

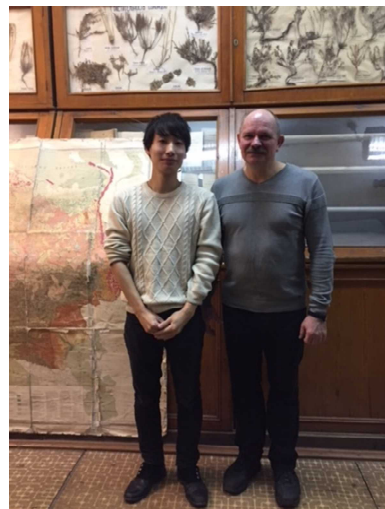
STEPS Students Report

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My trip to Russia was amazing experience for me. In Saint Petersburg, also in my dormitory, I met a lot of professors and students from a lot of country in Saint Petersburg University and talked in English and Russian (a little) with them. And then, I could get a lot of new knowledge about not only my field of study but also the cultural difference between different countries. For me, opera was very interesting. It was my first time to go to theater and watch opera and the theater was very beautiful.

In my department, soil science faculty, I could have nine lectures from nine professors. They prepared special lectures only for me and my friend of STEPS Itsuki Sato and told us about what soil science is clearly. In Russia, soil science is used for especially agricultural field such as how to get many crops. We also went to the soil museum in Saint Petersburg and we could see a lot of specimen of soil from all over the world.

In Russia, most important soil for human beings is Chernozem. Chernozem is organic black soil and it suits agriculture especially generation of wheat because it contains a lot of nutrients. Chernozem is widely spread where it has moderate amount of rain and temperature for growing plant. A lot of rain is not good for forming Chernozem layer because the current of rain cannot stop washing nutrients in surface layer of organic soil. The south Russia is suitable for forming Chernozem layer and the wheat is cultivated in this area. Professor Rusakov who is the chairman of the faculty told us about this. He said that soil is different from each area due to climate. In Russia, there are so many kinds of soil.



By the way, wheat is useful not only as our food but also for soil contamination. Professor Irina is studying about this. She said to us that wheat has the function to absorb the metals in the soil and reduce the concentration of metals in the soil. Some metals are not good for plant growth, so this function is very important for cultivation. As the following picture, the combination of wheat and Ispolin (one of fertilizer) is most useful for soil contamination by metal. They can reduce the concentration of metal much faster than hyperaccumulator.

Not only study about soil science in my university, I could feel warmth in people's heart in my life of one month. Many people helped me in difficult situation. Especially my roommate Jadi, from Italy, helped me a lot. He can speak Russian and English fluently so he translated Russian to English for me and I often eat dinner on Saturday night with other Italian students and Japanese students. We made Pasta and Sushi each other, it was very fun. Nikita also help me a lot. He came Japan this year as one of the STEPS students so he talked with me kindly and we went to restaurant sometimes together. Finally, I want to thank both Tokyo University (STEPS) and Saint Petersburg University.

