

“One Step to A Better Future”

—Some words to Tokyo Workshop—

On December 4, 2021, blessed with a warm weather for winter like an Indian summer, Tokyo Workshop organized by the NAGOYA RYUGAKUSEI NET took place successfully at places including Roppongi Hills, one of the major landmarks in Tokyo. While coping with COVID-19, under the leadership of Ms. Okuda Saori and Ms. Kazuko Kozaki in Nagoya the members of NAGOYA RYUGAKUSEI NET made a tremendous efforts in preparation including negotiation with those who were in charge at Roppongi Hills Club, Urban Laboratory (Demonstration of Urban Model) of Mori Building Co.Ltd., and Meiji Kinenkan, and received great support and teamwork of Ms. Takeda Yumiko, Director of Minokamo International Exchange Association, Ms. Nishimura Kyoko, Director of Overseas Business, Morimatsu Industry Co.Ltd., Mr. Ando Yoshitaka, an activist on international cultural exchange, and Mr. Fujishiro Koichi, an analyst at the Mitsui Global Studies Institute(Supporting ventures in Asia). As a result we could achieve a great success as expected.



Group photo at Roppongi Hills Club

In the afternoon, at the beginning of the second part of the workshop, participants joined a field study program riding on four separate minibuses, visiting Urban Laboratory of Mori Building Co.Ltd. There, a person in charge explained the history and development of Metropolitan Tokyo including the present and future plan while introducing the splendid diorama of the city using the latest digital technology. All participating students thought about the future city construction of their home country. Later they moved to Meiji Kinenkan where they received a warm welcome and thorough explanation by Mr. Ema Junichiro an assistant to Guuji of Meiji Jingu Shrine. On that day in the solemn atmosphere of the Meiji Jingu Shrine premises on a Winter evening, participating students listened to the explanation of the history of Meiji Jingu Shrine and the wedding ceremony in traditional Japanese Shinto style, which helped them deepen their understanding of the Japanese culture.

Although the length of the workshop this year was limited, I believe it brought the 23 participating students from 12 countries fruitful experience and unforgettable memory. On that day, Mr. Udaya Athukorala, Representative Director of Woodville Trading of Sri Lanka, Ms. Ito Yukari, Ms. Ino Keiko, Ms. Nakajima Emily, and Ms. Dodo Azusa, all participated in the workshop as friends. All the participating students from different countries across borders gathered in Tokyo and interacted with each other as new friends, and they were given great opportunities to make their life better inside and outside their respective schools. As the proverb goes “Continuity is the father of success”, I hope this kind of workshop will continue in the future.

Tokyo Workshop being lead by Mr. Ando Yoshitaka with full of wits started with an opening address explaining the purpose of NAGOYA RYUGAKUSEI NET by President Hamada and she introduced all the participants with heartwarming words. While we were enjoying delicious lunch prepared by Roppongi Hills Club, Mr. Goto Manabu, President of Helte, an establishment to create a platform to connect Japanese senior personnel with foreign enterprises, made a presentation on his company's activities, and Mr. Ageiwa Kota of Mitsui & Company explained importance of international interactions with youth overseas, through his experience. After lively presentation of Mr. Goto and Mr. Ageiwa with abundant international experience, two representatives of participating students gave short speeches on how they felt by participating in the workshop. At the closing of the first part of the workshop, Mr. Morishima Akio, the most senior director of NAGOYA RYUGAKUSEI NET, delivered a speech in which he encouraged foreign students and Japanese youth.



Experience Japanese history and culture
— at Meiji Kinenkan —

Hoshiya Hideyuki, Team Leader, Executive Committee of “Tokyo Workshop,”
Vice President, Nagoya Ryugakusei Net

※This training was made possible by a grant from
Japan Foundation's Designated Donations Program.

