



## Summary of Asia Campus in Japan

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I have had an excellent time in Japan this summer, when I learned more about Japan and Japanese. I would like firstly acknowledge the opportunity provided by Tokyo Gakugei University and Beijing Normal University for me to learn more. Then, I would like to summarize this unforgettable experience. At first, I want to say something about my Japanese learning experience, without which I would not take interests in Japan and Japanese. After that, I would show my experience in Japan and my feeling about this journey.

I learned Japanese since when I was in my undergraduate life but I had never been to Japan ever since, which, unfortunately, led to my partial knowledge about Japan just from teachers' words and some movies or TV shows. To be honest, for some historical and educational reasons, I did not hold too much passion to Japanese learning before that. However, the learning process made me become much interested in Japan and Japanese. Firstly, Japanese does not share the same structures as Chinese does in that we should use subject-object-verb structure in Japanese but it shares the writing system with Chinese but differed in the speech system and the meaning system, for example, 大丈夫 in Japanese means it's okay while it means a big man in Chinese. Therefore, some Japanese words were lent directly to show its Japanese meaning but still in Chinese speech, especially among comic fans. What is more interesting and complicated is that politeness principles occurred in language structure, which means language users should choose from different expressions according to the context and statures of the speakers. This, I think, could help language learners become more polite and more resilient to the context. Besides the language itself, the Japanese culture and the views behind the culture attracted me. Among those, what interested me most were the tradition and the focus on the details, which I indeed experienced during this journey.



The following will be the description of this journey and my feelings. The tradition includes the calligraphy, the architecture, the music, the tea making in this journey. In China, brush used to be a tool for writing but it was ignored now because some opinions held that students would not need to write on paper in the electronic era. However, calligraphy is not just about the writing, but also the spirit such as knowing when to stop and when to emphasize. What is more important is to help learners differentiate between beauty and ugliness, that is, the aesthetics education. When I held the brush once more, I realized I lost it from a child. The music and the tea making impressed me most because these two things reflected the tradition protection and the details, which I mentioned above. What surprised me most was that youngsters are passionate with the traditions in campus and in society. They did not regard the tradition as the outdated and embarrassing things rather the pride. The tea making, I think, fully realized the spirit of Japan and Japanese. The rules, the details, the tradition are connected in this seemingly simple tea making.

Besides the culture, the education was also the focus of this program. We were very lucky to visit Japanese multi-level education system ranging from the most primary kindergarten to the university so that we could experience the authentic education situations in Japan instead of the words from others. The discussion between three countries also deepened the knowledge of each other's education, which was really new to me. I never got the chances to talk about different countries' education in China and chances were rare to know the authentic situations of China education.

In this journey, I had a very excellent time learning Japanese and Japan. This journey showed me the authentic Japan, such as the people, the street, the culture and the education. Also, I tried my best to use what I learned to talk with Japanese, which made me realize the longer journey of learning languages.

