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福岡県移住者子弟留学報告書

2010 Exchange Students Program for
Descendants of Immigrants from Fukuoka Prefecture

C o m p l e t i o n R e p o r t

Fukuoka International Exchange Foundation

財団法人福岡県国際交流センター

目次

02

Shimizu Esteban Hiroshi (Brazil Fukuoka Kenjinkai)

Kyushu University,
Graduate School of Information Science and Electrical Engineering

06

Matunobu Tami (Brazil Fukuoka Kenjinkai)

Kyushu Sangyo University,
Faculty of International Culture

10

Uchida Cibele (Brazil Fukuoka Kenjinkai)

Kyushu Sangyo University,
Faculty of Management

14

Imamura Flavio Akira (Brazil Fukuoka Kenjinkai)

Kyushu Sangyo University,
Department of Economics

17

Nakamura Iara Akemi De Almeida (Brazil Fukuoka Kenjinkai)

Kyushu University,
Faculty of Law

21

Ogata Diana Osae (Bolivia Fukuoka Kenjinkai)

Kyushu Sangyo University,
Faculty of Commerce and the Graduate School of Business & Economics

25

Makabe Kawajara Gerardo Mikio (Peru Fukuoka Club)

Kyushu Sangyo University,
Department of Economics

Brazil Fukuoka Kenjinkai Shimizu Esteban Hiroshi

Introduction

I am a 22 year old, second generation Japanese descendant. I was born in Guatemala and before turning 1 year old, I moved to Brazil with my family. Since then, I had been living in Sao Paulo City.

I graduated in System Information at University of Technology of Sao Paulo in December, 2009. After that, I wanted to continue my studies, and I wished to know and visit my mother and grandparents hometown, Fukuoka. So I applied for the “Exchange Students Program for Descendants of Immigrants from Fukuoka Prefecture”. In April 2010, my dream came true, as I got the opportunity to come to Fukuoka as a Kenpi Ryuugakusei. I had the privilege of studying in the most prestigious university of Kyushu, Kyushu University, and along with it, I experienced and enjoyed a precious exchange student life, meet new interesting people and learn the essence of Japan.

New life and culture in Fukuoka

At first, I thought life in Fukuoka was really different from life in Brazil, such as the different language and costumes, so my everyday was rather tense. However, like everybody says, Fukuoka is a city rich in nature, has great food, an organized and extended public transportation system, so the adaptation turned to be an easy process.

I think that there is not a province in Japan that offers more assistance to foreign students than Fukuoka. The people from the “Fukuoka International Exchange Foundation”, the “Fukuoka International Student Support Center” (FISSC) and the “Association of Families of Fukuoka” (Kazokukai), who were like a family to us, not only aided us when we were in trouble, but also helped us making good memories in this short period. They are warm hearted people. Thanks to them, I got to participate in many activities and festivals in every season of the year. In the spring: rice planting, firefly hunting, Hakata Dontaku; In the summer: Firework festivals, Yamakasa, yacht cruise, rice reaping; In the autumn: grape gathering, kimono experience, hiking; In the winter: Christmas concert. All these activities will remain in my memory forever.

This way, I learned many things which I certainly would not have been able to learn by books or at school. Just by living them, I increased my knowledge of Japanese culture and customs.

About my summer vacation

Summer vacation is the coolest time during a student’s life. I took this chance to visit other places in Japan besides Fukuoka. Even under the intense heat of August, I bought the “Seishun

18 Kippu” and visited many cities by train. The first city I visited was Osaka, which took me approximately 13 hours to get there by train. In 3 days I visited Osaka, Kyoto, Nara and Shiga. I saw that Japan, even being a developed country, has many shrines and temples left. I think that this is a proof of respect for old Japanese culture. At “Kantou Tihou” I met some friends that I have not seen in 3 years. I had a great time going to places to which young Japanese usually go to. It was a short 10-day trip, but I got to learn different characteristics of many parts of Japan at once, so I went back to Fukuoka very pleased. There was a group that learned the beauty of Japan in a similar 10-day trip. The children of the “Short Term Program for Young Descendants of Immigrants from Fukuoka Prefecture”, visited Fukuoka in July. Despite the rainy season, the kids visited schools, museums, temples and castles. They learned many things about Japan in a short period and lived experiences that they will hardly forget, returning to their countries very happy. Maybe they do not yet know how blessed they are to have come to Fukuoka, but when they grow up I am sure they are going realize how wonderful and important this program was for their life.

Concerning my studies

I am interested in computer and everything related to Information Technology since high school, so I chose Computer Science as my major. Currently, there are many companies around the world requiring services of IT companies. However, even in this developed IT age, software development requires a lot of time and effort from developers.

This year, I made a research about “Software Development Methodology” at “Fukuda Research Laboratory”, in which Professor Akira Fukuda is the teacher advisor. The Laboratory is located inside Ito Campus of Kyushu University.

Professor Tsuneo Nakanishi introduced me to a technology called PLUS (Product Line UML Based Software). Simply put, PLUS has emerged to facilitate software development, increasing its speed. Rather than developing software from scratch, the idea is using common features of a given software to be applied on other system. For example, mobile phones currently being used around the world contain software. This software, was not developed specifically for this mobile phone use, as a lot of its basic functions are just adapted features that were mostly already developed. The use of these common features is what the PLUS idea is about.

Thanks to Professor Nakanishi, I got the opportunity to learn PLUS not just theoretically, but also practically. Concretely, I used PLUS to develop a management system for the laboratory library. Thank to this, I learned a lot of new technologies. It was so difficult that I thought about quitting. But Professor Nakanishi said something like “When you work for a company, you cannot fail. So enjoy now that you are a student to try everything, and fail sometimes”. This way, I continued my studies.

The progress in my research was less than expected, but I increased my technical knowledge. My goal now is dominate PLUS completely and propose fixes and improvements for

this development method.

Moreover, I got technical basic knowledge about several topics by participating in “Fukuda Seminar”, and watching many presentations of college and graduate school students. I am very pleased, because now, compared to when I had just arrived to Japan, I am able to understand a variety of technical terminology in Japanese.

Acknowledgement

Through my stay in Fukuoka, hometown of my ancestors, I learned a lot of things about Japanese culture and customs and I got to improve my skills in many fields. Besides, I had the chance to meet many relatives, whom I had never met before. I am extremely grateful to the Prefecture of Fukuoka, Brazil Fukuoka Kenjinkai, Fukuoka International Exchange Foundation and Kazoku-kai. I would like to thank my teachers and my friends. Everyone, thank you very much! I lived this year proudly as a "Kenpi Ryuugakusei" in Fukuoka, living a privileged life in Japan. Now, as a person who understands the importance of this "cultural exchange", I want to be like a bridge between Brazil and Fukuoka, being useful for Fukuoka and Japan.

