

STEPS Students Report

Anastasiia Fedorova (B3)
Institute of Earth Science, SPbU

This summer from the 12 of June to the 17 of July I participated in STEPS program. My host department was Department of Civil Engineering (Traffic Engineering Laboratory), but, actually I am geographer (social economic), so it was absolutely new experience for me. The topic of my research work was "Accident consequence analysis on the expressways of Tokyo". My Japanese colleagues provided me with all necessary data, moreover if I had some difficulties, they was ready to help me anytime. During my research I worked with data about accidents on the roads of Tokyo and collected some additional data connected with road development. The main purpose of research paper was to figure out the most dangerous sections of expressway network and to find some decisions to solve this problem.

Under this was tasked:

1. Analyze accidents on the roads of Tokyo;
2. To consider the accident rate depending on the time of day;
3. Identify accidents form;
4. Identify the causes of accidents;
5. Identify the most dangerous expressway and its sections.

As the result of my work I wrote a report, which I am going to make publish. I hope that my results will be useful for my Japanese colleagues. In general, I upgraded my research skills, spatial analysis skills, learned some Japanese signs (during my internship I translated all data from Japanese to English). Besides, my participation in the program did not restrict only research work, I also travel around Tokyo and Japan in my free time. Moreover, I had a chance to join some seminars and trips which was organized by my lab. So, I spent quality time.

The most difficult thing was to use to Japanese, because I do not know language at all. But all signs was duplicate on English, so it was not so hard to find necessary information or a direction, et cetera. Besides, even if you get lost or have some difficulties, you may ask anybody to help you and they will. So there is nothing to worry about.

To sum up, I want to say that I really appreciate my participation in the STEPS. It was not only good opportunity and knowledge for my future research field and study, but also new emotions and fillings. The program provides opportunities for students to experience first-hand life, culture and education in another country. So, if I have another chance to take part in this program, I will do it without any doubt.