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福岡県移住者子弟留学報告書

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2011 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

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## **Brazil Fukuoka Kenjinkai Otomo Ikebe Luciane**

### **Introduction**

I was born in Brazil as a 3rd generation of Japanese Brazilian. I came from Sao Paulo, more precisely from Santo Andre City which belongs to the metropolitan area of Sao Paulo. The distance between Santo Andre and Sao Paulo is 18 km. The population is 661,891 people and is known as metallurgical area. In my family, we are 5 people and my dog. My father is a teacher of mathematics in a Public High School, my mother is a shiatsu masseuse in a kiosk called Hikari, my older sister is a fashion stylist at a multinational enterprise called C&A and my younger sister is an environmental engineer in a doctorate course at University of Sao Paulo State.

In 2006, I graduated bachelor degree in graphic design college of SENAC. After that, I started to study Japanese twice per week, because I wanted to study in Japan. But this is not the only reason. I wanted to experiment the living, learn the culture, tradition and habits and make friends.

### **Living in Fukuoka**

I arrived in Fukuoka at the night of April 4, 2011. I couldn't believe that I was in Japan already. Everything was different from Brazil, but after 2 months, I had already gotten used it. In Japan, I was surprised for a lot of things. For example, train and metro never be late, the time is tightly respected. First time I took the bus, the bus driver notifies the passengers for any action that he will do and he thanks to each passenger who is leaving the vehicle. Furthermore, if there is not a traffic signal at the street, all the drivers stop for people who want to cross the street. It does not matter if is morning or night, it is safety to walk anywhere.

Living here in Fukuoka, I realized that the citizens speak in Hakata dialect and I couldn't understand but I think that sounds pretty energetic and interesting too. I learnt a few expressions from a friend. As the dialect, people from Fukuoka are bright, kind, so gentle that there was no trouble. If I would live in Japan, even the capital is Tokyo, I would prefer to live here in Fukuoka.

### **Summer Vacation**

The summer of Japan is a rare experience. Comparing to Brazil, I think that Japan's summer is hotter. At that time, children and their responsible leaders came from USA and Latin America came for the Short Term visit Program for Young Descendants of Immigrants from Fukuoka Prefecture. We, international students, participated in this program, helping the responsible leaders to take care of children. Everybody stayed at Global Arena and had a great time together. The program schedule was a guided tour at the Yasukawa Factory, a visit in

Dazaifu Tenmangu and make umegaemochi, make a fan, see the Yamakasa Festival and among other things. Because of this program, I had the opportunity to make friends, to learn about Fukuoka's culture and tradition and enjoy the program.

In the summer vacations, I went to Kyoto and Osaka. In Kyoto, I made a tour famous tourist places and my friend invited me to make a visit in a silk screen enterprise. In Osaka, I met my Brazilian friends who are studying in Japan but in different prefectures. Together we enjoyed Universal Studios Japan and visit Osaka Castle.

### **Studies and experiences**

I graduated in Graphic Design in Brazil. Before I came to Fukuoka, I worked for an apparel industry called Riu Kiu, as a senior textile designer. I think that to be a good designer, creativity is more important thing. And to increase the power of creativity is important to have different experiences in life. Because of that, I wanted to study abroad in Japan.

Here in Fukuoka, I had studied at Kyushu Zokei Art College, under the guidance of Professor Akiko Nagasaki. Mrs. Nagasaki, even she was busy, she was always gentle with me. Zokei Art College has many interesting classes, but to avoid being busy, Mrs Nagasaki helped me to choose some. Then I took classes of illustration, fashion illustration, airbrush, silk screen and dyeing fabric. Also, I took Mrs Nagasaki classes too. Although, I learned many techniques, the important thing was to have a personal and professional experience. Along with, Mrs. Otaki and Mrs. Yoshino taught me about kimono and take me to many kimono exhibitions as a study of references for my future job.

Also, I took Japanese class twice in a week at Kumon and voluntary classes at Kashiihama Elementary School once in a week.

I would never forget to study in Japan for one year.