Kyushu University,
Graduate School of Information Science and Electrical Engineering
Professor, Tsuneo Nakanishi
(Teacher of Shimizu)

Esteban Hiroshi Shimizu came to my research laboratory as an Exchange Student Descendants of Immigrants from Fukuoka Prefecture in April, 2010.

Every year, 4th year students participate in “ET Robocon” at my research laboratory. “ET Robocon” is a technology competition of controlling and software modeling implemented in a small type of line race car. I assigned Esteban to the team, but sometimes he had Japanese classes at the time of the meetings, so he was not able to attend full time to this project. In the second semester he learned Object Oriented Programming of Software development methodology, and started to develop a Web-based Library Management System. I think this task was very difficult for him, studying articles in Japanese and English and developing the system. Eventually, the system will be used in our Laboratory, but I would have really wanted him to accomplish this project.

Different from Brazil, a country with different races, Japan does not have racial or cultural variety. Japanese people are still not familiarized with meeting people from other countries. Maybe, at some point, Esteban thought that Japanese students are distance people. But it is not like that, they are just shy. I think that this short 1-year program was not enough to open his mind and talk to Japanese people. I certainly want Esteban to study 2 more years as graduate student or work at a Japanese company, turning into a human bridge, who understands Japan deeply.

Brazil Fukuoka Kenjinkai Matunobu Tami

Introduction

I am a Nikkei Third Generation, born in the city of Marília, State of São Paulo, Brazil. Marília is situated about 433 Km. away from the city of São Paulo. I have 2 brothers and 3 sisters, for that reason, my home always had a happy environment. My father is the Chief Missionary of a Tenrikyo church, in which I lived in along with my grandparents and parents. I understand that people living in a standard house, do not know how daily life is in a church, but for me it is more difficult to understand how daily life is in an average home because I was born and raised in a church. Every year we always arrange many activities, being always busy, and besides that, we always have other people living with us. Even though, I am thankful for being raised in a church, because I had the opportunity to meet different people and live various experiences. 3 years ago, I graduated in Translation from Euripides University Center, Marília. This exchange program in my grandparents' home country was a great chance regarding my studies and also to get to know better my own roots.

New way of life

I arrived in Japan full of uncertainties and very insecure. Until I figure out this new way of life, my daily life did not seem to flow the way I wanted to. I was nervous because of the language issue and along with that I got myself embarrassed in some situations for not knowing the customs properly, for example, during a conversation I used words in a rude or disrespectful way. At first I was feeling really tired. However, I made friends that were experiencing the same hardships as me, so helping each other we would spend every day laughing, no matter how bad the situation was. Eventually, I got used to the Japanese way of life and I ended up liking it more than I could ever imagine.

In Fukuoka peaceful places where people can relax are as abundant as modern, noisy locations. Fukuoka also has beautiful beaches and mountains and has the tastiest food. Sometimes my life in Japan felt like a dream and I was so happy that I was afraid that someday I would have to wake up.

Moreover, it was nice that the 7 exchange students from this program, including me, lived in the same dormitory. It was not just making food together or going shopping, whether it was good times, when in trouble or concern, lonely, or in the times I fell asleep with a cold, I appreciate everyone that made part of it. I want to thank everyone for being so friendly with me until the end.

About Kyushu Sangyo University (KSU) and my research

I did my research at the Department of Japanese Culture of Kyushu Sangyo University, under the guidance of Professor Tsutomu Yamashita. At first, I thought of continuing my Language studies, but while reflecting over the idea of me being a Nikkei and the meaning of coming to Japan, I decided to research about “Japan and relatives “left behind”, at the time of Japanese emigration to Brazil”. This year marked the 100th anniversary of the arrival of the first immigrants from the Fukuoka Prefecture to Brazil. Japanese immigration to Brazil started in 1908, being approximately 250,000 people from all over Japan and 25,000 from the Fukuoka Prefecture. The immigration program started as a state policy, but in many cases local communities lacked of acceptance towards the immigrants, calling them “abandoned people” (kimin).

When I started my research, I realized that a lot of Japanese did not know about the immigration process. When I found out that in Japanese schools this subject was not studied, I felt kind of sad. We, Nikkei people were raised under the influence of the Japanese culture, and since childhood felt a strong connection with Japan. However, it is regrettable that Japanese do not even know about our existence or that more than 1.5 million Nikkei people live in Brazil.

At KSU, I did not only study but also made part of an Archery Club. After I joined the Club, I realized that everything I was learning through daily practice would not be possible to assimilate just by living in Japan or going to University. I could for instance learn the Archery Club customs and the relation between Senpai (senior) and Kouhai (fresh man), the different way that women and men express to each other. Experiencing the routine of a Club which conserves traditions, was a good lesson of Japanese tradition and culture. Being surrounded by kind and friendly Senpais, the archery training was always fun.

Best Memories

Upon my arrival to Japan, every month I had numerous enjoyable experiences. Invited by the Fukuoka International Exchange Foundation and the Association of Families of Fukuoka (Kazoku-kai) I took part in activities such as Taue (Rice planting), Home Stay, Bus Hike to Kumamoto Prefecture, Encounter with the Vice-Governor, Short Term Program for Young Descendants of Immigrants from the Fukuoka Prefecture, University Training Camp, among others. I will keep a precious remembrance from each of these experiences. Among these, the activity which marked me the most was the Short Term Program for Young Descendants of Immigrants from the Fukuoka Prefecture. These were 10 busy, yet really fun days.

One of the objectives of this program was to show the participant children our roots in Fukuoka Prefecture. I supported one of the Brazilian groups which had 3 children. Because of all the people I interacted with, the numerous activities and new experiences I took part in through this program, I had as much fun as the kids did learning about Japanese culture and

customs. By learning more facts about Fukuoka I started to like Fukuoka even more. This was truly a wonderful opportunity.

Conclusion

In this scholarship, besides the studies in university, I believe I have grown as a person. After I return to Brazil, I would like to have a job related to Brazil and Japan, to bond both countries. Related to Brazil Fukuoka Kenjinkai, I wish to contribute and dedicate myself the best way I can to the Kenjinkai so this scholarship endures and more people can have this valuable experience to get to know Fukuoka and love the city as I do, so the relation between Brazil and Fukuoka does not end.

Muito Obrigada!