Comments from the students

—Participated in Tokyo Workshop—

To be very honest I was not entirely sure what to expect when I registered for the training event in Tokyo. Life as a graduate student is sometimes lonely, so at the very least I was looking forward to meeting people. The event was however so much more than just a meeting of people or a training seminar. It was extremely motivating to hear the work and life story of the two invited speakers. It was also refreshing to hear the stories and dreams of the other participating students. I also got to see a side of Tokyo I had never been exposed to before. I was truly amazed at the miniature version of Tokyo we saw at the Mori building Urban lab. It was interesting to see how the Tokyo metropolitan area had changed over the years. The visit to the Meiji Kinenkan also gave an insight into Japanese tradition. I am glad I decided to participate in the program.



gathering at the Kumomaman in front of Roppongi Hills Building



lunch and training at Roppongi Hills Club (51F)

Covid-19 pandemic began at the end of 2019 when I arrived in Japan. Lessons were held by online and face-to-face meetings were restricted for almost 2 years. Under such circumstances, the Tokyo training was a wonderful experience. First of all, I was greatly inspired by the NPO officials, two lecturers, and students I met during the training. I have learned the importance of growing together while respecting each other's different ways of thinking and culture. Also it was an important event to meet Helte Co., Ltd., which provides connecting international students with Japanese people who have a long life experience. I was taught a lot by an 80-year-old Japanese teacher and have taken many valuable life lessons while working together. It is great to have friends of the same age who understand you, but I think it's essential to hear the opinions of people who have much more life experience than you.

I am grateful for the opportunity and the experience. If I were to express my thoughts in Japanese, I think I would say “交流会に参加できてとても嬉しかったです。おかげで元気出ました。モチベーションも上がりました。皆様に感謝を申し上げたいと思います。”

Finally, in the training, we visited a historic place-Meiji Kinenkan, Mori Building, working on the future of the city. I think it was a wonderful route connecting the past, the present and the future. The training in Tokyo was a one step towards building a better future together. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the organizers and supporters.

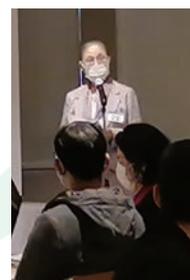
Malavika Gururaj
Center for Gene Research, Nagoya University

Tsevelmaa Batnasan,
Graduate School of Law, Nagoya University

Program

Part I

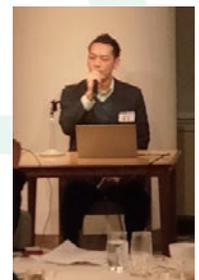
- 12:00-13:00 President's address, Lunch Party
- 13:00-13:30 Guest Lecture by Mr. Goto Manabu
Service of the HELTE Cooperation, Connecting International Students and Seniors in Japan
- 13:30-14:00 Guest Lecture by Mr. Ageiwa Kota
Learn and Grow Together
- 14:00-14:30 Greetings by the representative of the international students & Free talking
- 14:30 Closing Address



Greetings from the President



Mr. Goto Manabu



Mr. Ageiwa Kota



Junichiro Ema, director of the Meiji Kinenkan, gives an explanation.



Marunouchi illumination

Part II

- 15:00 Departure from Roppongi Hills
- 15:30-16:30 Mori Building's Urban Lab (City model)
- 17:00-18:00 Meiji Kinenkan
- 18:00-18:30 Sightseeing by car
- 18:40- Get off at Marunouchi / Tokyo Kaikan Marunouchi Illumination (Free walk)

Exploring in Nagoya

Walk & Talk

Walk & Talk is an occasion to learn more about the culture, history, and people of the region you live in. The best of all, you can become friends and talk with students learning in the Nagoya area.

Nagoya RyuNet launched a new program in which international graduate students spend three hours on a holiday morning walking, visiting places, and talking together.

Walk & Talk in Higashiyama area

Date: October 17, 2021

Place: Higashiyama 10,000 steps course

Weather: rain and fair later; high at 22.1 C and low at 18.1C.



At last, the government lifted the declaration of a state emergency issued in May. "Walk & Talk in Higashiyama," the very first event offered by the Nagoya Ryugakusei Net, took place.

