

Hi! from SAGA

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Olympic Torch Relay in Saga
One of the well-known Olympic events is the torch relay. The torch ran through cities and towns in Saga.



International Events
An international event called "International Week" was held throughout a week in July. Each day had a different type of event. We participated in some events to tell you what it was like.



Job Hunting in Japan
One of SUISA member, Alvin Lean Jun Kou, decided to work in Japan. We interview him to ask what it is like to find a job in Japan.



New Website of Saga University Center for Promotion of International Exchange
Saga University Center for Promotion of International Exchange has recently renewed its website as well as Saga University.

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Olympic Torch Relay in Saga

The Tokyo Olympic was held from July 23rd to August 8th. One of the well-known Olympic events is the torch relay a relay where the torch bearer would pass on the Olympic flame which was lit in Greece. The flame was then passed on throughout Japan by torch bearers in each prefecture from 25 March 2021 to 8 July 2021. The destination of the flame is the cauldron at the New National Stadium in Tokyo. The flame then will be left burning during the 16 days of the Games.

The flame passed our province Saga during the 9th of May from Tara to Karatsu and during the 10th of May from Kiyama to Saga. On the route from Tara to Karatsu, Miss Mishima Mai from Saga University Regional Innovation Center participated the events as one of the torch bearers. As Mishima-san has been promoting the relationship between Thai and Japan as a student and also a member of Sawasdee Saga, a Thai lover group in Saga since she was a student. Thai students from Saga University went to the venue to cheer her on. The television network NHK also filmed the events and interviewed Mishima-san and Thai students before and during the relay. The video clip could be viewed through this link (<https://movie-a.nhk.or.jp/sns/wvl/rjctv7mh.html>). Since it is in the time of COVID-19, virus a lot of measures were taken. For example, you can not shout or cheer with your voice. You can clap your hand instead. It might not sounds as lively as cheering with your voice, but I do feel that the spirit were passed on to the torch bearer.



Mai-san at the torch relay

Moreover, Tokuhiro Yoshioka who was in charge of torch design and a Saga local people also ran in the relay. Talking about the torch design, it was inspired by the Sakura petals. If you look at it from the above, you will see a flame coming out of the five petals and they merged in to one single flame in the center. The production technology used to produce the torch is the same technology with the Shinkansen bullet train. How cool is that!!

Lastly, due to the COVID-19, we were advised to watch the Olympic from our home. However, I don't think that it can take away the fun and the sportsmanship of Olympics. So, lets cheer on every nation in this upcoming Paralympic together.

International Events

At Saga University, in the second week of July (12th - 16th), the big event named "International Week" was organized, and different types of events were held throughout the week. There were five types of activities for each day of the week, and I took part in the International Seminar, the Movie Night, and the Scavenger Hunting activities.



Workshop by International Students

As soon as I enter the room, the organizer students welcomed me with sweet voice saying, "Good Afternoon...welcome to the Workshop by International Students". There were a lot of students in the room already; some are introducing themselves to each other, some Japanese students are polishing their English skills by communicating with foreign students.



Presentation session

When the time came, the event had begun. The two speakers for the day were Erjon Krasniqi (from Kosovo) and Tuhin Atiqur Rahman (from Bangladesh). They introduced and shared a lot of knowledge about their respective countries, including sports, food, and even simple common words such as 'hello' and 'goodbye'. It was a very enjoyable event with interaction with questions from the audience.



Ice braking session

After their presentations, it was time for ice-breaking activities. We played different types of guessing games such as heads-up and gesture games. It was another enjoyable part of the event. That day was a day that brought me a lot of knowledge, fun and made me feel energetic and productive.



Movie Night

Watching a good movie is like having a good meal and we cannot deny the fact that it is one of the most popular relaxing activities nowadays. I want to admit that it is difficult to resist the taste of eating salty, crunchy popcorns while watching a movie in the cinema, and likewise, it is difficult not to join the event called "Movie Night" at Saga University.

I was very excited that day because we were going to see a film with a lot of friends. It is said that the type of film plays an important role in how much fun you can have as a group. We watched a comedy movie named "Green Book" released in 2018 and it fulfils

our enjoyment to the maximum. Throughout the film, we were laughing, smiling, and crying with our friends and it was a moment that took away all the stress I had that day.



After watching the movie, there was a sharing opinion session. We discussed our favourite parts and highlighted our favourite dialog in that movie. We had so much fun and we shared the quality time together. Without a doubt, the Saga University movie night is one of the best movie nights I have ever experienced.



Scavenger Hunt

As the quote by Mike Krzyzewski (the head men's basketball coach) goes, "Effective teamwork begins and ends with communication", and there is no denying that doing activities together is one of the most fun and dynamic ways to get to know each other. This was proved to be the case with Saga University's 'Scavenger Hunt' activity.



