

# REPORT to IAESTE Japan

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|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Reference No:                       | JP-2018-23-OIT                     |
| Name:                               | Ricarda Stolz                      |
| University:                         | Osaka Institute of Technology      |
| Faculty (Specialisation):           |                                    |
| E-mail address:                     | takayoshi.nishino@oit.ac.jp        |
| Employer's name:                    | Professor Takayoshi Nishino        |
| Working place/division:             | OIT, Yawata Engineering laboratory |
| Internship period (day/month/year): | 2 months (04/02/2019 to 31/3/2019) |
| Signature:                          | 西野孝仁                               |

Please answer the following questions.

#### A) Internship

1. Was your internship in accordance with the experience offered? (Excellent, Good, Fair, Poor)

If your answer is "Fair" or "Poor", please explain why.

The internship was very good. At the beginning I received input on outline of the training content. A small project for the two-month period was prepared for me. Together with the Professor and a graduate student I performed the experiments and I was supposed to analyze the data and to write a small report. I received some additional papers to study. I also had some lectures with the professor in which he explained me methods on how to further analyse the data.

I had my own office room, which was very well equipped. Before I arrived, I was asked to bring my own laptop for the work. Unfortunately, there was no internet (or wifi) connection possible in my room.

2. Did you have any influence on the training programme? (Yes/No)

If your answer is "Yes", please explain what.

The outline of the training was very well prepared, so it was good to know what I am supposed to do during the internship. I was asked to write a report on the training content, and I could chose by myself what to write about.

3. How do you describe your relations with people in your workplace?

The people at my workplace were really nice and helpful in case I had questions. I only had contact with the professor and some students who helped me with the experiments. I had my own office room so normally I wouldn't have many interactions with other people at the workplace.

4. Was your knowledge in the required language good enough? (Excellent, Good, Fair, Poor)

In the Offer a good level of English was required. I think my knowledge in English was sufficient as I have been working on similar topics before and knew the necessary vocabulary and technical terms.

5. Did you complete a special project during your training? (Yes/No)

If your answer is "Yes", please give us more details regarding the project.

Yes, I worked on the topic "Strength at room temperature after heating of high strength concrete using limestone aggregate and polypropylene (PP) fibers". Therefore, we performed high temperature heating experiments on concrete specimen with varying PP fiber volume and tested their strength using compression tests.

6. Please give an outline of the training you experienced with the company.

- High temperature heating experiments
- Compression tests
- Thermal conduction analysis using difference equations (preparation of excel spreadsheet)
- Literature study on the 1995 Hyogoken-Nanbu earthquake and papers from the IABSE conference regarding fire resistance

7. If you completed a technical report for the employer, please provide us mainly concerning the technical part of your work experience. However, when you intend to submit it to us, **its content must be checked by the employer** before submission.

8. How much was the total payment you received in JPY per week and what was included? Was this sufficient to cover the cost of living? (Yes/No)

I received a payment of 80,000 JPY per month. I think this was sufficient to cover the cost of living. I did not have to pay the lodging by myself from this payment.

9. Please give an outline of your accommodation during your training. Also, give us your opinion of the city or town where you were accommodated.

I received a room in the International House of Josho Gakuen Educational Foundation. The room was fully furnished and I had my own bathroom and a little kitchen corner including one stove. There was also a lounge room and a laundry room in the building. Sadly, WIFI was only available in the Lounge room and not in our private rooms. The area where I stayed was a residential area. So, it was nice and quiet, supermarkets and drug store and train stations were nearby and easy to walk to.

## Social Life

10. How did you spend your free time after working and days off?

During the week I would spend time in the Lounge room of my dormitory building, as there was WIFI accessible or meet with friends for dinner.

On weekends I explored the city of Osaka and did a lot of sightseeing here. I also did a couple of daytrips to the surrounding cities of Kyoto, Kobe and Nara.

11. Did you join any events of our "Summer Programme"? (Yes/No)

If yes, which events did you join and what did you think about the programme provide by IAESTE Japan?

No, I stayed here in February and March only.

12. Did you try any Japanese cultural activities? (Yes/No)

If yes, what did you try and what was your impression?

The Lady from the international centre of the OIT took me and another international student on a daytrip to Kyoto, where we had some traditional Japanese sweets prepared for us. I really enjoyed the calm atmosphere there and it was great to watch the person making the sweets.

13. Please tell us your overall impression of Japan.

I enjoyed my stay in Japan. I was able to do a lot of sightseeing and meet new friends in my free time. Unfortunately, during my stay there was the time of graduation for students, so not many students went to the lab or stayed at the dormitory. Because of this it was hard to get in contact with other Japanese students.

The internship work was good. Professor Nishino gave me some private lectures, so I was able to learn a lot which might be helpful for my future studies.

## B) IAESTE Committees

1. Did the overall performance of your sending country satisfy you? (Excellent, Good, Fair, Poor)

If your answer is "Fair" or "Poor", please explain why.

The local committee in Hamburg, Germany prepared me really good for the trip. They were helpful with the preparation of the application documents and the procedure of accepting the offer. I did not interact much with the national committee of Germany, I think most of their work is done in the background.

2. Was the information provided by IAESTE Japan (including our website) before your arrival sufficient enough? (Excellent, Good, Fair, Poor)

If your answer is "Fair" or "Poor", please indicate what kind of information was not provided and give us your suggestions to improve our website and good contact between trainees and IAESTE Japan.

It was Good. I received a lot of information via mail on my acceptance. The lady from the international center of the Osaka Institute of Technology guided me through the process before I arrived and made sure everything was fine for me. On my first day of work she picked me up from my dormitory and showed me which trains and busses I have to use to get to work. She helped me buy a monthly train ticket and spend the day with me. She was helpful and answered all my questions and even spend some time with me during her free time.

3. Did the overall performance of your receiving country satisfy you? (Yes/No)

If yes, tell us why.

Yes. See above

If no, tell us why you were not satisfied and give us your suggestions for improvement.

4. If you have any further positive and/or negative comments, please feel free to let us know.

C) Others

1. Will you be accredited for this training from your university or college? (Yes/No)

If yes, is this a part of your compulsory courses?

No This internship is not part of my study.

2. Was your air fare paid ( by yourself / by your university / by other ; )

I payed it myself.

3. Would you recommend this offer for next year's exchange? (Yes/No)

If yes, tell us why.

Yes, I think the work at the Structural Research Center was really nice and I learned a lot. It is also a good idea to include international students in the experiments. I especially enjoyed the fact that I had my own little project that I finished during the internship time.

If no, tell us why (please provide us with reasons in detail).

4. Do you think your attitude of mind to your study and international understanding etc. has been changed through the internship? How has it been changed?

I have been part of IAESTE Germany for the past three years. I think my international understanding changed a lot during that time already. Normally I did learn more about other countries and cultures when we have incoming students in Germany. So, for me it was a great experience to go to a different country and learn more about the culture while staying abroad.

5. Would you like to come back to Japan as an international (exchange) student in the future? (Yes/No)

If yes, tell us why.

If no, tell us why and what would be a problem.

I will finish my studies this year so there is no chance to come back as a student, but I will definitely as a traveler.

6. Would you recommend future trainees in your country to have training in Japan? (Yes/No)

If no, explain why.

Yes. I think German culture and Japanese culture have a lot of similarities that are nice to explore. While on the other hand a lot of things here are a lot different than at home. So for the cultural exchange it would be really nice as I also noticed that Japanese people were really interested in the fact that I was from Germany and asked me questions about my home country.

Thank you very much for your time and cooperation!