

## Ikimasho!

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September 2008. After a 3-month stay in a Japanese company (Isolite Insulating Products), I decided to come to Japan once again, and precisely at Tajimi.

After several administrative procedures, it was time to get a flight to Centrair Japan! Ikimasho!!!

Early April, I arrived at Nagoya airport, where I met Professor Ota and Mr. Imai. Then we went by car to Tajimi and I discovered the guesthouse, the place wherein I lived for six months. It really was cozy; moreover there was a very useful air conditioner in the room. In fact, the outside temperatures were slightly beginning to increase.

Anyway, I was fine in my new place! Despite the jetlag effects, I went to a very very good restaurant with professors and Mr. Sia. During the following days, everybody was very welcoming with me and tried to help me.

Then, it was time for the first bbq party. It was an excellent way to meet people of the laboratory but also to taste Nihonshu, Shochu and Japanese whisky. Partying either with students and professors was very pleasant.

Nevertheless, I came to Japan not only to have fun but also to work. Being the only one student working on this project, the first weeks were relatively intense. I discovered the other research students and the professors. Everyone was very kind with me. My project was really interesting and I began my work with curiosity.

One thing, for sure, that I like in Japan is the food. I love it. Well ... maybe not tofu or miso soup, but most of the other dishes are delicious!





However, the probably more interesting thing, when you live a while in a foreign country, is the activities and the travels. During my stay, I had the occasion to travel a lot. Having already climbed the Fuji-san and visited some big cities such as Tokyo or Osaka, two years ago, I took the opportunity to visit some smaller cities: Inuyama, Gifu, Gamagori... It was very nice and totally different from the so big city of Tokyo!

I also spend several weekends in Nagoya. I travel all around the city and now, I know a lot about this city: from Sakae to Kanayama, from Ozone to Tsurumai, the TV tower, the castle, the world largest cosplay festival...



In early May, I went to Utsumi beach. Weather was very hot but the ocean was so cold...

I didn't go back to Fuji-san a second time, but I climbed some other mountains: Ibukiyama (borders of Shiga and Gifu prefectures) and Fujimidai (Nagano Ken). I also went to Onsen on the middle of the mountains of Nagano Prefecture!



Among the cities that I visited, one of my favorite is Hiroshima. The atmosphere of the city was so special. It was very interesting to speak with some Japanese people on this so special location.



During this trip to Hiroshima, I took the opportunity to go to Miyajima, which is considered to be a holy place. Of course I went to Itsukushima Shrine but I also climbed Mt Misen, which offers gorgeous views of the island and the sea. It was pretty difficult but the view was beautiful!



I also had the chance to assist to a traditional Japanese marriage on this site!





I also went to Osaka. I visited the castle and went to the Universal Studios. It was funny and pleasant, but my favorite Japanese city is Kyoto.



I love this city. I visited Kyoto three times during my stays in Japan and I spent more than ten days in the city. The atmosphere is so special and there are so many things that can be done there: Kinkaku-ji, Ryoan-ji, Kamigamo Shrine, Nijo castle, To-ji, Kiyomizu-ji, Ginkaku-ji and so many others...



But I was not in Japan just to travel, I made a poster presentation during the 22nd Fall Meeting of the Ceramic society of Japan. This event took place in Matsuyama, Ehime prefecture. It was for me, the first official presentation that I made. I explained my work and everything went good.

It was just a poster presentation session but it was really a good experience.



For this occasion, together with professor Ota, we had a delicious dinner in a Japanese restaurant and we went to Dogo Onsen, which is one of the most famous onsen in Japan. Tanoshi kata!

Then it was time to leave Japan. The young members of the compo group helped me a lot. They also organized a lot of lunches and dinners in the laboratory. I also received a beautiful present from them. Finally, we went to the airport together and I want to thank them for that.

I was very sad to leave my friends there, but happy to come back in France to see my girlfriend and my family!

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\* 09年4月3日～9月21日、フランス ENSCI から FIRE program により 来日し、“Preparation of flexible ceramics by mimicking itacolumite” に関して研究を行った。

**Thank you very much everybody!  
I hope to see you soon!**