

2017 Re-Inventing Japan Project (Long-Term)

Luiz de Queiroz College of Agriculture, University of Sao Paulo, Department of Biological Sciences - 5th year - Mariana Gomes Vicente

Tokyo NODAI Department: Landscape Architecture

As we're all living in a globalized world and we're facing the same fortuity of constantly growing population and reduction of resources due to deforestation or pollution, it's important for us to develop the feeling of responsibility among that topics and do our best to change the things we can. These changes can come through sharing experiences and knowledges about culture, education and politics and creating new technologies based on scientific researches, mainly concerned to agricultural aspects.

Besides this social duty, I've been interested in Japan for a long time about its culture, language and relation of people with nature. About agriculture, I wanted to learn more about sustainable agriculture, as long as one of the branches of this study was developed in Japan. Because of that, I chose three courses offered in Tokyo NODAI that would provide me possibility to create contact with people with the same interests as me in order to share information about all these topics mentioned above.

The first course was Comparative Nature Study from Cultural Perspective with professor Nahoko Fukushima. In each class, two students presented a seminar of one natural aspect of his or her culture and we all discussed about it. This was an extremely interesting and dynamic class because we could talk the culture of our own country and compare it with others student's countries as Turkey, France, Japan, Cambodia, China and Indonesia. Not we only learned about things as typical plants or animals and its myths, but we also could taste some foods or smell products made of it depending on the student's creativity in presentation. For example, we learned about Japanese gardens, use of tomatoes in Turkey's cookery, history and importance of bamboos, actual situation of wolves in Europe, morphological characteristics of lotus flower, use of the flower frangipani in Bali, recipes of mushrooms in Taiwan, rainy characteristics from Amazon forest, use of Japanese Plum called ume, and so on. In my case, I presented about the medicinal trees native from Brazil's Atlantic Forest, as jaboticaba and ipê, where I also was able to bring information of intense deforestation history of the biome.

Besides that, there was also one field trip to a park called Todoroki Keikoku where we should pay attention to the nature, to the sounds and thoughts or feelings we had. This was clearly to make us realize the importance of that kind of place in the middle of the city because we are affected by the nature around us, as long as we are part of this nature. Added to this, the students also reserved a time to appreciate the nature through the artistic movie from Makoto Shinkai called The Garden of Words, which happens in Shinjuku Gyoen Garden. And finally, in our last day together, we shared typical dances and musics from our countries to enjoy and feel gratitude from the time we spent and learn more other's culture as we did in all semester.

The second course was taught from professors Tsutomu Hattori, Ayumi Arai, Shinta Abe and Kazuya Kurita and the name was Planning and Design of Landscape Architecture, where we did some field trips around Tokyo to see different aspects of Landscape Architecture. The first field trip was to Koirashikawa Korakuen Garden at Shinjuku. There it was possible to see some of the characteristics about the Japanese gardens, which amazed me a lot. We saw the beautiful island in the center of the park in shape of turtle, which is the symbol of longevity, the “male” and “female” stones, the tea house, the Japanese Plum trees and an old rice field. All of this was interesting but what surprised me most was the representation of the Mount Fuji in a hill with white flowers as the snow over it. Besides this one, I also loved the explanation about the bridge that has the shape of “half moon” in order to become a “full moon” with its reflection on the water! In another class, one teacher told us that maybe this is made to demonstrate that, besides human can built a lot of big and beautiful things, only nature can make it perfect (The perfect circle in the bridge), so it teach us that we need to be humble beyond the nature.

The second field trip was a hiking at Mount Takao where we could see the natural beauty of the landscape, some shrines and its specific ways to pray and, what amazed most, the names of people that donate money to the park which was converted to trees. I think this is a very good idea to improve the national and state parks in Brazil.

