

平成 27 年度 福岡県移住者子弟留学報告書

2015 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 Takashina Yatomi Tsuyoshi Juliano

Introduction

I came from Brazil and I am the second oldest of four brothers. I am the third generation of Japanese descent and I live Londrina city, state of Parana, located in southern Brazil. This city with roughly 540,000 inhabitants and being colonized by British was named "Londrina" which means "originating from London." But by the amount of Japanese descent it gives the impression of having been colonized by Japanese.

After graduation in Physical Education, I concluded the course of "Physical exercise and rehabilitation" by UNOPAR.

My grandfather was from Ukiha-gun city of Fukuoka Prefecture, and came to Brazil in 1925 along with her sister and their parents. His trip to Brazil took more than a month by ship. I can't even imagine the sacrifice, because nowadays that same trip is made in about 30 hours. Even living a long time in Brazil, he remembered very well and told me several stories of Japan and Fukuoka. This was one of the reasons that I decide to study in Japan as a descendants of immigrants from Fukuoka prefecture. Another reason was to learn the techniques and advanced studies in Japan aimed at rehabilitation and care for the elderly. In order to learn and apply not only to Japanese descent, but the Brazilian population in general.

About life

After confirming my scholarship program for one year, I had many doubts and insecurities about living in Fukuoka, but when I arrived in Fukuoka I was welcomed by the Kokusai Koryu Center Staffs and I felt more relax. Soon after, I was delighted by the warm receptivity of those responsible for accommodation (Goto san). They transmitted a feeling like a new family. Right from the beginning I made friends with students from other countries and we went to know and walk at Ohori Park. With the start of classes it became more difficult to go out together, but when we could go out together, but when we could, we always ate well and took many pictures to record those unforgettable moments.

I was amazed by transportation in Japan. The drivers inform patiently, arrive at the exact time and think above all the safety of passengers. Lately is okay, but until accustomed I had some difficulties. To study, take about 3 hours until university. It's tiring, but near the end of the studies, greatly reduced the days of attending university. I'm trying my best to experiment and to learn many new things playfully.

Experience the traditional culture of Japan

I had the opportunity to meet a lot of nice and kind people who showed me Japan in various ways. That makes me like more and more this country. Things that long time ago I didn't do, like bamboo shoots harvest, or learn the proper way to enjoy the onsen. The onsen experience was little bit uncomfortable to go with everybody and naked but the feeling after bath was very good.

The Kazokukai staff always took us to various places, explaining details of various things related to the historical part of every place. For example, crossing the underground tunnel that connects the region of Kyushu and Honshu, the border Kitakyushu (Fukuoka) and Simonoseki (Yamaguchi), which is exactly in the middle of the tunnel. They led us also to meet an important historically known canal, where many court nobles and samurai sank into his last battle. Then we went to the Ganryu Island, where kendo practitioners known as place of the battle between Musashi Miyamoto and Kojiro Sasaki. I practice kendo for long time so I was thrilled to know that location. Thanks to Kazokukai we watched the wonderful fireworks. As I heard in the Kyushu region this fireworks display is one of the most beautiful, I waited with great expectation but exceeded all my expectations. We were thrilled by the beauty and the fireworks lasted two hours.

There was also the rice planting experience. In mid-October we made the harvest of the rice plant. It was exhausting, but it was a great learning experience and a lot of fun. We learn to valorize more and we were hoping to prove the rice produced with a lot of hard work. It was very delicious.

In addition, we participate in the experience of wearing kimono and join the Tea Ceremony at the command of a teacher who taught us everything in detail. The Kazokukai provided us the opportunity to participate in the preparation of the "Mochi" (Mochitsuki) and I am very grateful.

I'm very lucky because I participated in an event called "Ireisai", which is held every three years. A ceremony to pray for our ancestors who emigrated to various countries and passed away. I had the opportunity meet several important people in Fukuoka and I was very happy to participate in this ceremony.

Holiday travel in Japan

As a kid I had a dream to climb Mount Fuji. As it was one of the things I wanted to do in Japan, we started planning in late June. We started the climb from the 5th stage on 08 August, around 11:00 and intended to rest on the 7th stage of the camp. When we resumed the climb after rest, it was very dark and difficult, but it was a necessary sacrifice to see the sunrise. Had many people coming up together and because of the flashlight that everyone used, Mount Fuji was illuminated. When we reached the summit, unconsciously I raised my arms with the feeling of "I did it!". The sunrise was more beautiful than I imagined and it is difficult to describe the landscape from the top of the

mountain. The fatigue was gone while enjoyed the sunrise and had the feeling of floating in the sky above the clouds. I heard that the descent is more difficult, but for me it was fun, because in some places had fun running down. It was a bit tiring, but it's an interesting experience to do at least once in lifetime.

About studies

From April, I attended several physiotherapy course lectures and meetings of the study group of students about to graduate from the International University of Health and Welfare of the City of Okawa. Because I was interested in studying about exercise for seniors and rehabilitation, Professor Masami Nakahara expert "Physiotherapy for the Elderly" became my mentor with Dr. Masaharu Morita teacher. They helped, taught and explained many questions that I had.

In the beginning I was very insecure, not knowing almost nothing about human anatomy in Japanese, such as joints, bones, muscles, as well as difficulty in reading and writing Kanji. I still have difficulty in language, but I understand better the body parts. The teachers are very kind, attentive and classmates helped me in many ways.

First, along with the students of Morita teacher, we participated in a week of training in the Sanno hospital. Where it was possible to know the equipment, techniques and forms of hospital operations. Through this interaction with the teacher and students, I explained a little how hospitals operate in Brazil and thus realized the great importance of student exchange.

I participated in various disciplines. For example, in the first semester I participated in the discipline of "Sport for the disabled", given by Professor Okamoto. The teacher created several situations with sports for us to understand how people with physical disabilities feel. For example using only one leg, one arm or even blindfolded. Making these experiments we could create and improve ways to lead and teach sport according to disability.

Professor Nakahara took me once a week at the nearby hospital, where he provided me an opportunity to interact with the elderly in the city Ooki. In this hospital, I participated in the project "health prevention", which help to collect data and help the elderly in the exercise. The elderly, teachers, and other hospital people are very kind and teach patiently.

Acknowledgment

Analyzing this exchange year, I was very happy for the opportunity to come to Fukuoka! This experience living in Japan, apparently long but short, was intense every day, I tried very hard not only in studies but also in learning more about the culture of Japan, experiencing and enjoying every opportunity. All this was possible thanks to Brazil Fukuoka Kenjinkai and Kokusai Koryu Center which provided this unique opportunity.

I am very grateful for Kazokukai who were always very attentive and kind to us,

planning various activities, taking us to various places, preparing delicious foods, giving many gifts and inviting to various events. Everyone was very kind as a new family and will be very sad saying goodbye.

I was very grateful for the International University of Health and Welfare has accepted me as a student. I had excellent teachers and I was very happy to interact with several students.

Reflecting on this exchange, I realized my connection with Japan and thanks to many people, I will take with me many good and happy memories. Returning to my country, I want to work to improve the acquired knowledge and strive also within Brazil Fukuoka Kenjinkai.

I would love to transmit my feelings of gratitude to each person who had contact with, such as teachers and friends. Thank you so much!

I look forward one day to meet them again.



Associate Professor, Masami Nakahara
(Mr. Takashina's Teacher)

From last April, Juliano Tsuyoshi Takashina was a research student specializing in Physical Therapy at the International University of Health and Welfare's Faculty of Occupational Therapy (Okawa campus), of which I am a staff member. Having worked as an exercise instructor for the elderly following his graduation in Physical Therapy in his home country of Brazil, Mr. Takashina took lectures at both our undergraduate and graduate schools of Physical Therapy.

He studied the following subjects: two graduate subjects (① Physical Therapy Fundamentals I, ② Practical Physical Therapy I); five undergraduate subjects in the first semester (① Sports for the Disabled II, ② Sports for the Disabled III, ③ Sport Physical Therapy, ④ Practical Physical Therapy Techniques, ⑤ Graduation Research); and six in the second semester (① Pediatric Physiotherapy, ② Human Development, ③ Practical Exercise Physiology, ⑤ Kinematics, ⑥ Graduation Research).

Despite having so many subjects, Mr. Takashina engaged in the lectures earnestly and ambitiously. In addition, he also participated in practical training at our affiliated Fukuoka Sanno Hospital and Yanagawa Rehabilitation Hospital, and joined me as an exercise instructor for the elderly at the Nursing Care Prevention Project in Ooki-machi. Through this exposure to Japanese hospitals and practical rehabilitation work, I believe Mr. Takashina deepened his understanding of the Japanese medical care environment.

