

Report of the DTP short-term program in Japan (2017)

This is a report of my experiences in Yamagata University during the short stay program of August of 2017. First, I will explain what I learned of the three cities we visited in Yamagata prefecture. Then, I will introduce the most important study in Japan. Moreover, I will present my growth as a person. Finally, I will address my plans.

Firstly, we visited the city of Kojirakawa. The campus of this city is notable for teaching social sciences. It holds a vast territory and the infrastructure looks traditional yet modern. People in this city, and everybody we met in Japan, were nice and respectful. Yet, the students we met in Kojirakawa were particularly friendly. We received lectures on literature, economics and regional development. Furthermore, it was the first time we tasted actual Japanese food. Moreover, in this city we visited the Bushokan, Yamagata's prefectural museum and the industrial museum. It must be pointed out how fun and interesting was the industrial museum. The most interesting topics of science and engineering were addressed in the most fun and applied way to the public of the museum. This is notable due to its ability to reach to the children, for they are the new generation. A new generation of engineers and scientists is what the world needs to take on the tasks of humanity. On another subject, I will always remember that night in which we all went to watch fireworks on the riverside. It was a remarkable experience.

Afterwards, we moved to Yonezawa city. Due to my career, I was optimistic on this section of the program. I must say, I was not disappointed. First, I was surprised that the initial trip was to the elder houses. This experience was like none other. I believe we acquire consciousness on the elder population issue. We saw how elders that cannot take care of themselves live in houses where they are taken care of. We witness sad stories, as they could feel lonely in their last years. Nevertheless, we saw hope. Hope in the elder care system, that makes all of this possible. On the other hand, Yonezawa campus is focused on engineering. We received lectures on organic materials and Japan's response to natural disasters. I was particularly grateful to meet Ayabe sensei, a remarkable person. His effort during the earthquake in 2011 was extraordinary. Moreover, Yonezawa's focus on innovation left me speechless. I was particularly impressed that laboratories are professor property and they can give permission by themselves. This way, students can start and continue their research at any time the professor considers appropriate, without the need of asking the faculty for permission. I was also delighted that research material like thesis and papers are available for any student. Finally, it is remarkable that there exists a day like "Open Campus" in which anyone can enter the campus and the laboratories. This way to introduce children to engineer is impressive. About the city, the visit to NEC headquarters was by far the most interesting, in engineering aspects.

At last, we arrived Tsuruoka city. In this campus, there is a focus in agriculture and we received lectures on horticulture and microbial risk assessment. The subjects of technology and environment efforts was addressed. The most memorable visit was the stay in the farmer's house. We truly felt the Japanese lifestyle, at least in the countryside. That night, on the tatami, with the sake and the stories, was unforgettable. Then we visited the water treatment plant and the garbage incinerator, we even had a lecture on trash separation. Undoubtedly, the technology involved in the process was state of the art. Furthermore, we all returned to our countries with new approaches on how to take care of the environment by residue processing with high-end technology.

In my opinion, the most important study in Japan was the lectures on Yonezawa campus. On open campus day, we were introduced to Bioluminescence and organic materials. The research on 3D printing and organic materials was breathtaking. The most notable part was witnessing food 3D printing and the formation of a human-like finger with polymers. It was an outstanding experience that opened my mind to new fields and made me eager to do research con those exciting and innovative topics.

I believe that, as a human being, I met myself in this trip. I met so many people, all of them nice and kind to all of us. I witness a new world, completely different to the one I have known for all my life. I feel so eager to do research and introduce all this new ideas into my works. About my future plans, I really want to return to Japan, for a master degree. I would like to return to those laboratories and work for such brilliant and amazing academics. I will continue with my Japanese studies looking forward to return someday.



I've never seen a place so green as the countryside of Japan.



In Yonezawa we made many friends



In yonezawa, shindo temple.