First, I would like to thank God, for watching over me every day. I am sincerely grateful to my parents, who always gave their best for me, and to my brothers for their support and cheering me at all times. To the governor of Fukuoka and to all from Fukuoka International Exchange Foundation, for preserving this traditional scholarship for decades and always giving us support, thank you very much. To Brazil Fukuoka Kenjinkai, I am thankful for giving me this unique chance. To the Association of Families of Fukuoka (Kazoku-kai), I would like to express my gratitude for having us in wonderful activities, which made me be fond of Fukuoka. To Professor Tsutomu Yamashita from Kyushu Sangyo University, for guiding me through this scholarship and making it possible, I will be forever in debt with you, thank you very much. To Senpais from Archery Club and to my friends from Zemi, for truly accepting me even though my Japanese was not enough, I am really glad for having met you all. To Usui Host Family, for kindly receiving us in your family and for the two days surround of affection. To the 2010 Fukuoka Exchange Students, this special year may be over, but I wish this relationship does not extinguish with this program. Thank you for the best year.

Kyushu Sangyo University
Faculty of International Culture
Professor, Tsutomu Yamashita
(Teacher of Matunobu)

Matunobu Tami, a student from Brazil on the Exchange Students Program for Descendants of Immigrants from Fukuoka Prefecture, was received as a research student of the Faculty of International Culture from April, 2010 to March, 2011.

Having graduated from the faculty of translation, she aims at the advancement of her translation ability between Portuguese and Japanese or English, as well as the reform of the foreign education. Though she is good at communicating in Japanese and English in her daily life, she tries to improve her ability for languages to attend so many classes as “Basic Japanese A” (Professor Kubota), “Introductory to Japanese Literature”(Professor Wada) and “English”(Associate Professor Kakimoto), “English Communication I”(lecturer Carter).

In my seminar for graduation thesis, she got soon familiar with Japanese students with her cheerful and honest personality and positive attitude toward everything. She presented the educational system in Brazil, and discussed the difference between those of Japanese or American, and brought those discussions up to the contrast and distinction of each nationality. Thanks to her participation, our seminar turned to be more active and productive one.

Just after summer vacation, she changed her research topic to “Search for roots as a Japanese Brazilian” with her strong decision as “ the only thing that I can do, and I have to do, during my stay in Fukuoka, as a third generation Japanese Brazilian.” All of the students in the seminar as well as I are deeply impressed with her strong sense of mission and her own way of life.

I hope she will be increasingly active after returning home, with a lot of experiences in Japan, especially in quest of “roots”. It will be the core of her own identity, her spiritual backbone of her actual works concerned with translation or education. Moreover, I expect she will play the important role in the friendship between Brazil and Fukuoka, Japan, I am sure my expectation will be fulfilled.

Brazil Fukuoka Kenjinkai Uchida Cibebe

Presentation

I am a third generation Japanese descendant, born in the capital of Brazil – Brasília. I live with my parents, older brother and my twin sister. I obtained my bachelor's degree in International Relations from IESB University, Brasília in 2007. For my grandparents being Japanese, I started to get interested in their home country and while I was studying the Japanese language, I got even more interested in learning more about the Japanese culture. Therefore, I yearned to apply for this scholarship. Until now, for being Nikkei, I always thought I had a lot from Japanese culture in myself, but getting in Japan, I noticed that there were a lot of things that I did not know. As soon as I got here, everything was fun and interesting, but as time went by, I did not know what attitudes or conducts I was supposed to have. And the fact I faced directly the Japanese culture made me realize and be aware of my own culture. I figured it out that I had to spend this unique opportunity in the best way I could, accepting and sharing the cultural differences of this wonderful country.

Discovering the real Japan

In Fukuoka, people are really receptive to foreigners, and despite being an urban city, has a natural side, such as mountains, beaches and beautiful parks. While in Fukuoka, thanks to everyone from Fukuoka Association of Families, I had the chance to participate in several activities: rice planting, harvesting and threshing, grape picking and firefly hunting. Through these many activities, I could happily learn the Japanese culture. When I arrived at Fukuoka, I had the opportunity to be part of a Homestay program with the Usui family in Ukiha city. The Usui family was very friendly, took us to an Onsen (hot spring) and allowed us to experience the traditional Japanese life style.

In the summer, I was really impressed with the Fireworks of Kurume. I was surprised by the size and large number of Japanese fireworks. Lots of people, crowding the numerous stalls, were present to watch the fireworks, many of them wearing Yukata. I was overwhelmed by the splendor of the fireworks display. When speaking about Japan, the first thing that came to my mind was Kimono. So, before coming to Japan, what I wanted to experience the most was wearing a Kimono. The Kimono Experience held in November, gave me the chance to achieve this dream. After choosing a beautiful kimono, I took a lot of pictures at Oohori Park and then watched the “Chushingura” play in Hakataza Theater. It was hard to express what I felt at that moment, but I was truly happy that my dream was fulfilled.

Unforgettable Summer Vacation

In July, the “Short Term Visit Program for Young Descendents of Immigrants from Fukuoka Prefecture” took place. Children and leaders from various countries joined the event. We, the exchange students, also participated as support staff. This activity, to all participants (children, leaders and exchange students) was a great opportunity to learn about Japanese and international culture, discover new things and to make friends. I hope the children do not forget this amazing experience.

After this program finished, I went to Kyoto to visit a friend that I met in Brazil. There, I was able to do tourism with her: Kiyomizudera Temple, Kinkakuji (Golden Pavilion), and went to Toei Uzumasa Eiga Mura (Kyoto Studio Park), also saw the Daimonji (farewell letters). I also went to Osaka to visit my guarantor, then to Kobe and Nara.

At the end of the summer, I visited Okinawa, and was really impressed by the beauty of the sea. I went to the Tropical Dream Center to visit Okinawa’s local villages and in the last day to Shuri Castle Park. It was a awesome trip.

About my studies

At Kyushu Sangyo University, the classes are structured in a unique way. For example, in the Business Lecture, while studying a social business case, we analyzed the conditions for both social problem solving and global corporate profit, from the perspective of corporate strategy.

Teachers from Kyushu Sangyo University are really wonderful persons. Under the guidance of Professor Doi, I did my research study. My research theme was based in a problem the whole world is facing nowadays: the economic crisis and global warming.

Affected by the economic crisis of 2008, the Japanese market has been experiencing some changes. Many Japanese companies have felt the need to change towards corporate social responsibility and implement social programs, BOP business (strategy that implies helping the poor while focusing on their purchasing power), started in developed countries. The solution of social problems such as poverty, water shortage or sanitation is to generate income and foster independence, from which companies and poor communities can mutually benefit each other.

