

## 2019 Re-inventing Japan Project (Short-term)

CIEP, International Students Summit, RJP Internship

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I had the opportunity to participate in the three CIEP programs, RJP Internship and ISS. Why did I do it? At first I was not sure, I thought I could prepare more as for these types of international programs but I took the risk of just going to Japan, knowing their agriculture, their culture and also knowing the main problems of different countries in the world, related to agriculture and the environment, and as young people with their projects wanted to solve these problems, all this made me 100% convinced to apply for this scholarship.

### CIEP

The first place we went to was the National Museum of Japanese History, one of the largest museums I have visited, I must say, we entered the botanical garden where they work with different species, but what caught my attention was how they work genetically with the iponema to be able to obtain different colors and sizes of these flowers. The next day we had field work we went to “Koshiho Farm” where we separated into groups to perform different tasks, we learned about horticultural therapy and we made crowns with different plants such as lavender, lemongrass, mint, etc. In the rice fields we did the weeding, then they taught us how to prepare the field to sow green onion and after finishing the field we made the sowing of these. At the end of lunch we visited a field of nashi "the Japanese pear", a new fruit for me, the management of this crop is impressive by the new technique they are using, it consists of joining all the trees through grafts this helps the Nutrient distribution since handling is easier, at the end of the day we shared and were able to try nashi, now it is one of my favorite fruits. On the third day in the morning we visited the Shirai Central Pear Sorting Facility where we saw the entire nashi sorting and packing process. Then we went to Chiba University and visited several types of green onion, tomato, spinach greenhouses, etc. where they used different techniques for their production such as CO2 injection, layer ventilation, etc. During the first three days of CIEP at night we had readings and group work about what the program was about and the group work we had to do, we had to choose a problem in Japan and look for a solution and then present it in a group, then we returned To Setagaya for the next day go to the Atsugi campus where we had a talk about the different types of soils in Japan we left for NODAI Isehara Farm where we also saw different crops such as tomato, lettuce, flowers, apple and green tea. The next two days in the morning we had readings about water management, the food value chain, the environment and agriculture in Asia and Sweeteners and taste modifiers, in the afternoon we had group work about our presentations to collect information, ordering ideas and trying to explain them in a clear way because

having people of different nationalities speaking in their non-mother tongue is not easy and even more so if you have to look for information in Japanese that was the challenge but in a way it was also an advantage of having a group of people from different countries because you could see different points of view of the same problem and it was easier to find a solution for our problem. We chose “Food Loss” as the central theme and we presented it to the NODAI teachers on the last day.



This program helped me to know how to work as a team, how to develop, express my ideas and help others express theirs, I could understand the reality of Japan in the field of Agriculture in the first days of field trip and well I study Agronomy so that those days were my favorites, so being able to contrast the agriculture of Peru and that of Japan helped me to see the pros and cons and how they should make proper management of certain crops. One of the things that impressed me most was the new technique where all the Nashi trees were connected, I had never seen this type of grafts and since this helps to better management, I could also see that in Japan agriculture and technology go hand in hand something that in Peru is not very developed because the environmental conditions are different and have to be cautious as for example with typhoons, seeing all this I must say that my country must improve a lot but we are on the right track and I hope to be able to do something to help.

#### RJP

In the Re-inventing Japan Project Internship we went to the ERECON Institute of Environmental Rehabilitation and Conservation, this is an international organization that promotes the sustainable use of natural resources in Asian countries, here we had “Compost and pellet compost” talks this new method which is more efficient because the pellet is more compact and it takes longer to degrade and it is not lost so easily on the ground, they taught us how to produce this type of pellet, then we went to visit an Onojimachi temple and walked the Onoji Satomaya Community Center where we could see different crops such as green onion, okra, peanut, etc. And we ended up at a fair where we could see typical dances and eat traditional dishes.

The RJP helped me to see the other side of Japanese agriculture, without much use of technology but research for the proper management of natural resources and how they teach sustainable agriculture across different Asian countries and with this also the sustainable development of each one of these countries, this is something that in Peru little by little we are trying to instill in people that if we do not begin to improve the management of natural resources we will soon not have them available.