### **Back to Brazil**

I am really grateful for Kazokukai, Brazil Fukuoka Kenjinkai, Fukuoka International Exchange Foundation and friends that I met along this one year who helped and took care of me and give me many memories that I will take with me to Brazil. However, no matter what I do, it won't be enough to thank them. Due to it, I want to help Brazil Fukuoka Kenjinkai and a Seinenkai, spread the culture of Fukuoka. In the nearly future I intend to return to Fukuoka.

**Kyushu Zokei Art College,  
Faculty of Art and Design  
Professor, Akiko Nagasaki  
(Teacher of Otomo)**

In April last year we welcomed Otomo Ikebe Luciane from Brazil as an exchange student for descendants of immigrants from Fukuoka prefecture. At first, I was concerned whether a short-term, single-course college such as ours would be of benefit to someone who had graduated from a 4-year university and already had work experience in a design business. As her research topic was Japanese illustration techniques and the use of fabrics, we decided to approach the field Luciane had studied at university from a different, practical perspective. Hoping to meet her requests as closely as possible, we allowed her to trial and freely select her subjects from the various hands-on illustration courses offered at this college.

The first semester included ongoing Japanese language classes, screen printing, fashion illustration (sections), and book making, while in the second half Luciane took dyeing, fashion illustration (full-length portraits), color pencil and pen illustration classes. Luciane received high praises from the course instructors - her pictures were exceptionally good, she took the initiative to tackle problems, and was a source of good motivation for other students. The results were visible in, amongst others, her application of Japanese patterns with an original perspective in the dyeing class.

With some support from fellow international students in her dorm, Luciane proved herself to be skillful at picking up Japanese as well as looking after her health in a different climate and was able to steadily fulfill the clear goals she set for herself. While I was unfortunately only able to correspond with her in Japanese, Luciane communicated proficiently with her electronic dictionary in one hand. Upon returning to Brazil, I expect that she will utilize the experiences she has gained over the past year in her endeavors. It would make me very happy to see Luciane take pleasure in sharing Japanese images with people in Brazil.

## **Brazil Fukuoka Kenjinkai Tanaka Marie Cinthia**

### **About my one-year exchange program experiences**

In April, 2011, I arrived in Japan and I started a new life experience as an exchange student of the Fukuoka Prefecture. My name is Cinthia Marie Tanaka and I was born in Sorocaba, in the state of Sao Paulo, Brazil. I am very glad I could come to Japan. Since I was little, I attended to Japanese classes, always thinking someday I would like to come to Japan as an exchange student. By keeping interested in learning the Japanese language and culture, I could participate in many activities during this year.

### **My life in Fukuoka**

I lived in a dormitory called “Jikyogakusha”, in the city of Fukuoka. It was a very convenient place, as it was located near the JR and Nishitetsu stations. Also, the location was good because the university I attended was relatively close to it. In this dormitory, the rooms were private and the kitchen and laundry room were common facilities. At first, I was a little bit concerned about the kitchen for common use, but now I thought it provides us an advantage in giving us the chance to have fun with the other dormitory residents while having our meals.

During the weekdays, I went to my research room at the university every day. Usually, after my breakfast, I went to school by bicycle. In the weekends, I used my free time for getting some rest, cleaning my room or doing the laundry. Sometimes I went out with my friends to have fun in places around here. We also received many invitations to take part in Japanese cultural activities from the Kazokukai or other organizations that support exchange students. That is why I can tell I have not felt any homesickness, and quickly felt comfortable in my new life in Japan.

The most impressive experiences concerning the Japanese culture were the activities of the Short Term Visit Program for Young Descendants of Immigrants from Fukuoka Prefecture, the fireworks festivals, the experience of wearing kimono (Japanese traditional garment) and the experience of making mochi (rice cake). The program for young descendants of Fukuoka provided us ten stimulating days with the children. We had the chance of participating in several traditional activities, which gave us many good memories. I especially remember the day we interacted with primary school students in the Oshima Island and the day we made a traditional Japanese fan at the Japanese traditional art crafts museum in the Yame City. We all got along well with the children and adults who participated in the program and I hope we can meet them when we go back to Brazil.

In Brazil, we set off fireworks to celebrate the New Year. In Japan, fireworks festivals occur in the summer and they are really exciting events. Everybody was amazed by the

fireworks spectacle. I am really grateful we could go to the fireworks festivals in the Ohori Park with my guarantor Marta Kojima and in the Kurume city and in the Kashiihama beach with people from the Kazokukai.

