

Professional Science Master's Scholar

Janella Mae Salamania

University of the Philippines Diliman



PSM Degree

Master of Engineering in Materials Science and Engineering

US University

Cornell University

Date of Completion

May 2015

GPA

3.87

Master of Engineering in Materials Science and Engineering

Unlike a research-oriented Master of Science degree, the Master of Engineering in Materials Science and Engineering program at Cornell was designed to give students a competitive advantage in the professional workplace. This is offered to students who wish to pursue leadership careers in business, technology management or governance.

As a PSM student, what was the highlight of your study?

During my time as a PSM student, the highlight of my study was getting quality education in such a short time. I was able to maximize such a short time to obtain deep knowledge from professors in highly specific fields of materials science and engineering. To me, the whole learning experience in Cornell was tremendously motivating and it only heightened my interest in science and technology.

In what way has the USAID scholarship changed you?

The USAID scholarship has opened doors for me that I used to think were unreachable. Because of the opportunity that USAID gave me, I was able to grow my knowledge to new levels, develop new practical skills, and gain experiences that ultimately gave me a competitive advantage in the professional world.

How would you use your degree to contribute or influence economic growth in the country?

As a graduate of materials science and engineering, I will apply what I learned in advancing the continuous improvement of products being manufactured in the country. This can be done by supporting and promoting research and development within various industries related to my field in the Philippines. I would also like to use my degree to support the technical training of fellow Filipinos. By doing these and by showing that Filipinos have respectable technical skills, we can help the Philippines become an attractive choice for building new manufacturing sites. This in effect will create new jobs that will definitely benefit the country's economy.

As a young scientist, what do you envision for the Philippine science, technology and innovation ecosystem in the next 10 years?

In the next 10 years, I look forward to seeing a Philippines openly accepting new innovations from science and technology research from both the academia and industries. I would also like to see the academia and private industries actively interacting to improve products and services for the public. In fact, I would be glad to see it as a norm. My hope is that the government become a catalyst and not a limiting factor in making this happen, while at the same time also sponsoring its own research projects for public use.

Since her return to the Philippines in 2015, Janella has been working as a Failure Analysis Engineer for an Austrian sensors semiconductor company in Laguna.

E-mail: jrs586@cornell.edu