



The First Semester at Mie University in Japan

外国人特任教員 柴学茹

2016 年 4 月に天津師範大学 DD 正式 3 期生と共に、引率の任も負われた柴先生を外国人特任教員としてお迎えしました。

A Chinese who teaches English in China without knowing any Japanese comes to Japan. Some people say it is not a problem to live in Japan as you know English;

but some say you cannot live here if you don't know the language. I come to a country which is unfamiliar not only the language but also its culture. That's a real challenge! Five months reflect as an adventure for me (as I once fell down from the bicycle and hurt my leg and arm) as I can ride a bicycle after 11 years of driving a car; five months as an experience for me as I have gone through some places in Japan; five months as a miracle for I have lived well without any Japanese! Five months of living here, good or bad, happy or sad — all is precious.

Before I came here, I just learnt that Japan is an island and very developed country, rich but small. Japanese people are very polite and civilized, which is particularly manifested in their language as there are so many honorific words, which makes their grammar difficult to learn. Is it true?

The first impression of Japan

When I first got here, I just found that teachers here were all very friendly and warm-heartedly. I remember Professor Miyaoka went to the airport to meet us and Hayashi Laoshi was waiting for us in the dormitory and she bought me some food and drink. I was much moved. Hattori Laoshi also helped a lot as she understands Chinese. Japan welcomed us so warmly that we met the earthquake on the third day. I was a little puzzled whether we rocked the earth or the warmth of Japan. But what surprised me more was not the earthquake itself but the response of teachers in the office on the first floor. No one ran away from the office; everyone went to watch TV to get information about the earthquake calmly. I suddenly became aware how Japanese people get used to earthquakes. It is true how Japanese people are quite cultivated and qualified!

The Chinese food

What I didn't expect was Chinese food was so popularized in Japan, especially Mapo Tofu. I have made several dishes of Mapo Tofu for teachers and students here and they all loved it. I hope it would not cause

misunderstanding that Tianjin Normal University sent a chef instead of a teacher here this semester. The reasons why Japanese people love Mapo Tofu are as follows: Japan produces good bean curd; Japanese people love bean curd; Chinese restaurants have made Mapo Tofu known in Japan; and the last but not the least, I make the best of Mapo Tofu dish at Mie University. Is it true?



The one student class

I have been teaching English for more than 30 years, both small and big classes. But at Mie University, it is the first time that I have one student class, which is incredible at Tianjin Normal University. I once had the largest classes of 200 students. What impressed me the most is the student's interests and eagerness in learning Chinese culture. Before he had the class, he just thought that all Chinese food is spicy and hot. It is not true, of course.

The class of students from Tianjin Normal University

All the students enjoy the life at Mie—that is a different experience for them, which may enrich their life. What's more, they learn Japanese from native speakers and make progress at different degrees for their language proficiency. Although there were some problems and accidents, the students and teacher all have good expectation in the next semester. However they feel the life here, they will have good memory for the future. Good or bad, happy or sad — all is precious.

Sarura Exchange Program in Science 2016: Experience and Impression

Dao Thi Hoang Hoa, M.Edu
Ho Chi Minh City University of Pedagogy

科学技術振興機構（JST）による「日本・アジア青少年サイエンス交流事業」（さくらサイエンスプラン）の一環として、アジアの教員養成大学において理科教員を目指す学生を対象とした理科教育研修プログラムを企画し、平成 28 年 6 月 28 日から 7 月 7 日まで、ベトナムのホーチミン市師範大学から高校理科教員を目指す 10 名の大学生・大学院生と 2 名の引率教員を招へいしました。今年度は第 2 回目となります。引率の Dao Thi Hoang Hoa 先生に感想を書いてもらいました。

I would like to start my report by extending my gratitude to JST (Japan Science and Technology Agency) for facilitating the 10-day trip to Japan and Mie University for being our receiving organization in Sakura Exchange Program in Science. Especially, I would like to convey my sincere thanks to Professor Taichiro Goto and Dr. Hiroto Kuninaka at Mie University, who has assisted and supported us a lot in the trip. Thanks to your kindness and truly caring, we have a memorable and terrific time in Japan.

