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First Time in JAPAN

Last month, we conducted a small survey among international students in Kyushu University, asking them to share some interesting things they experience for the first time in Japan. Let's see how Japan can bring you wonderful, sometimes funny, and of course, unforgettable "first time"s.

- Getting lost without knowing nothing more than sumimasen (sorry) and arigatou gozaimasu (thank you) in Japanese
- Somehow, I still managed to find the way by pointing at the map and asking in English.
- Riding on an electric and bullet train
- Eating raw squid, fish, beef tongue, ramen and many other amazing Japanese food
- Filling in documents of which I did not understand a word
- Buying kilos of food and bringing them home on a bicycle by myself
- Cleaning someone else's puke



- Actually enjoying and feeling comfortable using toilets. In fact, I love them so much that I now spend almost an hour in the toilet every day.
- Going to a Shinto shrine
- Seeing snow
- Wearing yukata and kimono
- Solo travelling, couchsurfing, trekking and enjoying solitude in nature
- Seeing such polite, disciplined and harmonious society

So, what's your "first time" in Japan?

How to Enjoy Life in Fukuoka

by Tran Ngoc Minh Thi

A city girl at heart, I found myself quite in shock and awe at the same time the first night I arrived at Ito campus since everything is engulfed in nature with vast rice fields and mountains—a scenery very foreign from home. I bet we all would experience that same feeling at some point.

What should we do to make it feel like home then?

We'll certainly have different answers; but for now, please bear with mine for a moment ;)

School anywhere is demanding and challenging; yet, school in Japan has something quite incredible outside the classroom: clubs and circles. It's insane how much dedication my Japanese friends put into practice, training and social events inside these extra-curricular activities. The experience, yet, is totally worth it. I



encourage you to give it a try, practice hard and you'll feel like a part of something bigger than yourself!



For leisure, I love being outdoor, hence my bike is always the choice whenever I want to explore the city. Of course nothing can beat the efficiency of Japanese trains, but if you have the time, be in the scene and cycle. Watching the sunset from Momochi and looking at city lights from Nakasu river after a long ride from the campus with the breeze and calm

is really something. Some of my favorite “discoveries” in Fukuoka are Oohori park, ACROS rooftop, Ainoshima (for my feline fever), Nokonoshima, Hakata Bay ... and ending the day talking with locals at yatai is the best! If you're more of an indoor person, reading with a budget in Fukuoka is easy too, with 50%-70% off books available in Book-Off, Mina Tenjin. Moreover, there are always exciting events around town, so make sure to check Fukuoka Now often; the site is filled with resourceful update of events.

In short, life in a foreign place can be intimidating at first, but I believe an open mind, an open heart and a sense of curiosity can always take you to good things :) Have a lot of fun in Fukuoka!

HUMANS OF KYUDAI

Please tell us what you are studying at Kyushu University?

I'm studying Chemistry at Kyushu University. When I first arrived, I noticed there were few buses, thinking this should be a good environment to focus on studying.

What have you enjoyed being here? What are the best experiences that you have had? Please share with us in details.

I have enjoyed my time in Kyudai very much; yet, my most favorite part is building unique perspectives by meeting many people. For example, in Professor Yoshizo Itabashi's class, I had the chance to meet many international students with different life experiences, family background, personal religions. We discussed in class a variety of philosophical subjects—as broad as euthanasia and as personal as what you would do if you only had 3 days to live. The class really redefined my way of perceiving life; and I'm glad to see how it helped my classmate develop too.

What are some challenges?

I find hard to make changes and step out of my comfort zone. Coming from China where comity is valued and indulgent parenting, I did not take my own curiosity and self-consciousness very seriously. Thankfully, one of my best friends who showed me how important asking questions is and the supportive professors who willingly answer even my silliest questions really helped me overcome my this challenge of courage. Stay curious!

Any advice on how to have a good time while studying at Kyudai?

Find the balance between studying, fitness and pursuing your interests. You'll have a good time!



Su Yuning
(Emma)

**Department of
Chemistry**

Yi Peng Festival

THAILAND

by Oat Lerttanasarn

The world is big and vast with many colorful and unique festivals. This time, let's see Disney Tangled magical sky-floating lanterns coming to life through Thai's Yi Peng festival ~

Yi Peng is a Thai festival in Chiang Mai which is a part of Thai's Loi Kratong festival. The festival is held at full moon for locals to send merits to the river god, Mother Khong Ka, as the river water level is the highest during this time. To celebrate, locals will decorate their houses and trees with lanterns and flags.



