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福岡県移住者子弟留学報告書

2013 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

公益財団法人福岡県国際交流センター

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Brazil Fukuoka Kenjinkai Hosoe Tania Emi

Introduction

To start off I would like to say that my dream is to become a Patisserie and I have a strong desire to make that dream come true.

For a long time my dream was to become the world's greatest Patisserie. The reason I wanted to become that is because I believe that creating desserts are truly an art and it requires precise skills and passion while it's a job create happiness within the people who see and eat my work.

In Brazil I've always wanted to do this, even during my training in culinary school.

These are some of the things I planed

1. Enter the most famous culinary school in the Country
2. While being foreign exchanged in Japan learn Japanese
3. Study the art of making sweets in Japan
4. After going back to Brazil, work as a Patisserie and become more experienced for 3-5 years
5. Open my own shop

In 2011 I graduated culinary school in Brazil. At that point I was not sure I would be able to study abroad in Japan. I was notified that I am going to be able to go to Japan at the end of 2012. Going to Japan has always been a dream, so went I found out I was going to be able to do so I was very excited. So in April of 2013 I was able to come to Japan like I've always wanted to. At first I was worried about my new life in Japan, if I would be able to get used to speaking only in Japanese and staring something new at a new school. As time went by, I became used to the lifestyle and my motivation to become a Patisserie was stronger than ever before.

Life in Fukuoka

This year, there were a lot of things that made me very happy. The thing that I was most grateful for was being able to live with my fellow Kenpi Ryugakuseis and the Japanese friends that I made here at the dormitory. I feel like they are my second family and whenever I was troubled they always helped me out.

What I studied

At Kyushu Institute of Tourism I took classes on making sweets and sweet breads. At the school I met many wonderful people. I was able to learn basic and advanced techniques on making sweets. At school everything went very smooth and I felt that it was very productive. I was able to learn a lot from attending this school and I believe that I am one step closer to achieving my dream. I am thankful to all the people I was able to meet and to all of the experiences that were

provided for me.

The Japanese culture

Throughout this year I learned a lot of things through new experiences. Through Ikebana (Flower Arrangements) and Sadou (Tea Ceremony) I was able to experience the Japanese feeling of “Wa”. I felt that Japanese people truly have a delicate touch on things and are masters of perfection. Living in Japan, I felt that Japanese people try to show “Omotenashi” (Hospitality) everywhere in their daily lives. For example, the services that the Japanese people do may seem like a normal thing but in other countries you can’t get this kind of service. The service is so wonderful it surprises many foreigners including myself. The language that the people at stores are very polite, trains and other transportation methods are usually always on time. Restrooms and other public places are always clean in Japan. When you go shopping, no one will ever try to rip you off. In my country I’ve seen countless people be treated with that kind of disrespect. Japan is truly a wonderful place.

Summer vacation

I was able to learn a lot more about Japan during summer vacation. In July we had an event Short Term Program for Young Descendants of Immigrants from Fukuoka Prefecture. During that time I was able to experience the culture of Fukuoka by going around historical locations in Fukuoka. I was able to have cultural exchanges with many people in the different regions of Fukuoka and from the many different countries. It was a very fun and wonderful experience. During the summer I went to the Kurume Fireworks Festival and Kashii Hama Fireworks Festival with the members of the Kazokukai. It was my first fireworks festival that I’ve ever been to so I was truly amazed with how magnificent it was. They do have fireworks in Brazil but they’re nothing like the ones in Japan. Japanese fireworks are really glamorous and beautiful.

During summer vacation I was able to travel around many parts of Japan. I went to Aichi, Gifu, Toyama, Saga, Nara, Kyoto and Hiroshima. At Gifu I was able to find out more about my ancestry. Gifu is the place where my father was born and it’s where he grew up. It was full of nature and a truly beautiful place. I was able to meet my father’s cousin, Hosoe Koutaro. He told me many stories about our family and he took me to go see the grave of my Great grandfather Hosoe Kousaku. I am really glad that I was able to come to Japan.

During this trip I was able to learn more about the kindness of Japanese people. My previous image of Japanese people are that they are very “cold” compared to people from other countries. But, during my trip I was helped out by strangers who I assumed were cold on many occasions. If I didn’t know where to go people told me how to get there and sometimes even took me to where I wanted to go. The reason I thought Japanese people were cold was because they do not do much gestures. Japanese people do not touch or even hug each other much. In Brazil it’s a completely normal thing to do. Having parents that are Japanese I knew that these kind of gestures are not a normal thing in Japan, but I think I finally understand why. Japanese people

are indeed very nice and they show that not with gestures but with words. The words that Japanese people speak are very kind and it speaks to the soul. I think that Japanese people do not need to show friendship or how they feel about the other person by gesture because they are know how to connect with each other using words.

Lastly, throughout this year, not only going to school but just living here in Japan has taught me so many different things. In fact they are life lessons that I feel are very important. I would like to absorb more new things and grow bigger as a person. After going back to Brazil I would like to make use of these lessons that I learned her in Japan.

Lastly

Now with confidence I can proudly say that “I have stepped into the road of becoming a great Patisserie.” I want to continue working hard for my goal until I grasp it.

I would like to say once more from the bottom of my heart, to everybody that supported me on my journey, a word of appreciation. Thank you very much for supporting me this throughout this year.



Kyushu Institute of Tourism
Department of Café & Sweets
Toshio Takishita
(Teacher of Hosoe)

First Impressions

To begin with, this was the first time our department had welcomed a foreign exchange student. We had some idea of what to expect with exchange students from Asia (China in particular), but to be honest we were rather anxious about receiving a student from Brazil.

According to information we received prior to her enrolment, Ms Hosoe was older than most students who enter and had already studied in the area of food, so we considered the best path to take in our teaching approach. Of course, there was also the concern over fundamental aspects such as the degree to which she could understand Japanese.

However, I felt this concern lessen to a certain extent following an interview prior to the start of classes.

At the interview, I also strongly sensed an ambition to study, as well as simplicity and honesty that has become rare in Japanese youth today. As for her Japanese, Ms Hosoe was able to communicate naturally for the most part, which also resolved our concerns.

It was also pleasing to see her interaction with classmates following the entrance ceremony, with Ms Hosoe not holding back from communicating, joining in conversation with a smile regardless of the age gap.

Class work

While Ms Hosoe had sufficient Japanese ability and understanding to converse without problems, as expected she seemed to have difficulty with material written on the blackboard in class. With reference materials such as textbooks and handouts being in Japanese with French names (confectionery classes), unfortunately she was a step behind the Japanese students in this regard.

In addition, I feel the industry jargon (colloquialisms used on the job) was difficult to understand. As for acquiring skills and knowledge, our school curriculum is aimed at equipping students with the fundamentals, which require repeated practise to master. This is the same even for Japanese students - proficiency depends on the number of experiences. I feel it is necessary for students to set time aside after classes to repeatedly practice these skills for their own personal development. However, this aspect is affected by each individual's schedule, and I feel this is an issue to deal with going forward.



