

到福冈县交流后的感想 by Fong Mi E

这是我第一次独自一个人到一个语言不通的国家去，刚开始还有些害怕，后来也就慢慢习惯了。我是第一次到有四季之分的国家去、原来冬天比想象中的还要冷。他们怕我们还不适应那里的气候，先带我们去喝一杯热饮，才带我们踏出机场。福冈县是一个很漂亮的地方，乡下和城市的风景都各有各的特色。但是我还是比较喜欢他们乡下的生活，朴实而宁静。当地人都很热情地招待我们。



这是车行驶在柳川市道路旁的稻田

首先，我们第一个参观景点是福冈县有名的寺庙，那就是DAZAIFU。那时候正好下着雨，我们每人都手持一把伞，走在雨中参观。虽然下着雨，但是参观寺庙的人还是很多。这是和我们这里不同的地方，如果是雨天，很少人会有兴致拿着雨伞参观一个地方，我认为这是我们值得学习的地方。

我的寄宿家庭成员都很热情地招待我。那里的早餐和我们这里有些不同，我们都是吃西式早餐，他们的早餐比较中式。每天的早餐都是吃米饭，和一些小菜。小孩的午餐一般上都是在学校解决后才回家的。这是和我们马来西亚有所不同的地方。

那里的学校都很大和漂亮，周围的环境也很安静、是个很棒的学习环境。除此之外，都有完善的设备和场所让学生进行课外活动，而学生们也很珍惜这些设施，课外活动后都会清理好了才回家。这是我

们本地学校所不足的地方。

我很喜欢他们食堂的管理方式，在食堂的进口处会有一台机器，你只要把钱放进去，再按下你所想要的食物按钮，然后拿着出来的那张卡片去前面准备食物的地方换取就可以了。准备食物的人不需要一边忙着准备食物，一边找回钱给学生，也不会出现混乱的状况。这个系统很完善也很卫生、是我们本地学校应当学习的，这样就能够改善我们下课时摊贩前面拥挤的现象，也能提高食堂的卫生水平。



在三池高中课后留下来参加他们的课外活动



与山门高中的女排球队合影

茶道是一门深奥的学问，看电视的时候觉得很简单、可是真正做起来，却没有想象中的那么简单呢。从一开始邀请客人进屋，坐姿，烧开水一直到品茶为止、都需要注意许多事项。和茶一起配着吃的小点心是有四季之分的，不同的季节有不同的点心。我们也尝试冲泡一碗浓浓的茶给客人享用、果真是很考功夫喔。



茶道老师正在示范怎么冲泡一碗浓浓的茶

这次到柳川市，我们还尝试了自己动手捏陶土，制作自己想要的形状的杯子和小盘子。刚开始我们只是看着眼前一团褐色的陶土，不知道该如何下手，但是经过老师的指导后，我们便有了头绪，开始动手捏陶土了。好不容易把它捏成我们想要的形状后，接着是要自己画出自己想要的印花。至于上色，老师说要等它干了后才可以上色，所以老师会帮我们上色在邮寄回来给我们。这门课真是一堂有趣的课呢。



是我的陶艺作品

虽然那时的天气很冷，但是他们的热情却温暖了我。所以到最后，我们都带着依依不舍的心情踏上归途。短短的一个星期的交流，让我留下许多印象深刻的回忆，也是我人生旅途中一段宝贵的经验。这段交流为我的生活增添了许多色彩，至今还深深怀念在那儿渡过的日子。如果有机会，我希望能尝试到不同的地方去交流，从中吸取更多的知识与经验。



这是我的寄宿家庭的爸爸和妈妈



这是寄宿家庭的哥哥和Yukina

Fukuoka Homestay

by Cham Wuen Chien (JCB)

After seven hours in the airplane, I finally arrived at the place I anticipated for weeks. That was the start of my unforgettable stay at Fukuoka.

At first, I was pretty worried and nervous as I couldn't speak Japanese. But the enthusiasm of the Japanese soon calmed my heart. My host family, Koga family, also gave me a lot of care. When we communicate, we used some simple English and Japanese words or even Kanji. Communication was no further a problem.

Besides that, I realized that Japan has a very strong motivation in cleanliness and environmental protection. People do not leave rubbish on the streets or destroy the peaceful environment. They are also extremely polite. They greet you with honour and a warm smile on their face. I think this is something we should learn.

