



MORI MEMORIAL
FOUNDATION

JAPAN ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY CITY INDEX 2022



Sustainability and cities are my passions. Following my passion for cities, I have studied urban planning in my major and with my master's studies in Germany at Eberswalde University of Sustainable Development, I learned a lot about sustainability and had the chance to combine it with city topics. For my research semester in HNEE, I already knew what I wanted to do my research on: urban sustainability. Japan is one of the most urbanized countries in the world. Almost 98% of the human population lives in cities. During the first year of my master's studies, I have seen many unique urban sustainability initiatives from Japan.

With this inspiration from Japanese urban sustainability examples during my studies, I have found my research place: "The Mori Memorial Foundation Institute for Urban Strategies". I have sent my application documents such as about my CV and motivation letter via e-mail. Then, I was invited to an online interview where I've been asked questions such about my software skills, studies that I've conducted during my bachelor's and master's, and my knowledge about urban sustainability topics. After being accepted to do my internship there, I started my internship on the 1st of September, 2021.

The internship has conducted as a part of the Research Semester of my master's program. I have created my own research project, "Japan Environmental Sustainability City Index", which asses the environmental sustainability performance of Japan's metropolitan areas under different categories: energy and CO2, environmental risks and resilience, air quality, transportation, buildings, waste and land-use. I have also added my research to the relationships of these categories with the UN's Sustainable Development Goals. In addition to my main task of the research project, I created videos by using Adobe After Effects and Google Earth Studio to be presented at international and national conferences of the Institute. I also worked on data collection for the "Global Power Inner City Index". My internship lasted for 6 months and concluded at the end of February 2022.

Since my internship took place during the corona pandemic, I couldn't have the chance to go to Japan to conduct my research and therefore did it remotely. During my internship, I have worked in an international working environment

and met people from different cultures and backgrounds. This was one of the main assets in addition to my academic gain. Every Tuesday we had a group meeting where everybody presented their work and progress so far. In addition to this, I was able to ask my questions and get feedback at any time from my supervisors in the institute. In this way, I have learned how to conduct research in a professional way and the prerequisites of research in institutions from experienced researchers. Also, since there were researchers at the institute who are from Japan, they supported me in finding the necessary data for my research and gave lots of important information about Japan's database.

As an international student, I feel privileged to be able to experience different cultures during my master's studies in Germany and my internship in Japan. It helps to see different perspectives and so enables me to expand my vision in addition to many professional and academic experiences. I highly recommend future HNEE students to apply for opportunities in different countries, especially countries on different continents, to broaden their vision, and then apply for the PROMOS scholarship which helps you focus on your experience!