

Prepared by Dr. Allah Nawaz

Step-3

The basic objective of this tour was to visit the affected areas including Minimiaizu town (Fukushima) that was attacked by great disastrous i. e. earthquake and Tsunami two year ago. How the Japanese government has improved and looks like a well managed town and working population without any fear. We visited the primary school, where we received warm welcome from small child. We all were amazed on behave of small child. They told us how to write kanji and also calligraphy. After the school visit we visited Sumita Optic fiber that was very interesting and informative for us.

I enjoyed very much on Taiku drum performance of children and others Japanese that was so much interesting and new things for us. Their rhythm and planning was memorable. One day spent in auditorium for action plan preparation and presentation that we had done accordingly. Through chartered sky tree train there were various sightseeing scene and interesting was sky tree tower. In particular, with this visit, it was favored the establishment of tourism and cultural aspects. I found Minimiaizu town beautiful and safe for visit and suggest every one to enjoy the natural beauty and greenery of this prefecture. I also found that all Japanese are very kind and obedient and punctual. All are hard working and take responsibility for better establishment of their country. I had been told over and over again that the Japanese were very polite and very formal. I'd been told that the Japanese were also very reserved and frequently racist. That isn't what I found at all. In fact, the word I would use to describe Japanese society is "nice". People genuinely wanted to be helpful. In Japan multi-story buildings, a certain percentage of the windows must be open able from the outside. Those windows are marked with red triangles, as you can (faintly) see in the center window above. I know that the politically correct term is "homeless", but that doesn't seem appropriate because at least some of them had homes. The foot traffic draws entrepreneurs. Not only were there people hawking used goods - clothes, shoes, tableware, kitchenware - but a LOT of tiny bar/cafes with karaoke machines. When there was no singer, they'd play a tape LOUDLY as a way of advertising their service. The noise was somewhat oppressive. I had heard that congestion was horrible in Japan and was not disappointed. One morning rush hour in Tokyo, a three-mile (5km) taxi ride took thirty minutes.

I have heard of crazy drivers in many places -- Bangkok, Pakistan, etc -- but Japan was never a place I'd thought of as having crazy drivers. This was before I visited the Meiji shrine in Tokyo. I was unnerved to see that the most popular charms for sale were for traffic safety.

I was surprised at how vertical Japanese stores are. The footprint for each store was quite small, but there would be five or six floors for that store. I was also a bit surprised at how limited the selection of stuff was, and how little variation there was from store to store. The number of flat panel displays was impressive. I don't think I saw a computer display during the whole trip that was NOT flat-panel. This makes sense when you recognize how small living quarters there are!

All in all, I had a very good time- a much better time than I had expected. Thank you everyone who offered advice for our 06 day trip to Japan especially of Ilyas sensei and Mr. Yuki Ochiai. Ishibashi and Junko sensei (our coordinator) have those qualities of intelligence, understanding and passion for work and Japanese culture which elevated our trip from something great to something exceptional. The train shinkansen ride there is enjoyable, the temples impressive, but the quality of the temple lodings we found, were not of the same feeling level as the ancients shrines.

The last day was reserved for the sightseeing in Tokyo; and we were entitled to determine the content of the sightseeing. Japan is so friendly, organized, clean and welcoming, filled with delights, immersed in beauty, safe, with such a high standard of quality, we marveled at our good fortune for visiting there every day of our trip. Thank you again to all who offered suggestions. Your advice on this forum helped us create and enjoy a trip of a lifetime.

In the end, I express my deepest gratitude to all people who had contributed somehow to make this event happen and be an unforgettable memory of my life...

I suggest that these type of activities should be carry on in future with little bit more duration because five days are not enough to understand Japan advancement and their role throughout the world.