

Newsletter

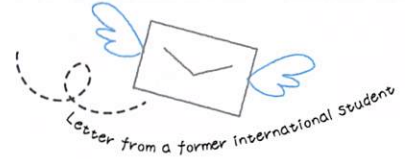
NPO Nagoya Ryugakusei Net

No. 6

July 2024



Back in Germany: Life after Nagoya



After completing a semester of exchange studies at Nagoya University in Japan and returning to Germany, I was swept up in a whirlwind of activities and introspection. The experience in Japan was transformative, opening my eyes to new cultures, ideas, and opportunities that have profoundly influenced my life back in Germany.

One of the most significant changes since my return has been my continued practice of Judo. During my time in Nagoya, I immersed myself in the Nagoya University Judo Club, learning not just the techniques but also the deep philosophy and discipline behind the sport. This connection to Judo was so strong that I immediately sought out a local dojo in Chemnitz, the city I live in, upon my return. Now, I train regularly, and it's become a vital part of my routine. The physical challenge, the camaraderie with fellow judokas, and the focus on continuous improvement have all been incredibly rewarding.

The exchange semester as well as excursions with Nagoya Ryugakusei Net ignited a passion for travel in me that I hadn't fully appreciated before. Exploring Japan's diverse landscapes, cities and culture gave me a sense of adventure and curiosity about the world. Since coming back, I have made a point to travel more within Europe, exploring places I had always wanted to visit but never found the time for.



in front of TU Chemnitz

From weekend getaways in the mountains to city breaks in historic towns, I have embraced every opportunity to explore and learn from different cultures and environments.

Academically, things have been equally exciting. My studies at my home university are going well, and I have recently embarked on my master's thesis. The topic, "Inertial Navigation of Neuromorphic Mouse Robot" combines my interests in robotics and neuroscience, areas that have fascinated me since my undergraduate days. Inspired by my experiences in Japan, where cutting-edge technology and traditional practices often coexist in fascinating ways, I have decided to explore how neuromorphic principles can enhance robotic navigation systems. It's an ambitious project, but I'm thrilled by the challenge and eager to contribute to this rapidly evolving field.

In summary, my return to Germany has been a period of growth and exploration. The skills and insights I gained in Japan continue to shape my daily life and academic pursuits. From Judo to travel and groundbreaking research, the journey has just begun, and I'm excited to see where it leads me next.

Gantogoo Oyunbat
(Technische Universität Chemnitz)



with Germany's new generation of judokas

Baseball Game

Tickets for two to a baseball game

We occasionally receive baseball game tickets from supporting members as gifts to our international students. If you are interested, please let us know. We will give out two tickets for a baseball game.



Bicycle

A bicycle is available for rent.

A bicycle was donated. If you need a bicycle, please feel free to use it.

Long-term rental is also possible. Please contact the NPO office if you wish to borrow the bicycle.



Orchestral Concert

We have received tickets for an orchestra concert through our supporting members. Tickets will be given to the first 15 applicants. Please contact the Nagoya Ryugakusei Net office.

Aug.29 (Thu)
open: 18:00
start: 18:45
AICHI PREF. ART THEATER Concert Hall



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 or where you would like to visit.
- * We also look forward to your comments and suggestions on this newsletter.

See the last page for contact information.



Let us showcase a series of events held under the title "Explore Japan" from February 2024 to July 2024.

- Feb 3 Visit to Seki City and playing with snow
Japan's Energy Facilities
- Feb 20 Part I Head Office Toho Gas Co. Ltd.
- Mar 28 Part II LNG Terminal of Toho Gas Co. Ltd.
- Apr 20 Gifu-Kakamigahara Air and Space Museum
- May 25 1,000 Years of Pottery Production at Tokoname
- Jul 6 Postwar Japan's Economic Development and Air Pollution



Visiting Tokoname; 1,000 Years of Pottery Production

The trip was much better than I had imagined. The museum had different sections, and I enjoyed each of them. We learned about the history of pottery in Japan and how the types of products changed depending on societal demands. There was also a workshop where visitors could make crafts using decorative tiles. Another section focused on modern productions which are primarily toilet seats. There was also a comprehensive section on pottery, clays, and other materials, allowing for in-depth exploration and learning.

Hearing Iranian traditional music and seeing Iranian tile art in the main section made me feel homesick. Eating lunch in the garden was refreshing.

Also, walking through the city alleys was a unique experience; I was amazed at how the Japanese use old items to decorate and introduce their history instead of discarding them. This reminded me of the Wabi-Sabi concept, appreciating the beauty in imperfection and impermanence.

I also bought a beautiful teapot at a reasonable price, and I'm grateful for that find. Thank you, everyone, for another interesting event. I'm looking forward to future events and field trips.

