

## My Life in India & with IITH family

I travelled to India for the first time in July 2010 to attend the Joint Coordination Committee meeting of the DISANET Project, whose leading institute was IIT Hyderabad. I used to attend online meetings and to travel to Hyderabad and other cities in India as a researcher from Keio University, Japan.

In March 2011, the “2011 Tohoku Earthquake” struck Japan, and I spent a lot of time for the recovery of Internet infrastructure in the Tohoku area as part of a Japanese volunteer team. The post-disaster networking system, which the volunteer team deployed in many evacuation shelters in the Tohoku area, was the one that the DISANET project was also developing for the post-disaster scenario in India.

### Some memories from DISANET



After September 2011, the frequency of my travel to IIT Hyderabad drastically increased and my stay in IITH in one travel became much longer. I spent most of the remaining period of my tenure as a project assistant professor at Keio University in IIT Hyderabad because I realized I should work as a part of the Indian team to accomplish the goals of the DISANET project. IIT Hyderabad gave me office space, and I worked as a part of one of the DISANET teams in IITH. I believe I am the guy who stayed at the guest house of the IITH temporary campus the longest. Witnessing that I was frequently visiting IIT Hyderabad, my teammates started to ask me “Why don’t you shift to India?”. After some time, JICA announced the launch of the FRIENDSHIP project, which needs somebody to stay in IIT Hyderabad and facilitate Indo-Japan collaboration. It did not take a long time to raise my hand.

*Continued...*



Upon the commencement of my tenure as a JICA Expert in 2012, I quitted my job at Keio University. IITH appointed me as a visiting assistant professor so that I could teach and guide in the institute. Using the experience of network operation in Japan, I worked on restructuring the campus LAN after knowing the growth roadmap of IIT Hyderabad.

In addition to the engineers in the Computer Center, several students joined the team to troubleshoot and operate the campus LAN. Everyone in the team was proactive and seeking a problem to solve in the campus LAN. While the campus LAN operation is a very serious matter for the entire institute, working with highly motivated teammates is always a fun and enjoyable experience. This feeling never changes.

When the FRIENDSHIP project was launched, IIT Hyderabad was generating a very strong momentum to grow further. Such momentum strongly pushed the FRIENDSHIP project to accelerate the activity and to engage the project members including myself more on broad Indo-Japan collaborations.



### ***IITH Alumni in Japan***

The change makers and accelerators of Indo-Japan collaboration were the students and fresh alumni of IITH, who went to Japan for internship and higher study in Japanese companies and universities. They always and naturally help to establish the high reputation of IITH both as the ambassadors to Japan and the hard evidence of many positive aspects of the academics, R&D and culture of IIT Hyderabad.

***Continued...***





Travelling to Japan with IITH faculty members was also an exciting experience for me. The more they flew to Japan, the more attention and curiosity Japanese universities and companies developed on to IITH.

Many successful cases of initiating a collaboration with Japan brought even more fancy ideas and opportunities for further and broader collaborations. People in IITH made the FRIENDSHIP project a grand success and motivated JICA to launch FRIENDSHIP Project Phase-2 to do something far beyond what Phase-1 achieved.



**UoT-IITH Workshop in IITH**



**Profs. From Keio University visited IITH**

**Continued...**





## *Exhibition in Japan*

When I joined Keio University as a bachelor student, the campus called SFC where I studied till PhD was already 9 years old. (Keio University has several campuses, and SFC is one of them launched in 1990.) While I could enjoy the late stage of campus development, I used to feel that I missed the very exciting period immediately after the campus launch. I believe I am very lucky to witness the excitement, challenges, collaboration, and joy in the process of establishing IITH which all the students, professors, and staffs engaged with their limitless enthusiasm and efforts. I am grateful to such wonderful colleagues for allowing me to be a part of it. People in IITH have never treated me as a visitor. Everybody treated me as a friend, a family member and a teammate to share and accomplish many important goals together. Thanks to their kindness and open-mindedness, my life in India has always been

glorious since the very first day I stepped into the institute. To make myself deserve such a wonderful life, I happily put my enthusiasm and efforts to the maximum extent on the duties as a faculty member of IITH as well as the Indo-Japan collaboration.



**Dr. Kotaro Kataoka**  
Visiting Associate Professor  
Department of Computer Science &  
Engineering,  
IIT Hyderabad