

Thursday, July 13th 2023

Issue 5

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Half-Day Tokyo Excurtion



United Kingdom: ZHU Coy

Asakusa was really cool, and the traditional architecture was amazing. In the shrine, I threw in 25 yen, and I made several wishes. I got a medium when I tried a fortune slip. Well, it was still very cool, and I will keep the sheet for a long time. Unfortunately, I didn't have much time to look at different shops, but I'm going to buy a Yukata later on this trip. In addition, I found the Ueno area really beautiful with lots of greenery.



United Arab Emirates: SOWJANN-YA Sabari & PRAMOD Punnya

The metro was really good and clean. Also, it was very fast. Japanese people keep themselves well organized even on the escalator. They move to the left and leave the right side for people who like to walk up or down. They follow the line very patiently and they don't rush. Everyone is very honest and respectful.



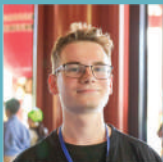
Hong Kong: LAM Chung Wang

I think it is really awesome to be able to come to such a place. All you can sense here is really extraordinary because you feel that great sense of spirituality. It is also good to pray for good fortune, especially during such a hectic competition. I'm very lucky to be able to come here on my birthday. So overall I feel this is an amazing and special experience.



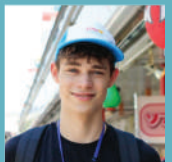
Poland: BACIAK Filip

I think we were all astonished at this Japanese temple. It was very nice because we had the occasion to learn more about Japanese culture. In Asakusa, there were a lot of shops, people, and tourists. Though a little bit crumpled, these shops gave us an opportunity to buy lots of souvenirs.



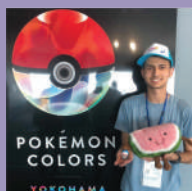
Spain: CARPENTER Ruben Mason

The metro was quite busy. We took the three different connections, and it was interesting to see it. Asakusa is very nice. You can really see the Japanese culture here. Spain is also quite hot but less humid than here, so here it is hotter. I am really excited to go to the Tokyo National Museum and see the Japanese arts and so on there.



Israel: RAM Ido

I really liked Yokohama because it has a cool view with a very big tower, fast elevators, and a nice view of the sea. I also was excited to go to the cup-noodle museum.



Kazakhstan: PITEBAY Yersultan

I really liked Yokohama because it has nice views and the ride on the Japanese roller coaster in the COSMO Park. I also liked the coral door, so all in all this excursion was very great.

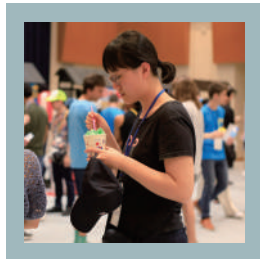
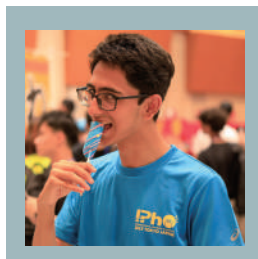
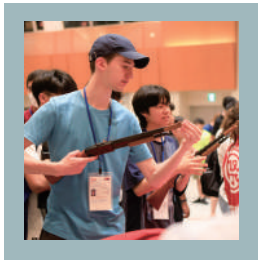
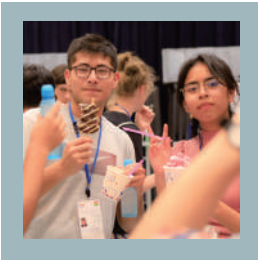


Germany: POSPIECH Luke

Visiting Yokohama was at most fun. It was nice to see something so different from what I see usually in Germany and to find out how big Tokyo and Yokohama really are. Chinatown is also nice with a lot of people hustling and bustling on the street. Yokohama was as a whole a pretty nice city to visit.



Cultural and Scientific Experience Events



When I first went to En'nichi festival corner, I got some food using a food source ticket. Then my friends suggested that I should try a shooting game. So I did and succeeded in shooting a small Japanese snack, probably because I was lucky. It was really fun and I enjoyed it very much. Next time I will try to shoot chocolate bananas.

Canada:
SHAO Eric Yuan



I tried Japanese food here. I really like it very much though it tasted something new to me. Also, I like the stands where you can play Japanese dances. So, this is a really nice experience for me. In addition, I got the chance to experience Japanese culture. Since this is the first time to come to Japan, I really would like to learn more about Japan. I'm definitely going to try what I haven't experienced yet.

Armenia:
ARAKELYAN Maria



History of Tokyo

Tokyo is currently home to approximately 14 million people, about 11% of Japan's population. Tokyo was once a small fishing village called Edo. In 1603, Ieyasu Tokugawa, as shogun, established the seat of the samurai government in Edo. Edo developed as a political center and by 1721 had a population of 1 million. Edo became the center of Japan, and the peaceful era known as the "Edo Period" continued for more than 200 years. In 1867, the Tokugawa shogun abdicated, and political power returned to the emperor in Kyoto. It was decided that Kyoto and Edo would share the functions of the capital, with Kyoto as the capital of the west and Edo as the capital of the east. The name was changed from Edo to Tokyo (東京) according to the capital (京) of the east (東). The Emperor also moved to Tokyo in 1867.

After becoming the capital of Japan, Tokyo was severely damaged by the Great Kanto Earthquake in 1923 and the Great Tokyo Air Raid in 1945. However, each time it was rebuilt, and Japan entered a period of rapid economic growth, growing and developing into one of the world's



Little stories about Japan

Japanese words used abroad

"Kawaii" may be the most used Japanese word overseas. If you don't know what it means, please ask the support staff.

