

G086708, GSPA

Bai Yufeng

Trip to Okinawa

The four days trip from Nov.23rd to Nov.26th to Okinawa was not only a fruitful academic mission but also a valuable experience for exploring traditional Chinese cultural in a foreign country.

The presentations provided by the conference in Okinawa University related to many fields such as economy, sustainable development, education, healthy issues, HIV/AIDS prevention, environmental protection, poverty alleviation, Japanese ODA review and human rights. Even though most presentations were given by Japanese which was hard to understand but still some interesting lectures were available in English, and some interesting information could be gained in paper collection issued by the conference, both in Japanese and English.

During the presentations, I also paid more attention to the methodologies conducted by Japanese scholars to study the cases of Japanese ODA in recipient countries. As a governmental official, I worked closely with JICA's officials in China involving in Japanese ODA's projects implementation. It really often occurred that the difficulties in communication and bilateral misunderstanding in project planning. I noticed a presentation focusing on girls' education in Yemen, given by a graduated student from Kobe University. Even the Arabic Muslim cultural background was conducted in her presentation, some important social realities were still sadly neglected in her survey report. I realized if such facts were not to be considered in such Arabic Muslim cultural background, the suggestions from the survey report might not be benefited to the local policies review. The great pity was that discussions were in Japanese and the limitation of breaking time after the presentation, further experience exchanging and discussion was not able to be conducted.

Okinawa's trip provided a great opportunity for our JDS's students for discussion on common interesting issues from food culture to political reform. For the different courses selection individually, we might not have such plentiful time for discussion in

ICU campus. I did enjoy the discussion on various topics with my classmates during the trip.

To me, Okinawa's trip was also a precious opportunity to be saturated in Chinese fragrant traditional culture. I could easily sense the cultural differences between Okinawa and other Japanese cities where also influenced by Chinese traditional culture like Kyoto. It made me so excited and proudly comfortable especially during the visit to Shuri park, which might not be shared by the other foreign students.

It was also a peace educational trip to Okinawa by visiting Okinawa Prefectural Peace Memorial Museum for self-tasting in the battlefield and reviewing the "Okinawa Heart", which was a totally different feeling from reading the historical book. It could be strongly smelled the largest scale campaign of the Asia-Pacific war while standing in the drizzle, watching the war flamed beach and thinking of 200,000 people died in the ninety days brutal battle. I do wish the personal dignity respect and peace in the future from the bottom of my heart.

At last, I would like to express my sincerely thanks to JICA ICU's committee, professor Hwang, Hasegawa sensei and other staff in graduate school. It was very grateful for the well management for Okinawa trip. I do appreciate what they have achieved to us.