

## **MY EXPERIENCE IN JAPAN THANKS TO DTP**

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### **INTRODUCTION**

It's well known in the world the discipline and respect of Japan's society, which is strongly based in an ancient culture and history. Japan in the past, went through hard times related to poverty but now it's one of the most important and powerful countries in the world. All this make a foreigner feel curious about Japan's development, history, society, culture, habits, education, technology and many other topics.

Few days of visiting Japan it's not enough to see all the wonderful things that it can show, but the spirit of a strong country can be felt in any foreigner's heart even in the first day.

Before visiting Japan, the main purpose was to learn all good things from Japan and if it's possible try to apply them in Bolivia. Now after having the unforgettable experience of visiting Japan I feel a new person with new ideas, feeling optimistic about the future and wanting to study more about Japan.

### **JAPAN, FIRST IMPRESSIONS.**



*On the way to Tsuruoka, hot weather and Green places.*

After arriving to Narita Airport, I could felt high humidity. That kind of weather was so different of what I experienced before. I come from a city which is around 3500 meters above sea level and weather is used to be cold and dry, even in summer, so summer in Japan was the first great experience for me.

In the airport I had the first chance to talk and use my basic Japanese, even I knew before going to Japan that speaking Japanese would be a challenging experience, it became an unforgettable one because Japanese people are too polite and the experience was much better than I expected. Japanese people, even they don't speak English too much, with their attitude they help a lot to make things easier.

In the way to Tsuruoka, something really impressing was the cleanness of roads, streets, houses, and everywhere. Japanese people are educated to keep anyplace clean. This is just amazing and an example for many countries that can't solve garbage problem like Bolivia.

### **YAMAGATA PREFECTURE, TSURUOKA CITY**

When arriving Tsuruoka, the beautiful scenery and a quiet and clean city made me felt so comfortable. Green and clean places, the sound of cicada, hot weather, nice and educated people, all these can make a tourist have a great experience.



*Tsuruoka City, clean and quiet*



*Welcome Party in Tsuruoka*

We were well received by Yamagata University students. They organized a welcome party where we could eat and drink Japanese typical dishes and beverages.

All Yamagata University students were so nice and they enjoy beautiful moments with us. I had the chance to talk about my country with them and they told me something about their countries too.

In Yamagata University not all students are Japanese. I met students from Vietnam, Thailand, Singapore and from other parts of the world, everybody wanted to share good moments, but as everybody had fun, everybody had to clean the room where welcome party took place, this was a very nice and new experience, because in my country we are not used to do so after a party.

In every moment Japan taught me to be more responsible in many situations and that work group is important and useful even in the simplest settings.

### **TSURUOKA'S PLANT OF TREATMENT OF GARBAGE**

After the first impression of Tsuruoka, we visited a plant of treatment of garbage. In this part we saw the processes of this plant that works 24 hours, all the burnable garbage is burned and toxic gases are kept to a minimum. When I saw the function and the importance of this plant in Tsuruoka, I really wanted to have many of these plants in my country, for sure life would be much better.



*Visiting Plant of treatment of garbage in Tsuruoka*

### **YOROZU, AN INTERNATIONAL COMPANY**

In Yamagata prefecture, we visited a very interesting company named Yorozu. This company produces car suspension parts, and as an international company it always tries to go ahead with technology advances. During the visit we saw that most of the processes in this company are automated, being the human resources more important in the areas of planning and designing.

In this visit, I realized the big importance of development of technology for the industrialization of a country. In Bolivia we are starting industrialization of many products including natural resources, but

in order to develop this, Bolivia must develop technology, but we need help of experienced countries in this area, countries like Japan.

Something I admire of Japan is how they value the capacity of human resources, companies are always trying to improve in technology, they invest too much money in researching, designing, planning, applying and all is worth it. That's why many Japanese companies become international.



*Visiting Yorozu Engineering Corporation*

## KOSEN GENERATION

The Kosen generation is one of the reasons of Japan's quickly technology development. Kosen schools were established starting in 1962 to respond to a need for well-trained manpower in the rapidly growing industrial sector. This high special school is more related to technology and it's a 5-year college for students 15 years old or older, so Kosen are younger than university students.



*Lecture of Kosen in Tsuruoka College*

In Bolivia, something similar to Kosen are Technical colleges. But many of high school students are not interested in these colleges, they prefer to continue their studies in universities. This happens because most of Bolivian people wrongly think that a technical degree is less than a university degree.

Thanks to what I learned about Kosen and how important they are in Japan industrialization, I realized if Bolivia wants to develop technology, it'll need more prepared people, whose is going to be well disposed of studying something technical without any preconception.

## TAKING CARE OF ENVIRONMENT



*Lecture of how can we protect our precious environment in Tsuruoka College*

South America has been blessed with nature, reservoirs, and beautiful sceneries. But most of us don't know really how to protect them. Maybe we think of them as they were last forever, but pollution, global warming and current problems must make us more conscious about them. Japanese people seems to be more concern about taking care of environment, it's admirable that a country which is an example of industrialization in the world hasn't forgot environmental aspects.