In December, there were events for wearing kimono and making mochi. In the day set for wearing the kimono, we went to the Yusentei Park dressed in kimonos and after drinking green tea, we took a walk around the garden. Many people from the Kazokukai were there and that made me feel very happy. In the Christmas day, we went to the Kurume City to make mochi. It was very cold and we even saw some snow there. Making mochi was more difficult than I had imagined, but I think it was a worthy experience. Everybody was happy to have the opportunity to eat the mochi.

There were many things I experienced for the first time in this one-year program. Among them, my biggest concern was about not being able to meet my family for this long period. However, it was not difficult at all to keep in touch with my family, through the use of the Internet. Another thing I was concerned about was the food, because I am not skilled in cooking. Fortunately, I received help many times from Ms. Otomo. Recently, I was very delighted I could cook a miso soup by myself. That makes me feel maybe I have matured a little during my stay in Fukuoka.

#### About my studies

I had studied at the Kyushu University, at the Mathematical Biology Laboratory under the supervision of Dr. Yoh Iwasa. Mathematical biology is the study of biological problems by the use of mathematical tools. My activities in the university concern classes related to my major, Japanese classes and research activities. In the first semester, I took Dr. Iwasa's Mathematical Biology class and in the second semester, I am taking the Dr. Yahara's course of Ecology. At first, it was difficult because I could not understand any of the technical vocabulary in Japanese, and I used to look up for these words every time in the dictionary. In these classes, I could learn many mathematical biology models and evolutionary biology topics.

In addition to the classes, every Thursday we had a seminar in the laboratory. In this seminar, the fourth-year undergraduate students and I presented our results in front of the other members. Everybody was kind and was always willing to offer advices about our research. As my Japanese abilities were not enough, I usually made my presentation in English.

My research project was a mathematical model about a Japanese superstition called "hinoeuma superstition". Hinoeuma means "fire horse" and it is one of the sixty combinations of the Chinese astrological signs. Since the Edo period, it is believed in Japan that a woman who is born in a hinoeuma year will have a fiery personality and will conduct her husband to his death. There are even reports showing the Japanese birth rate was affected by this superstition. By studying how this superstition spreads, I hope I can get an insight about what will happen with the birth rate in the next hinoeuma year.

In the future, I want to become a researcher. For that reason, being able to participate on academic meetings in Japan was really important for me. In August, I attended the annual meeting of the Japanese Mathematical Biology Society held in Tokyo and in November, I attended the Workshop of Evolutionary Theory of Learning, in Kyoto. In these meetings, I had the chance to talk to researchers from Japan and other countries and I could learn many things related to my interests through the provided lectures.

To help me in my communication in Japanese, I applied for the Japanese courses offered by the university. In the first semester, I took the course related to grammar and writing; in the second one, I took the Kanji course. I am really trying hard to learn Japanese, and it pleases me when someone compliments my Japanese skills.

### **Acknowledgements**

I am really grateful to the Fukuoka International Exchange Center and the Kazokukai Organization. Thanks to their support, we were able to collect so many good memories in this year.

My dream of coming to Japan became true thanks to the Brazilian Fukuoka Kenjinkai. After going back to Brazil, I intend to enter in the Young Person's Association of the Fukuoka Kenjinkai. I am willing to help in disseminating the Japanese culture among the Brazilians as much as I can through the events of the Fukuoka Kenjinkai.

I would also like to thank my professor, Dr. Iwasa, my laboratory colleagues and the new friends I made in Fukuoka for spending this year with me. I hope we can meet again in the future.

Finally, I really appreciated the friendship of the other exchange students who shared this exchange program experiences with me. Thank you very much.



**Kyushu University**  
**Graduate School of Systems Life Sciences**  
**Professor, Yoh Iwasa**  
(Teacher of Tanaka)

Ms Cinthia Tanaka has been in the group of mathematical biology since April 2011. She studied the mathematical modeling of human society. Cinthia also attended courses including Japanese language classes, but most of time, she has been engaging in mathematical modeling, analysis, and computer simulations of models for social phenomena. Every week, she gives her presentation on the progresses of her own research in front of about 20 lab members.

