



香港中文大学日本研究学科

佐賀大学・中文大学交流計畫 佐賀大学・中文大学交流計畫2014



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活動照片









CHAN Isabella (イサ)



我很高興我能夠有機會參加佐賀交流團，在參加佐賀交流團之前，我有數個目標希望能在今天的交流中完成。現在，我認為我不但已實現我這些希望，並且體驗和學習到比我想象更多的事物。這裏我跟大家一起分享我這十天的經歷。

我在出發到佐賀前有三個目標，第一：希望我的日語可更上層樓，雖然我已學習日語大約 5 年，但卻鮮少有機會與日本人交流，因此對自己的日語口語欠缺信心。第二：能夠結交到一些日本的朋友，儘管在參加之前已知道會有十名佐賀學生陪伴我們，可是基於文化差異，和無可避免的再次分隔兩地後，這段友誼或會無疾而終。最後是想了解更多日本的文化，並為下年的留學做好準備。我在前往佐賀前只有一次以旅遊目的去日本，對日本本土文化了解不深，故希望能藉佐賀之旅來助我了解更多日本的文化。

到達佐賀的第三天，我們去了佐賀市立松梅中小學校參觀。由於校方希望我們能幫助松梅中學校的學生們提升英語水平，我們都只能用英語溝通。以此經歷為基準，比較香港與日本的英語教育。

日本的學生普遍於中學時才開始學習英語，而且大多由本地教師任教。相較於香港幼稚園已開始上英語課，日本學生接觸英語的時間短，中學生仍未能作簡單的英語對話。而松梅中小學校的教學環境理想，學生提早至小學五年級就開始學習英語，並由一名來自英國蘇格蘭的老師授教，再加上學生數目少，教學環境更勝香港。松梅中小學校亦有別於其他學校，十分重視日常英語會話和溝通。學生們並非只按照書本上的句子照本宣讀，而是能夠用英語作簡單會話。與香港學生比較，他們也很主動，努力用英語來溝通。雖然他們懂得的英語生字不多，但卻並未有因此而拒絕與我們交流。反觀香港學生，即使就讀於英文學校，也對以英語對話欠缺信心。

我認為我們在松梅中小學的交流的確能令他們多接觸外國人，增強自信。可是單用英語溝通好像反而阻礙了他們學習英語。因為他們剛開始學習英語，懂得的句子和單詞也很少，難以用英語溝通。但如果能用日語輔助，解釋並教導他們新的英語，應該會讓他們更樂在其中和更投入參與。

另外，在與佐賀學生聊天時，我感受到日本學生普遍對外語不大感興趣。佐賀大學生必須修讀最少一門外語，但大部份學生都只為滿足大學畢業的要求而修

讀，並不感興趣，在大學畢業後，就會拋諸腦後。相反，香港學生卻對外語大感興趣，身邊朋友大多修讀一種至兩種外語。大學的外語課程雖然不是必修科目，但卻經常供不應求，大受歡迎。我認為文化的差異是最大原因，在香港，兩文三語是基本要求，再加上香港是一個國際化都市，很多不同國籍的人都在香港生活，我們早已習慣在充斥著外語的環境下生活，因此接觸外語的機會較多。而在日本，外語的重要性遠遠不及香港。英語能有助他們升學及就業，但日常生活鮮少需要用英語溝通，也就不太重視英語了。

我們亦在唐津市的虹之松原協助當地人去保育松原。我們先聽保育中心的人講解虹之松原的由來，其近況，及如何保育松原。之後我們就在虹之松原清理掉落的松果、樹枝及青苔，以還原虹之松原本來鋪滿白砂的漂亮景色。整個過程中，我都感受到當地人保育松原的努力和對環境的重視。他們推廣保育意識的活動也很值得我們參考。他們舉辦了很多活動來融入社區，例如在街頭灑水，分租松原等來吸引本地人參與。而他們亦明白推動保育工作非常困難，即使能在起初吸引本地人參與，但曠日持久，一段時間後，他們參與的動力漸漸減退，保育工作就難以持續下去。為此，他們不但想出各種方法去推廣，亦鼓勵我們一同集思廣益，參考其他地區的做法，建構出更好的方法。我十分欣賞他們保育松原的熱誠，和希望我們提供建議的真誠，同時亦深感香港在保育工作上大大落後於其他地區。當不同地區的人各自分享他們國家的保育工作時，香港卻沒有甚麼值得其他國家參考。令人反思香港現時的保育政策，以至個人的保育意識。

之後，我們回到了佐賀市內的三瀨村，雖說位於佐賀市內，但三瀨村與市中心有段距離，四周環山，人口不多，主要以務農為生。與日本各地的村落一樣，三瀨村同樣面臨嚴重的人口老化問題，不少年青人都選擇遷離三瀨村，到市中心居住。我們在三瀨村除了幫忙做一些簡單的工作外，也希望能透過與村民的互動來了解更多本地的文化，同時發掘出三瀨村的魅力，增加與年輕人的交流。

我被分配到廣瀨一帶，而我就負責在公民館內協助烹飪。起初他們對突然到來的外地人有些不習慣，可是很快就倘開心房，天南地北，無所不談。他們亦非常熱誠地介紹本地文化，飯後帶領我們去參觀寺廟，詳述寺廟的由來與歷史。之後又帶我們到田園裡，自豪地介紹自己的農作物，並親切地贈送我們不少食物，相處得十分愉快。我與其中一位叔叔聊天時，亦感受到他們如何積極地與年輕人交流。例如那位叔叔每年都會參加馬拉松，途中鼓勵其他年輕人努力跑完全程。亦有佐賀大學的學生來參觀和幫忙。本地人知道我們一行人中的一個佐賀大學生就讀於農業部時，對農業部的學習非常感興趣，常從學生身上學到更多農業知識。

雖然我不習慣本地的方言，不太能與他們交談，但藉著佐賀學生的解釋和說明，我了解到更多三瀨村的傳統和文化，也感受到他們的好客。我也對日本的公

民館很感興趣，香港也有類似的社區中心來凝聚本地人，但日本的公民館活脫脫就像鄰居的家一般，還提供地方給本地人定期聚在一起吃飯。社區內能有如此緊密的關係也是三瀨村的魅力所在。

除了我們參加的佐賀交流計劃，同時亦有一些來自泰國、印度等地的學生到佐賀交流。我們除了一起去虹之松原和三瀨村，更一起在青年之家合宿。當我們聚在一起聊天時，發現了一些很有趣的文化差異。當我們在廣瀨公民館吃過午飯後，又開始聊了起來。一個泰國的交流生首先提起在日本「交朋友」的話題，他提到在日本交朋友很困難，因為日本人雖然很親切友善，但總感覺互相之間好像有高牆分隔著，不能成為真正的朋友。還有就是「朋友」這個字所包含的模糊意義，到底要如何才能真正成為朋友而不單單是認識的人？我們各自提到自己國家中的朋友是怎樣，互相了解不同文化中對朋友的界定，非常有趣。我也與日本朋友論及到朋友之間的接觸。在香港，我們與朋友間都沒有很多忌諱，挽着臂彎，扶着站起來等都很平常。但在日本中，卻不會有那麼多肢體上的觸碰。不同文化裏，人與人之間的距離感也很不同，要如何重新掌握當地人認為合適的安全距離也不容易。不過，在我們受到他們的影響時，他們也受到我們文化的影響。我和那位泰國人交流生都鼓勵日本學生坦誠自己的感受，在不喜歡時就明確地說不喜歡，或許能夠進一步拉近我們間的關係呢。

最後，回顧這次佐賀之旅，我認為我已順利達成了我所定下的三個目標。在佐賀的十日中，我一直都在用日語溝通。後來遇見來自其他國家的留學生，用英語交談時，腦子竟轉不過來，還一直想用日語來表達呢！我並不能判斷自己的日語是否大有進步，但能夠肯定的是我對自己的日語口語更有信心，也能克服心裡的恐懼，主動與日本人交談。毫無疑問，這對我來年的留學以及日後與日本人接觸也大有幫助。

還有，我透過這次佐賀之旅大大加深了對日本文化的認識，在虹之松原已能體驗到日本人對保育的重視，在三瀨村也感受到本地人之間的聯系和互動，更大的收獲是與佐賀學生聊天時學習到的種種事物，朋友間的距離感，課堂的模式等。我也確切地感受到我們互相受對方的文化影響，他們也學會了香港朋友間的互動，與我們變得更親密；直到現在，我仍有用通訊工具與佐賀學生溝通，分享日常生活中的趣事，他們更會親切地指正我日語運用上的錯誤呢。最後，我們亦約定來年一定會重回佐賀，與大家重聚。我相信我們的友誼會長存下去的。

Summary

I am glad that I have the chance to join the meaningful Saga exchange program in this summer. In the beginning even though I wish to accomplish several goals through the program, in fact after finishing the Sega exchange program I found I

could gain much more than I expected. Now I would like to share my experience below.

Joining the Sega program I had three goals. Firstly, I want to improve my Japanese especially spoken Japanese. Although I have already learnt Japanese for five years, I seldom have chances to communicate with Japanese. Therefore, I am not comfortable with my Japanese speaking skills. Secondly, I would like to make some new Japanese friends. Before the journey though I knew a Japanese partner would be assigned to go with me throughout the whole trip, I still worried about whether we can sustain our friendship due to the various culture differences. Lastly, I would like to know more about Japanese culture and living in order to prepare for the coming one-year exchange in Japan. Other than my first travel at Okinawa with my family a few years before, it is the second time I set foot on Japan which I know about no more than nothing. I really hope to have much more understanding about Japan after the journey.

During ten days in Saga, I mostly communicate in Japanese. Later when I met students came from other countries, like Thai and India, I nearly forgot to speak in English! I am not sure whether I have got a great improvement in my Japanese speaking skills, but I am more comfort with my spoken Japanese and may handle daily communication with Japanese easily now. It gave me much confidence in my exchange in Japan next year especially the conversation and lectures in Japanese.

Besides, I gained deeper understanding on Japanese culture now. Once, we went to Niji no matsubara in Karatsu. A lady who is in charge in preserving the Matsubara explain how does the Matsubara appear on the seaside and what we can do to preserve it. We also helped cleaning up pinecones, sticks and moss in Niji no Matsubara. I can feel that they value the Matsubara so much and try hard to protect their homeland environment. Compare with other developed area in the world our policy are fall far behind in nature conservation. We should learn to improve our policy to protect our environment.

Then, we went to Mitsuse village where the population density is quite low even it is within Saga city. They face the problem of aging population as well as other villages in Japan for most young people prefer living in urban area. There, we helped them to do the farm work and enjoyed lunch with them. They introduced their history and culture to us and even guided us around the village. I really have got a great time there and I appreciated their close relationship among neighborhood.

Lastly, what I most valued in this trip was the interesting conversation with Saga's student. We discussed issues, such as the differences presentation in friendship within different countries. I could feel that we human are deeply affected by each others' different culture. Until now, we still communicate through social networking applications. We even promised that we will go to Saga again next year! I believe we would have a long-lasting friendship and I am looking forward to meet them in near future.

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CHOI Wing Lam (ピシ)

わたしは香港中文大学—佐賀大学交流プログラムに参加しました。このプログラムはわたしにとってとても大切な思い出と素晴らしい経験になりました。わたしは日本へ行ったことがありませんから、今回の旅をずっと楽しみにしています。今回のプログラムの活動は全部面白くて意味あります、本当に日本の文化や環境や社会や勉強できました。わたしは今回の旅でたくさんの人と知り合った、日本人だけではなくて、外国人の友達もたくさん作りました、それぞれの国の文化も勉強できました。

初日は佐賀県の中学校を訪問した。その中学校は香港の中学校と比べると、違いどころがすごく多いだと思います。まずは、学生の人数がとても少ないけど、学校は大きい。そして、学生はみんな知り合いで、先生と仲がいい。この活動はその中学校の生徒たちが英語を使えるために企画したから、わたしたち香港人は日本語が知らないふりをして、生徒たちと英語で話しました。生徒たちは英語でわたしたちに自分の学校を紹介しました、その学校は特別室が多くて、広くて、教室で机がとても少ないです。そして、生徒たちはわたしたちに日本についていろんなことを紹介しました、日本の音楽や日本の食べ物や日本のアニメについてたくさん勉強になりました。それから、わたしたち香港人は香港の教育制度について発表しました。この経験はとても面白かった！その中学校の学生たちはとても親切でした、その一生懸命英語を喋る姿を見て、自分も頑張らなければならないと思います、わたしはこれからも日本語一所懸命に勉強したいと思います。

二日目は佐賀大学で授業を見学しました。学生たちはそれぞれの出身地に



よってグループに別れられた。佐賀大学で佐賀県出身の学生が一番多いです、福岡県、大分県出身の学生も多いです。わたしのグループはちょっと特別です、長崎県、鹿児島県、宮崎県出身の学生も入っています。わたしたちは自分の出身地について紹介しました、わたしは広東語と香港の教育について紹介しました。わたしはこのインターフェースでそれぞれの出身地の文化も勉強できました、この中で一番興味あるのは方言です、例えば、長崎方言で『頑張らない』とは『頑張らんば』と言われてます、そして、長崎で旅行する時、本当にどこでも『頑張らんば』の文字が見えますよ！昼は小城という町で見学しました。まずは友耕飲料の工場で見学しました、工場で飲料の作り方を勉強しました、そして、飲料も飲んでみました、その中で一番面白かったのはドリアンドリンクだと思います。ドリアンは香港ではあまり人気ないですから、ドリアン味のドリンクは見たことない、飲んでみると、味はやっぱ全然よくなかった。それから羊羹資料館で見学しました、そこでそれぞれの国が出産した羊羹も見えます。羊羹を食べるのは初めてで、甘くて伝統的なお菓子だと思います。羊羹は和風のお菓子だけど、伝統的な長方形だけではなくて、それぞれの形状もあります、羊羹はやっぱ食べ物ではなくて日本の芸術です。その後は清水の滝へ行きました、滝を見るのは初めてです、滝の下で滝を見るのは本当にすごいと思います、水が激しすぎて、風がとても強かった、近づくなら安全に立てない。

三日目は台風で自由活動になりました、佐賀大学の友達と一緒に佐賀市で遊びました、佐賀に住んでいる若者がよく行くところへ行きました。日本は流行文化や若者文化が盛んでるから、遊び場もすごいと思います。普通のゲームセンターだけど、デパートみたいに大きくて何階もあります、ゲームの種類も多いです、カラオケ、UFO キャッチャー、スポーツまでできます。こんなに素敵な場所があるから、日本人のストレスは解消できるでしょう。

四日目はレクチャーと学生交流会でした。レクチャーのテーマは生物の多様性と佐賀の農村の現状と課題です。朝のレクチャーで日本の農業に役立つ生物についていろいろ勉強しました、昼のレクチャーで、先生は五日目に行く予定の農村について紹介しました。夜の学生交流会はとても面白かった、その交流会の参加者は香港人と日本人だけではなくて、アメリカ、インド、カンボジア、タイとオーストラリアからの交流生も参加しました。パフォーマンスで、交流生たちは自分の国の文化を紹介しました、わたしが一番好きなパフォーマンスはタイのダンスです、とても伝統的で綺麗なダンスでした。香港はとても小さい町だから演じれる文化はないと思ってたけど、日本研究学科としてパフォーマンスをしたいと思います、日本研究学科の学生たちは広東語も英語も日本語も知っていますから、当時大人気の歌 let it go を三つの言葉で歌いま

