

平成 29 年度

福岡県移住者子弟留学報告書

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2017 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**

**Mai Fukuyama**

**Kyushu University**

The exchange program is coming to an end and I'm very thankful for coming as a 2017 Brazilian exchange student. I was able to learn many things during this program and a lot of people helped me with their kindness and support.

One of the purposes of this program was to study at a Japanese university. My professor is from the Department of Global Environmental Engineering at Kyushu University's Ito Campus. At the university in Brazil, I graduated from the department of chemical engineering, so I accepted my professor's proposal to learn the basics of environmental engineering, so I can return to my home country with more knowledge about this subject.

I have studied the cause and treatment of "akashiwo" problem and the current situation of Hakata Bay, including the environmental standards' differences between Brazil and Fukuoka.

I chose the lessons that I wanted with my teacher. I felt it was difficult because of the technical terms, but I tried hard as much as I could.

I was very excited because for the first time, I had my own laboratory and my own desk. My teacher and everyone in the lab were very nice and they helped me whenever I had problems.

Ito campus is located 2 hours away from the dormitory, but as this campus is the newest, there were only modern buildings. My campus in Brazil was mainly engineering, so Ito campus, having a lot of faculties, looked very big to me. I was delighted to be able to attend a very popular university in Kyushu.

This year's Fukuoka exchange program has eight students from Brazil, Canada, Peru, Bolivia, Mexico and Hawaii. Because we are living in the same dorm and talking almost every day, we became very close friends. We have a good relationship, always with lots of laughs and no fights. It is very interesting, and I was very curious about everyone else's hometown because our countries are very different.

On someone's birthday, we would wait until midnight with a cake to sing happy birthday, and the next day we would go celebrate again in a place he or she wants to go. On my birthday we had a party at the dorm and they cooked my favorite dish, croquette. My 25th birthday was very special because I was surrounded with people I love.

We always try to travel together. The most memorable moments from our trips were when we stayed on a great sunny day at a beautiful beach in Okinawa, when I saw many deer in Nara park, Kinkakuji at Kyoto, a lot of "Torii" in Fushimi Inari Taisha, bamboo forest in Arashiyama, and a "Torii" standing in the middle of the sea at Itsukushima shrine in Miyakojima. Most places I had only seen in pictures, so it was a wonderful experience to be able to see them with my own eyes. Also, the typical plates from every city were incredible.

In Fukuoka, we went to see the Fukuoka Tower's illumination, the purple tunnel made of Fuji flowers in Fuji garden, the Christmas candles' night festival at the Umi no Nakamichi park. We participated in several events together as well, like the famous matsuri "Dontaku" where we all wore the same "happi" and the Kashii undokai.

I made a lot of new friends through the exchange program as well. They always invited us to hang out with them and they are all very kind. We got a lot of advices from past exchange program students and they helped us a lot too.

We are very grateful to the couple who manages the dorm too. At events like Halloween and Christmas, they prepared delicious dishes for us.

We prepared the Halloween party ourselves, making our own decoration and our own Super Mario themed costumes. A lot of people came, and we had a good time. On Christmas, we celebrated only among the students, having dinner and exchanging presents.

I have never had the opportunity to live for so long with people other than my family, so I feel like I have made new friendships that will last forever. I am very grateful to the exchange program's students because even though I am not always on the mood, they treat me with the same kindness. I'm very happy to be part of this group.

During this program, I could notice several differences between Brazil and Japan. For example, trains and buses arrive and depart at the scheduled time, Japanese people always bow their heads apologetically. With these differences I feel that it is

difficult to live in a different country than the one I grew up, but it is important to respect cultural differences.

In Brazil there are no earthquakes nor typhoons, and I was afraid of the natural disasters that often happen in Japan which we cannot predict, such as the heavy rain that affected Kitakyushuu in July and the earthquake that affected Kumamoto shortly before coming to this program. Members of the Kazokukai were affected by the heavy rain, and we had the chance to help them as volunteers.

Another difference I noticed was the four well-defined seasons in Japan. I was able to see the cherry blossoms the first few days I arrived, autumn leaves and snow on winter. I also noticed that air conditioning and heater are essential during summer and winter because of the high humidity. It was my first time spending spring and autumn here in Japan so I got to see wonderful landscapes.

The people in charge to take us to have new experiences were the "kazokukai". They always listened to us and treated us like family.

We met them through meetings and during home stay, and they showed interest when we talked about ourselves or our countries. I am very grateful for them for taking us to have new experiences every month, like taking bamboo, watching soccer and baseball games, watermelon splitting, appreciating fireflies, mountain climbing, going to fireworks festivals, hiking, visiting industries, making mochi...

It was great to watch the "Softbank Hawks" game audience dropping yellow balloons at the same time to cheer their team. The girls learned to dress the yukata by themselves for the Kurume fireworks festival, and I hope that we will continue remembering how to do that even after going back to our countries. We had the opportunity to go rice cropping and the rice we planted was delicious. We also participated in our country's festival, festival of Brazil, and I felt a strong connection between Brazil and Japan.

Thanks to the people of kazokukai, I got to like and know more about Fukuoka. They took us to various places in Fukuoka such as Kitakyushu and Kurume to attend events there. In Ito, we saw the autumn leaves looking like a red carpet in a temple, we ate oysters and very sweet strawberries.

I was able to participate in this exchange thanks to the "Kokusai Koryu Center" staff as well.

The events of the "Kokusai" were very valuable experiences, starting with a meeting with the vice governor of Fukuoka Mr. Eguchi.

In July we had a program called "Shiteishouhei". During these 10 days program, we met children from various countries and their respective leaders, and we went to many places together.

Taking care of the children with their leaders was a bit exhausting, but it was worth seeing them having fun and at the end they didn't want to leave even though they didn't understand Japanese very well.

We participated on a speech contest and on January we had a presentation where we talked about our countries. On both events I was very nervous, but they were really good experiences.

We also participated in the tea ceremony at Ohori Park. We were dressed in beautiful kimonos and the tea ceremony teacher taught us various Japanese manners, such as how to get into the tea room, how to make and how to drink Japanese green tea.

All my relatives, except my father, live in Japan. Thanks to this exchange program, I had the opportunity to meet my relatives who I have not seen for a long time.

I met my father's side aunt and uncle, who are also my guarantees, and my mother's side grandparents and uncles who live in Chiba. I went fishing with my uncle, cousins and my father, who came back temporarily to Fukuoka. I also had the chance to spend New Year's in Chiba as well. I was also able to participate in this exchange program because of my family's roots.

When I finish this program, I will go back to Brazil and help and participate actively in the Kenjinkai events, never forgetting the feeling of gratitude. I will strive for this program to continue, such as recommending people and giving ideas for improvement.

I am very grateful for the opportunity to participate in this wonderful experience, and to meet a lot of people. This one year in Fukuoka was excellent and I had unforgettable experiences. I would like to cherish every encounter and experience.

**Kyushu University Graduate School of Engineering**  
**Environmental social department**  
**Professor Takahiro Kuba**  
**(Ms. Fukuyama's teacher)**

I accepted the 2017 exchange student Ms. Mai Fukuyama to study in the course of Environmental Engineering and instruct her for 1 year. First of all, I would like to thank the Koryu Center and Ms. Fukuyama for choosing my course as an exchange student.

I would like to report about the instruction briefly below.

I had Ms. Fukuyama to attend graduate and postgraduate courses in Global Environmental and Civil Engineering courses. She attended classes as "Environmental Systems Theory", "Groundwater Environmental System Theory", "Civil Engineering and Society Seminar (First Semester)" in the first semester, and classes as "Water Quality Conversion Engineering", "Water Supply and Water Supply and Water Resource Engineering", "Civil Engineering and Society Seminar (Second Semester)" in the second semester.