Shiva Ebrahimirad
MEXT research student (M1, Linguistics and Cultural Studies starting from October) (Iran)



Iranian Tile Art



Clay pipes lining an alleyway

— Excerpts from feedback received after the event —



Visit to Seki City, a well-known cutlery town and playing with snow in nearby mountains



I found the event well organised and interesting. The fact that it's organised for free is also very helpful for students. I have learned a unique aspect of Japanese culture and history. After the event I started reading related information online about Japanese swordsmithing and the history associated with it. I believe it's a good way to introduce Japan to international students.

Endale Baruck Tegegn
Graduate School of Medicine (Ethiopia)



GIFU-KAKAMIGAHARA AIR AND SPACE MUSEUM

I really enjoyed the event! Seeing the museum was enjoyable and having the lecture from the first gentleman on the bus was quite good as well! Also, it was fun to learn more about the ISS on the bus ride. I found the other set of notes about the planes was a bit odd though. Since there was another gentleman there who had experience with planes, I was expecting that he would present about planes. However, there was no such discussion, so it was a bit disappointing to be given notes that were not really discussed. Still, it was quite nice having both of them there because we could ask questions while we walked around the different levels of the museum.

Victoria Joseph
Graduate School of Engineering (Canada)



Japan's Energy Facilities



Part I Visit to the Head Office of Toho Gas Co. Ltd.

Part II Visit to the LNG Terminal of Toho Gas Co. Ltd.



There is something surprising that I discovered during my visit to Toho Gas this time: it's a relatively young company but are the leading gas company in the Tokai area. The officials of the company answered our questions very kindly and patiently. They provided very informative details about the Japanese energy sector, the Toho gas facility, and how they responded to disasters. I was impressed that they expanded their business to the bakery sector.

Nayana Wickramaratne
GSID (Sri Lanka)



The idea of showing the infrastructure of gas treatment is very interesting and insightful. I am amazed by how the representatives of the company could explain about the company so well that it was very easy to understand. Also not only showing the scheme, but they bring the participants to take a look on how the treatment works all over the place. I am so lucky to get the opportunity to join the event. Thank you very much that I learned a lot.

Rizki Ramadhani Pratama
Graduate School of Engineering (Indonesia)

Introducing the "Emergency Short-Term Scholarship"

Graduate students and young researchers from overseas sometimes encounter unexpected difficulties during their stay in Japan, making it difficult to continue their research. To support such students, our NPO has decided to offer an "Emergency Short-Term Scholarship", typically 100,000 yen in grants or loans. In June 2024, we received an application from an undergraduate international student and decided to grant the scholarship.

Matsuura Yoshiharu (member)

From a former international student who returned home after undergoing emergency surgery

In the spring of 2023, a graduate student underwent emergency surgery for cancer just before returning home with her degree. We provided financial support for the treatment. The student returned home in June and resumed working for the government. In June 2024, we received a message from the student, informing us that she had undergone a post-operative checkup, finding no problems with her condition. She continues to work energetically with the help of her family. She also included words of gratitude for our support.

Matsuura Yoshiharu (member)

Baseball Joy: A Taste of Nagoya and Life

Arriving in Nagoya two years ago, I was determined to make unforgettable memories in this city. They say you can truly understand a place through its food, and let me tell you, Nagoya's food scene amazed me. But what really surprised me was seeing the Chunichi Dragons baseball team everywhere I went, from Showa-style diners to modern restaurants. Their pictures and signatures were plastered all over the walls! It was clear that the Chunichi Dragons were a big deal in Nagoya, and I was eager to see what all the fuss was about at a game.

Luckily, I managed to score two tickets to a game through the Nagoya Ryugakusei Net. With my family, including our energetic 6-year-old daughter, we were pumped for game day. On game days, Nagoya lights up with excitement, turning into a city-wide celebration. It's a time for everyone to come together and enjoy the festivities. Couples just starting their romance hold hands, young families with kids take a break from their daily chores, and elderly couples who have been together for decades reminisce about the countless games they've watched together. This is the flavor of baseball, the taste of Nagoya, and the taste of life itself. Many of these elements were just names before, seen on television or in books, but today, we truly experienced the charm of baseball. Though we might not have fully understood the rules, we really enjoyed the lively atmosphere: the players' names announced on the big screen, the excitement of the first pitch ceremony,

I didn't know men could do that either!), the playful antics of the Chunichi Dragons mascot, the loud cheers in the stadium, the supportive fans waving their hands, and the delicious smell of fried chicken and beer. Every moment was special, and for that short time, we were all fascinated by the fun of baseball.

