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福岡県移住者子弟留学報告書

2014 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 Minami Miharua Sophia

Introduction

I came from Sao Paulo, Brazil. I'm 24 years old. My father is Japanese Brazilian and my great-grandfather had immigrated to Brazil from Tachiarai. My mom is Japanese from Omuta. Since I was born I participated in many events of Brazil Fukuoka Kenjinkai.

In 2012, I graduated in Nutrition at Federal University of Sao Paulo. At my second year of college I realize that I didn't have interest in Nutrition, so on my holidays and free time I used to work as a makeup artist assistant. Working with makeup made me feel complete because I always got smiles and gratitude from customers. After graduated, I started to work as makeup artist on fashion shows, photo shoot and weddings. And I found a new dream, to become a talented makeup artist who can do any job.

Japanese makeup history is dated since Kofun period, and in my opinion, nowadays Japan is one of the world's leading countries in innovative technology and cosmetic products market. As an exchange student program for descendants of immigrant from Fukuoka Prefecture, I want to learn and improve my makeup and hair arrangement skills. And in the future I want to be able to create my own style, making a fusion of Japanese and Brazilian makeup style. Study in Japan is one step for my dream to come true. And also I would like to experience and learn more about Japanese culture.

Living in Japan

When I arrived in Fukuoka City I was a little insecure. But, quickly I became friends with the other exchange students and it felt like family. I enjoyed a lot learning many different cultures. Spanish and Portuguese have similar words but sometimes have a totally different meaning, this caused a lot of funny moments.

I was very impressed about safety of Fukuoka city. Security in São Paulo is not good, I didn't walk at night because I was scared to be robbed. In my city, there are security high walls around the houses and buildings. So when I arrived in Japan I was surprised, I felt very safe and I noticed that houses have low fences. Besides that, some Japanese people leave the front door unlocked when they go out. I thought it was amazing.

Public transportation is great. The stations are always clean and the punctuality of train is very convenient. Japanese are very kind, they always helped me when I needed. Fukuoka City is a very nice place to live.

In my country, the four seasons are not so defined as in Japan, I feel like Brazil has the same view all year. That's why I was thrilled with Japan four seasons. In spring have many cherry blossom flowers, giving a very calm and sweet pink image to the city. Summer is very hot and the nature have

vivid colors. You can only hear cicada at this season. Autumn have beautiful leaves, from yellow to red color. And winter is very cold and there are no more leaves on the trees. Occasionally snows a beautiful white snowflakes.

Every month we had “Kazokukai Event”, when they showed us the Japanese culture and offered us delicious foods. It was the first time I saw how to cultivate rice, we started with planting rice to harvesting. We had a opportunity to pick bamboo shoot and grapes. Japanese grapes are very sweet and delicious. We had opportunity to go to oyster hut, it was my first time and I was impressed about how big the oyster were. It was delicious.

In addition, we won yukata and learned how to wear it for fireworks festival, we had a lot of fun. Since I was child I wanted to wear kimono, and thanks to all people from “Kazokukai” I got the opportunity to participate in a tea ceremony in Ohori Park wearing a kimono. I am sincerely grateful.

Summer vacation

I started to plan my summer vacation one month earlier. I searched on internet flights, hotels, places to go, what to do. My first place was Ibaragi, in my mother's aunt's house, because it was in a countryside it was possible to see all the town in a 20 minutes walking. My aunt always treated me very kindly and every day she prepared a lot of delicious food. On Obon holiday, I went first to cemetery and after to my relative's house in Saitama. Because I'm christian, it was my first Obon holiday, and I got very emotional when I discovered all the meaning of Obon. First we prepared the altar with offerings to the ancestors, like flowers, fruits, sweets, foods that relatives used to like, etc. With an cucumber and eggplant we made horse and cow, the horse means to ancestor come back home fast and the cow means to ancestor go away slowly, everything was beautiful.

This is not my first time in Japan, but I never went to Mount Fuji, that's why I went there with another exchange student, Erich to climb it. We started at 8 pm, and it took us 8 hours to climb until the top of the mountain. It was cold (4 °C), with strong wind and I could only see clouds from the top of mountain, I felt like flying, it's an indescribable feeling. When the sunrise started, I understood the meaning of the word “Japan”, it was the most beautiful view I've ever seen.

With “18 kippu” I went to Hyogo Prefecture, it took 14 hours but it was only 2300 yens. In Hyogo live my godparents, they treated me very well. With them, I went to Osaka, Umeda Sky Building, Abe no Harukas, etc.

My godfather took me to Hiroshima Prefecture by shinkansen. We went to Peace Memorial Park, Bomb Dome, Children's Peace Monument, I felt very sad about all history the of Hiroshima. The Memorial Cenotaph carries the epitaph "please rest in peace, for [we/they] shall not repeat the error", it struck my heart. When I went to Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum, I became sad and tears came out. I admire how Hiroshima built over after this disaster.

My next place was Beppu at my uncle's house. I could rest and refresh my energy that I spent during all summer trip. I went to a hot spring in front of the sea, its was very relaxing. The last day my uncle took me to the waterfall of Higashishiiya, it was very beautiful.

Besides my summer trip, I have the opportunity to participate and help in Short Term Visit Program for Young Descendants of Immigrants from Fukuoka. Thanks to this experience, I was able to meet

people from various countries and learn not only about Japanese culture, but other cultures, make friends and have a lot of good memories. Everyday was busy but I always learned something new, it was really worth it. It was interesting to watch the childrens trying to communicate with each other, even not knowing the words they tried to communicate by gesture and became friends. Someday, I want to meet the leaders and kids again. This summer vacation was perfect. I am grateful for all people who helped me.

About study

I studied makeup artist course at technical school Kyushu School of Business (KSB). At my school I didn't study only about makeup, I also had classes of hair arrangement, nail artist, introduction of skin, personal color, word, excel, calligraphy, social basic skills, business, career guidance, service & manner.

Before my class starts, I was concerned about making friends, and if I would understand the classes. But, my colleagues were very nice to me, always helping me. The teachers were always concerned about me and tried to explain in a easy way. Because there's a lot of kanjis and words I didn't know I got a lot of trouble to understand the subjects. But my tutor Watanabe always cared about me, listened my worries and supported me. I am very grateful.

At KSB have a lot of events like School Festival, in which students can show their skills. Every weekend has Open Campus which high school students can visit my school to know more about the makeup course. At Open Campus I was able to train my makeup skills so it was very important to me.

I had a lot of hard moments at school, I had difficulty to read books, to write kanjis, to understand japanese way of thinking, to do exams. I had a lot of stress and moments of insecurity. But it was the year that I learned more. All time was worthy. I met a lot of good people and my feeling to become a successful makeup artist only got even more stronger.

Conclusion

This year passed very fast, but it was the happiest year ever. I could increase the knowledge in makeup, japanese culture and personal growth. I was able to meet many people and make a lot of friends. Listening to differents cultures and different perspectives, I was able to improve my interpersonal relationships.

When I was happy, in trouble or lonely, my family always supported me, giving me fierce to study hard and continue this year with perseverance. I am full of gratitude to my family who helped me to come to Japan. Also I am sincerely grateful to Brazil Fukuoka Kenjinkai, Fukuoka International Exchange Center, Fukuoka Prefecture, all Kazokukai members, exchange students, my relatives, school teachers and friends. Thanks to all of them I was able to make a lot of good memories and be one-step closer to make my dream come true. Each one has a special place in my heart and I will never forget. From now on I will study more, and try hard to be the best makeup artist.



