

# International exchange with Turkey

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## What I gained through activities during the program

I found the real fun of international exchange through this event. When I met Turkish students for the first time in Japan, there were few conversations because we felt tense and awkward. However, in the days of the end of this program, we said a joke each other and built the reliable relationship. In Turkey, I was pleased that I could reencounter with Turkish student who I met in Japan through this program. They warmly welcomed us. They answered in everything and helped us when we experienced some trouble or something that we did not understand. Although each other's countries are different, far distantly, and we speak different language, our heart led.

On the first day in Turkey, we went fieldwork before the main program. In fieldwork, we got into a ship and went through Bosphorus strait at first. The scenery to watch from a ship was very beautiful and the ship passed under two big bridges. It was cold outside but I stayed outside on a ship and looked at outside scenery. I was able to feel the history by watching the scenery. The scenery was very fresh and this stimulated me into strong impression. Then, we had dinner in Istanbul Technical University and met some Turkish students who had a fun time with us in Japan. We were cordially received. I was happy to get reacquainted with them. We celebrated our reunion.

On the second day, we attended to workshop. We introduced ourselves to each other and I listened to some presentation. Some student gave presentation about their research. I also performed presentation about the interchange with the Turkish students in Japan. Mr. Hamada made the presentation slid and I performed. I was happy that audience laughed at my joke. Though my English is poor, I was able to convey what I wanted to explain. In a reception after workshop, I stood next to my poster about my research and introduced my study to some students and professor. It was difficult to explain my research in English. Moreover, I asked some students about their research and discussed on it.

On the third day, I listened to some lectures. We learned a lot especially about nuclear power plant and an earthquake. These were very interesting.

On the fourth day, we visited some companies. In the morning we had an opportunity to visit ERSEL which is one of the biggest heavy manufacturer company in Turkey. We saw some large

machines in ERSEL. After that, we moved back to the Bosphorus to see construction site of undersea tunnel(Eurasia Tunnel). In construction site, I was surprised at it because it was considerably large. This was the first time that I entered the construction site. This undersea tunnel is expected to resolve the extremely heavy traffic jam in Istanbul. I hope that life of local people in Istanbul becomes more comfortable by this project. Right after the tour of undersea tunnel in Bosphorus, unfortunately, we got news from Japanese Consulate general and it noticed that kind of terrorism might be planned in Istanbul. I was invited to go to the house of Turkish students, but the terrorism notice made it impossible. Since they had prepared a lot for us, I was very sad that I couldn't to go. If I go to Turkey next time, I definitely go to his house to share dinner and talk with them. We came back to our hotel safely by bus without encountering terrorism.

On the fifth day, we went to Disaster Management Center Technical Facilities(AFAD) and see some laboratories in Istanbul Technical University. In AFAD, we observed the inside of facilities and listened to their presentation. In Istanbul Technical University, we visited nuclear plant and laboratory of civil engineering department. The laboratory was fresh for me. Some students and professors told us about facilities or their researches carefully.

On the sixth and seventh day, we visited some tourist spots. We watched famous sightseeing spots such as Blue Mosque from a bus. Because the fear of terrorism, we were not able to get off a bus neither see famous tourist attractions. Still we went to the Buyukada island where is much safer than crowded area. The island is very beautiful and we got into a carriage.

Throughout this program in Turkey, the good point is that every dish was delicious and I think Istanbul is a city that lets us feel the eternal history. Above all, I was really touched by warm heart of Turkish people.

#### Suggestion for improvement / any other comments

Although I of course understand that there was a limitation for our activities to keep distance from terrorism, I'd like to suggest for some improvement. I think it is better to make more free time for each student so as she or he can spent their own time in places where they wants to go. Moreover, I wanted more chance to interact with the Turkish students such like the buffet style reception after the workshop, since it was great opportunity to talk and make deepen exchanges with them.

I would like to sincerely thank all of you who participated in this program and am mostly grateful to the warm hospitality of the Istanbul citizen.