Finally, the third field trip was to Yanaka, the cultural center of Japan. There, it was possible to see handmades traditional products as the geta (Japanese footwear) and kokeshi (Wooden dolls). That day, we also ate the sakura cherry, which I loved because it was my first time eating that and it was delicious. But, in this day, my favorite part was the visit to Asakura Museum of Sculpture. I honestly loved the sculpture work of Fumio Asakura because the face and the body of human or animals expressions, like the cats haunting or sleeping, were pretty good. Added to this, the place itself made me feel like happy because it was my first time inside a real traditional Japanese house, so I tried to pay attention to all the details. I also loved the water garden in the center of the house with the peaceful feeling transmitted by it and the rooftop garden made by the artist in a way to show how important was agriculture in human lives.

The third course was Life History and Applications of Landscape Plants and it was given by Takahashi Shinpei, Suzuki Kojiro, Mizuniwa Chizuko and Tanaka Satoru. This class was mainly built based on field trips in order to the students have contact with historical relevant places in Japan and how it deeply is related with the Japan’s biodiversity of plants and landscape design, be it a Japanese garden, a farm or a urban landscape.

Our first field trip was at Shinjuku Gyoen Garden. This was one of the parks built in Edo Era (17th Century) when the daimyo (Feudal lords) had to come to Tokyo and live there for one to two years with their family as a hostage and, as a pay tribute, they had to bring rare species of plants or objects from their regions to Tokyo. Between these species brought were the beautiful hybrids of sakura tree (*P. pendala* and *P. speciosa*) we saw that day. Besides this one, species of asters, hydrangeas, irises, chrysanthemums, camelias, morning glories, tea and bamboo were also brought. There, we discussed about the importance of the old trees, which is due to religious aspects of the belief that Gods live in these old trees and due to acknowledgement of the ecological stability created by an old tree. Also, we were able to see the European influence in this park with the *Platanus* sp. (Sycamore tree) planted there. And

we also visited the greenhouse with a lot of tropical plant species and some amazing flowers, cactus and palm trees that really amused me!

The second field trip was in Santomeshinden. In this place, it was possible to realize how the landscape of the field is important to the agriculture, as long as there were trees around the farm that protected the field from strong winds. It was also interesting to see how the organic farming is made in Japan because this way it's possible to compare with Brazil. In Japan, for instance, the fertilizer are bamboo and surrounding forest leaves and to maintain the humidity and temperature it's used the garbage bag. Also, the seeding is made with machines and pesticides and chemical fertilizer can be used. This is a huge difference from Brazil organic farming. In Brazil, the concept of organic includes not using big machines, as long as they can compact the soil, and the use of almost any chemical products aren't allowed, which the exception are plant protection products of low toxicity. Farmers substitute this using only organic fertilizer and manure. And to control humidity and temperature usually are used dead and alive coverage, which means that farmers can use other plants or the rests of a tree trunk. It's also really important the species rotation to keep the soil nutrients. In common, there was the fertilizer production using the leaves that after a certain time can be used in the production again. In Santomeshinden, there were three different kinds of soil according to its age (Three months, one year or two years). In Brazil, as we have a tropical weather, in four to six months the fertilizer is ready to be used. And it's common to put rests of certain foods, like fruit peels, in this fertilizer too. This is called composting. We were also able to see the greenhouse with two varieties of sweet potato because of, in case of any disease, the production wouldn't be totally loss. To finish this field trip, we had lunch in a traditional restaurant and this was amazing for me because it was the first time I ate soba and sat directly in the floor. This was a really interesting experience and I loved the food as well!

In the third field trip, we went to four different places to study the urban landscape architecture. In the first one, Seibu Ikebukuro roof garden, it was really interesting to see the creation process of the architects that based their work in a painting from Monet called "Water lily". Not only they recreate the painting, as they made all the rooftop represent it as well, so the floor had different tones of blue to represent the water while the tables and chairs were on top of circle structures that represented the leaves of the lily over the water. So, in a limited area, it was possible to see water lily garden, roses and a lot of other species, which was amazing. Also, in the final of the way there was even a small shrine. Because it was a rooftop, the place needed some special construction like, for instance, extending pillars and steel frame to distribute the weight of the garden. Also, related to this, they added a granite layer on the 10cm pond to nurture the water garden of lilies because they needed to stay in a lower place and needed a special soil. It certainly was terrific how the architects used technology to put this quantity of water in a rooftop! Besides this beautiful water garden, we also saw the greening wall in both sides of the garden that have an area of 400m² and contain a lot of plant species. Also, there were some greening container with seasonal flowers that can amuse the visitors in any time of the year.