Kyushu School of Business
Department of Makeup and Nail Artists
Megumi Watanabe
(Ms.Minami'sTutor)

A Year Instructing Ms. Minami

1. Language (Japanese)

Despite being an international student, Ms. Minami's communication ability gave her no difficulty in daily conversation. She didn't hold back from making an effort to speak to others and gradually became more comfortable. It could not have been easy, as the Japanese students have a tendency to shy away from new people. The workshop classes did not pose a problem, as they comprised of learning through practical exercises following given instructions. During the explanations, she was proactive in asking questions if there were words she did not understand, and we could clear things up on the spot. When it came to classroom lectures, however, I felt it was often difficult for her to read the kanji, not having used them in her home country. She made an effort to understand them by writing the readings of kanji above the words in her textbooks. For tests, the staff in charge would receive the paper from the subject's teacher in advance and prepare a copy for Ms. Minami which included the kanji readings. In this way, she was able to read and answer the questions.

2. Extracurricular Activities

Aside from regular classes, our school organizes events and open campus on days off throughout the year. Ms. Minami also participated many times, attending to customers or practising the skills learned in class. In addition, the Department of Makeup and Nail Artists has numerous events outside of school, and she took part in makeup contests and nail art events. Ms. Minami was lively and active outside the classroom, participating in various school events including the sports day, bowling tournament and school festival.

3. School Life

I feel as though Ms. Minami was constantly troubled by the different environment, feeling down or battling homesickness. Always a proactive student, the disappointment of being unable to do something affected her more than usual. There were times when such stresses accumulated and brought her to tears. I believe the driving force that kept her going over the year of study came from a strong desire to do her best in Japan and learn new skills. Ms. Minami always came to class diligently despite a few absences due to sickness. She also obtained official certification as a JNA Certificate of Achievement 3rd Class Nailist and Level 3 Personal Colorist. Ms. Minami is also preparing to take the IBF International Make-up Artist License Test at the end of the school year. Knowing Ms. Minami, I am confident that she will pass.

4. Final Words

I am very happy to have been able to share the year with Miharu Sophia Minami as her tutor.



Orientation Camp
Makeup Contest
First Aid Course
Sports Day
Bowling Tournament
Nail Event



Brazil Fukuoka Kenjinkai Guitoko Sayuri Miria

Introduction:

My name is Miria Sayuri Guiotoko. I am from Mogi das Cruzes city, in Sao Paulo State, Brazil. I am Nikkei of the fourth generation. At present, I am in the fellowship of Fukuoka Kenjinkai of Brazil. In 2012, I finished my college in Physical Education at the Federal University of São Paulo. The following year I finished my master's degree specialization in orthopedic rehabilitation at the Instituto Israelita de Ensino e Pesquisa Albert Einstein. In the same year I finished the Royal Academy of Dance course for teachers.

Last year, I was selected for the Exchange Students Program for Descendants of Immigrants from Fukuoka Prefecture to develop my study in the rehabilitation field, and I was accepted as a researcher at the Sport and Health Course of Fukuoka University.

My life in Fukuoka:

I have lived in the dormitory called "Jikyougakusha", near the JR Kashii and Nishitetsu Kashii stations, and also near supermarkets and shops. Each student has his/her own room, but facilities as kitchen, living room and laundry room are shared. In the beginning, we used to cook together and it was very enjoyable, but when classes started each student prepared his/her own meal according to their schedule. At the dormitory there were other foreigners and Japanese student that helped me a lot in the first two month with bank procedures, mobile phone bills, payments at convenience stores, and hospitals issues.

During weekdays I would go to the University. It used to take me one hour and half from the dormitory to the school. In the beginning, I would go to Hakata station and then change to bus. From May on, I started to the use subway instead of taking bus. After classes I used to go rhythmic gymnastics practice and arrive home every day at 10pm. On weekends I would go shopping, join Kazokukai events or rhythmic gymnastics competitions, but if very tired I would stay home.

The troubles I faced in Japan were at medical clinics and hospitals. The first time I went to a medical clinic I found out that there was no receptionist, just book with some written names, and I did not know if I should write my name there or not. The nurses did not show me where to go, and what to do, they just let me waiting in the room and, since I look Japanese, I was too embarrassed to ask, making me feel a little frustrated.

What impressed me the most in Japan was the public transportation because of its, punctuality and also because drivers are polite and always think about the safety of the users.

University:

I was accepted as a researcher in the Sport and Health Course of Fukuoka University. My advisor, Mayumi Kakimoto, is a specialist in dance and gymnastics. She also, coordinates the Rhythmic Gymnastics university team. Besides giving lectures in the university, she also teaches fitness classes to women and seniors, and there I was her teaching assistant. Other than my advisor's classes, I was also teaching assistant of another dance teacher, Ikuyo Uemura.

I enrolled in the classes of biomechanics and recreation. My advisor's classes were focused on practical exercises with music and equipment for all ages. She is also JSA Ball Exercise instructor, so she used these balls in class as a slowdown exercise. These balls have the effect of loosening the joint and muscle relaxation, resulting in decreased aches and improved flexibility.

The dance classes' goal was to have all students experiencing all types of dances. Besides me, there were two other students and a former student as teaching assistants. Yurika was in the third year and her specialty was hip hop dance. Saya was in the fourth year and dances contemporary dance. The former student, Chie, was a high school teacher and member of the Rhythmic Gymnastics Team of Fukuoka University. We, the four teaching assistants, had each one our own speciality, making the classes very fun.

After classes I used to go to the rhythmic gymnastics training. At the beginning I would just go to watch, but my advisor requested me to teach in the ballet classes after she found out I used to teach in Brazil. The basics movements come from classic ballet, but the team did not have any specialized professional, so many movements were done in an improper way. At first I was afraid the students would not understand my explanation because of the technical vocabulary. However, the coach, Yayoi Kawasaki, was always present and supported me during classes. So, I felt more comfortable to teach very quickly.

Acknowledgement

During the scholarship I not only added academic knowledge but also cultural and social, and I could know more about my family. I am very grateful to Brazil Fukuoka Kenjinkai, Fukuoka Internacional Center and Kakokuzai for the opportunity. Everyone gave their best so everything could go well during my stay in Japan, including making events that can only happen in Japan. For example, rice farming, fireworks watching trying Yukata, traditional tea ceremony dressing Kimono, mochitsuki, and other cultural experiences that I can barely find in Brazil. A special thanks to my teachers for bringing me lunch every-day, taking me to many special places and giving me souvenirs from wherever they travelled to. I will really miss my college friends, they always treated me well, talking to me and asking me to join when they were going out. I am also thankful to my uncles for receiving my brother and me and touring us.

My special thanks to my parents and grandparents who have always supported me and I am very grateful to have such a good family. Finally, I want to thank the other scholarship holders for making this year the best of all. Arigatou!



**Japan (Fukuoka University, Faculty of Sports and Health Science) Activity
Report, 2014-15
Miria Sayuri Guiotoko**

Below is an outline of Ms. Guiotoko's activities at the Fukuoka University Faculty of Sports and Health Science from April 2014 to March 2015.

- Regular Classes
- Dance I (Whole Year): Assistant to Ikuyo Uemura
Available to 1st year students at the Faculty of Sports and Health Science
 - Fitness Training (Whole Year): Assistant to Mayumi Kakimoto
Available to 1st year students at the Faculty of Sports and Health Science
 - Biomechanics (1st Semester): Enrolled
 - Recreation (2nd Semester): Enrolled
Available to 3rd year students at the Faculty of Sports and Health Science
 - Kakimoto's 3rd-4th Year Seminars (Whole Year): Enrolled

Extracurricular Activities Ballet Instructor for Women's Rhythmic Gymnastics Club

Community Physical Education Seniors Fitness Class Assistant

Joint Research Thesis

"Study of the Effects of JSA Ball Exercise on Seniors - Focusing on Hip
Joint Motion Range before and after Exercise"

Primary Author Thesis "Study of the Buckle Pivot in Rhythmic Gymnastics"

Observations: Being proficient in Japanese, Ms. Guiotoko studied dance instruction methodology as an assistant to Ikuyo Uemura in Dance I. As an assistant in Fitness Training (Mayumi Kakimoto), she also learned teaching methods for fitness exercises. In both subjects she made many friends amongst the students. She also developed a close relationship with her teacher, Ms. Uemura. In the Recreation classes, Ms. Guiotoko observed other students 'play' with children from local day care centers & kindergartens. These classes focused on

'social interaction exercises', which was content she had not been familiar with in Brazil.