Cinthia has been working on the spread of "Hinoeuma" superstition in Japan. In 1966, we observed a large drop of the number of new born babies, which was caused by the parents who avoid giving birth in Hinoeuma years because they are afraid that daughters born in Hinoeuma years might find difficulty in mating in Japanese society. Cinthia constructed mathematical models for the number of people belonging to different classes, with or without Hinoeuma belief, male or female, and born in Hinoeuma year or not. She analyzed whether the number of people with Hinoeuma superstition goes extinct in the end, or it stays with a stable positive fraction.

Cinthia separate several cases that differ in (1) the way belief of the parents are transmitted to their children (matrilineal, patrilineal or Mendelian); (2) who controls the child birth (father control, mother control), (3) probability for the parents to fail control the birth, and others. She analyzed the equilibria of mathematical models and their stability, and the domain of attraction. She could identify the condition in which the spread of Hinoeuma belief as observed in 1966.

Her research is an interesting and original theoretical analysis of the condition in which a mal-adaptive behavior can spread in human society by considering the dynamics of cultural factors controlling mate choice. We plan to submit a paper out of this study.

In addition to this research activity, Cinthia Tanaka exchanges a lot with students in Kyushu University, especially graduate and undergraduate students in mathematics biology lab. She also engaged in many other activities, and had opportunity to travel over Japan.

## **Brazil Fukuoka Kenjinkai Shinosaki Bruno Tadao**

### **About myself**

I am a 3<sup>rd</sup> generation of Japanese Brazilian. I came from Mandaguari - Paraná in Brazil. My mother is descendant of Portuguese and Indian and my father is a 2<sup>nd</sup> generation of Japanese Brazilian. My father's parents were born in Fukuoka. Since I was a child, my dream was to know the birthplace of my grandparents.

Before I was born, my grandfather died. My grandmother lived far from the city where I live. Therefore I had little contact with the culture of my grandmother. Unfortunately, 2 years ago my grandmother passed away at 90 years. I would have talked to my grandparents the experience what I'm living here in Japan. If they were alive, they would be proud of me.

I graduated from Maringá University in the course of Web Design. I studied the development layouts for homepage. 2 years after I graduated, I was approved for scholarship in Japan by the Fukuoka Association of Brazil. I was very happy and looking forward to coming to Japan soon. When I arrived at Fukuoka, it was the cherry blossom season. They were very beautiful. I was very impressed with the safety, cleanliness, organization, nature and discipline.

### **Kyushu University**

I had studied at the Kyushu University (Ohashi campus) with Assistant Professor, Kiriko Toh. My teacher was very helpful and kind. The theme of my research was “Visual effectiveness of the home page”. I had produced a learning plan layout and effective navigation and proper use of color and shape, providing a way to analyze the fun taken up an attractive website user, instructions; clear it through graphic design by the main goal is to convey information quickly organized. My great concern is that the user easily navigates. So, corporate website should be structured in a clear and objective.

I visited the company “DEFIDE” (Design for Communications) with the teacher. DEFIDE, in addition to the basic engineering infrastructure such as network design, systems development, and further work has been focused on marketing to enhance brand image and design context to seek to add value.

Before coming to Japan, I had studied Japanese language for 3 years at the school of Kumon in Brazil. However I think, what I could live in Japan is the best way to learn Japanese for me. I took Japanese language classes in Hakozaki campus of Kyushu University. During Japanese classes, my teacher taught me many things about the behavior in Japan. Every day I learned new things, I was very happy. This way, my life in Japan was getting easier. I made many foreigners' friends in Japanese classes, so I eventually learned about various countries' cultures, too. I attended “Japanese Chatting Salon” which is held by Japanese volunteers for

studying Japanese. I practiced Japanese language and made Japanese friends. It was very fun.

### **About Summer Vacation in Japan**

I participated in the short term visit program for young descendants of immigrants from Fukuoka prefecture. There were various events and the most interesting events were the festival of Oshima and visit Naka Elementary School. In these events the children learned many things about Japanese culture. I think kids will never forget this experience.

