

Yasuko Takami, Host Family

As a host family in the past, we had a bitter experience of hosting the guest. All the family members were so excited, showed around many sightseeing spots, until the guest and family members became exhausted. For this time, learning from the experience, we tried to research how the participants spent their time in Japan, if they were here for the first time or not, and we tried to provide opportunity to let them experience the typical and ordinary Japanese life. Because there is no one in my family who speaks English fluently, we could not understand him completely or could not have him understood us. Now we still wonder how much he could enjoy the homestay experience with us and went back home.

According to the Cambodian youth, there are many motorbikes in Cambodia so we spent half a day riding a motorbike and enjoying the ride with salty

breeze of the Sea of Japan. The Cambodian youth looked the happiest at the time.

In advance of hosting him, we were able to hear about the country of Cambodia or people's custom from an ex-Japan overseas cooperation volunteers member who had lived in Cambodia before. It helped us feel familiar with the country beforehand that we were able to enjoy each other's company at home (Our little kids gave him a nick name and were chasing around him.) also we planned to go to take a bath in a hot spring together. It was a great time.

Although we couldn't make it happen this time, going out for shopping for food and having the participant make their local food can also be a good exchange in search for ingredients.

From now and later on, we hope to exchange with many people from different places and improve English so we can understand each other.

Chansatya Meas, Cambodian Participant

These five days have been very meaningful for all Cambodian participating youths. While in Toyama Prefecture, we received very warm welcome at the Toyama Prefectural Government.

During the local program, we have experienced many diverse activities: Joining Tea Ceremony, flower arrangement and painting ceramic doll; Getting to know Zen and Creativity; Participating in Cultural Festival at Fushiki High School, and especially staying with host family which is a very crucial part for the local program.

What we have learned in these activities is indescribable. Making new friends regardless of our nationalities, getting to know more about Japanese culture and ways of living, teaching each other to speak other participating youths' languages, and being flexible with travelling and very organized time management.

Before arriving in Toyama, we had to take Shinkansen (a Bullet Train). This has been a very

first time for most of us to experience taking such quick train. While in Japan, we have known that Japan has had a very proper transportation system (public bus and train). In Toyama, particularly, we have known that besides the public bus and train, Centram is also another way of transportation for people in Toyama when they need to travel to different parts of their community.

The most interesting part of Toyama Prefecture is homestay. During this program, we feel that we are in our home because the host family treats us the same way as our family does. We have had a nice time having a trip to many different parts of Toyama, creating network among Japa-



nese friends and learning the way of life in Japanese local people.

In addition to these fruitful programs, we can feel the warm care of all INDEX coordinators in

Toyama Prefecture that have made us feel at ease in participating in all the activities. Without them, we would not be able to attend all the programs successfully.

Hannah Hita Mari Ilave, Papua New Guinean Participant

Cambodian and Papua New Guinean delegates departed to Toyama Prefecture from Kanazawa by bus on Wednesday, September 30. Besides being greeted by a traditional Japanese lunch, we attended a courtesy call to the Toyama Prefectural Government building and had the privilege to be given a rooftop garden tour.

Day two in Toyama saw a busy day of exploring Kansui Canal Park, clay doll painting, flower arrangement, calligraphy, Japanese tea ceremony, and a rather interesting Zen meditation session. We had experienced a few of the activities beforehand such as calligraphy and the tea ceremony; the lecture on Buddhism and Zen was a new experience for us.

I was rather nervous to meet my host family on Friday, October 2. Fortunately, before the matching ceremony, we visited Fushiki High School for a festival and visited the majestic Kaiwo Maru ship park and got to walk the Ainokaze Promenade as a mind easer. To my surprise, a member of my host family had been accompanying us on our local program activities, I had come to know her quite well by then, and then started to our home. It seems

as though our host families had the same idea: that we needed to see as much of Japan as possible. No two stays were the same, and individually we bonded very well.

Papua New Guineans are naturally very attached to family and relatives; the homestay program introduced each one of us to a new family. Despite being under these families only 39.5 hours, we grew very close. Notwithstanding language, lifestyle and race barriers, we were welcomed, taken care of, and taken to new places far beyond what we imagined. Each of us shared our different experiences as we gathered to say goodbye, it was as though actual family bid us farewell.

Overall, Toyama introduced us to the Japanese home: literally and figuratively. Homestay program had presented us to the typical lifestyle of different families; we saw the landscape, experienced traditions, rituals and, as a bonus, learnt very basic Japanese. Toyama had given us a front-row seat to complete our experience as members of the International Youth Development Exchange Program 2015.



4. Yamaguchi Prefecture

Date	Time	Activities
Sep. 26 (Sat.)	10:15	Depart from Haneda Airport by ANA-693
	11:55	Arrival at Ube Airport, Yamaguchi
	12:40	Lunch
	15:00	Discussion Program Opening Ceremony Orientation Ice Breaking
	18:00-20:00	Welcome Reception * Speech by the representative of Yamaguchi Prefectural Government * Speech by the Preparation Committee * Speech by the representative of Mozambique * Cultural performance by each country
Sep. 27 (Sun.)	10:30	Lecture (about patriots in the Meiji Restoration Period of Japanese History)
	12:00	Lunch
	13:00-17:00	Discussion Summary and Presentation
	18:00	Dinner
Sep. 28 (Mon.)	9:45-11:00	Visit to Saika Tei * Experience wearing Japanese "Kimono"
	12:00-13:00	Lunch
	13:30-16:30	Sightseeing in Hagi City * Visit to Hagi Pottery Workshop, sightseeing in the neighborhood * Hagi hansharo ; Hagi reverberatory furnace * Shoka son juku (Private School for youths about 100 years ago)
	18:00	Arrive at the Hotel/Dinner
Sep. 29 (Tue.)	10:00	Courtesy Call on Yamaguchi Prefectural Government * Speech by the representative of Yamaguchi Prefectural Government * Speech by the representative of Dominican Republic * Gift exchange
	11:30-12:50	Lunch
	13:20-15:00	Vist to Junior High Shool of Yamaguchi University
	15:15	Visit to Kayama Park
	18:00-20:00	Cultural Exchange * Cultural performance by each country
Sep. 30 (Wed.)	11:40	Depart from Shin-Yamaguchi Station by Nozomi 24