At the Nursing Care Prevention class, Mr. Takashina learned the practical methods of using power rehabilitation instruments to instruct elderly patients, as well as dual-task training aimed at preventing falls, which he had not experienced in Brazil.

With his bright, open personality and strong communication ability in Japanese, Juliano was able to actively engage with other graduates and undergraduates. When coaching seniors, his precise instructions and smiling demeanour led Juliano to be highly regarded by the participants.

I believe this year of study in Japan will be an asset to Juliano Tsuyoshi Takashina in his future. I wish him great success after returning home.



Brazil Fukuoka Kenjinkai Hirata Sayuri Kaleandra

1) Introduction

My name is Kaleandra Sayuri Hirata, I'm from Brazil, state of São Paulo, Campinas city. In my family, I have two brothers, I'm the youngest one. I'm third-generation of Japanese descent, I'm 25 years old. My grandmother born in Fukuoka state, Tachiarai city. As an immigrant she went to Brazil and started a family. At 2014 I graduated in Economics at Federal University of São Carlos (UFSCar). The opportunity as International Student was possible because of Brazil Kenjinkai and Fukuoka Kokusai Koryu Center, I'm deeply thankful for this great and unique experience. During this year as a International Student I intended to live new experiences, besides my studies I wanted to have fun and learn a little bit more about Japanese culture.

2) Living in Japan

Before coming to Japan, I was insecure about leaving in a completely different country, far away from Brazil, and specially because I didn't speak Japanese very well. However when I arrived here I was amazed with this country. Everywhere I went surprise me in a different way. Everywhere is so clean and organized, transportation here in Japan is very efficient and the punctuality is incredible. I became fascinated about safety in Japan, leaving in Japan I felt so safe, I could go to the beach at night alone and appreciate the view. Everywhere I went have different kinds of beauty. What surprise me in my first mouth in Japan was the Cherry blossoms. I went to Ohori Park with another international students, we went there to see the cherry threes, have some picnic above the trees and take a lot of photos to keep this memory. The Cherry blossoms were very beautiful and I felt so amazed. In the beginning was very difficult for me, because of the different languages I couldn't communicate very well with the another international students. I couldn't understand Japanese and Spanish very well and about my English I was able to understand but I was not used to speak. In general, South America most of the people speak Spanish, however in Brazil we speak Portuguese, besides these two languages been similar, there are a lot of similar words and phrases but the meaning are totally different, that's why sometimes we get confused. I was not used to speak English, but after coming here, I started been able to

transmit what I want or my feelings in this language, and step by step I started improving my communication here.

3) Studies

I studied Economics at Federal University from São Carlos, during my graduation I always have interests in areas like International Market, Economics of Technology and Analysis of Competition. Studying a little bit more about this areas in Japan was a very good experience. After research I'm able to understand a little bit more about Japanese economics structure, how Japan became one of the best economies of the world and a leader of technology exportation. Also, it's important to understand and see the problems and solutions for Brazil, how different the economics of Japan and Brazil are.

Studying about the behavior inside the Japanese companies, I was amazed that how Japanese management are organized, and the most important thing: how employees are encourage to work for the best of company. I'm thankful to have the opportunity to study a completely different model of economics and have a better point of view about it.

I'm thankful to have Hirose-sensei as my advisor, I learned a lot with her and every meeting we had such a great time. I met her every week, we discussed about different topics every meeting, like culture, places to visit, behavior, traditions, ideas, and with each discuss I could show her the point of view of a Brazilian and her the Japanese view, so I learned a lot.

4) New experiences

During the events offered by the Kazokukai I was able to learn about Japanese culture. Each event had a different purpose, we had events like: rice cultivation, bamboo, temples, mountains, tradition, culture. For me two events I'll never forget: Kimono dressing and fireworks. There were a lot of different kinds of kimonos, different draws and colors, it was very difficult to choose one. After choosing and dressing Kimono, we participated at Tea's Ceremony, sincerely was very hard to stand in our knees, however I could learn about these traditional clothes and ceremony, I learned how important are each detail and how beautiful it is. For the first time I went to Firework Festival dressing Yukata at Kurume city. For me it was one of my favorites experiences in Japan. There were more than 18000 fireworks next to the Chikugo river, about 400.000 people went there to this exciting event. I was amazed that how beautiful each firework was, with different colors, formats and sizes. The last set of firework was the most beautiful one, It was amazing how illuminated the sky in such a big way.

This year in Japan was very challenge and full of different experiences. I had a lot of experiences for the first time like: dress Kimono, climb a mountain, go to a baseball game, see snow, go to a temple, see a panda, touch a dolphin, go to hot springs, go to a

beer factory etc. Traveling is what I love the most, and this year I could travel a lot. I visited more than fifteen cities in different parts in Japan, so I could get a lot of precious and good memories.

Also, I did a lot of things that I thought I've never been able to do, so, I think I can face new challenges. Climb Mt. Fuji was not easy, however when I was in the top of the most famous spot in Japan, I was very happy that I really did it. Up there, I could see under the white clouds, a beautiful blue sky and the sunrising, the view was amazing, breathtaking. This extraordinary experience I'll always keep in my memory. Traveling alone was something that I've never did before, I was so afraid of doing and very worried about it, but when I finally did, it was very funny, so I intend going to travel more times like this to know new places and have new experiences.

I have a lot good experiences and happy moments living in Japan, but I've never been so happy like I was when my family came to Japan. They came here for the first time, and each moment with them was very special for us. See my mom smiling at each new experience she was having, new places, different foods, different attractions, activities, there's no price for that. I'm so happy that I could share this special moment with my family, the opportunity to have them here was amazing.

I'm deeply thankful for this opportunity to come here to Japan, thanks to Brazil Fukuoka Kenjinkai, Fukuoka Kokusai Kouryu Center, Kazokukai, University's teachers, and for the people that helped me. I intend to improve what I learned this year and apply it in Brazil, also, and I intend to collaborate for the growth of the Brazil Fukuoka Kenjinkai.



Associate Professor. Kyoko Hirose
(Ms. Hirata's Teacher)

My Year with Ms. Hirata

Firstly, I would like to express my admiration for Ms. Hirata. I'm sure it took a big effort to make the decision to live in a country on the other side of the world, and living together with strangers must have been very stressful. I truly respect Ms. Hirata for surviving life in a strange country with people she had met for the first time.

Being my first international student from outside Asia, I was a little apprehensive in receiving Ms. Hirata. However, Ms. Hirata turned out to be mature and diligent, showing little need for the presence of a supervisor. I regarded Ms. Hirata's main goal as learning Japanese and discovering/experiencing things she would not be able to in Brazil, with research in economics as a secondary objective (since she can do this anywhere given the necessary materials). However, she did not require any guidance from me; in fact, there were often times when I would learn from Ms. Hirata. Ms. Hirata keenly explored her daily surroundings, and ventured out to various places around Japan. She would relate to me her impressions and memories from these trips, as well as the many differences between the lifestyles and cultures of Japan and Brazil. I found these stories extremely interesting. I found very few problems in the diary she was assigned to keep in Japanese. In fact, through this diary I came to know about her various experiences and struggles, and reading the diary became a private source of joy for me. For her research report, Ms. Hirata presented very interesting information on standard economic indicators in Japan and Brazil, including facts of which I was unaware. I also asked Ms. Hirata to conduct several Portuguese language lectures, but these proved to be difficult.

My failure to persevere with Portuguese study is my biggest regret. Before going to Brazil I will continue to study while looking back on Ms. Hirata's lectures.

The time I was able to spend with Ms. Hirata was both enjoyable and valuable. I am truly grateful to Ms. Hirata for coming to Fukuoka and spending this time with me. I hope the joys and sorrows Ms. Hirata experienced in Japan help to brighten her future.



Paraguay Fukuoka Kenjinkai Kitagawa Hitomi

Introduction

I am Kitagawa Hitomi, nikkei third generation from Itapua, Paraguay. I graduated from the Department of Physical Therapy in 2013. After learning the disciplines of stimulation therapy for children with developmental disabilities, I start working at rehabilitation centers for children and other hospitals. Also, as I wanted to visit the Fukuoka Prefecture that is where my roots come from, I studied abroad in Japan for one month while I was still in university. This experience was the main reason why I decided to study abroad again in Japan after my graduation.

