

# Japan in my life

By Ana Carolina González

Since I was 7 years old I have dream to visit Japan. Seven years ago I arrived for first time to Japan, with the objective to participate in the Intensive Course on Museology conducted by the National Museum of Ethnology, Minpaku and sponsored by JICA. It was an experience that definitely changed my life from professional and personal points of view. The experience exceeded my expectations widely.

The learning experience was not only on museology field, it had involved cultural aspects, reinforced the values that my mother taught me as discipline and respect, and learning new values like quality, punctuality, patience and sharpness in an amazing way, without forced anything, just with the example of a great society.

Besides that, I have met excellent professors and wonderful people to whom; I am still in touch regardless the physical distance and time between us.

Since I left Japan, I started lecturing at the National University of Guatemala. It has been an experience through I could share with people not only museology topics but also Japanese values.

Learning and teaching are enriched activities of life but when you have been involved in a learning excellence experience, they turn as part of you, something that you cannot leave easily.

Two years ago, at the end of my academic experience in Korea and one year after tsunami I came back Japan. I met sensei at Minpaku, friends, my former JICA coordinator, and visited OSIC the last day before the closing final date.



2012: OSIC before closing

Now, once again God has given me the opportunity to meet them again. A dream comes true! I arrived again to Osaka.

I contacted my professors and visit Minpaku. I have seen the evolution of the exhibition and on the other hand there are things did not change as the welcome song from the crows and the cold landscape insinuating the first sprout of spring.

This time, I have met Seki sensei and Kubo sensei. Sadly Sonoda sensei was in another city and other sensei have not been in Minpaku at the time of my visit. We have enjoyed, remembering golden memories during Museology course and talking about cultural heritage topics and different issues in Latin America and Japan, meanwhile we shared an exquisite green tea. Seki sensei has 35 years to travel from Japan to Latin America (specially Peru) and he has developed various researches in Peru. I have also met another researcher from Minpaku, Yamamoto san, who is working in a research with Seki sensei in Peru. They speak Spanish perfectly although there is no language problem in Japan when you discover that a smile and the kindness of people are saying more than thousand words.

I could not participate in a Nasca symposium about pre Hispanic societies in South American anthropology, organized by Minpaku because I already have a



National Museum of Ethnology: Minpaku



Kumagai sensei's family



meeting with Kumagai sensei, Kayo san (who was also involved in the organization of Museology course) and his lovely family at the same time. They have been very kind with me and since my first time in Japan they opened the door of their home and heart for me. Kumagai sensei was sharing with me about his new museology project at Ehime



From left to right: Sayuri san, me, Kyoko san and Onda san

prefecture.

During my stay, I have built golden memories also

with my former JICE coordinator Miyashita san and Hongo san (a person from TBS staff). They had taken care of Museology Kenshu-in in an outstanding way.

There were more people involved in the organization of Museology course, but they are also two ladies whom I have been in touch with, since seven years ago: Kyoko san and Sayuri san. Now they are my lovely friends who have always given a space in their agendas for my visits.

Every time I went to Japan I have visited new museums and previous ones, with the objective to admire their dynamic exhibition design and new activities displayed. Through that, I am able to update lectures and provide a complete perspective.



Miyashita san and me

Beyond the excellent academic instruction, Japan has provided me many good friends, golden memories, polite attitude and kindness of its people everywhere. They are the main reason to come back Japan again and been a land of dreams despite I have seen the sunset in many other countries of the globe. There is not place as the land of the rising sun. Thank you very much Japan!