

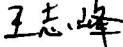
Peking University & Yokohama National University Exchange Program

Short Stay (P2Y-short, Y2P-short)

Duration: 2012. 2. 18-2012. 2. 26

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Grade: junior

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I'M so glad that I had this chance to communicate with students and teachers from Yokohama National University. During the stay in Japan, my friends and I have learnt a lot, not only about knowledge but also about culture which is quite different from ours. Thanks to YNU's teachers and students, especially professor Matsui, we really enjoyed our stay in Japan.

Though it is the first year of this program between PKU and YNU, prof. Matsui really did a good arrangement about what would we do during the days for us. According to his arrangement, we had some lectures and visited several laboratories. Also, we enjoyed the beautiful scene of Yokohama city at night.

This program gives us a chance to visit a different country and to find out what are the differences between two societies. When I first landed at Tokyo, the good environment really impressed me. As there is not so many people as in Beijing, I could see many small houses on both sides of the roads. Although there are many car companies in Japan, I haven't seen any traffic jam in both Yokohama and Tokyo. As there are about ninety percents of the population are in urban area, I hardly saw any rural area in Japan. This is quite different from China.

During the stay in Japan, I have talked with many local people, and found out that most people are very polite. I can hear people say "ありがとうございます" everywhere, and this sentence have no doubt been the first sentence I learnt in Japanese. Saying thank you have been an important part of this country, and this indicates that thoughtfulness is so deeply rooted in the culture of Japan, and in Japanese minds. Another character of Japan is that they are really punctual. This deserves praise especially when compared to some Chinese. Here in China, a "ten minutes' late" often happens both in a ordinary date and in a formal ceremony. Be in time is always a good habit, when most people is punctual, the efficiency will be improved a lot. Their punctuality also indicates thoughtfulness in their minds and culture. Also, bowing is often to see in everyday life, and it is common to see two people bow to each other for several times. Besides these characters, I also found out that they are so hard-working when I passed a building in Tokyo at night, I saw more than half of the rooms in the building are still full of people. Also, I can feel their enthusiasm in work when I talk with some local people. These characters are deeply rooted in their culture, and all of these makes a efficient and harmony society. China should learn from these characters now, we should find a better way to develop our country, both in economy and in culture.

I also found a lot of traditional things in Japan, they keep these things and combine them with modern life. For example, some of them still use Tatami in their house instead of modern ones. Streets in Japan are clean and tidy, I can hardly see rubbish in public area. According to Ms. Hisami Andrade's lecture, I learnt that Japanese learn to picking and sorting trash in Eco-class even when they are in kindergarten. Since there is not much resource, they

recycle most of the trash. Traffic in Japan is so convenient! All kinds of traffic tools can be seen in Japan. It is hard for me even to count all the lines in Yokohama city. These traffic tools are so punctual that you hardly need to worry about being late for anything. Most people go out just by these public transits, and that's one reason why there is hardly a traffic jam. As we are talking about convenience, I should say that there are so many vending machines all over, beside streets, in building, in park, and in other public area. And they have all kinds of vending machines, some kinds of them I even had never seen before. All these facilities makes the society much more efficient.

As a summary of Japanese society, I should say that methodicalness and politeness impressed me most, especially compared with China. We still had a long way to go. The large population gives us really a big problem in developing.

AFTER attending this program, there are some changes in my mind. The Japanese people and Japanese culture really did something on me.

It's quite hard to tell what a foreign culture is like if you haven't experienced it. I was kind of scared to live and study abroad before. Living in a totally unfamiliar society might be a little hard for me. Especially when there is a aphasis, it would be inconvenient even just in daily life, not to mention study and work in a foreign language.

After this program, I found out that I had worried too much. Most professors can speak good English, and it is easy to communicate with them and we can understand each other easily. Many Japanese people can speak some English, too. With the help of body language and writing some characters on the paper, it is not a hard thing to live a good life. Also, when we need some help, we can easily find a Chinese, especially in restaurants. Local people are so kind and warm hearted, and they will probably do whatever they can to help us. After having some lectures, I find out that what we are interest in about science is quite the same, while we may have some different thoughts on them, which may due to different cultures. So, communicate will no doubt make a better result of the research, and we could learn more from each other.

I find out that living in a totally different society is kind of exciting and interesting. I can learn about other cultures and get new ideas when living in a different society. Also, I can see humanities landscapes quite different from ours. The short visit really gives me a new horizon.

In fact, the world is becoming a village somehow. The tendency of the world is to communicate more and to cooperate more. As a matter of fact, we have to get used to it. So that we can enrich the experience and find our position in a certain society.

Since the students from YNU is so nice, there is no problem to communicate with them, and they gave us so much help that made us so comfortable to stay there in Yokohama. And they really leaved a good impression on me. So glad that I could make friends with them.

As for me, I am kind of excited about study abroad now. It makes me happy to make new friends and to communicate with friends in different cultural background. Compare to these, language is no more a problem, and I can even learn a new language when study abroad.

With the help of YNU's teachers and students, we really had good days in Japan. By attending this program, I have learnt so much, not only about knowledge in science but also something about society and culture. I hope this program will continue and give more students of both YNU and PKU a chance to know a different country and to experience life abroad. This kind of programs really have benefits on students of both YNU and PKU. It would be so kind if there are more programs like this one. And I guess a longer visit is better for a good understanding of students.

I'm looking forward for my next chance to study abroad now! Of course, a second chance to visit Japan as well! It makes me excited!

FINALLY, I would like to say "thank you" to JASSO(Japan Student Services Organization) too. Thank you for your support to this program!

ありがとうございます!