After this, we went to Minami-Ikebukuro Park, which is a very convenient park near Ikebukuro Station. The historical aspects about this park are really interesting too because it was born in a burned field resulted from the World War II and also was a place where people saved their lives in the forest that existed in this place. This resulted in a construction of a

wall with some painted trees to inherit the memories and the old landscape of this region. And it's interesting because even today the design of the area can also support people in a earthquake disaster, making it a temporary evacuation space, as long as the Ikebukuro Station is one of the biggest ones in Japan and it's just five minutes far from the park. But this park have a philosophy of a multiple uses, so it's design was also made to unite multiple generations. To accomplish that, there's bicycle parking lots, a kids terrace with play objects to the kids, a cafe restaurant called Racines with free wi fi where people can buy food and a lawn square where people can just sit and enjoy the view.

After this, we went into another roof garden in Toshima Ward Office called Toshima no Mori. This was absolutely interesting because this was based on the real geography of Toshima city with natural aspects as small rivers between field. Also there was a small aquarium where we could see animals from the Arakawa River, which was part of Toshima's city geography. This rooftop garden was amazing because it even had a system of water control that allowed it to flow in all the floors and then came back to the first one and start the way again. Besides this, when we were going down by stairs, it was possible to see green terraces with some plants. It was easy to see the hard work of the engineers to design the whole place considering an environmental education, as long as the trees were identified with their common names and scientific names.

So, to finish this field trip, we went to Sunshine Aquarium to see the marine garden of the outdoor area. This part wasn't even open to public yet. It was interesting because this garden tried to recreate a tropical resort and it was possible to see this mainly because of the palm trees (*Phoenix reclinata*). Also, we were able to imagine how complex it was the work to put the palm trees in a rooftop because it's not possible to use cranes and the trees were too heavy, which means the workers had to put them in the exactly place they should stay. Besides this, there was also a concern about the fall of the trees because of strong winds. This made the architects put some underground support with pillars and used a light solar system. After understand the landscape architecture of the place, we were able to visit the aquarium and see how amazing was the place and the species biodiversity in it. It was awesome for me seeing especies like axolotl (*Ambystoma mexicanum*) because this animal is a lot interesting when we consider the evolutionary aspects and I never saw one of this in Brazil!

The last field trip was in morning glory market and Ueno Park. The history of morning glories is interesting because these flowers were famous in Edo Era (End of 19th century) because were cultivated by samurais but slowly the hybrids disappeared and the plant nurseries closed their stores. Only after the World War II the Morning Glories Festival came back by a collaboration of the local people. After visiting the Iryia Kishibojin (Shingen Temple) in the morning glories festival, we went to Ueno Park which was the 1st public park of Japan and the oldest one. The park is also known because of its museums and, for instance, sixty years ago the Western Art Museum was designated as a world cultural heritage with other sixteen building all over the world. Other interesting thing about this park is that, when the capital of Japan changed from Kyoto to Tokyo, the culture came with it and that's why there's some temples in the park that have characteristics of Kyoto's shrines. We also saw the most beautiful pond I've ever seen in my life with a lot of lotus flowers! After our walking and explanation about the park, I and my friends went to the National Museum of Nature and Science. I was absolutely amazed with the place because of its size and the quantity of

cultural aspects and biodiversity of Japan we could see there! We also went into the 360° Theater that was a really nice experience.