した、そして、香港の音楽を交流生たちに紹介しました。とても緊張だったけど、素晴らしい経験でした。

五日目は虹の松原に行きました、そこで環境の保全活動についていろいろ勉強できました、そのあとは保全活動の時間でした、みんなと一緒に松葉かきと草ぬきをしました、そこは綺麗な松いっぱい植えています。そして、わたしたちは波戸岬少年自然の家へ行きました、みんなと一緒にカレーを作りました、火まで自分でおこすのは初めてですからすごく面白かったと思います、カレーを食べる時の満足感もとてもすごかった。

六日目はまたグループに別れて行動しました、わたしたち全員は三瀬村に行きましたけど、わたしのグループはその中の中鶴というところへ行きました。三瀬村は田んぼだらけで、わたしにとってはあまり見えない景色だった。風も涼しくて、紫陽花も綺麗で、植物が風の中で揺れてた。わたしは料理班だから中鶴の村民と一緒に昼ご飯を用意しました、その村民はみんな親切だった、わたしといろいろ話して、そしてお握りの作り方もわたしに教えてくれました。それから、わたしはみんなと和室で昼ご飯を食べました。その料理の食材は何と村民たちの農産物だった、わたしは食べ物大切さを知りました。そのあと、わたしも農作業に参加しました、わたしたちは紫陽花を植え付けた、虫は大嫌いだったけど、それを乗り越えてた、農作業は初めてだからとても面白かったと思います、来年も三瀬村に行けるなら、自分が植え付けた紫陽花が咲いてる姿が見たいです。そのあとはまだ村民とご飯を食べました、村民たちはその前残ってた食べ物をまた別の料理を作りました、みんなが食べ物を無駄にしないようにすることはすごく偉いと思います。

七日目はミニガタリンピックという活動をしました。わたしたちは有明海というところへ行きました、その干潟の海が見えています。わたしたちはまたチームに別れて、干潟で試合をしました、例えば綱引きとリレーをしました。干潟に入ることは初めてでした、干潟で動くことは本当に難しかった！一所懸命に動いて見ると、体が干潟に沈んでいく、友達のを貸さないと、一歩も歩けなかった。朝のレクチャーで紹介した生物は見えなかったけど、わたしは人生初めて体を真っ黒にしました！これは本当に面白くて珍しい経験だと思います。

八日目は自主課題の発表日です。わたしが研究してたテーマは佐賀大学と香港の大学と比べるです。わたしは佐賀大学でいろいろ観察しました、そして、佐賀大学の友達と訪問しました。わたしは授業の状況、放課後活動、寮生活と大学の文化について調べました。この研究で、佐賀大学のことをもっと詳



しく知りました、そして、学生たちに香港の大学のことについて紹介しました。そのあとの活動は佐賀市散策でした。わたしたちは佐賀市の神社へ行きました、そこでおみくじをやってみました、八つの神社へ行きましたけど、それぞれの神社はそれぞれの特色があって、すごく面白いと思います、宮参り方も勉強しました。その夜は送別会でした。

十日はとても短かったけど、この十日間で作った思い出は一生も忘れないと思います、わたしは日本研究学科の学生なのに、日本へ行ったことは一度もなく日本のはすべてずっと憧れてた。この十日間で見たことないこといっぱい見ました、例えば和室、松原、日本の海、田んぼ、日本の教室、日本の町。そして、その中に一番好きな活動は三瀬村で見学することだと思います。観光する時は多分こんなところに行かないので、この経験は本当に珍しいです、三瀬村の村民と交流して、農民たちの仕事について勉強して、それはとても意味深いだと思います。日本と言うなら、皆さんは多分東京のにぎやかな景色を思い出します、でも、今回の旅によって、九州と佐賀のことだけではなく、日本のことももっと詳しく知りました、日本は確かににぎやかな国であるけど、県は東京や京都だけではない、佐賀県の人気は東京みたいな県ほどすごくないけど、九州はとても素晴らしいところだと思います、にぎやかな一面も、静かな一面も、伝統的な一面もあります、だから、また九州へ行きたいと思います。

わたしはこの交流団で素敵な友情も作りました。わたしはこの交流団をきっかけにして、日本人の友達をいっぱい作りました。一年生として、日本語はあまり上手ではなかった、最初はみんなと話かけれるかずっと心配してたけど、みんなはずっと親切だった、自分は忙しくても、毎日朝から夜までわたしたちと付き合っ、わたしたちのスケジュールを考えてた。わたしの日本語が間違えてたら、みんなはずっと直してくれて、これは大変勉強になりました。日本人の友達との会話で、日本の文化や社会や言葉やいろいろ勉強できると思います、この文化交流によって、わたしは香港のことももっと詳しく知りました。このプログラムが終わっても、わたしたちの友情は終わっていなかった、チャンスがあるなら、絶対また佐賀へ行きます。

来年もこの佐賀プログラムがあるなら、わたしは絶対後輩たちにこのプログラム勧めます。このプログラムに参加したのは全然後悔しませんでした。

### Summary

In 2014-2015, I've joined a joint university programme called Saga Programme, it is a programme organized together by the Chinese University of Hong Kong and Saga University. In this programme, students from both university will join a 10 days

exchange programme organized by the universities.

In August, We 10 students from CUHK travelled to Saga city in Japan. We've done a lot of activities organized by Saga University.

For example, we visited a secondary school in Saga. Compare with the secondary schools in Hong Kong, there are only around 60 students in the whole school while their school campus is much bigger than the one in Hong Kong. The students were all friendly and they tried their very best to speak with us in English. Through this activity, I've found that in school with less students, students will learn to take care of each other while their relationship are very close, since they can enjoy more resources from the school, they learnt in a better way.

There are also a lot of exchange programme with Japanese students, for example, we had a chance to speak with people who came from different prefectures. I've join the group with students who came from Nagasaki, Kagoshima and Miyazaki. They shared about the different cultures in their prefecture, I've learnt several phrases in dialects.

Moreover, we also had a lot of chances to meet foreign exchange students. There are exchange students from Thailand, USA, India, Australia and Cambodia. In the International exchange night, exchange students from each country performed about their country, for example, Thai students performed traditional Thai dance and Australian students introduced to us about the music in Australia. We Hong Kong people also get a chance to perform, since there are no specific traditional performance in Hong Kong, we sang the famous song 'Let it go' in Cantonese, English and Japanese, to introduce them about the trilingual ability in Japanese Studies major students.

There are also a lot of activities in this programme related to the agricultural development and biodiversity in Saga. We have lectures to learn about the beneficial organisms in Saga, rural villages in Saga and the biodiversity in Tideland. One very interesting activity in this programme in called 'Gatalympic'. We exchange students are divided into groups to join contests in the tideland, like Tug of War, relay, etc. We all dived into the mud until our whole body become black. It is a really rare experience.

Lastly, we also had a chance to visit the villagers in Mitsuse village. We cooked



and had lunch together; we talked about their village and their harvested products. We've learnt that the meal we were eating was all made from their harvested products. Next, we went into the fields to try practicing agricultural work, we planted flowers in the fields and made markers in the soil. It was the first time that I've practiced agricultural work.

To conclude, I've done a lot of new things through this exchange programme. To me, this exchange programme is a very valuable experience and I will treasure every memories in these 10 days.

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CHOW Chi Yu (ベン)



最初は日本に行ったことがなくて、せっかく奨学金がもらえるので、詳しく考えず勢いで応募しました。今再び考えてみると、得られたものは想像以上にずっと多かったです。実際、この交流プログラムは10日間プラス10日間だけのもので、ほんの20日間です。しかし、本当は間の126日間も、これからの何年間も、交流は止まらなく、まだまだ続くものです。

佐賀の皆さんが香港に来る前に、いろいろと期待していました、というより、心配していました。

このプログラムに応募した最大の理由は、日本語を勉強したいからでした。自分は日本語を高校に入った時から勉強していますが、一度も日本人と実際に話したことはありませんでした。なので、このプログラムを契機に自分の日本語を磨きたいと思いました。しかし、自分の日本語は本当に日本人に通じるか、ちゃんと思った通りに伝えられるか、不安で初めて日本人とLINEした時はとても緊張しました。

その他に、日本人と仲良くなれるかどうか分からなくて、香港と佐賀で二回も会わなくてはいけないので、香港の時から友達になれたらいいなと思っていました。だから、プログラムの前からずっと話題を考えていました。それに、日本の文化と香港の文化は大分違うので、会う時に様々な文化衝突が起こるだろうと思って、上手く扱えるかどうか心配していました。

二月二十三日、いよいよプログラムがスタートして、充実した10日間を迎えました。初印象は、本当に日本人だな、でした。顔も服装も動きも正真正銘の日本人で、本当に香港人と違って、日本研究学科に入って以来最も日本研究っぽい瞬間でした。

あの10日間は青春というか、衝撃的というか、とにかくかけがえのない10日間でした。広東語を忘れてしまうくらい日本語を喋りました。みんなで香港のあちこちに行ったり、香港や日本のことについて話したりして、本当に楽しかったです。香港人も、このプログラムに参加したからこそ、自分たちでも知らない場所にたくさん行くことが出来ました。香港についてもっと勉強しなくてはと感じました。一方、毎日の会話を通して自分の日本語の乏しさを痛感しました。直ちに対応するのが意外と難しいと感じて、このままでは友達になるどころか、話すことが問題になると思いました。先輩たちはすごく上手く話せていて、日本人との仲が円滑にっていて、憧れました。その時から、ネイティブくらいになる決心をつけました。

ガイドとして誰かを案内するのは初めてで、しかも外国人の相手なんて、正直結構焦りました。どんな場所に興味があるか、喜んでもらえそうなところはどこだろうか、一緒にガイドする友達と毎日悩みつつ相談していました。もし香港のことが少しでも好きになったらいいなと思いました。日本人のみんなは優しすぎました。すごくまずい「D」なのにきっとまずいとは言わない、つまらないはずなのにきっと楽しいと言ってくれる、疲れているはずなのにきっと眠いとは言わない。そんなみんなのを見ていたら、元気を出さないわけにはいかないと思って、だんだんやりがいが見つかりました。

その10日間で、みんなとはひとまず友達になった気がしました。とても深い関係とは言えないけれど、一緒にいるのが本当に好きでした。お互いもその10日間を満喫した気がしました。別れる時は悲しかったけれど、また会えると分かっている寂しくはなかった。

その後、毎日也会えることを楽しみにしている気持ちで、長いようで短かった四ヶ月間を過ごしました。その四ヶ月間には、ずっと日本語のことを頑張っていました。次に会う時にはより上手く話せるために、もっと仲良くなれるために頑張りました。せめて上手くなったよと褒められたいと思いました。

同時に、お互いの絆は時間で冷めるのを恐れながら、日本に行く時にもっと近くいられるようになりたくて、たくさん連絡をとりました。幸い自分はこの時代に生まれて、遠くいても携帯で便利に連絡をとれるようになっています。全員とは無理だったけれども、少しのメンバーとは連絡が続きました。おかげ

で日本語の練習が止まなく、少しずつ上達した気がしました。

一方、日本人のみんなに色々好きなことややりたいことを聞かれていて、日本に行きたくてたまらなかったです。そして、126日はようやく終わって、日本に行く日になりました。

自分は日本に行くのが初めてなので、空港に行く時からずっとハイテンションでした。今まで頭の中でイメージした日本を実際に感じる事が出来て、まわりが日本語の世界になれて、すごく期待している同時に、それからの10日間で日本のことがもっと好きになるか、嫌いになるか緊張しました。

それに、日本人のみんなと離れて四ヶ月も経って、会った時はどうなるか、みんなはどのように変わったか考えながらわくわくしていました。今回はやっとあなた達の地元に行けて、あなた達のことがもっと分かるようになるかなと思いました。しかし、それは最後に会うチャンスかもしれないと分かっている、毎日の時間を大切にすると心で決めました。

結局、みんなの相変わらずな笑顔でほっとしました。香港の時と違って、最初から知り合っているの、距離が縮んだ気がしました。今度は本当に友達になれたと思います。毎日楽しすぎて、香港の時より短かったような10日間が始まりました。

その10日間に、体で「おもてなし」という日本語を実感することが出来ました。日本人のみんなは私達のことをいつも先に考えてくれていて、好きな場所にたくさん連れて行ってきて、好きな食べ物をいっぱい食べさせてくれて、まさに私達のためのスケジュールでした。学校までサボって来てくれて、お金や時間をたくさんかかってしまって、それを考えるたびに感動しました。おかげさまでその10日間は毎日充実すぎて、香港の時はおもてなしをすればよかったと思って、申し訳ないなと思いました。

日本についてはたくさん過ぎて忘れてしまうほど勉強しました。学校や歴史的な建物に行って、自分の目で今まで勉強したことを確かめたり、新たな知識を得たりして、授業では必ず勉強できるものではないと思いました。何か分からないことがあれば、日本人のみんなにきくと教えてもらうので、毎日新鮮で充実でした。それに、日本人と会話することを通じて、直接に日本の文化を感じました。例えば、日本人の礼は言葉や振る舞いで実感出来ました。どこでも礼儀正しい店員さんがいることが印象的でした。

日本研究の学生として、このプログラムには大きな意味がありました。まず

は日本の文化を肌で感じる事が出来ました。本や資料を読むより、自分の目で観察したり、自分の耳で聞いたりする方がずっと効果的だと思います。それに、実際に見る時は、理論で勉強したものと違いが見つかることがあります。それで現実世界の状況をもっと分かる事が出来ます。授業では勉強できないことや、本では載っていないことがたくさん見つかりました。なので、このプログラムは日本を勉強する大きなモチベーションになりました。

その他に、自分は日本語に非常に興味があるので、毎日日本人の言葉遣いを勉強することが出来て嬉しかったです。敬語や話し言葉はとても面白いと思いました。日本人のみんなとお互いに広東語と日本語の若者言葉を教え合っていて、面白くて仕方なかったです。そのような交流を通じて、日本の文化がはっきり感じられて、身につく事が出来ました。

日本人のみんなは優しく、俺たちのために日本語をゆっくり言ってくれて、難しい単語を入れないようにしてくれました。おかげで会話がスムーズに出来ました。私達もたくさん広東語を教えたが、やはり広東語を喋っている日本人は面白いと思います。発音を必死で頑張ってくれていて、まるで子供の香港人が広東語を喋っているようでした。日本人から見ると、自分もそういう感じがするかと思いました。

佐賀にいる10日間は香港の10日間よりずっと仲良く出来たと思います。みんなも自信を持って会話をしていて、難しい話も出来たような気がしました。一緒にいる時間はとても短かったけれど、毎日昨日より仲良くなって、明日が来るのを待ちきれませんでした。それに、香港ではいつもはっきり言っていると思うので、曖昧な日本語はかなり分かりにくかったです。でも、仲良くなるにつれて、本音が聞けるようになった気がします。

あっという間に終わった10日間は本当に楽しくて、離れる日は辛かったです。せっかく本当の友達になれたのに、もう離れなければいけないことになっていて、現実の残酷さを初めて感じました。日本人のみんなはアルバムまで作ってくれて、一人一人からのメッセージが書いてありました。何か高価なものではないけれど、自分たちにとってそれは一番価値のある宝物でした。その代わりに香港人は何もしていなくて、申し訳なかったです。恩返しとして、日本には何回も遊びに行きます。しばらくは会えないけど、再会をずっと楽しみにしています。次に会う時も相変わらずな笑顔でほっとするのでしょうか。

プログラムは終わっても、みんなの友情は終わらないと思います。その20日間の思い出は多分私達だけの大切な思い出になります。今や連絡続いている

が、時々香港人と日本人という関係を忘れてしまうくらいに楽しくなっています。どこまで続けるのが知らないが、今は楽しんでいることは知っています。次に会える場所は香港か日本か、それとも欧米かもしれません。世界のどこかでもう一度国際交流を進みたいと思います。

今後、もう二度と会わないかもしれませんが、もうすぐ再会出来るかもしれません。これからはどうなるか分からないけれども、あの 20 日間の思い出はきっと忘れることはないと分かっています。今までありがとうございました。

Summary

I have joined an exchange programme last summer, which is going to Saga prefecture in Kyushu for 10 days. I found it very meaningful and impressive. And it changed my attitude towards Japan a lot.

