

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

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1. The characteristics of three cities, Yamagata, Yonezawa, Tsuruoka that I learned via DTP

Upon our arrival in Japan, I began to notice the safety in this country, the technological development that is manifested in objects of daily use and the respect that people have with each other. When arriving at Yamagata prefecture, this did not change at all, although this country also presents the problem of centralization, this is not manifested in the services provided to the Japanese society. I could appreciate the great technological development both in the capital and in the rural areas.

Moreover, the prefecture of Yamagata (the three cities visited: Yamagata, Yonezawa and Tsuruoka) surprised me by the large amount of green areas it possesses, the cleanliness and order of its streets, the respect and responsibility that people have for the care of the environment, the efficiency of the transportation system, the fulfillment of their rules and their continuous effort in order to achieve a sustainable development with the resources they possess, manifested in activities such as: the research on organic electronics and its implementation, the use of renewable energy through the installation of solar panels, promote the use of bicycles, among others actions.

Another aspect that caught my attention was about the nutritional care of Japanese people, I was able to learn about this in such an interesting way, and now I am more conscious about its importance.

Furthermore, another characteristic of Yamagata is the kindness of people. Although the language was a great limitation, people were very friendly and tried to help us in many cases. The students and professors welcomed us very warmly and accompanied us to spend fun and pleasant moments in their respective cities, showing us a part of their cultures and also, listening with great interest to ours.

In the city of Yamagata, I was able to observe the atmosphere prior to the Hanagasa Matsuri, the preparation of the people for the festival, through the practice of their traditional dance and the decoration of the streets of the city.

The city of Yonezawa surprised me by the great technological and industrial development that it possesses, the research carried out around the development of organic electricity, technologies that are rational with the environment and help society. In spite of the industrialization present in this city, it continues having green areas and there is no overexploitation of resources. Within the factories, recycling is also promoted as a way to reduce costs and there is a concern for the welfare of workers, for their safety and ergonomics. A new concept I learned was that of "Kaizen" (改善), which is precisely related to this well-being and continuous development.

In the city of Tsuruoka, I felt that I lived a very great cultural experience, since we could know the lifestyle in a traditional house of the city. The people were very welcoming and friendly. Also, it was very impressive the development of agriculture and horticulture in this city, as well as the care of its resources, such as water. The technology that is manifested in the Tsuruoka City Sewage and Waste Treatment Plants also seemed to me something innovative.

In my opinion, the three cities had much in common in terms of culture, academic and technological development, the kindness and respect of people. However, I consider that in each one we were able to learn something new.

2. The most impressive study in Yamagata and Japan

There were many things that impressed me about Yamagata and Japan. From the studies and lectures we had, one of the most interesting for me was the one about "Environment Efforts and Program", at Tsuruoka College, where the speaker mentioned some of the natural areas in Japan and the problems they are facing, such as the eutrophication of lakes, and the measures being taken, in addition to the research carried out. In this lecture, we were able to present some of the most representative natural areas in our countries, as well as expose the main problems that we currently face and that threaten the conservation of these ecosystems and the biodiversity present in them.

3. What I learned and what made me grow as a person

In the personal aspect, this exchange allowed me to develop in a different environment with new rules and customs. I gained more confidence in myself to give my opinion and point of view. The culture shock was very interesting, given a culture very different from mine, however, when interacting with people, I realized that we really share similar ideals.

In academic terms, the wide variety of subjects covered allowed me to enrich my knowledge, to learn about subjects that were to some extent unknown to me, and to generate new research ideas in my field of study. In addition, I feel that this experience has encouraged me to continue my language learning, which I have always liked, because it is a way of knowing the culture of another country.

4. Future plan

At the end of my career, I want to follow a Master program abroad and continue carrying out one of the activities that I like the most, which is research. At Yamagata University I learned about cooperation between universities, companies and community, it was one of the lessons that had the most impact on me, and I consider it to be one of the main reasons for the development of Japan. I wish to transmit this acquired knowledge to my colleagues, teachers, future generations in my university and country, in order to achieve a significant change in education. In addition, I hope I could encourage more students to participate in academic and cultural exchange programs, since it is an extremely enriching experience.

In the not so distant future, I would like to return to Japan with a more advanced level of the language, which will allow me to learn even more about Japanese culture through interaction between people, sharing part of my culture and highlight the potential that Peru also has for the realization of research projects due to its great diversity. In this way, my goal is to create linkages to promote the exchange of knowledge and make possible the realization of research projects between Yamagata University and peruvian universities in order to achieve sustainable development in both nations. Perhaps the culture shock is very great between both nations, however, having the opportunity to talk with the students, I realized that we share similar ideals. I have an even greater appreciation for Japanese culture and its inhabitants. I look forward to the day I could return to Yamagata, I will make my best effort in order to achieve that, and now with new goals.



Traditional Japanese Bridge, near the Uesugi Shrine, Yonezawa City, Yamagata



Kaminarimon Gate – Sensoji, ancient Buddhist temple located in Asakusa, Tokyo