



International exchange

国際交流

From the world to Kumamoto University

Moved by the “GANBARIMASU” spirit of Kumamoto

Mr. Mafole Prosper Godfrey

**2nd-year, Doctoral Course of Computer Science and Electrical Engineering
Graduate School of Science and Technology**

Came to Kumamoto University in 2012 from Tanzania.

Researching methods to reduce power usage in smartphones and tablets.

After working for two years at the engineering department of the University of Dar es Salaam in Tanzania as an assistant, I wanted to study Japan’s latest communication engineering and came to Kumamoto University on a scholarship. In Tanzania, smartphones and tablets are quickly gaining in popularity as communication media. With the aim of building systems that can reduce the power consumption of handheld devices in a Wi-Fi environment, I run simulations, design programs, and collect data.



Mr. Mafole analyzes large data sets while continuously sitting at a computer display in the lab.

What made an impression was not just the advanced technology at Kumamoto University, but the “GANBARIMASU (give it your all)” spirit in my teachers and friends in the laboratory. When it comes to accomplishing goals, people in Kumamoto pour their energy into the everyday aspects of their lives, not just coursework. Shortly after I arrived in Japan, I experienced the heavy rains in northern Kyushu. From a window at the International House in Kurokami, I was duly impressed to see rescues via helicopter, townspeople helping each other, and the

rapid response from the government reaching out by email and broadcasts. Even after that, seeing the people investigating the causes of the disaster and scientifically testing prevention measures against damage from further heavy rains was equally impressive. Also, despite the fact that Kumamoto is blessed with an abundance of underground water sources, water conservation is enthusiastically taught, and even children are aware of it. The “GANBARIMASU” spirit—everyone giving their best to accomplish a certain thing—of the Kumamoto people is something they can take pride in.



In August 2012, Mr. Mafole gets an opportunity to play the *shakuhachi* (Japanese flute) while participating in the “JAPAN TENT” exchange student event, hosted in Ishikawa prefecture.

My hometown of Moshi is at the base of Mt. Kilimanjaro. It is a peaceful town whose main industry is coffee and bananas, and tourists come to visit from all of the world. In the future I want to return to a university in my hometown and make contributions to the technological development of my country while exchanging information with the friends I’ve made at Kumamoto University.