At the seminars, Ms. Guiotoko spoke about Brazil and her own experiences. As our year together draws to a close, we have become like old friends.

At the Rhythmic Gymnastics Club, Ms. Guiotoko provided specialized ballet instruction as part of her extracurricular activities. She was a passionate coach, teaching 4-5 times a week.

As an assistant at the fitness class for seniors, Ms. Guiotoko learned how and what to teach the elderly. The participants loved her as they would a grandchild.

For the thesis "Study of the Effects of JSA Ball Exercise on Seniors - Focusing on Hip Joint Motion Range before and after Exercise", Ms. Guiotoko assisted with computer work and as an exercise photo model. She is also working on her own thesis, "Study of the Buckle Pivot in Rhythmic Gymnastics".

Overall, I found her to be very perceptive and have great footwork.



Brazil Fukuoka Kenjinkai Guitoko Mssashi Ronni

Introduction

I'm Ronni Massashi Guiotoko, Exchange Students Program for Descendants of Immigrants from Fukuoka Prefecture. In Brazil, I graduated in Graphic Design at UNESP University and in Fukuoka I studied at Kyushu Zokei Art College (九州造形短期大学).

My main goal in this program is to have fun. Have fun to learn to meet new people, and any kinds of joy. And I thing I took advantage of this program.

New life in Japan

When I came to Fukuoka and met with Japanese and also people from other different countries, I felt the difference of culture.

This was the first time that I lived in a dormitory. The life there was really fun, but sometimes also difficult. I could learn many things by living in a dormitory with many kinds of people. Everyone has his own way of thinking and because of that sometimes we fought, but after being able to understand more about each other our relationship became better.

Life with Japanese people is a little bit hard but at the same time really fun. Japanese's sense of responsibility, hospitality and traditional culture is very good, but on the other hand, I had some difficult to understand about the human relationship here in Japan. However, now I can understand it better.

I could compare the different manners from different countries and that was really fun.

College

This year I studied in Kyushu Zokei Art College (九州造形短期大学). I chose this college because I wanted to study animation, and I feel that I could learn a lot. I had very good moments at this college.

In this year my main project was to make an animation. On the first term, I was lucky to make an animation in a class to RKB TV station's program "Teen Teen". This project consisted to make a 30s animation, and each student who participated to this class made one. The project was really hard but also very fun, I could see many kinds of animations, and I had a great opportunity to visit RKB TV station. On the latter period, I focused on my final animation project. In this project,

I tried to make an animation using the experience I got in Japan and using the maximum of this college's equipment. To create it I used stop motion technique. That's project was so hard and there were many things I didn't know, but I could learn a lot and test many ideas. It was so fun to make this project.

I participated not only in animation/videos class, but also on other kinds of classes too. In Traditional Japanese Culture – Tea Ceremony class I learned about the teachings of “Urasenke tea ceremony” (裏千家茶道) and tea ceremony. In ceramic art class I made a ceramic piece and spoke with classmates and teacher, that's class was really cool. In photographic expression class, I learned more about artworks. And I had the opportunity to see tv program recording in other classes.

In this college I had the opportunity to learn a lot of things. But the best thing was to meet new people. I could make friends and meet many people, and had a very good daily life.

It was really good to study in Kyushu Zokei Art College (九州造形短期大学).

2014 Short Term Visit Program for Young descendants of Immigrants from Fukuoka Prefecture

In 2014 Short Term Visit Program for Young descendants of Immigrants from Fukuoka Prefecture I learned the “Possibilities of Children”.

These 11 days were so cool, because I met with the children and leaders from many countries and learned more about our cultures and exchanged information.

Take care of children is hard, but also fun. I was impressed with the children, because they could play and understand each other regardless of culture or language. And during this program I became closer to the other exchange students and Fukuoka International Exchange Foundation's staff.

Fireworks

Summer in Fukuoka is so good, and what I got most impressed about was the fireworks. In Brazil, there are fireworks too, but Japan's fireworks are bigger and more beautiful.

I'm grateful to Kazokukai to invite us to many Fireworks Festivals.

I got surprised with the number of people in these Festivals. Also, I found it really fun to go on the Festival previous day at night as a placeholder, to take the best place to see fireworks.

The majority of participants wears the Japan's traditional costume, yukata. It's beautiful. In Kurume's Fireworks Festival, the girls who wore yukata were so beautiful, but it's was so funny to see the girls having difficulty to walk.

This day, Kazokukai prepared a very delicious obentou.

This Fireworks Festival was is very good and I will never forget the firework's bright and sound.

Thank you very much

I had a really good opportunity to come as an Exchange Students Program for Descendents of Immigrants from Fukuoka Prefecture. I'll never forget the days I lived in Fukuoka. In this program I could see and live many different things, and I want to use in my life what I learned

in this program.

My main goal in this exchange program was to have fun, and every day in Japan is really fun. I'm grateful to Fukuoka International Exchange Foundation, Fukuoka Kenjinkai, Kazokukai and to everyone who collaborated to this program.

The people I met during this one year, I will never forget. The time I lived with exchange students, college friends, dormitory's friends, members of Kazokukai, International Exchange Foundation's friends, and other people that I met in this program, are my treasure.

MINASAMA, HONTOU NI ARIGATOUGOZAIMASHITA.



**Kyushu Zokei Art College,
Faculty of Fine Arts
Associate Professor Hiroki Inoue
(Mr. Guiotoko's Teacher)**

About Massashi Ronni Guiotoko

Beginning in April 2014, Massashi Ronni Guiotoko spent one year as a research student at the Kyushu Zokei Art College, focussing on animation/film. He had some experience studying film in Brazil as well, which allowed him to smoothly complete his work and research at our college. Despite having some trouble with the cultural differences between Brazil and Japan, I was impressed by Mr. Guiotoko's attitude to make the most of this situation during his studies.

● Below is a list of the classes taken by Mr. Guiotoko:

- 1) DTV-B
- 2) Traditional Japanese Culture
- 3) Ceramics
- 4) Print Design
- 5) Animation, Film, Media Design Research
- 6) Stop Motion Animation
- 7) Ceramics
- 8) Photographic Expression

In the Animation, Film, Media Design Research class, Mr. Guiotoko created an animation to be used on an actual TV program, "Minna no Seishun Nozoki-mi TV TEEN! TEEN!" in a collaboration between our department and the TV station RKB Mainichi Hoso. He created a 30 second anime on the theme of everyday high school life, learning the fundamentals of the film production process including planning, drawing, animation, dubbing and editing. His work went on air during the program in September 2014, with his name appearing in the end credits.

In addition, Mr. Guiotoko also researched extensively into using clay in stop motion animation for his piece at the graduation work exhibition held in February. This technique, which requires 15 frames to be captured for each second of footage, demands patience and good planning. Mr. Guiotoko tackled his work very diligently, completing it as planned in roughly 6 months. Mr. Guiotoko's work featured a character based on himself and touched on various themes from his experience studying in Japan. It was completed to a high standard, from the character's humorous movements to filming and editing techniques, and received a great response at the presentation on 27th January, 2015.

I think Massashi Ronni Guiotoko's approach to his research set a great example for other students.

Animation for "Minna no Seishun Nozoki-mi TV TEEN! TEEN!"