At Nagoya University, under a partly cloudy sky, everybody showed up at the gathering time, 10:00 a.m. sharp. After the participants introduced themselves to one another, the walk began. The group walked through the Nagoya University campus and arrived at the main gate of the Higashiyama Zoo & Botanical Garden in 20 minutes. The group took photos there.

While walking, clouds disappeared by the time the group reached the entrance to the 10,000-step Walking Course. A blue sky came out and the weather turned out to be perfect for hiking. (This might be a gift for the daily good behavior of the participants.) The course was full of ups and downs, but the group proceeded at a very fast pace. Everyone was moving their mouths as well as their legs.

It was a great Walk & Talk with a lot of chat. There were occasional minor mishaps along the way when the distance between the front and the back of the group became too large, but fortunately, no one got lost. The group walked half of the 10,000-step Walking Course.

Kitamura Hiromi (NRN member)

For the foreign students who live with their small kids, it is difficult to attend events or parties. But this time, I had a chance to attend the "Higashiyama Walk and Talk" event since the organizers welcomed my child as well. Thus, it was one of the rare occasions for me and my kid to socialize with other Nagoya University family members, while enjoying the nice weather with fallen leaves in the picture-like mountain area. As a student who lived in Nagoya for almost four years, I little bit observed that our international students have a lot of stress and pressure since we have a heavy burden of completing our thesis in a limited time, while still trying to adapt to the new environment. Thus, foreign students rarely enjoy nature or picnics, or traveling. Nonetheless, little escape away from the study and enjoying nature or socializing give us the power to move forward. Our Ryunet family truly recognize it and hold several events

and meetings each year.

I am truly thankful to the **Ryunet**, particularly **Matsuura international student support mafia senseis**.

Munkhnaran Munkhtuvshin,
Graduate School of Law,
Nagoya University



Start walking the 10,000 steps course



Through a beautiful forest



This is a great view!

Notice and Request

- * Nagoya Ryugakusei Net is planning to organize many more events in the future. Please let us know what you would like to do and where you would like to go.
- * We had to cancel a ski camp this season due to the rapid expansion of the Omicron strain of Covid-19. However, we are planning to have one next season.
- * We also look forward to your comments and suggestions on this newsletter.

See the last page for contact information.

..... Walk & Talk to Furukawa Museum

On December 18th of 2021, we had the event "Walk & Talk: From Meidai to Furukawa Museum in Ikeshita." It was a warm winter day. Twenty students and the Nagoya RyuNet supporters enjoyed a four-kilometer walk, talking to each other.

President Furukawa Tameyuki and Secretary general Ito Yosuke welcomed us at the entrance gate of the Tamesaburo Memorial Museum. We learned about the long relationship between Nagoya University and the Museum. Then, Mr. Ito gave an introductory talk about the history of the Memorial Museum built in the tea-ceremony house (*Sukiya*) style and its notable aspects. He took the group to a tea ceremony cottage (*Chisoku-An*) in the quiet garden and offered a detailed explanation about it.

Inside the Memorial Museum (*Ishun-Tei*), Mr. Ito told the group that each room sends a unique message to the visitor through its design of the ceiling and transom (*Ranma*), pictures drawn on the sliding doors, and the scroll hung on the Japanese style alcove (*Tokonoma*). The international students appreciated the idea of a *Sukiya* style building deeper. Mr. Matsuura Yoshiharu translated Mr. Ito's talk for the students.

After the Tamesaburo Memorial Museum, we moved to the Furukawa Museum in the neighborhood to see the "The Impressionist School and L'Ecole de Paris" exhibition. We appreciated the paintings of famous artists whose names often appear in textbooks. The Walk & Talk program ended here.

The participating students told us their impressions of the event; "I had a relaxed and wonderful time today." "It was the first time to sit on a Japanese style floor (*Tatami*) and admire a flower arrangement (*Ikebana*)." "I have experienced Japanese culture through this occasion."

Adachi Mamoru (NRN member)



listened intently to Mr. Ito's explanation.

