

## My experience in Japan

During my short term Exchange in Japan, I had the chance to get to know nice places in three different cities from Japan: Yamagata, Yonezawa and Tsuruoka. Besides the campus tours and interesting lectures where we got to know more about Japanese disaster management, literature, culture and technology; we also had the chance to get to know students, teachers and other citizens in these beautiful cities.



Tsuruoka, the smallest of the cities we visited, surprised me by the kindness of its inhabitants; there we had the chance to stay in a traditional Japanese house with tatami floors and shoji or paper walls and enjoyed typical food from the area. Even after we moved to a hotel, the people from the city always tried to help us during our stay so we could enjoy it to the most.

In Yonezawa, the second campus we visited, I really enjoyed the open campus, where we had the chance to visit several university buildings and get to know a little more about the research they are working on.

Their research on new organic, ecological and green technology is transcending through the industry and will be key for houses in the future, electrical cars and trains.

Yamagata, the capital city of the Yamagata prefecture is home to the Kojirakawa campus, where I learned about Japanese traditional Hanagasa festival and the pre ancient history in the university museum. Since it was the first city we visited, we also learned there about the big second hand market in Japan, which surprised us because of how well Japanese take care of their goods and how companies care about disinfection and packaging to get the products ready.

The most impressive opportunities we had were the visits to well-known Japanese companies. Since I study industrial engineering, I had had lectures in my country about the kaizen methodology and lean manufacturing techniques but when we visited these factories I really saw every concept into action and it gave me various ideas for my thesis topic. The Japanese products are a symbol for efficiency and quality and it is all due to the hard work and good engineering methods applied.



A big lesson I take home is the Japanese way of thinking. Since we are little kids we are told how we should put effort into everything we do because the world is so competitive and we study to be the best in what we want to do. In Japan it is important to study and work hard not only to be the best, but also for the Japanese society, because if you are good at something and you put a lot of effort into it, then you are doing a good job and making your company grow, that way you make your country bigger as well.



Something else I learned was the importance of transportation and how it brings development to places. In my country there are several remote areas where you need to access walking or in a horse or donkey, in these places there usually is no hospitals or schools. In case of natural disasters people who live there cannot communicate and it's also hard to get help to them because of the lack of roads and safe bring help and food.

We also learned about the three-way collaboration between universities, industry and the government; which makes the country stronger. The way universities do research with the help of the private sector and the government helps develop new technologies is seen only in a few countries and I believe it could really help develop research in my country. In Japan, we got to see how even the smallest and furthest town was accessible by car and after the big earthquake that hit Japan it was a priority to clear the roads in order to make it easier to take food and help. Peru could learn so much about disaster management from Japan because we live in an seismic zone too and there is always the risk of having a big earthquake, we learnt that we could do technology transfer and get messages in our phones some seconds before the earthquake starts, this could help save many lives.

As for my future plants I would like to learn more japanese and take the tests so I can study in Japan for a longer period, I would like to get to know more about the culture and interiorize the best practices, this experience changed the way I see the world and the cultures that are so different from mine, it certainly opened my mind to new perspectives. I am also going to share my experience and help other people who want to apply for the DTP scholarship or any other exchange program to Japan.

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