Brazil Fukuoka Kenjinkai Matunobu Lie

Introduction

One year is about to pass since I've come to Japan and time flew by very fast but there are tons of memories that I've made. There isn't much time left for my study abroad in Japan so I don't want to waste another second of it.

I am very grateful that I was able to study abroad in Fukuoka because Fukuoka is the home town of my grandmother who passed last year and it's something that my grandfather wanted me to do.

My name is Lie Matsunobu and I come from Brazil, in the city of Marilia of San Paulo.

Three years ago I graduated Eurípedes University Center with a degree in accounting science. In Brazil many people try to start businesses but eventually over 70% of them are closed within 1 year. There are many reasons for that but usually it caused by lousy management of money and not having anybody that is able to do accounting. My family opened a restaurant this year with in Marilia and I was able to learn how accounting works at a restaurant. Japan is a country full businesses with precise and detailed accountants, and I would like to learn those types of accounting skills to make use of it in Brazil. In Brazil I studied subjects such as accounting theory, management theory, and economics, but in Japan they do not have those types of classes offered. It made me wonder how the Japanese accountants receive their licenses and learn how to be an accountant. I would really like to know how Japanese businesses do accounting and I would also like to know where the accountants stand in the company. Therefor I would like to learn the Japanese accounting skills as a business owner.

Studies in Japan

The professor who guided me for my study is Mr. Testurou Asakawa. He provided me with many references and texts for my study while explaining them to me along the way. During the first semester I took 3 classes with Mr. Asakawa on introduction to book keeping, a class on industries and I took a seminar class with 3rd year students. Besides those classes I took a Japanese class, an English class and a Business class. I went to many of the seminars but my level of Japanese was not good enough and there were a lot of kanji, so I wasn't able to keep up with the classes. Mr. Asakawa understood my position and recommended me to take the seminar classes with the 2nd year students starting from the 2nd semester. Also in the 2nd semester I took 2 Japanese classes and it improved my Japanese enough to make classes easier to understand.

Looking back at these 9 months in Japan I think I was able to improve my Japanese most because of the friends I made here. At the dormitory I would always speak Japanese with my friends there, during my club training I will play around with my friends in Japanese and all my texts I

receive from my upperclassmen would be in messages full of kanji, so I was able to hear, read and understand Japanese more and more as I went along.

I was always bad at speaking Japanese but now I can speak and enjoy Japanese conversations, which was something that I never thought I would be able to do. Learning Japanese while speaking it with friends I enjoy spending time with makes the process fun and productive.

Summer

The Fukuoka International Exchange Foundation provided us with many different events for us to enjoy. For instance the Short Term Program for Young Descendants of Immigrants from Fukuoka Prefecture that happened from July 5th to the 16th, children from all over the world and their supervising adults came to Fukuoka and I have got to say it was a great experience. I believe that this is a good program for the kids because they are able to make friends with kids around their age from all over the world and they were able to take home great memories from what they experienced in Fukuoka. I believe this program was made possible because of all the hard work that everybody put into it. I believe that this program was also beneficial for the supervising adults that came with the kids, the family members of the kids who came to this and for us Kenpi Ryugakusei.

During the program we were able to visit many places. I was able to see parts of Fukuoka that I have never seen with the kids and it was very enjoyable. I was able to learn about cultures from other countries and also about parts of Brazil that I did not know from before. I wish the kids remember this for the rest of their lives and I am thankful to the Fukuoka International Exchange Foundation for holding this event.

Fukuoka cuisine

Before coming to Japan I heard about the rumors of how delicious the ramen was. The first day I came to Fukuoka I ate ramen at a ramen shop. I thought it was delicious and was excited that I am going to be able to eat more and more delicious ramen from now on. I thought it was just going to be delicious ramen but I found out that all of the food in Fukuoka is delicious. I think that the dessert is especially delicious.

Lastly

I would like to thank everyone who helped me along the way. At Kyushu Sangyou University the International Exchange Center helped me out all the time so I didn't have any problems during school and was able to rely on them all the time.

During these fun times there was my club activity that I enjoyed going to. The club activity was the Chinese martial arts club or Kung Fu club. I was able to meet many good friends there. There is only a little bit of time left in Fukuoka and I plan to make the best out of it. I hope to repay everybody for these precious and fun times by becoming like the people who supported me throughout my experience.



Kyushu Sangyo University, Faculty of Commerce
Professor, Tetsuro Asakawa
(Teacher of Matunobu)

Since arriving in Japan in spring, Rie Matsunobu took my accounting classes and seminars at the Kyushu Sangyo University Faculty of Commerce, as well as Japanese classes. Ms Matsunobu has told me that her goal is to pursue a career in accounting for a food-related business upon returning home from her study in Japan

Her approach towards classes has been very diligent, with very few absences. My classes covered foundations of accounting in the first semester and business analysis in the second. While studying accounting foundations her progress in Japanese was lacking, however I feel her efforts brought some improvement in the second semester. Book-keeping practice is important for accounting, and I think repeated practice of the materials used in class will see her gain competency.

In the second semester, business analysis included viewing presentations and videos by other students, through which I feel she learned a lot about the operations and history of large companies in Japan. I think that her Japanese conversation ability has improved considerably through these studies.

We are also friends on Facebook, and through photos that she occasionally posts I can see that she is enjoying her life in Fukuoka. Ms Matsunobu also joined the university's Japanese martial arts club as an extracurricular activity. I think these club activities, which she could not have experienced in Brazil, lead to understanding yet another aspect of Japan. There are also many things the Japanese students could learn from her, such as her active participation in volunteer activities for supporting disaster-affected regions overseas.

Given that her goal for studying in Japan was to investigate food-related businesses, I would advise Ms Matsunobu to research this field as a task going forward. Having attained a certain level of Japanese and knowledge of accounting, Ms Matsunobu should now put her efforts into polishing these skills, as well as gaining knowledge and experience she can use in Brazil in the future. Fukuoka is a place known for delicious winter foods, so I think she came to the right place to achieve her goals.



Brazil Fukuoka Kenjinkai Ueda Uemura Yukiko Bruna

Introduction

I had so much fun in Japan this year. I was able to create a lot of good memories.

In April, when I arrived in Fukuoka, I was truly worried due to all the new things that were coming, but fortunately there were no troubles and I lived in Japan with no worries.

Since I was a child, I heard a lot of stories about Japan from my grandfather and grandmother. In Brazil, I had Japanese classes at a local Japanese language school since I was four years old. Because of all these things I always wanted to know more about Japan. This year, I've got this opportunity to come to this country and I that childhood dream came true. I do appreciate it, and I'm really grateful to everyone who gave me this opportunity.