Before going to Saga, we had to guide our 10 Japanese partners in February in Hong Kong. All of them were the first time for visiting Hong Kong, they found it funny and felt curious about lots of things. We played fun in that 10 days and getting along from that time. At the same time, I was able to get in touch with Japanese for the first time. I learnt a lot of Japanese culture from our conversation.

After 4 months, it came to the time for us to visit them homeland, Saga. I could not help waiting to go to there for the whole summer. Because it would be the first time for me visiting Japan. I had lots of imaginations of Japan before departure, clean, good manners, high-tech etc. And I was finally able to look at what I have been thinking for. I wondered whether I would keep loving Japan after knowing the real situation.

I had extremely fruitful 10 days in Saga. First, Visiting elementary school shocked me a lot. The site of the school is even bigger than my secondary school. The teachers and students were very youthful, especially for the youngest children. We were told to communicate in English, and I saw that they tried really hard even though who are not good at English.

Second, I had an opportunity to attend some lessons in Saga University. I think it is a really good chance to feel how the lessons in other universities are like. I found that the style of teaching is quite different from here, but still there are some similarities. A lesson about cultural differences I attended contains a lot of group discussions, and the students were willing to speak up. I think it was similar to the

teaching method in CUHK.

Third, I experienced lots of Japanese culture practically in there. For example, I visited an old village and experienced some agricultural activities. It makes me understand the living styles of elderlies in Japan. We had a traditional Japanese supper in a traditional room in Japanese style (washitsu). I think it could only be done in these kind of exchange programme and I felt it wonderful for having such kind of dinner. Also, I could feel the friendliness of the elderlies although they speak in local dialect which I can hardly understand.

The friendship built with the Japanese students is the most cherishing part of the programme. We were sticking together all the days during the programme, and a special friendship is built though joining the activities together. A friendship of two countries of people is amazing. We do not share a same background but we enjoy hanging out with each other a lot. I think the different backgrounds did not hinder our relationship, but made us get interested in each other.



FAN Ching Wan (くも)



是次參加的交流團可以分為兩部份，第一部份為日本佐賀的學生於春假的時候來香港進行為期十日的交流；第二部份為香港的學生於暑假期間到日本佐賀交流十天。但由於在第一部份時我未參與此計劃，所以我的報告主要圍繞我到日本佐賀交流的經歷。

行程介紹及感想:

8/7

我們先到佐賀大學出席交流團的開幕儀式，佐賀的老師們都非常熱情地歡迎我們。然後日本的學生帶領我們參觀了大學，我印象最深的是他們大學的圖書館是開放給所有人的，而非只供佐賀大學的學生。這樣就可以將知識分享給市民大眾，令圖書館的書可以令更多人受惠。我發覺很有趣的是這所圖書館每層都有一個「電話亭」，但這個地方並不提供電話，而是提供地方供別人有需要時入內講電話，以免會騷擾到其他人。香港很少會特意這樣設立一個地方去給人講電話，大多只會鼓勵人們在樓梯轉角位置或館外講電話。由此可見日本人對聲音非

常敏感及他們會非常細心地為別人設想。在學生食堂用餐後就到了松梅中學進行訪問。這所中學是與小學相連的，規模不大，整間學校只有不足二十個學生。香港沒有這麼少學生的班級，一班都不止二十人了。如果出現了上述情況，一早就被教育局殺校了。雖然松梅中學的學生人數很少，但學校的面積就很廣闊，設備也非常齊全，如：游泳池、室內體育館等等。香港很少學校會擁有自己的游泳池和室內體育館，因為香港地少人多，而且大部份學校都位於市區附近，周邊都會有公共體育館和游泳池可供使用，所以校舍往往都是向高空發展；而非日本學校的校園般，主要是向橫發展的。每一個年級的學生都很少，所以不同年級的學生都會一起玩，而較年長的學生更會主動照顧較年幼的學生，就像弟兄姊妹般，互相照顧。香港的學校一班平均有三十至四十個學生，而一個年級就有約二百人，所以香港的學生們多數只會與同班同學玩，有時也會跟鄰班的同學玩，但甚少會跟不同年代的人一起玩。因為一起玩的同學歲數相約，所以不會像弟兄姊妹般，年紀較大的照顧較少的。老師把中、小學生平均分配到每組，然後帶領我們參觀校園。參觀途中，我們都在說英文，由於小學生們都不懂，所以會覺得非常沈悶，這時候我看到中學生們會特別照顧小學生，例如會幫他們翻譯令他們比較明白或他們覺得悶時陪他們玩，他們就像一個大家庭般發揮著互助互愛的精神，這讓我感到很溫暖。由於我們訪問的目的是提供到英語學習環境給這班很少有機會去應用英文的日本學生，所以我們要假裝我們只懂英文，不懂日文，以達成盡量用英語跟他們溝通的目的。日本的學校主要是中學一年級才開始學英文，跟香港由幼稚園就開始學習英文完全不同。因為他們這麼遲才開始學英文，所以很難在這麼短時間內掌握這個語言。我和來自香港的同學們要裝作聽不懂日文，真的非常困難，因為在他們不理解時就很想用日文說明，但又要努力控制自己不要說日文。日本學生們只是開始時有點害羞，之後我覺得他們很努力嘗試說英文，看得出他們是盡了力把自己學過的應用出來。接近訪問尾聲，我們揭發了我們懂日文這個事實，他們起初都表現得很無奈，但之後我們用日文和他們交流得很愉快。訪問後我們到了佐賀城參觀，佐賀城經歷過多場的火災，但仍然無阻我們重溫當年澎湃的氣勢。參觀那些和室時，看見導賞員把一道道的紙門趟開時，我立刻想像到當年的盛況。最後，我們回到了大學進行露天燒烤。日本老師即使汗流狹背也堅持著穿上佐賀大學的吉祥物的布偶服跟我們拍照；日本男學生們即使在大熱天時仍然很客氣、主動地為我們燒食物；日本女學生們就製作章魚丸給我們吃，可見他們的好客之道。所有食物的味道都很好，大家都飽得捧著肚子回酒店。

9/7

早上，我們跟日本大學生一起上有關文化交流的課。我們有幸可以介紹香港，然後分組跟日本學生一起去研究日本不同地區的方言。我是第一次接觸到這麼多日語的方言，我從來沒有想過原來一個九州已經有這麼多方言，令我覺得既新奇又有趣，因為它們是日語的一部份，卻與我們平常學習的標準語截然不同。下午，我們先到了小城參觀飲品廠房，這所飲品廠房主要出產汽水，而當中我認

為最有趣的是一款名叫「小孩子的啤酒」的產品，它在加入梳打水後的模樣與啤酒真的雖有幾分相似，實際上它的味道是蘋果汽水，令我不得不佩服他們的創意。接著，我們到了署名的羊羹老鋪參觀。店內有個小型博物館介紹羊羹的造法和歷史，讓我得知原來羊羹起源於中國和見識世界各地都有不同版本的羊羹。回程前我們去看瀑布，水流從陡斜的懸崖傾瀉而下，非常宏偉。晚上，我們和日本學生一起弄和吃御好燒作晚餐。大家都很熱衷於挑戰要完整地煎反御好燒，大家都非常努力嘗試，奈何大家都是缺乏一點經驗而挑戰失敗，不過過程中的歡樂實在不少。

10/7

由於颱風的關係，我們下午才出發，先去吃迴轉壽司，迴轉壽司店非常先進，所有坐位都有一部電子屏幕可以全自動化點菜，非常方便。然後到了室內的遊樂場所玩。室內遊樂場很多元化，不但有不同種類的電子遊戲、還有各項球類活動的場地、卡拉OK的唱歌房和滾軸溜冰場等等。大家都玩得非常開心、興奮，最有趣的是有一部鬥牛機，玩家要坐在機械牛上，然後在機械牛不斷擺動之際仍然保持平衡。男同學們都勇於挑戰這隻鬥牛，但都是被狠狠地摔下。之後，在佐賀市最大的商場的美食廣場吃晚飯及逛街。

11/7

早上到大學聽了一節有關生物多樣性的課後，到附近的小店吃午飯，那個玉子燒真是不得了，非常好吃，蛋熟的程度是剛剛好，蛋的裡面還有一點生蛋漿，外面就煎至金黃色。之後回到了大學聽第二節有關佐賀農村的現況的課。下課後就到了大學附近新開的甜品鋪吃雪糕，這間雪糕店主要採用的是來自日本各地的名產食材去製作雪糕，所以味道非常好和特別。晚上，我們就參與了交流生晚會。在晚會上，我們觀賞了來自不同國家的交流生和佐賀大學學生的表演，大飽眼福，有無伴奏合唱、街舞、傳統民族舞蹈、等等。這晚提供了一個平台給大家互相了解及交流各自的文化。

12/7

早上乘車到佐賀市外去聽關於松林的講座，之後去了清潔松林。我們去幫忙撿松果、摘野草和拾枯枝去確保松林有地方繼續發展。到了合宿的地方後，我們就要自己煮咖哩飯作晚飯。我們由砍柴、生火、洗米、煮咖哩到清潔廚具都是我們一手包辦。我們把煲燒燬了，擦了又擦，但污漬仍在，指導員非常嚴格，一直拒絕收回這個未能回復原狀的煲；後來我們嘗試過用刀刮和報紙擦煲後，有明顯改善，但指導員都面有難色，最後我們再努力了十五分鐘後，指導員才勉強接受。從此事我明白到日本人對規律要求之高和對整潔的堅持。之後，我們到體育館運動半個小時。晚上就一起到大浴場洗澡，再聚首玩了一會遊戲就睡覺去了。

13/7

吃過早餐後分 4 組到不同的農村做活動。我組就到了中鶴去種植繡球花。種植繡球花，要先在河邊挖洞，放上樹苗，在旁邊立竿再繫上黃帶去識別花苗。在中鶴工作的都是最少六十歲的公公婆婆，看見不少老人家年紀已經很大了，身子都躬起來了，卻無阻他們繼續打理農務的心。我非常欣賞這一份堅持和決心，真是令我深感佩服。從中我也看到人口老化的問題的嚴重性，因為除了我們，我沒有見過年輕人在農村，所以也有農業後繼無人的問題。吃了豐盛的家鄉菜作午飯後，我們又外出工作了約一個小時，回去時就是下午茶時間。這次一樣豐富，不同的是他們會喝啤酒和自己調製的米酒，一起把酒談心，可見酒在村民的生活中是扮演著生活調劑品的角色。村民最後跟我們說原來在這短短數小時就種植了四百多棵花苗，但更令我驚訝的是這一群花苗要待六至七年時間才能長大成花叢，真是不簡單。跟村民道別後我們就坐車回程。晚上到了居酒屋吃晚飯後，我們去了放煙花。我是第一次放煙花，所以感到特別興奮和新鮮。煙花燦爛的一刻雖然短暫，但帶給我們的回憶卻是永恆的。就像這個交流團般，只有十日，但帶給我們的友誼和回憶是長存的。

14/7

我們乘車到鹿島干瀉玩泥漿。我們先上課了解當地的生態，見識到傳統在泥濘上釣魚技術，就到了最令人興奮的玩泥漿環節。我們先有拔河比賽，然後大家要用滑板渡泥潭，最後就是個人游泳賽。大家一開始都有點害怕沾到泥漿，但熱身過後大家都非常投入，樂此不疲。梳洗完一輪後我們便到了烤肉店吃晚飯。

15/7

我們各自匯報了自己訂主題的簡報後就舉行了交流團的閉幕典禮。之後就到了附近的小店吃飯。這間店最特別的地方是它沒有收銀員，只有一個開放式的櫃檯，供食客自行找贖。由是觀之，日本人實在太自律，也看到日本人對人的信任之高。緊接著就參觀了佐嘉神社，這座神社是由八座小廟組成，供奉著不同的神明而且各有特色。最特別的是全日本只有兩閃白色的鳥居，而其中一間就在佐喜神社。白色鳥居由白瓷打造，配上深藍色花紋，更顯高雅脫俗。然後到了和式甜品店吃東西，晚上就到了日式西餐廳出席送別晚宴。

總結:

常言道：讀萬卷書，不如行萬里路，我覺得這個旅程令我學習到很多書本以外的知識，也令我多接觸了少見的課題，例如：九州方言。也令我的日文會話進步了，又跟日本佐賀的朋友建立了深厚的友誼，還有認識深了日本的文化，尤其是佐賀農村和佐賀大學的文化，這次旅途真是獲益良多。

Summary

This is a report about the Saga summer exchange programme. Actually this programme included two parts. The first part is the Students from the Saga University coming to Hong Kong. The second part is the students from the Chinese University of Hong Kong visiting Saga. I was not yet a participant when the first part of this programme has begun, so I am going to write about my experience gained from the second part of the exchange programme. I would like to start off by a foreword talking about the background of the programme. Then, I would talk about my experience I gained day by day. I gained a lot of experience from the programme. On the second day, after the opening ceremony, we visited the Japanese Secondary School and try to communicate with the students in English. We had to pretend that we do not speak Japanese and could only communicate with them in English. Then, we went to the castle of Saga for sightseeing. The castle looks so grand and I could imagine the scene that the Lord lives here in the ancient time. Last but not least, we barbecued at outdoor together with the Japanese students. On the third day, we attend the lecture with the students of Saga University. Through the lecture, I learnt many dialogues from Kyushu. The dialogues are all very interesting and it is a valuable experience that we can exchange our culture with the Japanese students. After the lecture, we went to a place called Oggi. At there we visited the soft drink factory, traditional Yōkan Shop and the marvellous waterfall. At night, we tried the Okonomiyaki. On the fourth day, due to the Typhoon, we have cancelled all the activities in the morning. In the afternoon, we went to the indoor game centre to spend the day. On the fifth day, we attended the lectures and participated the exchange students' party at night. There are also other cultural exchanges between me and other exchange students from different countries; we became friends with many Japanese and the exchange students. On the sixth day, we cleaned up the pine forest and cooked our own curry rice as dinner. On that night we have the chance to live and play with students from different nations for a day to consolidate our friendship. On the seventh day, we visited the village and help the farmers to plant some flowers. Communicating with the villages allowed me to know more about the farmers' lifestyle in Saga. At night, we went out to set off fireworks. On the eighth day, we joined the Mini Gatalympic. The Gatalympic was about doing Tug of War and swimming at the mud field. There were lots of fun and we all got dirty afterwards. After the closing ceremony on the ninth day we went to the temple to have a look and learn more about the traditional sides of Saga. After that, we joined the farewell party at night. Finally, I would write a nutshell to conclude my journey.