Besides these classes, I also studied hard one of the most important aspects of any culture: the language. I thought it was essential learning Japanese not only because I needed to understand some boards in streets or at NODAI, but mostly I wanted to talk with Japanese people and because I love learning languages. It was a pretty interesting experience for me because all languages I studied until now (Portuguese, English and French) have the same structure and even have a lot of words in common. In other hand, Japanese have a different construction of the phrases and have the syllabary (Katakana and hiragana) and ideograms (Kanji), which demand different learning process, as long as I needed to learn how to write, read and understand the meaning of these writing systems. Because of this challenge, I studied the six hours per week in the Japanese class and studied at least three hours everyday, including the homeworks and the study to the tests we had every class. This daily hardworking allowed me to write and read texts in Japanese in only three months! Not that I can comprehend it all, but at least contexts and important words, considering that we learned around 200 kanjis and more than 60 useful verbs. Also, in one of our last classes, we had the great opportunity to learn about the Japanese calligraphy (Shoudou) with a professional in this kind of artistic writing. I honestly loved learning about it and practice in the class! Moreover, I was also able to meet the other international students from Tokyo NODAI because we always had to work in pairs during the class, so we could talk, help and know each other.

Beyond all the classes, I was related with the Landscape Architecture Department that allowed me to be in contact with Japanese students from Tokyo NODAI and the activities the laboratory students and professors developed. For instance, I participated of some practical classes with the 1st year students of Landscape Architecture where I learned techniques of this major as how to make flower bedding, bamboo fences, Japanese style of cutting trees and cleaning areas in Atsugi campus to avoid weeds that can compete with the actual trees for nutrients and space. It was interesting that in these classes the students were divided in teams and I always was in a different team, coordinated by a different professor from the department, so I met all the faculty and was able to become friend with some Japanese students. Not only that, but I also went with the students from my laboratory to Baji Koen, a park near NODAI, to clean it and plant a vertical garden. Furthermore, I participated of weekly meetings, where other students presented their work or thesis. In one of these meetings, I presented about Brazil's biomes and biodiversity, foods, touristic places and even prepared a Brazilian candy called *brigadeiro*, so everyone from my lab would be able to taste it.

Also, because I met the professors of Landscape Architecture, I was able to go to Fukushima with Kojiro-sensei and his laboratory students to measure the sakura trees, considering that one of the oldest sakura trees in Japan is there. This sakura tree, called Miharu Takizakura, is over 1,000 years old and is really huge and absolutely beautiful, even not blossomed. It was interesting to know that older population based the rice planting in the time of the tree, so they only do it after the tree blossomed! Besides that, I also helped the students to collect the seeds of the plant Kataguri (*Erythronium japonicum*), a popular flower in Japan that germinates in winter and has an interesting ecological relation with ants. These insects carry the seed under the ground during the winter, what allows the seed survival and

give enough heat to make it germinates. Also, I saw Fukushima's biodiversity through one small frog and one parasite plant without chlorophyll called ginryou. I also enjoyed the travel there, as long as it was the first and only day I used the bullet train (Shinkansen) in all my stay in Japan!

Added to this, one event was really interesting to put me in contact with NODAI students and other international students at NODAI. This event was the Ryugakusei Party with representative students of more than thirty countries. This was pretty nice and funny because all students brought foods and typical objects or clothes from their countries to share a little bit of their culture. Also, everyone presented typical dance or song to reinforce it. I felt a lot happy that day to become friend of lot of people and felt proud of myself because I was able to introduce myself in Japanese for the first time!

Further these experiences I had directly related to NODAI campus, I was also able to be part of a vertical farming internship in a company called Grandpa Farm at Hadano, Kanagawa province. It's relevant to say that the internship was one and half hour far from NODAI's dormitory and I and Caio, the other exchange student from ESALQ-USP who did the internship there too, had to travel everyday and, thanks to financial coverage from NODAI, we were able to accomplish it fully with no concern.

Our internship started in May when I, Caio, Naomi and Azael, who are RJP coordinators, Caio's host professor and two NODAI students visited the company. That day, we were welcome by Shinnosuke-san and Iwane-san who explained us about the company and showed us the greenhouse and dome production processes. Besides it, it was also given me and Caio the task to study the climograph of Brazil and bring it when we started the internship because we would use that in one of our studies.