Walk & Talk at Furukawa Museum was one of my best experiences in Nagoya city. In this event, I received the opportunity to communicate and discuss with other international students from Thailand, Vietnam, Mongolia, Uzbekistan, and Cambodia and professors from Nagoya University as well as NPO volunteers.

In the first part of this event, while we were walking to the museum, we discussed a wide range of topics such as Japanese cultures and daily lifestyles, comparative of foods, and living environments in each participant country's city. Personally, I find this opportunity eye-opening to see the diversities in the discussion and how the discussion benefits my general knowledge of Japan and other Asian countries.

For the second part, I finally reached Tamesaburo Memorial Museum and paid attention to the well-explained history of Mr. Furukawa's former residence and his legacy. In his residence, I witnessed the brilliant decoration of traditional Japanese lifestyles with the installation of an artificial waterfall, decorated stone and trees, and the interior design of different rooms with different seasons in Japan. Following the visit of Tamesaburo Memorial Museum, I was guided to another museum that is full of incredible paintings, this museum is Furukawa Art Museum.

Due to the ongoing Covid-19 situation, there was limited opportunity for discussions and tours such as this opportunity for international students. I appreciate Nagoya Ryugakusei Net's effort and management for making this tour possible.

Soush Mony Odham
Graduate School of Law,
Nagoya University

Year-end Party

The Year-end Party of 2021 took place at the NPO office on December 25 from noon to eight o'clock in the evening. Under the Covid-19 epidemic, we divided the party into four sessions. A few international students from Mongolia, Vietnam, China, Cambodia, and Uzbekistan attended each session. Participants enjoyed quiet talk over snacks and sweets.

We invited former international students working globally to join the party online. More than 40 graduates dropped in at the party from time to time. They asked their Japanese mentors to join online as well. They found their old friends and chatted with the participants of the party. The Year-end Party turned out to be a big and lively virtual party and reunion.

Matsuura Yoshiharu
(NRN member)



People who participated in person

After returning to Korea, I work as an entrepreneur, not a researcher. I am going about my daily life, forgetting that I researched at the Nagoya University Graduate School of Law.

I participated in the Year-end Party of the Nagoya Ryugakusei Net and could rediscover myself that I had forgotten. I was delighted. I believe that connections with people are very important. The Year-end Party was a perfect opportunity for me to rediscover myself. I had a chance to interact with people I had forgotten about. I would like to actively participate in the various events organized by the Nagoya Ryugakusei Net in the future.

Thank you very much.

Kim Kwangsuk
NRN supporting member,
Former International Student



Chatting with former international students who participated in the event remotely.



Regular Events and Programs

1. Research Audience Program (We provide a small panel of professional audience.)

A graduate student gives a five-minute presentation of the research before a small audience of professionals. The audience does not work in the same research field as the student. After the presentation, the audience provide feedback and all participants exchange ideas for 20 minutes.

The presentation of Dec. 17, 2021: "Information Eco-system for Foreign Residents of Japan"

The presentation of Dec. 27, 2021: "Responses of a Listener in a Dialogue: Response words, Hontoni! (Really?) and Ussoh!(You must be kidding!)" The speaker remarked about this occasion. "I loved smiling faces of the audience. Their feedback was great fun and inspiring. 30 minutes passed like a flash."



Smiles on the faces of both the speaker and the audience commenting.

2. Off-campus Supporter Program (We provide a supporter for a graduate student.)

One graduate student needed occasions to talk with a native speaker of Japanese. We introduced a Japanese researcher of law to the student. They meet monthly to talk in Japanese for half an hour.

3. Overseas Mentor Program (We introduce an overseas advisor.)

This program recruits ex-international students to become overseas advisors for current graduate students and Japanese students. In December 2021 the program introduced a Korean professional to a Japanese undergraduate law student who plans to study for one year in Korea. The Korean professional studied at Nagoya University Graduate School of Law and will advise the Japanese student about the study and life in Korea. A Japanese undergraduate law student plans to study at Oslo Univ. for one year. The program arranged a meeting with a Swedish lawyer who had learned at Nagoya University in 2017. The Swedish lawyer will introduce Norwegian friends to the Japanese student and will be a mentor for her study in Norway.

