

Japan Society of Civil Engineers

Report on Study Tour Grant 2026

Prepared by

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2026 STG Participant

1. Introduction

The Japan Society of Civil Engineers (JSCE) Study Tour Grant (STG), supported by the International Scientific Exchange Fund (ISEF), offers young civil engineers an opportunity to gain first-hand experience of civil engineering practices, technologies, research activities, and professional culture in Japan.

I was honored to participate in the 2026 JSCE Study Tour Grant as a representative from Turkey, nominated through TCCE and the JSCE Turkey Section. The program was held in Hokkaido from August 31 to September 4, 2026, and included technical visits, academic sessions, networking activities, and cultural experiences.

Throughout the program, I had the opportunity to visit research institutes and civil engineering facilities, attend the JSCE Annual Meeting and the International Summer Symposium, and interact with engineers, researchers, students, and fellow STG participants from different countries. These activities provided valuable insight into engineering practices in Japan, particularly in the fields of infrastructure, disaster prevention, and research and development.

As a civil engineer and PhD student in earthquake engineering, the study tour was especially valuable for broadening my technical perspective and understanding different approaches to engineering design, research, and disaster resilience. It also provided an important opportunity to exchange knowledge and experiences within an international professional environment.
This report presents a day-by-day summary of the 2026 STG program and highlights the main technical, professional, and personal impressions gained throughout the study tour..

2. Day by Day Program

2.1 Day 0 – August 30, 2026

Arrival in Sapporo

I departed from Istanbul and traveled to Japan via Tokyo before continuing to New Chitose Airport in Hokkaido. After arriving in Hokkaido, I traveled to Sapporo and checked into the hotel where the STG participants were accommodated.

Although the official technical program had not yet started, the arrival day was an important first step in the study tour. It provided an opportunity to settle in, become familiar with the surroundings, and prepare for the program scheduled to begin the following morning.

Arriving in Sapporo also marked my first direct experience of Hokkaido and created a sense of anticipation for the technical visits, academic activities, and international interactions planned throughout the week.

2.2 Day 1 – August 31, 2026

Orientation and Technical Visit to the Civil Engineering Research Institute for Cold Region (CERI)

The first official day of the Study Tour Grant program began with an orientation session, during which the participants were introduced to the overall schedule, objectives, and organization of the program. The session also provided an opportunity to meet the other STG participants and become familiar with the activities planned for the following days.

Following the orientation, we visited the Civil Engineering Research Institute for Cold Region (CERI). During the technical visit, we received information about the institute's research activities and facilities focusing on civil engineering challenges specific to cold regions. Particular emphasis was placed on the effects of severe climatic conditions, including low temperatures, snow, ice, and freeze-thaw cycles, on the performance, durability, and maintenance of infrastructure.

The visit provided valuable insight into how experimental research and field observations are used to develop engineering solutions suitable for harsh environmental conditions. Observing the research facilities and learning about the approaches adopted for improving the long-term performance of infrastructure was particularly informative.

Overall, the first day provided a strong technical introduction to the study tour and demonstrated the importance of adapting civil engineering design, construction, and maintenance practices to local environmental conditions.





2.3 Day 2 – September 1, 2026

Technical Visit to Otaru Port and Otaru Bay

The second day of the program focused on Otaru, a historic port city in Hokkaido. During the visit, we had the opportunity to learn about the development of Otaru Port and its importance for the region from both historical and engineering perspectives.

One of the main technical stops was the Otaru Port Museum, where information was provided about the history of the port, its development, and the construction of the breakwater. We then visited the Otaru Port Breakwater, one of the important early examples of modern port engineering in Japan. The visit provided an opportunity to observe the structure directly and better understand the engineering considerations involved in protecting port areas against wave action and harsh marine conditions.

The program also included a cruise in Otaru Bay, which allowed us to observe the port and coastal structures from the sea. Viewing the breakwater and surrounding infrastructure from this perspective helped to better understand the overall layout of the port and the relationship between the coastal protection structures and the surrounding urban area.

Overall, the Otaru visit provided a valuable combination of engineering history and practical observation. It was particularly interesting to see how infrastructure constructed many years ago continues to serve an important function and remains part of the city's identity today.





