

**ADB–Japan Scholarship Program
Thesis of the Year Award 2020 Workshop
16 September 2021; 1:30–2:30p.m. (Manila Time via Zoom)**

I. Background/Objective:

The ADB–Japan Scholarship Program recognizes that, besides the granting of scholarship awards, it can contribute to the capacity development of developing member countries through knowledge sharing. It was towards this end that ADB–JSP announced the competition for the Thesis of the Year Award (TOYA) 2020 during the Graduation Gathering in August 2020 to identify the best among the theses produced by its Batch 2020 scholars, share those papers with the public, and inspire other scholars to strive for academic excellence. At the same time, ADB-JSP also hopes, through TOYA, to raise the academic standing and visibility of the program.

The ADB–JSP Secretariat received 23 nominations from 16 partner universities. The nominated theses were distributed for evaluation by five screening committee members: two from ADBI, 1 from ADB, and 2 from non-competing universities. The screening committee members reviewed the blinded theses (i.e., without the authors' names, their universities, and their nationalities) using standard evaluation criteria set by ADB–JSP and selected the following winners:

Ranking	Name	Nationality	University	Research Title
1st	Mr. Laurenz Luigi Baet Cruz	Philippines	UOT-Civil	Transport of Floating Litter within Manila Bay, Philippines
1st	Ms. Danielle Katrina Mallari Santos	Philippines	Ritsumeikan University	Empirical Analysis of Direct Payment Subsidies for Environmentally-Friendly Agriculture on Profit Efficiency of Rice Farmers in Japan
2nd	Ms. Sachithra Madhushani Imbulana	Sri Lanka	UOT-Urban	Groundwater Quality in the Endemic Areas of Chronic Kidney Disease of Unknown Etiology (CKDu) in Sri Lanka and Its Treatment by Community-Based Reverse Osmosis Water Treatment Plants

The winners were recognized during the Graduation Gathering on 27 August 2021 with ADBI Dean Tetsushi Sonobe reading the citations.

In cooperation with ADBI, ADB–JSP is organizing a Thesis of the Year Award 2020 Workshop where the two winners will present their theses to scholars, alumni, representatives of Designated Institutions, ADB staff, and academic partners and researchers identified by ADBI. Two of the award-winning theses have been published in journals. Comments received during the workshop will be considered in preparing the third thesis for publication.

II. Tentative Program:

1:15–1:30pm Zoom waiting room prior to session

1:30–1:32pm **Welcome by Emcee**

1:32–1:40pm **Welcome Remarks**
Mr. Jacob Sorensen
Director, Partnership Funds Division
Sustainable Development and Climate Change Department
Asian Development Bank

Mr. Tetsushi Sonobe
Dean
Asian Development Bank Institute

1:40–1:42pm **Group Photo**

1:42–2:42pm **Thesis Presentations**
Peter Morgan, Moderator
Senior Consulting Economist, Vice Chair
Asian Development Bank Institute

Transport of Floating Litter within Manila Bay, Philippines
Mr. Laurenz Luigi Baet Cruz
Master of Engineering in Hydromechanics and Environment
Department of Civil Engineering, the University of Tokyo

Open Discussion: Q and A

Groundwater Quality in the Endemic Areas of Chronic Kidney Disease of Unknown Etiology (CKDu) in Sri Lanka and Its Treatment by Community-Based Reverse Osmosis Water Treatment Plants
Ms. Sachithra Madhushani Imbulana
Master of Engineering in Environmental Engineering
Department of Urban Engineering, the University of Tokyo

Open Discussion: Q and A

Moderator's Synthesis

2:42–2:45pm

Closing Remarks

Mr. Hiroki Kasahara

Principal Financing Partnerships Specialist, Partnership Funds Division

Sustainable Development and Climate Change Department

Asian Development Bank