Graduation Work: Stop Motion Animation





Brazil Fukuoka Kenjinkai Shigue Erich Kazuo

Introduction

Since I was a kid I always wanted to one day come to Japan. One of the reasons was because, like many other kids of my age I loved manga and anime. Another was as a Brazilian nikkei, in many occasions I didn't feel comfortable in my own country, and felt that I was different from my friends. So I imagined that perhaps I belonged to somewhere else. As the years passed by, my will to come to Japan remained, and even became stronger. I started to read about the culture and the people. Japan is worldwide known for it's both sides: the traditional one, with a wonderful heritage of culture, culinary, art and architecture. But also as a super technological country, with robots, shinkansen and incredible electronic devices. Because my family came from this amazing country, that made me feel proud of it.

After I started my studies on my major architecture, I began to get particularly interested in Japanese style and construction techniques. Brazil is a developing country and still has a lot to evolve in many fields. Architecture is one of them so that's the focus of my studies in here.

In my house we don't speak any Japanese at all, except for isolated words like "gohan" or "ohayou", so I decided to get in a Japanese Language School. It was a challenge for me, and because I only spoke Japanese during classes, even though I studied for over two years before coming here, my Japanese level was very low. But by living in Japan I could have the chance to learn a lot faster.

Life in Fukuoka

At the beginning, life in here was easy and difficult at the same time. The difficulties were mainly because of my lack of knowledge of the language, which made simple things like go to a restaurant or do shopping a challenge. Going to a supermarket was difficult but also interesting, there are so many different things, like some kinds of vegetables, the parts of animals that are sold (one time I bought hormone thinking it was meat because I saw the kanji of 牛). It's very hard when you can't read though. I remember the first time I bought laundry soap and softener. I had no idea where to start searching for it. However, thanks to the help of the other kenpi ryugakuseis I was able to buy it.

On the other hand, it's very easy to live in here. Everything is super practical and convenient, the transportation are efficient and although it's in Japanese, there's also romaji written everywhere. You can do and find all the basic things for life in a convenience store, from food to magazines, toilet paper or an umbrella, also pay your bills, print things. It's indeed very convenient, and you find it everywhere, 24h a day.

The food in here is great, so I had no problem to adapt to it at all. In Brazil I use to eat Japanese food, but there's a lot of dishes that I tried for the first time here in Japan. Another good thing about Fukuoka, is that it's a big city, and whenever I feel like eating non Japanese food, I can easily find a great variety of options, including Brazilian food restaurants.

Fukuoka is an amazing city, it's not as big as Nagoya, Osaka or Tokyo, but it has all the good elements of those ones. Beautiful parks, like Ohori park, shopping and entertainment centres at Tenjin and Hakata, a stadium for the local baseball team games and big shows. There's also museums, theatres, shrines and temples, and a beautiful landscape where both, the sea and the mountains lies very close.

Studies

During this program I learned a lot of things, not just about my study field, but mostly about culture, history, the people and also about myself. Before coming here, this man from Brazil's Fukuoka Kenjinkai, who helped me a lot, asked me this question: "What is the most important thing for this program?". For me it was a hard question that I used to ask myself too. After my failed attempts to answer it, he told me that the most important thing was to make friends, and learn about the way of thinking of the Japanese people. And then, after coming back to Brazil share this knowledge and experience with the people there.

Japanese and Brazilians are very different, and even though being a nikkei, in many times it was hard to understand the Japanese behaviour. I can't say that now I understand it a 100%, but I'm able to see a little bit through their eyes.

This kind of knowledge, that comes along with the learning of culture and history, is only possible to be acquired by living here, where everyday life provides the opportunity to learn. I was also able to learn a lot during the numerous Kokusai Koryu Center and Kazokukai events. At the beginning I didn't really know how to behave myself or what to say, so I felt very nervous. But the people from both Kokusai and Kazokukai were always comprehensive and kind, and did whatever possible to make our stay here pleasant. Generosity and kindness are beautiful qualities of the Japanese people which I intend to practice more from here on.

About the studies on my major architecture, coming here was very enlightening and opened me new areas of study that I didn't even know they exist. My idea when I came here, was to study about construction techniques, more specifically one called pre fabricated or prefab. On the first meeting I had with my tutor professor, he said he doesn't know about prefab constructions, but he knew about another construction technique called pre cut. Ironically, what could have been a disappointment, became an inspiration for me. Before that, I had never heard about pre cut, which consists in making wooden houses, where it's parts are cut previously in a factory, and only assembled on the construction site, resulting in a faster and more efficient production. I always liked wooden houses, and particularly the Japanese style pleases me. When I go back to Brazil I intend to continue researching on this area to, hopefully one day, be able to develop a similar construction method there.

Conclusion

Looking back to all that I've been through along these 9 months makes me think: It was a amazing year. And even though I feel it passed by so fast, at the same time feels like it was more than 9 months, given its such intensity. I have so many memories that it's hard to remember all of them without taking some time to think about it. I feel that I've grown a lot and I learned that I'm not a 100% Brazilian, but also I'm not Japanese. I'm proudly a mixture of both and I'll try to keep with me the good aspects of both. I am really grateful for having this opportunity in my life. Coming to Japan was a dream coming true. Thank you very much to everyone who direct or indirectly contributed for it. I'll carry the precious memories I made here for the rest of my life.



**Kyushu University,
Graduate School of Human-Environment Studies
Professor Tomoyuki Koyama
(Mr. Shigue's Teacher)**

Erich Kazuo Shigue joined my Architectural Materials Department in April last year as a research student specializing in architecture at the Graduate School of Human-Environment Studies, Kyushu University. I understand that one of his primary goals in coming to Japan was to research our prefabricated housing as a foundation for advancing the industrialization of housing production in his home country of Brazil upon returning. Currently in Japan conventional framework housing utilizing so-called 'pre-cut' components - parts which are automatically manufactured in the factory by machine according to design and simply assembled on site - are mainstream, and have lowered costs through drastic labour saving and precision improvements. While this differs slightly from prefab, it is an effective method of industrializing housing production, allowing more freedom in design. With this as his focus, I believe Mr. Shigue was able to gain a lot out of his research, having learned much by visiting and speaking with relevant personnel at pre-cut factories and housing construction sites which utilized those components. With a bright, cheerful personality, a Japanese sense, and being quick to improve his Japanese, Mr. Shigue was easily able to get on well with other students in the department. His ability to communicate well in English also allowed him to actively engage with international students in various departments. Mr. Shigue was also extremely proactive in our department's research in concrete construction experiments, taking charge of various measurements and concrete laying in the harsh environment of mid-summer Japan. I believe this year, both in our department and Japan in general, was a valuable one for Mr. Shigue's future. I also mentioned this on a previous occasion when we hosted a nikkei student on the same program, however I feel that this program is extremely valuable for those who visit the land of their ancestors, who emigrated abroad more than a century ago, for the first time. The support of the International Exchange Foundation is also very comprehensive. I hope you will be able to continue this program, to provide many nikkei students with the opportunity to visit Japan in the future. In closing, I would like to wish Mr. Shigue ever greater success upon returning home.



Peru Fukuoka Club Takeshita Kristy

Introduction

First and foremost, I would like to express my deepest gratitude to the Fukuoka Kokusai Koryu Center and everyone involved, for this amazing opportunity. This year has gone by so fast, I have experienced a lot and have so many great memories.

My biggest Japanese influences when I was growing up were both my maternal grandparents. Both of them were born and raised in Fukuoka, so I was able to acknowledge some of the Japanese traditions. My grandfather always wanted me to go to Japan to meet my family, but I never had the chance to do so. I was young when they passed away, but I vowed to myself and my grandfather that I would go to Japan one day.

Before coming to Japan, I was a little worried about how my life in Japan would be, because it was the first time for me coming to a country where I couldn't speak the language well. But life in Fukuoka has been so great and much better than I thought. The things I have experienced in Japan go beyond any expectations, but most of all I got to meet my family in Japan, which was the promise I made to my grandfather.

