

## Elisa Leys: intern report

Lena, a German intern at ISEP, mentioned on her last day that the experience felt much more collaborative than any other internship she had done before. This is exactly the same feeling I had during my time at ISEP, and seeing that it was mostly online, this is quite remarkable. The time and effort Mr. Yamashita and the other interns put into following up and educating each other is impressive and highly motivating. As there are many interns with different educational backgrounds, everyone brings something else to the table. The variety of tasks and different projects ISEP is involved in, makes it so that you get a deeper understanding of complex issues, whilst also being allowed to critically reflect on them and assess possibilities for the Japanese context. For international interns, this gives new perspectives that are very useful for whatever step might be next in your career trajectory. To give you a better idea of what your days at ISEP might look like, here is an overview of some of the tasks and projects I worked on during my time at ISEP:

- Interviewing Mr. Kondo regarding vertical PVs and agrivoltaics:

As this was a topic I was unfamiliar with at first, I read up on the latest research and looked at previous field trips other interns had taken before to similar projects. With a small group of interns, we were able to interview Mr. Kondo on his motivation to start this project, his current struggles and what he would like to do in the future. It was very interesting to hear about his experiences in the local renewable energy space first hand.

- Research for the Tara Project: nature conservation and renewable energy

This research was twofold, one the one hand I looked into the possibilities for nature conservation within renewable energy projects, and on the other I researched conflict resolution options for local RE projects. The aim of this was to find options to explore in Japan that could help solve social acceptance issues of local RE projects.

- Mandatory PV installation policies

As other interns were preparing public comments to submit to the Tokyo Metropolitan government regarding mandatory solar installations, I wrote a short report on similar mandates that have been put in place in other parts of the world. Insights into best practices were helpful to better understand the possibilities for the context of the Tokyo metropolitan area.

- Field trip to SOSA Solar

Perhaps one of the most exciting days whilst interning at ISEP, was our trip to [SOSA Solar](#). This was a self-organized field trip with two other interns during which we were guided through a solar project in the Chiba prefecture where the main focus was solar sharing and organic farming. We were told about the newest solar technologies and best practices in solar sharing. The project leaders were eager to tell us about the start of the project and where they would like to see it go next. Although they were many years into the business, they were as confident and motivated as ever to make a change, which definitely rubbed off on us.



- Translating Japanese interviews to English

This was a smaller task, but it was great to work on my language skills whilst at the same time being able to read through some of the interviews interns before us had conducted with local RE project leaders.

- Intern workshop

We did an intern workshop during which we were divided into teams and made environment and energy related quizzes. This was a great way of getting to know the other interns better as well as exchange knowledge and ideas.