Matsuura Yoshiharu (NRN member)

Join as a supporting member or a volunteer

Supporters can participate in the activity of this NPO in two ways. One type is to become **a supporting member**, and the other is to become **a volunteer**. Please choose one type (or you may choose both) and access the website below to send your application form by clicking the "Submit" button.

Please transfer the membership fee to Japan Post Bank.
Savings Account Code 12060 Number 23166261
Tokuhi) Nagoya Ryugakusei Net
トクヒ) ナゴヤ リュウガクセイ ネット



※If you are transferring money from a bank other than Japan Post Bank:
Branch name 208
Savings Account No. 23166261

Want to consult and know more? Please register yourself!

If you need a person to consult with, have a chat, meet a new friend, and collaborate with, access the website below to register.
Click "Submit."

You will receive information on various activities.

Nagoya Ryugakusei Net is for YOU!
We are welcoming your registration.



↓ Please scan the QR code.



Aiming to Promote International Cultural Exchange

Use of the Designated Donations Program

We applied for the Japan Foundation's Designated Donations Program to implement the Tokyo Training Program, Ski Camp, and other mentoring programs for international students. The Japan Foundation is a specified public interest promotion corporation. It "accepts donations of support funds from eligible domestic corporations and individuals who support international cultural exchange projects in Japan and abroad, and provides the funds as grants for the targeted projects." Donors can receive preferential tax treatment. The use of the Japan Foundation's Designated Donations Program is a transitional measure for us until our NPO is recognized as a certified NPO. The certified NPO can provide tax benefits to donors. We are determined to carry out our daily activities in good faith and strive to gain supporting members so that we can eventually be recognized as a certified NPO. We look forward to your continued cooperation.

For more information on the Japan Foundation's Designated Donations Program, please refer to the following website.
<https://www.jpff.go.jp/e/about/donation/program/index.html>
 Contact: Kifu@jpf.go.jp



The financial base of this NPO is Membership fees from supporting members and donations.

We would like to thank Mr. Ishigaki Shuichi for donating a large amount of money through the Designated Donations Program. The "Tokyo Training Program" on December 4 was supported by this donation. We would like to take this opportunity to express our sincere gratitude to him.

Kozaki Kazuko (NRN member)



NPO Nagoya Ryugakusei Net's

Activities

Main activities since its establishment



● Management

- Dec 7, 2020 Inaugural meeting
- Jan 6, 2021 Application for certification of incorporation by Nagoya City
- <First year>
- Apr 1, 2021 Establishment of NPO Nagoya Ryugakusei Net
- May 1, 2021 1st meeting of the Board of Directors
- May 10, 2021 1st Extraordinary General Meeting
- <Second year>
- Oct 4, 2021 1st meeting of the Board of Directors
- Oct 11, 2021 Annual General Meeting
- Feb 7, 2022 2nd meeting of the Board of Directors
- Feb 21, 2022 1st Extraordinary General Meeting

In addition, regular management meetings take place monthly.

● Developing Environments for Activities

- From Feb 8, 2021 (1st session) to May 24 (10th session) Study sessions for our NPO website creation
- Jul 2021 Made the website accessible to the public
- Sep 2021 Applied for the Japan Foundation's "Designated Donation Program"
- Jul 2 & Sep 9, 2021 Participation in a lecture at the Nagoya City Citizen's Activity Promotion Center
- Sep 11, 2021 Won the 2nd prize in "The 6th Hand-Delivered Flyer Contest" sponsored by the Nagoya Citizen's Activity Promotion Center
- Oct 2021 Applied for Nagoya City e-Parts Reuse PC Donation Program

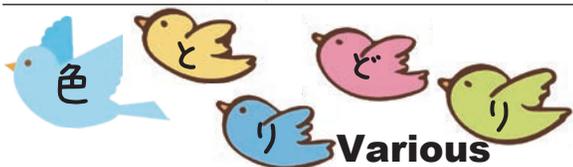
● Regular program

- Nov 18, 2021 Off-campus Supporter Program
- Dec 17 & 27, 2021 Research Audience Program
- Dec 24, 2021 & Feb 10, 2022 Overseas Mentor Program