Since she had studied a chemistry course at the university in Brazil, I thought she was not familiarized with the classes in the civil course, but after seeing that her graduation research was about biological treatment of industrial wastewaters, I asked her to attend classes in Sanitary engineering like water supply and sewerage and water resource management. After taking these classes, knowledge and skills related to sanitary engineering and water environment engineering have improved.

About the research in our lab, she did the research "Present condition of water environment in Hakata Bay and eutrophication problem" without experimental tasks. This research was based on data and environmental reports from the Fukuoka government, and she summarized the data on the annual change in water quality, Microbial phase, and the attainment of environmental standards of water in addition to the problems caused by eutrophication. It also researched the Hakata Bay sewage treatment network and the effect of introducing advanced treatment on eutrophication.

We held a meeting once a week and had her participation in the meeting and report discussion with the lab students, both Japanese and exchange students. In addition, Ms. Fukuyama gave a presentation about her undergraduate thesis she made in Brazil.

Finally, I will be very grateful if you consider the two proposals. 1. I felt that the Kashii`s dormitory is far away, which can be hard for doing studies and research on Ito campus. How about using the Kashii`s dormitory over the weekend and using the dormitory in Ito Kyushu University or others nearby during the week? 2. Since they are attending classes, I think it would be better for them to have a credit system. That will also motivate students.

Ms. Fukuyama's personality is cheerful, cooperative, and had good communication with other students and foreign students. I felt that she was a highly qualified person, so I guarantee she will succeed in any field. I pray for her to find a job after returning to Brazil.





Brazil Fukuoka Kenjinkai  
Mariana Eri Towata Ota  
Kyushu University Department of Design Strategy

## **Introduction**

My name is Mariana Eri Towata Ota, I'm from Brazil, State of São Paulo, São Paulo city. I'm the oldest of two sisters. I'm the third-generation of Japanese descendent, I'm 25 years old. In Brazil, I undergraduate in Architecture and Urbanism course of Mackenzie Presbyterian University, in December 2015.

My grandfather is from Kaho-gun city of Fukuoka Prefecture, and came to Brazil in 1935 along with his parents and sister. On his trip to Brazil, he celebrated his 1<sup>st</sup> anniversary. Even never coming back to Japan, he used to tell me several stories of his family job and life in Fukuoka. This was one of the reasons that I decide to study in Japan as a descendent of immigrants of Fukuoka prefecture. Another reason was that in Brazil I did an internship in a architecture department of a hospital called "Instituto do Coração". There I could face with the difficulties that the elderly has in their diary life and as Japan's already deal with this questions for a longer time I thought that here would be a good place to study about it.

## **Life in Japan**

In this year of exchange in Fukuoka, I could learn a lot of things, have new experiences, make new friend and have a good time. Before coming, I was a little worried because it would be the first time that I live alone, but the Fukuoka Prefecture International Exchange Center, Fukuoka Prefecture Overseas Emigrant Family Association, professors from different universities and the students warmly received us, all the exchange students and help us in the process of adaptation to our new environment. Also, having dinner every day with the others prefectural exchange students helped in the adaptation process, because we became like a family. In Fukuoka, I lived in a dormitory

called “Jikyogakusya”, the place is really well located, been easy to live. Near to the dormitory there is the Kashii station, convenience stores, supermarket, park, everything that you need.

In my country, there are just two seasons, summer and winter but here, in Fukuoka I could see all seasons. In the spring, I could see the beauty of cherry blossoms and wisteria, in summer I went to fireworks festivals, in autumn I could see the red leaves and in winter I could play in snow.

### **New experiences**

When I just came to Japan, I could see the beauty of cherry blossoms in Ohori Park. And, for the first time I saw a soccer match in the stadium, it was Avispa Fukuoka vs. Machida Zelvia. I also had the opportunity to go to a baseball play. When I went Softbank Hawks won, so there were fireworks at Yahoo Fukuoka Dome.

At the beginning of the exchange, I did a homestay at Mr. Sano’s house, a member of Fukuoka Prefecture Overseas Emigrant Family Association. On the homestay, I was able to know what kind of life the Japanese family has. The Fukuoka Prefecture Overseas Emigrant Family Association members always invited and take the prefectural exchange students to have new experiences in which couldn’t be done in my country. Such as rice planting and harvesting, learn how to wear a yukata, and also wear a kimono and experience the tea ceremony.

One of the best memories that I’ll take is when I dressed a kimono and experience a tea ceremony at Japanese garden of Ohori Park. I could dress a Japanese traditional costume and take a lot of pictures. And from the explanation of the tea ceremony, I learned how important is each detail and how beautiful it is, been a wonderful experience to deepen my understanding of Japanese culture.

In addition, the people of Fukuoka Prefecture Migration Family always organized plans in each season for the exchange students. So, we could have experiences such as bamboo shoot hunting, fireworks festival, oyster cottage, strawberry hunting, go to hot springs and a lot of others experiences, always having a different way to enjoy the activities.

## **Holiday travel in Japan**

In the University summer vacation, I travelled with the others prefecture exchange students. First, we went to Okinawa, then we travel for three weeks to Tokyo, Nagoya, Osaka and Hiroshima. When we were at Tokyo we also climbed the Mount Fuji, and this was one of my dreams. We started to climb the Mount Fuji around 7PM at the 5<sup>th</sup> station and we took nine hours to climb. It was really exhausting but at the top we could see the sunrise, it was spectacular!

In summer, there was a lot of firework festivals, the first one that I've gone was at Ohori Park but at that time I didn't dressed the yukata. At Kurume firework festival, I dressed the yukata and saw the show from the riverside. It was the most beautiful that I saw. The last one that I saw was in Miyajima, when I was travelling there.

My mother came to Japan when the exchange program took around half year. At that time, I travelled on the weekends with her, so I could go to Okinawa, Osaka, Tokyo and Kanazawa. When we went to Kanazawa we stayed at Shirakayago, one of world heritage places. There I could see beautiful red leaves, the color of autumn.

In winter vacation, I participated at Nikko Christmas Party, a party organized by Brazilians exchange students in Japan. On the New Year Eve, for the first time I went to a shrine. It was a very interesting experience, since its completely different from Brazil. On this vacation, I could go to Naoshima and there I had one of the best memories of this exchange year. When I went to Naoshima I could participate in a lecture of a famous Japanese architect called Tadao Ando. Listen to Mr. Ando's lecture was really fascinating and at the end of the lecture I got an autograph of him in my book, I was very pleased!

## **About the study**

In Japan, from April, I attended several classes in Kyushu University in Department of Design Strategy at Ohashi Campus. At the university, my mentor was Dr. Kenichi Tanoue and I attempt to some architecture classes of under graduation and graduation that he recommended. I also participated in the laboratory seminars. Initially, I pretended to research about the elderly's residence, but as I joined the laboratory seminars and talked to my professor I changed my research to compact cities in Japan. Even changing the theme of my research, it was still connected with the elderly once the

elderly population in Japan is increasing and the population in general is reducing, so the cities are becoming compact because of it.

As my research became compact city in Japan, I went to Toyama. This city has a decreasing population, but at the same time the elderly population is increasing. So, Toyama is becoming a compact city and renewing the public transportation system, making it accessible for everyone and as consequently making possible to the elderly keep their independence.

The laboratory seminars were weekly, at that time the students explained their research to the professor and other students, and everyone gave an opinion. It was the first time studying like this, in Brazil the students usually just talk with the professor. So, having this experience in Japan was really good since I learned much more than just my research.

