



I live in Japan

Interview Series of Foreigners Who Live in Japan

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Radjabov Bakhrom

From Tashkent city, Uzbekistan

Occupation: PhD candidate at the University of Tsukuba

How long have you stayed in Japan? 1 year and 8 months

Why do you live in Japan?

I am pursuing Doctoral degree at the University of Tsukuba



What do you study in Japan?

In Japan, I am part of the faculty of the Humanities and Social Sciences Department of the University of Tsukuba. I am conducting a research project on public sector innovations by studying innovations in local governments in Eurasia. Earlier, I was researching the social remittances of Uzbek students in Japan and Germany.



Why did you choose to study in Japan, but another country?

Firstly, I was intrigued by the opportunity to come to Japan, a country that I have never visited before even though I was traveling a lot. I was interested in Japan and the regions of North East and South East Asia. Secondly, from my previous background as a political economist, I knew that the center of global economic growth has moved from the west to the east, from Europe and the USA to Asia. Thus, it was very interesting for me to visit Japan as one of the global economic leaders. Later, I also planned to visit other countries in the region. Lastly, in Japan I found the program and the university that would allow me to conduct my research project. Tsukuba Science City is the perfect place for research in Japan!



What do you think about Japanese education compared with your country's education?

Honestly, I was totally unfamiliar with Japanese education before I came to Japan. After more than a year passed in Japan, I have some limited impressions about Japanese education. Firstly, I noticed very well equipped and organized university libraries. I think this is one of the crucial places for every student in

any country, willing to study and conduct a truly innovative first class research project. Secondly, I emphasize the very friendly and polite university staff that always tries to be helpful to international students. I think it is very important for a country wishing to achieve more internationalization of its education. In both Uzbekistan and Japan, a huge amount of attention is currently on to learning English and to conducting more courses in English to get more international expertise. However, what I have read from the mass media when I came to Japan in 2015 was an article saying that Japan is planning to cut funding to study social sciences in the universities. Though not all universities agreed to this proposal, I am concerned that social sciences could be a lower priority in Japan in the future.

Which place do you like the best in Japan?

From the places I have visited in Japan I liked Hakone Town. Of course, every big city I have visited in Japan had its beauty and charm.

Thus, Kyoto and Tokyo have a lot of wonderful places to visit. I like the modernity and history interconnected in those cities. For instance, in Tokyo I like the Marunouchi District near Tokyo Station as a unique place for business activities. Kyoto attracted me with plenty of historical places as the first capital of Japan. However, I found myself in harmony and peace in the small town of Hakone with its beautiful lake and nature scenes that made me feel part of nature.

What do you appreciate most about Japanese culture?

So far, I experienced several Japanese cultural things. First, was the origami techniques that I liked learning very much. Secondly, traditional Japanese theatre that includes Kabuki, Noh, its comical accompaniment Kyogen, and the puppet theatre Bunraku. I also liked the Japanese drum performances that I could participate in several times.



After moving to Japan did you have any funny experiences?

I did not have funny experiences in Japan but, I had experiences worth discussing. For instance, once I went to the post office and purchased a postmark there. I was with my friend and while talking to him in the post office I forgot to take back change from the post office staff. I left the post office and spent the whole day in the university. When I was back home I received a notice that I forgot my money in the post office and I need to come back to take my money. It was quite unexpected for me and I could hardly remember that I left my money in the post office. The post office staff even reminded me about this in the notice. On the next day, I got my money back from the post office. I had several experiences similar to the post office that happened to me in Japan. Every time I was pleased with their level of trust and honesty.



Minobu Kondo

Photojournalist in Tokyo, writing for Japanese and American magazines. Publishing an essay "101 of green stories" with the other Japanese artists such as Kosetsu Minami. Languages: Japanese, English and French.