

**2018 Re-inventing Japan Project (Short-term) International Students Summit,  
RJP Internship Final Report**

Chapingo Autonomous University ▪ Division of administrative economics ▪ 3<sup>rd</sup> Year

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CIEP (Sep. 14-21)

During this week we been doing field trips to the tropical lab farm, there we could be able to be in touch with the Japanese agriculture. In my case, I was fascinated with the mini technology that the Japanese farmers uses in the field. In this program we also had the opportunity to be in a traditional hotel with the objective that we could know more about the traditional lifestyle in this country, in addition we visit the Tokyo Nacional Museum.

After the field trip days, we had to return to Tokyo NODAI for some classes about topics related with that we been working during the first days, like the challenges to the environmental problems, agro ecology for sustainable food and agriculture systems, an economics value of the grassland landscape in Aso-Kiju National Park, Japan's food security problem.

We finish CIEP with a team workshop in wich we discuss the principals problems of the Japanese agriculture to be able to propose solutions.

RJP Internship at ERECON (Sep. 22-23)

September 22<sup>th</sup> started with the presentation of Mr. Koji MIWA from the intuited ERECON (Institute of Environmental Rehabilitation and Conservation).

He told us that ERECON, is an international non-profit organization established in April 2000. ERECON shall aim to contribute to sustainable use of natural resources in Asian countries. Therefore, the organization shall pursue the environmental rehabilitation

and conservation as well as the environmental education for the harmony between the agricultural and urban development and the natural environment.

After the presentation we went to visit the 3<sup>rd</sup> Organic Lifestyle EXPO in the Tokyo International Forum Exhibition Hall with the purpose to get a better understanding of the development of the organic movement and lifestyle.

In the expo Mr. Koji assigned us the duty to look for a product that we thought it could be a good idea for a development program in our home countries. In my case it really call my attention a little market stall of the company “annFarm tropical fruit”. I got there and the responsible of the store told me that she and her husband love tropical fruits such as the mango, and they wanted to try out growing them by themselves, so they set up a large plastic greenhouse and began cultivating.

They didn't had knowledge or experience in farming, only the wish to someday grow the most delicious mangoes in Japan, so they first headed to Kyushu where mangoes are produced. Her husband searched for mango seedlings, cultivated the ground, mastered temperature control, and put great effort into fertilizing methods.

At this point I was fascinated with the story so I decide to research for some news of the company in the internet and I found that they have tropical fruits with very high sugar content.

The secret of the fruit's sweetness lies in the soil which, in the mountainous area where annfarm is located, is good quality decomposed granite. From the beginning the soil was suitable for cultivation, but Mr. Ando added brown rice amino acid enzymes and “bokashi” fertilizer fermented with the power of microbes, as well as “Sanuki Mouga”, a fertilizer made by pulverizing Kagawa grown bamboo and fermenting it with lactic-acid bacilli. All this work led to the soil being filled with nutrients (Tomoko Kawai, 2016)

For me this company show me that the organic crops are not only for the welfare of the environment, they are a better option for the production of agriculture products in term of lower cost in the supplies and higher prices because of the better quality of the

products and the possibility for the farms to get into bigger markets than just the local ones.

In addition, this company give to their products really cool presentation for it consume like dehydrated presentation.

In the second day of the RJP, September 23<sup>th</sup>, we visited the ERECON's office in Machida, where Mr. Koji showed us one of the ERECONS's program in that he was working for the environmental rehabilitation and conservation in Asian countries.

He explained us the Project on Promoting Sustainable Agriculture in Kampong Cham Province, Cambodia, during the presentation he put emphasis in the important to build sustainable agriculture based on the cyclical use of natural resources and the hard work that represent teach to the local farmers the adequate management of them.

After the presentation we had a walk outside and know a little bite of the country tourist rote of Machida. In this field trip we could see and feel all the aspects that are include in the definition of organic farming.

Organic production is a holistic system designed to optimize the productivity and fitness of diverse communities within the agro-ecosystem, including soil organisms, plants, livestock and people. The principal goal of organic production is to develop enterprises that are sustainable and harmonious with the environment.

The general principles of organic production that I could noticed during the field trip, include the following:

- Maintain long-term soil fertility by optimizing conditions for biological activity within the soil
- Maintain biological diversity within the system
- Recycle materials and resources to the greatest extent possible within the enterprise
- Provide attentive care that promotes the health and meets the behavioral needs of livestock

In conclusion for me this Re-inventing Japan Project was a fantastic opportunity to know about the organic lifestyle of the whole entire food chain, from the production to the final consumption. I could read a lot of books about this topic and probably make a few presentations in front of my classmates in my home country, but the opportunity to be there, in the middle of the organic rice crops and walk beside the irrigation streams checking with my own eyes the presence of grasshoppers in the crops and frogs in the crystal clear water definitely change my perception of the sustainable agriculture and motivates me to know more about it and dedicate my academy formation on it.

ISS week (Sep. 24-30).

At the ISS, I was able to meet people from all over the world and learn from them not only about their agriculture but also about their history, traditions and cultures. Throughout the week, we shared the problems and solutions we face in our countries and especially the student's role in this type of environment. The discussions were before the presentations.

This experience added new ideas, innovations and techniques that could be applied in my country as well. I intend to convey these ideas to my colleagues, family and others so that we can gradually change our reality too. I hope that soon we will not only practice this in Mexico but also in neighboring countries as well. Again, I commend Tokyo University of Agriculture (Tokyo NODAI) for this opportunity and this unique experience.

As a suggestion I would just say that more interaction events between NODAI students and RJP students would be welcomed as we could exchange more experiences and ideas as students.

Thank you very much, muchas gracias, ありがとう.