During my stay in Japan, I learned the Japanese traditional tea ceremony, how to make Sagemon and Mochi and some history of Japan. I experienced snow and Kotatsu for the first time. The wish of wearing Kimono was also granted.

I also visited two high schools. According to Japanese culture, the students put on slippers while in school. I noticed that they were very serious while cleaning up their classrooms and



From left hand site: Cheah Bin Xin (JCB), Fong Mi E (JSB), Cham Wuen Chien (JCB), Miki Cham Ting Chien (JCB)

while carrying out their curricular activities. There were a few interesting activities which Malaysian schools do not have, like Kendo, Judo and baseball.

The only bad thing was that one week was just too short for such a program. Once I got close to my host family, it was time to go. It would be great if we have more time to know more about each other and about Japan. I hope the duration of the stay was longer.

Lastly, I would like to thank Jagam and Wing Fukuoka for organizing this homestay program. It was very meaningful. I gained much experience of life and knew more about Japan's traditional culture. If I have the chance to take part in this program again, I surely will.

Fukuoka Homestay

By Cheah Bin Xin (JCB)

Yanagawa is a nice city. What do I mean by nice? The city is clean, air is fresh, people are polite, food is good and etc. It seems like answering a comprehension question or having an interview, but it is really that great! We had a great week there, full with lots of activities, the schedule was not so tight, I was enjoying like having a holiday there. We spent most of the time in Yanagawa City, it is a village that has paddy fields around. When you stay there, you will like to stay there, no tall buildings around, no polluted air, and no traffic jam. This is what I saw from Yanagawa. I had a great time with my host family, Yamashita family. They took good care of me, made me feel comfortable like being at my home, host mother cooked delicious meals and the food is healthy. I would like to share the food I had there: miso-shiru, Yuri (seaweed) , Amao (the king of Ichigo, strawberry) , Crab noodles, Japanese sweets, Unagi no Seiro-mushi, Sashimi (yellow tail) , Tonkotsu Ramen, Miso Ramen and Udon. There were many types of food that I ate there, all were Oiishi!

I went to have Japanese spa with my host family, the 満月泉, and that night had a full moon too! It was nice to have a hot spring water spa in the cold winter days. We went to school during the homestay, three different schools gave us different experiences. We felt weird when we arrived at the school building, slippers were given and we need to change into them. It is Japanese custom to wear clean slippers in the working place and at home. Japanese learning and teaching ways are similar to Malaysia. Examination is important in Japan, but I found that their English lesson was not so useful for students.

They were learning English for the sake of doing well in exam, but not useful in daily conversations. Most of the Japanese people around us couldn't speak English well. I like to compliment about their canteen, it is clean and the food is safe to eat. One of the schools even has a coupon-exchange machine, it saves lots of waiting time. Japan school compound is large, compared to my school that is packed with lots of buildings. They have a large space for school children to do their sports like baseball, soccer, and they have martial arts in every school. Calligraphy is also a symbolic activity in the school, we did it twice in two different schools, and wrote kanji and hiragana. Japanese school plays volleyball and basketball in indoor court, which is also their school hall. Teachers in every school are very professional, work hard and willing to impart their knowledge to their students. We went for Canal boat sailing, Museum visit, Shrine, Chado (tea ceremony), shopping around at Hakata city and etc.

When you go to Japan, you will find that praying is important in Japan, they trust god.

There are shrines and temples around Yanagawa, and they are different. We visited the Dazaifu Tenmangu Shrine and Kushida Shrine. The Dazaifu Tenmangu Shrine is specific for learning, many students pray there for luck in their learning. People touch the bull's forehead, it will make you become more intelligent. One more thing I like the most is the Canal boat sailing, allows me to enjoy the natural beauty of Yanagawa.

There are 12 bridges all along the way, we enjoyed the sailing on that sunny day. There

were stops during the sailing, for us to buy drinks and snacks.

We went to a Museum, but it was boring for us, it was hard for us to understand what the Museum was trying to show. I know one of it was about 立花宗茂 Ohana, the castle, the other we visited in Hakata city was about the Hakata Dolls and the history of Hakata Gion Yamakasa. The museum has well management, with clear theme, use different ways to show the history to the visitors, videos, tools, drawings, calligraphy, pictures, words, maps and etc. I had the picture for the museum visit about Ohana and the castle.

