ISEP Internship Report



Natalie Tsukano

Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies (United States)

International Economics/Energy, Resources and Environment Program Internship Period: June 2018

Overall Impression of ISEP Internship

ISEP provided by far the best internship experience I had in my life. As a graduate student with a research focus in oil and gas industry, I had no prior knowledge of renewable energy and environmental issues. The classes and discussions I had with oil and gas experts made me heavily opinionated that promoting 100% renewable energy is a suicidal attempt in the Japanese context – but that changed within a month. ISEP gave me an opportunity to analyze the latest renewable energy market trends and policies, as well as to visit the actual renewable project sites and hear stories from the project owners. I was able to feel the rapid growth of community energy projects in Japan and identify the legal and economic problems they are facing. I also learned technical knowledge of electricity and energy in general, throughout discussions with ISEP researchers and other interns from various background. I cannot wait to bring these knowledge and networks back to the United States and share with my classmates and professors.

Daily Work

Most of the time I revised Power Points and developed a research report on community energy project in Japan and joined meeting with the Asian Development Bank Institute. Besides working in the office, I joined an international exhibition on renewable energy and visited solar sharing site in Chiba with other interns. ISEP also provided an opportunity for me to give a presentation on the latest renewable energy trends in the United States in front of students from Sophia University. I also organized a study group with other interns and gave a presentation on LNG project financing.

Message to future interns

ISEP is definitely an ideal destination for international students interested in energy and working in Japan. The knowledge, skills, and the network you gain through this internship is impeccable. I hope we can be connected in the near future through the ISEP network.