

Study tour report
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Study tour in Nagano prefecture

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November 2011, I spent two days on study tour to Nagano Prefecture. This was the first time I have travelled far from Tokyo, I had a keen interest in the scene along the road. On the first day, we arrived at Kamikochi, which was a famous resort in the Japanese Alps of Nagano prefecture. What a beautiful scene! I was attracted by the majestic mountains, wide lakes, clear streams and natural landscapes. Excursions to places, through introducing I could understand about the topography formation of this area and I realized that Japanese people have good consciousness of preservation and protection the natural environment.

The second day I visited Matsumoto city. It was one of the famous tourist destinations in Nagano Prefecture. I looked at an ancient building, called Matsumoto castle. It was so beautiful. After visiting I thought it was an ancient weapons museum of Japan. Many kind of old guns were kept and preserved very carefully created excitement for watching. I surprised how people could protect the old castle successfully after such a long time, it looked stable and strong. I loved the architecture of this building. Besides of the attractive scene, I was impressed with the enthusiasm of the tourist guides. Through their introduction, I understood the Matsumoto residents were very proud of this castle. That was one the reason why so many people volunteer to be tourist guides and the castle usually crowded.



The final destination of the trip was Daio Wasabi Farm, one of the largest wasabi farms in Japan.



Located in Hotaka, Azumino, 32km north from the center of Matsumoto, it was established in 1915 and was a popular tourist spot due to its beautiful watermills and for the magnificent view of the Alps. Wasabi trees were grown naturally along stream beds in mountain river valleys in Japan. I learnt how to grow them and walked around to see the view there. I tried to taste fresh wasabi roots, what an extremely strong flavor! There was a restaurant with many dishes which had wasabi, even beer or ice cream including wasabi. They were very tasty

and interesting. I bought some souvenirs at the gift shop, many kinds of wasabi related food. I thought this was agri-eco-tourism model. The visitors could learn the processing of crops

went sight-seeing and bought local products. In Vietnam, we had many farms and prevalent agricultural products but we did not exploit the ecotourism model appropriately and efficient. I wished my country could apply successfully the agri-eco-tourism like this and Daio wasabi farm was a good example. This was one of the important experiences I have got in this trip.

The practical observations made me very interesting. I realized Japanese landscapes were very beautiful. Through the study tour, I could learn more clearly about Japanese cultural, history and the experience of agri-eco-tourism in rural areas.