### **Acknowledgment**

On this year of exchange in Fukuoka I could learn a lot, know more about Japanese culture and history, know the place from where my grandfather came. I'm really thankful for Fukuoka Prefecture International Exchange Center, Fukuoka Prefecture Overseas Emigrant Family Association, professors and friends that made possible for me achieve my objectives. Thank you so much!

After returning to Brazil, I pretend to continue participating in the youth group of Fukuoka Kenjinkai and I would like to help with the events of Brazil Fukuoka Kenjinkai such as the Japan Festival, the athletic meeting of the Kyushu Block and the sports festival of the Brazil Fukuoka Kenjinkai. I would like to help the Brazil Fukuoka Kenjinkai as I can.

**Kyushu University**  
**Department of Design Strategy**  
**Professor Kenichi Tanoue**  
**(Ms. Ota's teacher)**

Ms. Mariana Eri Towata Ota attended as a special research student for one year at the Department of Environmental Design, Faculty of Art and Design, Kyushu University.

At the university, she took the undergraduate design exercise project and proposed a meeting place for the temporary residential area of the affected area of Kumamoto earthquake. While disasters on a worldwide scale were assumed, it was considered significant to her to learn about the situation of disaster reconstruction in Japan and the situation of reconstruction.

In the laboratory seminar (construction plan), she worked on research about "sustainable city traffic design". In particular, she was interested in the transportation network in local cities, gathered information about many cases around the world, and gathered case examples in Japan. She had a valuable experience to survey and analyze small and slow new transportation networks in rural areas such as Toyama and Nagasaki, and go to the field and carry out fieldwork.

While on holiday it seems that she visited many Japanese contemporary architecture and traditional architecture. Having repeated knowledge of the building and experiencing the space. This experience will be of great use as a source of work as a planner / designer specialist.

She also participated in laboratory events. From a sincere personality, it seems that she has deepened exchanges with members of the laboratory, such as graduate students and other international students, and I am greatly expected as a future bridge between Japan and Brazil.



**Brazil Fukuoka Kenjinkai**  
**Marcia Yurie Yano**  
**Kyushu University Graduate School of Human**  
**Environment**

## Introduction

My name is Marcia Yurie Yano, I came from Brazil. I am a single daughter, and the fourth generation of Japanese descent. I live in São Paulo City located in the southeastern Brazil. My father's family moved from Kumamoto prefecture, and my mother's side moved from Fukuoka prefecture to São Paulo many years ago. In Brazil I studied architecture and urban design at private university named Mackenzie Presbyterian University and graduated in 2016. And, I came studying abroad in Fukuoka, Japan since April of 2017. This past year here was very precious to me, and I am very grateful to Fukuoka prefecture, prefectural association members, Brazilian prefectural association, Kazokukai association, Kyushu University, Professor Dr. Sakai, Professor Dr. Prasanna, everyone in the laboratory, mimoto hoshonin, relatives and friends. I sincerely thank you from my heart.

## About life

I am very happy to have had the opportunity to live in Fukuoka prefecture in the year program. At first it was a little hard to get used to living in Japan, because I could not read the kanji occasionally, and I had a little difficult to buy basic products because I didn't know well the Japanese brands, after that, I made some wrong train changes, but there were a lot of people to help and taught various things which make my daily routine easier. The next day after I arrived in Fukuoka, I had a full day due to document procedures and meeting the professor in Kyushu University in Hakozaki Campus. But, there was a pleasant welcome party from the dormitory manager, Mr. Goto. After that, I was able to spend a pleasant life even though I was busy at school. I went to university every day in class or in the library. In the evening I had dinner with the others exchange students since the beginner until the end of the exchange program. There were days when everyone could not have dinner together because they were busy in school, but everyone was a kind and we were always together.

On the weekend, there were a lot of opportunities came from Kazokukai association and prefectural association. They invited us to participate in many events and Japanese cultural experience. These traditional Japanese events were very interesting to me, and have the chance to experienced it was unforgettable. Opportunities such as

Fukuoka Habitat 20th anniversary, International square cafe, Kimono dressing, Tea ceremony experience, Strawberry picking, Mountain climbing, Rice planting, Firefly sighting, Homestay, Baseball and football game, Disaster Prevention Center, Fireworks festival, etc. As a Japanese descent what I learned in these events had me enrich my knowledge of the Japanese culture and values, and they commoved me more than I could imagine.

In Japan, the four seasons were very clearly defined. The summer heat and humidity was higher than I expected. The autumn was very pleasant. It was very cold in winter, but I was looking forward to see the snow. The spring was beautiful. I used the bicycle as the mainly way of transportation, and occasionally boarded on train or bus. About my experience of public transportation, I was very impressed about the punctuality and manners of them, and the politeness and helpfulness staff. I also loved the security and charming atmosphere of the town. Even the location of Fukuoka prefecture was very practical to travel inside the country.

Traditional Japanese cultural experiences and holiday trips

I think that I could experience Japanese culture thanks to the Kazokukai association and prefectural association. I was able to feel a lot of Japanese manners, teamwork, volunteer activities, hospitality and hard work. I also participated in volleyball practice games with college friends. Even my tight schedule, at the end, I could enjoy the Botan flowers in Hakozaki-gu. Also, I experienced the Festivals of Fukuoka. Each region, the shrine and the temple of Fukuoka has a sparkle special virtue. Japanese people are polite and hard working. Japan is one of the countries with the least social inequality in the world. In summary, I think that is a wonderful country.

Thanks to the others exchange students at the same program of me, the holiday trips were unforgettable and I could meet some of their friends, relatives, they were all kind people. In our trip we could see the each prefecture specialty dishes and tourism. All the places were wonderful, we could observe the urban plans and the difference of prefectures that the population is increasing or decreasing. Japanese public places were indeed beautifully maintained and the condition was perfect anywhere.

I went to many architecture event recommended from my teacher, and it became a very good experience. Disaster prevention, environment, human environment and psychology were also important issues discussed in these events. The influence of design was one of the topics that I was very impressed. In the holiday trips we could experience the contents of classes and books taught in school. In terms of urban planning, the experience that I had in these holidays trips was enriched. Also, It was very interesting see traditional buildings and new buildings, the use of public space and travel with friends.

About study

My professor requested to choose a theme of research that It had to propose new conclusions that contribute to architecture community. Due to time, and I decided to study the characteristics of national universities campus in Brazil, which resume presentation is scheduled in March of 2018 in the Architectural Society of Japan reunion in Kagoshima Prefecture. Even my research was related to Brazil, I took classes about the Japanese language, urban planning, space psychology, analyses of landscape, disaster prevention class and workshops every class were taught in Japanese. In summer vacation I went on a trip with my laboratory colleges and professors. It was a great experience. We went to see the Kumamoto Prefectural and the city recovery, provisional residences due to Earthquake of 2016. And also, we participated the Summer seminar of the Urban Design Committee of the Kyushu Branch of the Japanese Architectural Association, 2017. Being part of this laboratory It was a wonderful experience, I could talk with Korean, Chinese and Japanese seniors, and listening their stories of each country. I want to visit these countries someday. Everyone in the laboratory is very hard working and polite.

Thank You

I really appreciate the opportunity to studying abroad. Probably, I will not be able to meet my friends and relatives in Japan for a long time. However, I am thankful that I could have meet to each one, which I received a lot of help and had make I lot of good memories. Even the distance, my friends and family in Brazil were also very close to me. I am very happy to had the opportunity to be this year with my friends of same exchange programs, we shared a lot of happy, sad, worried, exhausted, hard-working precious memories. They became my family in Japan, I had a good time studying, traveling, having dinner, walking, go shopping with then. They and seniors who live in same dormitory also taught me a lot to make life in Japan easier. I think that I will miss them very much, whenever I return to my home country, but I will be looking forward to the opportunity to meet again next time. Until then, I would like to do my best.

