

STEPS Students Report

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I researched the history of the construction of railways in Russia with Prof. Irina Petrovskaya and Prof. Sergei Shaposhnikov. I'm going to write a master's thesis which mentions the comparison of plan and feasibility of railways between Japan and Russia in terms of geopolitics and economics. I visited Moscow State University in order to get information of railways.

I had researched the city development in terms of the socialism before I departed Japan. The Soviet Union thought they need means of exchange between urban industrial area and rural agricultural area, so they decided to construct many urban cities all over the Russia. They ensured the equal wage for all citizens in the country. They had a rule of constructing a city. They configure the suitable number of people, and public services could be offered everywhere.

The plan of urbanization was called "De-signed Balanced Development". This keyword was similar to the land planning in Japan. Japan had land plans, whose name was "comprehensive national development plan". Its slogan was "Balanced Development of Land". Both the Soviet and Japan intended to reduce the population in urban areas.

I need the data and information of Russian railways to compare deeply. Especially, the information in terms of geopolitics couldn't be got in Japan.



At first, I read some articles mentioning the history and present situation in the University. I also went to the national library several times to copy the books. These articles and books gave this information; The Great Siberian Railway couldn't have constructed completely before Russian – Japanese War, because the construction near Lake Baikal was severe. After the war, Starlin Joseph prepared some secret railways near China and northern area of Russia in order to invade other countries. However, some constructions of railways were stopped after Starlin's death, and the existing railways were used for carrying resources. The

railways which started to be used after 1928 related to the five-year-plans in Soviet Union.

After getting the documents, I consulted host professors about the way of my research. They advised me to focus on several eras or areas. I shared the advice with Prof. Kiichiro Hatoyama, my supervisor, and we discussed how to complete my thesis.

I attended some lectures held in the business school. Prof. Shaposhnikov held a lecture which name was "Business in Asia". Many Russian students seemed to have interest in trading with Japanese, Chinese, and Korean, and the lecture gave the important points when communicating with such people. I didn't know the characteristic of Chinese and Korean. In addition, Russian people were sometimes compared to other nation's people, so I got to know the characteristic of Russian.

Moreover, I could talk about the export of infrastructure for Russia with Mr. Iwao Ohashi, the advisor on Japan and APAC for the Association of Industrial Parks in Russia. He showed me some economic data and how to deal with the economic problems using infrastructure.

I could communicate with my colleagues in the faculty in English. Almost all the professors gave me some advice for the research in English. On the contrary, the staffs in the dormitory hardly spoke English. I often made gestures and sometimes used my smartphone to translate. However, I couldn't tell my situation to the staff when my entrance pass got invalid. I managed to call my host professor and she helped me at night. I thank the colleagues for all the help.