The day after the game, it just happened to be my daughter's kindergarten graduation. It's funny how she graduated before me, considering I came to Japan for studies. We still have at least two more years to live in Nagoya, and I feel incredibly lucky that my daughter gets to spend her childhood here. It's a memory we know we'll always treasure. One day as we say goodbye to Nagoya, we take with us wonderful memories of this lively city we called home for a short while. And once again, we want to thank everyone who has been so kind to us.

Huang, Shan

(Graduate School of Education and Human Development, Nagoya University)



Supporting the Chunichi Dragons at Nagoya Dome



POSTWAR JAPAN'S ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND AIR POLLUTION

I gained a lot of knowledge about Japan historical and development of air pollution, especially in the legal point of view. Especially the lectures about the negligence rule and joint liability are really interesting.

Wasarin Pattamavorakun
Graduate School of Law
(Thailand)



Passing away of Director Akio Morishima

Akio Morishima, a professor emeritus at Nagoya University and director of our NPO, passed away on May 26 at the age of 89. Director Morishima was an expert in pollution law, and when he visited Yokkaichi City with graduate students last year, he enthusiastically shared his experiences on pollution issues with them. He also made significant contributions to the activities of our NPO. We sincerely pray for his peaceful rest.

Listening to late Director Morishima's lecture at Yokkaichi Pollution and Environment Museum for Future Awareness





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 No.6 features Ms Liu, who was an ex-international student.

Discovering Japan fresh with my family

It's been over 20 years since I first came to Japan for my studies in 2001. In my first year here, I struggled to communicate in broken Japanese and was deeply moved by the beauty of Japan when I visited Kyoto for the first time on a school trip. Over the years, through my student and professional life, living in Japan has gradually become ordinary daily life.

In March, my parents visited Japan for the first time in five years since the pandemic. Since they are very old, long-distance travel is challenging for them. So I suggested the Toyota Commemorative Museum of Industry and Technology as a nearby tourist destination, and they showed even more interest than I had expected.

In the Textile Machinery Pavilion, my mother shared her memories and experiences of spinning yarn when she was young, and she was impressed by the technological advancements of Toyota's automatic looms. My father, who has been driving for nearly fifty years, admired Kiichiro Toyoda's determination to pursue the dream of automobiles despite the tumultuous times of war, and he praised Toyota's foresight in launching the Prius, a hybrid vehicle, as early as 1997. Although I had visited the museum twice before, seeing it through my parents'



the photo of a beautiful garden taken by my parents

eyes and hearing their thoughts in their own words gave me new discoveries and understanding about Japanese technology and craftsmanship.

During weekdays when I'm at work, my parents take walks in the neighborhood, do some shopping, and happily recount their day's adventures in the evening. They told me about being greeted by the apartment manager, not understanding the meaning but smiling back, taking photos of a beautifully maintained garden in a nearby house, seeing cherry blossoms blooming in the nearby park where people were enjoying cherry blossoms with drinks, and witnessing a wedding at a shrine where the bride's attire was all white. Being foreigners, my parents experience new discoveries every day and deepen their understanding of Japan. Thanks to them, I too have rediscovered insights into Japan.

Shouldn't we begin our cross-cultural exchange by discarding preconceptions and simply by discovering and appreciating the customs, cultures, and merits of the other party and their country?

LIU Shu (Supporting member, Finance & Accounting Department, AISIN Corporation)

Activities

2024.2.1--7.10

◆Management◆

1. The City of Nagoya once accepted our NPO's application for individual designation. After their on-site review, the City asked us to withdraw the application, which we did at the end of February 2024. We plan to reapply in 18 months.
2. At the end of February, we received a donation from the "Aichi International Students Association Supporters' Group" for "emergency relief funds." We have decided to use the fund as part of our "Emergency Short-Term Scholarship Program" and provide a scholarship for undergraduate international students for the time being. This is to honor the purpose of the donation. In mid-July, a scholarship was awarded to an undergraduate student from a university in Nagoya who was hospitalized for surgery.
3. We received volunteer applications from six undergraduate students of Nagoya University. We will ask them to be involved in our activities according to their wishes.

●Contact

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●Access

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



◆Special Programs◆

Explore Japan

- Feb 3 Visit to Seki City, and playing with snow
- Feb 20 Japan's Energy Facilities
 - Part I Visit to the Head Office of Toho Gas Co. Ltd.
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- Jul 6

Editor's Note

During this rainy season, the differences between sunny and rainy days have been so great that every day feels bewildering. It seems that extreme heat and tropical nights will continue for a while. Let's brace ourselves and get through this climate.

Masaru Ishikawa, Kazuko Kozaki (members)

●Map

