

Thai Students' Society in Nagano

By Varumpa Dulayanurak

Nagano prefecture is located in the center of Japan. It is surrounded by 8 prefectures; Niigata, Toyama, Aichi, Gifu, Shizuoka, Yamanashi, Gunma and Saitama. Nagano was the site of the Olympic Winter Games 1998. Prefectural capital is Nagano City. There are many mountains called "Alps of Japan".



Shinshu University is the only one of Government University in Nagano prefecture. The university was established in May, 1949. Nowadays, Shinshu University consists of 8 faculties; Arts, Education, Economics, Science, Medicine, Engineering, Agriculture, and Textile Science and Technology. There are 5 campuses in 4 cities; Matsumoto Campus in Matsumoto City, Nagano-Education Campus and Nagano-Engineering Campus in Nagano City, Minami-minowa Campus in Kami-Ina City and Ueda Campus in Ueda City.

There are 10 Thai students (exchange student, undergraduate student, graduate students, and research student) at Shinshu University in different campuses and 1 Thai student at Nagano National College of Technology. We have few activities because we live in different areas and are a little bit far from each other. We usually take the train for transportation. This way is convenient and takes about 1 hour. For example, going to see Sakura (Hanami) at Matsumoto Castle in Matsumoto City, riding bicycle for rice field and Wasabi field sightseeing at Hotaka in Azumino City, going to see fireworks at Suwa Lake in summer, skiing at Norikura Mountain in winter, one day trip at Kamikochi, and hiking at Utsukushigaharakogen. We sometimes cook dinner together and have party. We all love nature very much and always welcome everyone who comes to visit us.



Thai Students' Society in Nagoya

By Arthit Makarasen, Thanyaporn Rithiwathanapong and
Thai Students in Nagoya

Nagoya (名古屋) is the fourth-largest city in Japan. Located on the Pacific coast in the Chubu region on central Honshu, one of Honshu's three large plains and industrial centers, it is the capital of Aichi Prefecture and is one of Japan's major ports along with those of Tokyo, Osaka, Kobe, Yokohama, Chiba, and Hakata. It is also the center of Japan's third largest metropolitan region, known as the Chukyo Metropolitan Area. With over two million inhabitants, Nagoya is Japan's fourth most populated city. Two most famous sightseeing spots are Nagoya Castle and Atsuta Shrine. Nagoya Castle was built in 1612. Although a large part of it burned down in the fires of World War II, the castle was restored in 1959. Atsuta Shrine is known as the second-most venerable shrine in Japan, after Ise Shrine. It is said to enshrine the Kusanagi sword, one of the three imperial regalia of Japan.

There are more than 50 Thai students living in Nagoya, as graduate students, research students, exchange students, etc. During each year, we have a lot of activities such as welcome parties, farewell parties, BBQ parties in spring and autumn, Songkran festival, Thai student's sport day, New Year party, etc. Regarding these stated activities, they have the same objectives, to build good relationship among Thai students. In addition, 'Meidaisai', food and bazaar festival of Nagoya University is held every year in June. Thai students in Nagoya University also participate in the festival, for example, by having Thai cultural performances and selling Thai foods. For all of the students here, even though we are from various parts of Thailand, we have unity in diversity.



Area 326.45 km² (126.04 sq mi)

Population (as of September 1, 2007)

Total 2,236,000

Density 6,849.4 /km² (17,740 /sq mi)

Location 35°11'N 136°54'E

Symbols

Camphor laurel
(*Cinnamomum camphora*)

Tree



Lilium

Flower



Emblem of Nagoya



Thai Students' Society in Okinawa

By Anucha Promkamnerd and Kwantree Sangprachathanarak

Most of Thai students studying in The University of the Ryukyus. They came here to study either the graduate or the undergraduate courses offered by the university. Some Thai students are also signing up for the short-term exchange program with the university.

