



Voices from "Explore Japan" Tour to Hekinan and Takahama (16 March, 2025)

What kind of day was it? Here are some comments from the international students who participated!
In parentheses () is the country of origin of the participant.

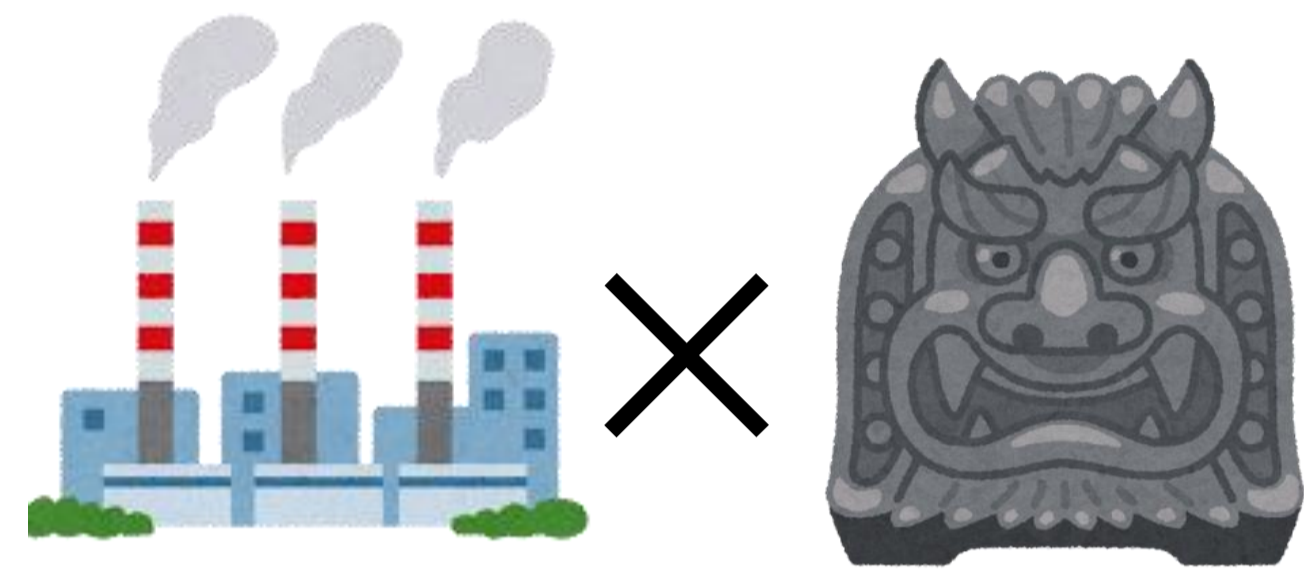
Explore Japan: Why did you join?

- Wanted to learn more about power plant operations in Japan and also was really interested in traditional Japanese roof tiles. (Georgia)
- As a foreign student living in Japan, I am concerned about the rising electricity prices. I believe that Japan's energy independence can be strengthened by enhancing domestic electricity production, whether through nuclear energy or by improving thermal power. This program provided the opportunity to learn about ongoing efforts to produce greener and more affordable electricity. (Vietnam)



How was the day?

- This trip combined modern progress with the preservation of traditional values. (Vietnam)
- The tour was a mix of modernity and tradition. Learning the how electricity is generated at the Hekinan Coal Power Station and the history of onigawara in Takahama City is an odd but informative mix. It is interesting to know how Coal and clay played an important role in Japanese society. (Philippines)



Exploring the Thermal Power Plant in Hekinan-city

- I learned step by step how it operates and discovered its impressive goal of using 100% ammonia as fuel in the future. Since I studied energy-related courses during my undergraduate studies, this visit was especially fascinating for me. It was a truly memorable experience, and if I get the chance in the future, I would love to visit again when ammonia is fully implemented as an energy source. (Myanmar)
- I was impressed with the operation of the powerplant, the use of ammonia and blue hydrogen as energy sources. And I became interested with the workshop of being an artisan for roof tiles. Also, I enjoyed the roof tiles museum. (Philippines)

Wow~!!!



Exploring Traditional Roof Tile (Oni-Gawara)

- I was impressed by the intricate process of crafting these decorative roof tiles and the skill involved in each one. The museum provided learnings about the history of this craftsmanship and the city's efforts to promote its heritage and attract more residents. (Vietnam)
- Regarding roof tiles, I was surprised by how expensive they are. I also learned about their unique history, cultural significance, and the craftsmanship behind the handmade sculptures on these tiles. (Myanmar)

After the Event, How Did You Think About Your Own Country?



Thermal Power Plant

- My country, Myanmar, mostly relies on hydropower as a major for electricity generation and has constructed a lot of dams along the river. I hope that in the future, my country can change to greener energy sources, similar to the Hekinan Thermal Power Plant. (Myanmar)
- Indonesia has many power plants in every islands, such as hydropower, earth's gas, coal, solar, and tides. However, coal is the most used in there because we have a lot of coal. I think it need to be shifted to renewable energy that good for environment. (Indonesia)

Oni-Gawara

- The visit to the Japanese tiles reminded me of the house structure in traditional Chinese architecture. The two are similar in shape, but there may be some differences in color and meaning. (China)
- Roof tiles in the Philippines was introduce by the Spaniards and are called teja or greda. Tho clay and ceramic is a huge industry in the Philippines, I am not aware of any significant cultural value roof tiles have like in Japan. (Philippines)

