

**EXCHANGE PROGRAM REPORT**  
**ProSPER.Net Young Researchers' School**  
**March 4-11, 2018**  
**Shonan Village, Kanagawa Japan**

ProSPER.Net (Promotion of Sustainability in Postgraduate Education and Research Network) brought together 20 postgraduate students coming from member institutions in the Asia-Pacific to share knowledge and experiences in sustainability research. This year, the theme was focused on ‘Sustainable Urban Development for the World’s Megacities’. Among the learning activities included in this one-week intensive program were the preparation of proposal on sustainable urban development and a 3-minute thesis presentation. The lecture series provided knowledge and perspective to explore and address the different sustainability issues in the context of the 2030 Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) focusing on issues crucial to megacities such as climate change mitigation and impacts, transportation system, water scarcity, waste management, built environment, disaster risk reduction, biodiversity and ecosystem, and the role of policies and projects in integrating solutions to tackle sustainable development challenges. A fieldtrip to Yokohama (known as the model city of Japan) was also part of the program to witness the specific projects by stakeholders in the city applied to promote sustainable practices.

At the end of the program, the participants were expected to develop advanced knowledge and skills in sustainability with a special focus on urban development; develop in-depth research design and planning skills; enhance transferable skills on communication, presentation and group work, and facilitate the growth of a network of sustainability scholars and professionals in the Asia-Pacific.

Truly, the program brought all the participants to another level of learning and experiences. It did not only strengthen the skills of participants but also fostered friendship despite of cultural differences.



2018 ProSPER. NET Participants



Among the applicants from member institutions of ProSPER.Net, two students from the Asian Institute of Technology were selected as participants for the said program (Arlene L. Gonzales, PhD Climate Change and Sustainable Development & Hafiz Syed Hamid Arshad, PhD Regional Rural Development). Joining them also in the said program were previous students of AIT (Wendy Wuyts and Wai Yar Lin Zin) who are now pursuing their PhD in another institution in Thailand and abroad.

Prepared by:

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