In summer and winter vacation, I traveled to many places. The place I liked was Kyoto, especially Kinkaku-ji and Kiyomizu temple. There are many temples and shrines in Kyoto and souvenir shop are great fun. This area is very old and traditional.

I visited various Japanese cities, but Fukuoka is the best! Fukuoka is a large and modern city, great for living. The places I like best places in Fukuoka are "Seaside Momochi "and" Ohori Park". The food I like best is "Hakata ramen". I had never eaten ramen in Brazil.

### **Conclusion**

During one year, the members of Kazokukai held many events for us. I am sincerely grateful to all members. Especially, December 10th was my birthday and on this day, we had the experience to wear kimono. It was the first time I wore a traditional kimono. It was fantastic experience. This event turned out to be a great birthday present for me from everyone. When my mother looked the pictures I was in kimono, she cried with emotion and happiness.

One year passed very fast. After I returned to Brazil, my intent is to help the activities of Brazil Fukuoka Kenjinkai, and continue studying Japanese and the culture and want to pass the 1<sup>st</sup> level of Japanese-language proficiency test. And I also want to start my own business in area of internet, photography and video which I studied in Fukuoka.

Everyone of Fukuoka International Exchange Foundation and Kazokukai, thank you very much. I am grateful.

**Kyushu University**  
**Graduate School of Design**  
**Assistant Professor, Kiriko Toh**  
(Teacher of Shinosaki)

We welcomed Shinosaki Tadao Bruno into our school in April 2011 as a 1-year research student. With his schedule centered around Japanese language classes in the Hakozaki area, in general Bruno attended one lecture per week, as well as taking several specialized classes at the Ohashi campus. He was very earnest in his work, and eagerly tackled the problems presented in lectures.

In classes such as practical graphic design and graphic communication theory, Bruno seemed to make every effort to communicate in Japanese during group poster-production projects. At the lectures, he researched his specialty field of web design, giving his attention to the necessity of Web Design Guidelines. Based on his work experience to date, as well as new research and literature, Bruno re-evaluated the web design process and selected necessary check criteria for usability. To verify this research, Bruno presented a trial proposal for the improvement of a particular website.

As far as research is concerned, some detailed investigation is still required. However, through learning the approach used to tackle research, the way of summing this up in a report, and through investigating various literature and resources, I believe that Bruno has discovered a new interest.

Outside of study, Bruno deepened his exchange experience through get-togethers with other students from the laboratory. Also wishing to observe more Japanese companies, Bruno paid a visit to a Fukuoka web design company as part of his lectures. He listened with very keen interest to an explanation of the web design process on site, and it was also a good experience for the Japanese students who accompanied him. I believe that Bruno's proactive approach became a good motivation for Japanese students in the laboratory, and that the year spent together was mutually worthwhile.

## Belem Fukuoka Kenjinkai Nobushige Maki Angela

### Introduction

First of all, I would like appreciate deeply to Fukuoka International Exchange Foundation and Fukuoka-ken Kaigai-iju Kazokukai for accepting and inviting us warmly. Through this one year of international exchange student" program of 2011, I had various great experiences and unforgettable memories.

Since I participated as a leader in Short Term Visit Program of 2009, my mind was already decided to come back to Fukuoka as an international exchange student. Because by participating in this program I could know about Fukuoka and with furthermore interest. I made a goal to come back again to Fukuoka for studying my Masters at the University in Fukuoka, and learning more about the hometown of my parents.

My father was born in Iizuka, Fukuoka and my mother is from Saga prefecture. My mother is good at cooking and I grew up with Japanese food that my mother cooked. When I ate "Nagasaki Champon" in Fukuoka, I remembered the "Champon" that my mother cooked.

### Life in Fukuoka

The one year of student life in Fukuoka was a great opportunity and the best in my life. I did have many experiences in new environment. Among them the most impressive event was the kimono. It was the best and beautiful experience that I ever had. This event was held in the Yusentei Park. This park was a holiday house of Lord of Edo period which has a large and beautiful garden. It was a first experience to have a tea ceremony and wear Kimono that I selected. I felt strange sensations when wore a kimono. The feeling was like pure Japanese. When I was a child, I and my younger sister were wore Yukata that my mother had bought in Japan, and went to Matsuri in Brazil. Such valuable experiences that I had this time, it will always be remembered in my heart.