Tea ceremony is one of the customs in Japan. It is different in every season, so I can say tea ceremony has four types. We can see the difference from the calligraphy that hangs in the room and the sweets we eat during the ceremony. Manners is important during the ceremony, the way to give the tea, drink the tea, the steps to move, the way to sit, the way to prepare the green tea. That day after tea ceremony, our legs were tired. We had Matcha ice cream and ceramics-making class next.

Kushida Shrine is famous for the rice cake that is sold around the Dazaifu street. We ate the rice cake with red bean, it was nice! Kushida Shrine is also a famous tourist spot (copied from the leaflet). The important event that is held there is the Hakata Gion Yamakasa Festival. The man will carry a huge and heavy float and race around the city, it is something cool for me and the things I did like to point out is their teamwork and spirit!

Last but not least, I did like to share about the shopping day in Japan. We shopped around Hakata city on the 27th December. It was different from the village we stayed for 6

days, I think the village is named as Kurume (everyone's car is labeled with this place name). We went there by taking express train and bus. The transport is systematic in that city, they have different bus stops for different places, it is easy to get to your destination. The bus driver is polite, he will say "arrigato" to every passenger when they alight. People can cross the road safely, and the pedestrian traffic lights will play a tune when it turns green for pedestrians to cross. I missed the village life, the city is packed and full of buildings. I like the building structure of the Fukuoka's Mega-mall, it is in a half sphere shape. We went to the "Ramen stadium" too. Recycle is important in Japan, you can see recycle bin in public places, and not just a single rubbish bin for all kinds of trash.

It is my first time to see snow! I saw it on the day we wore Kimono, it is exciting! I felt it too, it is small, like ice. Kimono is not mentioned yet, actually I felt uneasy when I first heard we need to wear the costume, but I like it when I put it on, it is nice and the design on the cloth is special. We took lots of pictures that afternoon.

Here comes the end of my report. I had a very different holiday this year. I am glad to have a chance to participate in this transfer student program, although we faced problems in daily conversation, but it is something new for us to experience. After this 7-day winter trip, I don't like winter anymore. It is uneasy to live in this cold weather, wearing thick clothes, and feeling cold every time I leave the warm heater. This trip makes me mature, I got a lot of experience, but it is not a stop for me, I hope to learn Japanese and go to visit my host family some other time! Thanks JAGAM, for this Fukuoka Home stay Program!

One week in Japan

by Miki Cham Ting Chien (JCB)



Otosan: Aramaki Tohiyuki, Saki, me, Okasan: Mayumi.

A week passed like a blink of an eye, I had a wonderful memory in Fukuoka. This is my first time to experience homestay. Besides having a better understanding of Japan, I became braver. I do not resist talking with one I do not know. Although we were using different languages, we have tried our best to communicate with each other. I wish I could speak Japanese.

I experienced winter for the first time. I watched snow for the first time. But I realize that actually Malaysia also has the same things in Japan. For example, the Japanese eateries (Sukiyaki, Takoyaki, unagi bento, etc.), the “purigura”, calligraphy, and Jusco. But the biggest differences are Japan attaches great importance to environmental protection and recycle. In addition, Japanese are much more polite as they do not speak loudly in a public place. The public

transports in Japan are very convenient. We can take a bus or subway to anywhere of Japan.

Students wear slippers in school, in this way, it is easier to do the clean up job. Tables are separated and the classes are quiet. Maybe the students are not paying attention but at least they do not disturb others. They are more interested in extra-curricular activities. The school also has many choices of activities like Kendo, Judo, swimming and baseball. They wear an official uniform although they were only practicing.

The people were gracious, I felt easy to get along with them, like I am part of their family, I feel like having a same age sister in just a week. I hope I can see them again.

There's one thing that had me confused, whether to suggest Jagam to extend the duration of the homestay program , or not. We became closer to each other in a week and we have to leave now... But, maybe if the duration is longer, I am afraid that I'll cry more on the last day.

Lastly, I'm very lucky to have a chance to take part in the homestay organized by Jagam and Wing Fukuoka. It's awesome and I had a meaningful holiday. If I have a chance to be an exchange student to Japan, I'll grab it without hesitation.