Things like reusing water, burning garbage in special plants, recycling habits, respecting nature, all these should make us emulate Japan's attitude with environment.

In Tsuruoka College we had a lecture related to how we can protect our precious environment and after this we had an interesting activity. The activity consisted of talking about a touristic place of your country and if it has an environmental problem, how you can solve it? This was an enriching activity, there was a brainstorming of ideas and we realized we can do a lot to take care of environment.



*Explaining a Bolivian touristic place*

In Bolivia we have a lot of beautiful places for tourists, but our main problem is garbage. We are conscious if we want to solve this we need more education and more ideas. After this experience I decided to be more focused in Bolivian problems and share my ideas to solve them.



## VISIT TO SONY, FUTURE OF LITHIUM BATTERIES



*Explaining Bolivian Lithium Industrialization in Sony*

Everybody knows Sony's experience in new technologies. In case of lithium batteries, they are interested in improving all related to this topic. This visit was to see just a little of Sony's technology, they shared some of their confidential information with us.

This visit to Sony was a very special experience because we had the chance to talk about Bolivian Lithium Industrialization, Bolivia has one of the largest reservoirs of lithium in the world, so we

wanted Sony to know all our potential.

The future of Lithium seems to be so favorable for Bolivia, so we would like to work with Sony or other companies interested in Lithium and learn at the same time of new technologies.

## TOKYO

Before going to Japan, being in Tokyo city was dream for me and when I finally visited this beautiful city, it was more than I expected. It seemed Tokyo city doesn't sleep, people seems to be always in a hurry but at the same time they are educated and organized in trains, streets, stores, and everywhere.

In Tokyo, I visited the National Museum of Nature and Science in Ueno and famous Miraikan, both museums were amazing. In the first museum I learned something about the environment of Japanese Islands and saw a little of the huge diversity forms of life thanks to models in real scale of different animals. In Miraikan I could see Asimo, a famous robot designed by Honda. While seeing Asimo, I was surprised not only of Asimo's movements, but also of future of robots in the world.



*Visiting Great Buda in Kamakura*

I visited Asakusa Temple and Kamakura, they were very crowded. I bought some amulets and I learned more about Japanese beliefs. The great Buda in Kamakura is a magnificent structure with a lot of history. I saw many young people wearing traditional Yukata, it was really nice seeing young Japanese people keep their customs and be proud of them.

I could visit the famous Tokyo Skytree and Tokyo Tower, the sight view is just amazing, and you can see all Tokyo city in the top of both.

Many people consider Tokyo city the capital of the world and they want to visit this city, so I had been so privileged to know and live so many and unforgettable experiences not only in Tokyo but also in Japan.

## THE BEST OF JAPAN

After visiting this amazing country, I'd say the best of Japan can be summarized in three words: mindfulness of others. In Japan people act with others in mind instead of only thinking of themselves.

Take something simple like letting people pass on the escalator, in other countries you make signs and people still won't listen. In Japan everyone automatically does the right thing to make life easier for everyone else. And it's like with everything, you can nap on a crowded subway because people are quiet, you can enjoy clean streets because people don't litter, you can feel like royalty because people will serve you with a smile and a bow.

The culture of respect creates an unbelievably safe atmosphere, for example, in a busy café you can leave your phone or laptop and not have it stolen, you can park your bike outside and it will be there when you come back, you can walk on streets at midnight and feel as safe as during the day. When you cultivate a society where people are mindful of others, life is better for everyone. It's a lesson that the rest of the world can learn from Japan.

## **FUTURE PLANS**

Seeing a society totally different from mine has taught me so much. Now I'm sure there are a lot of things that I can do for my society, starting from talking about all what I have seen in Japan to my friends and family in order to show them that it's possible to have a better society based in mindfulness of others. I want to let them know we are capable enough to design, plan and apply new ideas. After seeing a little of Japan Industrialization I feel more courageous to face any problem and be part of Bolivia's development in the industrialization as a capable engineer.

Now I'm taking a master course related to exploration of hydrocarbons and environment, so after visiting Japan where I have seen that it's possible to industrialize and take care of environment at the same time, I decided to develop my thesis in an environmental topic, because I want Bolivia to find new reservoirs of gas and oil, but without forgetting environmental aspects.

## **THANK YOU DTP**

Visiting Japan was something for many years I dreamed about and DTP made my dream come true. I can't express all what this experience made me felt, but the only thing I can say is that I have learned a lot. I feel somebody new with new goals and dreams to fulfill.

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*Farewell Party in Yamagata City*

students for their friendship and sharing good and unforgettable moments with us, thank you to Peruvian and Chilean friends for being part of this adventure and finally, thank you Japan for teaching me I can be a better person for my society and country, I hope soon I can go back.