From the time I arrived in Fukuoka in April, I was able to face a lot of new experiences, like living in Japan by myself, attending classes at a new university and speaking Japanese all the time, everything was a new experience for me. In addition, the weather in Japan is very different from Brazil. For example, the summer in Japan is hotter and more humid while the winter seems colder.

Living in Japan

For me, there are many beautiful places in Fukuoka, the native people are really gentle, and the local cuisine is very tasty (for example: ramen, sushi, etc.). This year, I visited so many places in Fukuoka and I learned lots of things about Japan and the Japanese culture.

During my university's vacation time, I went to other cities in Japan besides Fukuoka. I visited Tokyo, Hiroshima, Kyoto, Nara, Toyama and Nagoya. All those Japanese cities I went to were always clean and beautiful. However, for me the best city in Japan is still Fukuoka.

Events

Each month, we held and attended events from the Fukuoka International Exchange Foundation and Kazokukai, I was able to learn about the culture of Japan and Fukuoka. I always had a great time in those events.

The event that impressed me most was the 'Short Term Program for Young Descendants of Immigrants from Fukuoka Prefecture' and the '8th Fukuoka International Kenjinkai World Congress'. During the 'Short Term Program for Young Descendants of Immigrants from Fukuoka Prefecture', I experienced many things and met new good friends from various countries. We were able to learn a lot, like tourist spots (for example: Sarakurayama, Kokura Castle, Dazaifu) and the 'Hakata Gion Festival', a famous festival held by the Fukuoka Prefecture. Finally, the '8th Fukuoka Kenjinkai World Congress' was a really big event. Many people came from various countries overseas. I had a great time during those events, because I was able to interact with all those people who came from other countries. It was an important experience for me, since I

could learn a lot about other cultures and customs.

Study

I had been mainly studying economics in Kyushu Sangyo University. I came to Japan to learn about two different areas of economics, the microeconomics and macroeconomics theories. During the first academic year from April to August, through research guidance and individual classes, I mainly studied macroeconomics. From September to December I studied microeconomics.

Besides taking those economics subjects, I was studied other subjects, such as Japanese culture, Japanese business language, English and Japanese.

Most classes were given only in Japanese, so I felt that it was difficult because a lot of words were quite confusing. Every week on Tuesdays I had research guidance with my teacher Mr. Tsutsui. When he asked about my doubts and I explained it to him, he made the questions simpler and the discussions became easier for me. During research guidance we talked about Brazilian economy, history and Japanese economy as well. Using the Internet or books, I always searched for different topics about Brazil and Japan and we quarrel over these topics. I'm really grateful to Mr. Tsutsui and his guidance.

About the future

There are still a lot of things to learn in the economics field, and then I'm thinking about entering school in economic relations when I return to Brazil. In the future, I want to work in this area, using everything I learned in Japan.

At the end

When I think about everything that I've experienced in Japan so far, it's a feeling that can't be expressed in words. To everyone, who gave me this opportunity to come to Japan, I really appreciate it. I feel like I don't want to go back to Brazil, but the time to return is approaching, and it makes me a bit lonely. I was able to create a lot of good memories and good friends. I would like to meet all my friends again, those ones who I met here in Japan. Even though I've only met them recently, it feels like we've been friends for a long time, almost like we're family. After returning to Brazil I will always remember of this year and I'll never forget the experiences I had in Japan. Thank you very much.



**Kyushu Sangyo University,
Faculty of Economics
Professor, Shuji Tsutsui
(Teacher of Ueda)**

Of my classes, Ms Ueda attended lectures for Principles of Economics, which covered macro economics in the first semester and micro economics in the second. The next day after each of these classes, Ms Ueda would come to me during my consultation time for research students and ask about areas that were unclear. She is a hard-working student who studies diligently, taking detailed notes of class content, as well as preparation and review. She also has an interest in Brazilian economics and used the internet to investigate areas such as the state of Brazil's economy and the future of its industries. In the future, she hopes to continue studying economics at graduate school in Brazil, and find work that contributes to the development of Japan and Brazil by comparing the culture and economies of both countries.

At first, Ms Ueda was unable to converse smoothly in Japanese and seemed to struggle. Now, I think she has made considerable improvement in her language ability and has adjusted to life in Japan, having no problems with shopping or other aspects of everyday life. Also, thanks to support from prefectural staff involved with the program and the cooperation of many others, Ms Ueda was able to be directly experience various aspects of Japanese culture, events and traditions that made her time more enjoyable.

However, at times the difference in weather between Japan and Brazil caused Ms Ueda some trouble. To me Brazil seems like a country with a tropical climate, but according to her the Japanese summer was difficult, being very humid and hotter than Brazil. She also said that the Japanese winter in December was extremely cold, which caused her to get sick. I am interested to see her reaction to snow, which is something she may not have seen before Japan. If possible I would like Ms Ueda to experience making snowmen and having snow fights.

Finally, after being in contact with Ms Ueda in and out of class since April, my impression is that even though she is a 3rd generation nikkei born in Brazil, she has the personality of a kind, honest and humble Japanese girl.



Brazil Fukuoka Kenjinkai Yokoo Kenji Ronaldo

Introduction

My name is Yokoo Ronaldo Kenji and I was born at Brazil in Curitiba city at the state of Paraná. 5 members compose my family and my grand grandparents moved to Brazil from Fukuoka about 100 years ago.

I graduated in the Paraná Federal University of Technology on Mechatronics. After I finished studies and graduated, I wasn't working in something concerning my area of knowledge, so I came to Fukuoka as an International student.

The reason I came to study in Fukuoka is that I always dreamed to come to Japan. During this period of one year I tried my all to accomplish everything that was possible.

Start of a New Life

Full of uneasy and hope feelings I arrived at Fukuoka. I am an Exchange Student Descendant of Immigrants from Fukuoka Prefecture of the year of 2013 and this year came 8 Fukuoka emigrants' children students. We are all living in the same dormitory except for 1 person that is studying too far to commute everyday to take classes.

I had some hard time to get used to this new lifestyle, specially the regionalism of the language. Nowadays I usually understand what people are saying, but in the beginning it was difficult for me to comprehend the dialect from people of Fukuoka.

When I got at Japan there were many things that surprised me, but the most surprising one was the public transport. For example: the driver of the bus always warns the passengers every move that the bus is going to do, another point is the trains that don't get late and keep the timetable on check. Another point that I noticed was when I was walking on the streets is that even when there were no signals the cars usually stop, so pedestrians can cross the street. This kind of behavior is hard to see on Brazil.

Japan is known to be a country that has many natural disasters and in this 1 year of studies I saw that happened many hurricanes and earthquakes. About the hurricanes I was always warned to take care, but even when they got close to Fukuoka I could continue my life normally like if nothing catastrophic was happening. And I think that the earthquake in Fukuoka you almost don't feel anything.