An interesting example of BOP business is Nippon Poly-Glu, from Japan. Poly-Glu has already provided significant benefits to developing countries, like Mexico. Poly-Glu’s project consists in purifying contaminated water in order to turn it into drinkable. Poly-Glu’s product can be easily used by anyone, as it is a Flocculant that only needs to be added to the contaminated water. Using this product, a ton of water can be purified at the low cost of US\$ 1. Nippon Poly-Glu has been applying this project since 3 and half years ago in Bangladesh, and already has helped 40,000 to 50,000 people.

BOP Business can be used in Brazil as a tool for public health development. Applying this strategy, not only would people from the region be employed, but also sanitation would be greatly improved. In Brazil, more than 14 million people lack access to water networks

distribution. Increasing number of diseases in poor population from urban neighborhoods and slum areas due to contaminated water usage has made water purification a major issue.

Conclusion

After returning to Brazil, I wish to have a job in which I can apply what I studied in Japan. Currently, the world has faced various problems, for example, global warming and the economic crisis; therefore Japan has become a worldwide standard for constructing eco-towns applying the sustainable development principles and local technology in industries. Thus, Japan as a role model has a positive impact to developing countries with environmental problems such as Brazil. Considering this matter, my research concerning the potable water issue, I want to put in practice what I learned during this exchange program, and contribute to Brazil, which still has this necessity. The city of Brasília does not have a Fukuoka Kenjinkai. So I wish to gather everyone who lives in Brasília and have ties with the Fukuoka Prefecture to transmit information from Brazil Fukuoka Kenjikai. Finally, from now on I would like to maintain the cultural exchange with Fukuoka.

Acknowledgments

First, to my beloved grandparents and family, thank you so much for supporting me at any time. To the governor of Fukuoka, I would like to express my gratitude for giving us, descendents of immigrants, the opportunity to know our grandparents home country. Everyone from Fukuoka International Exchange Foundation, and everyone from Brazil Fukuoka Kenjinkai, I am sincerely grateful for such a great experience. To all the members of Fukuoka Association of Families, for helping me to make memorable moments, thank you very much. To Mr. Akira Ide and Mrs. Hiromi Satooka, for accepting being my guarantors in Japan, thank you very much. I am truly thankful to professor Doi from Kyushu Sangyo University for patiently teaching me so many things and for the guidance regarding my study. To every person from International Exchange Center from KSU, especially to Ms. Tashima, whose support was essential to encourage me to pass through under all circumstances, I sincerely appreciate your efforts. To all my Japanese friends, especially Yuko, Yoko, Haruka, and Taro, thank you for always being there for me. To the exchange students that spent with me the whole year and now are my dear friends, from the bottom of my heart, thank you very much for being close to me, not only in the good times, but also in the hard times and when I needed.

Kyushu Sangyo University
Faculty of Management
Professor, Kazuo Doi
(Teacher of Uchida)

I am remembering when I saw Cibele-san for the first time in my office as an exchange student of the program for Descendants of Immigrants from Fukuoka Prefecture. She came to my office with a representative of the Fukuoka International Exchange Foundation. She was gazing at me with an inquiring look. Now, nearly 8 months have passed, her face is full of joy and her eyes is much brighter than ever. Her face tells me how she has enjoyed the stay in Japan and Japanese culture. Whenever she dropped in at my office, she related several incidents that happened to her in her halting Japanese.

On the other hand, during her stay in Japan, she has been doing research concerning CSR (Corporate Social Responsibility) and in particular has focused upon how companies can contribute to the solutions for social problems.

In Brazil due to the lack of water distribution, people get annoyed by the shortage of the fresh water. She has recognized that MNCs (Multinational Corporations) can play critical role in solving this pressing issue. She has focused on a leading company, Poly-Glu Co. which has innovative technology in order to eliminate the contamination of water. Using this case, she wrote a report concerning how contaminated water could be sanitized by transferring the above technology from Japan to Brazil and the possibility of the BOP (Base of the Pyramid) business in Brazil.

I like to say thanks to this opportunity for having you in my office. I hope she has memorable experiences during her stay.

Brazil Fukuoka Kenjinkai Imamura Flavio Akira

First,

I am from Brazil, Sao Paulo,SP and I am 25 years old. I am nikkei from the third generation. 4 years ago, I graduated in Economics at the Sao Judas Tadeu University. I had listened to my parent's advice and started a career in Economics college. Previously, I didn't know much about Economics but, after 1 year studying Economics I was already happy with my decision. The first time that I came to Japan was in December of 2005. I had a very happy time, that was a new experience as I was working a lot, I did not have many times to spend on travel, so I could not enjoy very much the country. But, even so I stayed with a very good impression of Japan. In 2007 I came to work one more time. In that opportunity I heard about Japanese's government's scholarship. I got interested with this scholarship thing and search for information with the group of young people of Fukuoka Association of Brazil and went back to Brazil. But, now living as a foreign student with an assigned teacher I could experience the way of life of a student in Japan. One more thing, this time that I came as student I could live the daily life of Japanese people and realize that life in Japan is not only studies and work. Now I could see a funny side of Japan.

About Summer Vacation

During the summer vacation I made a trip through Japan by train using the Seishun 18 kippu. I went to many places at Kansai and Kantou side of Japan. To some places I went by myself but still I had the opportunity to visit some places with friends that came with the same scholarship as me. Between the places that I went, I went to visit some friends and parents in Shizuoka, Wakayama and Aichi. It was the first time that I met my cousin in 10 years. I got surprised by the fact that her children are so big. At Wakayama I first met my grandmother's cousin but, I did not have enough time to spend there, so I had only time to eat with them and talk a little bit about family and the war period. About war, he told me that "at the war era, part of the family went to Brazil, and had a friend who has died at a battle in war. For this reason that was a very painful time.

The short term visit program for young descendants of immigrants from Fukuoka Prefecture was a new experience for me. Although in this program, there were children from many different countries, speaking different languages. I got surprised by the fact that they were all playing together in a short period of time. Through many different activities that we had, I got amazed by the fact that the 3 boys that were in my group enjoyed everything, even the uncommon activities. The time that we visited the Elementary school, they said that it was the coolest experience. They got amazed with the daily life of Elementary school students like they always clean their school.

About Fukuoka

I have lived in some cities in Japan before. I was surprised that there is a lot of foreign students in Fukuoka compare with other cities, and another thing that I could notice was the fact that the staff of the train stations and at the stores, people of Fukuoka, they gives me more attention than in another cities. Before I came to Japan, I thought that Japanese people were very shy. But, after I met Mr. Seki that impression has changed. He is a very good and funny man. And Mr. Matsuda, he is also a very good man and always making BBQ at his house. That is why we could have a good time, and that feeling of sadness goes away.