Living in Fukuoka

From the beginning, the Fukuoka Prefectural International Exchange Foundation, the Fukuoka Prefectural Family Association and the teachers from the different universities warmly received us all the exchange students and help us in the process of adaptation to our new environment. This place is so rich and full of kind people that I instantly thought that is a great place to live.

In this year that passed I could enjoy the changing of seasons. When I first arrived it was spring and I felt like all the beautiful cherry blossoms were welcoming me to Fukuoka. The plum blossoms, tulips and wisteria flowers are also so nice. During summer I enjoyed the sea, the festivals, the display of fireworks and so many other entertaining events. Japanese fireworks are so big and strong that I could feel them resonate in my heart, I was overwhelmed. Somehow it remembered me the sound of cicadas during summer. Autumn was awesome, full of beautiful sceneries covered with red maples and yellow ginkgos. Even at night the colors can be enjoyed by a display of illumination. Also in winter, when Christmas is coming, the city is covered with bright illuminations. I was able to see how all the colors disappeared under the white snow. It was the first time that I saw snow and the most extreme cold weather I had ever experienced.

What impressed me the most was the kindness and hospitality of japanese people. Even more surprised when I received the New Year's Cards. This is one tradition to express gratitude to all the people that helped them through all the year.

Events

During the Fukuoka Short Term Visit Program for Young Descendants I could meet and interact with all the children and custodians of all the different countries. Travelling and doing different activities, we learned about Fukuoka's history and Japan's culture. But more important, our fellowship grew easily with the time. Even though the language and culture were different, we all had something in common that relate us, and that is our roots. Our common origin is Fukuoka. The fact of being able to share all these moments with them was a special and unique experience.

The most memorable experience was the day we wear kimonos and participated in the tea ceremony. I was able to wear a beautiful traditional kimono and be photographed at an amazing Japanese garden. Moreover, as the etiquette of the tea ceremony was described and explained I learned the importance of being grateful of everything and considerate with everyone. I also learned that in the tea ceremony everything has its reason and a specific meaning. It was a wonderful experience to comprehend better the Japanese culture.

All the members of Family Association prepared a big variety of activities according to the season. For example bamboo harvest, firefly sighting, rice sowing, fireworks festivals, grape harvest and preparation of mochi.

University

I studied at the International University of Health and Welfare in the Department of Physical Therapy. This university is focused in medical welfare with different specialties and various campus all around Japan. It also considers the education abroad an important professional experience.

During the first semester I attended the Sport Medicine Class. Fortunately the lectures were easy to understand and we also had practical lessons. Above all, this university is one of the few that has a specific class of sport medicine for impaired motor people. I am glad I was able to take this class where we learn about how to support people and make them enjoy sport and training by creating new activities and sports according to their specific disability.

During the second semester, I took courses related with what I really wanted to study when I decided to study abroad. I learn about development disorders and stimulation therapy techniques for children with developmental disabilities. Furthermore, by the evaluation and rehabilitation of young patients I could improve my knowledge. I was also allowed to contribute in the graduation investigation of a classmate and participate in the presentation.

Apart from that, I attended hospitals and workplaces as observer to see and learn how doctors, nurses, kinesiologists, occupational therapists and phonoaudiologists work together as a team. Everyone contribute to provide an appropriate rehabilitation for each specific clinical case and patient. As I observed the implementation and its results I

learned how important and essential is to work as a multidisciplinary team.

In addition, I attended educative centers where children with special necessities are assisted. In this case I not only observe the kinesiologists but also was able to talk with the parents who explained me about the children's feelings and hopes. They inspired me and motivated me to keep studying even harder.

These experiences were very important for me inasmuch as I could learn about Japan's health centers infrastructure, health insurance services implemented and also how professionals work at different health fields.

From now on

Through all this year in Japan I collected a big amount of great memories. I would like to sincerely thank the Fukuoka Prefectural Office, the Fukuoka Prefectural Family Association, the Fukuoka Prefectural International Exchange Foundation, the Fukuoka Kenjinkai of Paraguay and my guarantors for giving me this amazing opportunity.

At university I had the privilege of meeting prominent professionals and I want to thank them for teaching me the japanese concepts and techniques. When I get back to my country, I want to implement all I have learned in the health field to contribute in improving it.

I also want to thank all my friends in Japan for all the good memories we created together.

Through all this year I met many people, had many experiences and interact with many environments expanding my goals and making me step forward to a new phase in my life. From now on I want to implement all I have learned studying abroad on any new challenge. Finally, I would like to express my desire to meet everyone that I meet once again.

Thank you very much!



Professor. Masaharu Morita

(Ms. Kitagawa's Teacher)

Hitomi Kitagawa joined the Faculty of Occupational Therapy International University of Health and Welfare in April 2015, specializing in Physical Therapy. In addition to satellite classes at the graduate school (Physical Therapy Fundamentals, Practical Physical Therapy), she also took many undergraduate practical and training courses including Sports for the Disabled II & III, Sport Physical Therapy and Practical Exercise Physiology.

Ms. Kitagawa had already obtained qualifications as a Physical Therapist from the Catholic University Itapua Campus in her home country of Paraguay, but this seemed like a good opportunity to review what she had learned up to this point. While Ms. Kitagawa held an interest in physical therapy for children with disabilities and there is much need for pediatric physiotherapy in Paraguay, the level of staff and services in the field are under-developed. As such she had a great interest in my classes for Human Development and Pediatric Physiotherapy I, buying the textbooks and working to gain a deeper understanding of the content. In addition, thanks to her proficient Japanese, Ms. Kitagawa was able to participate in a Nursing Care Prevention Project in nearby Ooki-machi, where she helped seniors while also engaging with graduate and undergraduate students whose research she assisted. She seemed to interact well with the seniors, and was also well liked by the staff.

Elsewhere, Ms. Kitagawa joined in visits to the university's affiliated rehabilitation facilities (Takagi Hospital, Yanagawa Rehabilitation Hospital), and participated in 'Related Discipline Joint Training' at Fukuoka Sanno Hospital, where she collaborated in clinical practice with students from many fields. This was a great opportunity to learn about the multidisciplinary teamwork necessary in medical treatment. I hope that the year studying abroad was beneficial for Ms. Kitagawa, and the knowledge and experience gained in Japan may be utilized in her work upon returning to Paraguay. Congratulations on your great work this past year.



Peru Fukuoka Club Gutierrez Tababe Alex

Introduction

Since I was a child, I always admired Japan. Since my grandmother is Japanese, from early age I've been influenced by Japan's culture: eating Japanese food, watching in NHK Japanese programs, liking anime and learning about Japanese manners. Then, in 2011, my brother came to Japan as a foreign student. When he came back, I've heard from him lots of anecdotes and how awesome was Japan as a country. It was then that I thought to myself "I must definitely go to Japan with the same program and experience its culture by myself". So, it became like a dream to me. And this year, that same dream came true.

Life at Japan

At first, when I just arrived at the airport I was really excited but, I must admit, I didn't know what I was suppose to do at all. Getting used to the live at the dormitories, as well as getting to know the other foreign students, everything was a really interesting experience. All of us were the same, foreign students in Japan; however, everyone spoke in their own language, so it usually ended up in a mix of English, Portuguese, Spanish and Japanese altogether. It was really fun. Even though, while its true that we had our differences, we also had things in common, as coming from cultures where people are not so strict about being punctual, we love eating meat at all times and, of course, love Japanese culture, too.

With these other foreign students, and thanks to the family association of Fukuoka and Kurume as well as the Fukuoka International Exchange Foundation, we got to experience lot of things in this year. First, we went to make Hanami in Ohori Park. For me, it was the first time I saw the cherry blossoms. The first thing that came to my mind was how beautiful it was and how it felt like the beauty of Japan's spring itself. I also got to do a homestay in a Japanese house in Kurume and get to walk around there and get to know more that part of Fukuoka. In summer, we got to participate in an exchange program where children from our respective countries came here to experience the Japanese culture the same way as us. We stayed at Global Arena and had to look after them the whole time, but we also got have fun around Fukuoka. Thanks to the family association, we also went to a traditional Japanese Matsuri and also see the Hanabi. Finally, in Winter, we also got to make our own rice cake as well as wearing kimonos. The best thing of all, each time we went to these events, we got to eat lot of Japanese food, which was delicious as always. It was like a real blessing.