KONG Wai Tik Vincent (テキ)



What does the word “Japan” stand for? What is “Japan”? And how about “Japanese People”? What kind of nation is “Japanese People”?

When I was in high school, I determined to enter The Department of Japanese Studies of The Chinese University of Hong Kong. I hoped to solve the above questions by entering to this Department, learning from more books and more teachers, and also my own experience in the future. And I was very lucky that I succeeded getting into this Department. Another lucky chance happened on me is that, last summer I had had an opportunity to join the “Saga University – CUHK Exchange Programme”, allowing me staying in Japan for 10 days and getting closer to the answers for my questions.

In the past, the country of Japan, in my eyes, or even in many other people’s eyes, is almost equal to prosperity, modernization, advanced technology, or a piece of land similar to Utopia or Garden of Eden. But is it? Japan did make miracles in the past. It was at once the most powerful representative in Asia in terms of economy and soft culture. Yet how about Japan nowadays?

During our visit to Japan, a field trip in countryside of Saga Prefecture was arranged. The place we visited is a village called Mitsuse. (三瀬) People living in Mitsuse are mostly middle-age or aged people, carrying out agricultural activities as their main career.

This small village is now facing many problems, just like many countryside area all around Japan. Because of the convenience, more relatively attractive jobs in terms of salary and workload, and better living environment in cities, more and more young people are moving from countryside to urban areas. With less and less young people living in countryside, as a result, a group of aging adults and a low birthrate are caused in countryside. According to statistics, the population in Mitsuse is constantly decreasing, as well as the whole Saga Prefecture, which is formed with many small villages.

This causes a chain of reactions which could result in huge trouble. Due to a shrinking and aging population, more and more farmlands are going to be uncultivated. The view and also the amount of products become damaged, making the villages a much less attractive place. People then become less motivated to join the community, but more motivated to move to urban areas. Traditions of the villages become not able to be passed from generation to generation and the agricultural environment become worse and worse. As a result, the villages eventually become vanished as more young people move to urban areas and aging people pass away.

This causes greater trouble, a trouble related to the whole country. It becomes the matter of national security since food supply of the country will be related. As the number of villages, which provide a large portion of food to the whole country, decreases, Japan needs to rely more on other countries like China for stable food supply. The dependence of food from other countries could become a threat for Japan. The countries which supply food for Japan could cut or decrease the amount of food exported, creating a shortage of food in Japan as well as a panic among Japanese people. This might further create a chaotic situation in Japan due to the panic citizens and weakened central government which needs to deal with the anger from the citizens and also the problem to ensure sufficient food for every citizen.

Therefore, we could say, that the fate of Japan is controlled by such small villages. Unless the Japanese people have method to stop or ease the problem of shrinking and aging population in small villages of Japan, the national predicament will eventually happen. What Saga people is doing in Mitsuse could give us a foundational grasp of how Japanese are doing, or should, do to prevent the case becoming worse.

During the field trip in Mitsuse, Isabella and I, together with some Saga University students and international students joining another summer program in Saga University, were arranged to clean the river which had been partly blocked by branches and grasses after a heavy rain. It took us almost one 3 hours to clean up the river. Not just we students joined the work, but of course with the effort of the local farming owners and also a few of foreign workers who were from India. The day we worked was quite cool as it had rained in early morning. A typhoon had just passed Saga Prefecture. However, I still got myself wet, not because of the water from the river, but my sweat! It was an unforgettable experience as the work of cleaning up the river really consume quite a lot of energy. Eventually, thanks for everyone's effort, the hard work was done and the river became much clearer and cleaner than before.

After the work, I and the other students were all invited by the locals to have lunch in a house near the river. It was like a very small-scaled community hall. Thanks for the wives of the local farmland owners, and also the female students who were arranged to cook instead of cleaning the river, we had hand-made Onigiris (お握り), freshly harvested green pepper soaked with soy sauce, salad, and many other delicious food as our lunch. Most of the vegetables were locally grown and fresh. For example, the onion the wives used to make chicken potato soup, was not spicy at all, but with a bit of sweetness. The taste of the vegetables of that lunch was excellent since it is nearly impossible to find such fresh and delicious taste in Hong Kong. Both the river cleaning and the lunch we had with the locals were one of my wonderful experiences in Japan

People in Mitsuse belonged to a lucky group. They were able to grow delicious and satisfying crops. This makes Mitsuse an attractive place as the crops are competitive and could give non-local people a good image of the village. Moreover, Mitsuse was chosen by Saga University, allowing more Japanese students, especially Kyushu students, and also foreign students knowing its situation. The students might

be inspired by the experience and figure out more possible solution to solve the problem that Mitsuse is now facing. Furthermore, Mitsuse locals were able to get foreigners, like the Indian helped cleaning the river, to help such that more human resources could be put into the agricultural activities, easing the problem of shrinking population.

The case in Mitsuse provided a set of possible solution against the problems faced by hundreds of villages in Japan. Teaching the farmers to grow quality crops, together with sufficient promotion for their products. Inviting volunteers entering the villages, allowing them to understand the situation faced by the villagers and the villagers and to help the villagers finishing agricultural or other related works. Recruiting foreigners as helpers for the local farmers. These are all possible solutions that might solve the predicament that Japanese villagers and villages are confronting. We might not know if the solutions are perfect and able to solve the problems or not. But, at least, these solutions or actions could gather more people's attention towards to problems. It is just a stepping stone for the Japanese.

However, shrinking and aging population is not only threatening the countryside regions of Japan, but also urban areas. It is a countrywide predicament. In fact, it is not Japan the only country facing such a serious problem. Hong Kong, the US, European countries, and many other countries are all facing this same issue. We shall never know how long or how much does it take to solve this globalized issue. But could we modify Japan's solutions for the villages into solutions for urban areas? Could we further apply any succeeded actions taken by the Japanese in Hong Kong? And, furthermore, could we pay more effort in gathering all the nations in order to find out an ultimate solution? I would say yes to all these questions. Although it takes time to fulfil the above targets, in the future, we will succeed, with everyone's effort, especially we who are taking regional studies in university.

That is only one of my inspirations occurred after the programme. It might not be able to perfectly answer my questions about "Japan" but it made me closer to the answers. So, how about the question related to "Japanese People"?

This Programme is a two-way exchange programme. In February this year, 10 students from Saga U visited CUHK and Hong Kong for 10 days. I and 9 more students from the JAS Department were their guide in Hong Kong, taking them going around to know more about Hong Kong and also CUHK. We stayed together, talked together, enjoyed Hong Kong food together, and finished projects about Hong Kong together. Even after they returned to Japan, we continued chatting through Line too. Therefore, for me and the 9 more participants, the 10-day visit to Japan last summer represented a re-union event, and also a chance to know more about "Japanese People".

What our Japanese friends did in the public astonished me and every one of us. Never crossing the road when red light was on, always standing on the right side to give way when taking escalator, always offering seats to the elderly, beginning eating when all's meals were settled. Even when they were only with us, they never did

anything there was rude, not polite, or beyond any rules or civic-mindedness. When we were together, they always prioritized us other than themselves, doing many things for us much beyond our expectation.

One of the dinners we had together with our Japanese friends was a Japanese-styled BBQ in the campus of Saga University. The Japanese way of BBQ is quite different compared with the one in Hong Kong. Of course they use a charcoal stove to grill the meat, yet not everyone is involved in the grilling, but only one person as a cook grills the meat for the others. Back to our dinner of that night, 3 of our Japanese friends were men and men are always expected to eat more than women, especially when facing a lot of meat. However, at that night, the three of them were only grilling the food for us and the other Japanese students all the night. Actually they did not eat much during the BBQ night. The day we had BBQ as dinner was a hot day. The three of them were all totally wet because of the heat from the stoves. What was more unexpected was that Mr. Yoshikawa, who was the Saga University teacher in charge of our exchange programme, has specially worn the suit of Kachi -Kun, the mascot of Saga University, for us to take photos with it! Although the suit of the mascot was stifling hot, Mr. Yoshikawa still did not mind to wear the suit for us!

Apart from our Japanese friends' passionate serving during the BBQ dinner and Mr. Yoshikawa's surprising act, there was one more thing that I would like to share. There were only one washing and one drying machine in the hotel where we and all the international summer exchange students studying in Saga University. It was totally impossible for both we, JAS students, and the other international students to share the machines. Nobu, one of our Japanese friend who has his own car, immediately told us that he could load our dirty clothes to a coin laundry store near Saga University after knowing our situation. Without his help, we could never finish our laundry in the hotel, and could only take bus and move dozens of bags of dirty clothes to the store by our own. Our Japanese friends really did a lot to make our days in Saga as enjoyable as possible. They were certainly a group of students who are polite, passionate, nice, and not selfish.

Apart from our Japanese friends from Saga University, I saw also many behaviors which were polite and civic-minded done by the other Japanese people too. At midnight, even if there were not a single vehicle on the road, the Japanese people stood till in front of the road crossing, waiting patiently until the signal turned green. And on one rainy day during the program, I was holding an umbrella walking along the road. In front of me came a Japanese man holding an umbrella as well. It was a narrow road and very difficult for two people holding umbrella to pass at the same time. Being worried of how to avoid crashing with the man, he had already come to a very close position. Something out of my expectation happened: when he had finally approached, he tilted he umbrella such that the two umbrellas would not crash.

And on another day, according to the Japan Meteorological Agency, it was expected that day would be a sunny day so quite a lot of people had prepared umbrella. But when evening came, it suddenly rained. On the underground street near a station, I saw an extremely long queue, about 30 to 20 metres long. I walked

to the head of the queue to see what they were queuing for. I found out that the head of the queue was the cashier of a shop and each of the people along the queue were holding a new unpaid umbrella. Along the queue, no one got angry or complained about the long queue. They just lined up and waited for no matter how long it took.

To describe how Japanese people live, deal with other people, and behave, the two terms, which refer to “Tatemae” (たてまえ 建前) and “Honne” (ほんね 本音), are always used. Tatemae means public stance, or words / ideas / behaviors that are not presented according to one’s mind. Oppositely, Honne means real intention, or those really according to one’s mind. It is known that Japanese people easily present themselves using Tatemae, covering their Honne in order to maintain a social harmony or a peaceful environment among people. Only when being with very close friends or family members, the Japanese people present themselves without Tatemae or covering their Honne. Do the politeness, civic-mindedness, and self-discipline of Japanese people belong to Tatemae or Honne? Solving this question might help me dig deeper into the core for my major questions about “Japanese People”.

From my observations in my visit to Japan through this Saga Programme, I believe that the politeness, civic-mindedness and self-discipline mostly belong to their Honne, or something similar to habits. But of course, even though we JAS students and the Saga University students were extraordinarily good friends, it is nearly impossible for us to know if they would become rude when facing their much closer friend or not. However, even if what our Japanese friends were presenting in front of us is all due to Tatemae, I have to admit that Japanese people are too impressive, aren’t they? If what they consumed such a lot of energy, time, and even money for was only based on their Tatemae, would it be over-thorough? What is more worthy for us to think about or ponder on is that, whether what our Japanese friends and the other Japanese people did was based on Tatemae or Honne, how have been the Japanese politeness, civic-mindedness and self-discipline trained? From the conversations between us and our Japanese friends, an interesting phenomenon might become a hint for this question.

Japan is a society emphasizing seniority. Both the “up-and-down”, like between teachers and students, and the “in-and-out”, like between among classmates or among two classes of students, seniority are essential. As a result, both informal form and honorific form were included in Japanese language. The informal one could be used by teachers to students (BY people in higher position TO those in lower position), or be used among classmates from one single class (INTRA-group). Instead, the honorific one should be used by students to teachers (BY people in lower position TO those in higher position), or be used among two classes of students (INTER-class). For me or many people using Cantonese, which has no such classification, it is very difficult to accept such system, let alone using such system every day, and even every second. During the visit, I asked the Saga University students whether switching between from informal form and honorific form when meeting different people is troublesome or not. Their answer was “totally not

miserable at all” because they had “already got used to it.” Honorific form should be the most basic way to be polite. So this might reflect that the politeness of the Japanese people could be an outcome under long-term socialization and school education. However, why couldn’t China, Korea, or even Hong Kong produce a nation as polite, civic-minded and self-disciplinary as the Japanese people? Are there any differences of the socialization or school education between countries? If yes, then what are the differences? How could we improve our system to create a better nation?

It we try but fail to reach the answer of a question, such process creates more questions instead. The Saga Programme could definitely not able to solve my biggest questions. After all, this visit to Japan only lasted for less than half a month. But such failure, failure to solving my big questions, successfully bring me some guidelines which, I believe, could lead me closer to the ultimate answers. Saga Progamme is just my stepping stone. Optimistically, I am very excited to look forward to having more chances, more chances for me to explore more about “Japan” and the nation of “Japanese People” via my own experience. Go to Japan. Travel in Japan. Study in Japan. Meet more Japanese people. Make more Japanese friends. There are many things I could do, and also need to do to understand this nation. I am confident that in the future, I could be able to fully understand, or even teach my friends, what Japan and Japanese People stand for.



👉 The river that we were asked to clean up. Messy.



👉 The same place after our hard work! See how clean and clear it is now!

Summary

What does the word “Japan” stand for? What is “Japan”? And how about “Japanese People”? What kind of nation is “Japanese People”?

There might not be definite answers for these questions. But there are many ways to get closer and closer to the most suitable answers for them. Lucky enough, I managed to become a JAS student and also to become a participant of the “Saga University – CUHK Exchange Programme” last summer. A 10-day visit in Hong Kong by a group of Saga U students, as well as a 10-day visit in Saga by us, participants of the Programme were arranged.

During the Programme, a field trip was scheduled. We entered a small Japanese village area in Saga Prefecture, called Mitsuse. This little village is facing the problem of shrinking and aging population which is a country-wide problem not only being faced by Japan, but also Hong Kong, the US, European countries and more.

What we had done and observed in Mitsuse gave us a hint on how the Japanese government is dealing with the problem in countryside. Promotion of local delicious vegetables. Voluntary work involving students and many other Japanese. Foreign workers hired to help the farmers. There are multiple ways that Japan is carrying out. It is our next challenge to modify them into solutions for urban areas, for whole Japan, or even for other countries.

So how about the questions regarding the “Japanese People”? During our visit to Japan, I observed a lot from our partners in Saga U, and also other Japanese people. There is no doubt that what they did was totally polite, civic-minded and self-disciplinary. And sometimes our Japanese friends did much more that they were

required to do. They were really nice friends.

When observing Japanese people, the term Tatemae (meaning public stance) and Honne (real intension) are always involved. Are the behaviours of our Japanese friends and other Japanese people Tatemae or Honne? Although it is extremely difficult to tell the truth, we do have to ponder on the motivation behind the Japanese-styled politeness, civic-mindedness and self-discipline, no matter whether Tatemae or Honne Japanese people's behaviors belong to.

