

Japanese Language Program for Overseas Students (Outstanding Students) 2016

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I participated in this program from September 6th until September 21st. I traveled to Japan by plane with Lufthansa airlines. I transferred to my flight to Tokyo in Frankfurt where I met few other participants from Europe and Southern America. Whole program began on September 8th when all sixty participants from fifty eight countries have gathered in language institute of Japan Foundation in Osaka. After welcome speech from institute managing director Mr. Osamu Akagi, we were introduced to other employees of the institute and were given detailed information about the program. We also received very detailed personal schedule and all materials we needed during our stay. After this introductory session we made a tour around the institute where we received many useful information about the facilities. In our schedule we had a subject called “class” and it was a time where we were being prepared for the following part of our program, i.e. visits to host families and how to behave in Japanese home. We also received Japanese text books from the institute and we could select textbooks we personally preferred. Our choice was only limited by amount.

Our first group activity was an excursion to Osaka. We went by bus that was arranged by the institute and we visited Osaka castle and also shopping district Shinsaibashi. On Saturday we spent our day in groups of 2-4 with Japanese families that have volunteered to participate in this program.

Following day, on Sunday, we had a free day for our personal activities. I travelled by train to Osaka city center so I could take part in catholic morning service in Tamatsukuri church. After that I went again to Shinsaibashi so I could see more of it and also have lunch in a restaurant. In the afternoon I visited Osaka Kayukan aquarium and I would strongly recommend it to everyone visiting Osaka.

On Monday we went back to the institute where we shared our stories and experiences from the weekend. On the same day we were participating in cultural activities that we have selected beforehand. I decided to participate in aikido training that was held by professionals. It was very good experience. We also had information meeting about our upcoming three days trip. Following day we went by shinkansen N700 to Hiroshima. In Hiroshima we visited Itsukushima shrine on Miyajima island. We spent the night in Japanese style hotel-ryokan. Following day we visited Peace memorial and museum in Hiroshima. Then again we went by shinkansen and this time we got off in Kyoto where we stayed in very beautiful hotel Shinmiyako. In Kyoto we had one free day for personal activities. I decided to visit Nijo castle, railway museum and also manga museum. Last day in Kyoto we visited Kiyomizu-dera, Nishiki-ichiba market, Kitano tenmangu and Kinkakuji. In the evening we went back to the institute in Osaka. Weekend was again dedicated for our personal activities. On Saturday I have

decided to rest a little bit and then I went on tour on bike. On Sunday I went downtown again where I watched Koi festival.

Last days were dedicated to the evaluation of the program. We also discussed about useful applications and internet websites to study Japanese. As my second cultural activity, I have decided to try out calligraphy.

Right at the end of the program, we received information about our departure times to the airport. Whole program was officially ended by farewell party and we also received our diplomas from the director of the institute. Whole program was very interesting for me and I have learnt many new things during my stay in Japan. It was a great opportunity to test out my knowledge of Japanese and I was also able to determine how I would like to continue my Japanese language studies. I would like to thank all the employees of language institute in Kansai for their great work and warm welcome we have received. I also have few words for future participants of the program: do not be afraid to use your Japanese while you are in Japan. I hope your journey will be great.