When it definitely started, Iwane-san explained us our schedule and showed exactly when we would use the climograph we prepared. After the explanation, Iwane-san taught us how to harvest (収穫) basil. Because there were two varieties of basil, it was taught that there were two types of cut of the leaves based on the plant's capacity of develop leaves from its axillary bud, which is important for the maintenance of the production over time. When the harvest was finished, we used a balance to see the weight in grams of the leaves, wrote in a worksheet and took it to a storage housing that kept the temperature around 20°C to retain the basil's properties until they are packed.

In other day, we learned how to seedling (播種) lettuce. To begin this, it was needed to take off all the air inside the styfoam in order to absorb more water to supply the seed. So, we put that under the water and pressed strongly until see no bubble coming out from it. After, we arranged it over the tray and slowly took it off the water to guarantee the water will be uniform in the styfoam. Only after this, we added the seeds using a tool that rapidly put all the seeds in the right places they should stay to germinate. This was really useful because 300 seeds were seeded in only three minutes. Also this day, there was the felling of old basil plants in order to give space to the second activity of the day that was planting (定植) the basil. In this, we just took the sponge with basil aged around one week from the nursery and transferred it to a panel in the greenhouse. Also, it was important to select the bigger and most lively plants, ensuring that they had a genetic good enough to survive. So, in the greenhouse, it would grow until one month aged when it would be ready to be cutted. Further, we also

learned how to do the seedling of basil, which was different from lettuce due to its too small size that require us to manually put each seed in the 300 holes in the styfoam. This obviously took more time than the lettuce and made us realize how was more practical the seedling we did before.

We also did the packing of basil and other species. To start, it was necessary to count the leaves of basil harvested in the day before. The total number of leaves could change in some days depending on customer's request. It's relevant to say that it was necessary to select the leaves here, because small, ugly or damaged leaves wouldn't be admitted by the customers. After finish this work, we packed other vegetables which, in this case, just needed to cut off the sponge and root and clean the leaves in the best way before going to the machine that packed it.

Moreover, we went to dome to understand more about the technology used there. We not only harvested but also planted lettuce, which was made inside the circle of the dome and had a tool that made us plant 250 seedlings in only ten minutes. Also, we learned more about the effective production made there: in 660m², there's more than 14,000 plants in the main bed, where they can harvest 250 lettuce every day. It was a lot interesting to notice that the spiral system of the dome is based on line circular metals that put the plants in the right growing direction.

Besides all these practical learning, we also used part of the time there to study some topics. The first was of lettuce characteristics. To start this, we collected two samples of five varieties of lettuce and measured their weight, wrote their seeding date and counted the number of leaves. After this, we cut the leaves and made a milling to extract a solution that we used to analyse the Brix, scale that examine refrain index and is used to determine the quantity of sugar in a sample, and the concentration of nitrogen. With this data, we discussed about the advantage of each variety of lettuce.

To study the climograph, we used data of Shizuoka that is in the middle of Japan to built the climograph and compare it with other cities of the country. The data used were temperature in °C and solar radiation in MJ/m² from all months in one year. Iwane-san explained us how each variation was important to choose what kind of vegetable would be cultivated or when is was better to seedling, for instance. Besides that, using knowledge of physiology, we realized that must be a control of the temperature to avoid extreme temperature conditions and to maintain the insects responsible by the biological control of the production. In our last day, I and Caio presented the climograph of Brazil, comparing it with Japan. This was interesting because Brazil don't have a huge temperature amplitude as Japan, so the final graphic was a lot different from the Japanese pattern we used as a model.

Other topic studied was the environmental control of greenhouses. About this, it was discussed about temperature, air humidity, CO₂, light and air circulation. To analyze the two firsts, we learned how to use the Mollier-diagram considering some physical concepts as saturated moisture content, relative humidity, absolute humidity and the dew point. Based on this data, we were able to understand the others factors and how they can interfere in the plant factory.