Studies in Japan

I have been studying photography at Kyushu Sangyo University. My first impression of the university was "This school is so big and beautiful!". The professor who guided me was Mr. Toshiya Momose. I feel very lucky to have had him as a tutor. He knew I had a little trouble with Japanese, but he's always been helpful and nice to me. The first day of school, I was a little nervous because I didn't know what to expect from it. I was lucky that the students were nice to me and were always willing to help. The first semester, I had two classes which involved film roll cameras. I really enjoyed those classes and also printing them the old way. But I also had digital camera classes and Photoshop. I took Mr. Momose's seminar class both semesters and in both occasions we had photo exhibitions. Although I was a little nervous, because I am not a photographer student in Peru and I was just learning the basic things, I enjoyed doing both exhibitions. Not only because I was able to express myself freely through my photos, but also the process of organizing the exhibition was quite a fun experience.

Besides my photography classes, I also enrolled in different activities at school. I took two Japanese lessons. One class was grammar and vocabulary and the other was conversation and culture. In the conversation and culture class, we visit the Asahi Beer Company and made Japanese New Year cards. Also, the first semester I took Japanese ceramics class. It was very

interesting to learn the traditional way of doing Japanese tableware. I got to do cups, mug and small dishes. I also joined the tennis circle and an English communication group. I tried to participate in as much activities at school as possible and thanks to the university's koryu center I was able to do so. Thanks to these activities, I got to meet more people from school. Together we enjoyed a BBQ party, a visit to a farm in Kumamoto, a trip to Kumamoto Castle, etc. Maybe one of the most unforgettable things I did at school was filming a dance sequence for the university's version of AKB 48's Koisuru Fortune Cookie.

Events

Throughout the year, we attended different events and also activities organized by different Kazokukai, that allowed us to experience more about Japanese Culture. One of the first experiences was the homestay. We spent one night in a traditional Japanese house, where we slept in tamami and also experienced going to the onsen for the first time. We also went rice planting, grape picking and mochitsuki. During summer, we got to go to the fireworks festivals wearing yukata. Probably one of the best experiences was trying the kimono for the first time and the tea ceremony afterwards.

During the 11 days of the "Short Term Program for Young Descendants of Immigrants from Fukuoka Prefecture" we got to do many things like: seeing the Hakata Gion Yamagasa Festival, making umegai mochi at Dazaifu, eating soumen from bamboo sticks (Nagashi soumen), going to an elementary school, etc. It was not only a good experience for the children who came, but also for us because we learned a lot during those days.

Life in Japan

At first, I didn't know what to expect from Japan. I had always had the desire to live abroad by myself, so it was easy for me to adapt and never felt homesick. After living in Fukuoka for a couple of months, I realized that this was one of the best places to live. The food, the people and the environment are just wonderful. Since the day I came, Japanese people have treated me with kindness and respect and they always help you if you have any doubts. I really admire Japanese people's selflessness and will to help others.

I think my life has changed since I came to Japan, because I realized I was capable of doing things I never thought I could. One of the things I really enjoy is traveling and because I feel very safe in Japan, I have been able to do so even by myself. Throughout the year, I have been able to visit different places like: Kyoto, Osaka, Nara, Kobe, Nagoya, Shizuoka, Tokyo, Yokohama, Hiroshima, Nagasaki, Miyazaki, Kumamoto, Saga and Iki Island. Each city has its own history and culture and I have enjoyed each and every one of them.

When I first arrived in Japan, there were some things that surprised me at first, like: no talking on the phone in the train, what to answer when someone says "irasshaimase", the bus driver explaining every move they will do, how people respectfully wait in line to get to the train, trains almost perfect punctuality, taking off your shoes everywhere, etc. Although it took some time to get use to, overall Japan is very easy to adapt.

One of the most memorable moments I had, was meeting with my family from Japan and United States for the first time. We might be culturally different, but we still have the same roots. It was an experience I will never forget. I also met a distant cousin who I plan to keep in touch so we don't lose that family connection again.

Acknowledgement

Upon my arrival in Peru, I will help more in the Kenjinkai and promote this amazing opportunity as much as I can. Unfortunately, as the years go by, the newer generations have been drifting apart and slowly losing their Japanese heritage, including myself. Coming here, has given me another chance to rediscover my roots and reaffirm my Japanese identity and I would like to pass this on for others, so they experience what I have experienced.

Thank you to the Fukuoka Kokusai Koryu Center, Peru Fukuoka Club, people from Kazokukai and everyone involved in the program, for this opportunity and the best year of my life. Words cannot express how grateful I feel for this experience that I will never forget.



**Kyushu Sangyo University,
Faculty of Fine Arts
Professor Toshiya Momose
(Ms. Takeshita's Tutor)**

Having previously specialized in design at university, in her studies here Kristy Takeshita took an active interest in expressing herself visually through the medium of photography. In the first semester, she was engaged with many different aspects of photography through practical work, in classes on everything from fundamental techniques and studio shoots to image processing and printing. In July 2014, Ms. Takeshita's work focussing on Shikano-shima, 'A Certain Day', was displayed at the Fukuoka Art Museum as part of a photography exhibition held by our department. When taking her photos, seeing nature and human life in Fukuoka brought out various feelings of beauty, peace, freedom and fear. Amidst this, Ms. Takeshita tried to honestly capture what she felt by approaching the everyday environment of Shikano-shima and its people from various angles. In the second semester classes, Ms. Takeshita learned how to control finer details in the printing process. Her work entitled 'Bottom of my Heart' was exhibited at the Fukuoka Prefectural Museum of Art in January 2015. She succeeded in presenting as mental images the various emotions she felt while living in Japanese society. Through her studies this past year, Ms. Takeshita has not only developed an interest in photography as a way of accurately capturing a record of the subject, but also as a visualization of one's inner thoughts through the lens with each close of the shutter.

In addition, Ms. Takeshita's Japanese ability has improved remarkably thanks to her proactive communication with other students throughout the year. I look forward to her future success upon returning home. Congratulations on your great work this past year.





Colombia Fukuoka Kenjinkai Hernandez Kuroki Natsumi Vanessa

Introduction

I am from Colombia and I am Third generation of Japanese descendants. In my country I studied Business management at San Buenaventura University and also marketing in ICESI University in Cali city. Before coming to Japan I worked in a multinational company in Marketing area and I really felt in love with marketing, that is why I wanted to learn even more about this area and come to Japan make me understand even more about this.

It was really a very long trip coming to Japan but totally worth. I have learned many things not just in the University but from people I met, from friends, and from life, because just living here represents a challenge, being far from home in a very different country, different culture, eat different, talk different, wear different, be different. I think that certainly I am a different person now from the one I used to be when I just arrived to Japan, because I think we all exchange students grow up with this experience and is priceless have this opportunity in life.

Living in Fukuoka

Before I came, I was very afraid about feeling homesick because this was my first time living abroad but, I think very fast I got used to my new life thanks to the new and amazing things I found arriving to this country. When I arrived to Narita airport many of relatives were waiting for me, it was a very good surprise for me because I have not seen them for years, then when we arrived to Fukuoka, we met the other exchange students from different countries in Latin America so, somehow since the first day I felt I was not alone, additionally, we also still could see the beautiful cherry blossom covering the trees and decorating the City. For those simple reasons I felt very happy when I just arrived to Japan and I almost forgot I was far from home.

Fukuoka is a great city, is very clean, calm and safe comparing with Colombia but we also can find many other differences between my country and Japan like food, manners, people is very kind everywhere, and something really important to mention is that in Colombia we don't have four seasons so, I really enjoyed this season changes since experience the changes of color views in the city, eat different food and desserts depending of each season and go shopping with friends for "adapt our closet" to each season. Autumn and winter seasons were ones of my favorites, autumn because its beautiful colors and views and winter cause although it was the first time I experienced that intense cold, I saw snow for the first time.

Summer was also an unforgettable season, first, because I felt very comfortable with the hot summer weather which is just such Colombian temperature and second cause I had a lot of fun in that season!

