

About my five months of homestay

I can say, I had my busiest, most tiring, most exciting, and one of the most fabulous times of my life behind me. Every day, every hour, and almost every moment had its special atmosphere - let it be good or bad - which made this five months a real adventure, a perfectly suitable experience.

I clearly remember the day when the call came from the Embassy, that I won. I was standing in the station, waiting for the train with my friends. First I just did not believe it, then, I did not know to cry, or shout, or laugh, and then what to say to the lady who called me. Then - with my legs shaking from happiness, I just said that:

- I won. I'm going to Japan.

Four months then flew away with unnoticeable



slow speed after that April afternoon, and then I found myself checking in for my flight in August 18th, facing the the place, where I had dreamed of living at, for a long time.

After attending to the orientations, and staying with the other participants at the hotel, I felt like I have the confidence to make this trip an easy one.

I started my homestay at Setagaya ward, in Tokyo, at a really neat family, with two smart children, and with really nice host parents. During the time I had spent with



them, I learned a lot of things, about how should I behave myself in a real Japanese surrounding, and how to make some really "japanish" conversations.

Making the meals together with them, and talking with them during the meals, or just by going out, made a real good feeling, and taught me a lot. I will never forget

how they had been trying to teach me the Japanese Go game, and how they tried pushing me down in different strength challenges - mostly in arm wrestling.

I have also learned maybe one of the most important lessons about Japan - the real meaning of 忙しい. It literally means busy, but at the Japanese version, you have to count it three or four times, as it means working, or learning from early morning until late night.

Using what I have learned from my first host family about manners, and Japanese Lifestyle, it was really easy to move to a new Host Family. My new place was also at Tokyo, at Nerima ward, so from the downtown I moved to the outskirts of the city, to a very different environment and a very different type of family. The four of us started to live together, my Host Granny, Host Mother and Father, and me. Our neighbour was my host Sister and her husband, which made me feel like I have two homes, and a really large family. I spent the remaining four months with them, and during that time, I felt like a real member of the family, and had a really wonderful time with them. They took me to a lot of places, showed me so many things, and taught also a lot. One of the best places where we went was a small town near Mount Fuji, and spent a few wonderful days around there. Despite the cold, we also climbed Fuji(as high as we could), and went to some famous places connected to it.

Thanks to the basic things I have learned from my first short staying, and to the warm



hart, and support I received during my almost four months long stay at the second family, it was really easy to have a good school life.

From the start of second period(sept 1.) I have started at my Host School, Tokyo Nogyo Daigaku

Daiichi Koutougakkou(Tokyo University of Agriculture, First High School), where I spent most of my days. I think I was also really lucky to go to such a good private school, it was really nice, opened, and strict in really good way, so it had also made my stay a really good one.

Starting in the school was one of the most difficult thing for me, it seemed impossible to

understand them, or communicate them in the first two weeks. And to face the culture shocks every day also made it a bit hard to get inside their society, and not speaking enough Japanese, made me feel really lonely.

But - thanks to my Host School's wonderful organising skills - the special school programs, like going to theatres, orientations, or working together for the Cultural Festival, had their gain, and I started not only going home with a smile, but also going with a smile to school.

Above the fun, and programs the school had organized, it was a really good place to learn in, with really good teachers, and smart students. Taking the lessons together with my class, learning together for the exams, and having fun together, made me a part of their team, so when the day came to



say goodbye to my school, I felt like losing a really important part of my life.

Making a really long and wonderful story short, I think I had five surprisingly good months during my stay in Japan, and I learned a lot in every moment, even if I was just watching. I also think that taking part in this program was one of the

best ideas in my life, because though the happy times, and even in the sadder ones in there, I have found a lot of new values in Japan, and I got new dreams before me.

I am really thankful, for my school, for giving me a nice place to learn, and a lot of friends, to my first host family, who gave me the basics knowledge of how to live, and are still my really good friends, and especially, to my long stay family, who made me recognize a lot of new things about Japan, treated me like their son, and who are still my unforgettable Japanese Family. And I also have to say my thanks to the very organisers of the program - MOFA, IFA and the Embassy - , who were giving us support and guidance every time.