Japan has four seasons in a year and I can enjoy every season in the variety. My hometown is located in northern Brazil, near the ecuador. It is warm throughout the year. Highest temperature is 31 degrees and the lowest temperature is around 21 degrees. So I'm very happy to have a winter experience, which is my favorite season. Before I came to Japan I was looking forward to seeing the snow in winter. My wish came true, when I joined Mochitsuki event in December with members of Kazokukai and the group of Karate, it was heavy snow day. I was so excited seeing snowing, the snow painted everywhere in white and made me forget the cold for joy. I enjoyed Mochitsuki and ate a lot of mochi under the snow.

The short term visit program which held in July was my second time of participation and I had a good experience again, the contents of the program were somewhat different from the

previous one. Children were so energetic everyday and willing to learn more about the life and culture of Japan. They spent time together with new friends from different countries and cultures, and exchanged opinions and made friends. They are same Fukuoka's descendants. This program allowed us, from children to adults, to enjoy and had a lot of unforgettable memories in Japan through variety of experiences.

Also, we had participated Nihon Bunka Juku which was held in Fukuoka International Student Support Center once a month. I had a chance to listen to the speech about Japanese culture and the experiences of the important people that was really good experience and a good study for me.

### About University

At Kyushu University, I studied about the performance of Android at department of advanced information technology under the supervision of Professor, Kazuaki Murakami and Associate Professor, Goulart Victor. Android is the platform for the tablet PC and Smartphone. The mechanism of the platform is, if you develop games for iPhone, they can only use for iPhone users. But, however, if you develop games for Android, will be able to use all mobile phone users from other companies.

Smartphone and Tablet PC are devices with a variety of functions like personal computers, but the only one different, is that the smartphone has been used on mobile phones. By proceeding of this research will lead to improve the performance of the smartphone and the tablet PC.

The first version of Android was developed in 2008 and upgraded in 2011. And now, the 40% of I phone and the operating system (OS) is based on Android. Since it began to be used recently, there are few references data. So I took a lot of time to advance this research, because I used only internet.

And I studied Japanese language like grammar, Kanji, reading and writing for one year. Therefore, I became to like studying Kanji. So I would like to continue to study Kanji after I went back to Brazil. And I hope to get the N1 level of the Japanese Language Proficiency Test near future and would like to work for Japanese company in Brazil.

### Conclusion

By remembering the past 1 year, I am full of joy. I really appreciate to many people who gave me great support during my stay. After I returned to Belem, Brazil I would like to participate in various activities of Kenjinkai. As the experience of exchange student and a member of Kenjinkai, I would like to connect Brazil and Japan.

**Kyushu University**  
**Graduate school of Information Science and Electrical Engineering**  
**Associate Professor, Victor Goulart**  
(Teacher of Nobushige)

In April 2011, Ms. Angela Maki Nobushige came to study abroad from Brazil to Kyushu University on the Exchange Students Program for Descendants of Immigrants from Fukuoka Prefecture. Having graduated from a course in Computer Science she was interested on software development based on Java programming language, the reason she joined Professor Murakami's laboratory. I acted as her research supervisor. In our lab she engaged in the study of performance evaluation of virtual machines. This study is the basis of technology can contribute to the performance improvements of future smartphones and tablet computers. As I am also Brazilian we benefited from orientation using Portuguese. However, regarding the research, her lack of good understanding of English affected somehow her progress but she tenaciously worked very hard trying her best.

She had experienced living in Japan before and she is able to speak Japanese well. She had no problems communicating with other students or staff in the lab. Nonetheless she wanted to learn more. She took many Japanese language courses at Hakozaki Campus since she arrived and her progress is outward. In addition, she took part on many activities related to foreigner students and international affairs of Fukuoka Prefecture which allowed her to participate in many events and have a lively experience in Fukuoka, I think.

I hope Ms. Angela somehow applies this experience of one year studying abroad after she go back to Brazil in her private and public endeavors. In particular, I expect she will be able to continue her role in deepening even more the relationship between Japan (Fukuoka) and Brazil. I wish her all the best and success.