In June by the time of the soccer world cup, I become in kind a “Colombian star”, well, that just for saying something, truth is I was not a star at all but for the days that the game Colombia VS Japan was coming, some TV channels called me for interviews so I had a busy schedule but had fun with this totally new and exciting experience being on TV.

In July we had the Short term visit program for young descendants on immigrants of Fukuoka prefecture and then, in August I traveled to visit my relatives that I have not seen for years, I also went there with some friends to stay with my family and we traveled around cities located near Osaka, such as Kobe, Nara, Kyoto, Nagoya, Shizuoka and Mt. Fuji. I spent a great time with my family and friends.

About Study

I study in Orio Aishin Junior College under the guidance of Takeo Ishimatsu sensei; this place is located in Kitakyushu city. This is a Christian University and the first days I was a bit surprised with this because every day at first hour all students have to meet to read and sing Christian songs, but then, they don't make me take the Christian classes anymore, otherwise, I enjoyed my time with classmates from other countries and learning new things at school. In the first half of the semester, I just studied Japanese language, I think I have improved my language skills and certainly coming here was the best way to learn this language. I am very happy because this is the language of my ancestors and because I can communicate with people more comfortably than when I just arrived to Japan.

The second half of the semester I finally started to take some marketing classes in Japanese but Marketing is not just about taking classes, so it was very interesting for me to come to Japan and find the differences in the marketing strategies of big companies, how marketing strategies change depending on each country's culture and I also learn about local Japanese companies' strategies, all this watching closely in the super markets, convenience stores, in the way to do advertising in web pages, TV, social media, among others.

I also started a project from September and I hope with this built a bridge between Colombia and Japan.

Acknowledgement

First, thanks to the Association of Fukuoka Kenjinkai in Colombia and Fukuoka International exchange for allowing me the opportunity of living and studying in Fukuoka. Thanks to the People from Kazokukai that introduced us into the Japanese culture, they have taken us to beautiful places and showed us a lot of things of our ancestors' life like planting rice, rice harvesting, first time wearing Kimono, among others countless great stories thanks to them. I also want to thank Mr. Tanaka for being my guarantor in Fukuoka, is a very kind person. I am very grateful for this wonderful experience, because I also met people that now are very important in my life. After going back to Colombia, I will share my experience with members of Fukuoka Kenjinkai in Colombia and I hope more people can have this amazing opportunity, I will always attend to all people interested in it.

Sincerely thanks to everyone involve.



**Orio Aishin Junior College,
Department of Economics
Professor Takeo Ishimatsu
(Ms. Kuroki's Teacher)**

(Ms. Natsuki Kuroki's Course Report)

I found Ms. Kuroki to have a warm personality, with a strong sense of curiosity and inner determination. Her great interest in Japan led her to study Japanese language and culture, in addition to classes on marketing, management and product planning, which she selected due to her past experience in charge of marketing at a food company in her home country.

At the end of this January, Ms. Kuroki completed the 10-month course which began in April 2014. We had planned to begin the course under the assumption that her Japanese ability was sufficient to understand the content of lectures for the specialized subjects. However, from the result of the Japanese language proficiency test we conducted at the school initially, we regarded that she may have some difficulty understanding lecture content. After consulting with Ms. Kuroki, we selected a Japanese course outside our department aimed at levelling up her ability for the first semester. From there, the second semester would focus on the specialized marketing/product planning subjects she had selected. As a result, we found her Japanese ability to have improved significantly since the beginning. Although, I remain somewhat uncertain if Ms. Kuroki was able to achieve the level to which she herself had aspired. In both semesters, I feel it is unfortunate that she was unable to attend all 15 lectures for the various subjects in succession, for various reasons including participation in exchange events, living far away from our school and bad health. However, Ms. Kuroki was evaluated highly by the teachers of the subjects she attended, including, for example, her well-arranged presentation in Japanese in the Product Planning & Development class. According to Ms. Kuroki, she intends to return to Japan again after going home, and is currently planning a project to import and sell health foods from her home country with friends. I am sure the future holds many opportunities for Ms. Kuroki to utilize what she has learnt here. With her earnest, bright personality and perseverance, I am sure Ms. Kuroki's activities will strengthen the relationship between Colombia and Japan.



Bolivia Fukuoka Kenjinkai Kawanami Naomi

School

I come from Bolivia and I am the 2014 Exchange Students Program for Descendants of Immigrants from Fukuoka Prefecture. For the past year, I have been studying Café and Sweets at Kyushu Institute of Tourism. Where I live in Bolivia, San Juan Japanese Community, we have Japanese restaurants and bakery shops but we do not have Western style bakery shops, which is why I decided to take this opportunity to come to Japan and learn more about it.

When my classes started, I was a little restless because of the age difference between my classmates and I and I was worried that I wouldn't be able to get along with them, because I am shy and I didn't have the courage to start a conversation with them. At first, I didn't find it amusing to go to school, because I didn't have anyone to talk. But as time went by, I got to know them better and slowly started to realize that going to school was fun because my classmates and I were becoming closer friends. Now, besides seeing them at school, we also go shopping, go out to eat together, karaoke, etc.

At school, we not only learn how to make cookies but we also take Customer Service lessons (how to serve and treat customers), kanji, etc. During practice lessons (cookie making), the teacher first shows us the step by step and then we follow the same procedure. We all try to make it the same way as the teacher, but the taste and the colors of the cookies come out differently. Most of the classes use a lot of kanji. When I can't read them or I don't understand its' meanings, my classmates always help me and teach me until I understand. They are so nice and kind.

There are also different extra-curricular activities and events like: the Sports Festival, Grape cropping experience, Internal Championships, Cultural Festival, etc. All students can participate in these events.

For Christmas, my classmates and I had the chance to bake cakes and sell it for the first time. Although the Christmas cake sales were only for our relatives and people we know, at that moment, I had the feeling that I was a pastry chef and I felt so happy about that. We also baked cookies for New Year's. The Christmas cake recipe and the cookies for New Year's were created by us, first year students.

Life in Japan

I think Japan is a very nice place to live. It is a very safe country, unlike South America. People here are so nice and treat you with respect. When you have a problem, they are always helpful and kind, even if they don't know you. When I first came to Japan, I was jet lagged and it took me a while to adjust to this time zone. One of the things that surprised me was the human

relation and interaction. I think Japanese people are very shy. Another thing that surprised me was the hot springs (onsen). In Bolivia, we don't have hot springs, so the first time I went to the hot springs, it was a little embarrassing for me. But once I got inside, my body felt relaxed and it felt like all the weariness went away. It felt very nice!

Also, the weather is very different between Bolivia and Japan. In Bolivia, you can feel the weather change because of the cold. On the other seasons, it is mostly hot, that's why you can't feel the weather changing so much. In Japan, each season is very different and there are also specific activities for each one. In spring, you can see the Sakura trees. In summer, go to the beach and go to the many firework festivals. In autumn, the Momiji leaves are very beautiful and in winter it is very cold. It snowed in Fukuoka a couple of times and it was the first time I ever saw snow. I was very exciting!

Activities

We had the opportunity to participate in different activities like: digging bamboo, homestay with the Family Association (Kazokukai), rice planting, experience wearing yukata and kimono, Tea Ceremony, etc. From the activities, the one I had not tried before, was the Tea Ceremony. On the day of the Tea Ceremony, we wore kimono. First, we started by preparing the tea from powder and then we served the guests in attendance. It's something that you can't experience on a daily basis or frequently and I truly enjoyed it. The tea we made during the Tea Ceremony, is definitely much more delicious than the instant tea.

During the Short Term Visit Program for Young Descendants of Immigrants from Fukuoka Prefecture, we had the chance to experience the Japanese school life and at the same time teach Japanese students about the school life in our respective countries. Although the children from the exchange program did not speak the same language as the students, they always found a way to communicate with each other, play together and have fun.