Further, we also studied entomology (防除) and biological control. First, we discussed the theory of it and talked about the Integrated Pest Management (IPM) used by Grandpa

Farm. The IPM used were: chemical method, physical method, rotation of culture and, the main method, biological control. Considering that each one have different advantages and disadvantages, the biological control was chosen to be studied deeply. Based on natural enemies, we learned about a bee called *shabara* (シャバラ) and ladybugs, that are great because they control all aphids, a mite called *kukumerisu* (ククメリス) to control slips over the basil in two different greenhouses and *koreman* (コレマン), a tiny bee that parasites one insect called *aburamushi* (アブラムシ), a aphid terrible for production. After learning of it, we did the release of these insects in the greenhouses to learn how it's done and how each of them are acquired by the company. For instance, only *koreman* is cultivated in the greenhouses while the other insects were bought from Netherlands.

All these experiences were deeply important from the point of view of knowledgement of vertical farming, a topic that I've never studied before. But, fortunately, my internship wasn't limited into that. I had some extremely great experiences with the workers of Grandpa Farm! One of it was visiting a traditional soba restaurant in the city with Iwane-san and eating really good soba and even a soba ice cream! Also, I and Caio went together with Shinnosuke-san to his favorite ramen shop. Besides them, we also went to an Italian restaurant with the Brazilian workers of Grandpa Farm and had a farewell party in the house of one of them with Brazilian typical foods, as *coxinha*. Besides these no official events, there was an official welcome party from Grandpa Farm, where we presented about Brazil geography, culture, touristic places and typical foods. Also that day, we tasted a lot of Brazilian food made by the Brazilian workers, pizzas and even a 100 years umeshuu, a drink made by the fruit if ume (Japanese plum)! We truly became good friends of the coordinators and workers of Grandpa Farm, which made all have a really good moment together, making it hard to say goodbye.

Related to the great people I met in Japan, I luckily met the other students that stayed in the dormitory. They were from countries like Taiwan, Bali, Cambodia, Thailand, Peru, United States, France and even Brazil. I'd like to give a special thanks to my Brazilian friends, undergraduate and graduate students from Tokyo NODAI, that helped me all the time I needed and were present in a lot of good memories I had from Japan. I and the other RJP students were in a deep contact with Japanese culture and culinary. Together with them, for instance, we went to a lot of great places as ramen, sushi, okonomiyaki and shabu shabu restaurants, we visited shops recommended by them and I even had contact with the religious philosophy of messianic church (Sekai Kyusei Kyo) through one Brazilian friend that followed it. It's interesting that, because of this contact, me and two friends went to the city of Atami in Fukuoka province and were able to visit the Museum of Art, founded by Mokichi Okada, and saw some classical Japanese art, as the thirty-six views of Mount Fuji paintings, Edo Era sculptures of Buddha and so on.

Added to that, I also participated of some activities with English Without Borders Club, as barbecue with NODAI students and, because the friendships I and the other Brazilian students did there, we later went to hanabi in Itabashi with Japanese girls we met in the club. And we even went there using yukata, which was awesome!

Furthermore, my last week in Japan was filled with travelling and creating even more good memories. To start, I went to Mount Fuji and climbed it! Then, together with my friends, I went to Kyoto, Nara and Hiroshima in a one week travel. Kyoto was truly an

amazing place with clearly old and preserved buildings and shrines, as expected from one of Japan's capital in the past. I honestly can't choose one favorite place in Kyoto, as long as I was amazed with every temple and shrine I walked in, like the Golden Temple (Kinkaku-ji), Kyojumi-dera Temple and Fushimi-Inari Shrine, for example. Nara was also really beautiful and I enjoyed a lot feeding the deers and seeing the Great Buddha at Todaiji Temple. But the place that touched me more was Hiroshima. I visited Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park and the Peace Museum. Differently from book studies of the World War II, I realized how recent that part of History was and, considering the actual conjecture of North Korea, I truly understand the message passed from the Museum and the remaining A-Dome: Do not let that disaster happen again. This place was part of the History of Japan and the world, so I thought it was extremely important for an exchange student to have contact with this sad reality, but that we have to face and work in a way to prevent it from happening again and do always our best to create a safe and right world.

