strangers in Indonesia. Compared to that, people keep silent and sit still reading books or playing on phones in Japan. I feel uncomfortable in such a scene and am still not used to it. Meanwhile, I also found it really different from my country that everyone here obeys the traffic rules properly. In Indonesia, it is not rare that someone ignores the signals and therefore, everyone has to be cautious of the possible danger. So, I feel very safe here.

Another culture shock is the garbage separation system. As some of the international students said in their interview in the past, it was totally new to me. One of my seniors, however, gave me a kind of "how-to", and I can manage to deal with the system thanks to it.



▶ Utomo-san: I experienced two major culture shocks.

The first one was that English is not a common language here. Maybe it was not the case in big cities like Tokyo or Osaka. But here in Izumo, people don't seem to be used to foreigners in the first place. After realizing that I cannot rely on English as a communication tool, I decided to study Japanese, at least the very basic words. But I think this mindset has been working for me in a positive way.



The second one was the cutting-edge technology of toilets. I had never seen such a multifunctional toilet in Indonesia. At first, I was really confused because the instructions were written only in Japanese.

Thanks to the illustration, however, I managed to understand how to use it, and now I'm a big fan of it. It is so comfortable.

3. What do you picture in your mind as a career path after graduation?

▶ Susdiaman-san:

I'm going back to Indonesia, and plan to start studying about obstetrics and gynecology. I think it will take four or five years to finish the study. After that, I finally will be able to start working as an OBGYN specialist to treat patients.

I hope that I will teach students as a lecturer in university and continue my research in laboratories as a scientist, and then, eventually, I would like to contribute to the development of endocrinology reproduction in Indonesia. I also hope that through all of the knowledge acquired in Japan, I will bring a certain impact to people and communities.

However, let time answer, because I'm a bit worried about whether I can manage both my work and child-raising well.



► **Utomo-san:**

My plan is to go back to my university in Indonesia and with the title of Ph.D Degree, I would like to transfer my knowledge to lecturers and researchers there, and also deepen my current research on biomaterial orthopaedics in collaboration with Shimane University, which has already established some groundbreaking techniques in the field. Orthopaedic surgery usually deals with cases from fracture to joint damage due to osteoarthritis, but using biomaterial may be the key to solve the problem. So, I believe my research has great potential to contribute a lot to human well-being.

Thank you, [Susdiaman-san](#). I sensed her love for Japan everywhere in the interview. She has a boy, named “Yuichi”. Surprisingly, this normal Japanese-sounding boy’s name also sounds natural in Indonesia, she said. If I have a chance to see him, I will call him “Yu-kun!!”, the common Japanese nickname to “Yuichi”.

Thank you, [Utomo-san](#). He said in the end that after going back to his country, he also wants to work in rescue operations in case of natural disasters as an orthopaedics doctor in the future. It seems that the scope of his activities will expand endlessly. Wherever he will be in the world, I will keep rooting for him.

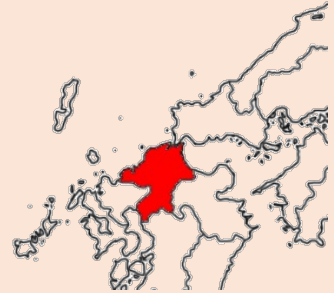


This corner, “Let’s meet today’s guest!!” is now recruiting volunteer interviewees. Please contact me, Yuko Okada, at <gakumh04@jn.shimane-u.ac.jp> or come to my office if you can take time for the interview. If we have no volunteers, we will ask someone to be the next interviewee.

My Recommended Sightseeing Spot //



Today's information provider is Professor **Harada Mamoru** of the Department of Immunology. Harada-sensei was born in Hofu, Yamaguchi prefecture, and lived in Fukuoka after graduating from high school until he moved to Izumo about 17 years ago. Fukuoka is in the northernmost part of Kyushu. It serves as a gateway from Honshu to Kyushu, and also from Asia to Japan. In other words, it is a transportation hub.



There are many sightseeing spots such as temples and shrines, museums, world heritage sights, and national parks. You can also be amazed by local delicacies such as fresh seafood, and fruits including the famous strawberry branded as "Amaou".

Among those things, Harada-sensei recommends the following:

1) Dazaifu Tenmangu 太宰府天満宮



It is a shrine located in Saifu in Dazaifu-city. It enshrines Sugawara Michizane, or Tenjin, the Deity of learning, culture, and the arts. We Japanese respect him so much especially from the aspect of “learning”, that those who are going to take the entrance exams flood the shrine to pray for their success. Also, many varieties of flowers bloom there throughout the year. Due to these points of attraction, more than 2 million people pay a New year’s visit there, and close to 10 million people visit all year round.



For details, please see here:
<https://www.dazaifutenmangu.or.jp/en/>

2) Yatai Food Stalls

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Fukuoka boasts of many gourmet foods, and Harada-sensei especially recommends ramen and Motsunabe (hotpot stew made from beef or pork offal).

You can just go to some restaurants to enjoy them, but why don’t you try the famous *yatai* or food stalls? Due to the limited space in each stall, customers are often seated shoulder to shoulder, and you may have an opportunity to open a conversation with someone next to you.



For details, please see here:
<https://www.japan.travel/en/spot/273/>

Thank you, Harada-sensei, for the valuable information. I myself actually haven’t experienced the things listed here. I will definitely visit Fukuoka someday and see and taste them firsthand!!

“HELLO,FRIENDS!!” is created by
The English Project Team.

If you have any comments or questions,
please contact us:

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(addressed to Yuko Okada)

The English used on “HELLO,FRIENDS!!” is supervised
by our English teacher, *Ms. Murphy, Lynne.*