Life at school

We had lots of fun in Fukuoka, but we also had to make an effort at our universities. I work as a Software Engineer in Peru, but this year in the Kyushu Zokei Art College I chose Photography as my specialty. The reason behind that is that photography is a hobby for me and I also wanted to learn more about art and the skills behind a creative job. Even more, in the industry where I was working in Peru, there are lots of opportunities as a web designer, so it was also an opportunity for me to get these new creative skills and use them there.

Honestly, on my first class at the university I was really nervous. I was a little bit afraid of talking to other people and also lost my confidence in my own Japanese skills. “Can I really communicate with them? What will happen if I can’t talk to them?”. Those were the kind of thoughts I had at the moment. However, instead of that my friends would tell me “Hey Alex, your Japanese is really good! You sound like a Japanese!”. Without a doubt, I knew that maybe those were just kind words so I won’t feel bad at all. But, there was a time when one of my friends told me “How is it that, even though you came from another country, you know more slangs and know more about Japanese subcultures more than most of other Japanese adults? That’s unusual!”. It was at that time that I realized that thanks to all those Japanese programs and anime that I watched since I was a child, I’d probably have no problem at all communicating with other people from my same age.

Of course, I’m 4 years older than most of the people in my classes, so every time I talked to someone they treated me like an upperclassman, but as time passed, that line between an upperclassmen and underclassmen started to disappear. It was then that we could finally become friends. And so, including my teachers, I got to get along with everyone: We ate lunch together everyday, worked on our tasks together, went Tenjin and Hakata to walk around, formed a band with other classmates and entered the light music club. They all became like a family to me.

About my studies

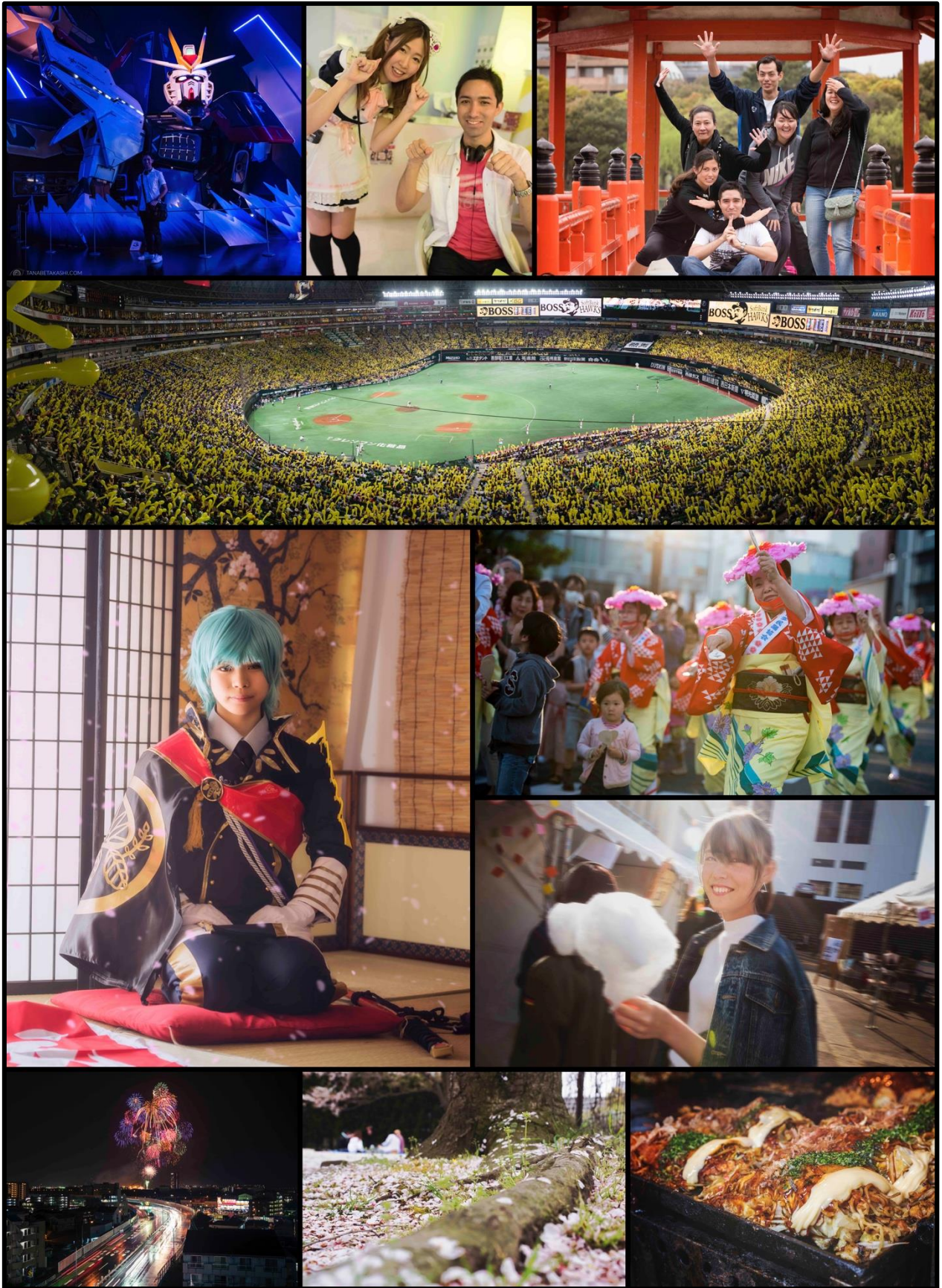
Regarding my studies in photography, this year I learned a lot. Before coming to Japan, I’ve already studied by myself the basic techniques behind taking photos, but I had never studied anything about art itself, so I focused on that. And so, instead of just taking beautiful pictures, I concentrated on taking pictures that had a meaning. As a result of this year’s effort, I got to get one of my photos selected in the Kyushu Sangyo University’s Wooden Horse Award Photo Contest. I also got to finish my own portfolio book. Finally, I also got to get my photos exhibited in a museum along the photos of all of my friends. Even though, I know that I’m still a novice in photography, so I have to keep working hard from here on.

Summary

This year have really become an educational one. Not only in photography, but I could also learn a lot about the Japanese culture. And the best of all, it was not as a third-party, not even as a foreign guy, but I feel that I got to experience all of this as another Japanese would do. Going with everyone to the karaoke, making a hotpot party at a friend's house, going to see a baseball match, going with others to the game center, going to a live to see our favorite artists, going to comic markets to get anime goofs and stuff. However, more than the fun things, is the Japanese's correctness in their habits that I take with myself. Being punctual, cleaning any garbage you see thrown in the streets even if it not yours, respecting your superiors, helping your underclassmen when they are in a pinch... these habits are the ones that I want to practice from here on, not just to become more like the Japanese, but a better adult.

I will never forget this year.

Thank you all from the bottom of my heart.



Sim Woo Hyeon
(Mr. Tanabe's Teacher)

Starting from April 2015, Alex Gutierrez Tanabe was enrolled in my department at Kyushu Zokei Art College as a one-year research student specializing in photography. From my first impressions, he seemed like an international student who had only recently become interested in photography. I explained to him the equipment used in the photography major and gave a tour of the school's facilities. I recall that, during the tour, Alex asked, "Can I use these facilities and equipment as a research student? I'm not a regular student." When I replied that he could use everything just like a normal student, Alex was very excited. "Thank you, I will work hard," he told me in a big voice.

Unlike regular students, Alex only had to take the minimum number of subjects for a research student. When the semester began, however, he earnestly registered for the same amount of classes as the other students. Despite having just taken up photography, there was no gap between Alex and the regular students who were in their second year of the course. He quickly picked up the skills and Japanese language necessary to understand classes.

In the beginning, Alex studied anime and photography representative of Japanese culture, creating original cosplay images and portraying the younger generation from a social perspective that is the traditional value of photography. By autumn, he received a job offer after actively pursuing a position in an internet programming company. I'm sure it wasn't easy to fit studies and job-hunting into such a short period of time, but Alex succeeded by working harder than anyone else.

Come April he will be starting his life as a company employee in Tokyo, but I believe Alex's ability to quickly grasp a situation and deal with it effectively, as well as his diligence towards assigned tasks, will soon make him an indispensable presence in the company.

With pride in his Nikkei heritage, I'm sure Alex will adapt quickly to Japanese society. I wish him the best of health and future success.



Bolivia Fukuoka Club Ogata Shyo Marcelo

Introduction

My name is Shyo Ogata, I'm 23 years old. I came from a Japanese colony called San Juan in Santa Cruz-Bolivia. I graduate from Agronomy Faculty and now at days I'm working with my father in Agriculture and cattle raising. My objective for this year to make a good relationship between the Nikkeis and the Japanese. And finally learning about new techniques of production of rice in Japan in the Kyushu Okinawa Agriculture Research Center.