Life in the Hospital

In September, I had an accident while participating in a school volleyball tournament, which required surgery. At first I thought: "I have such bad luck!". But later on, I realized that good things also came out from it. I got to experience what it was like to be hospitalized in Japan. I was hospitalized for one month and thanks to that, I was able to make new friendships, not only with the physiotherapists and nurses, but also with other patients. The majority of patients were much older than me, but I would talk to them everyday and they would talk to me about their daily life. Most of them didn't know about Bolivia, so I had the chance to show them and talk to them about my country. Being hospitalized wasn't too bad and it was actually very fun. I also learned how to play Reversi and I would play with the elderly from the same hallway as my room. I became very close and attached to them. Thanks to them, I didn't feel sad about being away from my friends and classmates. Even after leaving the hospital, I still keep in touch with some of them. One of them told me: "I would like you to consider me as your Japanese mom". I was very moved by that and I felt very happy about all the love and support I received.

Final

I am very grateful to the Fukuoka Kenjinkai, for this marvelous and amazing opportunity. To the Kokusai Koryu Center, for taking care of us and help us daily and to the members of the Family Association (Kazokukai). Thank you from the bottom of my heart, for this amazing year in Japan. I would like to tell about my experience to many people and specially the younger ones about the incredible experience I had as an exchange student in Japan. When I come back to Bolivia, I would like to put in practice everything I learned at school and be able to bake a lot of cookies. Not necessarily open a business, but make them at home from people's requests. I would like to show my friends, family and Bolivian people what I learned at school here in Japan.



**Kyushu Institute of Tourism,
Department of Café & Sweets
Anna Ishida
(Ms. Kawanami's Teacher)**

This was my second time to host exchange students from the International Exchange Foundation.

While there were a few things that worried me, just like last time, I feel things went smoothly thanks to the past experience.

Ms. Kawanami also seemed a little nervous and uncertain when she first came to the school, but with her characteristic cheerfulness she was soon communicating naturally in Japanese with the other students.

She answered my questions confidently while looking me in the eye, and always asked appropriately if something was unclear. I got the impression that she had something the Japanese students were lacking,

In the practical classes, I feel she may have been a little confused by the various specialized confectionery terms that arose.

However, Ms. Kawanami was bright and diligent, making sure to take notes on weak areas so that she could take time to practice them again after class.

In one event, the Bridal Department created a real wedding ceremony, with our department in charge of making the wedding cake.

Ms. Kawanami participated proactively on this occasion as well, staying at school until late to take part in the production. As a result, the bride and groom were very pleased, and being able to bring happiness to customers with a cake they had made filled Ms. Kawanami and the other students with a sense of accomplishment and fulfilment.

I feel that over this year Ms. Kawanami was able to acquire the fundamental knowledge and skills of confectionery making.

While the time was short, with clear objectives upon returning home I am sure that Ms. Kawakami will utilize what she has learnt here to further polish her skills and find great success.



Mexico Fukuoka Kenjinkai Tanamachi Gerardo

Thanks to the opportunity to study in Fukuoka this year, as part of the Exchange Students Program for Descendants of Immigrants from Fukuoka Prefecture, I have had a good experience. From a long time I wanted to come to Japan, but because I had not had much contact with Japanese language and life, I was a little worried before coming here. However, fortunately, the support received since my arrival in Japan from the people of the Fukuoka International Exchange Foundation, other students of the Program, my personal guarantors, and other people let me to adapt myself before long to living in Japan. I was surprised of how Japan is an easy place to live in, due to the kindness of its people and its overall safety and convenience.

I learnt many things in the events of the Fukuoka International Exchange Foundation I participated in. In the Short Term Visit Program for Young Descendants of Immigrants from Fukuoka Prefecture, in July, while having cultural experiences like field trips, cooking, and tourism within Fukuoka Prefecture, I developed a friendship with children and adults from Kenjinkai from several countries. Activities such as homestay, fireworks festival, rice harvesting, and pounding mochi, to which we were invited by the people of Kazokukai, were a valuable experience. In a homey atmosphere, I was able to experience the real Japanese everyday life as well as things that other foreigners seldom get to know.

In the University, I was fairly able to do research in the topic I wished. I am glad to have had the chance to study about my topic of interest, namely “Modern History of Education in Physics and its Related Technology in Japan”, in the Graduate School of Integrated Sciences for Global Society, in Kyushu University. I worked under the guidance of Professor Andrew Hall. In the beginning, I studied Japanese while studying my research topic in English. Gradually, I began to be able to attend classes, read historical materials, and so forth, in Japanese. This current topic of mine is practically not studied in Mexico. Moreover, having graduated as a physicist, and History of Physics having become my specialty, my knowledge of general history of Japan was insufficient. Basically this year, therefore, while I was learning the foundations of Japanese history attending classes, I worked in a broad outline of my research topic. In my classes of general history of Japan, there were even mentioned subjects such as literature, gender studies, and politics. I studied as well to some extent the very interesting topic of the Japanese immigrants, relevant to the period of time I am studying. I think that all this has allowed me to attain a better understanding and appreciation of Japan, the country where I have been living this year.

What I found throughout my research was that the rationale behind the success of the Japanese science and technology is a unique one. After the Europeans arrived in the sixteenth century and transmitted Western knowledge to the Japanese, the influence from overseas was diminished according to the subsequent isolation policy of the bakufu. During this time, science advanced significantly in the West. However, the Japanese were able to acquire quickly this new knowledge since the bakumatsu period with the assistance of hired foreigners. The Japanese technology began to develop from this point. In the Meiji Era, this process was accelerated and the educational system strengthened, and the Japanese science and technology achieved a world-class level. In particular, people from the then Imperial Universities, where a curriculum that included innovative teaching methods had been implemented and Physics placed as an important discipline, became part of the government, the industrial sector, the armed forces, etc. Compared to the process that took place in Mexico, there are several common points, but it seems as if the Japanese one had occurred about 50 years earlier. This is a really interesting topic. Nevertheless, there are only few researchers focused on this subject, even among the Japanese. I would like to continue studying this topic in the future.

I like Kyushu University very much. Its importance, dating back to the period as Imperial University, can be seen in its faculty, facilities and organization. I think that students here have considerable opportunities for their aims and objectives. In my own case, for instance, there are multiple historical sources, and the professors are well qualified. As there are students from many countries and diverse majors, there is a mutual learning from several points of view and fields of knowledge, which heightens the education standard. In addition, thanks to the extracurricular activities associated with the University, I have enjoyed even more my student life. There are lectures, trips, festivals, parties, and so on. Especially, the club activities are an opportunity to learn systematically about Japanese culture. I participated in the traditional Japanese music club. The members of this club play the koto, the shamisen, the shakuhachi, and the instruments of gagaku. Although almost all the members of the club are Japanese, I was admitted since April to play the shakuhachi. In spite that it is difficult to play and its sheet music is complicated, I found it truly interesting. In December a performance was held, outcome of about three months of practice. Besides the joy of playing music with friends, the preparation for the performance was interesting. In the club activities, its members take the complete responsibility of their events. Each task is assigned and the way to carry out the preparations is decided by themselves. This made possible a successful performance. Learning at the same time about the Japanese student life and about Japanese traditional music, I had a very good time.

I enjoyed this year as well because I made good friends. Among them, there are Japanese people, students of the same Program, and University students from many countries. Trips, parties, everyday life, all fostered a lot of good memories. I was able to visit Kyushu and Honshu, both big cities and countryside, feel its nature in the four seasons, and get in contact with its culture.

Unfortunately, I did not learn so much Japanese before coming to Japan. Thus, sometimes my experience found some limits. However, in summary, as I have said, I have had many experiences

and strengthened my ties with my family's place of origin. I have had a great year that will have for sure a substantial effect in my future. I wish to express my gratitude for being granted the opportunity to participate in the 2014 Exchange Students Program for Descendants of Immigrants from Fukuoka Prefecture.



