

(Abroad • Domestic) Official trip report form (Student)

2015 / 10 / 14 (Year/Month/Day)

Name	Marvin Ardeza VILLANUEVA
Laboratory	Division of Bioresources, Hokkaido University Research Center for Zoonosis Control
Year (Grade)	D4
Destination	Semarang, Indonesia
Period of trip	October 6-12, 2015
Purpose of trip	To attend at the "9th International Leptospirosis Society Scientific Meeting 2015"

This trip to Semarang, Indonesia primarily aimed to attend and present/ share my research study at the “9th International Leptospirosis Society (ILS) Scientific Meeting 2015” from October 7-10, 2015. This scientific meeting discusses diverse issues on leptospirosis as well as “One Health” approach in relation to leptospirosis which was given more emphasis in this meeting due to the zoonotic nature of this disease.

The event was hosted by the leading institutes, universities and organizations that mainly work for the control of leptospirosis in Indonesia. Opening remarks were given by Dr. Muhammad Hussein Gasem, chairman of ILS 2015, followed by Dr. David Haake, current president of ILS. The meeting was officially started by discussing the current situation of leptospirosis in Indonesia together with the outcomes of the prevention and control measures performed so far in the country. Then, the meeting was divided into seven sessions, namely One Health: Ecology and Beyond, Genomics and Molecular Approaches to Understanding Virulence, Epidemiology of Veterinary Leptospirosis, Vaccines and Immunology, Clinical Leptospirosis, Host Pathogen Interactions in Leptospirosis and Epidemiology of Human Leptospirosis. In general, the meeting was considered a success, and active exchange of ideas happened during the four days meeting. The number of participants may be around 100 but since each participant/s represent different researchers from different countries from different continent, I can say that it is a conducive environment the share different conditions where leptospirosis behave on each respective regions of the world and what control measures they devise against this zoonosis.

I was fortunate that I was given a chance to present/ share the current results of my study with the ILS community regarding leptospirosis among water buffaloes in the Philippines. I had an oral presentation under the session of Epidemiology of Veterinary Leptospirosis, wherein it goes out well. Several questions concerning the zoonotic effects of leptospires from water buffaloes were raised from researchers of Massey University in New

Zealand. This group is also working on leptospirosis in cattle and gave me excellent suggestions for my study. In general, I really enjoyed the presentation and at the same time, I obtained useful information that I can apply for further improvement of my study.

Aside from the scientific meeting held during daytime, the host also organized a welcome party for the ILS 2015 participants. The party showcased the traditional food in Indonesia. Indonesian cuisine is made from halal meat, since majority of the people there are Muslims. Most of the foods are spicy and sweet, and several dishes have a resemblance with that of Chinese. Indonesians are fond of sweet liquid desserts and there is this special dessert that has a taste of ginger which is called “Jago”. They also entertained us with their traditional dances that depict the movement of a local bird in the country, folk dance and lively sing and dance. All the participants enjoyed the hospitality of the host during the welcome party.

This is the first international conference that I attended outside of Japan and at the same time, focused only on my study which is leptospirosis. Thus, this is a good opportunity for me to reach out with other researchers which I can add to my network in the future. Generally, the ILS community is very supportive to its members working on leptospirosis from different regions of the world. I managed to discuss with distinguished researchers from this field and got a word from them in extending their help in any possible way they can. We exchanged name cards and they gave me advice on how to understand leptospirosis in many possible ways. Leptospirosis is a zoonotic disease and involved many factors therefore a holistic approach is needed when studying this disease. I also had a chance to personally meet and discussed with the host researcher of the institute where I intend to visit for my internship next year which is already settled.

Aside from the conference, I was able to visit one national institute located in Salatiga, Central Java, Indonesia namely Institute of Vector and Reservoir Control Research and Development. This institute mainly deals with various kinds of vectors carrying pathogens all over Indonesia, from arthropods to small mammals, and studying ways on how to control diseases brought by these vectors. It is a very nice experience and an eye-opener on what other things I can do when I go back to my home country in the control of zoonoses.

Overall, this trip was really a success and I listed important lessons from this travel:

- Since I am in an international conference, I am representing my host country (Japan) and my university (Hokkaido University), thus, I must perform the best that I can.
- Participate in the discussion and they will recognize your presence in the conference.
- Never hesitate to reach out with other researchers especially those experts in your field.

I can contact them in the future once I come back to my country and be part of my

collaborating networks for leptospirosis study.

- Explore other disciplines within your study area. I am working on epidemiological studies on veterinary leptospirosis but I can also extend my research to mathematical modelling, human and environmental leptospirosis through my future collaborators.

Finally, I would like to thank Hokkaido University through the Leading Program of the Graduate School of Veterinary Medicine and to my supervisors, Professor Yasuhiko Suzuki and Associate Professor Chie Nakajima for allowing me to participate in this important scientific meeting.



Picture 1. Opening remarks from Dr. Muhammad Hussein Gasem, chairman of ILS 2015.



Picture 2. Message from Dr. David Haake, current president of ILS.



Picture 3. Sounding of gong by Dr. Mahamad Subuh, Director General of Disease Control and Environmental Health, as a sign of start of the scientific meeting.



Picture 4. Photo with Professor Emeritus Yasutake Yanagihara of Kyushu University with Indonesian dancers.



Picture 5. Photo with delegates from Japan (from left to right) Marvin A. Villanueva (Hokkaido University), Yasutake Yanagihara, Lisa Tenriesa Muslich, Dian Widiyanti, Shin-ichi Yoshida (Kyushu University) and Toshiyuki Masuzawa (Chiba Institute of Science).



Picture 6. Photo with Indonesian dancers.



Picture 7. Photo during my oral presentation.



Picture 8. Photo with Dr. Mathieu Picardeau from Pasteur Institute.



Picture 9. Photo with Dr. Rudy Hartskeerl, Royal Tropical Institute, The Netherlands and Dr. Ben Adler, Monash University, Australia.



Picture 10. Front view of the museum of Institute of Vector and Reservoir Control Research and Development.



Picture 11. Various rodent species present in Indonesia that was showcased in the museum.



Picture 12. Larvae and adult mosquitoes grown in the institute.

Approval of supervisor	Institution • Official title • Name : Hokkaido University Research Center for Zoonosis Control Professor Yasuhiko Suzuki <div style="text-align: right;">印</div>
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