Life in Japan

I consider this year very productive for my life. One of the aspects that I changed is that for the first time in my life I had to move every day 2 hours from the place I leave to the Research Center. I was living in a student's dormitory called Jikyogakusha near Kashii station, I consider this place very practical because I had nearby convenience stores, supermarkets, and gym.

Before I came to Japan my father advised me that the summer in Japan was very hot, but I couldn't imagine that it could be worse than Bolivia's summer. Just when the sowing of the rice started all my investigation was outdoors I suffered a lot until the point I felt I was going to die because of the heat.

Since I arrived to Japan the thing that I loved most is the Japanese food, in my opinion I think that the Japanese food is the number one of the world. I was able to travel all around the country and I really enjoyed the food from each region, three times per week I used to eat outside. My favorite food is Yakitori but I enjoy it better eating in izakaya, in my country there are not izakaya so I think that the thing that I most miss will be eating and having a good time with my friends in the izakaya.

About study

I had the fortune to be received by the Kyushu Okinawa Agriculture Research Center to learn about new techniques of rice production. Beginning with the seeding making of the rice, preparation of the field where the rice will grow, and the design of the fertilization and disease control.

• Seeding making of the rice

In Bolivia when we sow the rice we don't transplant it, the thing we do to sow it directly from the seed. One important thing that I learned during this investigation is that from the rice production is very important because if the density of rice grows

it affects the growth of the plant.

- Preparation of the field

The preparation of the field in Japan is more intensive than in Bolivia. The first thing that happens in Japan they overturn all the field, after they flood all the field and finally one more time they overturn all the field. In comparison with Bolivia we only do the first procedure.

- Design of the fertilization

The fertilization process in Japan is also different. In Japan it's applied twice N₂, the first application is before the preparation of the field and the second one 17 days before flowering.

In Bolivia we applied it three times. The first one is applied after the preparation of the land. The second one is when the rice is in the process of tillering stage, and the last one is applied 15 days before flowering.

Thanks to my teachers I had the opportunity to meet the head of many agriculture companies in Japan, they advised me telling me how they save money with low cost procedures, and how to make high quality rice.

All the things I learned in Japan will prepare me professionally, and all the knowledge learned here will be taught to the Bolivian agriculture man.

About summer vacation

In August of 2015 I was called to make a presentation of the Japanese colony for 5 youth that applied to an exchange program called Global Stage. In August the 5th we were invited from the group of Kazokukai to a fireworks festival in Kurume, it was my first time that I saw such a big spectacle I'm very thankful for taking us there.

In July of the same year the prefecture of Fukuoka makes another exchange program but this time for children from the American continent. It was a very nice experience to me because I saw that the children even though they couldn't communicate with each other they made their effort to have fun and make friendship between countries. It was a kind of exhausting taking care of children all the day, but watching their smiles they gave me energy to continue during ten days.

I am very thankful that I could participate in this program this program creates a very good relationship to the future.

Conclusion

At the end I am very thankful with all the associations and persons that gave me the opportunity to live this amazing experience during this year. First to Fukuoka Kenjinkai, Kokusai Koryucenter, Kyushu Okinawa Agriculture Research Center, Kazokukai. Thank you very much. I will never forget this experience. I am committed to help Bolivia Fukuoka Kenjinkai to have good relationship with other Fukuoka Kenjinkai from all around the world.



Satoshi Morita
(Mr. Ogata's Teacher)

Course Report for Marcelo Shyo Ogata

Beginning in April 2015, Marcelo Shyo Ogata underwent training in the cultivation of rice and barley as part of a technical course with the Rice Field Planting & Cultivation Research Group at the National Agriculture and Food Research Organization's Kyushu Okinawa Agricultural Research Center. As we are a research organization and not a university, the course comprised of on-the-job training rather than classes. Marcelo joined our research activities, where he learned wet-rice cultivation management and investigation methods. Specifically, he experienced many aspects of the year-long wet-rice cultivation process, from seeds and seedlings to land preparation, planting, water management, fertilization, growth criteria such as leaf colour, stem count and height, pesticide spraying, bird net use and investigation/analysis of crops. Marcelo also participated in barley research investigation, one of the group's tasks. He also joined us on field surveys of large-scale agricultural producers with which we are engaged in collaborative research. While I am sure that conditions surrounding agriculture differ greatly between Japan and Bolivia, I believe that exposure to the mindset of managers at leading Japanese agricultural producers was a big motivation for Marcelo. In addition, Marcelo visited the Kyushu Okinawa Agricultural Research Center's livestock farming research group in Koshi, Kumamoto Prefecture, where he exchanged information and attended a lecture on the results of research into livestock breeding, raising and production of rice for fodder

What surprised me when working together was the speed with which Marcelo picked up agricultural work and crop inspection. It was clear that he had been assisting with farm work from a young age on his father's farm in Bolivia. Farm work often involves working with others in a group, and I was impressed by Marcelo's ability to observe, adapt to his surroundings and execute the tasks efficiently.

Outside of his studies, in June our research leader arranged for Marcelo to climb Mt. Kuju to see the Rhododendron flowers, and in December he practiced the traditional Japanese art of Dojo-sukui, which he performed with other group members at our end of year party.

While it may seem long, the year was over in a flash, but we truly hope Marcelo found his training a new and valuable experience. In closing, I wish Marcelo success in his contribution to the development of Bolivia's agriculture, and hope that one day he will share his energy with us again by visiting Japan.



Mexico Fukuoka Kenjinkai Hernandez Yoshikai Junichi

Introduction

Hello, nice to meet you. I am from Mexico City and my name is Hernandez Yoshikai Junichi. I am Nikkei 3th Generation. I was born in July 17th, 1988 in Mexico City. I am 27 years old.

In my family we are 4 members. My father's name is Hernandez Ortega Raul. He is Mexican. My Mother's name is Yoshikai Amador Haruko. She is Nikkei Second Generation. My brother's name is Hernandez Yoshikai Yoshimichi. My grandfather was born in Kurume, Fukuoka, at the age of 20 he went to Mexico. In Mexico he had a Candy Factory. Now in Mexico I have 2 own company's. Yoshikai Management S.A. de C.V. and Over All wich is a Design Brand.

Speaking about Mexico. Mexico's flag has 3 color banners, Green, White and red. Green as for Independence, White for catholic and red for the standardization of the Mexican person and the Spanish. It has a population of 122,300,000 people. The place where I live has many historical places including the large ruins of Maya's and Aztec Culture and civilization. Main part of Mexico has the colonial culture because of the Spanish colonizing the land. As for the Japanese traveler, it has many beaches and resort's as Cancún, Los Cabos. The beach of pure white the high-class hotel stands in a row in the area where the blue sea spreads, activity and the gourmet.

Life in Fukuoka

This is my third time living in Fukuoka. I've been living at a dorm called Jikyogakusha. This dorm is located in the East side of Fukuoka. When coming to Fukuoka, the most difficult part for me is the weather as it is too warm and humid, back home I don't have that kind of weather. It's been nice to have to opportunity to meet my old friends from Fukuoka once again. The people from Fukuoka are usually very friendly and warm welcoming to everyone, they like to enjoy the company of new people. The city is very safe and has many events which gives me the opportunity to meet new people and there for keep learning Japanese.

About my studies

I studied Photography, Video and Animation at Kyushu Zokei Art College. Because I like drawing and creating new stuff. I need to have the structure to tackle my favorite topic just as I want to. Also making new Japanese friends makes you spread and Exchange life experiences. It get really serious because the system is very different that

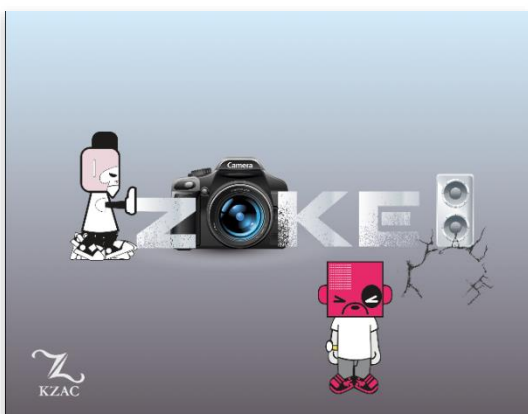
in Mexico. Much concentration is needed. In Mexico animation is not that advanced but as a Graphic Designer I would really like to improve my talent. I really wanted to study the technique of animation in Japan this time. Learning this and going back home I think I can have better opportunities when looking for job. Also I have interest in Video Editing. Making Stop Motion animation needs a lot of dedication. It takes about an hour to make 1 second of animation. That's why having this ability when offering this service in Mexico is very well paid.