Another worry that I had in Japan was the homesickness. Although it was an anxiety that I had, in Fukuoka there are "the Association of Families of Fukuoka" (Kazokukai) that always helped us. The Kazokukai always arrange some kind of event so that we could learn a little a bit more about the Japanese culture and lifestyle. I think that those events were important so that the Exchange students didn't get homesick. Beside the events they gave support for times that we got sick.

Short Term Program for Young Descendants of Immigrants from Fukuoka Prefecture and Summer Vacations

In July, kids from many countries and their responsible gathered at the Prefecture of Fukuoka. This short program lasted for twelve days, and in this short time I could make many friends and could experience many things. In this program not just the kids, but I think everyone could have a good time and enjoy every moment. I think that everyone could learn a little bit more about the past of the Prefecture of Fukuoka and the Japanese culture.

On August and September is the summer vacation from the university, but my laboratory didn't have vacations. But so that I could travel and visit my friends around Japan I consulted my advisor and could take 1 month of rest from the university. I planed to go to many places, but I went just where the time allowed me to go. The places I went to were Tokyo, Toyota, Osaka, Nara, Kyoto and Hiroshima.

During my travel I saw that even though Japan is a small country, the varieties of cultures are enormous. But when I got back to Fukuoka I felt that I had finally got back home.

My Research in Kyushu University

My research in Kyushu University is concerning about manufacturing of complex structures utilizing cutting machines. This process can be divided in two parts that are planning and manufacture. To learn about this process I borrowed a book that contains this kind information from my teacher.

There are many ways for manufacturing. There are for example the plastic injection and metal forming, but my subject of study is metal cutting.

Metal cutting machines usually work with 3 and 4 axes, but I came to Japan looking for machines that could work with 5 or more axes if possible. Unfortunately there aren't this kind of equipment in the University.

The book that I borrowed uses 2 machines to explain the concept and calculations of how to use them. One of the machines work with the milling cutting (furaisu kakou in Japanese, the word furaisu come from German Fräsen) technic, the other machine is the turning machine. In the milling cutting process the block that is going to be worked is places on a moving table, and this table make the approach of the piece to the tool that is place above. The turning process, the piece to be worked spins and the tool that does the cut approaches.

Written in the book also explains the use of 5 and 6 axes programmable machines. Reading the book I was able to learn how to use this kind of machines and I hope that in a near future I can work on some of those.

Beside de machinery process I was working with a CAD (Computer Aided Design) program called Pro Engineering. CAD programs are used to plot the project, make layout of the product that are going to be manufactured, make a preview of the process, elaborate reports, and others features. The program that I used in Brazil is called Solid Work. CAD softwares are all similar, but how it's used is different, so it took about 2 week to get used to its functions.

Acknowledge

It was my first time living abroad and I think that I had many important experiences. This opportunity to study in Fukuoka I could make once-in-a-life encounter with many people. I think that I made many good memories in Fukuoka. Beside the hard times I had, I had really amazing happy times and I will treasure every moment that I had in Japan.

During my period of studies in Fukuoka, I would like to thank the Fukuoka International Exchange Center and the Association of Families of Fukuoka, and say that I am really grateful for all your support during this year.

For making my dream of coming to Japan comes true I want to thanks the Brazilian Fukuoka Association. After going back to Brazil I intend to participate actively on the Brazilian Fukuoka Association and the Young Person Association of the Fukuoka Kenjinkai activities.

It was a short period that we got together, but I would also like to thank my mentor Kurokawa Shuuhei and my laboratory friends from Kyushu University.



Kyushu University
Graduate School of Engineering
Professor, Shuhei Kurokawa
(Teacher of Yokoo)

With his bright, friendly and confident personality, Kenji Ronaldo Yokoo got on well with everyone in the department, providing a spark that greatly improved the atmosphere throughout. Travelling to various parts of the the country and interacting closely with locals, he was proactive not just in his research but also in an international sense, not limiting cultural and everyday exchanges to staff and students in the department.

As for his research in mechanical engineering, Mr Yokoo entered our Precision Machining department with the desire to research CAD/CAM-aided design/manufacture and process design. To begin with, he set about reading through Japanese publications on multi-spindle/composite process CAM, translating and summarizing for himself. Utilizing this knowledge, he used high-end 3D CAD/CAM systems to design his own product, and actually manufactured it with high precision multi-spindle machining tools (photo 1, photo 2). He is very quick to understand and creative, and upon seeing the finished product I was impressed with how well he had done. Mr. Yokoo was active in classes and took to his studies energetically, always attending Precision Machining classes at the graduate school from the very first period in the morning. In addition, he also attended all manufacturing process seminars that are part of the graduate school curriculum for those studying real manufacturing, where he learned the process involved in creating an actual product.

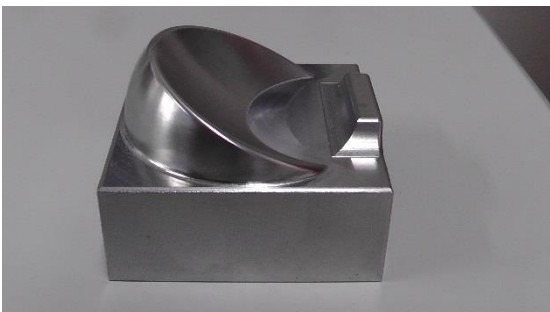


Photo 1 Mr. Yokoo's designed & manufactured product Photo 2 With the finished product

One occasion comes to mind, the first time I met Mr. Yokoo. It was planned that he should meet up with staff from the Fukuoka International Exchange Foundation when he arrived in

Japan at Hakata. However, it seems they were unable to find each other and he had no choice but to use public transport to come all the way to the campus on his own - which he managed to do with time to spare before our meeting. When I received a call from the guard at the university campus gate, I was honestly surprised that he made it by himself. Mr. Yokoo also struck me as extremely dependable by his ability to deal with trouble quickly and correctly, and his resolve in tackling an unknown land without being particularly bothered.

He also went out of his way to visit many areas around Japan, seeking cultural experiences and interaction with local people. He met with his uncle and aunty in Nagoya, visited Akihabara in Tokyo, Universal Studios in Osaka, Kiyomizu-dera and Fushimi Inari in Kyoto, saw deer in Nara, Miyajima in Hiroshima and experienced snow for the first time in Nikko. In Kyushu as well, he deepened his understanding of Japanese history and culture by visiting Kumamoto Castle in Kumamoto, enjoying Huis Ten Bosch and champon in Nagasaki, the balloon festival and Arita ware in Saga, as well as the November Kyushu Sumo Tournament in his hometown of Fukuoka. Furthermore, with the Fukuoka Kenjinkai Worldwide Convention being held in Fukuoka, he was proactive in helping with preparation, translation and reception tasks. Through these experiences and events, I feel that Mr. Yokoo has made many friends, gained accurate information and a deeper understanding about Japan, and vastly broadened the sphere of exchange between Japan and Brazil. I cannot help but feel excited when I think of the brilliant, globally-active engineer that he will surely become in the future.



