

HariniSenikaNishshanka

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Research Interests:

Conserving Coral Reef habitats. Finding solutions for degrading marine ecosystems by climate change.

Education:

2011-2015 Tohoku University – Sendai, Japan.

Undergraduate Honours Degree in Applied Marine Biology: Ranked first in class/batch

2007-2010 Senior High School: Lyceum International School – Wattala, Sri Lanka

GCE (Cambridge Examinations) A/L : Biology A, Chemistry A and Physics A,
Mathematics C

1999-2007 Junior High School: Museaus College – Colombo 3, Sri Lanka

Research Experience:

Oct 2014 – Aug 2015 Undergraduate Research Projects

Thesis Title: "Effect of Grazing Gastropods on the Growth and Survival of juvenile *Eiseniabicyclis*"

A project conducted under Prof. Masakazu Aoki and funded by TEAMS on the coast of Ishinomaki, North East of Japan. I studied the grazing activities of gastropods on transplanted kelp juveniles.

Others : "Comparison of recruitment and organism abundance between Natural shore and Artificial seawall in Ishinomaki"

A project conducted under Prof. Masakazu Aoki and advised by Jacqui Pocklington. The study was funded by TEAMS and conducted on the coast of Ishinomaki, North East of Japan. I studied about the species diversity in the intertidal rocky shore and the surroundings. Also compared the recruitment of organisms onto naturally scrapped rock and artificially introduced tile in the intertidal zone.

Apr 2013 – Aug 2014 Octopus Aquaculture Project

A project under Prof. Ian Gleadall to aquaculture the pacific octopus. I was involved in adult, para-larval husbandry and hatching *Artemia spp.* as a food source.

Oct 2015 – Apr 2016 Climatic Change vs. Corals Master's research Project

Attempted Thesis Title: "Effects of Rising Oceanic Temperature and pCO₂ levels on Soft Coral *Sarcophyton spp.*"

A project under Prof. Haruko Kurihara in the University of the Ryukyus, Okinawa, Japan. I studied the techniques for measuring ocean acidity, coral respiration rate, sampling, etc.

Scholarships,Awards and Certificates:

Oct 2011 – Aug 2012 MEXT (Monbukagakusho Scholarship), Japanese Government, Japan

Oct 2012 – Mar 2015 JASSO scholarship, Japan Student Service Organization, Japan

Oct 2011 – Aug 2015 President Fellowship Scholarship, Tohoku University, Japan

Cambridge award for achieving outstanding results in 2010 Cambridge A/L exam.

Awards for achievements in Swimming.

(Includes Champion Swimmer in consecutive years 2007-2010)

Awards for achievements in Karate.

(Includes achievement of Sho-dan, 1st black belt, in 2009)

Awards for achievements in Arts.

8/9 points for IELTS.

Clubs and Memberships:

Tohoku University Foreign Student Association (TUFSA)

Positions held: Treasurer, Advisor, Team Leader and Bar Tender (2012-2015)

Tohoku University International Festival Committee (TUIF)

Positions held: Treasurer, Announcer, Team Leader, Advisor and Core Committee Member (2012 – 2015)

Other Work Experiences:

Aug 2010 – Aug 2011 Sysmec Technologies – Colombo 2, Sri Lanka.

Administrative work, Inventory

Aug 2012 – Sept 2015 Mafumafu Language School, Sendai, Japan.

English Language Teacher for Students from ages 7-75

Jan 2015 - Sept 2015 Upslope Language School, Sendai, Japan

English Language Teacher for Students from ages 7-65

Apr 2013 – Aug 2014 Octopus Aquaculture Project, Tohoku University, Sendai, Japan

Lab Assistant

Feb 2017 - United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

Disaster Risk Reduction Associate (UNV)

Internships:

Oct 2015 - Nov 2015 PICRC (Palau International Coral Reef Center), Koror, Palau

Technical Training and assistance for measuring Coral growth, Zooxanthellae Density, Sediment Analysis, etc for the P-CORIE project (Palau Coral Reef Island Ecosystem Project)

May 2016 – Dec 2016 IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature), Colombo 7, Sri Lanka

Dugong Conservation Project and Lagoon Management Project

Volunteer Experiences:

- Community Service, Negambo, Sri Lanka
 - Helped and entertained orphans
 - Cleaned a public beach
- Children's' English Camps, Miyagi, Japan
 - Motivated kids affected by Tsunami
- International Interactive Activities, Sendai, Japan
 - Held events between International and Japanese students
- Disaster Camps, Sendai, Japan
 - Educated the community about disaster management

Other Skills:

Scuba Diving: Have dived in waters from 5-26°C temperatures for various surveys up to 10m

Organising: By various events organised in TUFSA

Communicating: Have handled, lead and served multi-cultural/lingual individuals

Motivating: Have cheered camps with Tsunami victims

Budgeting and Handling money: Position as the treasure for TUIF and TUFSA for 2 years

Team Working: Have worked in many teams, including multinational individuals and dive teams

Multi-tasking: Have lead the stage team in the International festival while being the announcer of the stage, all while doing my research year as an Undergraduate student.

References:

Dhammika Nishshanka
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