



Bringing you news about the Foundation's immigration-related activities

10 participants of the 2015 Exchange Students Program for Descendants of Immigrants start their new life in Fukuoka!

This year, 10 participants of the Descendants of Immigrants program arrived in Japan to begin their life as students in Fukuoka Prefecture. Despite unfamiliar surroundings, over the past 2 months the students have helped each other make the most of life in Fukuoka. On May 13, they paid a courtesy visit to Fukuoka Prefecture Vice Governor Ebii, where they received some words of encouragement. "A year studying abroad may not be long, but I believe this time in Fukuoka will have great value in your lives. I hope you make many friends, study hard together and grow as individuals during your year in Fukuoka."



【Commemorative photo with Vice Governor Ebii】

Life in Fukuoka/Japan

It was great to meet the other students on the program, as well as my relatives living in Fukuoka (OGATA). I was worried about living away from family and friends for the first time, but everyone in Fukuoka was so warm and friendly that I felt at home right away (PRIEBE). The people of Fukuoka are very welcoming, and I am glad that I could meet the participants from other countries (HIRATA). I'm happy to be able to spend a year studying overseas, and to see the place my grandfather lived when he was young (TERAMOTO). It is great to learn about the place where my grandparents lived and my dad was born – my roots. Being able to stand in places they may once have been, and meeting my Japanese relatives, has strengthened the connection between Japan and Argentina (EGUCHI).



Shyo Ogata
(Zai-Bolivia)



Emily Priebe
(Nanka)



School life

At first, I was a little nervous and scared to approach my Japanese classmates, but now they are like family to me (TANABE). I truly enjoy every day. I've made so many friends that it's hard to keep track of all their names!(TAKASHINA). The teachers were very welcoming, and I was able to make friends who help explain lectures and show me the unique aspects of Fukuoka Prefecture (KITAGAWA). Japanese is difficult, but making Japanese friends helps me improve my language skills while learning more about the country (YOSHIKAI). I enjoy school. Since my Japanese is not very good I haven't been able to make many friends as yet, but all of the teachers, staff and students are really nice (MATSUI).

Sayuri
Hirata
(Brazil)



Hideki
Teramoto
(Mexico)



Ines Eguchi
(Argentina)

Goals for the year

I have three goals. First, share photos of Fukuoka Prefecture with the world. Second, learn about portrait photography. And third, study Japanese. I plan to take the JLPT N2 in December (TANABE). I want to completely master Japanese techniques for planting and growing rice, then utilize this knowledge in Bolivia (OGATA). I will study hard while also learning more about Japanese culture, so that I can make a greater contribution to the Kenjinkai after returning home (TAKASHINA). I want to try and learn as much as I can about town planning and the Japanese language (PRIEBE). By interacting with the Kazokukai and friends, I want to understand traditional Japanese culture, while learning advanced skills and knowledge at university (KITAGAWA). In Fukuoka, I want to learn about Japanese culture, language and economics, then compare and analyse these with the things I learnt in Brazil (HIRATA). I will do my best to study Japanese and, after returning to Mexico, continue with the studies I've started at Fukuoka University. It is also my goal to have many young participants at the next worldwide convention, which will be held in Mexico in 2016 (TERAMOTO). I want to learn traditional crafts such as dyeing, woodworking and gold restoration, then fuse these with my own designs. I also want to improve my communication ability in Japanese (EGUCHI). Along with Japanese culture and language, I am currently studying Japanese art and design, and hope to learn as much as I can about the differences with Mexico. I want to take this wonderful Japanese experience back home with me (YOSHIKAI). In addition to my university research and Japanese studies, I want to learn more about Japanese culture, including kimono, hakama and other traditional fashions, and instruments like the shamisen. I hope to broaden my network and make lots of friends. I have a rather introverted personality, so I want to improve my speaking ability as well. (MATSUI)

Alex
Tanabe
(Peru)



Tsuyoshi
Takashina
(Brazil)

Hitomi
Kitagawa
(Paraguay)



Junichi
Yoshikai
(Mexico)

Eric
Matsui
(Nanka)