I have no regrets about the choice I did to spend my life in Japan for a year. Besides, I am grateful that my grandpa emigrated in Brazil and my grandfather and grandmother who taught me Japanese language and introduced the Japanese class and culture. I will continue to cooperate with Japanese Associations when I return to Brazil. Thank you.



Kyushu University Graduate School of Human Environment, Faculty of  
Engineering Department of Architecture  
Professor Dr. Sakai Takeru  
(Ms. Yano's teacher)

Since April of 2017 Mrs. Marcia Yurie Yano started her studies as a research student at the Sakai Laboratory, Human Environmental Studies University, Kyushu University Hakozaki Campus. She attended seminars and classes while studying about her research "The university Campus Plan in Brazil and their characteristics". Mrs. Marcia was proficient in communication not only in English, but also in Japanese, and had various exchanges with graduate students and undergraduate students in seminars.

Also, during the past year she participated in lectures on Japanese, such as building disaster prevention, landscape design, urban design, environmental psychology special theory classes, submitted an outline to the Kyushu branch research presentation held in Kagoshima in March 2018, which is scheduled to present in March of 2018. During the summer vacation, the laboratory members participated in a tour of the situation and reconstruction of the Kumamoto earthquake-affected. We have visited areas in Kumamoto City and Mashiki City, together with students of Sakai and Prasanna laboratory. And also, participated at the Summer City Planning Seminar, was held in Ureshino City, promoted by Architectural Institute of Japan Kyushu Branch. In addition, she participated in the 11th Fukuoka Prefecture Landscape Fair, Asian Landscape Design Association Fukuoka, City Symbiosis Design Seminar, etc. All the events and the classes contribute to amplify her knowledge on urban planning and urban landscape. I believe what she learned in Japan has become meaningful to her future.

Many years ago her ancestry migrated from Japan to a foreign country and then she had the opportunity to visit the country of her family birth town, this exchange program is extremely valuable and important, and the support of the Fukuoka International Exchange Center is also extremely important. It was fine-grained. By all means, I hope that you will inherit this system and provide opportunities for many international Japanese students to come.

I wish for Marcia's increasing success after returning home.



Bolivia Fukuoka Kenjinkai  
Alejandro Yuichi Tokunaga  
Fukuoka Culinary School

### **Self-Introduction:**

Hello everyone. My name is Yuichi Alejandro Yuichi and I am participating in this program from the Bolivia Fukuoka Kenjinkai. There are 6 members of my family including my mother and father, and I am the eldest of four brothers. My father came to Japan on this same program, so I am very happy that I could also come to Japan and fulfill my dream to participate in this program as well.

By coming to Japan this year as a Kempri Ryugakusei student, I have expanded my own dreams and have taken a big step towards my goals. I came to Japan and studied at Fukuoka Culinary School. By the time you read this report, I think I would have graduated. This past year I did my best in order to receive a cooking license.

### **My life in Japan**

I was anxious about coming to Japan but, thanks to all of the other Kempri Ryugakusei students, the Fukuoka International Exchange Center, the Kazokukai members and everyone at school, everyday has been filled with wonderful memories. I'm very thankful for Mr. Okamatsu who accompanied me on the first day of school. At first I was nervous but after meeting my teacher and saw how much he cared for me, I could concentrate on my classes with ease. I have made many friends at school and we have fun everyday. Every month the Kazokukai members took us all to many different places and we were able to participate in a variety of events.

I would be lying if I said we weren't busy, however everyday is very memorable. When I first arrived, it was hard trying to figure everything out, but this one year has made me want to learn even more about Japanese culture, food and traditions.

## School Life

The day after I came to Japan, Mr. Okamatsu took me to my school's entrance ceremony. Since it was an unfamiliar place and I did not know anyone else, I just wanted to blend in to my surroundings.

There are 10 subjects offered at Fukuoka Culinary School including; public health, food science, nutrition, hygiene law, food hygiene, cooking theory, food culture, service management, French and cooking practice. During my classes, there were a lot of difficult kanji's being used so as part of my studies I worked hard to memorize them all. During cooking practice, each group would have 4 people who would rotate to cook the different foods. We would divide the responsibilities amongst ourselves so we could finish 3 dishes within 2 hours.

About one month after school started, we had our first skills test. Although it was only the first test, everyone was very nervous. This was a carrots chateau cutting test. Since the teacher was watching me very closely during the exam, even my hand was trembling, however I was able to pass successfully.

In the beginning of June, we went to first visit tasting party. At this time I wore a tuxedo and got to taste Chinese cuisine at a first class hotel. At the hotel, we received a detailed explanation about Chinese dishes and manners. I learned and gained a lot from this event, and want continue to expand my knowledge of the world.

Last semester, in September I had to take subject written test. In 3 days I had to take tests on all of the 10 subjects, this meant I had to take tests on 3 or more subjects per day. The test covered a wider range of material than I expected, so I studied all night. It was very difficult, but I managed to pass all the subject examinations from last semester.

I would say that during the fall, there was more rain and it got much colder. Since I've always wanted to be able to peel daikon with a knife, I decided take a test. The practice for peeling daikon was harder than I thought, when I was practicing I cut my finger. At first I could not grasp the concept so became a little flustered. However, if I could not do it, I thought I had no choice but to I practice as many times as I needed until I could remember how to do it. Even at the dorm, I practiced over and over. As a result of my hard training, I was able to pass. I also went to the second tasting party. I wore a suit again and this time we got to eat Western cuisine.

In November, a culture festival was held at my school, so I decided to participate in a battle to test my skills. It made me really happy that the Kempri Ryugakusei came to watch me at the culture festival.

Towards the end of 2017 and the beginning of this year, I began to highly consider coming back and living in Japan again. In February I will have my final exams and this time I do not want to pull an all nighter, so I will be studying little by little everyday. Thank you everyone.

Once every month we would go to the International Exchange Center to sign some paperwork in order to receive our scholarship. We would always meet with Hori San who would likely ask questions such as; “How’s school?” “Does everyone get along with each other?” It makes me really happy that they ask about our time here. Thank you so much for always being so kind and allowing us to participate in various events.

Since my teacher at school knew I was an international student, he would always take the time to talk to me about a variety of topics. During self-introductions, I said that I am from Bolivia, and being a foreigner made it seem harder to approach me. However, during classes I began to speak in Japanese like I normally do and as others also learned I could speak Japanese, began to have more and more conversations. Thanks to them the friends I made, I always looked forward to going to school.

I really appreciate all the Kazokukai members for taking care of us. At least once a month, they would take us to different places around Fukuoka where I have made many precious memories. If you ever come to Bolivia, by all means, please come to San Juan.

### **In my Home country**

Through this program, I was able to learn and experience how important people to people relationships are. Since I want to deepen and strengthen the relationship between the Bolivia Fukuoka Kenjinkai and the Fukuoka Kenjinkai’s throughout the world, after I return home I will continue to do my best and work hard in the future.

**Fukuoka Culinary  
School  
Yamamoto Tomoko  
(Mr. Tokunaga's teacher)**

I was worried at first about accepting Tokunaga Alejandro Yuichi because there are no lessons available for international students at our school. However, when I was actually able to talk (have an interview) through Skype, I felt at ease that he could keep up with my pace and then thought school life would be okay for someone who is fluent in Japanese

About School Life

As soon as Yuichi entered school, he was able to make friends and I believe he had a lot fun during and between classes. At the school festival, Yuichi's international friends came to support him in the contest he participated in. I think the friendships he had both in school and outside of school were very good.

