



Name: THATH Rido

Scholarship Category: MEXT

Accepting Institution: Nagoya University

Current Occupation: Lecturer, Royal University
of Phnom Penh (RUPP)

1. Why did you apply for the Japanese Government Scholarship?

It was my dream to study at an industrialized country and to receive quality education. Japan is well-known in Cambodia for many aspects such as education and technology, and MEXT scholarship has been well-known for being generous in that students have a chance to extend the scholarship to the highest degree. Moreover, MEXT examination process is very inclusive compared to other Japanese scholarship and scholarship from other countries; everyone can apply, basically.

2. Nowadays, Cambodian youths are offered a lot of opportunities of study abroad under the government scholarships of various countries. Compared with the other countries, what are advantages of study in Japan, and what are challenges for Cambodian students?

The study environment in Japan is very good and the academic freedom is world class. In addition, the Japanese culture is very unique; Japanese punctuality, humility and hard-working are admired by people around the world. I really think Cambodian students shall learn in Japan not only academic discipline but also studying and working culture in order that they can contribute more effectively to the development of our nation, in the current context. Only going to Japan that one can experience the Japanese culture hands-on.

Japanese language is one of the main challenges Cambodian students face. For us Cambodian, it may be very difficult to learn Japanese; but for those who are able to speak Japanese, the return is high. They have more chances. They can make more friends and understand deeply the Japanese culture, or can interact with the Japanese community who may be interested in investing in Cambodia. So, everyone should take this challenge.

3. After finishing study in Japan, many of ex-scholarship recipients have been actively contributing to the development of Cambodia utilizing the expertise and skills they acquired in Japan. How do you utilize such expertise and skills in your work now? Is there any other benefit of study in Japan for your current daily life?

I work as a lecturer at RUPP, so I have a chance to share my expertise and skills to students and colleagues. Other than expertise and skills, there are many other benefits that I learn from Japan such as punctuality and working attitude etc., which can also apply in the Cambodian working place.

4. As you know, the MEXT Scholarship has become one of the most competitive scholarship examinations in Cambodia. We got totally around 1,300 Cambodian applicants for 4 categories last year, and the candidates must survive at a really tough competition among international candidates even they passed the in-country exam. Taking your experience into account, what do you think what tips for passing the MEXT scholarship examination are?

In general, I have not found any short-cut to pass the MEXT scholarship yet. The only way to pass the exam is to study hard and prepare well. For research student, candidates need to have a clear objective of what they are going to study and research in Japan in written form (research proposal) and interview. Specifically, in interview, candidates may have to find and demonstrate their uniqueness that interviewers may be interested.

5. Message for this year's applicants.

MEXT scholarship is very competitive, so be confident and do not give up easily. There are many ex-MEXT scholars including myself who have applied more than once to win the scholarship. The degree of your persistence is really important, and cannot get it for the first time, makes sure that you learn from your mistake and weakness, and improve it, then challenge again. If you are selected and get a chance to go to Japan, do not study just academic lesson, please try to learn anything you think worthwhile, useful and applicable in the development process of our country. May the force be with you!