During our time of studying in Okinawa, we have organized annual events such as the Songkran Festival, Loy Kratong Festival, the International Student Festival and the University Festival in order to promote our culture among the university students. Let us share what we did on one of the events – Songkran Festival.

We started to organize Songkran Festival in The University of the Ryukyus since the year 2000. At that time, almost 400 people from all over Okinawa came to the university to witness this event and the number is increasing every year. We showed the traditional New Year ceremony followed by Thai dances and kickboxing. We also prepared many Thai dishes for the guests, which were all free! At the end of the festival, we drenched one another with water just like in Thailand. Many Japanese and other international students came to join the celebration of the festival. This year, we donated a part of our earnings from all of the events to the schools in the rural areas of Thailand. Besides being active in the university, we also participated in the organization of Thai Festival in Okinawa.

Okinawa lifestyle is very similar to Thailand considering the subtropical climate. Their way of thinking is also similar with us. For example, the word, “Nankarunaisa”, a famous word in their dialect has a very close meaning to “Maipenrai” of our Thai language. We are able to get used with the life here easily because of these similarities. Although most of the Thai students live in the university’s dormitory, we often have gathering together. We also meet up with the Japanese and other international students in Okinawa to foster good relationship.

Last but not least, we would like to extend our gratitude and appreciation to the Monbukagakusho (MEXT), The University of the Ryukyus, Thai Honorary Consulate in Naha, The Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT Fukuoka), Okinawa Thailand Friendship Association, the Thai restaurants and the companies in Okinawa as well as the people of Okinawa for their support and encouragement to us. Without them, we are unable to achieve our dreams to study and to organize the activities in Okinawa.



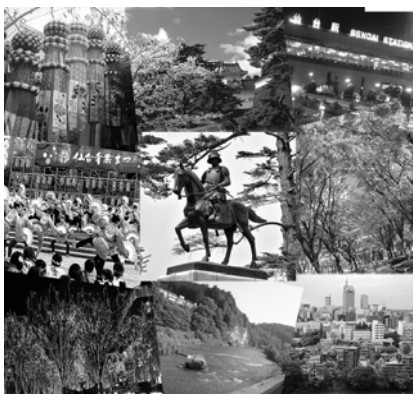
Thai Students' Society in Osaka

By Chalida Piyathamrongchai



Thai Students' Society in Sendai

By Krit Manator and Sendai Thai Students



With the unique crescent on his helmet, a courageous warlord, Date Masamune, established the city of Sendai, the capital city of Miyagi Prefecture, which is currently considered the largest one in the North Eastern region of the Honshu Island. Sendai is also known as the City of Trees as a number of Zelkova Trees, the city tree, are lushly lined along the Aoba street and the Jozenji street, making such beautiful and breezing boulevards. A few number of aesthetic sculptures laid on the Jozenji street also magnify the glamour of the promenade where both merry contemporary gatherings and famous traditional fiestas are annually held. Not only do the symbolic trees make Sendai fascinating, but the clear Hirose river rippling through the city and also attractively put in a reputed city song, Aobajo Koi Uta or the Aoba Castle Love Song, also makes this blissful city far more enchanting. In addition to cutting-edge technology commonly found in Japan, Sendai enhances both traditional property and natural beauty.

With regard to the academic aspect, Sendai upholds the advancement in education since there is Tohoku University as one of the nine Imperial Universities of Japan, being the third one erected in order that higher educational opportunity could be farther expanded to rural locales in the region. Conferring degrees to male, female, and foreign academics to maintain unbiased education, the university has been greatly boosted for its open-door policy, for it is the pioneer who provides people with equal education regardless of their sexes and nationalities. The university focally dedicates to research principle as it holds the perspective that good research leads to good education, producing graduates contributing to social development under this emphasis. Presently, the university extensively offers students a variety of studying fields.



