



EBA Urban Environmental Challenges Fieldwork 2026



April 15, 2026

We are now calling for participants in the EBA-UPD (University of the Philippines Diliman) Fieldwork program in Quezon City, Philippines, for the year 2026: **14-21 November 2026 (7 days)**.

How do we generate evidence for solving urban environmental problems?

Urban pollution is often visible, but understanding its sources, pathways, and solutions requires more than observation. It requires data, systems thinking, and interdisciplinary collaboration. This fieldwork invites you to investigate how water pollution, solid waste systems, and treatment infrastructure interact in a rapidly urbanizing region, and how Nature-Based Solutions (NBS) can be integrated into these systems. Work with students, faculty, community, and other stakeholders to apply an evidence-based approach: collect data, analyze systems, and communicate insights that matter.

**Please note that the fieldwork may be rescheduled due to unexpected events.*

About this EBA Fieldwork Program

EBA-UPD Fieldwork Program 2026 includes a workshop and fieldwork-related activities.

Urban Environmental Challenges:

Nature-Based Solutions for Urban Water and Waste Systems

Theme: Environmental challenges in Asia and the Pacific: surface water quality degradation, solid waste management, and Nature-Based Solutions (NBS) for climate-resilient cities

This fieldwork aims to apply evidence-based approaches to:

- Understand the sources and impacts of urban pollution
- Examine how solid waste systems and water infrastructure influence environmental quality
- Explore how Nature-Based Solutions (NBS) can complement conventional systems
- Generate integrated, data-driven insights for improving urban resilience

The fieldwork will be conducted in Metro Manila and adjacent areas, a rapidly urbanizing region facing interconnected environmental challenges related to water pollution, solid waste management, and urban infrastructure. The program will be anchored at the University of the Philippines Diliman (Quezon City), the country's premier national



EBA Project: <https://eba.soi.asia/> | EBA contact email: eba-ra-group@keio.jp



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university, known for its expansive green campus and commitment to sustainability, providing an ideal setting for interdisciplinary learning and collaboration.

Key field sites include:

- University of the Philippines Diliman (Quezon City)
- Maningning Creek (Taytay, Rizal)
- Controlled Disposal Facility and community-based Materials Recovery Facilities

In this fieldwork, participants will:

- Conduct water quality monitoring and environmental data collection in urban waterways
- Analyze solid waste management systems and their environmental impacts
- Understand water and wastewater treatment processes
- Identify and evaluate opportunities for Nature-Based Solutions
- Develop evidence-based insights and communicate findings through collaborative outputs

Language Requirement

All lectures will be provided in English. English skills are required; participants should be at least able to carry on conversations in English.

Online Introduction to Evidence-Based Approach Requirement

As indicated in the schedule below, participants must take the online Introduction to EBA course (real-time sessions, on-demand lectures, and project-based learning) prior to the fieldwork. Completion of the course is required to participate in the fieldwork.

Target and Capacity

This program is primarily designed for undergraduate students. However, graduate students are also eligible to apply.

- SOI Asia, EBA Project partner universities - 12 students
- UPD - 4 students

Prerequisites

There are no specific departmental or faculty prerequisites for students wishing to participate in this fieldwork. However, participants should have proficiency in using digital tools such as computers, smartphones, and similar devices, as these will be essential for





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documenting, collecting evidence, and conducting research.

**If many applicants apply for participation, screening (online interview) will be conducted in Q2, 2026.*

Schedule (Tentative) 14-21 November 2026

June-August	Online Course “Introduction to Evidence-Based Approach” [Real-time session schedule: June 27, July 11, July 25 (optional), August 8]
October	Online fieldwork introduction sessions by UPD
14 November	Participants arrive at Ninoy Aquino International Airport, Metro Manila, Philippines
15- November	Pre-workshop (orientation, team building, campus tour, introduction to fieldwork methods)
16 November	Training and hands-on activities on water quality monitoring, solid waste systems
17 November	Fieldwork: Water quality monitoring (Maningning Creek, Taytay, Rizal)
18 November	Lecture and hands-on activities: Water Wastewater Treatment Plants, Nature-Based Solutions
19 November	Fieldwork: Controlled Solid Waste Disposal Facility and/or Material Recovery Facility
20 November	Data analysis, synthesis, and final presentations
21 November	Departure
Mid-Jan 2027	Online public presentation

Completion of the program

Participants will be considered as completing the program when they participate in all online sessions, fieldwork activities, and a public presentation. Upon completion of the program, participants will receive a certificate from the EBA Project.





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How to apply

- **For EBA Partner University**

Contact the EBA Project Local Coordinator at your University before **May 25, 2026**.

See their information here: <https://eba.soi.asia/#contact>

*Please note that EBA does not accept applications from individual students without the acknowledgment of their school.

- **For Keio University Students ONLY (慶應生)**

Please fill out the following Registration Google form by **May 25, 2025**.

Google Form: URL <https://forms.gle/g4Y2Joj8HUyR6FfU8> or via QR code:

This QR code is for
Keio students =>



Costs and Support

The EBA project will bear the cost of accommodation during the stay in the Philippines, and International airfare and domestic transportation within the Philippines. **Please note that travel insurance, VISA for entering the Philippines (If necessary), and daily expenses (including food, etc) are NOT included.**