About studies

In April I started my studies in economics and Japanese language at Kyushu Sangyou University. The Japanese classes at the university were not enough, so I started going to Japanese classes of Kokusai Hiroba at Fukuoka International Exchange Foundation. By studying at there, I could improve my listening and conversation skills. Then, as I had the Japanese Language Proficiency Test, I started going to Kumon, so I could study more Kanji and grammar. So this time I was having classes 2 times a week with Japanese kids.

I used to go to a class, at this class we studied themes like Japanese economy, Japanese history and some others themes. It was very hard to understand the classes in Japanese. Even so my teacher told me to go to economics classes to listen to it, even if I did not understand it. Concerning to my research, my teacher told me that if I could not read a news paper, a book or a magazine, I could not start my research. That is why, I started to read some books in English about economy.

I visited the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park to study about war. In Brazil, I used to read and watch many things about war, but when I went at the museum in Hiroshima, that was totally different from everything that I ever knew. Nowadays, I could not believe that in that city was dropped an atomic bomb.

Acknowledgments (Goals after returning home)

After I got back to Brazil, I want to help as much as I can in the activities of the Fukuoka Kenjinkai. In my family, I am the only member of Fukuoka Kenjinkai, so I want to spread information about it to my family and friends. Finally, I want to thank to Brazil Fukuoka Kenjinkai, Ms. Sakano and Mr. Tanaka for being so helpful. I also want to thank to Kyushu Sangyou University and my assigned teacher Howan. And staffs of Fukuoka International Exchange Foundation and members of Fukuokaken kaigai iju kazokukai, thank you for helping me and being so kind. And also I want to give a special thanks to my guarantor, Mr. Seki. I am very thankful to everyone who helped me this year.

Kyushu Sangyou University
Department of Economics
Professor, Hwang Wanshung
(Teacher of Imamura)

Flavio Akira Imamura-kun is an exchange student from Brazil and studied at Kyushu Sangyou University at the Department of Economics from April, 2010 to March, 2011. He asked me to be his teacher advisor at the seminar of Small Business.

Before came as exchange student, he came 2 times to work and travel and had experienced many activities, because of that, he seemed to be used to the Japanese society easily.

For what I could see, Imamura kun really likes soccer and when he arrived in Japan, he could not enjoy it the way he was used in Brazil.

When he get back to Brazil, he want to teach what he learned here in Japan to the Japanese's descendents. But, he came to learn about Expansion of Japanese Economy after WW2, but to study this kind of theme it is required to understand the Japanese language quite well, instead of studying the war theme, he focused his studies on Japanese language (elementary junior high school). As a result of this, he did not continue his studies in his theme of post war reform.

Here at the Kyushu Sangyou University, he used to go every week to my seminar of small business, in which we used to discuss themes like Japanese Economy, Small Business, Regional Economy, Japanese History and Japanese Language.

Another thing, since Imamura kun has relatives here in Japan as an exchange student, he did not seem to be lonely. Then, he had time to visit some historical places at Nagasaki, Kumamoto and Kita Kyushu also, on the summer vacation he went to Tokyo, Osaka and Hiroshima, I think that was quite satisfying. I notice that it was not only about study, he could learn important things through this. Imamura kun want to keep studying when he get back to Brazil.

Brazil Fukuoka Kenjinkai Nakamura Iara Akemi De Almeida

Beginning

I am from the fourth generation of a Japanese family and I was born in São Paulo. My great-grandparents are from Kurume, city of Fukuoka Prefecture. In 2009, I graduated in a private university called United Metropolitan University (FMU). Since I was in high school, I have been interested in Japanese culture, because I made many Brazilian *Nikkei* friends. In spite of the distance between Brazil and Japan, Brazilians have a strong bond with Japanese culture. This fact surprised me a lot. So, I started to study Japanese language and practiced Japanese drums. Then I decided to come to Japan. In April 1st, 2010, I could come to Japan by Brazil Fukuoka Kenjinkai and Fukuoka International Exchange Foundation. I did a research about labor law at Kyushu University. Because I dreamed about coming to Japan, I did not give up however hard it was to research in Japanese.

My life in Japan

Living alone in Japan despite not being fluent in Japanese was a challenge for me. Moreover, there is a big difference between Brazilian and Japanese cultures. In the beginning, I was worried, but thanks to my friends and professors, I managed to be successful both in my research and in my life in Japan. When I came to Japan, I was touched by seeing the beautiful cherry trees. It was the first time I saw such beautiful trees. In that occasion, I remembered my grandmother, because she used to talk about cherry trees.

My life in Japan was hard in the beginning, but as I made Japanese and foreigner friends, my life became more fun. Before, I thought that Japanese people were cold, but after making Japanese friends, I realized that they are shy and kind. All the exchange students lived in the same dormitory. This is why we became close friends. With them, I used to make dishes that I couldn't make before, and every time I was depressed, they helped me.

During the scholarship, I participated in some activities by Fukuoka International Exchange Foundation and Fukuoka Association of Families, such as bamboo shoot digging, grape harvesting, rice planting and harvesting, firework festival, kimono wearing, Short Term Program for Young Descendants of Immigrants from Fukuoka Prefecture, which made me learn a lot about Japanese daily life and culture. All these activities were enjoyable, but I liked more the kimono wearing. This time, we wore a beautiful kimono and went to Ohorikouen Japanese garden to take pictures. Then, we went to Hakata Theater to see a costume piece. It was difficult, but it was a good experience.

About my studies

I studied Japanese and did a research about labor law at Kyushu University. Because of the grammar and conversation classes, I improved my Japanese skills. I used to have grammar classes three times a week and conversation classes twice a week. Since I had these classes, I improved my kanji skills and I came to understand what the professor and Japanese people in general were talking. My assistant professor was Susumu Noda. Prof. Noda was very kind, because every time I had a problem, he helped me. The subject of my research was Brazilian Nikkei workers labor law. Recently, the work damages are increasing, because of the rise of Brazilian Nikkei workers. This is why I chose this theme.

Nowadays, in Brazil, there are many Brazilian *Nikkei* and people suffering, because of low salaries and scarce opportunities for jobs. These *Nikkei* people have opportunity to work in Japan, because of the agreement between Brazil and Japan. So, there are many *Nikkei* people coming to Japan to work, because they don't have job in Brazil. However, there are many troubles in the working environment, because these *Nikkei* come to Japan with no knowledge of labor law. Instead of being employed directly by the companies, most of these *Nikkei* are employed by dispatch agencies. In case of economy depression, the company can dismiss the workers without paying any benefit. Because of it, many Brazilian *Nikkei* people can't go back to Brazil and begin to have a hard life in Japan as unemployed people. So, after going back to Brazil, I will work, giving orientation and support to these people.