From the combination of informal form and honorific form of Japanese language, we might get some hints for the reason behind the Japanese politeness, civic-mindedness and self-discipline. I asked our Japanese partners if they think the switch between the two forms of language miserable or not. Their answer was "No, not at all". Their answer might lead us to a possible reason – long-term socialization and school education. But still, it is our next mission to explore more on the difference between Japan and other countries, in terms of socialization and school education, to modify our own and improve our quality of citizens.

Of course, this short summer exchange programme shall not be enough for me to answer my biggest questions. Yet I believe, in the future, I will have more chance to get closer to the core of the meaning of Japan and Japanese People. Saga Programme is just a stepping stone for me. I would like to explore more.

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LAU Chung Yan (バンビ)



在這為期十日的佐賀交流團內，學到的除了知識，風俗，更認識了當地人真實的生活面貌，可以說那麼一個交流團的安排是完善而豐富的。我很幸運地獲得了交流的機會，那是畢生難忘的美好回憶。

第一日的主要活動是到當地的梅松小學校參觀，並與校內中小學生一同上英語課。我們準備了英語的匯報介紹香港教育，但這題材涉及不少複雜概念，對他們而言或較難理解。幸好同學馬上改以簡單口語介紹，並集中介紹圖片資料，避開艱深的英語詞。匯報後，小學生們踴躍地以英文向我們交談，儘管很生澀，但孩子的熱情與生氣極具感染力。他們的童年時光是無憂無慮的，在校舍內凝注的是快活與喜悅。這才是孩子該享受的童年吧，作為港人是難以想像的。他們又領我們參觀校園。那是一所不足 50 人的學校，但小小的校舍卻給人設施完備，并

井有條的印象。中學一班只有 5 個學生，課室內就貼滿了 5 人的作品，作業。整個課室是完全屬於他們的，他們不僅是上學，他們就在這裡活著。師生間猶如家人，在嬉鬧中共渡課餘時光。“小學校，大未來。”那麼一句校訓寄意了山區一所學校的寫照與願景。這是非交流團難以體會的愉快時光

當晚，佐賀交流團的佐大學生為我們辦了一場歡迎會，是日式的燒烤宴會，在佐大的林間道路旁，有一個小型的廣場供學生自由使用。我們參觀回來，那裡便放置了燒烤爐與一盤盤的鮮肉。更有人準備了章魚燒的機器與材料。不諳日式烤肉的我們只能坐在一旁，專心等待美食。那是近乎美式燒烤的形式，在鐵網上煎烤肉類蔬菜，食用時一點燒烤醬料。之後佐大的吉祥物穿著布偶裝來我們這了！很親暱地跟我們拍了照，玩了一會兒。說起來，那時候吉川先生不知道去哪了！真想讓他也見一下吉祥物啊...

其後在佐大裡我們也上了幾次課，其目的不僅在於學習，更著重於佐大生交流。國際文化學部的一次課裡，我們的同學先匯報了香港的教育，消閒以至飲食文化，作為其後於佐大生交流生活文化的基礎。其後我們與按出身地分組的學生進行交流，學了各地的方言，即使同是九州，不同地區的語言也有很大的區別。作為日語初學者的我雖僅記得一些句子，但也感到是極有趣的。他們聽說我們能說 3, 4 種語言時均表現驚訝，讓我們頗感自豪。佐大裡有來自各個城市，地區的學生，往往花數小時才能返回老家，這種上學體驗令香港學生感到新鮮。此外，因為主題是關於可持續性，農學部的課便講述了受動物屍體影響下植物坯胎發展出的各異形態，並介紹了調查的方法和研究結果。對不諳科學的我來說是不易理解的課題。但我感受到的是日本人對科研的認真精神與考究的精度，均令人佩服。

在颱風登陸的那天，行程都取消了。然而最終天氣卻不像想象般壞，天氣偶然放晴。佐大學生便邀請我們一同前往娛樂中心遊玩。在日本盛行的娛樂中心集遊戲機，卡拉 ok，運動場，運動儀器等於一體，是親子，朋友一同遊樂的場所。這種地道的消閒娛樂體驗是新奇的。自己有如融入當地般，與日本人一同遊玩，寓學習於娛樂，才算真正的體驗吧。每一晚，佐大學生均為我們安排午晚餐，在短短十日間我們已嚐過佐大食堂，地道食堂，燒肉，大阪燒，雪糕等等，更不時為我們解說。我們對佐賀的喜愛之情越發深厚。

之後的晚上是國際文化交流派對，由佐大學生籌辦並主持進行。我們與來自東南亞各國的學生們各自表演自己地區的文化節目。我們欣賞了泰國，柬埔寨，斯里蘭卡等地的傳統舞蹈，真是大開眼界。佐大的舞蹈社團亦有參與表演，水準之高令人讚歎。最後由我們表演一些流行曲和跳舞。可能因為當中包含日文引起共鳴，居然幸運地被選為冠軍，不勝惶恐。

不久後便是合宿活動。我們與另一個交流團一同活動。那多是來自東南亞各國的學生們，對我們而言又是另一種文化衝擊。在傾談間了解了更多異國的風貌與民情，實在是難得的機會。下午，我們到達營地後不久，便著手準備野炊，就是煮我們的晚餐咖哩飯。在劈柴，生火，烹調等一系列工序後，通過與東南亞學生的合作，我們之間的交流便開始密切了。咖哩飯煮得還不錯，大家把整鍋吃光了。但營地要求把鍋洗刷得乾淨，我們花了很大的力氣去清理乾淨。晚上的合宿，我們和佐大的學生相約在房間，大夥一起玩香港的團體遊戲，日本人均感新鮮，玩得相當投入。

我在中鶴進行農務體驗，任務是在河岸兩旁種上繡球花。農民早已準備好花苗，我們只需挖洞把花苗埋好，再在上面插上一根鐵柱，綁上彩帶便是。我們穿上水鞋，一步步踏在農地，感受田野與土地的質感。泥土的氣息是如此真切，在和暢惠風的吹拂下，綠色的田野有如一陣陣綠浪。望向風吹來的方向，那是翠綠群山的環繞，與開天空的開闊。值得一提農田附近完全見不到一點垃圾，乾淨整齊。農務是輕鬆的，不累人，但確實令我們有勞動的感受。勞動後，村民早已準備好豐盛的午餐宴客，長桌上擺滿菜餚，是採用當地蔬菜做的鄉土料理及家常菜式。很新鮮很好吃。他們也好意地向我們敬酒，拿出了自己釀造的米酒，熱情高漲。飯後，他們宣布我們當天總共植了 400 多棵繡球花！我放下碗，望向門外隨風飄揚的彩帶，那標示了在未來數百棵繡球花的位置。7 年後，河道兩旁將開滿我們的回憶吧。

次日是泥灘上的運動競賽。有明海的泥灘是生態的寶地，包括彈塗魚，招潮蟹等各種生物在當地棲息。而住在附近的漁民更有獨特傳統的捕魚方式。舉起一隻長魚竿，把魚鉤對準魚甩出去，在魚鉤繞一圈回來時便準確地勾住一條魚。這種釣法需練習十年以上，我們只是體驗一下了手感罷了。之後舉行的運動競技包括泥灘上劃舟，拔河，游泳等項目。一開始顧忌不要濺到泥，之後玩放開了，就不顧全身都是黑泥漿了。盡情的比賽，嬉戲，更扶助隊友完成遊戲，很是盡興的活動。

至此，佐賀交流團的活動接近尾聲了。在最後的匯報晚上，佐大學生特意到酒店來陪伴我們完成匯報，解答我們的日文問題並提供資料。在佐賀交流的日子裡他們不少人特意與我們共渡時光，睡得很少，真是辛苦他們了。翌日，當大家完成匯報後，難得心情放鬆下來，離愁別緒卻又油然而生。隨即的結業式，中大生和佐大生真情流露，更有的泣不成聲。回想起當年在港離別的點滴，竟與此刻重疊起來。此刻深深感受到交流團帶來的友誼遠遠超越那 20 天的相處，早已沉澱昇華了。

計劃設計最成功的是，佐大學生先來港，讓我們成為朋友；那麼我們去日本

時的心態就是尋訪久違的友人。那份親切感，友誼是我們深度交流的催化劑。每晚他們都帶我們去遊玩，更一起在公園放煙花等，是因為我們在港曾帶他們一起到處玩樂。他們稱之為報恩，而我們卻是惶恐十分，深感當時招待未周。但雙方的好意不斷累積，終成就了我們一段友誼。的確，在交流團的回憶之所以無可取代，主因是佐大生們的陪伴，不論在行程以內或以外，都為我們增添了無盡的歡樂。衷心覺得能認識那麼一群朋友，參加這個團已是無悔。當然，我亦在交流團觀察到日本的枝節，比如在洗刷爐具上，不論是野炊或日式燒烤，學生們均自發地把用過的餐具爐具徹底洗乾淨，這份堅持及自律也是造就了日本的環境整齊乾淨的原因。而我向來知道日本有在民居外種植繡球花的習慣，但親自在河道旁種植後，方真正感受到環境的優美有賴背後默默的付出，對日本的整潔與乾淨除了欣賞，現在更增添了一份敬意。在是次交流認識到的日本，和我想像的想去不遠，但在不少細節上的體會更深了，比如日本人的性格，社會的日常等，是切身的體會。我很感激這次交流團的機會，讓我發現並喜愛佐賀以至九州，更認識日本朋友。不論何時回想起來，那十日是我令我眼界開闊，溫暖而充實的夏日回憶。

### Summary

In summer, I joined an exchange program for 10-days to Saga, Japan. Owing to a well-planned schedule, I was able to observe the custom and living reality of Japan, while enjoying unforgettable moments with buddies from Saga University. Being accompanied and led by them, we, Hong Kong students seize a precise chance of experiencing authentic local resident culture.

What has left in my heart till now, a month after the program, is firstly the elementary school in Umematsu. It is a small scale school consisted of less than 50 students involved in elementary and junior secondary school. Those children were being shy to speak English at first, but they did their best to greet us. They are purely naive, energetic and delightful, differed from Hong Kong children, the innocence of whose was crushed by the education machine. I saw a family-like relationship between students and teachers, friendship between junior and senior. A homely warm community is built in the name of school, for vitally educating. Perhaps it is rare to see this kind of school even in Japan. However the visit is essentially a key to provoke thoughts on the form of good education.

Another memorable visit was certainly the agricultural experience in Nakatsuru. There is rarely a trip to traditional village for agricultural activities except joining school program. Such opportunity is scarce. Our task was planting the seeding of Hydrangeas along the river bank. The work is pretty simple and local farmers aid us so much. They were also hospitable and generous to share authentic dishes and



home-made sake to us. An ordinary but plentiful banquet was held to celebrate after we finish seeding flowers. Actually, the fields there were maintained to be tidy and neat. Standing on the farmland, I was moved by the softness of breeze and the width of sky, connecting myself with the nature. Everything seemed to be harmonized. The answer to sustainability was supposed to recognize the beauty and relationship between human and nature.

After all, what made this program irreplaceable was the companion of our beloved Saga University students. "Learning is everywhere". This motto always reminds me to observe from every little thing, the essence of learning. Thanks to the cordial guidance of our Saga U buddies, we visit covert restaurants, amusement center, and even play Hanabi together at night. We have lived there instead of visiting, in a most authentic way. This is the reason why we have a unprecedented good time. I would like to appreciate the design of program, arranging Saga students to visit Hong Kong first, and we pay a visit back. We trust that the better we treat them in Hong Kong, the better reward we enjoyed in Japan. At end the culture of Onkaeshi is even more awesome than expected. Our frankness to take care of each other ended up with a precise friendship. I do learned the persistent, gentle and loyalty of Japanese from them. I have never regretted to join this program.

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Mok Tsz Fung (工△)



佐賀是一個甚麼樣的地方呢？我在前往佐賀交流前一直也在思考這個問題。每次提到去日本，給我的印象往往是繁華的東京街道及古色古香的各個寺廟，然而佐賀卻坐落於相距大城市較遠的地方，令我有點期待佐賀市與其他城市的分別。到埗佐賀後，我所感受到的沒有東京的繁華，沒有林立的商店，更沒有熙來攘往的街道，完全跟我既有的日本印象給改寫了。

來到佐賀交流，其中一個重要的目標當然是理解當地的風土人情，在短短九天的交流日子內，有幾天的行程中安排了我們去體驗佐賀偏遠一點的地方，了解佐賀的特色。

首先，在到埗不久後的一天，我們前往一間在郊區的一間學校進行探訪。這所學校有別於我所認知的學校，學生人數並沒有很多，一眼盡見都只是六十人左右，再加上還要分按年級分班，實制上一級只有約六至八人左右。而且學校不只有小學部，還有初中部，即是說這所學校是小學中學生同時在一間校舍來讀書。儘管年齡上有很大的差距，在探訪期間我感受到他們之間沒有年齡的隔閡，有別於一般中學的上下輩的感覺，中學三年級學生會照顧小學部的學生，小學生也會願意找高年級的聊天，當中的友好是在香港中小學是找不到的。再者，他們見到我們是外國人也願意用英語交流，儘管他們明白自己只能進行簡單對答，確實令我有点驚訝，與其他地方的日本人避而不談英語有不一樣的積極。雖然相交的時間十分短暫，只有寥寥數小時，但他們對我們的熱情卻令我對日本人有進一步的改觀。

另外，我們也前往三瀨地區去體驗當地的農耕生活，雖然在香港這個石屎森林中完全沒有機會嘗試到務農的生活，但我很期待農耕的體驗有甚麼事要做。我與同行的同學 Elaine 及余承諱及其他國家的交流生被分發到去一個藍莓果園中清除雜草，看似簡單的工作做上來也絕對不容易。當踏進果園的一刻，地上滿佈一大堆淺黃色的雜草，遠望十分之大面積的果園盡頭，心想應該不可能靠十多人的手在兩小時完全清理吧。戴上手戴，開始在收集地下上的雜草，本以為輕輕收集便可以盡速清理掉它們，但原來要把它們連根拔起也需要一點力氣，還要長時間跪下清理，小一點腳力也捱不掉兩小時的工作量。在清理的同時，雜草中還會冒出不同的昆蟲，平時看見昆蟲也會避開的我竟會無懼這些滿佈一地的蟲子，反而會把牠們抓上手看，因為清雜草無可避免要接觸昆蟲，與其避倒不如接受並做下眼下做的事，不知不覺便克服了自己的弱點。清理也比想像中快，即使不熟悉如何有效率除草，在日本交流負責生的指導下，很快便找到要領，在 1 個多小時便迅出打理好了，還有空閒時間觀看還在生長中的藍莓樹。同行的日本人說藍莓的當造期還未到，現在還未到能吃的時刻，聽到雖然有點可惜，但當見識到藍莓是如此種出來及生長，感到自己的眼界拓寬了不少。

完成了農務後，回到當初放行李的房子，原來該村的女村民已經在準備我們的膳食了，在勞動完一番後，果然要吃些好的補充體力。當每一樣餸菜放上桌前，大部分都是以蔬菜為主，有新鮮的蘿蔔及新薯，很有家庭風味的一餐，對於每天在香港也是多肉少菜的生活，是一餐清淡但又很有和式氣氛的午飯。村長也有一同到來跟我們吃飯，雖然驟眼看來年事已高，但做事依然親力親為，又與我們以日語交談數句，沒有甚麼架子，十分親切。及後，他更帶我們走到村子各地方參觀，其中有一棵上數百年的老樹，底下還有個大樹洞，據村長說，此樹還在生長中，靠大家的保育才能夠使它持續成長。然後又參觀不同的寺廟，與一般寺廟不同的是，供奉的不是日本的神，而是觀音菩薩。原來當年村內有病的人拜一拜觀音便可以迅速治癒，於是便設立一座小廟供奉祂。村內也有一種他們自家釀製的