About Class Activities

During the practical trainings, Yuichi would practice with all the other students without any problems. (From the practical skills teacher). Since Yuichi has an interest in cooking and also went to cooking school in Bolivia, I think there was a lot to gain from the practical trainings. There was the "Graduation Cooking Exhibition" held in February where Yuichi showcased South American cuisine and received the "Excellence Award."

Unlike the conversation we had, I heard there was a little confusion and difficulty with the classes using technical terms however, during lectures and the subject test, he was able to finish without any problems. Unfortunately during the later part of the semester Yuichi's absences increased a little.

As for the different living environment, (climate, culture, etc) I heard about it from others previously but I think actually living here also has many challenges. Yuichi worked very

hard in this one year. The winter in Kyushu, Fukuoka this year was exceptionally cold, so wasn't the hardest part to wake up in the morning?

One point I have to make about the school side is that I had wished Yuichi could have done a presentation about South American cooking.

I thought it was easier to learn understand about different cultures through the mutual interest of food rather than words.

This one year went by fast for both Yuichi and the school. I am looking forward to to see how Yuichi will use the experience he's gained in this one year in his future life.



**Peru Fukuoka Kenjinkai**  
**Kenny Takeshita**  
**Kyushu Sangyo University**

My name is Kenny Takeshita, I'm a 4<sup>th</sup> Japanese generation descendant, and I come from Peru Fukuoka Kenjinkai. I finished my studies in architecture at the PUCP before I got the opportunity to come to Japan for this program. Besides architecture, I always liked photography. I would always have a camera and start taking pictures as a hobby, so I thought that this year in Japan would be a great opportunity to study more about photography. Architecture and photography are related in a certain way, that's why I applied to the Kyushu Sangyo University to study photography.

Before this program began, I was a little worried about my Japanese and about this whole year. Who was I going to live with, how was going to be my classes and what was I going to do. But since the first day I got here and got together with all the other members of this program, I knew this was going to be a great year. This year we have people from Brazil, Canada, Bolivia, Hawaii, Mexico and Peru, and even though we are all from different countries and didn't know each other before, we got together really well since the first day. Even until now we would always have dinner together, go out together and plan trips together.

The first day of school I met my professor Aramaki. He made me a tour through the campus and introduced me to other professors from the photography area. Since that day, everyone has been really nice with me. If I had any problems or doubts about anything, he would always be there to help me. And if I wouldn't understand a thing, even though he doesn't speak Spanish nor English, he would find a way to explain it to me in a way that I would be able to understand. The other students from my class have been really nice to me as well. At first I was a little embarrassed because I didn't know anyone and sometimes wouldn't understand everything. Although I found out that Japanese students are pretty quiet and won't talk too much, they would always help me and made me feel comfortable during class.

At the beginning I found my classes a little difficult because it was my first time studying photography. But after a few classes, and with the help of my professor and friends, I started learning really fast and found my classes very entertaining. It was my first time taking film pictures and developing them on a dark room. I also experienced taking studio pictures, portrait pictures, and even take pictures to a model, which I found difficult but interesting at the same time. Also we had illumination classes, where they teach us different kind of lighting and Photoshop classes, where we learned how to edit pictures. On seminar, with professor Aramaki, I learned a little more about Photoshop and also had the opportunity to have my own photo exhibition at the university. It was a great experience and a lot of people congratulated me for my good work, which made me feel really good.

During classes we also had a few field trips, where they would take us to different places outside campus to take pictures. They took us to Saga, Dazaifu, Shikanoshima and an illumination exhibition that was really interesting. We also had a couple of sport events at school where we played Softball and Soccer-Baseball. It was really fun because we had some time together with school friends and teachers too, and I even got a prize for being the MVP once. It was a great experience and very entertaining.

Besides the university, we had a lot of activities from the Kooryu Center and the Kazokukai, which made this one year program not only for studying but also to get to know more about the Japanese culture and tradition. We were very lucky this year because as soon as we got to Japan, we had the chance to see the Hanami and all the parks and streets were filled with Sakuras, which were really pretty. I also had the chance to go to the stadium to watch Fukuoka's soccer team, Avispas, and Fukuoka's baseball team, Hawks, matches. It was a lot of fun since I really like both sports and it was my first time watching both games in Japan.

With the kazokukai, we had a lot of activities including picking up bamboo, suikawari, hiking, and rice cropping. They also took us to see some fireflies, and to a steel and a beer factory, which was very interesting to watch. We went also to the Toto Museum. It was very interesting for me, as a person who works as an architect and interior designer, to see all the different models and designs at the museum. We also had Homestay at a kazokukai's place for a night. It was a really good experience because I got to know how it is to live in Japan and learn about their habits. It was only for one



night but it was really nice to talk with them, have dinner together, and even sleep in tatami.

One of the more memorable things we have made was the tea ceremony, where we had to wear kimonos and learn about the tea ceremony. Being on my knees was very hard because it starts to hurt after a while, but it was very interesting to watch and learn. My grandmother used to be a tea ceremony teacher, so I was really excited to learn about it. We also made some volunteer work in Asakura, a place that was hit by a taifu on July. It was really hard to see all the destruction it left, but felt really good to help the ones in need. I saw how much dedication Japanese people put on their work and how they all help each other.

At the end of last year, as a Japanese tradition, they took us to make mochi in the traditional way. Even though I did this already years ago, I was very excited to do it again because we don't usually do this in Peru. We also had a lot of opportunities when people from kazokukai or kooryu center invited us to have dinner or some barbeque together. It was really nice to share some time together, because we get to know more about each other. It is very interesting because they as well get to know more about our own countries, culture and what we think about Japan. In that way I think it is a very good thing to have this time together so both parts would get to know more about each other and share our own experiences.

I am very grateful to the program and to the kazokukai because I had the chance to make a lot of activities and visit a lot of places. We had a lot of time to share and they also took us to a lot of beautiful places I have never been, so now I have an even bigger image of Fukuoka, which I find really interesting.

With the other members from this program, we got along very well since the program started. As soon as we got to Japan we celebrated my birthday. It was a lot of fun because we had dinner together and then went to karaoke together. I even got a birthday cake and a card from everyone. Since then, we always will celebrate each other's birthdays with a card and a cake. On our free time we would always try to spend time together like going to the movies or even just for a walk around Hakata or Tenjin. We also had a Halloween party, where we all disguised as Mario Bros characters. It was a lot of fun making our own costumes and decoration for the Halloween party. We also had a

Christmas Party, where we had the traditional KFC dinner and made a Secret Santa present exchange between us.

Even on vacations we planned our trips together. On summer vacation we went to Okinawa and then we had a trip through Tokyo, Yokohama, Nagoya, Osaka, Nara, Kyoto, Hiroshima and Miyajima. We even had the chance to climb Mount Fuji up to the top. It was very tired but worth it because we had a spectacular view from the top. I have been to Tokyo before, but is the first time I go to other cities and I was amazed about all of this places, their landscape, architecture, people and their food.

During my time in Japan I also had the chance to meet some of my relatives who live here. It's the first time I meet them and I feel very glad I had this opportunity. I met some relatives from Amagi, Miyazaki and Himeji. I had the chance to ride the Shinkansen again and go to Himeji Castle and Kobe together. It was a great experience to travel and spend some time with them. Now that I got to know them, I know we will keep in touch and will make sure this connection never breaks.