Summer vacation

The summer vacation in Japan was the best of my life. In the beginning of July, I participated in the Short Term Program for Young Descendants of Immigrants from Fukuoka Prefecture. All the exchange students gave support to the children and their leaders from the Fukuoka Kenjinkai of overseas. This time, I had to translate the Japanese to English, because I gave support to participants from Hawaii and United States of America. For me, it was difficult, but I learned a lot and could make a lot of friends. For the children, it was a good experience, because they went to Oshima Elementary School and Hirao Elementary School and could make a cultural exchange with the Japanese children. This fact surprised me, despite the barrier of the language. Through this program, I think the children interested in Japanese culture and Japanese language. After coming back to their countries, they can show their friends what they learned in Japan. The expansion of Japanese culture is my dream. So, I'm grateful for participating in this program.

After this program, I traveled to Osaka, Hiroshima, Kobe, Nara and Kyoto. During the trip, I walked on the city and went to temples, museums and shrines, which make me learn about the Japanese culture. Inside "Toudaiji" Temple, I could see a wonderful Buddha Hall. In this moment, I almost cried, because it was my dream. Then, when I saw "Kinkakuji" Temple, I

became very happy, because, in Brazil, my Japanese language teacher showed me a picture of this temple, which makes me be willing to see the temple.

At the last

In this period, I could get a lot of experience and increase my knowledge. After going back to my country, I will become a lawyer, and according to the studies in Japan, I will give support to those Brazilian Nikkei that want to work in Japan. And I will continue my Japanese language studies, because I don't want to forget the Japanese language. Beside these, I want to be helpful to Kenjinkai, participating in the Japan Festival, Sports Festival, Youth conference, etc. And I want to give support to the future exchange students, telling my experience as an exchange student. Now, I'm grateful to Brazil Fukuoka Kenjinkai, Fukuoka International Exchange Foundation, Fukuoka Association of Families and everybody from Fukuoka Prefecture for this opportunity. Thank you very much! And I'm grateful to Ms. Kitahara for taking me around. Thank you very much!

Kyushu University
Faculty of Law
Professor, Susumu Noda
(Teacher of Nakamura)

When Iara Nakamura came to my laboratory (April, 2010), she looked worried. She studied Law in São Paulo, hence studying Law in Japan might be somewhat hard. For instance, although Law is the same in Brazil and in Japan, there are economic and social differences that may raise some difficulties, such as domestic areas of study. In other countries, besides numerical analysis and factual investigation, the main objects of study also include laws, ordinances, precedents, etc.; moreover, the writing style and language from those specific countries differ as well. Therefore, language is one of the commonest problems faced by foreign students. It seemed that sometimes reading many pages in Japanese to prepare for each seminar was too demanding for Iara. However, despite her worried facial expression, I noticed that understanding the seminar was not impossible either.

This year in the seminar that Iara attends, the other 20 students are reading about labor law, specifically new judgments about labor contracts. Both in groups or individually, the students organize and analyze the precedents, make a report, and together make a discussion. In Iara's case, in the short period of one year, she chose to study about practical skills system for foreigners' training in Japan, particularly labor laws for Brazilian *nikkei* who are working in Japan. In the end of next January, Iara will give a report during the seminar whose results are expected to be fruitful.

Even though Iara had many hardships in the beginning, she gradually relaxed, and became able to express herself during seminar.

Since Iara has never seen snow in Brazil, we decided to have a ski travel in January with the seminar students. I hope she keeps the memories of Japanese Law studies, her research about system for foreigners' training in Japan, ski, and friendship inside her heart.

Bolivia Fukuoka Kenjinkai Ogata Diana Osae

Introduction

I am 26 years old. I am Japanese nikkey of third generation. I was born in San Juan Transmigration site of Santa Cruz city in Bolivia. When I was 6 years old, I moved to Cochabamba city, Bolivia. This year it is the 53th anniversary of the Japanese immigration.

In 2008 I got degreed in Commercial Engineering at Catolica Boliviana University. After my graduation, I went to Santa Cruz to work and stood there for about 1 year at Nakamatsu Construction Co. doing some administrative works.

My grandparents were born at the Province of Fukuoka. My grandfather (Ogata Kanji) was born in Keisen Machi, Iizuka city. In 1957 he immigrated to Bolivia. When they arrived to San Juan, the place did not have anything at all. That is why he had to work hard and bit by bit they built the San Juan Transmigration site and passed away at the age of 69.

In October my guarantor invited me to go to her house and when I went there I also visited my grandfather home land. When I got there I realized that it is more country side then I thought. The streets and the schools, they look like what we have in San Juan and, the people of that city, are very kind.

I arrived in Fukuoka in April 4th, this was my first time that I lived by myself, and because of this I was nervous. But I was lucky to meet some very kind persons who live at the same dormitory as me. I got more relieved when I notice that the dormitory is close to the University.

The hot summer

In July I supported at the short term visit program for young descendents of immigrants from Fukuoka Prefecture. This time it was a shame that did not come any children from Bolivia. But , I had the chance to meet many kids from others countries, it was so funny that I did no realized how fast the time past by. In my group there were a girl and a boy from Argentina and a boy from Colombia. Those were very good, funny and polite children. With this opportunity I had the chance to visit many places and beside of that I got the chance to meet some persons from others Fukuoka Associations. With this program I could make some good memories.

In August I visited my relatives. I visited my cousin at Shizuoka who has a very cute son. I stayed in Shizuoka for about 2 day and then I went to Saitama to visit my uncle (my father's youngest brother), which I haven't seen in 9 years. Then I went with my uncle and my youngest brother to Tokyo and Yokohama. At Yokohama I visited my father's cousin. He took me to Enoshima. In August 20th we remember the 1st death anniversary of my grandfather (my mother's father). Our relatives gathered at my aunt's house. So in the opportunity we could talk about the old times.

About studies

“Marketing is about making profits by selling products and services with marketing strategies.”

My assigned teacher for my research, Mr. Hisayoshi Yamamoto is very gentle and funny. I had a hard time to understand some classes, because I could not understand some word, so every once in a while he helped me by explaining the classes with simply words, sometimes in English too. It was very useful for me to study the Japanese marketing. Because here in Japan I could see that marketing is in every where, in any store that you go you get the treatment of a very special guest. That is the difference between Japan and Bolivia. In Bolivia, I studied marketing at the university but there we don't use it very often, however here in Japan, marketing is used in every store.