Peru Fukuoka Club **Yoshikay Benitez Diego Alonso**

Presentation

I am a fourth generation Japanese descendant, born in Arequipa-Peru. I live with my parents, and my little brother. I obtained my bachelor's degree in Biology from the Universidad Nacional de San Agustín, Arequipa in 2012. For my grandparents being Japanese, I started to get interest in their home country and while I was helping in the Peru kenjinkai activities, I got even more interested in learning more about the Japanese language and culture. Therefore, I yearned to apply for this scholarship.

Discovering the real Japan

In Fukuoka, people are kind with foreigners, and despite being an urban city, it has a natural side such as mountains, beaches and beautiful parks. While being in Fukuoka, I give special thanks to everyone from the Fukuoka Association of Families, I had the chance to participate in several activities: rice planting, grape picking, tea ceremony and firefly sightseeing. 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 Koga family in Kurume city. The Koga family was very friendly, took us to a Buddha temple and made a barbecue party, allowing me to experience the traditional Japanese life style.

In the summer, I was really impressed with the fireworks of Fukuoka. I was surprised by the size and the large number of fireworks and the shapes printed in the dark sky. I remember that evening, lots of people crowding the train stations and the streets, going to watch the fireworks, many of them wearing Yukata. Fortunately, Yoshinagasan invited me to a party in the terrace roof of his house, so I watched the fireworks from a privileged and comfortable place, thank you so much Yoshinagasan.

When speaking about Japan, the first thing that came to my mind was food. So before coming to Japan, what I wanted to eat the most was sashimi and sushi. Actually in Fukuoka there are many sushi restaurants or "Sushiya" like they call here. But the sushi I liked the most was the one I ate in Kitakyushu, in the port, the kitakyushu families took us to meet kitakyushu and the sightseeing. It was hard to express what I felt at that moment, nothing can compare the flavour of fresh meat fish.

Summer Vacation

In July, the "Short Term Visit Program for Young Descendants 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, was a great opportunity to learn about Japan and their own countries too, discovering new things and making friends. I hope the children do not forget this incredible experience.

After this program finished, I went to Yame to visit my Japanese relatives, whom I had never met before. I felt moved due the beauty of the countryside, rice fields, tea plantations and because I realized my ancestors lived in a peaceful place.

Also I made an end semester's trip with the laboratory staff to Oita Safari Zoo. I was fascinated due to I had never been so close from wild animals like zebras, giraffes, antelopes, lions, etc. I could even feel their breath. We all got on a bus conditioned with thick steel bars, the bus seemed like a big moving cage. Since I arrived to Japan, it was interesting and fun at all, I had no time to stand or rest.

About my studies

I studied at Kyushu University in the laboratory of Forest Chemistry and Biochemistry, under the guidance of Professor Yuji Tsutsumi. I was very lucky to meet a teacher who helped me a lot. He always had time to answer my questions and talk with me. He always helped me in what I wanted to learn.

At the laboratory I did many practical training in many fields of study that were really interesting. Starting with determining percentages of lignin and histochemical staining in *Arabidopsis thaliana*, Isolation of UBQ gene for a further use as a reference gene in *Populus alba*, Presence and activity of peroxidase in *Populus alba*, etc. All these studies related to lignin. For this reason, lignin is a major theme in extracting plant sugars and use them to make advanced biofuels.

Besides the laboratory, I had Japanese classes. When I came to Japan my Japanese abilities were low, but I had improved. Actually the Japanese classes were very dynamic, the teachers were so kind but also strict, for these reasons I think that now I'm interested in asking and learning more Japanese.

Conclusion

After returning to Peru, I wish to have a job related with forestry and biodiesel. Related to Peru Fukuoka Kenjinkai, I wish to contribute and dedicate myself in helping as much as I can to the Kenjinkai activities. I expect that every Fukuoka's descendant in Peru could visit this beautiful city. The city of Arequipa does not have a Fukuoka Kenjinkai. So I wish to gather everyone who lives in Arequipa and have ties with the Fukuoka Prefecture, and create a bridge of information between the Kenjinkai and the prefecture. Due to I really liked Japan, I had promised myself to return one more time in the future.

Acknowledgements

To the governor of Fukuoka, for giving us, the descendants students the opportunity to know our grandparents homeland, thank you very much. To Everyone from Fukuoka International Exchange foundation, I am sincerely grateful for such great days. To all members of Fukuoka Association's Families, for show the greatness of the prefecture, thank you. To Mrs. Armando Ouchida, for giving me the best opportunity of my life. To Mrs. Masayoshi Yoshinaga and Mrs.

Takuya Yoshinaga, for accepting me and being my guarantors in Japan, thank you very much. I am truly thankful to professor Tsutsumi for his patience in teaching me so many things and for the guidance regarding my study. To all my friends in the laboratory, to my sempai Masayoshi Wakabayashi, I sincerely appreciate your help. To all my Japanese friends, Same, Tomo, Yui, Kento, thank you for helping me with the language. To the exchange students, especially Naotokun, who demonstrated to be a real friend with an honest heart, thank you my friend and take care.



**Kyushu University
Faculty of Agriculture**

Professor, Yuji Tsutsui
(Teacher of Yoshikay)

During my tenure as a university professor I have welcomed many foreign students and researchers with scholarly objectives, however this was my first time to accept a student for the purpose of international exchange. However, I proposed the same content as for standard international students, with the hope that Diego's time at Kyushu University would aid his career upon returning home.

Just like other Japanese and international students, Diego spent the greater part of each day engaged in study or experiments in our department. During this time, I noticed the following:

1. An interest in the research being conducted, as well as proactive efforts in study and learning experimental techniques.
2. An earnest desire to improve his career prospects by continuing on to graduate school at Kyushu University (masters and doctoral course), as well as acquiring scholarship funding, arising from exposure to the high level of academic research at Japanese universities.

Given the considerable time Diego invested in study and research during his stay at Kyushu University, as described above, I get the impression that the scope of his exchange was relatively limited. On the other hand, I feel that this chance to study abroad provided him with a big motivation and the possibility of choosing a new path in research.

Diego is bright, diligent and cooperative, and took no time to connect with the other students in the department. Knowing his daily life and personality, I too feel strongly about giving him the chance to go on to graduate school if possible. I also feel it would be wonderful if he was able to, for example, contribute to academic research in his home country after obtaining a degree in Japan.

I have great expectations that the experience Diego gained through this program will be of value throughout his life. In addition, I earnestly hope that the program organisers can arrange for more options, including a system of special extensions of study period or recommendations for scholarship.