This program is now coming to an end, so first of all I would like to thank everyone for giving me this great opportunity. I've had a lot of fun and got to know more about Japanese culture, tradition and about my roots. I remember when I was a kid, my grandfather and my grandmother would always tell me great stories about Japan, so I really wanted to visit it sometime. Now they are not here with me but I still remember everything they told me about it and I am very grateful that I had the opportunity to come see it and experience living in Japan for a year.

During this year, I have had a lot of new memorable experiences which I am really grateful for and got to know a lot of new places and new people. I have enriched my life not only by studying photography and knowing more about Japan, but also by making a lot of new friends and new relationships.

Now that I go back to Peru, I would like to put in practice everything I have learned during this year and try to spread knowledge about Fukuoka and about Japan. Support Peru Fukuoka Kenjinkai with their activities and let younger people know more about their roots and get them interested in visiting the country of their ancestors. Make sure this connection between Fukuoka and Peru Fukuoka Kenjinkai will keep going for future generations to experience and enrich their lives and knowledge like I did.

**Kyushu Sangyo University**  
**Faculty of Art and Design**  
**Assistant professor Daiki Aramaki**  
**(Mr. Takeshita's teacher)**

Kenny Takeshita has studied as an exchange student for one year to acquire architectural and landscape photography techniques.

Since he already knew the basic knowledge in camera operation and photography, I provided guidance so he can completely learn the basics of photography. In the first half, we have also had classes about portrait photography and lighting skills, as they are very important skills for photography.

Outside from school, he is taking pictures during his various events and trips. He was always positive, asking for opinions about his own photographs. I observed a lot of improvement in his photo shootings. Whenever he took pictures, he will take a lot, review them and correct them until getting the desired final result. Every time I gave him some advice, he would always apply it on his pictures and asked me to evaluate the results, so he was very hardworking.

We had an exhibition as a summary of the first half. We looked for the size and the arrangement of the pictures to be displayed, and then exhibited the pictures including some panoramas. This exhibition was a work with a lot of detail, taking in consideration the shape and color of the pictures, and putting everything together with the layout, it was a very good exhibition.

In the second half, we aimed at working on image editing in addition to acquiring shooting skills. Architectural photography, including a method of correctly drawing a vertical line of a building, a photography and processing method in cases where there is a big difference in light intensity between indoor and outdoor, panoramic photography using a large amount of image data, developing and processing images from RAW data on landscape photography, learning various techniques such as partial correction using layers and mask, Star Trail technique using layers and techniques I used in my own work production as well as other photography and processing techniques.

There was an exhibition held on January as a summary of the year. The exhibition called “Japan: A journey through my roots” was about the places he visited during this time. The scenery of Japan captured by Kenny's point of view reflects that he spent a very fulfilling year. Every work was finished neatly and it was a very good exhibition.

Although it was only a one year stay, he enthusiastically did research activities and acquired knowledge and skills. His photography practice and production was very positive and it is like an example to other students. I am very excited about his success after returning home.



**Mexico Fukuoka Kenjinkai**  
**Juan Carlos Tanikawa Flores**  
**Kyushu Sangyo University**

There's a month and a half left for this long trip to be over. Ten months have passed in the blink of an eye. Because of all the joys and hardships experienced, this year has been really formative for me.

When I arrived to Fukuoka and while spending my time as an exchange student, I had a lot of worries. Language barrier, culture shock and my general inexperience were some of them.

In the beginning my subject of research was that of honorific Japanese. But because of my background in literary creation, what I really wanted to study was horror stories. To be able to take full advantage of Sunaga sensei's knowledge, with the help of Hori san I consulted him, and was fortunate enough to be able to change my project, on the condition of taking a folklore studies approach to it.

In the Department of International Studies of Kyushu Sangyo University, some of the subjects that I took were Religion, Folklore and Literature. Even though they were introductory courses, the vocabulary used in class was quite difficult to me. The way of teaching in Japan is quite different to the one in Mexico as well. Professors respect the timetable, and the interaction between teacher and student is minimal.

In spite of that, students in Sunaga sensei's classes participate quite often. In the seminar one of its rules in particular is to participate to be able to take attendance.

Talking about the seminar, we had to make two presentations about two chapters of the book that we were using in that class. The chapters that I chose were about the Nikkei Society and School Ghost Stories. Unfortunately, I wasn't able to finish my presentation for the first subject, so I had a panic attack. Since I was little I've suffered from depression, so from the result of it manifesting I stopped attending school for three weeks and bunkered myself in my room. After my professor talked with the Kokusai Kouryu Center and they found out about my situation, I consulted them and attended class again to present about the second subject.

While on my trip to Tokyo on summer vacation I saw an exposition about Tsukioka Yoshitoshi in the Oota Memorial Ukiyoe Museum. I was interested in particular in the compilation of youkai portrayed in the 36 ghosts and Wakan Hyakumonogatari. Not only Tsukioka, but since old people have portrayed in art the character of the yuurei, in specific the onryou, which it's representation is almost always a woman that was wronged. As a Nikkei I can relate with this. In Mexico gender inequality is a reality as well. Regarding onryou, I want to show the perception of women in Japanese society.

I wanted to develop this subject alongside my investigation, so I intended to present it as my final report for the seminar. But I underestimated the complexity of the subject. Although I thought I had delimited it properly, it still proved to be too ambitious of a subject. Not only was it in the territory of folkloristic studies, but also was related to gender role studies and history, making the information reunited insufficient. Without being able to achieve a satisfactory conclusion I fell in a similar situation to last semester. Judging it as the serious situation that it is, I consulted the Kokusai Kouryu Center about going to the psychiatrist. I started taking pills to alleviate the effects of depression, as well as receiving counseling from the psychiatrist. My situation improved.

I was given the option to go back to Mexico before the other exchange students, but for me to be able to feel satisfied with myself, I'm presenting my research with the help of Sunaga sensei. It's not going to fix all my mistakes, but I decided to continue to do my research until the end.

The reason is that one of the most important things that I've learned is communication.

When I secluded myself, I didn't talk to anyone, me being in a situation of inadequacy. But thanks to everyone's kindness (and strictness) I was able to get out of that shell. If I didn't do it I wouldn't be able to convey my feelings. And as a writer, If I'm not able to convey them properly, I'm not able to achieve anything.

Not everything is bad, though. By myself and also with the other exchange students I was able to participate in a lot of experiences. Learned a lot of things. Accomplished a lot of things. Every day while having conversations in Japanese we cooked dinners of Japanese and our mother countries' cuisines. With this incredible cultural exchange and friendship, I was able to take the N2 test and pass it.

Cheering each other, we participated in a lot of presentations and workshops. We were able to show the charm of our countries and Kenjinkai. We were able to climb to the top of mount Fuji. We were able to participate in a tea ceremony. We were able to plant rice.

We helped in the short-term visit program. We volunteered when the flood in Asakura occurred. I was able to finally meet my family in Yame.

I participated in a speech contest and talked about the Mexico earthquake and the Japanese disaster prevention culture. In Kyushu Sangyo University I was able to participate as a guest speaker in English. Presenting about Mexican culture, I was able to evaluate my classmates' English skills as well.

As is the desire of every participant in this program, I want to be able to give back to the community that gave me this opportunity. Before coming to Japan, my duty within the Fukuoka Kenjinkai of Mexico was one of a member of the committee, albeit in a minor role. Every month I made Powerpoint presentations about Japanese and Nikkei culture. I also volunteered bringing support in the different events and festivals in the Kenjinkai. But I want to be more active when I get back to Mexico. Influencing the next generation, I want to participate in teaching Japanese and publishing on the monthly issue of the Kenjinkai to become a trustworthy asset and take a more active role.

For my professors, members of the Kokusai Kouryu Center, Kazokukai, Guarantors and fellow exchange students: you have sincerest gratitude for letting me participate in this program. Thank you. I count on you from now on as well.