As a part of international students in Tohoku University, there are a countable number of Thai students - undergraduates, graduates, and doctorates, pursuing their study in the establishment. From time to time, Thai students are given opportunity to greet Thai researchers, short-term exchange students, and observers from their familiarization trips. No matter why they visit Tohoku University or other universities in Sendai or its vicinity, they will be warmly welcomed by the tiny but cozy community of Thai students in Sendai. The community regularly arranges a plenty of fraternity-tightening activities in both Thai and Japanese styles; Thai cultural performance, Thai food stall, Hanami or cherry blossom appreciating, and Imoni or cassava boiling alfresco, for instance. The community also celebrates

members' birthdays, welcome party, and farewell party and always gives members a hand when they are in adversity. Recently, the community has been honorably entitled Thai Students' Association in Japan under the Royal Patronage Sendai Division.

Life in Sendai is enjoyable and valuable. Such a compatible combination of precious culture, fresh greenery, material civilization, educational opportunity, and dignified and friendly association is blended harmoniously in the city of Sendai.

Thai Students' Society in Shikoku

By Soracom Chardwiriyaapreecha

Shikoku is the smallest island of the four main islands in Japan. Shikoku region consists of 4 prefectures: Ehime, Kagawa, Tokushima, and Kochi. Matsuyama, which is known for the oldest hot spring (Dogo Onsen) in Japan, is the capital city of Ehime and also the largest city in Shikoku. Mount Ishizuchi in Ehime is the highest mountain in the west of Japan. The famous Sanuki Udon made from the good quality wheat in Kagawa is the most delicious Udon in Japan. There are 42 Thai students in Shikoku: 12 students in Ehime; 25 students in Kagawa; and 5 students in Kochi.



international events, including holding our own along the year. And we are willing to take part and support any activities organized by TSAJ.

As for Thai student community in Kagawa, we are quite similar to other communities in other parts of Japan. By taking good care of each other, we live in Ehime like a family with a simple lifestyle. We normally have dinner together every week, as well as gather up on particular occasions, for example, on birthdays or New Year's celebration. Sightseeing trip is also planed each year.



experiences, not only within Kagawa, but also with other Thai students all over Japan. Thus we appreciate your visit to Shikoku, and you will always be guaranteed a warm welcome.

All of Thai students in Ehime are studying in Ehime University as graduate students, research students, and exchange students. Most of all students study in the United Graduate School of Agricultural Science, which is a collaboration of three universities in Shikoku (Ehime, Kagawa, and Kochi University). Thai students in Ehime usually participate in every activity such as food festival and open campus organized by the University. We also promote Thai culture to Japanese and foreigners in many



In addition, we share any necessary information and pass on some belongings and appliances needed for the living in Japan. Since the majority of the students are in the field of Agricultural Science, we grow some Thai vegetables then distribute them to each other.

We have a great time and good memories that are hard to forget during our stay here and would like to share those great

Thai Students' Society in Tokyo

By Supasit Monpratarnchai and Kajeeporn Techataveekijkul

As most of Thai students studying in Japan are living in Tokyo, the capital city of Japan, Thai students' society in Tokyo is much bigger than other parts of the country. Thai students are actually separated into groups as they are studying in different universities across Tokyo. However, as Thai Students Association in Japan (TSAJ) holds many interesting activities throughout a year, Thai students have chances to come and join those activities together; for instance, ski trip in January, Sakura festival (Hanami) in April, Thai festival and new students welcome party in May, fireworks festival (Hanabi) and Mount Fuji climbing during summertime, sport days, academic conference, Loy Krathong festival and cultural festival (Bunkasai) in November. Moreover, as the Royal Thai Embassy is situated in Tokyo, most of the time Thai students join activities and ceremonies hosted by the embassy; for example, Songkran festival in April and The King's Birthday in December.



Every year in May, Thai festival which is hosted by the Royal Thai Embassy is held in order to promote Thai beautiful culture. This year, Thai students in Tokyo and Thai students in Tsukuba had a chance to present Thai traditional costumes on stage which not only showed Thai gorgeous culture to Japanese people who came to the festival, but also created friendship among Thai students.