2.4 Day 3 – September 2, 2026

JSCE Annual Meeting and Disaster Prevention Technical Visit

The third day of the program began with participation in the JSCE Annual Meeting and the International Activities Center (IAC) Discussion. The session provided an opportunity to learn more about the activities of JSCE and to observe the exchange of ideas among engineers, researchers, and international participants.

Following the academic sessions, we visited Moerenuma Park, one of the well-known public spaces in Sapporo. During the visit, we had the opportunity to see the Glass Pyramid HIDAMARI, a distinctive architectural landmark within the park. The structure, characterized by its transparent glass façade and geometric form, was particularly interesting from both architectural and structural perspectives. Visiting the building also provided a different perspective on the integration of architecture, structural design, and public space.

After Moerenuma Park, we continued to the Ishikari District Regional Disaster Prevention Facility and River Disaster Prevention Museum. During the technical visit, we received

information about disaster prevention measures, flood risk management, and the systems used to reduce the impacts of natural hazards in the region.

The visit was particularly valuable in demonstrating the importance of combining engineering infrastructure with disaster preparedness, public awareness, and emergency response planning. Observing these facilities provided a broader understanding of how disaster risk reduction is approached not only through structural measures, but also through coordinated planning and education.

The day concluded with a reception at Sapporo Garden Palace, which provided an opportunity to interact with JSCE members and other participants in a more informal setting and to exchange professional and cultural experiences.





2.5 Day 4 - September 3, 2026

Global Civil Engineer Workshop and 28th International Summer Symposium

The fourth day of the program focused on academic exchange and international networking. The day began with the Global Civil Engineer Workshop, where participants had the opportunity to engage in discussions on civil engineering education, professional development, and international collaboration.

Later, we attended the 28th International Summer Symposium. During the symposium, researchers and engineers from different countries presented their studies on a wide range of civil engineering topics. I also had the opportunity to present my own research, which made this day particularly meaningful for me. Presenting my work in an international academic environment and receiving feedback from participants was a valuable experience both academically and professionally.

The symposium also provided an opportunity to learn about current research topics, different methodological approaches, and engineering practices from various countries. Listening to the presentations and exchanging ideas with other participants helped broaden my perspective on civil engineering research and international collaboration.

The day concluded with the IAC Networking Reception, where participants, researchers, and JSCE members had the opportunity to interact in a more informal setting. This provided a valuable chance to establish new professional connections and exchange experiences with people from different academic and professional backgrounds.





2.6 Day 5 - September 4, 2026

Departure from Sapporo

September 4 was the departure day following the completion of the Study Tour Grant program. After checking out from the hotel, I traveled from Sapporo to New Chitose Airport and began my return journey to Turkey via Tokyo.

The departure day marked the end of an intensive and memorable week in Hokkaido. The program provided valuable technical, academic, professional, and cultural experiences, and the journey back offered an opportunity to reflect on the knowledge gained and the interactions established throughout the study tour.

3. Overall Impression and Conclusion

Participating in the 2026 JSCE Study Tour Grant was a highly valuable experience from technical, academic, professional, and cultural perspectives. Throughout the program, I had the opportunity to observe different civil engineering practices in Japan, visit research and infrastructure facilities, attend academic sessions, and interact with engineers, researchers, and participants from different countries.

The technical visits provided useful insight into how local environmental conditions, long-term durability, disaster prevention, and infrastructure performance are addressed in engineering practice. In particular, the visits related to cold-region engineering, port infrastructure, and disaster prevention demonstrated the importance of developing engineering solutions that are closely adapted to regional conditions and risks.

The academic activities, including the JSCE Annual Meeting and the International Summer Symposium, were also an important part of the program. Presenting my own research in an international environment and exchanging ideas with other participants contributed significantly to my academic development and broadened my perspective on current research and engineering practices.

Beyond the technical and academic aspects, the program created an important platform for international communication and professional networking. Meeting civil engineers and researchers from different backgrounds and sharing experiences with other STG participants made the program especially meaningful.

Overall, the JSCE Study Tour Grant provided me with new technical knowledge, wider professional perspectives, and valuable international experience. I am grateful to JSCE, TCCE, the JSCE Turkey Section, and everyone involved in organizing the program for providing this opportunity. I believe that the knowledge, experiences, and professional connections gained during the study tour will contribute positively to both my academic studies and my future professional career.