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**FY2024 Scandinavia-Japan Sasakawa Foundation**  
**MIRAI Global Challenges Winter School**  
**Participation Report**

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|---|---|
| Name of participant                         | Haque Md Nazmul   |
| University                                  | Hiroshima University  |
| Department<br>(Graduate School, Faculty)    | Graduate School of Humanities and Social Sciences                             |
| Major (keywords)                            | Urban Planning, Urban Sustainability, Healthy City                            |
| Link to your researcher profile<br>(if any) | <a href="#">ORCID</a> <a href="#">Google Scholar</a> <a href="#">LinkedIn</a> |

**1. What is the purpose of your participation in the Winter School?**

The purpose of my participation in the MIRAI Global Challenges Winter School is to engage with global challenges, particularly climate adaptation and disaster management (**SDG 13**) and resilient cities and communities (**SDG 11**), which align with my Ph.D. research on justice in access to nature-based solutions. My work focuses on addressing inequities in urban ecosystem services to enhance climate resilience and sustainability.

This program provides a valuable opportunity to exchange ideas with interdisciplinary researchers and stakeholders, fostering collaboration and inspiring solutions to shared global challenges. It also supports my long-term goal of contributing to sustainable, resilient, and equitable communities.

**2. What did you gain from participating in the Winter School (so to say, key takeaways)? What did you feel was good about participating? Please include the reasons.**

To be honest, I gained significant knowledge from this Winter School and deeply appreciate the organizers for assisting me in participating in such remarkable programs. The following are some crucial aspects:

- Learned about climate adaptation and resilient cities from experts.
- Connected with researchers from different fields and countries.

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- Gained new ideas for my Ph.D. research on justice and nature-based solutions.
- Learned about Japan-EU relations and Japanese language studies in Nordic regions.
- Explored next-generation technological advancements during the Ericsson company visit.
- Engaged in cultural learning and exchanged diverse perspectives.
- Improved teamwork and communication skills through group activities.
- Felt inspired to apply new approaches to my own research and future collaborations.

**3. How would you like to make use of the outcomes and networks you gained at the Winter School in your research activities in the future? Please describe specifically, and, in particular, please let us know any initiatives you would like to try in MIRAI.**

This is another valid aspect that I wanted to talk about. Let me allow to list my concerns:

- Network Establishment: One of the key outcomes of participating in the Winter School was building a strong network of researchers and stakeholders across Japan, Sweden, and beyond. I aim to collaborate with these networks to apply for upcoming seed funding opportunities under the Global Challenges Teams (GCT), particularly focusing on Climate Adaptation (GCT 2) and Resilient Cities and Communities (GCT 3), which align with my research on justice in access to nature-based solutions.
- Continued Collaboration: Maintaining and strengthening the connections established during the Winter School will be essential. I plan to initiate joint research projects, develop interdisciplinary publications, and organize academic exchanges to ensure long-term collaboration under the MIRAI framework.
- Understanding Japan-EU Relations: The Winter School deepened my understanding of the Japan-EU relationship, especially in research, technology, and cultural exchange. This has inspired me to explore further studies or collaborations on Japan-EU cooperation in addressing global challenges.
- Leveraging MIRAI Databank Experience: Having had the privilege to work with my professor on the MIRAI Databank at Hiroshima University, I plan to utilize this experience to assist in organizing symposiums or seminars in Japan. These initiatives could focus on knowledge exchange, research dissemination, and promoting collaboration between researchers under the MIRAI network.
- Industry and Cultural Learning: The visit to Ericsson and learning about next-generation technologies has equipped me with insights into technological

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advancements that can support climate adaptation and sustainable urban development. This learning will help bridge research and industry in my future initiatives.

By applying these outcomes, I aspire to contribute actively to MIRAI's goals and foster innovative, multidisciplinary solutions to address global challenges.

**4. Please feel free to share your ideas on how to make MIRAI more interdisciplinary and function as a platform to promote the development and exchange of young researchers (e.g., what opportunities and initiatives would further accelerate exchange).**

To enhance MIRAI's interdisciplinary nature and strengthen its role as a platform for the development and exchange of young researchers, the creation of dedicated **thematic research groups** for early-career researchers would be highly impactful. While MIRAI's Global Challenges Teams (GCTs) currently involve professors, establishing parallel **Thematic Research Groups (TRGs)** for young researchers can foster an inclusive and dynamic environment for collaboration. These groups could focus on MIRAI's core global challenges—such as climate adaptation, resilient cities, and health—enabling early-career researchers to collaborate across disciplines and contribute fresh perspectives.

To make these groups effective, MIRAI can organize **regular workshops, virtual meetings, and brainstorming sessions**, allowing young researchers to co-develop projects, share progress, and generate interdisciplinary solutions. Providing opportunities for these groups to present their findings during MIRAI symposiums or conferences would further integrate their efforts with the broader network while increasing visibility.

Additionally, **seed funding** tailored specifically for TRG projects can encourage young researchers to take the lead on innovative interdisciplinary initiatives. This funding could support pilot studies, data collection, and small-scale collaborative projects that align with MIRAI's thematic priorities.

To facilitate meaningful exchange, MIRAI could introduce **mentorship programs** where senior researchers from GCTs provide guidance and feedback to TRG members. This structure would ensure continuity between senior leadership and emerging researchers while fostering a collaborative learning environment.

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Furthermore, establishing **cross-border exchange opportunities** among MIRAI universities would allow young researchers to participate in short-term visits, conduct joint research, and build stronger interdisciplinary networks. A **virtual collaboration hub** could also serve as a centralized platform for sharing research updates, organizing events, and fostering ongoing communication between TRG members.

By implementing these initiatives, MIRAI can empower early-career researchers to actively engage in interdisciplinary collaboration, driving forward innovative solutions to global challenges while ensuring the program remains inclusive, vibrant, and forward-thinking.