Source: suvarnabhumiairport.com

At night, countless number of lanterns are released, creating the stunning image of floating lantern in the air. Recently, parades and fireworks are also displayed to enliven the festival. As the lanterns float up, all bad things would go away, and hence, come light and a brighter future, locals believe.



Source: chillpainai.com

Many join to pray, donate money and goods to temples because Thai people believe that making merits will also bring them good fortune. I hope you would have the chance to visit Thai Lanna kingdom and experience this magical festival.



Every season has its color. It is frequently said Japan has 4 distinct seasons: spring, summer, fall, and winter; and each differs in temperatures and climates. People say you cannot miss cherry blossoms in spring, which is true; yet there's another thing you can never miss 6 months after watching sakura~

Fall in Japan is red. In opposition to cherry blossoms, this wave launches from the north descending to the south, caused by bright autumn foliage which are called "koyo" or "momiji" in Japan. This is one of the most beautiful seasons which you can enjoy immensely. Although many of Japanese people consider "koyo" and "momiji" as the same, they are originally different. The word "momiji" initially indicates acer leaves or their states having changed color from green to red; while "koyo" means leaves or conditions of deciduous broadleaf trees that have turned red or yellow. Yet, many people started regarding these two as identical (maybe because they have the same kanji "紅葉") calling them "momiji" so it's already accepted as a general usage by plebs.

Even though "koyo" and "momiji" are different, they surely share similar magnificence! As the autumn breeze comes, what are you waiting for? What do you have to do? The answer is as clear as the fall sky~ We must stroll through a street with lots of "momiji"! Fortunately, we have several spots to enjoy them in Fukuoka, such as Raizan Sennyoji Daihioin, Akizuki Castle Ruins, and many other. Too far? No problem, you can even view vivid autumn foliage inside Kyushu University, one of which lies in Center Zone; or take a quick shuttle bus to Hakozaki Campus. Japan is second to none to have brilliant autumn leaves in the world. I hope your stay at Kyushu University would be just as illustrious just as "momiji".

Here are some osusume momiji spots in Fukuoka

雷山千如寺大悲王院 30m by car Raizan
Sennyoji Daihioin
秋月城跡 1h30 by car Akizuki Castle Ruins
光明禅寺 1h by car 2h by train Komyozen-ji
英彦山神宮 2h-2h30 by car Hikosa Jingu
宝満宮竈門神社 2h30-3h by train Homangu
Kamado Jinja
吞山観音寺 1h-1h30 by car Nomiya
Kannonji



Akizuki Castle Ruins
Source: crossroadfukuoka.jp

Information from the International Student and Researcher Support Center 外国人留学生・研究者サポートセンターからのお知らせ



International Student and Researcher Support Center has been established for international students and researchers to start off your studies or research activities smoothly. Please feel free to contact us when you have any questions or problems.

We extend you our best wishes for your pleasant stay in Fukuoka and fruitful studies and research at Kyushu University.

Website

We are providing various information regarding campus facilities, immigration procedures, and events/news for foreign residents in Fukuoka through this website.

We hope that you will check our website regularly and get useful information.

Business hours

9:00 am - 5:00 pm (Hospital campus: 10:00 am - 5:00 pm)

Closed: Saturdays, Sundays, public holidays and New Year Holidays

Location

Japanese: <http://www.isc.kyushu-u.ac.jp/supportcenter/contact>

English: <http://www.isc.kyushu-u.ac.jp/supportcenter/en/contact>

Please check more information at Support Center Website!!
<http://www.isc.kyushu-u.ac.jp/supportcenter/en>



ONE-DAY TRIP NOV 03
VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT DEC 09
INTERNATIONAL FRIENDSHIP PARTY DEC 16

KUFSA
Kyushu University Foreign Students Association
九州大学留学生会



Tran Ngoc Minh Thi
Shota Deguchi
Ling Zhou

Czarina Rodriguez



We hope you can be part of a fruitful year for KUFSA. Please feel free to contact us at kufsainfo@gmail.com!