#### ISS

The ISS began with a field trip to Yamanashi in the Kosuge villa where we had a talk about the Tamagawa Genryu Daigaku Project that tries to teach the importance of respecting natural resources and uniting the university with the people to encourage young people to work in the field through scholarships since in Japan agriculture is declining and only older people work in the field, this is one of the biggest problems facing Japan today, this town performs agriculture, aquaculture and forestry this we could see when walking the town walking. First we went to see one of the most common



crops in Kosuge villa “Wasabi”, the method used to cultivate it is that the land has a slope and in a place where the water circulates constantly to then harvest it manually, we could learn about of the aquaculture where we were taught the different species that are raised and how they oxygenate the water, we toured the town also seeing how water management in this town was fundamental because the water of this town is considered as a “forest of conservation of water”, since this villa is the main water supplier for the city of Tokyo after a long day we leave for NODAI.

The next day in the morning we had different readings given by the advisors where we talked about the importance of the rotation of pesticides in the production of conventional agriculture, we talked about the problem in Mongolia about how grazing areas are being reduced due to the excessive increase in livestock and also the fact that there are no young people in the field, the correct management of energy as a fundamental part to develop a better use of resources and the case of the blueberry boom in the agro-export sector In Peru over the past few years, all these talks together gave us an overview of what we have to face today worldwide. After lunch we were grouped into groups to discuss how the individual presentations would be and to make a previous rehearsal where we as a group and with the advisors present gave the pros and cons of each of the exhibitions, in my case I particularly felt a great help because as They know the nerves can always play tricks on us, finishing the essay we discuss how the conclusion session would be and that we should prepare to give another presentation with the conclusions by group.



On the morning of the next day the exhibitions began the program, it was for everyone the same first you gave your presentation then the round of questions and at the end the whole group sat down and had the discussion session where the public asked and debated about the exhibitions and the theme of the group be it agriculture, environment or food. The day of my presentation explain how it is that agrochemicals affect human life and the environment in Peru, this is a fundamental problem since there was an increase cases of poisoning by agrochemicals nationwide, the solution is a collection of Agrochemical containers through campaigns where students, small farmers, businesses, etc. work. But not only that, but also to train farmers on how is the management of waste from this great industry, at the National Agrarian University La Molina this type of talks are given where they train workers and also students about this problem so that they can, when they go out to the field, carry out this management and also teach them to the farmers, with this we help to avoid the contamination and the good management of the natural resources being this one of the main points of the 19th ISS.

Once all the individual exhibitions were finished, we began to talk about what would be the conclusion of 19th ISS and what the title of next year would be, so in order to reach an agreement they grouped us again and we began to give our point of view each per group, a virtual survey was also conducted where you placed the things we would have liked to see in the 19th ISS for the title. After almost 10 hours of debate, an ISS conclusion was reached this year and next year's title, at the end of the day they gave us the guidelines for what the final ceremony would be.

The next day in the morning there was a general rehearsal of the conclusions by group, the general session was held and during the breaks outside the auditorium, research projects presented by young people from different secondary schools were presented, which I It was quite surprising since in Peru young people are not encouraged to do this type of work in school. In the general session the title of the next year was presented and the reason for this, to conclude the session the director of the university was presented, which will host the ISS next year in Indonesia.

The 19th ISS made me see the reality on another scale, I could be part of each of the problems, related to agriculture, education, environment and food, most important of the 27 countries that participated in this Summit and how young people They try to do something to fix them. We also saw how difficult it is to be able to continue with these projects, whether for something social, economic or environmental, but also that there are many people, not only young people, wanting to support to achieve a better world. What took me from this 19th ISS is that each country is different and therefore each of its solutions will also have different results if we apply them to other countries but what can be done is try to adapt the solutions to the conditions of Each one, to be able to achieve something first, begins by oneself little by little, each presentation of the 19th ISS inspired me to continue on this path and to be able to make a change.