Japan is not the first developed country I have visited. I have been in Melbourne, Australia, for two years. Melbourne is known worldwide as the most worth living city and in there, people around me talked about Japan and Japanese with great respect and admiration. As far as I know, Japan does not have much natural resources but abundant of natural disasters. So why is Japan such a global power? This question has existed in my mind for a long time and after 10 days in Japan, I think I have partially found the answer. 10 days is not a long time, but enough for me to experience life in the sun-rising country, as well as Japanese culture and Japanese spirit. I believe that the key for Japan power is Japanese people. Therefore, I would like to present here five characteristics of Japanese people that have impressed me most during my 10 days in Japan.

My first impression about Japanese is the respect to others. There is no noise in any residence area I have been to, indicating that people respect for common places. Further, I can feel the utmost sense of community among Japanese people everywhere, in streets, markets, stations, to name a few. One more thing that astounded me a lot is that people bowed every time they greet each other, thank or apologize. Students and teacher bowed at the beginning and the end of a lesson. And I learn that bowing does not mean you are lower than others but means you treat others with respect which would raise you to a higher standard.

The second characteristic I would like to mention is the honesty. Japanese honesty is famous worldwide like

handing in lost items or no robbery even in disasters. But I was still surprised at such an honest society with my own eyes. I hardly saw any security gate at supermarkets in Japan. The job of security guards is to instruct people, not to detect or prevent robbery. When I went to crowded places such as supermarkets, stations or trains, I did not need to worry if my belongings could be stolen because the term "minor robbery" nearly disappears in Japanese dictionary. Honesty is of fundamental importance to a humanistic and civilized society. Therefore I believe this characteristic makes Japanese gain much admiration from international friends.



Japanese students and teacher and Vietnamese students in Biology class at Mie University

Thirdly, Japanese people have developed amazingly high and human-oriented science and technology (S&T). I have been introduced to several high-tech machines and inventions at Mie University, including the Nobel Prize in Physics for white light-emitting LED. And what I was interested in is not only how modern these machines and inventions are but also the ways they serve human life. For example, energy-efficient, long-lasting and environmental-friendly white light could solve the crisis of energy in the world, especially in underdeveloped countries. High-performance chromatography machines or genome sequence machines are used for the purposes of food security or food safety. Further, human-oriented designs and devices can be found anywhere such as in toilets, streets, trains, museums, etc. Japanese people have made their best effort to bring convenience and comfort to users in a humanistic way.

Fourthly, the way Japanese educate their children about the importance of S&T and raise their interests about S&T is incredible. As a science teacher, I know that there is a global decrease in attitude of pupils towards science because of its difficulty, unpopularity and irrelevance to life. Science curriculum in Japan is intensively theoretical but there are also interesting

practical lessons for students. Especially, science museums are extremely edutainment. Museum shows and exhibits bring a lot of fun to visitors. Through activities at museums, young people learn science excitingly and naturally. Museums are definitely my most recommended places to visit for who wants to travel to Japan. I wish in Vietnam, we will soon have science museums like this in Japan.



Sakura members 2016 and teachers at Mie University

Last but not least, Japanese people have maintained a mysteriously unique culture. Your culture is rich and diverse. In the visits to Mie Prefecture and Osaka Prefecture Museums, I could experience many rich aspects of Japanese life and people. Your traditions and culture are well-preserved and passed from generation to generation. Japanese culture is an outstanding beauty, and not only that, a treasure. There is a quote saying that habit makes a person succeed and culture makes a nation succeed. In my opinion, this saying is especially true for Japan.

For the last word, as an educator and a teacher, I have many things to tell my students about Japan when I come back home. I have also learnt a lot about Japanese science teaching in and outside class that I can apply in my work. But the thing I would like to do most is to educate Vietnamese youths to become responsible and honest people, like you, incredible Japanese people.

Arigatou Gozaimasu

国際地学オリンピック 2016 での国際交流

理科教育コース 3年 宇佐美隆汰

国際地学オリンピックが8月20日から27日まで三重大学で開催されました。国際地学オリンピックは、地学という分野を通して我々の住む世界を多面的にとらえるとともに、国際的な連携を図りながら地球規模での多様な課題の解決に取り組める人材の養成を目的として行われているものです。今回で10回目を迎え、日本国内では初めての開催です。世界26ヶ国から120名を超える高校生が集まり、筆記・実技試験で成績を競った他、伊勢神宮や伊賀の忍者屋敷、県立博物館の見学を楽しみました。三重大学生が高校生のサポート役として活躍してくれました。その一人に感想を書いてもらいました。



