

アカデミア メランコリア (第32回) (若手のコラム)

Atmosphere and Ocean Research Institute Eun Yae Son

I appreciate to Muramatu Miaki of Hokkaido University for giving me a chance to talk about myself in column. My name is Eun Yae Son who has Korea nationality and studying in Atmosphere and Ocean Research Institute under the supervision of Professor Fujio. I have been studied on diapycnal mixing that is generated by small and meso scale features such as internal wave and geostrophic current in the Arctic. In this article, I would like to talk about myself how I started to study Arctic and came to Japan.



I still remember my childhood. I was a weird young girl who is much different from others who like pretty and cute things. I was obsessed with dinosaurs and insects, and I memorized whole encyclopedia of those. Whenever teacher asks about my dream in my childhood, I used to answer, "I want to be a scientist". The biggest turning point that I decided to study oceanography was happened in high school days. When I was in third grade, my teacher whose major is earth science introduced me there is an oceanography major in few universities. To be honest, I did not know the existence of that major until her suggestion. At the end of high school days, I applied three different majors in different universities, and I got the acceptances from them. But I decided to study oceanography rather than engineering. I don't know why I decided to go there, maybe I was fascinated by the word 'Ocean'.

After enrollment, I realized that it fits my taste and is very fun to study. It is simple but, that is all reasons for the decision to enter graduate school. For the master's course I entered coastal ocean observation laboratory because I wanted to study sediment dynamics. However, the first data that I received from my supervisor was the sea ice camp data that is obtained in the western Arctic. I received downward-looking ADCP data that is mounted on the drifting sea ice. I never knew that I am going to study polar oceanography until now at that time. It was such a struggle to study physical oceanography at the sedimentology laboratory. So, I decided to ask help at the conference that was held in Korea Polar Research Institute. Inside of brochure, I found interesting title and asked to the presenter that how I can improve my study. That is all began of a long relationship with Dr. Yusuke Kawaguchi. After the conference, gratefully he invited me to JAMSTEC and helped me to improve the study in summer and winter vacations. After master's graduation, he suggested me to come to Japan and study with him. Of course, my answer was "yes", definitely. It is beginning of study in Japan.

When I look back my past, it is very lucky that my former supervisor gave me the Arctic data. I did not know how fascinating the Arctic is. Now, I am writing this article in the R/V Mirai heading to the Arctic. I hope we can have fruitful observation result and fun in the Arctic, this year too.