This experience has been unique, I want to learn everything I can before going back home. Japan has everything to make you succeed.

Acknowledgment

The Japanese design and art, the Japanese culture and being able to learn Japanese mainly, it became a very good experience.

Everyone at Fukuoka International Exchange Foundation, Mexico Fukuoka Kenjinkai, Kazoku Kai, University's Internaational Center, University's Teachers, Thank you so much!



Activity Report for Junichi Yoshikai

From April 2015 Mr. Junichi Yoshikai studied at Kyushu Zokei Art College's Faculty of Fine Arts as a research student. While his initial research theme was "Japanese Photography Culture", from our various majors Mr. Yoshikai showed interest in animation/video, and those classes became the basis of his studies and work.

• Task 01 "Production of Kyushu Zokei Art College ID Video"

Created a 15 second piece to be used as the ID in the openings of TV programs and beginnings of various promotional videos. Created original characters and music, with editing on specialized software. Finished piece had originality, with original music recorded at home. The piece received a big response when presented to other students.

• Task 02 "Stop Motion Animation"

Studied the principles of stop motion animation, which is the foundation of video, and produced a group piece. Created a 15fps video using software common in Hollywood (DragonFrame). As part of a group project, Mr. Yoshikai had to overcome the language handicap in order to communicate smoothly with other students, but managed to finish the piece.

I believe working on the abovementioned video projects throughout the year provided much motivation and personal growth for Mr. Yoshikai.

Stop Motion Animation class task, 9th March 2016

Group project piece

Software used: Adobe After Effects, DragonFrame, others

Production date: January 2016

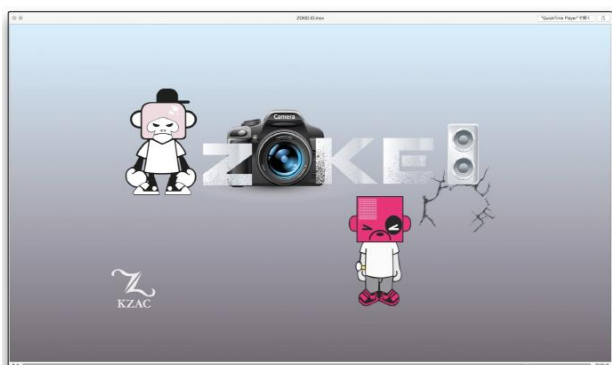


Animation, Film, Media Design Research class task, 9th March 2016

Station ID production using AfterEffects

Software used: Adobe After Effects, Illustrator, others

Production date: July 2015





Mexico Fukuoka Kenjinkai Teramoto Hideki

Introduction

I am a 3rd generation Nikkei (Sansei) born in Mexico. My maternal side family are from Fukuoka, my grandfather was born in a small town called Goromaru near Kurume and he moved to Mexico at the age of twenty. Since he arrived to Mexico he has been always very proud of Fukuoka. He was one of the first founders of the Kenjinkai. Nowadays Mexico Fukuoka Kenjinkai has around 100 members, during the year we make our effort to make as many events as possible such as New Year's Party, Parents day, children day, and Christmas parties.

I studied Marketing and since I was young I had been actively participating in Nikkei activities in Mexico, my dream is to build a cultural, and business bridge between Mexico and Japan.

Life in Japan

Since I arrived to Japan there were a lot of things that surprised me. For the first time of my life I was had to live all by myself, until now I was living with my parents and they supported me for almost everything. It was a very nice experience because everything depends only on me. I got lost many times during this year but little by little I understood how was Fukuoka city streets. I was living in a student's dormitory called Jikyogakusha near Kashii station, this year we share a lot of moments with people from Argentina, Brazil, Peru, Paraguay, Bolivia and the United States.

I was able to travel almost around the country Sapporo, Tokyo, Osaka, Kyoto, Wakayama, Hiroshima, Kitakyushu, Beppu, Karatsu, but no doubts the city I most liked was Fukuoka, the reason is because is a very livable town, a lot of friendly people, and I think the best food in the whole country.

About the Family Association

Before I came to Japan I didn't know about the existence of this wonderful association until the first meeting. I am very thankful with Kazokukai because thank to them we were able to experience amazing events such as fireworks festival, grape hunting, kimono festival. Thank you Kazokukai so much.

About summer vacation

Every year in July the prefecture of Fukuoka efforts to make a big event. This event

consist in making a brief 10 days experience to 20 children and 10 tutors from the American Continent. I think this program is very special because it increase the interest about Fukuoka's immigrants since child, youth and adults to have a good relationship with the Kenjikai.

About Study

Before I come to Japan I open with a partner a magazine company. Since 2005 new car factories of Mazda, Honda, Toyota and Nissan installed in Mexico, all those cars produced in Mexico are imported to the United States and South America This magazine is focused in the Japanese community recently installed in Mexico, with this magazine we want to show them how is the lifestyle , food, tips, tourism.

Here in Fukuoka I was studying in Fukuoka University supervised by teacher Dazai, who thought me about analyzing data, and the importance of a full service as in Japan use to do.

Conclusion

This year change radically my life, thank to this scholarship I was able to open my mind, learn more Japanese, more about Japanese culture, and more important I realized the importance of the Kenjikai in my country. I want to thank sincerely for all the persons and association that gave me the chance to study abroad. When I return I am committed to improve the relationship with Fukuoka Kenjikai and apply all the knowledge to the benefit of the community.



Associate Professor Ushio Dazai
(Mr. Teramoto's Teacher)

Hideki Teramoto selected our Faculty of Commerce with the desire to learn about event planning. Most importantly, he came to his studies with a strong practical mindset and interest in Japan, having already started a company producing a magazine aimed at Japanese workers in Mexico.

Mr. Teramoto spent a great deal of time and effort in the editing and production of the magazine, which includes interviews from the Japanese Ambassador in Mexico, Akira Yamada.

Upon his arrival at the university in April, I introduced Mr. Teramoto to our rich database of business and other magazines, which can be perused online, and felt that his high level of interest reflected such experiences.

Despite a little trouble with Japanese comprehension, Mr. Teramoto even attended some of my lectures on Consumer Behaviour, and I was glad to see him taking classes and interacting with other students.

These interactions also extended to treating other students to home-made Mexican food in May, and meeting with students learning Spanish.

Mr. Teramoto also participated in a language learning community within the university, again joining those students who were studying Spanish.

In regards to his reports, once I pointed out the heavy reliance on external materials, Mr. Teramoto revised and submitted reports several times of his own accord. Even when I was unable to check them, Mr. Teramoto displayed his ambition to learn by creating/submitting the reports on his own.

In terms of tutoring, there were many occasions where I can't say we had sufficient time, due to him being busy as an entrepreneur. Despite this, Mr. Teramoto continued reporting concrete figures on media and magazines, and investigation/reports across a broad area, including loyalty programs which at a glance appear to have little relation to magazine readership.

Seeing his activities on facebook, it appeared that Mr. Teramoto was able to find time between his own work and university to fully enjoy sightseeing and other aspects of Japan. I hope that he utilizes the experiences, networks and knowledge gained through this program to become a bridge between Japan and Mexico.



Argentin Fukuoka Kenjinkai Eguchi Ines Maria

Introduction

I am Eguchi Ines Maria Mitsue, nikkei second generation from Rafaela, Argentina. I studied Industrial Design and graduated from the National University of Cordoba in 2013. While still in university I started designing as a freelancer and as an assistant of my brother, also an industrial designer, in projects for the City Hall of Rafaela. After that, I started teaching sketching for industrial design at the ITEC Institute of Rafaela.

Since my childhood I was interested in ecology and traditional craft. As a child my grandmother taught me how to do origami and other japanese crafts. In addition, as my family is the only nikkei family in Rafaela I did not know too much about japanese culture so I always wanted to visit Japan and know more about my roots. This made me decide to study abroad in Japan and learn more about japanese crafting techniques.

I would like to sincerely thank the Fukuoka Kenjinkai of Argentina, the Fukuoka Prefectural Office, the Fukuoka Prefectural Family Association, the Fukuoka Prefectural International Exchange Foundation, and my family and guarantors for giving me this amazing opportunity and let me have this great experience.

