

2019 Re-inventing Japan Project (Short-term)

CIEP, International Students Summit, RJP Program

Chapingo Autonomous University • Forest Sciences Department • 4rd Year •

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1. Purpose of participating in this study abroad program

The purpose of participating was for several reasons. I wanted to go to the CIEP because I was very interested in how is the agriculture in a country where there is not much land to cultivate crops, especially because of all the technologies that they are implementing, more than anything else in the field of hydroponics.

It was going to be my first time participating in an international congress and in another language, because I saw it as a great challenge of self-improvement. Besides, my research considered it relevant to be shared, because the topic I had developed, it's of great interest nowadays (medicinal plants). I wanted to see what are the opinions outside my place of origin and if I would find people who knew about the subject.

Finally, the reason is that Japan was one of my biggest dreams, because I love a lot about its culture, its gastronomy, its history, its language. And I saw that it was the perfect opportunity because my university and Tokyo Agricultural University would support me.

2. Explain the activities that you did during the program and how they were related to the purpose of you participating in the program

We had internships during the CIEP, which were to go to various talks in the faculties of the Agricultural University of Tokyo, in different companies and we had teamwork on many environmental and agricultural issues.

During the ISS we organized ourselves as a team according to our category, my category was education. We were working in improve our work to expose, giving it a better quality and adapting it to the times foreseen for the poster sessions.

At the same time we also work as a team to find the similarities of our work and certain problems in our countries, looking for the most optimal and adequate strategies to solve these problems. We shared our different positions and took what made the most sense for the whole team.

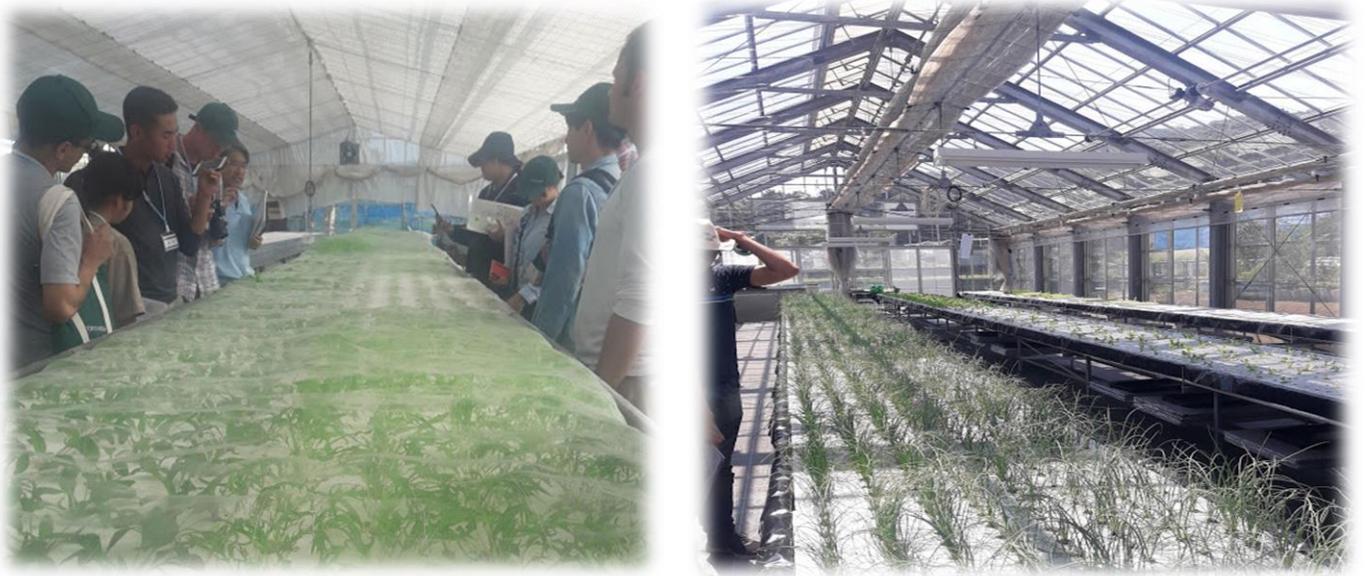
We also defined the topic of the next ISS, we looked for which would be the topics of which they should talk and what kind of focus.



3. What you accomplished and learned through this program

I learned a lot of very interesting things because there were many people of different countries in the congress with different topics. But the most important thing I learned was to work as a team and sometimes no matter what your language is, there will always be a way to communicate and contribute something to your team.

In other issues I learned the importance of climate change, as many of the presenters talked about how hydroponics in different systems, high-tech greenhouses and their operation, the way of working is very different from how Mexico works. also some topics like: What are the problems of Japan and Asia in the face of climate change? What are their proposals and how they are working from now on to help stop it? What things are demanding the market currently?



4. How did this program shape your career and how are you going to apply what you have learned to your future.

I learned many things that I didn't know, besides being the first time to expose in international congress, it gave me a lot of skills and also met people with the same vision to change the world in a ecological and social way, with different ideas, so I think it was best to share between dialogues how agriculture works, what are the technologies that are being created, giving me a bigger vision of this world.

I learned a lot about extensionism which would help me a lot in my project of medicinal plants in indigenous community, the correct way to reach the people and the communities, how to gain their trust and work together. and finally adapting that knowledge to the site and according to the customs of the people.

There are also ways to combine different systems such as agriculture and forestry, including the cattle. And see the system that makes it more sustainable, as well as how to use the field waste. In addition, I believe I have a greater interest in doing bare root hydroponics projects with tree species. Finally, I saw the demand that Japan and Asia currently require, so in the future I could do a project for agroforestry production for export to the Japanese market.



5. Any suggestions to improve the program

For some of the exhibitions at the CIEP were presented by people who did not speak much English, it is for that they should have a translator, it would be a very good thing to clear up many doubts that remained.