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

Name of participant	Ung Sovanmony
University	Nagoya University
Department (Graduate School, Faculty)	Graduate School of Law
Major (keywords)	Gain new insight, exchange idea, and strong networking
Link to your researcher profile (if any)	<a href="https://www.linkedin.com/in/ung-sovanmony-9055bb14a">www.linkedin.com/in/ung-sovanmony-9055bb14a</a>

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

The purpose of my participation is to obtain the new knowledge on the issue and to build connection with other PhDs.

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.

There are three main takeaways. First, it is a wholesome experience to understand the arrangement of this program as this is the first conference I have joined. I think it paves a way to join later conferences with ease feeling even if as a presenter, not just a participant. The program introduces me to the image of the conference setting and atmosphere and the interaction between participants in the conference. Second, I have gained critical insight into the issue from different perspectives. Since the program was conducted in two main parts with slightly different topics, both contributed much to my knowledge. For instance, theoretical studies provided some background on how Japan and the European Union (EU) cooperate toward their goal of eliminating CO<sub>2</sub> by 2050. At the private level, both governments are very supportive of the investors by sponsoring, funding, and organizing events to attract foreign investors because they share a common goal. During the conference, the invited scholars from the Nordics presented their studies to guide us into their interests in various fields ranging from architecture, trade relationships, child memorials, urban planning, the whaling industry, humanitarian in the Ukraine war, Toyota car design, and language studies. These showcase the potential interest of research that is beneficial to the future implications. On top of these, the site's visit to the National Museum and Ericsson allows me to experience the contrasting view of the ancient history of Sweden through its

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meaningful paintings and sculptures with how amazing the current technological innovation can change human history. Lastly, the whole conference also allows me to experience a strong network on a personal level through real-time communication, exchange of interest and studies, and potential future interaction. The conference has perfectly provided space and time for the participants to interact during their coffee break, lunch, and dinner arrangements. Since the participants are from different backgrounds and universities, they can enlarge of perspectives in various fields and projects. These interactions have built a strong bond in a very short period while hoping to continue these relationships for a very long time.

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 program provides an essential networking opportunity and builds a good foundation for the issue and its organization. I will use my specialty to conduct research on environmental sustainability in the field of international investment law in a more comprehensive manner. I hope I have a chance to contribute my future studies to the MIRAI program. As mentioned earlier MIRAI is the first-ever conference and winter school where I gained an opportunity, it is a stepping stone for me to further participate in a similar program. The diversity of participants and the networking opportunity granted me a chance to interact with my law fellows in different fields. We take this opportunity further to initiate a potential workshop together. For instance, we want to introduce a project from a legal perspective that aligns with MIRAI's objective on their theme of "Resilient cities and communities – policies, strategies, local government, and urban planning". Currently, we are still in discussion on how we can shape our research and interest to fit into MIRAI and hopefully realize our project in the near future.

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).

The openness of MIRAI to all participants of different fields is quite a unique feature of the program. Through this, I have increased my knowledge to another level and noticed the endless possibilities of research with distinctive topics and issues. However, I noticed a small counterproductive that the diversity to some extent limits the participant to fully understand the insightful presentation and to generate different ideas to contribute on the

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matter. Therefore, it is important to incorporate a general theme and understanding shared among potential participants of interdisciplinary.