Living in Fukuoka

Although I studied Japanese by myself before coming to Japan, when I first arrived I could not understand anything. Therefore, even the most simple things of everyday life and mainly the lectures at university were very difficult. However, after about 3 months, I improved my Japanese skills and I was able to understand a lot more and speak a little bit better. Also, daily life became much easier and I could get use to the way of living in Fukuoka. To do so, my relatives and the other exchange students helped me a lot.

Fukuoka is an amazing city, is quiet but vivid at the same time. There are mountains and sea, many parks where you can relax, study or just spent time, and shopping malls, game centers and karaokes where you can hang out with friends and have fun. It has everything, all along the year you can enjoy the city in different ways with all the traditional seasonal festivals and activities. In addition, the public transportation is so convenient, you can get anywhere. This surprised me very much because the trains and buses are always clean and on time. In Argentina, buses are always late and in Rafaela we do not even have underground lines or trains.

University

First of all, I would like to thank my teacher Ogata Yoshito for being patient and helping me through all this year. Also to my teacher Tamura Ryoichi and the staff of the Workshop.

During this year I studied Strategic Design at Kyushu University. In the first semester I only attended to design classes and language lessons. As all the lectures were in Japanese, I could not understand very much, but the teachers offered me to explain the content once again after classes so I could learn more and improve my knowledge. I attended to university everyday and stayed at the laboratory after classes to finish my work. Also went to field trips and visit many places such as museums, factories and traditional craft centers all around Fukuoka Prefecture.

On the other hand, I worked in some projects and designed different products. For example, a paper aeroplane, a children's book and a special bookshelf for my relatives. For this last product I worked everyday at the workshop with the staff that helped me and taught me Japanese woodwork techniques. I consider this was what I enjoyed the most inasmuch as manual work allows me to distress and is the best way to learn.

Besides I assisted Tamura Sensei in his English class so I could help the students to improve their English and conversational skills while I learned Japanese from them. All the students were extremely shy at the beginning but after a few classes they started to talk more and more. It was a very good experience that allowed me to get more involved with other students in the campus.

During the second semester I dedicated all my time and efforts to my investigation about Fukuoka's Traditional Crafts. It was very difficult to find information because most of it was in Japanese, but I could translate some papers and by visiting many museums, traditional craft centers, workshops and expositions I could finally obtain enough information and finish my research. However, I want to inquire and know more about this traditional techniques so I am planning on continuing this research once back in Argentina.

Events

I am very grateful with all the members of the Family Association of Fukuoka Prefecture who helped me immensely and make me feel less lonely. Together, we experienced many different aspects of Japanese culture such as bamboo harvest, firefly sighting, rice sowing, fireworks festivals, grape harvest, hiking, Japanese hot springs and preparation of mochi. They also join us in the tea ceremony at the Shofuen garden where we wear a beautiful kimono and enjoyed the traditional and peaceful energy of the place. It was my first time wearing a kimono, so I was impressed by all the time and skills that requires to dress someone and how difficult is to wear it. Sitting straight over the tatami was extremely painful and difficult but I managed to endure it till the end of the ceremony.

I also enjoyed the homestay at Mr.Nakagaki's home. He and his wife are such a kind people. They prepared us a huge Japanese breakfast with all the vegetables and fruits that they grow in their garden. I had never ate that much for breakfast, but it was so delicious that I finished it all.

I appreciate all of them very much, and I hope we can keep in touch after I go back home.

Traveling

Our first destination was Osaka. As it was our first trip in Japan we went together. Universal Studios Japan was the main attraction, but we also went to the Osaka Castle and walk around Namba. We stayed at a capsule hotel because it was the cheapest option, but in the end it was a very good and interesting experience.

For summer holidays I went to Tokyo with Hitomi, one of the exchange students, and visit Disneyland, Tokyo Tower, Tokyo Sky Tree, the National Museum of Emerging Science and Innovation and so many other places. Tokyo is an incredibly big city, we couldn't believe it. I also climbed the Mount Fuji with an exchange student from Argentina that is studying in Nagoya and another friend of him. It took us a half day but it really worth it. We saw the sunrise from the top while the cold wind was blowing. Being up there exhausted after all the hard work, sitting at the top of the mountain and watching the sun rising I started thinking about my parents and grandparents. All the pain and obstacles they had to go through to reach their goals and the sad feeling of leaving their home to have a better life. Before that moment I was feeling very lonely and depressed because of being away and not being able to communicate fluently, but after that I realized it could be worst and that I should enjoy every moment, be strong to achieve my objectives and do my best.

Consequently, in autumn I decided to travel by my own and organized a 10 days trip to Kyoto and Okayama, passing by Kurashiki and Yoro. I was a little nervous but finally, everything went great. I could communicate with people in japanese and do all I planned to do. It was the trip I enjoyed the most, I visited traditional craft museums, spend the days at parks, Japanese gardens and temples with a wonderful red and yellow scenery and a little rain washing everything out.

From now on

After going back home I want to participate in the events of Fukuoka Kenjinkai of Argentina and assist the new exchange student candidates. I also want to keep studying Japanese to keep in touch with all the people I met here in Japan and convey all I learned about Japanese culture to my family and all I learned at university to my students and apply it to my professional work. Finally, as I mentioned before, I want to continue my research about traditional craft and techniques to keep improving my project of local development in Argentina.



Kyushu University, Graduate School of Design

Associate Professor Yoshito Ogata
(Ms. Eguchi's Teacher)

Ms. Eguchi was enrolled as a research student in the Contents Creative Design course at the Kyushu University Graduate School of Design. She pursued her studies by taking many classes in industrial design, graphic design and Japanese language. Our department researches the traditional crafts of the Fukuoka/Yame area, taking an industrial approach rather than simply focusing on 'form', with concrete analysis based on investigations on the ground in Yame. In particular, we have a significant volume of field studies focusing on both traditional crafts and local industry, which are used as materials identifying local industry issues in Yame. We are working towards a method that could be called design sociology, the results of which will be displayed at various places including Muji stores. Ms. Eguchi also participated in one of the dozens of studies in order to observe the workings of Japanese industry in person.

I believe this exchange program is a very valuable opportunity. I hope Ms. Eguchi will utilize this year of cultural experiences in her future activities, and that Fukuoka Prefecture will continue offering this opportunity to visit Japan for cultural exchange to many other nikkei descendants.



Nanka Fukuoka Kenjinkai Matsui Eric Takeshi

Introduction

Good day, everyone. My name is Eric Matsui and I'm from Los Angeles, California in the United States. My grandmother is from Amagi, Japan. And I currently have family living there as well. I am a fourth generation Nikkei. In the past few years, I have been participating in events for the Southern California Fukuoka Kenjinkai. My uncle told me about a scholarship to go to Fukuoka, Japan so I decided to take advantage.

Before coming to Japan, I worked in IT services for my own company. This scholarship presented me with the opportunity to live in Japan as well as learn how the Japanese conducts business. Plus it was the perfect opportunity to improve my Japanese.

This is not my first time in Japan. I have been coming to Japan, especially Fukuoka, over the course of my life. For example, one time I came for my cousin's wedding. All of those times were for vacation, however. This was the first time I would live in Japan for an extended period of time.

Studies

For my studies, I went to Fukuoka Industrial College. I wanted to improve my IT skills, so I enrolled Business IT program. I wanted to find out more about how the Japanese do things while also learning more technical skills such as programming and program usage. I've always wanted to learn how to code, so I took a programming class to learn basic Java and C++ language. I also wanted to learn about Japanese mannerisms, so I took a class on Japanese representation.

However, over the course of time, most of my interest went to the Japanese school system itself. Compared to college classes in America, learning in Japan is more focused and yet more relaxed. I actually like this process because you can learn in a shorter period of time. In Japan, all of the classes are a set time of an hour and a half once per week. In America, the class times are varied and on different days. In America, you are expected to learn more, however much of that information becomes irrelevant. And as a result, I have forgotten much of it.

As for the students, as I expected they are very helpful and like to have fun, which I like very much. I've gotten to know a lot about the students in my teacher's seminar. It's been interesting because they are all about 19 or 20 years old. I'm older than them (29) but I share interests with a lot of them.

Life in Japan

This was my first time living alone and in a different country. I feel that I am very adaptable and flexible, so I was not too worried about living by myself.

Luckily, everyone at the dorm gets along with each other, so it's been a very pleasant experience. We did so many things together like going out to eat, visiting amusement parks, going shopping, and having parties at the dorm.

