

REPORT FOR FOLENS SEMINAR

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It was so great of me to join the field trip in Matsumoto, Nagano prefecture in 28 October 2011 which is organized by Educational Program for Field-Oriented Leaders in Environmental Sector in Asia and Africa (FOLENS). The three visiting sites at Memorial Stone for silk production, Matsumoto Castle and Daio Wasabi Farm are all interesting places to me because via these visiting sites I could clearly see the real evident of some famous trails coupling with Japanese culture.

Silk production Memorial Stone in Matsumoto is the stone recording the names of last famous workmen in silk production of this region the past time. At this site, through explanation of Hamano-sensei, we can know the history of silk production in Japan. For long period of time in the past, Japanese have been the place producing the best quality of silk in the world and that the fibre industry had played very important role in Japanese economy for a long time.

Matsumoto Castle or Matsumoto-jo which has been recognized as national heritage is one of the leading valuable history of Japan. When I was a child, I have several times seeing the pictures of this castle and wished to visit it one day. Now my wish has become true! This castle was so impressed on me as it have not only attractive structure but also the interesting surrounding scenery. I really enjoy the minutes standing next to the western window of the castle to look far away to the mountain behind the Matsumoto city. It was so impressive peacefully scenery. Additionally, hearing the story about the life of the warlord living in this castle, I can partly understand the ancient life of feudal in Japan in the past.

After Matsumoto Castle, we visited Daio Wasabi Farm, a farm lies gently in the slope of a hill. I have known about the wasabi flavor as it is very famous flavor coupling with many Japanese famous dishes. However, seeing the wasabi farming is the first time for me. This farm has very strange farming method to me because the wasabi vegetable was not grown in soil but in rocks with a clean water flow running beneath the root. Besides having a look on the wasabi farm, I was also have good chance have a tasty wasabi lunch with many delicious foods making by wasabi such as tempura, sushi, ice cream and juice.

This was a very enjoyable excursion. All things I have seen in this trip were so interesting and valuable for me as a new international student in Japan. I hope I can have more opportunities to have similar field trip like this to learn more from Japanese and Japanese country from different situations in real activities.