## Andi Salamah

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I started my studies at Okayama University in April 1995 as a research student with a Japanese Monbusho scholarship. I spent my first six months as an Intensive Japanese Language Course's student at the University's language education center and the next 6 months as a research student before enrolling on a master's course in 1996.

I studied for my master's and doctorate degrees at the Department of Plant Pathology and Genetic Engineering, Graduate School of Natural Science and Technology, Okayama University. I was awarded my doctorate in March 2001. Life as a member of the lab at the Department of Plant Pathology and Genetic Engineering was really a great experience.

I lived in Okayama for six years and consider that Okayama is my second home or 'furusato' and feel emotionally attached to Japan's culture and nature. I enjoyed my time in Okayama with Japanese and foreign students from many countries. During my Japanese course, I was not only learning the language but also about Japanese culture, and met many foreign students who later continued their study in Kagawa, Tottori, Ehime, and Kochi prefectures. They were taking their Japanese course at the Okayama University language center because at that time Okayama University was a center of Japanese Language Courses for the Chugoku and Shikoku regions.

Studying at Okayama University also gave me a chance to become a part of the Okayama Muslim Students Association (OMSA). All these experiences are really nice memories for me and Okayama is always in my mind and my heart.

I would like to thank the Japanese Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology for the scholarship that I received for my study at Okayama University. I really hope that in future that many other students from Indonesia will have the opportunity to study at Okayama University.



Andi Salamah



Members of the Genetic Engineering and Plant pathology Lab.



Dinner at Kawai Sensei's (my Japanese language course teacher) house