As living alone in foreign country may sometimes cause troubles to students, Thai-Tokyo welcome party is also another activity created by TSAJ in order that old and new Thai students have a chance to get to know more people.



Apart from activities which are hosted by TSAJ, Thai students in each university also meet and do sports together; for example, Thai students in Tokyo University usually play basketball together, also Thai students in Tokyo Institution of Technology plays badminton every week. Moreover, during weekend, in order to reduce stress from studying, students in different universities frequently join some drinking, Bar-B-Q party, singing karaoke and etc. Those enjoyable activities created wonderful friendship and made Thai students' society in Tokyo become closer and tighter than it was before.

Thai Students' Society in Tsukuba

By Supatida Sirisawat and Tanapat Raruaisong

Tsukuba is the city in Ibaraki Prefecture located in the Kanto region, Japan. It is known as the location of the Tsukuba Science City, a planned city developed in the 1960s. As a new city with high population density and is close to Tokyo, Tsukuba is sometimes considered part of the Greater Tokyo Area. In addition, Mount Tsukuba is one of the top 100 famous mountains in Japan which is particularly well-known for its sacred Shinto shrine.

The University of Tsukuba was established in October 1973 in response to a new educational and research framework launched by the Japanese government. Taking advantages from its unique character as well as being located in the "Science City", the university could thereby seek to raise the level of academic activities and the degree of internationalization through several exchanges and collaborations with surrounding research institutions and academics from overseas. Having three Nobel Laureates has well demonstrated the potential of the university in producing quality students and outstanding research works.



The association of Thai students in Tsukuba has been established in 1984, which has initiated various activities that are beneficial to both Thai members and Japanese people. One of the activities that have been fruitful is the participation of Thai booth in the university's annual festival. In a restaurant style booth, varieties of original Thai food are introduced to Japanese people as well as traditional performances by both Thai members and Japanese students who are interested in Thai culture. Similar activity is also carried out in the Tsukuba International Exchange Fair organized by the Tsukuba city. A large portion of the profit from the two events is donated to poor students in remote areas of Thailand. In addition, some members who are fluent in Japanese also voluntarily offer Thai language courses to general Japanese and, sometime, Japanese students. Through these activities, the association has been successful in promoting Thai culture and establishing a good relationship with Japanese people in Tsukuba and nearby vicinities.



Nowadays, the number of Thai students in the University of Tsukuba including graduate, undergraduate, and short-term exchange students is over 40 people. Apart from the above mentioned, other events are also arranged regularly all year round to strengthen brotherhood among members, e.g., occasional parties, sport day and ski trip. A website and journals have been launched as a means to share the necessary information for living in Japan. It is customary for members to give a good care, help and guidance to newcomers in both academic and daily life concerns. Anyone who has been in the University of Tsukuba would find that their study and staying in Japan are memorable ones.



Acknowledgements

The TJIA organizing committee would like to take this opportunity to express our sincere gratitude to all parties involved and attendees as being further illustrated.

For the Thailand-Japan International Academic Conference firstly established on the basis of global level this year, the conference committee is deeply grateful to The Royal Thai Embassy in Japan for their substantial support in all significant aspects. Furthermore, financial support and participation from many generous corporations as well as organizations are hereby acknowledged.

Our deep sense of gratitude is also to the keynote speakers for their kindness to give speech on this conference. The honorable committee, the advisory committee and the academic committee play a very important role in providing invaluable suggestions on the conference arrangement. The conference committee ensures their contribution is well recognized.

The committee is also indebted to Tokyo Institute of Technology for providing the conference venue and various facilities accommodated in this conference. Without their encouragement, this conference would not have been successful.

Finally, special thanks are given to all TJIA's staff. Their valuable assistance and generosity in helping to organize this conference are greatly appreciated.

The TJIA Organizing Committee



9 789743 121395