● Events

- Apr 1, 2021 Visit to Nagono Campus
8 members
- Oct 17, 2021 Explore Nagoya Walk & Talk: Higashiyama 10,000 Steps Course
7 students + a child, 7 supporters
- Dec 4, 2021 Tokyo Roppongi Hills Training
23 students, 16 supporters
- Dec 18, 2021 Explore Nagoya Walk&Talk: Furukawa Museum
20 students, 6 supporters
- Dec 25, 2021 Year-end Party
in person: students + supporters 15 or more
remote: students + supporters 40 or more





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 In this column, we invite the supporters or the international students of Nagoya Ryugakusei Net to share their thoughts, opinions, and personalities with us. Each issue will be filled with a variety of colorful content. Please look forward to it. The first issue features Ms. Ito Yukari, who was a supporter of the Tokyo training program.

Let's Enjoy Cross-cultural Exchange!

I am currently doing research in mathematics at the University of Tokyo's "Kavli Institute for the Physics and Mathematics of the Universe". The institute has mathematicians, physicists, astronomers, as well as many postdocs and researchers from abroad. We can enjoy cross-disciplinary discussions and conversations during the 3 o'clock tea time every day, though we are temporarily unable to do so now due to the Covid-19 Pandemic. During the tea time, young people from other countries sometimes ask me questions about Japan. I feel it very stimulating to interact with people with different cultural backgrounds

My first trip abroad was to a summer school in Italy when I was in D1. The students stayed in a monastery-like place with simple meal, but the postdocs and professors with doctoral degrees stayed in very luxurious hotels. I was surprised to see how differently they were treated depending on their academic degrees.

Since it was just the time of the World Cup soccer games, many people were watching the game on TV in the ever-light outdoor area. I could truly enjoy the summer scenery different from that in Japan.

The following year, when I spent four months at the University of Warwick in the UK, I visited universities and research institutes throughout Europe, visiting researchers I had met in Italy.

My stay in the UK was during the fall and winter months. The days were getting shorter and shorter, and in the evenings when it was pitch black, I had some cold and miserable experience; seeing a bus pass in front of me without stopping since I did not raise my hand. In Japan, many researchers I met for the first time would ask me about my university and supervisor, but in the UK, they would ask me about myself, "What kind of research are you doing?" This attitude made me feel motivated to work hard on my own research. The tea and cookies at the 3 o'clock tea time every day at the University of Warwick were delicious, and it was fun to be able to talk with mathematicians from different fields. After that, I stayed at the University of Mannheim in Germany for a year. The people at the university could speak English, but the people in the city only spoke German. So the German lessons I took for a short time was useful.

At that time, Mannheim Central Station was a transfer station for the main European railroads, so there were people from many different countries. There were also many workers from Turkey in the city, and I witnessed cases of discrimination by the Germans. At the restaurant, the English menu did not have much variety, but the German menu had a lot of choices. I also learned that Wagner's music, which I did not like because of its dark and heavy feeling, had a pleasant heaviness to it when I listened to it in the dark winter in Germany, and that there are things that can only be experienced in the local air. On the other hand, I was often asked questions about Japan. In this way, I enjoyed various cross-cultural exchanges in Germany as well.

It's hard to go abroad now, and there are fewer opportunities for international exchange. However, I hope that international students will be able to talk about their own country and experience many things that are only possible in Japan during their stay in Japan.

Yukari Ito
 NRN supporting member,
 Professor of Kavli Institute for the
 Physics and Mathematics of the
 Universe, the University of Tokyo



On the way to summer school in Italy
 At Frankfurt Station (D1)

●Contact

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✉ office@nagoyaryunet.org

☎ 052-734-3678

🌐 <https://nagoyaryunet.org>



●Access

7 minutes west along the Green Belt from Exit 1 of Nagoya University Subway Station on the Meijo Line.



●Map

