



**INSTITUTE OF TROPICAL ECOLOGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT**

Visca, Baybay City, Leyte, 6521-A, Philippines  
Telephone: +63 53 563-7497 / 53 565-0600 (local 1052)  
Email: [iteem@vsu.edu.ph](mailto:iteem@vsu.edu.ph) | Website: [www.vsu.edu.ph](http://www.vsu.edu.ph)

March 29, 2023

**Dr. Eliza D. Espinosa**  
Director, and Personnel Committee Chairman  
Institute of Tropical Ecology and Environmental Management  
Visayas State University  
Visca, Baybay City, Leyte

Thru: **THE ITEEM PERSONNEL COMMITTEE**

Dear **Dr. Espinosa**,

The Graduate School of Bioagricultural Sciences (GSBS), Nagoya University (NU), Nagoya, Japan, is now accepting Ph.D. student applications for scholarships in the **Transnational Doctoral Programs for Leading Professionals in Asian Countries** such as Cambodia, Laos, and the Philippines with a degree of "**Doctor of Agricultural Science**." The scholarship will begin in October 2023. Nagoya University (NU) is one of VSU's active partners and has signed a memorandum of agreement (MOA) to undertake joint research, supervise, and advise a VSU Ph.D. student. NU also granted equipment for the proposed Ph.D. study based in the VSU-NU Forestry and Ecological Modeling Laboratory, which launched on November 17, 2022.

With this letter, I express my intention to apply to this program in order to pursue a Ph.D. degree. It is based on the Faculty Development Plan for C.Y. 2023–2027 by our Institute. In connection with my NU Ph.D. application, I have already been contacted and accepted by a faculty member of the Graduate School of Bioagricultural Sciences to serve as my adviser (Dr. Michiko Nakagawa). Dr. Nakagawa visited VSU from November 30 to December 7, 2022, in order to discuss and review my proposed Ph.D. research in conjunction with the "Ecological Assessment and Conservation of Philippine *Aquilaria* for Sustainable Agarwood Production in Leyte Island (ECo-SAP)" project funded under the VSU Internationalization program. On her visit, she also visited the ECo-SAP and the established Ph.D. study sites in Abuyog, Leyte.

Likewise, there were several online meetings conducted in 2021 and 2022, the NU scholarship panel selected Dr. Marlito M. Bande as my local supervisor. Dr. Bande was selected because his degree is in line with my Ph.D. program and he is the project leader of ECo-SAP.

In connection with the Transnational Doctoral Programs of NU, the Science Education Institute (SEI) of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) offers a scholarship under the **DOST-SEI-Nagoya University Joint Scholarship** program to Filipino applicants for a Ph.D. in selected fields of agriculture sciences. This scholarship is designed to fund the student's proposed Ph.D. study, which requires application documents due by April 15, 2023. In accordance with this, I also express my intention to apply for this scholarship program.

As per the application guidelines for admission to the **Transnational Doctoral Programs** of NU, a **letter of recommendation from the applicant's employer**, a **certificate of academic background** (NU scholarship prescribed form), and a **letter of approval for taking the examination** (NU scholarship prescribed form) will be secured and duly signed by the applicant's employer (Head of Agency) or director of an affiliated organization (specifying term of employment and sealed by employer or director). In principle, the duration of my proposed Ph.D. degree under the Transnational Doctoral Programs will be three years. Similarly, the **DOST-SEI-Nagoya University Joint Scholarship** program requires a **recommendation letter** from the applicant's employer and an approved **leave of absence (LOA)**.