

Two French Students in Japan

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Welcome in Japan

One day in March, we take plane for Nagoya. Let's go to Japan!

At the airport, we meet professors Ota and Hashimoto and after 1 hour and a half, we discover CRL and the guesthouse. The jet lag is difficult but we go with professors and students to a traditional Japanese restaurant and a first contact with the Japanese traditional food is done. French and Japanese foods are so different but before to eat we have to use our joystick correctly. Even if we trained us in France it's difficult for us to follow professionals. Japanese food is unknown in our country and we can only eat Sushi and Sashimi. So this evening, we try lot of new tastes! After this "oishi" lunch we spend our first night in Japan. During the first week, we meet lot of new people: Professors, students and employees. Our first work is to memorize the name of everybody. This is a very hard job because very often we inverse some letters ... Sumimasen!!!



In April, it is the beautiful season of cherry blossom! As we need to go to Nitech we go through Tsurumai Park with professor Ota. After our registration as students of Nitech, we go to a picnic under the trees of the park.

Few days after we arrived, we have to try another

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famous activity in Japan: Barbecue Party! This party is very nice to discuss with lot of people! Everybody is here, professors and students. We spend a very nice and fun evening and thanks to professor Adachi; thanks to him, we discover different kinds of sake! The taste of sake changes with its origin.

Takayama



Our first trip is Takayama, an old and traditional town in Hida district. In April there is a famous Matsuri. It's our first Japanese festival and we observe everything. The floats are so beautiful with red and gold colour. More than 500000 people are present! We can see musicians and dancers who walk in procession. They wear traditional clothes and they have lot of flags and play old music instruments.

We visit the Takayama-Jinya, a post office built on 1816. In fact, we walk everywhere to see the old houses and temples as Hida Kokubun-Ji which has been built

on the 8th century. A very nice day with only 6 hours by train.

Kyoto and Osaka



The second step of our travel in Japan is Kyoto! We go there with Kentaro Sugimoto and another student in this famous place during the golden week. It's difficult to choose where we want to go because there are too much of things to see! Fortunately, we stay two days even if we sleep in Osaka due to the amount of tourists who come to Kyoto.

We visit many temples as Ginkaku-Ji, Kimizu, Rokuon-Ji, Ryoan-Ji, To-Ji, etc. They are so beautiful...

To finish this travel, we go to the aquarium of Osaka. There are lot of fishes like manta ray and whale shark. Unfortunately, the wale shark died few weeks after we seen him...Near this aquarium there is a 3D cinema which is very impressive!

Hanamatsu, Arai and Unagi-Pie company

One month after Kyoto we go with professors and students to Hanamatsu for a meeting of ceramics. The meeting takes place in a hotel where we send one night. We listen people who explain their work in... Japanese! Muzukashi sugimasu! On the evening, a big barbecue party is organised. There is a lot of atmosphere. Everybody speak with everybody during the meal.



Then there is a forum where students present their work thanks to poster.

After it's time to try onsen and to discover the Japanese way of life! The water is very hot and it's quite difficult to go in but after you are in the onsen you are peaceful. After a good night, the meeting continues the morning. On the afternoon we visit Arai with Kosuke Tamaki and especially its check point office and its old hotel. Then we go to unagi-pie Company and we learn how they are made. Oishi!

Tokyo



We are in Japan since 4 months and now we want to visit Tokyo, the main city of Japan. We use the bus during a night and when we arrive to Shinjuku station, it's only 5 a.m. We go in Tsukiji to see the famous fish market. We find a coffee shop to have breakfast! Even if it's early, there is lot of people! But we can't eat sushi at this time; we will wait for the lunch ... Fish sellers and customers work and we can observe the activity of the Tokyo's seaport. Atsui! During these three days, the temperature is around 35 °C ... Each 300 meters we need to buy something to drink.