Bolivia Fukuoka Kenjinkai Tokunaga Naoto

Introduction

First, I would like to thank from the bottom of my heart the Fukuoka International Exchange Foundation, the Bolivia Fukuoka Kenjinkai, Dai-Ichi Automobile Mechanics College and the Kazokukai for giving me the opportunity to come to Japan

Japan is my heritage, a place I always admired and a place that I always wanted to visit since I was a child. I am very grateful that I received this chance to come to Japan and I was excited when I found out that I was able to come here.

My name is Naoto Tokunaga, a 2nd generation Japanese from Bolivia. I came to Japan as the Heisei 25th year Fukuoka Kenjinkai Kenpi Ryugakusei. I have learned many things this year. One of the most important things that I learned and want to keep in my heart and take back to Bolivia is the Japanese culture and their manners. Some of the manners that I learned in Japan are to always be on time, make sure to throw away your trash, make sure to settle business when you need to and so on. I hope to make these types of manner in use when I go back to Bolivia. This year may seem long but it seemed very short for me.

School life

I am attending Dai-Ichi Automobile Mechanics College and am learning about car maintenance and repair. At first I was worried that I would not understand what the teacher is during lectures and that I would not be able to blend in with the class or make friends there. But as time went by I became used to the lifestyle and was able to blend in. I made many friends and went to many places, life in Japan became very fun for me. At school I was able to learn a lot of thing from the lectures and labs. During the lectures I was able to lean about the structure or make of automobile parts such as the engine, chassis and the transmission. I was able to learn how they all worked in detail and I'm very thankful for the teachers at Dai-Ichi Automobile Mechanics College for teaching me many new things. During business tours I was able to visit places like HINO automobile repairs and everything was fascinating. I'm thankful that I was able to receive this opportunity to learn all these things that I always had interest in.

There were many events provided and some of the memorable events that I enjoyed were the Short Term Visit Program for Young Descendants of Immigrants from Fukuoka Prefecture, the Worldwide Fukuoka Kenjinkai Convention, and the Home stay with the Kazokukai members.

Events

During the Short Term Visit Program for Young Descendants of Immigrants from Fukuoka Prefecture many kids and their supervising adults came over to Fukuoka. With the kids we went around and visited many of Fukuoka's historical locations, visit an elementary school and mingled with the kids there, was able to learn and feel many of Fukuoka's different cultural

aspects. I think this was a very good experience for the kids along with it being a good experience for myself. On top of that I was able to make good friends with the supervising adult that came along with kids.

During the the Worldwide Fukuoka Kenjinkai Convention there were many people from many Fukuoka Kenjinkais around the world who gathered in Fukuoka to hold a conference. This event happens every 3 years and it hasn't been held in Fukuoka in 12 years. I was glad I was able to attend this event because I was able to meet many people around to world including people who knew my grandfather. I was thankful that we were even invited to listen to the meeting that they held there about future activities that the Fukuoka Kenjinkais will hold.

During the Kazokukai homestay I was able to meet my relatives that live in Kurokichou. That was the place where my father was born and I was surprised that it was by the country side.

Summer

During summer vacation I went to go watch Fireworks at the Fireworks Festival. It was my first time seeing all these different kinds of fireworks and I was truly amazed. After that I went to go meet my Grandfather, Grandmother, Aunt and cousins in Yokohama. I haven't met my Grandfather in over 10 years so I was a bit worried that I would not recognize him. But the moment I met him I knew it was him and he seemed to be doing very well so I was truly relieved. I was able to go to a lot of places with my grandparents in Yokohama and I had a great time. After Yokohama I came back to visit my family in Fukuoka again. They took me to go meet other relatives that I've never met before in Fukuoka. I was very happy that I was able to meet family that I haven't seen in over 10 years and that I was able to meet relatives that I've never met before. After meeting everybody my cousins took me out to go eat dinner and I had a whole lot of fun.

Lastly

One of the many worries that I had was being able to cook food because I was never the type to cook for myself and food was always provided for me. I'm thankful for the other Kenpi Ryugakuseis for cooking food for me or else I think I would have starved.

I think that because of all the help I received from the Fukuoka International Exchange Foundation and the Kazokukai I was able to blend into Japan and have such a wonderful stay here. When the Fukuoka International Exchange Foundation informed me about the date that we will be going back to our countries it made me sad that a year is about to pass already. After going back to Bolivia I would like to use everything that I learned here in Japan and make use of it for my future.



Dai-ich Automobile Mechanics College
Toshikazu
(Teacher of Tokunaga)

I was a little worried as this was my first time to take in a student, and I think Mr Tokunaga also had his uncertainties.

While he was able to convey his intentions and understand daily conversation, at first it was clear that he struggled with technical terminology and kanji characters. As time passed, I was relieved to see him gradually brighten and become more relaxed with his classmates.

Just like the other students, his curriculum included 3 hours of study in the mornings followed by 3 hours of practical work in the afternoons, as well as tests to evaluate his level of understanding. His marks are above the average in almost all subjects, and all of his teachers stated that he engaged in his studies diligently.

As far as I could see, Mr Tokunaga would question teachers or students with higher grades about areas he didn't understand and record parts with his camera during practical work. There is no doubt that he has an interest in automotive maintenance.

At this rate, if he had 2 years to spend here I believe there is a good chance he could obtain qualifications as an auto mechanic.

While that is the current situation, I feel that this experience will not go wasted as Mr Tokunaga has expressed a desire to find work with automotives upon returning home.



**Argentina Fukuoka Kenjinkai
Yuasa Facund**

Introduction

I am Facundo Yuasa. I am from Buenos Aires, Argentina and I am a third Generation Nikkei. Studying in Japan as a kenpiriyugakusei this past year has been a memorable experience that I will never forget. During this year I was able to make many Japanese and International friends, and have many unforgettable experiences. It was amazing to live the daily life of a Japanese student. Another great aspect of this trip was that I also was able to meet my relatives and friends that I have not seen for a long time. Lastly, besides adventuring Japan, I have studied very hard at the Kyushu Institute of Technology while taking courses in and doing research for injection molding of plastics and studying Japanese as well.

Day Life

Since I came to Japan, the thing that surprised me most was the kindness of Japanese people. For example, each time I entered a shop, the staff members always kindly say “hi” and “thank you” regardless if I bought something or not. Since my University is located far from Fukuoka City, I live in on campus housing. I went to Kyushu Institute of Technology, located in Iizuka. Thanks to my friends from the Research Lab I attended and my international friends, I got used to the very fast day to day life in Japan. Since I spent a lot of time at the Lab, it was easy and beneficial to make friends there. We always had dinner together, went to bars, hung out at Kokura and went to see baseball games. Every weekend I went to Fukuoka City to hang out with the other International students in the program like me. As a group, we went karaoke, shopping and to the game center. Over time, we became very good friends, and created so many good memories together. In the future, once we have gone back to our countries, I would really like to meet them again. I would like to travel to their countries, or they can come to Argentina to visit me.