**Kyushu Sangyo University**  
**Faculty of International Studies of Culture**  
**Associate Professor Takashi Sunaga**  
**(Mr. Tanikawa's teacher)**

The research subject of guidance at this university was "About urban legends in Japan". Regarding legends and urban legends in Japanese society, the research was conducted mainly by the method of folklore studies.

As for the study contents at the university, first he attended lectures related to the subject, such as folklore studies, cultural anthropology, etc., to acquire the basic knowledge to conduct his research, and lectures related to literature to learn about expression in the Japanese language as well. Also, in Seminar II, a class with few students, based from the knowledge gained from the texts read, he made an oral presentation. The content exposed on the presentation was about "School ghost stories", the relationship between them and urban legends, the classification method of folk tales, and legends as non-historical history.

As a synthesis of his studies he also wrote a research report. The content concerned "vengeful ghosts and female folklore", analyzed the examples and traits of Japanese female vengeful ghosts (such as Hannya and Oiwa) and Mexican female ghosts (La Llorona) and made a comparative study in between both of them. In particular, the case of "La Llorona (crying girl)" in Mexico had many points in common with the belief of the Ubume and Kishimojin in Japan, as there were also many things for me to learn as well.

In addition to this, he also participated as a guest speaker in the class English Communication Course at the Department of International Culture and actively engaged in communicating in English with Japanese students, took the Japanese Language Proficiency Test, etc. He also travelled to various places in Fukuoka Prefecture and Japan, actively learning about the rich Japanese culture and folk culture in rural areas.

As mentioned earlier, Mr. Tanikawa continued to embrace his interest in Japanese society and folklore. Also, in order to gain knowledge outside of books about his research subject, he worked by making on-the-spot-investigations. It seems that this study abroad in Japan became an irreplaceable experience Japanese for Mr. Tanikawa. After returning home, he will enroll in university in his home country and plans to conduct a comparative study on ghost stories between Japan and Mexico.





**Toronto Fukuoka Kenjinkai**  
**Sachi Godo**  
**Kyushu University Economics Department**

#### To start

I was born and raised as a second generation Japanese Canadian in Toronto. Since my father was of Fukuoka descent, although I wasn't sure what I was attending as a child, I had participated in many Fukuoka Kenjinkai picnics, bingo competitions, and Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre (JCCC) events throughout my life. Once I entered high school, I started volunteering at the JCCC, and slowly began to realize which Japanese Canadian organizations existed in Toronto. As I approached graduation at my university, I was very interested in an 1 year exchange in Japan and decided to pursue my journey as a Fukuoka funded exchange student at Kyushu University.

#### Living in Fukuoka

Thanks to my fellow Fukuoka funded exchange students (Kenpi), I was able to easily adapt to the Fukuoka environment. Although there were plenty of situations where I was stressed with culture shock, being with the kenpi was a huge reliever.

Since Fukuoka is very humid, there was a lot of moisture in the air during the summer and it was very chilly in the winter. Since Canada in comparison, is very dry, I felt my hair and skin quality was doing much better in Fukuoka. There's so much delicious and affordable variety of Japanese food in Fukuoka, I would definitely be missing it when I'm back in Canada.

This past year, there was almost not a day where I felt dissociated from traditional Japanese culture. Weekends were filled with experiences such as tea ceremonies, flower arrangement, Japanese harp trials, Kimono application, Japanese cherry blossom observations, wisteria observations, baseball and soccer games, Japanese festivals, firefly observations, fireworks, hot springs, beaches, Mount fuji climbing, Japanese Maple observations, temple tours, factory observations, rice cake pounding, oyster huts, strawberry picking, and an endless number of museum visits. There were also many events held through the International Exchange Centre including but not

limited to courtesy visits to government officials, a speech contest, interaction with descendants of immigrants from Fukuoka, and our country presentations.

### Studying abroad

This past year, I was able to learn in a variety of settings through the Kyushu University economics department. By the time I end my exchange, I believe I would be able to achieve all my goals that I have set at the beginning of this term. I was able to learn Japanese history, Japanese economic history, and management from a Japanese perspective. I was also able to further my knowledge about environment economics and ethics through attending lectures and writing reports. Learning economic history in Japanese was significantly more difficult than I had expected. With barely any knowledge of extensive Japanese history prior exchange, there are still plenty of aspects that I need help with, however, I am very glad that my starting point in learning this topic was through guidance of my professors and talented classmates. In my management class, every week we analyzed data to executed strategies and tactics in a group setting, using a business simulation software. Since this field was similar to what I was learning back in Toronto, the content was easier, however, I did find it challenging to be the only non-native Japanese student in the class. Since at times, there were some cultural and language mismatch within the group, it was a great cultural learning experience. In my “Environmental Economics and Game Theory” class, I conducted a presentation on “Transnational Cooperation Dilemmas” with a colleague to achieve a better understanding of difficulties in cross-border cooperation and economic development. Unfortunately, in terms of learning Japanese, I was unable to find a class suitable for myself, however, I was able to develop a good relationship with the professor who taught the highest level that semester and was able to receive a list of Kanji practice words and advice on Japanese essay writing.

There were also plenty of opportunities to learn outside the classroom at Kyushu University. The overnight seminar and bootcamp I participated in were extensions of school and extremely exhausting. In the bootcamp, we were responsible for creating a business plan and a presentation using VR and AR technology. In the two night three day overnight seminar, we were responsible for gathering data from our destination, creating a business plan, and presenting our plan. I used to always be concerned about efficiency when it came to group work, however, through these experiences and

spending a lot of time with students from Japan, I was able to understand the benefits of less self-assertion and taking our time in many tasks.

I felt the Kyushu University school festival was one of the most memorable learning experiences that I have had while I was here. I had the opportunity to get involved in a MBA student booth competition that was held for several months, which required each team to submit a variety of documents just as a regular start-up company. I am extremely thankful of the Kazokukai members, family, and friends that came to support our booth for our final sales day at the school festival. In the end, due to my excellent group and teamwork, we were able to win the competition. I am very glad that I had the opportunity to learn and work with the Japanese working population through this competition.

#### Thanks and future plans

Living in Japan for a year through this program allowed me to indulge in a countless number of valuable learning opportunities. Not limited just to school however, through interacting with many people, travelling, and participating in events, I was able to discover my Japanese roots and expand my horizons. Through participating in events, overcoming problems, and living with seven other students from Brazil, Bolivia, Peru, Mexico, and Hawaii, I was also able to develop an irreplaceable lifelong bond. I am extremely thankful of the Fukuoka prefecture, my relatives, professors, International Exchange Centre, Kazokukai members, and the members of the Toronto Fukuoka Kenjinkai for this excellent opportunity. I can also not express how thankful I am for the love and support I received from my family while I was here.

After I return, I would like to take advantage of my one year exchange by working hard to respond to as many questions there are about the Fukuoka Kenjinkai and the one year exchange program. As I also mentioned in my application documents, since I am the first exchange student from Toronto, I have made a simple blog organizing my facebook posts and pictures in order for others to gain a better understanding of this program. Although the Fukuoka Japanese Canadian population is very small in Toronto, I would like to support the Toronto Fukuoka Kenjinkai by responding to questions and spreading the knowledge I gained spending this past year in Fukuoka.

Blog: <https://torontofukuokakenpi.wordpress.com/>

**Kyushu University**  
**Faculty of Economics**  
**Associate Professor Mitsuru Kitazawa**  
**(Ms. Godo's teacher)**

Firstly, I had Godo-san participate in my “Economics and Management Exercises.” Since I am a Japanese Economics faculty member, the focus in these exercises was to learn modern Japanese economic history. In order to promote further understanding, she attended classes such as, “Japanese Economic History,” “Western Economic History,” “Economic History I,” and an open course held by her supervisor at the Graduate School of Economics named “Industrial Company Open History I.” Although she was diligently attending all these classes, it seemed to be difficult, since this was not entirely her desired field of study.