参加者写真（青いTシャツが学生アルバイト）

8月20日から8月27日にかけて三重大学を主会場として開催された国際地学オリンピック2016に教育学部から学生6名、院生2名の計8名が学生スタッフとして参加させて頂きました。私は、地学ゼミに所属しており、地学を通して世界中の高校生と国際交流したいと思い、参加しました。

大会期間中の学生スタッフの仕事は、主に実地試験の補助、食事の補助でした。大会に参加した高校生は食事1つとってもベジタリアンやハラール、肉類がダメなど信条や宗教上の理由で違いが見られ、様々な文化的背景を感じ取ることができました。私は、ルーマニアの高校生を担当させて頂き、拙い英語ではありますが一生懸命コミュニケーションをとり、大会期間を過ごさせて頂きました。大会初日に、初めて会った時はお互いに緊張していてあまり言葉を交わすことはなかったものの、最終日に近づくにつれて交わす言葉が増えていき、仲良くなることができました。私が、彼らと過ごした数日間の中で1番心に残っているのは最終日の閉会式後に過ごした時間です。日本の文化体験として、一緒に習字をしたり、食事をもとにしたりしながら、三重県の印象について話を聞きました。彼らからは、三重県の印象として人々が温かく、礼儀正しいこと、美しい環境や興味深い文化があることなど、三重県人の私としては嬉しい印象をたくさん教えてもらい、とても幸せな気持ちになりました。彼



書道に興じる参加者たち



8日間に及んだ国際地学オリンピック 2016 閉会式の様子（三翠ホール）

らの学生サポーターとして参加できたことにとっても感謝しています。

今回の国際地学オリンピックでは、担当したルーマニアの高校生との交流の他にも、様々な国の高校生やメンター、科学者の方と交流することができました。私自身、外国の方と過ごす機会はありませんでしたが、英語を話す能力に自信がなかったため参加をすることを迷いましたが、勇気を出して参加して本当に良かったと思います。今回、経験させてもらったことを糧にこれからの人生に必ず役立てていきたいと思っています。

9月3日から17日まで第6回オークランド大学教育研修（ニュージーランド）が実施されました。11人の学生が参加し、4人の引率教員のもと、多くのことを経験して帰国しました。

オークランド研修で学んだこと

英語教育コース2年 森 瑛志

オークランド研修では、私たちは一人ひとり別々のホームステイ先に泊まりながら、オークランド大学に通い、幼稚園、小学校、中学校、高校を訪問しました。

私がこの研修で学んだことは、主に2つあります。1つ目は人の話は常に疑問を持ちながら聞く、ということです。例えば日本では授業で先生が「何か質問はありますか」と聞いても学生からは何も返事がないことがほとんどかもしれません。しかし、ニュージーランドでは、「Do you have any questions?」と聞かれたら質問をするのが普通なのです。だから先生の話、人の話は常に疑問を持ちながら、興味を持ちながら聞いて、質問を準備することが必要になります。私はニュージーランドでその癖がついたおかげで三重大学での授業で眠たくなることが減りました（笑）。また、人とのコミュニケーションスキルも上がった気がします。

次に、学んだことの2つ目は、1つ目と関連しますが先生の英語が聞き取れないときは、話を止めてでも「もう一回言ってください」と聞くということです。オークランド大学での講義や、訪問先の学校などでは代表の先生の話だけを伺います。その時、ニュージーランドの英語はイギリス英語なので、私たち日本人にとっては聞き取りづらいということがよくあります。私たちはシャイなので、直接先生には聞かず、仲間どうして「今なんて言ったん?」と聞いていました。しかし、よく考えてみればそれは話してくださっている先生に対してソソソソして失礼ですし、また自分たちの英語力向上のチャンスを逃しているということでもあります。ですから、今後ネイティブの話す英語でわからないところがあれば、もっと大胆に質問できるようになりたいです。

私はこれが初めての海外で、最初は不安でしたが、始めてみれば毎日が新体験の連続で、とても刺激的でした。また、自分の英語力のなさを改めて痛感させられた良い機会であり、もっともっと英語を極めてネイティブと堂々と話せるようになりたいと強く思うようになりました。最後になりましたが、付き添いの先生方、現地で私たちの面倒を見てくださったオークランド大学の先生方には本当に感謝申し上げます。ありがとうございました。



West Coastの農家での一枚



幼稚園・小学校等教育施設での見学：
小学校(Oratia District school)の授業風景