First words when answering the phone

In English it is "Hello", but in Japanese, it is "Moshi Moshi". If you encounter someone Japanese on the phone, listen carefully. When the telephone was first introduced, the telephone operator would call out to the recipient, "Moshiagemasu, moshiagemasu" (I will tell you, I will tell you). Its abbreviated form "Moshi Moshi" came into use.

Do you stand on the right side or the left side of the escalator?

In Tokyo, people stand on the left side because someone may walk up on the right side. In Osaka, on the other hand, people stand on the right side. What is the case in Nagoya, located between Tokyo and Osaka? In Nagoya, the escalator in the subway has a sign that says, "Do not walk". This means both sides for standing.

What is Game Center?

Japanese culture has many unique aspects, such as characters, beliefs, and values. Among various Japanese cultures, the game is popular among the young generation. In the 1970s, against the backdrop of rapid economic growth, electronic technologies such as computers and electronic music were fostered. These technologies are still the foundation of today's game and anime culture, such as Pokémon and NARUTO.

Let us introduce some equipment in Japanese game arcades where you can experience this kind of culture. First of all, the game shown below is called Taiko no Tatsujin. In this game, you beat the taiko drum with a bachi to the rhythm.



The game below is Mario Kart, a racing game featuring characters from Super Mario Bros.



The author is currently addicted to a washing machine-type game called Maimai (see photo below), in which you tap buttons to the rhythm. These games belong to a genre called "sound games," and when you are in a game center, you often encounter people with tremendous skills who can process information in a way that ordinary people cannot follow with their eyes.



UFO Catcher is a game to get cute Pokémon goods by arm in the box shown below, but it is easier to lose money than in other games. The author spent 1,800 yen to get Mimikyu, a Pokémon character, with the help of a game center staff.



Gacha machines shown below can also be used to obtain mascot characters and other items.



All in all, game arcades are attractive facilities where you can enjoy relatively healthy and unrealistic experiences for as little as 100 yen, but be careful not to get into them too much or spend too much money.

Becoming a Leader in Promoting Diversity

Prof. YOKOYAMA Hiromi

Kavli Institute for the Physics and Mathematics of the Universe,
The University of Tokyo



To all the participants in IPhO2023, I look forward to seeing each of you perform to the best of your abilities. Now, I have one question. Why are there so few women participants in the Physics Olympiad?

When I was in the eighth grade, I read a science magazine and developed a strong interest in physics, which can explain how the universe is formed. I was able to persuade my parents that I really wanted to study physics and was able to go on to higher education. However, in Japanese society, a false bias has taken root that physics and mathematics are male-oriented studies, and many female students have given up on higher education. Of course, the bias is not true! Many psychological and sociological data and studies are now available. The ability to study is not based on gender or ethnicity and it is an individual difference. There are many potentially highly capable minorities who do not get the chance or support to study physics.

I hope that all of you who are currently participating in IPhO2023 will play an active role in reforming these situations. While male students are the majority, let us reach out to those who belong to the minority, such as women, sexual minorities, and international students in your countries, and let us work together in friendly competition.

I am giving a seminar on diversity with Prof. Hitoshi Murayama, a Japanese physicist in the U.S. (Distinguished Professor at the University of California, Berkeley, and the University of Tokyo) for his graduate students. His experience of discrimination as an Asian was a great shock to him as a Japanese male student who thought he was in the majority. He is now a supporter of minorities and welcomes them into his laboratory. He is surrounded by many talented students.

IPhO2023 is not just a competition for your physics abilities, but also a place to help you become insightful leaders through international networking. We hope you will enjoy the interaction with other participants who are different from you.



SCHEDULE

TODAY

Thursday, July 13th



27°C
36°C

Students

- 7:15-8:00 Breakfast NYC
- 8:30 Meet at the Exam Room NYC
- 9:00-14:00 Exam (Theory) NYC
- 14:30-15:30 Lunch (light meal) NYC
- 16:00-19:00 Cultural/Scientific Experience Events NYC
- 18:00-19:00 Dinner NYC

Leaders&Observers

- 7:00-8:00 Breakfast NSH
- 9:00-15:00 Half-day Tokyo Excursion NSH
- 18:00-19:30 Dinner NSH

TOMORROW

Friday, July 14th



25°C
33°C

Students

- 7:15-8:00 Breakfast NYC
- 9:00-15:30 Half-day Tokyo Excursion NYC
- 16:00-17:40 Special Lectures NYC
- 18:00-19:30 Dinner Party NYC

Leaders&Observers

- 7:00-8:00 Breakfast NSH
- 12:00-13:30 Lunch NSH
- 16:00-17:40 Special Lectures NYC
- 18:00-19:30 Dinner Party NYC

NYC: National Olympics Memorial Youth Center
NSH: Nippon Seinenkan Hotel



The Physical Society of Japan



Japan Society of Applied Physics



The Physics Education Society of Japan



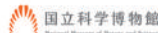
The Biophysical Society of Japan



Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST)



National Institution for Youth Education (NIYE)



National Museum of Nature and Science



Japan Arts Council



Tokyo National Museum



The University of Tokyo



Tokyo University of Science



Tokyo City University



Tokyo University of Foreign Studies



International Christian University



Sophia University



INTERNATIONAL PHYSICS OLYMPIAD 2023 TOKYO JAPAN



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