

Notes of an exchange

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Essay

2017 Re-inventing Japan Project (Long-Term)

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First of all, I am very thankful for the opportunity to have study abroad and in your amazing University. My decision to go there include the chance to learn more one language and more one culture, and for me, the concept of practical science was one of the things most interesting.



The courses offered in NODAI were about Japanese agriculture and the overview of the world, the relations and interactions in every ambits, all in English. But I also attended one subject in Japanese because of my laboratory.

We also had Japanese language classes and cultural sections, It was perfect. I could not only learn the daily Japanese to practice in my class in Japanese but I could also practice Japanese painting, drawing, do a presentation in Japanese and challenge myself. I also watched sumo club in university with a tomodachi.



When I started my exchange I discovered that Japan is a normal country like the others, there were people living in the street, canals not so clean, and have its problems. Other interesting thing was the lakes showing a start of an eutrophication, I was wondering that Japan does not have this kind of environmental problem as in Brazil. Actually, in Brazil we have it in an advanced stage. I had studied about it and published an article about it and mostly studying about Von Sperling's thesis and I can find a lot of information and improve my research just looking at that lake.



I also saw two houses with completely different structure and design, one more antique and other modern. Really one beside the other. We could compare both, see the advances,

and with your explanation understand that it is not just a design, but the religion has a big influence on it. The plates with the names of the families and other clearly things influenced by the Christianity.

Everything that I learned there showed me that all of your classes you do not teach us just about landscape, architecture, but also values. In addition, Japanese values are one of the things that I will spread in my community.

The thing that called me attention was the perspective to support tourists, they have their own guide in English that the tourist can hear in some statues and rooms inside museums and understand more about them and their histories. The staff can speak in English, and the museums sometimes seems like a labyrinth, I lost my mind and myself so many times walking around.

I swear it is so interesting to preserve all of these arts since so long time ago and it is expensive to do their maintenance. However, in the same way, they are proud to show us one by one. Moreover, I am very thankful for this opportunity.

Other interesting thing is that we can also stay seating in those different seats along the street, for different statures, a very nice initiative to make everyone comfortable and make it accessible for everyone.



Japan just showed me, they do not have the Amazon, but they create their own green spaces and know how to enjoy it and how to take care of it more than the people who have an Amazon in Brazil.

The field trips made me very surprised. We went to a farm and I was wondering in “Traditional Agriculture” but in the same concept of Traditional Agriculture in BRAZIL, despite we don’t have the same characteristics neither in soil or weather, but I Thought that Traditional Agriculture in every part of the world has the meaning to use more “ancestral techniques” as possible, and it means to avoid or to not use chemical fertilizers.

It is what we usually learn in Brazil and what I learned in my bachelor's course in Environmental Engineering in the Amazon.



But sure, we are in your country and here we can see other reality and other conceptions of everything and different meanings of a lot of things. In technical area, it is not different. So, here and specially in this field trip I opened my eyes for the world around us and start thinking that we have to find solutions for every country problems. It is not because I live in the Amazon, In Brazil that I will think in solutions just for my community. I have to look around me and try to find solutions for every community. It is also my responsibility.



At Farm, I could see in practice what I learned about greenhouses in my Vegetable Production's class. It clarified my mind about the theory, because I could see all of what I was learned on Mondays at NODAI, in practice. When I saw the greenhouse and all their characteristics, I stayed very excited, happy and surprised. When we entered, it was as I realized one dream. In Brazil, an environmental engineering student do not have this kind of contact with the agriculture. It is a forest engineering paper. Therefore, I really wait for this moment.

Other thing that I learned in Vegetables Production's class was this kind of plantation, and before this field trip, I asked the sensei of my lab – Nakajima Sensei – about the distance in the sunrise plantations in one experiment he was doing. He explained me about, but understand in theory is different to understand in practice.



I can say that the field trips were AMAZING. I create so many questions in my mind to be answered by myself. For this, I have to study more and to research more. To make more effort to improve the agriculture in all over the world.

And one of the best thing of this exchange is the friendship, to live with people from so many different nations but all together inside the Japanese culture, also with Japanese friends, I made strong friendships that I will never forget.



One advice for future students is go prepared, take a time in your country to prepare everything to live in Japan and deal with it even with the distance. Prepare your family and friends for cannot contact them every day and in Japan, be yourself every time, you will learn so many thing and will create your own opinion. Enjoy your travel, all the moments, and remember that you are not there for 'vacations'. You are there for learn and teach, it is an exchange, and you will have both opportunities to study and to enjoy.

All this experience will be great for me and for my future, I had opportunity to watch thesis of masters and phd, their preparations, experiences, and in my laboratory all of us were from a different country, what made me learn words in so many languages.

Japan is a safe country, all the people are kind and helpful. I hope to come back to do my masters in bio business in NODAI. Hope you receive me again.

I am spreading all the things that I learn and values here, you made me a person more developed and helped me to improve myself and to deal with the truly diversity.

Thanks you all for everything.