米酒，一打開蓋子便聞到十分濃烈的米香，遺憾的是我還未夠二十歲，在日本境內還未合法喝酒，不然一定問可否一試。一條村擁有自家的農莊，又可以自己釀酒及製造商品出口，又有和諧的鄰里，自給自足，在日本一個發展完善的國家可算是世外桃園。

我們最後還去了干瀉，即充滿泥漿的海岸，體驗了佐賀的 **Gatlympic**。到達時負責人向我們簡介一下干瀉有甚麼生態及為甚麼政府會大力保護這個地方，吸引的是，香港並沒有這樣的泥灘，還可以參與泥灘運動會，是十分之新鮮的體驗。負責人更教我們如何釣彈塗魚，還有實習給我們嘗試揮動特製魚杆。我們更被告知要穩定釣到最少也要十年時間才能掌握所有技巧，初初還不相信，實習的時候發覺原來光是杆的重量已經令人失平衡，難怪會掉彈塗魚的人並不多。見學完釣魚技術後，泥灘運動會便開始了！團體賽是大家用滑板在泥上鬥快滑行及扯大纜，比預想中十分難，因為泥灘不受力，好容易便被卡住了雙腿及沉在當中，不過當作體驗也是不錯的遊戲。個人賽則是鬥快在泥灘上游一個來回，雖然說就說是鬥快，但是許多人進了泥灘根本寸步難行，完全卡在途中較黏的泥中，當然體力較大的推進上也較其他人快。在比賽中雖然沒有得到任何獎品，但是卻感受到泥灘的特色，以及在香港絕對體驗不了的 **Gatlympic**。

除了上述體驗外，與日本的各位交流也是重點所在，雖然自己的日文不是十分之好，但他們也願意跟我們用簡單的日語對答溝通，著實難得。在沒有特別活動的日子，他們也願意抽空，甚至走堂跟我們到處遊玩。其中一天因為有颱風來襲，所以被逼在酒店滯留半天，下午天氣轉好便有自由活動的時間。日本的交流生們冒雨前往酒店找我們出去玩，帶我們去他們空閒週末會去遊玩的地方。我們最後前往了 **Round 1** 娛樂中心，內裡有著香港遊戲機中心也沒有的種種設施，如卡拉 OK，滾軸溜冰場，擊球中心等，十分新鮮。雖然天氣沒有預期中的好，但很多設施也是在室內，所以不太影響遊玩的心情。

最後一天在佐賀時，距離終了式還差一點時間，所以我們便到大街小巷走一走。佐賀的建築物真的不高，最高也好像是有 5 至 6 層的 **youme** 商場，所以不抬起頭也能看到蔚藍的天空，對比起即使抬高頭，也未必看到一大片藍天的香港，這樣的環境確實令人嚮往。而且建築密度也不是十分之高，街道寬闊，最重要是街道之間偶有河道穿插，不像香港的坑渠，這些短淺的河道是有魚生活的。我們也去了佐嘉神社參觀，感覺與繁華的雷門寺不一樣，沒有巨大的廟堂，也沒有巨大的香爐，有的反而是很多鴿子在結集，及神主前寬闊的空地。佐嘉神社內裡不只供奉一個神，還有許多不同的小寺廟散落在附近，大概有九個祈求不同幸福的神，例如有一個河童神是祈求學業，每一個小寺廟也有不同的設計，與一般認識神社只會有一個神的感覺截然不同。然後也去了佐賀出名的甜品店吃團子等和風甜品，在香港也是沒有甚麼機會吃得到的。

我們也前往了佐賀有名的古城，名叫佐賀本丸城，了解佐賀的歷史。原本的佐賀城雖然已經被燒毀了，但也保留了一部分未燒毀的門及內室，即使失去了大部分原有的歷史遺蹟，也殘留著當年的味道。我在佐賀的匯報便是關於佐賀城的建築特色，所以對其建築方法較為關心。護城河及木組的建築是佐賀城的特色之一，護城河有約 9 米深，防止當時外敵的入侵十分有效，另外木組的本城很結實，而且歷久不衰，令我對日本先人的智慧感到無比的尊敬。

短短九天的行程難以逐一匯報及描述，與日本人的交流及結交好友是十分難得的經驗，時間不久，但所參與的活動也一一深入腦海之中。佐賀市的美，持續發展的城市，自給自足的郊外農村，這些經歷是難以忘懷的。有機會一定會再次造訪這個世外桃源般的市，參與多一次其中的活動。

Summary

It is a great chance to have a short exchange programme to Saga, which is a place that we seldom go and visit when travelling. And it is a valuable time to practice my oral Japanese when spending time with the Japanese students. At first, I was kind of afraid of my non-fluent Japanese would be my obstacle when communicating with different Japanese students. Yet, they were very calm and were willing to spend time to understand what I said, and they even used simpler Japanese to make us understand their words easily. They also taught us some slangs of youngsters and dialects in Japanese to help us understand more about their youth and local culture. It was a good experience to learn Japanese beyond our textbooks, which might be helpful in my next year's exchange to Japan's university.

Other than the good time spending with them, I have also had a great experience in the local events held by the rural area of Saga. I went to a blueberry orchard to help clearing up the weeds. The weeds were growing all over the ground of the orchard and it spent all of us about one and a half an hour to clear all the weeds. It is the first time I participate in an agricultural event. It is a very valuable experience since Hong Kong seldom have a chance to help and join the agriculture work. We also have lunch and chat with the residents in the Mitsuse village, they told us a lot about how they grow the crops and help maintain the village healthy and 'green'.

Besides the visit to the village, I also had a chance to try to have lecture with different Japanese students. We were asked to share our experience in learning Japanese and shared our language backgrounds with the other university students.

They were very interested in our multilingual society and wanted to know how come we can handle these languages. We were also told by the students that where they are living have some dialects different from the standard Japanese we are using these days. It was an interesting lecture to know the language culture of Japan.

Lastly, we also spent half a day to try the Gatalympic which is a mud-style Olympic. There is a mudflat near the shore of Saga and it is highly conserved by the government to maintain the habitat since there are fewer and fewer mudflats in Japan. We learnt the habitat of mudflat and learn how to use the special rod to fish mudskipper. We also played different games along the shore like mud surfing and swimming competition. Great experience which can never happen in Hong Kong.

All in all, it is an inevitably good exchange programme, which taught me a lot and broaden my horizon of Japan. If I have a chance, I will definitely come back and join all the events once more.

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HUI Rachel (レイ)



日本の文化が大好きと言っても、正直、自分の目で本当の日本の町並みや雰囲気を見ることがありませんでした。観光で東京に行ったことがありますが、買い物だけでは現地の人とあまり交流できないため、やはり交流プログラムのほうが旅行より学べることが多いと思いました。しかも、私は長い間都会に住んでいますので、香港と全然違う世界を見に行きたいと思い続けました。ですので、このプログラムに応募して参加しました。10日間という短いプログラムですけど、とても充実でした。これからはこの10日間に印象に残る活動を説明したいと思います。

まず、二日目の朝はオープニングセレモニーとキャンパスツアーでした。佐賀に到着したあとはすぐホテルに移動しましたので、佐賀の町の雰囲気を味わうのは初めてでした。高いビルが少ないため、空が大きく見え、澄んでいてすごくきれいでした。佐賀大学の皆さんと大学に歩きながら、色々紹介してくれました。気づいたら道の両サイドにとまった自転車が多いのが一番印象的で

した。なぜかと言うと、香港は坂道が多いため、自転車に乗る人は少ないからです。そして、午後は中学校訪問でした。「日本語をわからないフリをしてください」と言われましたので、子供たちと英語で話すしかありませんでした。最初は通じるかどうかとても心配しましたが、簡単な単語と身振りを加え、通じるようになりました。ですけど、何よりも大事なものは笑顔だと思うようになりました。なぜかと言うなら、子供たちは緊張のあまり、最初は上手く話せなかったからです。何があったとしても、とりあえず優しく笑ったら、向こうも安心になれると思います。その上で、コミュニケーションはうまく行けるようになります。

二日目の夜は佐賀大学の皆さんと大学でバーベキューをしました。肉と野菜を満喫する上に、たこ焼きと焼きそばをいただきました。本物のたこ焼き器を見たことありませんので、なんだか衝撃的でした。夕焼けを見たり、美味しいものをいただいたり、皆さんと久しぶりに直接話したりしてとても楽しかったです。

三日目の朝はインターフェースという授業を受けました。香港中文大學はそういう授業がありませんので、最初は「一体どんな授業でしょうか」や「すべて日本語で理解できるかな」などと心配でした。しかし、学生たちは優しくゆっくり話してくれましたので、九州方言について色々理解することができるようになりました。その後、台風が近づくため、すぐに小城見学をしました。色々な場所を廻りましたが、その中に一番印象的なのは清水の滝でした。雨が降り始め、急ごうとしましたけれど、滝についた時はすでに号雨でした。号雨の中で、滝は余計に壮観に見えました。傘を閉じて滝の下で写真を撮りましたので、皆もずぶ濡れになってしまいました。いい体験をできて本当によかったと思います。

台風につき、四日目の活動はキャンセルされてしまいましたが、佐賀大学の皆さんがラウンドワンというエンターテイメントセンターに連れて行ってくださいました。スポーツからカラオケまでできるような場所なので、とても広くて驚きました。日本の若者たちはよくそこに行くらしいのです。香港の若者たちもよく休日に友達とこのような活動で暇つぶしますけど、佐賀と比べたら、香港は狭いのでこのような広いエンターテイメントセンターが一つもありません。初めてバッティングを挑戦したり、佐賀大学の皆さんと一緒に盛り上がりながらカラオケしたりしました。台風に影響されず、楽しく過ごすことができました。今回の活動のおかげで、日本の若者文化をもっとわかるようになりました。

五日目一番印象に残るのは、何と言っても夜の学生交流会でした。タイやオーストラリアなど色々な国からの学生たちと交流できるようなイベントでした。その晩に一番注目されていたイベントはパフォーマンスでした。タイやカンボジアからの学生たちも伝統的な踊りをしましたので、絶対に負けてしまおうと思いましたが、なんと私たちのパフォーマンスは一位になりました！簡単な曲とダンスをただけでしたので、こんな私たちでも一位になれるなんて思いませんでした。一位になれてもちろん嬉しかったですけれど、他の国から来た学生たちのパフォーマンスもとても良くて、目を見張るようになりました。

六日目は合宿に行ってきました。今までと違い、皆さんがそれぞれのグループに入って、他の国からの学生と一緒に行動するようになりました。日本語をわからない学生が居ましたので、ほぼ英語で話しました。たまに英語でなんて呼ぶのかわからないこともありましたが、やはり中学校訪問の時のように、身振りや笑顔を加えれば通じるようになりました。その日に一番気に入ったイベントは虹ノ松原に行なわれた活動でした。ずっと都会に住んでいるため、自然環境についてわからないことが多いというより、わかるようになる機会がさえないです。ですので、松原に行けるような機会をいただき、本当によかったと思います。松原について説明してくれたり、実際に松原で清掃作業をさせてもらったりして、勉強になったことがたくさんありました。今回の実際体験を皮切りにして、これからはもっと自然環境に関心を持とうと決めました。

清掃作業の後、私たちは波戸岬少年自然の家へ移動しました。同じグループの皆さんとカレーを作るのはとても印象的でした。普段はあまり料理しませんので、簡単なものしか作れない私は緊張しました。食材を取りにいったから、点火、料理、食器洗いまで全部自分でやらなければなりません。正直、すごく大変でした。ですけど、改めてチームワークの重要さをわかるようになりました。一人だけでは絶対にできませんので、皆の力を合わせなければ完成できません。それ上に、一人一人の能力に応じて、担当の部分をきちんと分けるのもとても大事なことです。最後無事に美味しいカレーを作れまして、すごくよかったです。

七日目は井手野で農業体験をさせていただきました。朝六時半に起き、皆さんと一緒に朝ごはんを食べる前に運動をしました。正直、自分は朝に弱いタイプなので、起きられないせいで授業をサボってしまったこともありました。夜遅く寝るため、日中眠くてたまらなくなってしまうこともよくあります。「朝早起きはキツイ」と思いましたが、久しぶりにそうしたら、なんかよか

ったと思うようになりました。「早起きは三文の得」という諺もありますし、きちんと運動し、朝ごはん食べたたらスッキリになりました。一日中元気を出せるようになりました。

井手野の農業体験はこのプログラムの中に一番気に入ったイベントでした。井手野というのは木と田んぼばかりのところでした。景色も空気もキレイし、とても心地いい場所だと思いました。料理担当なので、実際に田んぼで作業することはできませんでしたが、現地の人と料理を準備するきっかけで現地の文化を肌で感じることができました。前にも言ったように、自分は簡単なものしか作れませんでした。しかし、料理担当と言っても、実は肉や野菜などを切る程度ぐらいなのですぐ安心しました。広い台所でおばさんが何人も居て、三十人分の料理を準備するという光景を見るのは初めてでした。おばさんたちがとてもやさしく、色々な食材の切り方を教えてくれました。料理を準備する時に、おばさんたちが沢山話してくれましたけど、ほぼ佐賀弁で話しましたので、理解できる内容は半分しかありませんでした。しかし、わからないことを聞いてみたら、とても気を遣ってくれてゆっくり標準語で教えてくれました。漬け物を食べさせたり、佐賀弁や井手野の日常について話してくれたりしましたあと、少しでも香港と全然違う世界を覗き込んだような気がしました。都会の人は冷たいとよく言われるのは、多分このような思いやりと人と人の繋がりが足りないからではないでしょうか。

八日目は干潟でミニガタリンピックをしました。ガタリンピックというのは、チーム分けをして干潟で色々なゲームをすることです。ガタリンピックをする前に、現地の方は干潟の生き物について紹介してくれました。生で魚を触らせてもらいましたし、日本人と外国人と干潟で楽しく遊ぶことができました。最初はできるだけ顔と髪を汚れさせないようにしましたが、やはり盛り上がり過ぎてしまい、泥だらけになりました。顔と髪どころか、牙まで泥が付いているようになりました。このような機会をいただき、皆さんと楽しく遊べるようになれまして本当によかったと思います。

九日目の朝は課題発表と修了式でした。佐賀大学の皆さんは調査についてたくさん手伝ってくれたおかげで、自習課題は無事に完成できました。修了式を終えたあとで、最後として佐賀に色々なところに回りました。その日の夜に夜通し香港式のゲームをしたり、おしゃべりしたりして、最後の夜も楽しく過ごすことができました。

十日目はついにお別れになりました。佐賀大学の皆は駅ホームまで送ってくれ、最後電車に乗った時に涙が出てしまいました。「いつかまた会おう」と

手を振りながら、このプログラムは終わりを告げました。

このプログラムを終えて、佐賀で得られたものはたくさんありました。まずは日本文化に実際体験をできることです。自分の目で日本の農村を見て、現地の人と一緒に作業したり、話したりすることができました。日本の文化をわかるようになりましてとてもうれしかったです。また、環境に関心を持つようになりました。香港にいれば、松原や干潟とって自然環境に行けるようなチャンスはほとんどありません。このプログラムによって、久しぶりに自然環境の美しさを気付きました。最後、何よりも大切なのは「絆」でした。佐賀大学の皆さんはとても優しく、いつも色々なところに連れて行ってくれました。話しかけてくれたり、夜遅くまで遊んだり、楽しい思い出をたくさん作れました。十日間にお世話をしてくれた皆さんには感謝の気持ちでいっぱいです。このプログラムで経験したことを無駄にせず、これからの大学生活に生かしていきたいと思います。

### Summary

Although I love Japanese culture, frankly, I did not have much chance to observe the reality and culture of Japanese in depth and I seldom communicate with Japanese directly. Also, living in Hong Kong for 19 years, I have totally adapted to the prosperous city. I believed that visiting rural areas would be a great experience for me and thus I joined the exchange program to Saga. After the ten days in Saga, I could only say that it was a wonderful program and the experiences from this program inspired me a lot.