Events

This year there were 2 big events that I was able to participate in. In July, the “Short Term Program for Young Descendants of Immigrants” took part. 22 kids from different countries came over to Fukuoka to participate in this program. During their stay, we visited a lot of famous places together. For example, the Castle of Kokura, Dazaifutenmangu, and the Toyota Kyushu Factory. We also participated in many cultural events such as making fans, playing the taiko drums, eating nagashisoumen, making Umegaemochi, performing the tea ceremony, and going to the Yamakasa Festival. The event that I enjoyed most during the children’s visit was the exchange with Elementary school kids. Since the number of boys was very high, the stay was really complicated but since I really love kids, I had a really good time. The second event that took place during the program was in October. It was the “Worldwide Fukuoka Kenjinkai Convention”. Around 300 people from different countries came to Fukuoka. Even my grandparents came over as part of the Argentina Fukuoka Kenjinkai. At the Worldwide Fukuoka Kenjinkai Convention, I was able to network with people of different countries which was a really good experience. Due to the Worldwide Fukuoka Kenjinkai Convention taking place, I was

interviewed by the Nishitetsu Newspaper. During the interview session, I talked about myself, my grandparents and the Argentina Fukuoka Kenjinkai. A picture that I took with my friends from the research lab was included in the news article.

Therefore, every month I participated at events from Kazokukai and the Fukuoka International Exchange Foundation, such as Ikebana, Planting rice, Kimono, Tea Ceremony, Fireworks, making Ramen.

Summer Holidays

During the past summer, I traveled to Tokyo and Hiroshima. I visited a lot of places in Tokyo, such as Shinjuku, Shibuya, Harajuku, Roppongi, Asakusa, Akihabara, and Ueno. The place that I enjoyed the most was the Fuji Q Highland Theme Park. Since I and my friends went to Fuji Q on vacations during the busiest time of year, it was really crowded. Even though we missed the returning bus home, and have had to spend the night close to Fuji Q, I had a great time. During my visit in Hiroshima, I stayed in my aunt's house and I was able to see my uncle and cousins too. While in Hiroshima, I went to see my cousin's singing performance, and my other cousin's tennis match. I also visited the Atomic Bomb Dome and Miyajima.

Studies

As a university student in Japan, I studied at Kyushu Institute of Technology in the Narahara Koresawa laboratory. There I began my research on the injection molding of plastics. In this research, 2 sensors (a pressure sensor and a sensor which measures the deformation of the mold) were introduced into the mold, and then different experiments took part. The aim of my research is to find a method for rapid setting of the molding conditions. Since this was the first time I have studied about the injection molding of plastics and therefore had no prior knowledge, I had to attend extra courses as well as visit some factories to get the basic knowledge needed to be able to conduct my research. Besides my research, I took Japanese classes at University. I also took the Japanese language proficiency test level N3 and N2.

After going back home

After going back to my country, I would like to tell as many people as possible about my experiences while in Fukuoka. When I return to Argentina, I plan to be an active member by participating in Argentina Fukuoka Kenjinkai events, being supportive mentor for the future Argentinian students who will go to Fukuoka. Since there are very few young people in the Argentina Fukuoka Kenjinkai, I as a kenpiriyugakusei would like to encourage youth to participate in this kind of activities. Since I was able to make friends with people from different Kenjinkai, I would like to exchange ideas and experiences that would benefit the Argentina Kenjinkai as well as others around the world.

In conclusion

I would like to thank the government of Fukuoka, the Fukuoka International Exchange

Foundation, Kazokukai and the Argentina Fukuoka Kenjinkai. I would also have to thank my professor Mr. Narahara and Mr. Koresawa for guiding me in my research and my peers from the lab who were always willing to help me. Finally, I would like to thank the other kenpiriyugakusei for becoming really good friends and contributing to the really good time I had during this year.

**Kyushu Institute of Technology
Department of Engineering
Professor, Kosuke Narahara**



(Teacher of Yuasa)

After receiving an enquiry about a new student from Argentina, we decided to have Mr Yuasa

join our research department. One of the reasons was a fit between the content covered by our department and his own desire to conduct research relating to quality. However, there was also my personal hope that, by taking in an international student, the Japanese students in the department would have greater opportunity to interact with another culture, which would broaden the outlooks of both sides.

These students also show an interest in discussing foreign countries, often having lunch with Mr Yuasa. I think the department's meetings were a good opportunity to introduce work and research he had done in Argentina, as well as to understand the differences in customs between Japan and other countries.

Mr Yuasa already had experience working since graduating from university, and being older than the other students there was no need to worry about his activities.

However, soon after arriving in Japan an incident occurred in Iizuka City, and Mr Yuasa was questioned by police as he happened to be passing nearby. Despite such incidents being rare in Iizuka City, as the person responsible for him the unfortunate timing of the encounter left me disappointed with the public order in Japan. I was worried that he may think Iizuka is a very dangerous place and wish to return home without having time to become accustomed to the city. Following the incident, he received help from the Fukuoka International Exchange Foundation and was able to meet with relatives living in Japan. Also having a chance to visit the graves of his ancestors, I think his stay in Japan became a good opportunity.

The Kyushu Institute of Technology Iizuka campus has a lecture course complete with comprehensive knowledge of metal die technology used in mass production of vehicles and household electronics. As he hopes to join a Japanese business upon returning home, I believe this was a good opportunity for him to learn the latest information about the fundamental technologies sustaining Japan's technological capabilities.

With just under a year, the time really went quickly. After returning home, I hope Mr Yuasa can make the most of the valuable experience gained as a young adult in Japan, and wish him great success in both his personal and professional life.



**Nanka Fukuoka Kenjinkai
Kanagawa Ryusuke**

Introduction

Hello everyone, this is Ryusuke Kanagawa

For this report I would like to tell you about my experiences and what I felt in Japan. Also I would like to tell you a little bit about how my opportunity to study abroad approached me.

How my opportunity approached me

I was born in Fukuoka Japan and was raised in United States, Los Angeles California since I was 1 month old. My first language was Japanese and until I went to preschool I was not able to speak any English. I also went to a Japanese school every Saturday to learn Japanese, so even though I grew up in the U.S. I have no problem speaking Japanese fluently. Growing up in this kind of atmosphere I've only been to Japan when I was so small I barely have any memory of the trip and when I was in Elementary school. I've always wanted to go to Japan to go site seeing in famous places and eat the food that I saw on television. I always had a great desire to go to Japan again. About 3 years ago my sister decided to study abroad to Osaka University using her school's study abroad program. My feelings for Japan was very strong and it made me very jealous. So I decided "Alright I'm going to Japan too!" and decided to go to Japan while my sister was still in Japan during summer vacation. My story changes right here but my family has been in the Nanka (Southern California) Fukuoka Kenjinkai many years and participated in events and my brother and sister participated in the Taiko drumming club. I myself though of the Kenjinkai as a place where people from the same area of Japan just talk and have fun. I have a large family so we always stood out in those events and everybody knew about us. About half a year before going to Japan I was told about studying abroad through the Kenjinkai. I had some interest in it and with light feelings I said "I might want to go." But at that moment my studying abroad was already decided. I myself was thinking that I would like to go after I graduated from my university because I was almost done.