Nevertheless we continue our travel and we go everywhere: Ginza, Asakusa, Ueno, Shinjuku, Shibuya, Marunouchi, etc. We love Tokyo! There is lot of things to see and the atmosphere in the street depends on the place you are. You can have an old and traditional atmosphere or high tech atmospheres; you just have to change of area! We visit temples, building, zoo, government building, sushi bar, etc! Then we buy lot of souvenirs as Kimono and we take too much of pictures! Tokyo is a very nice place for tourism!

Gifu

In August, there are big fireworks in Gifu! So we decide to go and to see it. After one hour by train with so



many people, we arrive to Gifu station. Everywhere we can see Japanese people who wear their traditional clothes. We go near the river where the fireworks must be shooting. It's easy to find our way because we just have to follow the swarm. After 40 minutes, we arrive and we buy foods and drinks. We find a good place where we can sit down. During two hours we can observe fireworks. It's very beautiful.

Kamikochi



On September we go with Professor Hayakawa and his family to Kamikochi! This famous place is located in the Japanese Alps around the Azusa River. We walk slowly during this excursion to appreciate the peaceful atmosphere! We walk near the river through marshland thanks to several little wood pontoons. Finally we arrive to the famous bridge: Kappa-Bashi. There we buy soba and grape juice for the dinner in Tajimi! Unfortunately we can only stay 4 hours before to go back home ... So it is a very short afternoon but we keep a lot of good memories.

Laboratory trip

At the end of September, a laboratory trip is organised! We need 6 hours to do this trip by car. At the middle we have a brief stop to observe Fuji-San!!! But there are too much of clouds and we can't see it ... The



trip continues and we are quite surprised by the landscape. There are several mountains and a lot of vegetation similar to jungle! We make another brief stop in this area to see a beautiful waterfall. Near it we discover a wasabi grove and professor Ota buys us a very very good wasabi ice-cream!!! So strange... Then we arrive to the hotel and we discover our room which is very beautiful and big! Before having the lunch, everybody goes to onsen to relax themselves. For lunch a room with tatamis has been reserved for us. This is a traditional Japanese lunch. We wear a kimono and we sit down on the floor. How to say about the food... There is a lot of different dishes and we eat until we can't (onaka ipai!). To digest we go outside the hotel to a little onsen for foot. After a good night in futon we go to a zoo with a lot of crocodiles and a lot of different plants. Then we go back to Tajimi and we make a last brief stop in a restaurant to eat soba!

Inuyama



Now we are in October and our last trip we go to Inuyama! As Kamikochi, Professor Hayakawa and his family come with us. First we go down the Kiso-gawa River with a ship. It is a 13km long trip with some rocks which look like an animal. There are few speed areas which are very impressive! Then we visit the Inuyama

castle which is the oldest castle of Japan. On the top of the castle you can see a very beautiful landscape with mountains and river. The evening we go to a barbecue restaurant and as usual we eat lot of good things but this time we drink French wine...

Nagoya



Well, there is too much of things to tell about Nagoya! This is a nice city with many shrines, museums, karaoke, pubs, etc. We go each week end to Nagoya to visit, to do shopping (Sakae, Osu kannon), to drink and to eat something (like Red Rock Cafe!). We like very much this city, people are very kind and the evening there is many animated place with lot of people. Like we see so different things in Nagoya, we decide to put a picture of a famous and original thing we saw: championship of Sumo! This is very impressive.



Tradition is very important in this sport and we have been very happy to see it!

This the end of our training period and we have to go back to France



On October this is the end of our adventure in Japan! We have been very enjoyed to come to CRL and to work about Itacolumite. But now we have to go back to France... So this is the time of the last dinners: a final barbecue party with professors and students, a final lunch with the Chinese people of the guesthouse and a sayonara party with Ms Hayashi and others women! Time is over and if we are glad to go back to see our family and friends we are very sad to leave each people we met! We hope to see you again in Japan or in France (In fact, everywhere...)!



Thank you very much Ishizawa sanse, Ota sanse and Adachi sanse

Thank you Ms Hayashi and others women

Thank you Japanese and Foreign students

ありがとう ございました