First of all, from this exchange program, I could really get in touch with the daily live and culture of Japanese. In day 7, we went to Iteno, a village in Mitsuse, Saga, to participate in various agricultural activities. However, I was assigned to take part in cooking with some local women in the village. In the beginning, I was worried as I seldom do the cooking at home. Fortunately, I was only required to cut the ingredients and the people there were very kind. They told me a lot of things while preparing the food, such as the Saga dialect and their daily live in Iteno. Since they were all speaking in the Saga dialect, I could only understand half of it. Nevertheless, they would try to speak in standard Japanese slowly when they talk to me. I can still remember clearly that they said they thought in standard Japanese, but it eventually changed into the Saga dialect if they spoke up. From this experience, I could feel the warm heart of the people from rural area and have a deeper understanding in the daily live of Japanese.



Furthermore, I have increased my environmental consciousness after the ten days in Saga. In day 6, we went to Niji No Matsuhara, a pine grove in Karatsu city, Saga, to join a cleaning activity. Having a cleaning activity in the pine grove was a precious experience for me as it was my first time to visit. The staffs introduced the natural habitat and the problem in Niji No Matsuhara to us, and we collected the dry leaves there. It was a memorable experience. Not only did we go to the pine grove, but we also visited the mudflat near the Ariake sea. In day 8, we went to the mudflat in Kashima city and participate in Gatalympic. We had a lot of fun and the mud even got into my teeth after playing. I hope that these wonderful natural features can be protected from human destruction.

Last but not least, the friendship between the students from the Saga University and us was the thing I treasure the most. They brought us to different restaurants and stay with us until late every night. They also taught us a lot about the culture among adolescents in Japan. I did my first Senkou-hanabi (sparkler) and batting in Saga, together with the students from the Saga University. I would never forget it and I will treasure everything I learnt and got from this program.



YIU Ngan Ling (エレン)



In July, my dear classmates and I took off to Saga, Japan and began a journey that I had never dreamt of experiencing. I wasn't a participant of this program from the very beginning, but after applying in becoming an ambassador and being involved, getting to know the ten Saga University students, touring around Hong Kong and having fun together, in no time I signed up for this program when the application was out. It turns out to be one of the best decisions I had made in my life.

7th July, the day we board our plane to start the voyage that we long await for. While waiting in the airport being excited for this tour, everyone is also holding his or her personal laptop to work through every second to finish the PowerPoint. It is for the presentation on day two and three, and happily our hard work did paid off. We took two planes, one straight to Tokyo, the capital of Japan. The second, we flew half way back to Hong Kong to reach Fukuoka, which is sort of ironic as precious time is

loss for transportation, but no better choice could be made since there are no flights from Hong Kong to Fukuoka. We arrive at Fukuoka late at night and we would never thought we could meet up with any Saga students who we kept contact with due to the time. Out of surprise, two Saga students came and fetch us up at the airport with Yoshikawa Sensei and made our day. It took around an hour to reach Saga by bus, although everyone is exhausted, no one really slept as people chat with the Japanese. Sadly, due the carsick I didn't really join the conversation but I know people are crazily excited since I couldn't sleep because of the noise. Well, definitely not making a complaint.

Day two, the day when everyone is the most energetic as we have enough sleep. After a simple but meaningful opening ceremony, we ate lunch at campus and left for Matsuume Secondary School by taxi. Here is my first cultural shock: it is my first time to see a mini van (9-10 seats) to act as a taxi. Hong Kong only has 5-seats Taxi so that was new to me. We were told that Matsuume is a small school that has less than 50 students so we sort of know what to expect (We were wrong.). Reaching the school, the students were shy at first, but the teacher in charge had prepared interesting games that let us chat in simple English, like self-introducing. We eventually got into group (Sushi group is the best!) and went on campus touring led by the students. You can see the students are struggling to speak what they want to express, they leak out Japanese vocabularies that I have to either "misheard" or "don't understand". We can see the difference between Hong Kong students and Japanese students. Japanese students are more active; they don't worry about being wrong and try their best. If the same situation appears in Hong Kong, it will be the total opposite, when students are only to communicate in a second language, students rather be quiet and let the guest speak. This is something I should learn from the students. Anyway, the trip was fun and we had a really good time together. The students are in different forms, but they know each other due to the number of students. It made me feel that the school is warm and close like a family. And, I was surprise at the size of the school. It was large, literally, compare with my own secondary school, they have a sport hall, a swimming pool and basically all needed facilities. However the teacher said that it was comparatively a small school in Japan. So the conclusion is Hong Kong is very small, simple as that. Climax of this day was also during this tour when the minute I raised my feet preparing for the second step, a tiny creature decided to land right underneath where I am going to step on and there, I stamp on my largest enemy, a frog. I thought it was just an insect at first but then a kid laughed and said: "frog, frog!" At that moment, I don't even know what to feel, disgusted that I squashed a frog or sad that I killed a life. And yes, that place was that rural.

That night, we get the chance to experience Japanese barbeque, which was organized by the Saga students that came to Hong Kong in February. It was like American barbeque where basically only three people did most of the cooking and the rest can wait and eat happily. We also had a chance to watch the Japanese make takoyaki, which were super yummy. In the middle of the meal, the Saga University's mascot came and joined the party. Salute to the person who is willing to wear that cute but heavy costume in that hot weather! I am definitely not going to kill the fun and mention its Yoshikawa Sensei. Thank you for Saga University for the great hospitality.

The program had some minor changes in the schedule since there is the unwelcome typhoon. At first, we were told that we are not allow to leave the hotel for the whole day but the weather miraculously weren't as bad as we thought, so off we went for fun. We went to a place called Round 1, which I hope sincerely that Hong Kong have the same entertainment. Its basically fits everyone's need so there will be no more argue of what we want to do today, because Round 1 have everything you want. Karaoke, shooting machines, sports facilities... you name it, they have it. We spent the whole afternoon there but still haven't had the time to finish each and every game they have. Most importantly it is really cheap, not a price that you can pay and do the same thing in Hong Kong.

During the program, we also had chance to attend class together with the Saga University students to experience the teaching style and put our Japanese listening and speaking skills into usage. The lecture was about dialect in Japan, although I had always known that there are different dialects in Japan, I had never imagined it's that many. As we were split into group, I chose the group that came from four different prefectures, which made the work tougher. There are more then five ways to say, "Let's eat!" So, I guess my journey of learning Japanese is still long. There was another lecture conducted in English where we took with another study tour. It was about biodiversity and sustainability and the professor is doing research on the relationship between insects and plants. It was hard because we were not major in science but it was a new experience to learn something out of our comfort zone.

Apart from sitting down and absorbing what the teacher teaches out, we also had chances to go on field trips and learn in another way. We visited a drinking factory which is famous in producing children beer, meaning that its normal beer without alcohol. We get to see how the bottles are purified and packed into sellable

drinks. We also get to taste some of their products. The truth is the children beer taste like beer but slightly less tasty and the durian soda taste exactly like durian. Strongly recommend you to buy and try if you are a fan of durian. We also went to a yokan (sweet bean jelly) shop, a traditional Japanese dessert that is sweet and usually go with traditional bitter green tea. We watch a short video about the history and making method of yokan and tried the dessert. As it was the day before the typhoon, it started to rain and we went to see a waterfall. Best combination ever. The waterfall was stronger than normal so water at the waterfall mix with the rain and landed right on us as we gave up our umbrellas when taking a group photo in front of the spectacular view.

The saga students were a huge part of our program and lots of event wouldn't be the same without them. They planned most of our meals and let us try a lot of different food in the short ten days. One of the most memorable dinners was okonomiyaki, we get to choose what ingredients we want in the Japanese pancake, for example, cheese etc. Then, we get to hand make it ourselves. The shop provides the equipment and everyone was hyper as it's everyone's first time to make such thing. To avoid failure, the Japanese advise us to make two small pancakes so it's easier to flip when one side is done. However most guys decided to take the challenge and try making one huge pancake, some failed while other succeed. Luckily, I was in the success group and I am proud of it. There is another restaurant that impress me. It was a small shop near the university, the food is delicious no doubt, but it's the way of payment that surprised me. There is this rectangle box that mark the amount coins and notes on the side. Customers are suppose to pay according into the box and take the change by themselves. Quite incredible isn't it? The owner trusts the students that they would pay the exact amount of what they order. I could never imagine the same thing happening in Hong Kong, but why? That is a difficult question where I personally still cannot answer.

Before coming to Saga, we were asked to prepare a short performance to perform during an international party at night. There were traditional dances of India and Colombia and hip hop dances by the Japanese. There were singing like A cappella and pop music. Our group did some simple dance and sang "let it go" which is a huge boom in Japan and "kissy kissy" which is known as MK pop in Hong Kong. Maybe because our performance is hilarious or maybe it's become we sang songs in languages everyone can understand, or maybe it's just because we have the largest group, but after the voting round, Hong Kong team got Champion. We were shocked but grateful for the result. I am also happy to meet some new friends from all around

the world.

One of the major events of this program was a 2 days 1 night camp held by the Saga University. Apart from Saga University student and us, a group of international student who join the SUSP, who we met at the international party, are also involved. We were split into four groups mixing us altogether so we get to be familiar with students from other country. As the theme was sustainability, we had a chance to clean up a forest using professional equipment. It was tiring yet meaningful. We get to pick up mosses that are blocking the grass floor, sweep away unwanted leaves and tie them into bags so workers can move them away easily. By working together, we can only clean up a small area of the forest, so it's not hard to imagine how the forest are in need of more volunteer to help as the area is huge. The co-operation put effort in promoting the importance of forest conservation to different groups and companies. Through educational talks, we also understood the importance of these forests to human life and made me care more about the environment surrounding us.

After cleaning up the forest, we went into our campsite and had some free time. We were told that there is a beach nearby the hostel, so a group of Hong Konger and a few Japanese decide to go there for a look. So, off we went without knowing it's a trap. Not only it is not a beach with sand, it is a beach with rocks and not really a place to play with water. Moreover, the sky started to pour water and everyone started screaming and run back to hostel, which is quite far away. So no matter how fast the guys ran, they were actually still wet. The girls half gave up running, so we sort of jogged and walked at the same time and reached the hostel. Everyone is laughing though. Well, it's definite prove that we are still young, isn't it? (Not mentioning someone is unhappy that she is not involved in this small adventure.)

There is also a sport hall for us to enjoy sports game. As Hong Kong students aren't really that active in person, it is really special to see us sweating and engaging in sports. I guess that is a really good experience for everyone and prove that exercise is very important. We also introduced some unique Hong Kong game to the Japanese. It is called black magic but actually just asking question with an indefinite answer with clues and pattern hidden in actions or wordings. Its fun looking at our friends with the "I don't have a clue what you are doing" expression on their face and people who get it eventually also earns a weird confidence.

We had to cook curry for our dinner that night and it was another good



experience. Since it is outdoor cooking, we had to make our own fire, clean the dishes, cut the ingredients, boil the rice and make the curry. As my group is the vegetarian group, we don't need to be involves with meat. Luckily, one of my group members is a chef, meaning he is talented in cooking and gets to make him in charge. The cooking and eating went on smoothly and we had a nice dinner. The cleaning part was where it gets tough. The utensils get dark (black) after direct contact with fire, which is really normal. They had lime power to be put on the cooking equipment before cooking, which made it less horrible, but it's still dark. If this happens in Hong Kong, people will just think that this is unavoidable and try our best to clean it and done. However, the Japanese need to clean until it recovers to it original state and the staff there do check and return them to us for further cleaning if they are not satisfied. It made learn that Japanese are precise in what they do and wouldn't want to cause trouble to other people, i.e. people who will use the utensils after us. Although it was tiring and time consuming but after we were done, the feeling of satisfactory couldn't be told.

The next day, groups were assigned to different village to help out their daily routine. My group were sent to do farm work, however I was assigned to help out in making lunch for everyone. I am a beginner in cooking and rarely cooks, so it was a challenge to me. Luckily I was only told to do simple stuff like chopping out cucumber and cleaning cookery equipment. The aunties there are really nice and made lots of food. There is one side dish that they would like me to cut thin slices of cucumber. However, after cutting a few not thin cucumber slices, one of the aunties passed me a slicer that I could use to make slices. It was so embarrassing and I couldn't stop laughing. But it is one of my weaknesses since Hong Kong kids don't need to cook in any means as we have our mum or even domestic maids and I admit that it is not always positive thing. Another thing I should learn – cooking.

On the last day, we were required to do a simple presentation in Japanese in a topic that we chose to do research on before coming to Saga. My topic was comparing Saga and Hong Kong university students entertaining methods, which increased my chance to have fun and entertain. Here I thank the Saga students who help us on the night before the presentation, without you guys, we probably couldn't finish.

10 days seems long but actually short, it goes so fast just like a blink of the eye. At closing ceremony, tears were everywhere. Although it's seemed that we were not that truthful when giving out our short closing speech as we read off from our phone.

But actually that is what kills me because I can't fully express myself, with or without script, using the unfamiliar language. This makes me work harder in learning Japanese, to not make me regret when having the same situation again.

The program gave us a chance to make Japanese friends, to experience Japan culture and see with our own eyes what Japan is really like. It is first time to step foot into Japan and it was a wonderful experience that I would never regret participating in. Every day, I encounter new things, meet new people and learn something. Something so natural, like talking in Japanese to an old lady who sat right next to me during breakfast, could never happen in Hong Kong. This is what study tours are for. Although there are cultural shocks, some you accept and some you think its weird, but that is what is fun when learning about a total different country and culture. You find out these tiny differences and compare with your own culture and get amazed at how things could be that diverse. Most shocking difference for me was that knowing the Japanese brush their teeth before and after breakfast. I also had fun playing with my Japanese friends, creating a strong relationship that you would use any chance just to meet them again. They are what brighten up this program, shows us that Japanese style of hospitality could not be underestimated and we are really grateful for what they did. This program lightens up my summer and became a precious memory that I could never forget.

### Summary

The saga program is a two-side study tour organized by The Chinese University of Hong Kong and Saga University. 10 Saga University came to Hong Kong during February and we tried our best to give them the best 10 ten days to enjoy during their stay. In return, we went to Saga in July to experience a total different culture.

The program was fruitful and included many different activities, field trips and exchanges between locals and international students. We get to visit factories, secondary schools and sceneries. We took lectures with both local students and exchanges students, studying about dialects and biodiversity. We had parties, camps and even get into mud and played like primary school. The ten days was packed with interesting schedules that we could not have asked for more.