Thus, after consulting with Godo-san, we decided not to be too concerned with only my specialty. We changed her objective to taking a variety of courses that seek her interest not limited to the undergraduate programs. She took courses such as the “Technology Marketing Game” held by the QREC program in the first semester, and “Environmental Economics 2” held by the Graduate School of Economics G30 program in the second semester. As a result, this seemed to have a positive effect on her learning.

Furthermore, Godo-san actively expanded her learning outside of her regular classes. She participated in the “HP Business Camp” related to the QREC program, where under the guidance of the firm’s marketing department, she created and presented a business plan using VR and AR technology. In addition, she was actively involved in QSHOP, a QBS (MBA program in Kyushu University) school festival event and won the competition. This event seemed to be a particularly good learning experience since she often interacted with the Japanese working population.

As stated above, Godo-san was very active in her learning and she should be highly evaluated, however, I would also like to point out, there were some challenges with the university’s setup. Her Japanese language ability is extremely high, however, there was no Japanese language class suitable for her ability offered last semester,

disallowing her from learning Japanese. I am glad I have accepted her through this program. I hope for her success after she returns to her country.



**Hawaii Island Fukuoka Kenjinkai  
Kellie Kaori Iwasaki  
Kyushu University Graduate School of  
Integrated Sciences for Global Society**

**Self-Introduction**

I am a 5th generation of Japanese descent born and raised on the island of Hawaii in a town called Hilo. Before attending university, I lived with my parents and younger brother. I graduated from Hawaii University of Manoa in the spring of 2017 with an undergraduate degree in Public Health and two minors in American and Asian studies. 2 weeks after graduation, I came to Japan to participate in the Kempri Ryugakusei Program. No one from Hawaii has come on this program before so I was not quite sure of what to expect, but it has always been a goal of mine to live in Japan as an exchange student and learn Japanese.

I can only imagine what my great great grandfather went through to establish a life in Hawaii. I appreciate all those who have come before me much more than I did before. Not in the same way, but similar to my great great grandfather, I've struggled, I've overcome many obstacles, laughed, cried, thought about my own roots, goals, the relationship between Japan and the world and am so thankful that I had this opportunity to participate as a Kempri Ryugakusei.

**Studies**

My classes were at Ito Campus, so to get to school, I would bike and take a shuttle bus from the Hakozaki Campus. The commute would take 3 hours a day, but biking and seeing the parks, people walking their dogs and sometimes getting to see the kindergarden buses always made my day enjoyable.

At first my goal was to find my roots here in Fukuoka, but due to the language barriers it was a task I could not see accomplishing within my year. When I began to think about my research topic, I first wanted to discover my roots in Fukuoka. However, because of my inability to read Japanese, my professor suggested I look for another topic. As I thought about what I would like to bring back to Hawaii from my time here, the

Kempi group became an interest of mine. This Kempfi program presents a unique opportunity where nikkei from around the world of different generations live together in the same dormitory for 1 year. I went back to my professor and told him how I want my research topic to be about the Kempfi. He suggested I log down my own experiences, thoughts and comparisons of between the Kempfi in our everyday activities. We have been meeting once a week to go over new observations and different perspectives I could be writing from. For example, the Kempfi were talking about cultural differences between Japan, Latin America, Central America, North America and the Pacific and so I have been questioning and writing about why or how our locational differences have play a role in how we act or react to certain situations.

I took some sociology classes here titled “Japan and Globalization,” and “Aging in Japan,” “Sociology of Japanese Social Life Today,” and “Ethnicity, Minority, and Diversity in Japan,” which has also helped me understand more about life in Japan and further my research. My goal is to one day be able to publish a book, including my experiences here as a basis. I want to one day contribute to the Japanese American Literature genre to share the difficulties of the language barrier and being distant from my Japanese culture, and the joys that have come from learning and sharing with others a nikkei identity.

Another goal I had before coming to Japan, was to learn the basics of Japanese and to be able to understand, read, write and have simple conversations. I remember before applying for this program, I did the JLPT N5 practice questions and and could not answer any of them correctly. The first day I arrived, I could not even answer simple questions about Hawaii, and I had to put everything into google translate.

Thanks to everyone who has helped me study Japanese, I was able to pass the N4 JLPT, more than I expected. Of course there are still many things I do not know and i am just a beginner, and I hope to continue studying Japanese when I return home.

### **Kempi Life**

What helped me adjust to life here in Japan and some of my most enjoyable moments was simply spending time at the dorm with everyone. Studying, watching movies, playing games and cooking dinner together. I became fascinated with how our time spent together really felt like an extended family. We cooked together almost every night and everyone had a way of contributing, be it shopping, cooking or cleaning. I

believe that is what helped us become so close and it will be something I will miss when I return home.

We also were able to travel throughout this year. For me it was not about where we went or what we did, but more about how we traveled together as a group. All of us had responsibilities, booking flights, finding accommodation, figuring out where and how to get to places, it all gave me the sense that I wanted to do my best for the group, and that I could fully trust them with anything. I think my favorite activity we did, was climbing Mount Fuji in the summer. It took us 9 hours, but we made it to the top by sunrise and I collected as many stamps as I could along the way. After hiking all night, the bowl of ramen we had at the top was a meal I will never forget.

Although I would see in the world news about our respective countries, I would glance it over and not give much thought about it. However, now when I when I see anything related to our respective countries (Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Mexico or Peru), I stop to think about the implications it may have on the country, international relations and my friends.

The Kazokukai has played a huge role in my time here. I'm so thankful for the ways they planned activities for us with things I would have never been able to do without them. I loved being able to participate in planting and harvesting the rice, see Japanese Fireworks in Kurume, go on hikes, participate in Fukuoka festivities and eat lots of good food like oysters and strawberries!

### **Acknowledgements**

If there are any other students who are planning on participating in this program from Hawaii, I will do my best to mentor them. My family is part of the Hawaii Shima Fukuoka Kenjinkai, and for the past several years I have been away for university. When I return I would like to help with events such as fundraisers and help with exchange programs that we participate in.

For my future goals, I would like to continue my studies and enter grad school next year. My time here in Japan has influenced in considering to pursue a degree in sociology. For my career I want get involved in local politics, particularly with policy making and revisions for my community in education and health care.



From this experience, I still want to pursue international relations and I think my time in Japan has given me a greater appreciation for my heritage, identity as a nikkei in Hawaii and other parts of the world like Canada, Bolivia, Brazil, Mexico and Peru. I would like to continue to learn and study Japanese and will be looking into courses back home, although it will not be able to replace the daily conversations and interactions, I will continue try my best. Thank you to the Fukuoka Kenjinkai, Kazokukai, the Hawaii Shima Fukuoka Kenjinkai, the Kempri and all those who have helped and supported me throughout the year.

**Kyushu University**  
**Graduate School of Integrated Sciences for Global Society**  
**Associate Professor Aizawa Nobuhiro**  
**(Ms. Iwasaki's teacher)**

I am Professor Aizawa of Kyushu University, and I have been conducting research guidance over Kellie Iwasaki during her stay here in Fukuoka. During her length of stay, we met and discussed her progress and situation at the university frequently. It seems that she has gained new knowledge from the other international exchange students and her time here in Fukuoka. It is my hope that she will continue to work hard and use the new experiences she's cultivated in Fukuoka in the future.