Based on all that essay I wrote, I can surely say that the Re-Inventing Japan Project gave me the enough conditions to learn more about this History and put me in direct contact with Japanese people in several ways. In one way, this contact was based on the possibility of researches partnerships between University of Sao Paulo and Tokyo University of Agriculture, which can be profitable to both countries considering that Brazil is a world known agricultural potency due to its resources and possibilities while Japan have a more developed technical and technological knowledgement. For instance, I remember knowing a research of one NODAI student and realized the use of sand as a substrate to the trees. When I asked why using sand instead of soil, the professor explained to me that the soil in Japan was too expensive to use as a huge quantity in a experiment. In Brazil, in other hand, there's a lot of land, so there isn't this kind of concern in researches. In other way, I learned a lot about the Japanese language and behaviour, that can provide me the possibility of being able to develop a diplomatic relation between Japan and Brazil, even if it's not directly related to research, as sharing the History and part of culture of Japan, receiving and helping Japanese people if they came to Brazil traveling or working and so on.

Personally, my intention now is studying the possibility of trying a graduate course in Japan after concluding my undergraduate course of Biological Sciences in Brazil, considering the field studies of my interest (Human ecology, medicinal herbs and sustainable agriculture) and the existence of scholarships as, for instance, the ones from Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT).

Concluding, I'd like to say to future RJP students that this is a unique experience and, if you have interest in Japan, don't be afraid! Just do your best and try to apply it. Then, before and after you reach Japan, do your best to learn the language! The Japanese people will do everything to help you and solve your doubts, even translate the talking on their mobile phones if they feel nervous! But everyone feel really proud when someone try to learn their language, specially when we know how difficult it is. Not only because of that, but we can explore more of our linguistic capability and learn beautiful ways of seeing and name things in a way sometimes we can't do in our native language. That is what the kanji, which is one of the most difficult parts of Japanese language, represent for me. And, as anything we learn in our lives, everything depend on how hard we work to reach our goals and, step by step, we

can do it. So, if you are willing to do your best to learn the language and know Japanese, you can relax and enjoy it when you arrive there!

So, finally, I finish my report with two pictures that represent all of my experiences in Japan. The first one shows the last class of Japanese language when we learned the calligraphy (Shoudou). There you can see the international students from 1st year of NODAI and others exchange students as me, our professors and our calligraphies in the background! The second shows Shinnosuke-san and Iwane-san, two of the coordinators of my internship at Grandpa Farm, Aya, Kuro and Yuuta, students from NODAI that also did the internship there, and I and Caio. This picture was taken after we finished our last study of climograph.

And, I'd like to thank everyone I met in Japan! I thank Tokyo University of Agriculture (NODAI) for allowing me to have this incredible experience and providing facilities and resources, as the dormitory, library and so on. Also thank for RJP program and coordinators, Naomi and Azael, for all the support you gave me before and after I arrive in Japan. Thank Takahashi-sensei, Mizuniwa-sensei and Tanaka-sensei, my host professors, for receiving, supporting and teaching me since the first day I arrive in Japan. Thank all the other professors of Landscape Architecture who always supported me and taught me inside and outside the classes. Thank all students from NODAI who became my friends, helped me studying Japanese and taught about their culture. Thank the exchange students who were studied in the International Program with me, helped me to improve my English skills, became good friends of mine, creating a lot of good memories and taught me a lot about their history and culture. Also, I can't forget to thank the campus Luiz de Queiroz College of Agriculture (ESALQ) of University of Sao Paulo (USP) and its International Office who intermediate my exchange bureaucracy with NODAI and supported me when I needed. Thanks the RJP coordinators in ESALQ/USP for creating and maintaining this partnership and program with Japan. Thanks for professor Antonio Ribeiro de Almeida Junior from the Department of Economy, Administration and Sociology for recommending me in this program. Thanks for professor Flavio Bertin Gandara from the Department of Biological Sciences for recommending me and helping me prepare some bureaucracies in the process of exchange. And finally, I deeply thank my family who always supported me and gave me all the tools I needed to achieve this terrific experience of my life, as teaching me the importance of learning English and the consciousness needed to be grateful for their efforts.