One of the most memorable activities was Gata-Olympic, which was held at Ariaki Sea. Calling it a sea but actually it's not, because it's not water but mud. People are trained for ten years to become professional fishermen to catch a kind of fish that looks like alien. We get to see how skillful they are by using a stick and a hook and

hooked up fish in one shot. We also get to stimulate by using a same size stick and a golf ball to try knocking down bottles, and it was hard. After that, we got into the mud. The activity is called “Olympic” for a reason, there are groups and competition involve. We played relay on the wooden board and see who slides the faster in the mud. Everyone is careful not to dirty him or herself and slide along the way. The mud is actually thick and makes it hard to move. We also did tug-of-war in the mud, and that's when everyone gets muddy. Everyone just let it go and enjoy the fun since it's not an activity that you can try anywhere. It was truly unique experience that I could never believe I could have tried before joining this program.

The program provides us a chance to meet new friends and learn new things. I have encounter loads of cultural shocks; some I find it interesting while others are strange. But this is what I find fun while being in another country. I can get out of my comfort zone and try things you had never done before. I believe this program provides a prefect chance for me to challenge myself, like to chat with Japanese in a language that A have learnt in less then a year and successfully make friends with them. By doing research and presentation, I understand more of Japan in an academic way and through causal talk and spending free time together with the Japanese, I get to know about the more humane side of Japanese and they lifestyle. I really enjoyed the days where the Saga University and us spending time together and wouldn't regret joining such a wonderful program.

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YU Shing Wai(お母さん)



Introduction

During 7th July to 16th July in 2014, I have participated in the Student Exchange Program co-organized by the Chinese University of Hong Kong and the Saga University. The program is not consist of merely 10 days in Saga but also 10 days in Hong Kong, which have taken place early in March, when students from the Saga University were to come to Hong Kong for their oversea exchange experience.

Generally speaking, the Exchange Program to Saga has been a life-changing and unforgettable experience to me. For one thing, the program enables students to be

deeply immersed in different cultural aspects of Saga, such as its agriculture and traditions. The agricultural experiencing in particular is very effective in getting students involved and educating students with sustainable development in Saga through a different way. In addition to the benefits, the program has also provided students with the opportunity to build up long-lasting and close relationship with students from the other country. While students from both countries are designated to a particular partner, throughout the 20-day exchange program in both cities, they are to spend vast amount of time together and actually have time for more sophisticated cultural exchanging instead of just some small talks. As personal experience, I can always find myself in cultural shock whenever I am talking to students from Saga, just because the cultural difference can be indeed very huge.

In the point of view of Hong Kong students, the gains from the Exchange Program to Saga are not just about knowledge from Saga, but also, fundamentally and usefully, application of their Japanese in real life conversations during the 10 days in Japan. Furthermore, with the companion of students from Saga University, we are able to learn the details of everyday life in Japan, such as different manners and habits of Japanese. This will no doubt prepare ourselves for our next time to be in Japan which will be useful for a long span of time.

The following will be broken down into different days in order to make it easier to comment on the activities involved in the program.

10 Days in Hong Kong

Frankly, I was not a member of the Saga program at the very beginning. This is because I have planned on a travel to Japan in May or June that I considered joining the Saga Program might comes along with difficulties, such as in financially. As heard that the Program has originally a mere of 5 participants only, the JASP department has called out for volunteers for the program. But even that, I did not sign up myself as one. This is because I did not have great motives to join the program either.

However, my very first encounter with the students from the Saga University was probably on the 2nd day of their 10-day trip in Hong Kong. I was invited by one of the participants in the program to join their desert time out in Sha Tin after dinner. This is likely to be the trigger of my sudden change in determination towards the Saga Program. Because that first night with the Saga University students, I felt pretty much welcomed and did not feel like an outsider, despite the fact that I have just met everyone. The familiarity and sense of comfort was the reasons why I would like to

spend more time in the Saga Program, even if I have not registered as one of the volunteers.

In the following days of the 10-day in Hong Kong with the students from Saga University, I follow them as if I am one of the participants and attended most of the events that I could attend. Barbecue out on Lantau Island, dinner at Central, and a few nights spent in the Guest House with the students from Saga University to help with their topical research during the trip to Hong Kong. Undoubtedly, it was a lot of fun and was very memorable. I think this is because the Saga Program is the possibly first exchange program for any Year 1 students to join after they entered the University, which makes it so special and such a great experience.

Yet, even though I have joined most activities I can take part in, I was still not fully immersed in the Saga Program that I may not be able to comment on the arrangement and activities, not to mention any possible gain from the 10-day in Hong Kong. In spite of all, the only thing I can comment objectively on is that the 10-day Program in Hong Kong has no doubt given students from Hong Kong an opportunity to get to know students from the Saga University and prepare for the building up of stronger relationships with them in near future.

Day 2 (Day 1 is used up for transportation)

Day 2 basically consists of the opening ceremony of the program, welcoming party and visit to a junior high school in Saga. It had been a good start and opening for the Saga Program, especially the visit to the junior high school.

For the opening ceremony, the introduction has been a bit of awkward because students from both Universities have obvious spent a lot of time together that we do not really need introduction to each other. But in the ceremony, I was acquainted to staff members from the Saga University who will be working closely with us, which helped us a lot during the 10 days.

After that, we were to transit from the Saga University to the Matsuume Junior High and Primary School located far in the hills. As in that visit, we are told not to speak any Japanese but to speak English with the students. Before coming to this, I expected students are anything but being eager and passionate about English. But on the contrary, students in Matsuume were not afraid to speak English to strangers, which were us, and can actually deliver their message clearly. While the stereotype

of Japanese is not feeling confident and comfortable with speaking in foreign languages, these students have been a good demonstration of a brighter future of students who are willing to and capable of accepting foreign and new ideas, which a great credit should be given to the native English teacher there.

At night right after visit to the Matsume, we went back to the Saga University campus and were showered with warm welcoming and delicious barbecue food cooked by the Saga University students, which we all actually felt very guilty for doing nothing but to look at how hard they have tried to give us the best hospitality. In the end, we came into a cultural shock where the Japanese were putting great effort in tidying and cleaning up things, which is a mindset us from Hong Kong should but probably impossible to acquire.



Day 3

Day 3 is the day of learning, with the special lecture with a class of students in the Saga University and the visit to drink factories and the Youkan Museum.

At first during the special, we were kind of awkward in which we did not know where to fit and we had no idea what the interface was about. However, once the students know that we are from Hong Kong and speak Japanese, they are more willing to know more from us. During the class, we were divided into groups and introduced ourselves to the group of students. As for myself, I can definitely feel that the students were eager to know more from us and more than that, they are interested in how we view Japan in different aspects. Later on, as we were divided into different groups by students' origins, we were to learn the dialects from their respective origins. It was pretty much fun because the dialect is a new topic to me that I know little about that. Kensei, Chihiro, Chika, Fumie, I have never forget any one of you !

Later on we have visited the drink factory to learn about division of labor there and how they run the factory with so much humanity. Even if the working

environment of factory workers is not air-conditioned, the factory has specifically installed a pipe to supply cool wind to different working stations within the factory, which makes the working environment more endurable. We were also served with some free drinks after the short trip. The worried look that the staff member has always given us was overwhelming because she understands that not all of us are very good at Japanese. This makes me feel that the staff member was very considerate and treated us as important guests. I really appreciate her work.

We also went to the Museum of Youkan, which is a special kind of desert in Japan, to know more about this kind of traditional desert. Despite the fact that the Youkan was not really my favor, the introduction of Youkan is clear and fluent which I do not have much to comment about. Later in the same day, we visited the famous waterfall in the hills. The little rainfall has exacerbated the water current that has made it more spectacular than ever.



Day 4

Day 4 was supposed to be going to mudflat to learn about the biodiversity and to have an experience of the unique “Gatalympic”. However, due to the approach of super typhoon, it was then re-scheduled to the 8th day.

But the day did not end up all of us staying in the hotel and wasted the day, the students from the Saga University were very kind of them to choose to take us around for some free research time this day, as the typhoon did not hit directly on Saga and the weather was not as bad as expected.

On that day, they were kind enough to plan for the activity and took us to the biggest game center in the city, Round One. It was probably the first time for all of us, at least for myself, to go to such kind of gaming center because it is rare to find one with various pastimes in one building. We had a lot of fun in the gaming center as our partners brought us around and tried to make us comfortable and relaxed from the seriousness of the Program.

As for my research topic is about the difference in pastimes of Hong Kong and Saga,

this has been really productive which it has given me a lot of useful information to finish the research.

At night, we went to a shopping mall nearby to have dinner together. We also walked around inside for a bit of window-shopping. The whole day was really relaxing and comforting.



Day 5

Day 5 is basically a combination of lectures and enjoyments. We have two different lectures on the topic of biodiversity and a special lecture on the knowledge of agriculture in Saga that we needed to know beforehand, and then we have the party with other exchange students in Saga.

As for myself, the lectures were not big fun at all because I did not have particular interest on agriculture. However, some hands-on information about the agriculture in Saga did spark my interest in the slightest bit, because what was being introduced would be part of our experience in the later part of the Program. In spite of the content of lectures are too informative, the talkers put a lot of effort in making the lectures more interesting and lively which I pretty much appreciate that.

Later the day it was a student party with other exchange students who joined similar short-term program in the Saga University. During the party, I get to know different students from the Saga University as well as different exchange students from various countries all over the world like Sri Lanka and Australia. During the party,

we were required to make a performance for the party and it was definitely my very first time to do so. Although we were well-practised, it was still nerve-wrecking to perform in front of so many people. But as our group was the last group to perform, we saw that the other groups were just enjoying themselves during the performance instead of thinking about competition or failure during it. At last I resolved to let go and just enjoy being in front of people. Our group at last got the champion and it was definitely an amazing memory to all of us.

Such party that gather so many students from different places with the relaxing atmosphere can really make us to learn from other students through communicating with them and exchange ideas. The party has been one of the greatest memories that I will never forget.



Day 6, 7

Day 6 and 7 are no doubt the most memorable days that were spent in Saga because we got to lodge together in the same camping site with students back from the party again. What is more was that we were to be in different groups in a combination of Hong Kong, Thailand, Australia and Sri Lanka.

On the first day of the lodging, we were to have an introduction to the Nijinomatsubara and then we went there for cleaning up a part of the forest before we headed for the camping site. Such activities had been fascinating because it was supposed to be the same work as those volunteers who work for the Nijinomatsubara and it was not an easy work. I was so impressed that how those volunteers can keep doing the work for years just to preserve the area for the city.

Later the day, we were to head for the camping site. After the briefing session I was quite surprised that the life here would be strict and kind of disciplined to certain level. Although it sounded tough but I just thought of it as part of experience and was not brought up to my mind anymore.

The same evening us Hong Kong students were finally to be in different groups to

work for our Japanese curry as our dinner. Although I could not help in most procedures because our group has too many people but too few works to be done, we managed to cook delicious curry and work closer with students from other countries.

The second day of the lodging was much more overwhelming because we finally got to have some field works to do with farmers in Mitsuse area. In fact, I did not think the daily works of farmers there would be this few so I came to the conclusion that the experience was only a small part of their daily works. However, I would be very frustrating to realize that fact because that small portion of works has been devastating and tiring. Nonetheless, we managed to get through the works and were served with a full meal prepared by girls in our group and the housewives of the family host. Frankly, it was very delicious in taste and can be only described in one way that it is very “Japanese”, which is something that I have been looking forward to.

To say more about the experience in the family host, it was fantastic because the family was very caring in a sense that they always worried that the introductions and the works were boring to us, and the food they served was not good enough, or was insufficient for us who have worked so hard the whole morning. I recalled the memory that the housewives in the family always ask us if we need any more rice and if the food was delicious.

Also, the members in the family host were notably elder and may not be very experienced in such kind of eco-tour and hosting. Yet, they have given their best to us and tried hard to make us feel homey in the house. That mere thought of that never fail to make flutters in my stomach that how nice Japanese could be.

After the good tasting lunch, we managed to walk around the village and were well introduced to different buildings and facilities. It was a nice experience to just wander around to see how the village has made its way to survive for so many years.



Day 8



As mentioned before, the visit to mudflat and the experience of “Gatalympic” was re-scheduled to this day due to the approach of typhoon on Day 2. Yet again, this day has also been another unforgettable experience in the Saga Program.

Before this day, we really have no idea about what were we supposed to do nor the content the “Gatalympic”. However, after the amazing demonstration of catching fish in the mudflat by the fishers, we were to go on for the important part of the day to hold a “Gatalympic”.



As like Olympic, “Gatalympic” is actually an event that consists of various part of competition where team standing against team. Within the “Gatalympic”, there were only easy tasking such as surfing-like racing, tug of war and swimming. However, these will only be carried out in the mudflat, which was a totally new experience

to all of us, as the “Gatalympic” is unique in the Kashima Higata area. Although everyone hesitated a bit because the mud could go everywhere on the body, but when everyone was showered with the mud, everyone just let go and enjoy it very much.



Day 9 (Day 10 is also used up for transportation)

As Day 10 is for transportation and the dismissal, Day 9 can be considered as the end of the Program.

In the morning, we made presentation of our research in Saga, which was finally finished just the day before. Later on, we were to join the closing ceremony of the Program. During it, everyone gets emotional because we started to realize that the Program was soon to come to an end and everyone would fall apart from then on.

Later the day, students from the Saga University took us to wander around in the Saga city before we headed for the farewell dinner that night.



Final words

Unlike most exchange programs, which only aim in studying and learning from lessons, the design of the program has been aiming differently to achieve learning from experiencing. What is more, the different relationships that the Saga Program helped to build are truly a blessing to students from both sides. It is

highly recommended to students from Hong Kong and Saga to join in this program for such life-changing experience.

Summary

The 20-day Program, which included 10 days in Hong Kong and 10 days in Saga, has been a life-changing experience with the building up of many relationships and activities that have never did before. It has no doubt given a chance for students to explore themselves with contrasting their lives and mindsets with those from different origins.

For activities, there are academic ones such as visiting to junior high school and special lectures with local students. These help to learn the difference in education of the two places and the derived cultural variation that shaped different personalities and lives of people. There are also visiting to different places around Saga city such as museums, factory, shrines and villages. The visiting will gain students with the historical information and how the concept of sustainable development has penetrated into the surviving of these places. Furthermore, there are also unique events such as agricultural experience, lodging with international students and sports in mudflat, "Gatalympic". These activities will no doubt give unforgettable memories to students who are possibly new to these kinds of activities due to the uniqueness of them.

For relationships, undoubtedly, they are the many encounters with different people from different countries. The encounters include those staff member and officials of places, teachers and students in the junior high school, and most of all, the partners from the Saga University who co-joined the Saga Program. Not only to learn from experiencing making friends from different origins, but to learn how to deal with the relationships with Japanese when they have a very different kind of mindset and courtesy in their tradition. The Saga Program has given the best opportunity for students to learn and imitate the behavior of Japanese that can no doubt be beneficial to students for their further experience in Japan in the future.

By personal experience, the Saga Program gives new experience and encounters to participants that give them a new perspective of Japan through being with Japanese on a daily basis and in a close relationship way. It is a program with high value of exchange experience and new opportunity to know deeply about people in Japan.