In marketing, does not treat the client just as a buyer but turn him into a fan of the store and to make it, it tries to satisfy all of the client's needs. We call this strategy “Customer Orientation”. In this strategy the seller make a unexpected service, so that way the client get surprised and get out of the store satisfied. These kinds of satisfaction already turn the client into a fan, by the point ahead he start doing mouth to mouth publicity.

Between the many ways of doing publicity, this is the most trustful way of publicity, because the ones who had consumed that product, tells to another what he thinks about it. The concept of marketing in Japan and in Bolivia is basically the same, just the culture is different between these countries. I think that the marketing in development countries is incredible, because everyone from the administration to the clients knows how it works. For example, one of the most famous marks in Japan “Umakachan noodles” use this technique of Segmentation. Depending on the region that you are situated, the noodles, the soup and the taste are different. For example, in Kyushu the most consumed noodles are the pork flavored with noodle a little bit less soft. In Osaka they would rather the soy sauce with the noodle softer. Before start an investment, you need to investigate the area that you're going to sell your products. The stores always make sales thinking about the consumers. Since the culture of Japan and Bolivia is different, I cannot use Japanese marketing there, but for me it was an important lesson.

Things I want to say

This year as exchange student, it was not only about studies. I could deeply understand the Japanese culture and visit the home land of my grandparents. I am very thankful for all the people of Bolivia Fukuoka Association and my guarantor Ms. Kazue Kobayashi, because it was thanks to her that I could come to Japan as exchange student and spend some time at the home land of my grandparents. I also want to thanks to International cultural exchange center and to the Members of Association of families of Fukuoka for the many activities that I could take part of. This way I could also learn about the Japanese cultures. I am grateful for the many people who worked to make all of this come true. Digging takenoko, home stay, planting and

harvesting rice, the great meeting of fireworks, kimono wearing day and the BBQs, all of this has turn into a great memories. Between all of this, the home stay with Mr. Yamasaki was special, I will never forget the day that I could spend together with Mr. and Ms. Yamasaki. I am grateful to people from the international exchange center of Kyushu Sangyou University. I also want to thanks to my teacher Yamamoto. He who always has been so kind and patient, for this it made easier to go to the marketing classes. I am also grateful for having this opportunity to live with the 6 friends of the same scholarship as me. I will keep in my heart this great memories and this time of happiness that I could made with then during this year. I am really grateful to all of those who made this happen.

Kyushu Sangyo University
Faculty of Commerce and the Graduate School of Business & Economics
Professor, Hisayoshi Yamamoto
(Teacher of Ogata)

I'm glad to say that Diana Osae Ogata came over to Fukuoka to study at Kyushu Sangyo University all the way from Bolivia in South America in April, 2010. As she has already studied "Commercial Engineering," and wanted to study about Japanese way of Marketing, the faculty of commerce assigned her to me.

She is taking 8 subjects of which I am in charge both in the spring semester and the fall semester, including the graduate level subjects. Besides, she was obliged to take 1 Japanese language class. It may be a pretty hard schedule for her.

I especially prepared a special central-front row seat for her for every class, so that she can concentrate herself to the lesson. I also asked some questions to her once in a while, to facilitate her understanding. Since she is a clever girl, she seems to have acquired pretty much of "Japanese way of Marketing." Also, she has got familiar with Japanese language. As she is industrious and pleasant in nature, she has soon got accustomed to the class and the campus life in general, and has become one of the nice Japanese girl students with a friendly atmosphere.

One of my classes, "Cultural Education (Strategy for the Vitalization of Rural Japan)" is supposed to make a study tour of rural towns and villages by a chartered bus. About 30 students including her took part in the tour led by me. We visited Hita City with Sapporo Brewery, Oyama in Hita City with a farmer's market called "Konohana Garuten," where we enjoyed shopping perishables and having lunch, Kokonoe Town with a tremendously long suspension bridge which we crossed, and Yufuin Town which is called "Karuizawa in Kyushu," where we enjoyed taking a leisurely walk and sipping a cup of coffee at one of the coffee shops. All the participants were so happy about it that quite a few of them exclaimed, "Professor, let's do this every month." Of course, she seemed to be extremely happy. By actually seeing the Japanese rural area with agriculture, forestry, and local tourism industry, coupled with my lecture in the class, she must have got a great hint for the marketing strategy for the vitalization of Rural Japan.

I hope she will enter the graduate school of Business & Economics of this university to which I belong next year, and receive Master's Degree concerning marketing strategy under my guidance.

Peru Fukuoka Club Makabe Kawajara Gerardo Mikio

Introduction

I am a Fourth Generation Japanese descendant, born in 1986 in Lima, Peru. My paternal grandmother was born in Fukuoka, whereas my other paternal grandparents and maternal grandparents emigrated from the prefectures of Miyagi and Oita. Since I was a child I always had the thought of living in Japan. I had already come 3 times to Japan before, but as the purpose of those trips were mainly visiting relatives and tourism, my stay in this country had been relatively short.

I graduated from Universidad del Pacífico with a degree in Economics in July 2009 and had a job in the Nissan Motor Co. Peruvian branch. I had already decided my career path, being my objective attending graduate school in the United States and finding a job in a multinational corporation overseas. However, the thought of living in the country of my ancestors never left my mind, and I started thinking in studying in Japan instead of the United States. The Exchange Student Program for Descendants of Immigrants from the Prefecture of Fukuoka presented itself as a magnificent opportunity, as I could experience the Japanese way of life while continue my studies in Economics.

Fukuoka: New city, new life

The city of Fukuoka is a perfect equilibrium of natural environments and cosmopolitan infrastructure, yet unique, having its own style and feeling. Despite being the first time living on my own, I found it really effortless to get used to my new life, as I could easily find everything I needed and move around the city using the advanced public transportation system.

Food is an essential part of adapting to a foreign way of life. Dishes such as Curry and rice, Misoshiru, Udon, Gyoza or Gyudon became part of my daily routine. Before coming to Fukuoka I had notion of most Japanese cuisine, though I had never heard about Hakata Ramen. Nevertheless, Hakata Ramen quickly became my favorite dish, having it at least 1 time a week.

Thanks to the Fukuoka International Exchange Foundation and the Association of Families of Fukuoka (Kazoku-kai) I had the chance of taking part in numerous activities. These activities, exclusiveness of Japan, caused on me the greatest of impressions. For instance, during the Taue (Rice planting), Inekari (Rice reaping), Dakkoku (Rice shredding) and Takenoko-hori (Bamboo shoots digging) I experienced the same type of work my ancestors used to do on a daily basis. Through the Home Stay weekend (with the Yamashita family) and the Kimono Experience I got a taste of Japanese traditional culture and customs. In addition, members of the Kazoku-kai had the courtesy of constantly inviting us to dinner or BBQs and taking us to different activities such as Hanabi-taikai (Fireworks), Budo-gari (Grape gathering),

concerts, Hotaru-gari (Fireflies), among others. I will keep each of these experiences in a special place in my memory.

