



Research in one sentence

As natural language is a standard way of communication, sharing/representing information. Using natural language will lead to an easier understanding of the content by a large number of users.

What is your uniqueness in your research?

I do not think I am a special or unique person. As a researcher, I try to work on problems that can be helpful in the societal ecosystem, so that the society can progress. As a part of research work, we take up problems that are futuristic in nature. Most of the problems are open-ended, with no easy solutions in sight. In fact, if the solution approach is known, half the work is already done. While working on problems that are open-ended, one needs to be focused, motivated, and willing to accept failures. Often the proposed approaches do not work at first go. One should not lose heart at that failure. On the contrary, trying to understand the reasons behind the failure and ability to progress from there is a quality that every researcher should possess. Being bold with solution approaches, being ready to fail, analyzing the failure cases to come back stronger with better solutions require a positive state of mind – and these qualities are expected in all researchers. I believe I possess these aspects which help me progress in my research career.

Interview with PI of JICA Research Grant under FRIENDSHIP2.0 Project

IIT Hyderabad has good resources – both human resources and computing resources. We have a sincere, hardworking, enthusiastic and competent student pool. The institute is equipped with a highly efficient computing infrastructure. Both these play important roles in obtaining good quality and impactful research outcomes.

Background of joint research with Japanese Co-PI

My Co-PI is Prof. Akiko Aizawa from the National Institute of Informatics and our topic of joint research is Generating natural language descriptions/summaries of data tables.

I got to interact with Prof. Akiko Aizawa in 2018, when one of my Ph.D. students went to do an internship under the Sakura Science Program. Prof. Aizawa was very approachable and provided excellent mentorship to the student. The internship work was then extended, and we had a joint publication from that extended work accepted at Wiley Expert systems journal in 2021. We were in touch throughout this period.

The past interaction with Prof. Aizawa was very smooth and pleasant. We have a joint publication too. Hence I approached her for a collaboration for the JICA Research Grant under FRIENDSHIP Project Phase2. It was a pleasure that she readily accepted the request and gave her consent through the required documents.

What are the tips to have collaborated with Co-PI for so long?

Prof. Aizawa is an active researcher and immensely knowledgeable in her area. The closeness of our individual research areas and her approachable nature made it possible to continue the collaboration.

What are the benefits from collaboration with Japanese Co-PI?

There are many focused research groups in Japan working on interesting problems. Collaborating work with these groups helps in student exchange, sharing of ideas, technical discussions giving rise to new ideas, etc. Such things generally lead to better research outcomes.

For students, that is a good opportunity for better exposure and cultural exchange for both labs



Do you recommend FRIENDSHIP 2.0 to the other faculty members?

Yes. Joint work has potential to give new insights and new ideas. The scheme has some budget for equipment and consumables, which is useful. It will be better if the scheme is for a longer duration (as opposed to eight months) and supports student stipends/travel.