**Kyushu University,
Graduate School of Integrated Sciences for Global Society
Associate Professor Andrew Hall
(Mr. Tanamachi's Teacher)**

From April 2014, I was the supervising teacher of research student Gerardo Tanamachi. Gerardo researched the modern history of Japan, in particular the development of higher education in science during the Meiji Era, and the relationship between physics education and industry.

I was impressed by Gerardo's objectives, efforts and results. As part of his literature review, Gerardo found much in both English and Japanese, put into perspective by the historical material paper "Status of the Field". He contributed to greater understanding of the development of higher education in the Meiji Era. Gerardo's English ability is very high, and his Japanese reading ability also improved. He clearly established areas that require further investigation, and is well placed to continue such research as a graduate student.

Gerardo also participated in my graduate seminars on modern Japanese history, and cleverly analysed and interpreted a large volume of reading materials. In addition, he improved his Japanese by taking a language course. Gerardo achieved a level sufficient for participation in history seminars and presenting in Japanese.

He collaborated and got on well with other students. With his research over the last year, I feel that Gerardo has prepared himself both academically and mentally to proceed to a graduate school in Japan.



Argentin Fukuoka Kenjinkai Tsuru Ana Paula

Introduction

My name is Tsuru Ana Paula and I am from La Plata City, Buenos Aires, Argentina. I am 3rd generation Nikkei. I graduated in 2010 at the Institute of Higher Education Dr Raúl Duyos. As a child I always wanted to know about Japan. As a child I wanted to know more about Japan and its traditions, and my grandparents always spoke to me about it. This made me want to know more about my background, meet the hometown of my grandfather and its inhabitants. Without them I would not have had this opportunity to come to Japan as Exchange Students Program for Descendants of Immigrants from Fukuoka Prefecture. I thank the International exchange Center, Family Association (Kazokukai), Argentina Fukuoka Kenjinkai for this opportunity. Without the efforts of all I would have never been able to fulfill my dream. I have learned more about the technology in Japan and techniques, as the Japanese are renowned worldwide for their manual skills.

Daily Life

In Argentina I have always lived with my family and being in Fukuoka was the first time I've lived alone, so it was a good experience. Living alone, shopping, do laundry, go to a new university, have contact with patients, besides being an assistant in university, it was a wonderful experience. When I was in trouble the citizens of Fukuoka were always willing to help. Fukuoka is a city full of charm where you can do various activities, there are sports venues, restaurants of all countries, cake shops, many places where they can perform various traditional activities, etc, is a city where one can experience everything.

Study

I am grateful to Professor Koyano of Kyushu University of Odontology for giving me this opportunity. At first it was difficult to go to university, everyone spoke in Japanese and I was nervous about not being able to understand completely and I think for others was a bit stressful too. All received me warmly and they were patient. Gradually my stress went away and I felt comfortable in college to the point that I do not want to return to Argentina.

My life as an Exchange Students was to go to university every day, to be assistant in a university class and seeing clinical cases of patients in the Hospital. I also make prosthetic for patients with other dental technicians. See the cooperation between the dentist and technician was a new experience, because in Argentina I never had that opportunity. Whenever a dentist gave me a job to do, I saw that they trust me to do it and I felt very happy. They allowed me to see the final work in

the patient's mouth to see my mistakes to improve. That is a big difference because in Argentina I don't have that possibility. This experience has helped me grow in my career.

Events

I am very grateful to the people of the International Exchange Centre and the Family Association . Thanks to you we could learn more about Japanese culture. We were able to experience Japanese food, enjoy the thermal waters; bamboo extract, grapes, make hiking, dress in kimono and perform the tea ceremony, Kurume and Itoshima travel. What impressed me most is the harvest and planting, despite the hard work was a good experience. The event that I liked the most was the Short Term Visit Program for Young Descendants of Immigrants from Fukuoka Prefecture. Together we went around Fukuoka learning, playing and laughing together (Hakata Gion Yamakasa, Mount Sarakura, Dazaifu, Fukuoka Dome, etc). Through this experience I have more interest to know other countries and learn about their customs. I went to see Sumo, a baseball game in ACROS I could enjoy a concert orchestra, started visiting the city of Kitakyushu, the city of Saga, Kumamoto Prefecture and in the time that I have left, I'll try to travel more places.

Travel

In the summer I went to a vacation trip to different places in Japan with some of the scholarships. I went to Kagoshima with my university professors at a social gathering, I could visit the ninja village in Chiran, go to the beach, I experienced "sauna" on the beach where I covered the body with hot sand and then enjoy hot springs, and ate for first time shabu shabu. This trip with my teachers was a great experience.

During the trip to Exchange Students Program for Descendants of Immigrants from Fukuoka Prefecture we traveled by bus and train. I was surprised by the comfort and punctuality with which we reached places. Thanks to that we could travel to different places without problems. Places I could visit like Hiroshima (I could see the museum of the tragic war), Matsue, Izumo (Iwami Silver Mine, Izumo Taisha). Osaka (Universal Studios), Nara, the planetarium in Nagoya, Shizuoka, went to Fuji and appreciate their surroundings. These were the places we could go and see for ourselves. In winter vacations I could meet with my younger sister in Osaka. There, we went to Universal Studios and also to see a K-POP group in Japan for the first time (I was surprised the tranquility of the audience). In Kyoto and Tokyo I met with some Japanese friends I met in Argentina when they came as interns. In Tokyo we could have a good time at Sky Tree, Shibuya, Harajuku Takeshita Street. We also went to Lake Yamanakako where we could see Mount Fuji. Then we returned to Tokyo and went to China Town and around Yokohama.

For the future

When I return to Argentina and get back to my daily routine, it will be strange not to see the people with whom I had so many great experiences.

I think I'll cooperate advising on Argentina Fukuoka Kenjinkai for the next Exchange Students Program for Descendants of Immigrants from Fukuoka Prefecture.

At the University of Japan I had the opportunity to teach students techniques for prostheses and is very gratifying to know that the other is learning thanks to me. Because of that I want to be a teacher in the future.

I am grateful for this opportunity, I could meet wonderful people and the future definitely want to return to meet with everyone.



**Kyushu University,
Faculty of Dental Science
Professor Kiyoshi Koyano
(Ms. Tsuru's Teacher)**

Activity Report - Ana Paula Tsuru

Ms. Tsuru joined us at the Department of Denture Prosthetics, Faculty of Dental Science, Kyushu University, as a research student in April 2014. In addition to her experience as a dental technician in her home country of Argentina, Ms. Tsuru's father had also researched in a similar role at our department in the past, and this connection led her to joining us.

The patients examined by our department seek various treatments - metal or ceramic crown prosthesis for those who have lost all or part of a tooth; removable dentures, commonly called false teeth; implants using artificial titanium roots in place of a missing tooth part; or maxillofacial prosthetics for those who have lost the structure of their oral cavity due to causes such as malignant tumours. As a dental technician, Ms. Tsuru always proactively joined in on everything from routine procedures to treatments specific to our university hospital, as well as engaging in creating prosthetics for patients. In particular, ceramic devices or those related to implants are areas which tests the skills of dental technicians, being expensive in Japan due to not being covered by insurance, as well as requiring aesthetic restoration. Ms. Tsuru's skills were utilized in this type of work and, while learning earnestly from our dental technicians, she gained a great deal by being able to meet the needs of real patients.

She also joined in instructing 4th year Kyushu University dentistry students as an assistant in practical classes on implants, partial and full base dentures. In particular, instruction related to the process of creating dentures was an area where Ms. Tsuru's career as a dental technician was greatly utilized, with many students asking questions and coming to learn from her.

In this way, she contributed greatly to our office and classes. I offer my wholehearted appreciation, and wish her great success in the future.