Participants were divided into four groups of five people per group and their mission is to find the secret word. Everyone was given a map of Saga University and a piece of paper with questions on it. The answer to each question is a clue to help us solve the secret word. We had to walk around the university campus and answer the questions.



The games were not very difficult, nor were they easy. However, I can honestly say that this activity helped me to get used to the university campus. I have been studying at Saga University for

almost two years now and this event had made me realize that there are many interesting hidden places that I never knew existed within the campus.

On the other hand, this event also boosts our soft skills. We had to manage the time to solve the puzzle and on the other hand, being unite and having collaboration with group members is also essential. Despite the difficulties, we tried to socialize, share interests, and make friends. We also helped each other, regardless of the group, rather than trying to win the game only. It was such a productive day which is full of happiness for me.

Job Hunting in Japan

One of SUIA members, Alvin Junkou Lean has decided to get a job in Japan. We asked him about job hunting in Japan as an international student.

What is the reason for you to find a job in Japan?

One of the reasons is the salary I can get as a fresh graduate in Japan was about 3 times more than what I would have earned in Malaysia. Also, Japan is one of the few countries, if not the only one that takes fresh graduate actively. Thus, I figured why not take the opportunity and get into a Japanese company since I'm already here.

How is the process of getting a job looks like in Japan.

So for me, I registered myself to a recruiting site call 'My Navi' with the introduction from my faculty. From there, you are able to find a whole list of companies that are recruiting for that year. As I thought scrolling through hundreds of companies choosing the one that I'm interested was a hard enough, I then had to send entry sheets or a resume for them to get a chance to proceed to the next step. After my resume passed the first screen, there was online exams to test your knowledge and also your personality to see the compatibility with the company.



After you pass it, interviews will be held, usually not once but a few times, and only after you pass through all of it you will get the job. It really felt a tedious journey just to get one job.

What do you think was the hardest part in finding job in Japan?

One of it was that I was competing against Japanese people, rather than having a special bracket for international students. Especially for companies that only have clients in Japan it seemed like there wasn't much need for them to hire an international student.

What do you think international students should be focusing on if they were to job hunt in Japan or is there any tips for them?

I would say having JLPT N1 or N2 would really give you an advantage. Especially for me, I was looking at the top firms in my

field so it felt like having N1 was almost necessarily. Another is I felt that looking for companies that works with foreign countries or companies will greatly increase your chance of getting a job as that will be where your strength as a foreigner be valued. Lastly this is not really a tip or anything but, being able to speak several language is really a big advantage compared to Japanese students so you should make it your strength and also your appeal point.

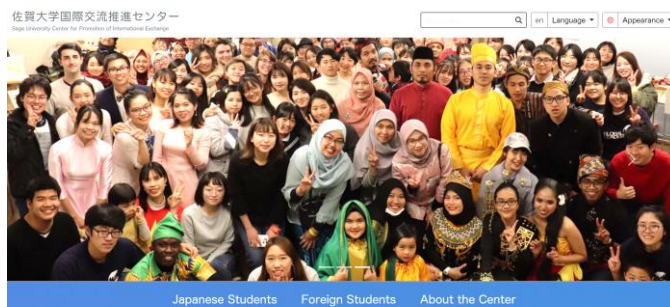
New Website of Saga University Center for Promotion of International Exchange

Technology changes with time. People now beginning to use smartphone more often than they use personal computer. For me, navigating things on my finger lying on a couch is always better than hunching your back in front of a computer screen. That is why Saga University website's (URL: <https://www.saga-u.ac.jp/>) has change its user interface to be more user friendly for any devices. Through navigating it, you can find big stylish icons liking you to your desire webpage.



New Website of Saga University

There is also a Chat Bot to response your questions. How cool is that! Scrolling down you will be able to find big icons of close-up contents like SDG goals project laboratories, Office for Equality, Diversity and Inclusion and our university's museum contents. Not only the University website that change but the Center for Promotion of International Exchange also changed (URL: <https://www.irdc.saga-u.ac.jp/en>).



New Website of Saga University Center for Promotion of International Exchange

The website now becomes a scrolling-based website. When you first enter the site, you can see large variety pictures of activities holding for foreign students. When you scroll down, you will see updated news content now with banner to give you a quick recognition of the content of each news. The link to our newsletters is also featured in this section, so please keep update with us. Lastly, on the bottom of our website, is the new video introducing Saga University in English. This is the video which our current international students pour our hearts into making. I think the coolest part is that some scenes are shot with drones. So do not miss out!

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