Otherwise, I kept busy learning about the services provided in Japan. Especially digital services because it is relevant to my studies and interests. For example, the mobile phone culture in Japan and the different services they provide. Or perhaps shopping online and in stores. The vending machines in Japan are impressive because they serve both hot and cold drinks in the same machine, and you can also pay with credit cards, IC cards, and your phone. The 100 yen shops provide so many things that are very useful. And the convenience stores provide many services and are usually open 24 hours.

The Fun Things

I've done so many fun things in Fukuoka and all over Japan during this trip that I cannot possibly talk about all of them here. But here are some events and places that I've been to that stand out. Some things were organized by the kenjinkai, and some we did on our own. During June, we visited Osaka. We stayed at a capsule hotel in the city. We went to see Osaka Castle and Universal Studios. I myself went to visit OtaRoad, which is a shopping district for otaku. During July, many kids came to visit for the Short Term Program for Young Descendants of Immigrants from Fukuoka Prefecture. We went to many places all over Fukuoka. We stayed at a sports retreat for the duration. In October, all of us went to a Halloween Party in Tenjin. In November, my mother visited and we went to Shibuya, Tokyo. In December, we had an early Christmas party at the dorm. We also got to try on kimono and perform a tea ceremony. And at the end of the year, I went to Tokyo again for Comiket, the world's biggest manga event. I want to explain so many more things, but there are just too many to mention!

Acknowledgements

I would like to thank everyone in the Fukuoka International Center, the Fukuoka Kenjinkai, everyone at my university, my relatives in Fukuoka, and all those who have helped me during my stay. I have never felt closer to my cultural roots and I plan to stay in contact with as many people as I possibly can.



Professor.Tetsuro Osaka
(Mr. Matsui's Teacher)

It is hard to believe almost a year has already passed since Eric joined us. As a non-degree student at our college, Eric took classes in programming, practicum subjects and physical education. The practicum subjects had classes in Japanese, to which he was unaccustomed, and many reports that proved challenging to complete in between attending his exchange events. In physical education, Eric's strength was in basketball, where he went up against other students who differed significantly in age. His great efforts left a lasting impression on me.

Aside from his classes, Eric also often participated in my seminars. With a big age difference to the other students and shyness on both sides, it was difficult for them to open up to each other. There were many challenging situations for me as well, but I believe it was a good experience for the seminar students who received a big stimulation by being exposed to real English. During summer vacation, Eric also came to a barbecue held at my house (photographed), where he proved a star chef. Given his shyness, I wasn't able to hear much about his thoughts on Japan and university, but I hope that this experience will be a great source of motivation in Eric's life.





**Nanka Fukuoka Kenjinkai
Priebe Emily Joan**

This year in Fukuoka was truly a remarkable and unforgettable time of my life. Up until April of last year, I had no idea what lied ahead for me. The only things I knew were that the food would be delicious, the people would be kind, and the scenery would be beautiful. But I have come to realize that Japan is so much more- it is a truly unique and special country. This is what I experienced, learned, and loved.

I will have to admit that this year is the top 3 best years of my life. To have enjoyed so much this year could not have been done on my own. I am so grateful for the many people who made this year so extraordinary. I would like to express my deepest gratitude to the Fukuoka Kenjinkai for making this all even possible for me. Everyone at the Kokusai Koryu Center worked so hard and supported all of us every day, and for that, I am also extremely grateful.

I was introduced to 9 incredible Fukuoka exchange students from countries I had never met anyone from before: Brazil, Argentina, Paraguay, Bolivia, Peru, and Mexico. I've learned so much about everyone's native countries, cultures, and even picked up a few languages. Though we come from very different backgrounds, it was so remarkable to see that our Fukuoka roots brought us all together this year. I am grateful for this amazing group of people.

I would like to say a huge thank you to the Kazokukai. They are responsible for so many amazing memories and cultural experiences. From the day we first met, they were so warm, welcoming and kindly looked after us. Family blood is no different from the Fukuoka rooted family. Like a family, they overfed us with lots of the best food, took us on so many adventures to explore beautiful sights and learn cultural history. Together we have made so many memories: watching the fireworks by the river in Kurume in our yukatas, sipping on delicious yame tea, cheering on the blindfolded people as they try to hit watermelons, digging for bamboo with our bare hands, and, of course, devoured lots of delicious barbeque.

This was the first time in my life that I had been separated from my friends and family. I was extremely homesick my first month in Japan. However, this all changed after my homestay experience. This was my first time doing a homestay and I was a little nervous but the second I met my host family, I felt right at home. Mr. and Mrs. Nakagaki were honestly two of the sweetest people I had ever met. Mr. Nakagaki had the biggest, warmest smile on his face. They took us to a delightful dinner and in the morning, Mrs.

Nakagaki cooked an exquisite breakfast spread made with fruits and vegetables picked fresh from their yard. They took Ines and I to the rose garden where we saw so many different colors and types of roses. Who knew there was more than one type of rose? Try 50! Ever since this homestay, my lonely feelings dissipated and Japan became my home.

This year was truly so special. I have made so many new friends and also reconnected with old friends whom I had not seen in over ten years. In just these 11 months, I had twelve friends visit from America and each one fell in love with this country: its' culture, history, beauty, food, and the kind citizens. I did not want to take a day for granted so I tried to see as much as I could this year. I visited Itoshima, Oita, Nagasaki, Beppu, Hiroshima, Miyagima, Kobe, Oosaka, Kyoto, Shizuoka, Aichi, Tokyo, and Sapporo. I have made incredible memories in all these places and between and had some of the most delicious food. But without hesitation, Fukuoka has the best food. From the tonkotsu ramen, yakitori, and mentaiko, everything that is made here is amazing. My comfort food is mizutaki nabe! There are so many beautiful and interesting things about Fukuoka. One of my favorites was the owl café. At this café, you can hold different owl species and even put one on your head! In Nagasaki, I went bungy-jumping for the first time. I have been skydiving before and this might have been scarier than jumping 13,000 meters out of a plane! During Silver Week, I went to Oita with a great group of friends and took a ferry to a remote island that had more cats than local inhabitants. We set up our tents by the beach and danced around the campfire. In the morning, I woke up in a hammock watching the sun rise over the ocean. There are few things that can beat this sight and I will forever treasure that morning view. I love music and to my luck and surprise, so does Japan! I attended some fun events such as the Sunset Live music festival on the beach of Itoshima. Here, I made so many friends from Fukuoka and we danced, swam in the water, and watched the fireworks by the beach. It wouldn't have been a summer in Japan without the many festivals. I had so much yakitori, snow cones, and won a fair share of goldfish and water yo-yos. Before coming to Japan, I had never taken public transportation in Los Angeles. Now, I can navigate my way through the busy Tokyo stations and even took the local trains from Tokyo to Fukuoka. I backpacked my way down and travelled a total of 26 hours by train spread through multiple days.

There are so many memories and lessons I will forever treasure from this year. I have met so many incredible people, made so many amazing friends, and seen some of the most beautiful sights. I will never forget these memories and times. When I return to America, I cannot wait to share these with everyone. Thank you so much for the best year of my life!



Associate Professor. **Prasanna Divigalpitiya**
(Ms. Priebe's Teacher)

The Sustainable Urban Architecture Systems International Course (Masters/PhD) was introduced into the Kyushu University Graduate School of Human-Environment Studies in April 2010. Since then it has undertaken educational research as a collaboration between the specializations of Urban Design and Spatial Systems. The objective of this course is to, through an English-language class curriculum, cultivate global specialized professionals and researchers in a new multidisciplinary field related to construction and management of sustainable cities and architecture.

In respect to the environmental problems of global warming and resource depletion, the sustainability and carbon reduction of cities and architecture are extremely serious issues. Perceiving this course as an education system reform to meet the demands of a new generation, we have worked to enhance the course in order to provide Japanese and international students with a new, multidisciplinary education from the comprehensive perspective of urban and architectural sustainability.

This multidisciplinary educational initiative allowed us to welcome Emily Priebe as a research student in April 2015. While participating in our department's activities throughout the year as an international research student, Emily also took classes at the graduate school. Aside from my classes Emily also participated in the omnibus lecture series, with speakers from different specialized fields each time, in order to study the background of urban issues and related fields. What stood out the most from these was the report summarizing her thoughts and the content of the omnibus lectures. I believe this program, aimed at cultivating high-level professionals/researchers with a broad range of specialized knowledge related to sustainable urban architectural systems, expanded Emily's knowledge in the fields of urban design and architecture.