The day I was leaving for Japan there was a picnic that the Nanka Fukuoka Kenjinkai was holding and I decided to just show my face before my flight. When I got there I was handed paperwork for the study abroad program. I asked what it was and was told that it's the paperwork need for the studying abroad program. I was told that there wasn't much time left so I should hurry up with it. Filled with surprise and confused I took the paper, and left for Japan. I was going to vacation in Japan but I'm going to be doing paperwork? I thought I was going to study abroad after I graduate..? So while I was in Japan confused and full of worries I wrote the paper work while having trouble communicating because we were in a different country. I was able to finish the paper work but at the time I was still filled with worries. When I look back on my worries I don't know what I was so worried about. Coming here to Japan and studying in Fukuoka was one of the best decisions that I have ever made.

At the University

After a week in Japan my life in my new school started and I went to go greet the professors that were going to be taking care of me. The Hakozaki campus is the oldest building amongst the many campuses that Kyushu University has and I would not say it's a beautiful campus, but its very school like and it has a nice feeling to it. There I met my friend or my guide "tutor" who shows me around school and helps me out whenever I'm troubled. He is very smart and always fun to be around. He

helped me throughout this whole program and I have great respect for him. I glad I met him and I could say he is one of the reasons I am glad I came to Japan. For my research I was studying Organic Farming as my theme. I was taught many things about organic farming and how people should approach food in general. I went to Sasebo Nagasaki twice a month to an Organic Farmers farm to do my research.

My Experiences in Fukuoka

Next, I would like to talk about some of the things that we did in Fukuoka. I would like to thank the Kazokukai for all their hospitality and their kindness. Within Fukuoka we were able to experience many new things. In Kitakyushu we were able to walk around Mojiko and walk in an underwater tunnel that led to Shimonoseki Yamaguchi and in Kurume we went to go see fireflies by the river. I'm very grateful for the activities that we had the opportunity to do that we can't do in the U.S. In July there was the Short Term Visit Program for Young Descendants of Immigrants from Fukuoka Prefecture, where a many kids from many countries and their supervising adults came to Fukuoka. We were responsible for taking care of the kids and going to many places in Fukuoka with them. The kids were very energetic and quite a handful, but I was able to see many parts of Fukuoka that I haven't see, learn the culture and history of Fukuoka and last but not least I had a lot of fun. In October there was the Worldwide Fukuoka Kenjinkai Convention. At first I just had an image of people with heritage to Fukuoka just coming over and having fun and the image was not very clear. The small Kenjinkai gatherings were what I had imagined but this was nothing like it. Throughout this event I learned that the Fukuoka Kenjinkai is a grand organization that is created by a tremendous amount of people. I was able to see how wonderful the Fukuoka Kenjinkai really is. Throughout this year I was able to experience a whole lot of new things and I there was nothing but fun.

Lastly

I would like to say words of gratitude. First I would like to thank everyone in the Nanka Fukuoka Kenjinkai who introduced me to this great experience of studying abroad. I would also like to thank my parents and grand-parents for all their support before and during this program. I would like to thank all the professors and friends that I met at Kyushu University for all their support in school and for teaching me many things throughout the year. Everybody from the Kazokukai, I would like to thank everyone for all the fun events that was set up for us and treating us like we were your own children. I always had fun at the events and I'm glad to have had to opportunity to meet everyone. I would like to thank everyone from the Fukuoka International Exchange foundation for all their support throughout the program. I'm sorry for all the troubles that I caused and I'm thankful to everything that you guys did for us. Lastly I want to thank my fellow Kenpi Ryugakuseis and to all of my friends in the dormitory. Brazil, Argentina, Bolivia, Peru, many countries that I had no accustom to, but we were able to connect and be really close friends. Because of you guys this whole year was filled with fun and I was never bored. The days that I spent with you guys I will never forget. I think that I was able to learn things about Southern America just as much as the things I learned

about Japan. Thank you for all your support throughout this wonderful program. I am deeply appreciative to this from the bottom of my heart. I wish that everybody will have hope for my future and I would like to make everyone proud. One last word, Thank You.

Kyushu University, Faculty of Agriculture



**Assistant Professor, Akira Wakana
(Teacher of Kanagawa)**

After entering the university as a special student, Mr Kanagawa took classes for 3 subjects in the first semester and 1 in the second with very few absences. However, he was absent several

times to attend events by Fukuoka Prefecture. In class he was a very diligent student. Being very proficient in Japanese, he was able to understand most of the class material, if not quite on the same level as the Japanese students.

Aside from the classes, Mr Kanagawa was also assigned a research topic (equal to the graduation thesis of 4th year students). His research topic was "A survey of quality and phytophagous insect behaviour in organic vegetables cultivated with vegetable waste". In simpler terms, this was academic research into the mechanisms used by organically-grown vegetables to gain resistance to disease and pests. More specifically, by using organic and chemical fertilizers to grow vegetables under pesticide-free conditions and comparing the effects of these fertilization methods on vegetable growth, quality, taste and the behaviour of herbivorous insects, Mr Kanagawa derived results that hint at the validity of organic cultivation. To accomplish his research, Mr Kanagawa utilized not only the experimental greenhouse in our laboratory but also an organic vegetable garden belonging to a farmer in Sasebo City, Nagasaki, which he visited 1-2 times per month to perform experiments and surveys. I believe this kind of research and first-hand experience with an area of agriculture in Japan will be useful in his studies and work upon returning home.

Weekly research seminars are held in the horticultural science classroom, covering graduation research by undergraduate and graduate students, and thesis research by masters and doctoral students. In addition to these, a separate weekly seminar introduces the latest research essays in the field. Mr Kanagawa made 4 presentations (2 in each semester) at the research seminars regarding his progress, and each time utilised the Q&A to further his research. In addition, he also investigated worldwide research papers related to his topic and made a further 4 presentations (2 in each semester), again using Q&A sessions to aid his research. By attending 2 seminars each week, he also gained a wealth of information about problems related to horticultural studies from the activities of other students.

Outside of study/research, he also participated actively in the laboratory's parties and social gatherings, the inter-lab softball tournament (regular No.4), and joint efforts to improve the gardens and laboratory. I expect great success in both his study and personal relationships in the future.