

## Syeda Irza Navaid

### Step-4

We arrived at the airport on 19<sup>th</sup> May and from there we went to the Tobu hotel. In morning we went to the Tokyo station and from there we started our tour and stayed at Minami Aizu. Our 5 day trip started out with the introduction of MINAMI AIZU and meeting the Mayor there we learned many things about the place and came to know that the place is completely safe from all types of radiation. We visited the Sumita Optical glass factory and saw the making of lens and optical fiber products. We stopped at HADAKAYA restaurant where we ate traditional Japanese food and learned the use of chopsticks. In our whole tour the most interesting and enjoyable thing was the visit to the Arakai elementary School. We learned Origami and calligraphy from the young children. For me the visit to school was the most precious and memorable. The warm welcome we received and the enthusiastic children we saw were overwhelming. After the school tour we experienced the local culture of Japan and came to know about the Gion festival. We saw great performances by the Tajima Nursery School. Each country got the chance to learn and play the Taiko drums. Our cultural performance was followed by a small drum performance concert by the Tatsumi Kai which was very impressive. We even got to sing and dance with the Nursery children. Each country made their action plan individually and presented it on 24<sup>th</sup> May and received certificates, this was our last day in Minami Aizu after that we went to Kinugawa Onsen Station from there we went to Asakusa by the sky tree train. We visited the historical site of Asakusa and had dinner at an Indian restaurant with the Nepal group. In between we visited a shopping Mall in Akihabara. Over all our trip was very interesting and we learned a lot from our fellow candidates and our coordinators. We came to know a lot of things regarding the Japanese cultural and the Japanese lifestyle. One of the best features in the Japanese culture was the simplicity and elegance. We learned how important the cultural heritage is and that even though they are very modernized they still haven't forgotten their cultural values and importance. From the Japanese people we saw how important it is to be punctual and that time management plays a very vital role in their lives. Even though we had only 5 days by the end we realized how much we had done and saw because of the time management. Every small problem was taken care of and all the people were very humble and courteous. Minami Aizu is a really beautiful place and we learned a lot from our short trip. We witnessed how Japan has recovered from the great earthquake two years ago and how they are still working on it. We are really grateful to the management and to all the people involved we experienced a lot of things which we couldn't have if we had gone by ourselves and for that we are really grateful. I sincerely hope and wish to visit Japan again.