I am a declared sports fan, so while living in Fukuoka I started to follow the Softbank Hawks baseball team, attending to a couple of games in Yahoo! Dome and cheering for their Pacific League pennant race, though they finally lost and could not access to the Japan Series. At the same time, one of the things I was expecting the most was the Professional Sumo Tournament, which takes place every November in Fukuoka. I was really amazed by the bouts, especially when Mongolian Hakuho took the arena. As expected, Hakuho ended up being the champion of the event. I also entered Kyushu Sangyo University's tennis circle. It was kind of awkward calling "Senpai" (senior) students 3 years younger than me, but at the end I got to make some Japanese friends, practice tennis and learn the traditional Japanese Club system.

Summer in Japan!

In July, during the Short Term Program for Young Descendants of the Immigrants from Fukuoka Prefecture, I helped taking care of the children from Peru and Mexico, whom I had a great time with, learning meaningful things about Japan and Fukuoka. Thanks to this program, I feel that this is the beginning of a strong relationship between these children and the Fukuoka Prefecture. I also noticed their increasing interest for learning the Japanese Language and in the future, come as an exchange student as I did.

I started my Summer Vacation trip in the beginning of August. First, I stayed at my cousin's house in the Aichi Prefecture, where I met with my parents. There, I had the chance of meeting relatives I had not seen in more years than I could remember. After my parents returned to Peru, I headed west to the Kansai Region, where I visited the cities of Osaka, Kobe and Nara. Compared to other countries, Japan's size is relatively small but nonetheless is possessor of countless interesting sights and places. Osaka Castle, Osaka's Kaiyukan (a world-class aquarium), Nara's Todai-ji (Eastearn Great Temple, home of the Giant Buddha) or Nara's deer-abundant-parks are just a small sample of the cultural richness I witnessed in Japan.

My Research

Peru and Japan have recently made official the signing of a Free Trade Agreement. As an immediate consequence, a significant increase in trade terms between the two countries is expected. However, the cultural and language gaps are such that this increase process could encounter delays or even be threatened. Under these circumstances, it is essential to be familiarized with the business strategy of both Japanese and Peruvian companies.

I received a business related education during my Economics undergraduate career and also acquired real-life experience and learnt about corporate business though work. Yet, my knowledge about Japanese economy and the Japanese way of doing business was rather limited.

In order to serve any Peruvian or Japanese company, it was essential to learn these unknown aspects.

With the aim of learning the principles of Japanese economics and business, I entered lectures at the Economics Department and Management Department of Kyushu Sangyo University. For example, in Business Seminar, we went through different case studies using both English and Japanese. My assigned teacher, Professor Tetsushi Okamoto from the Economics Department, was very generous and designated a private lesson only for me once a week. During these meetings, we discussed about the differences between Japanese and Peruvian economy and economic policies, strategies of the big Japanese corporations, Japan's economic future, among other related topics. In addition, I entered Professor Okamoto's Economic Development seminar during the first semester of the year.

Nonetheless, my research needed a practical focus to complement the theory I had learned, which is why I participated in two main experiences. First, during my Summer Vacation, I joined my father in his business meeting with executives from Mitsubishi Pencil Co., at their headquarters in Shinagawa, Tokyo. Secondly, I made a visit to Nissan Motor Co.'s Kyushu Factory, where I witnessed the complete production process of the Nissan X-Trail model.

Acknowledgements

The experience and knowledge concerning Japan's economy and business world I acquired during this exchange program has been very valuable, as they have helped me grow professionally. Because of this, I now feel more capable for serving as a link between Japanese corporations that wish to invest in Peru or Peruvian companies with potential to export to the Japanese market. Moreover, the experiences and knowledge I gained during this year would have been impossible to attain in any other program or place in the world. I had the chance of getting to know a side of Japan that only people living in this country are able to realize, and had the opportunity of meeting people from different nationalities and gain their friendship.

For this reason, I would like to express my most sincere gratitude towards the people from Fukuoka International Exchange Foundation, the Association of Families of Fukuoka and the Peru Fukuoka Club for granting me this opportunity. Likewise, I would like to deeply thank Professor Tetsushi Okamoto for the valuable time he invested in me, supporting my Japanese and Economics studies. I am also extremely grateful to Mr. Masayoshi Yoshinaga, who not only accepted being my guarantor in Fukuoka, but also treated me like part of his family.

In the future, no matter where I end up living or what kind of job I end up doing, I will definitely never forget my life as a university student in Fukuoka.

Kyushu Sangyo University
Department of Economics
Professor, Tetsushi Okamoto
(Teacher of Makabe)

Mr. Gerardo Mikio Makabe, exchange student from Peru, entered the Department of Economics of this university as a research student in April, 2010. Until that time, I was not an acquaintance of Mr. Makabe, but when the Fukuoka International Exchange Foundation approached Kyushu Sangyo University, I offered to take him under my wing, as my specialty is by coincidence Latin American Economics.

I had lived around 3 years in South America, but it was the first time I met a Japanese descendant as Mr. Makabe. While teaching him, I noticed that the Nikkei community, even more than us Japanese, properly passed on the Japanese culture and tradition to their children. Despite facing a life full of difficulties in Japan before migrating to Peru, the Nikkei community overlooked this history of hardships and not only remained connected to Japan, but they passed on the virtues of this country to their descendants. Before this, all I can do is lower my head in recognition of such an admirable effort.

Among Latin American people, it is completely normal to have a loose and unrestrained sense of punctuality. However, Mr. Makabe had more polite manners and was more respectful of time than Japanese students. He accomplished every task he was assigned and he stated his own reasoning and opinion in the weekly meetings we held. His English language abilities are superb, which is why he will probably be employed in a multinational corporation. Mr. Makabe's hope for the future is to become a world-active businessman, which I also think is feasible. During his stay in Japan, he participated in many field visits to Japanese corporations. In the future, I wish that he takes these experiences as a reference and be able to start his own business.

In the 21st century, it will not be old countries like Japan, but the emerging markets in Latin America, Asia and Africa the ones who will lead the economic growth. Unforeseen and unexploited business opportunities will flourish in those emerging markets. Using the knowledge and experience learned during this exchange program in Japan, I am looking forward to seeing Mr. Mikio Makabe representing his country as a successful businessman. Please do your best.