

## A Word From a Foreign Students' Advisor.

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Having only been in this post for a little over a year I would like to tell you about the activities that I have been involved during this time. Since my office is located at the Fisheries Faculty and is very near the International Residence Hall (Kaikan) it is only normal that I receive many consultations dealing with matters arising there. Most of them have to do with the dirt in the kitchens, damage to common property and noise after quiet hours.

I try to visit this Hall a few times a week, usually during my lunch break so I can have a few minutes to see what the living conditions are like. If I am lucky I will have a word with some of the students returning home for lunch and if I feel energetic I will do a bit of weeding in the garden, trimming of the bushes, or planting some vegetables or some seedlings of fruit trees. Foreign students complain about the price of fruits and vegetables in Japan so I hope that during the following years we can turn that garden in to an orchard.

As to my job at the Fisheries Faculty, I have to carefully budget my time among foreign student activities, my laboratory's activities, preparing my lectures and doing research. This is quite a tricky task. Whenever possible I take the long way around and visit the laboratories where foreign students stay and try to find out how their research and life are progressing. We have a monthly meeting where we can discuss any topic as a group and attendance varies from month to month. I always encourage the students to visit my office and talk about any idea they may have to improve their conditions. Most of them would like to have more English technical books at the library, more computer software, and most of all, have the time to learn about general fisheries topics while they stay in Japan.

We were able to have two trips in the past; one to Makurazaki and Ibusuki to learn about the "Bonito" industry and about the fresh water Aquaculture research carried out in our prefecture. The other was last winter, when we went to the Kagoshima City Aquarium and the Historical Museum. I believe that besides research there are many interesting things to learn about Kagoshima's History. Hopefully, we will visit a fish farm this year.

Thanks to the collaboration of our faculty's English Language teachers we have been including the participation of several foreign students into their program. They have short presentations in English about their countries to which the Japanese participants carefully listen. These are followed by lively discussions that we believe not only serve to improve the Japanese

students' language skills, but also to widen their cultural understanding.

Being at the Fisheries Faculty, we are a bit isolated from the rest of the Faculties. This year for the first time we had a study trip to Nagasaki with foreign students from other departments, tutors, members of the International Affairs Section, the Dean of Students and Foreign Students' Advisors. Though the 2-day trip was pretty exhausting due to the many hours of train, it gave us all plenty of time to talk about the places we visited, our research, life in Japan and the problems some of them encounter during their stay. It was a big hit.

Here, at the Fisheries Faculty, we are all very excited about the creation of the International Student Center. We all hope that this center's function will be like giving a brain to the body of international organizations and activities that take place not only at our university, but also in Kagoshima Prefecture and Southern Japan. A place where one can go in search of information regarding living in Japan and Kagoshima, a place where cultural activities are held, and also a place where one can meet fellow students from other Faculties who are interested in making foreign friends. Most of all, a place where the foreign student can sense he is welcome and will get plenty of support during his stay. There is definitely a challenging road ahead.

