

# EXPERIENCE REPORT JAPAN



# Experience report stay abroad in Japan - Matteo Kratz

Study: Systems Engineering (M. Eng)  
Internship duration: 01.03.2020 - 17.12.2020  
Internship location: Hiroshima, Japan  
Internship intention: Master's thesis  
Company: Hirotec Corporation  
Industry: Tier 1 Automotive supplier

## About me

I did an internship abroad at Hirotec in Japan as part of my master's thesis. I chose Japan because the culture has always been fascinating for me and Japan left a good impression in my mind during a previous vacation. In addition, I was very interested in the production area and especially the Kaizen spirit.

During my studies I learned a lot about Japanese production and management methods which have become known to us as "Lean". My goal was to find out where the origin of these methods lies and how it is lived in Japan. I also wanted to know how life in such a highly developed country is and what I could possibly take with me for my life. I will describe in this report if I liked Japan and if I can imagine to live here for a longer time.



Akiyoshidai National Park

Note: The following report is based on my experience and my personal impression and feeling. It is possible that some statements do not always apply to the general situation and that other people have had completely opposite experiences. I hope this report gives an impression of Japan that you can't read in travel guides and that shows the country from an interesting perspective.

## Acknowledgements – ありがとうございます。

First of all, I would like to thank everyone who made my time in Japan unforgettable.

Especially I would like to thank the Vice President of Hirotec Toshifumi Uno who made it possible for me to come to Japan. I would definitely do a stay abroad for working in Japan again. I can recommend it to everyone who is interested in Japan. My Hirotec colleagues were very helpful in planning my stay in Hiroshima. Not only with the planning of my work in the company, but also with topics such as visa, accommodation, shopping, cooking and daily life I was supported a lot. At this point, I would like to thank again my extremely helpful colleagues from Human Resources and General Affairs. I have never experienced this hospitality before and appreciate it very much. When exchanging ideas with other interns at our university, I learned that they are completely on their own when it comes to issues like this, so I appreciate this support from Hirotec even more. I would be very happy if my friends and colleagues would come to visit me in Germany soon.

## What is Japan?

### Japanese people are different

Japan is an island country in the east of Asia in the Pacific Ocean. The country has about 126 million inhabitants. With 42 million people, most Japanese live in the Kanto region around Tokyo. Due to the mountainous



**Nissan Skyline GTR - Hatchobori, Hiroshima**

landscape, the coast areas are most densely populated. Because Japan is an island nation, the country was isolated for a long time and was not invaded by other nations. This is why Japan is such a unique country with an impressive culture and history. Space is known to be very limited in Japan. In Tokyo, a parking space sometimes costs more than the vehicle. These circumstances have also shaped the culture and interpersonal interaction. Because people literally can't get out of each other's way, the Japanese behave in a way that nevertheless no one is disturbed or harassed in their privacy. When I took the train or bus, it was always extremely quiet. No one is talking, no one is listening to loud music, no one is talking on the phone. Some people are even sleeping. Of course, when you're waiting for the

train or bus, you get in line and every person stands behind the other. In my first weeks, I watched people's behavior a lot. You wait until everyone has gotten off the bus or train, then you get on. Nowhere does it say that you have to do it that way. People just all do it that way, there is no hustle. When I walked in areas with many people like Hondori in Hiroshima or even any area in Tokyo it sometimes happened that I accidentally bumped into someone and we both apologized. In Germany, people would probably walk on without comment.

There are a lot of old people in Japan and the population is already slowly declining. In the future, the country will have to rely on workers from abroad, because the birth rate is also getting lower and lower, similar to

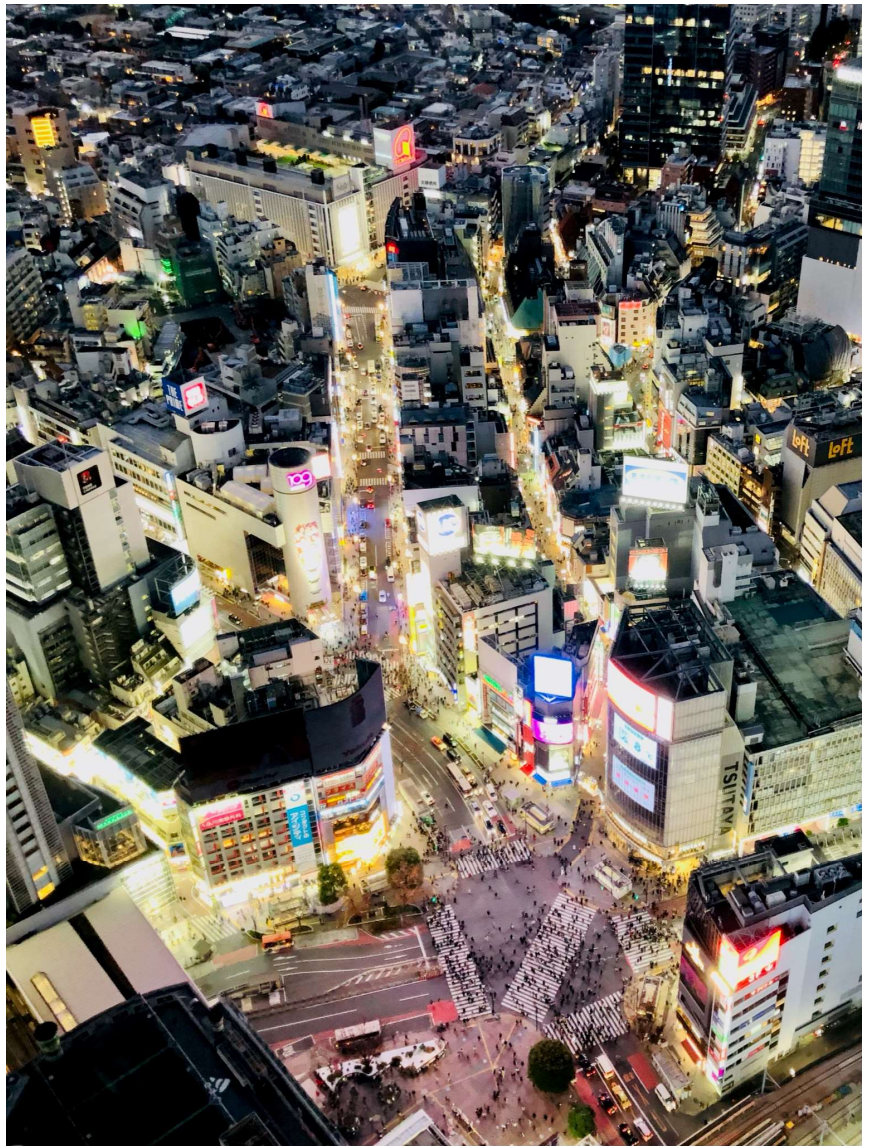


Germany. The subject of marriage and relationships seems to be dealt with very flexibly. I have met many friends and colleagues who are married at a young age because they have more advantages in life if they are married. In my impression, however, many people in Japan are not loyal compared to Germany. There are love hotels in Japan, where you can check in anonymously without ever having contact with the staff.

Big cities like Osaka or Tokyo are much western influenced. This means that many more people can speak English and also many companies from the USA or Europe have settled there. This also affects the culture, which is more and more mixed with Western behavior.

### How to make mistakes

It is probably known that Japanese behave a lot different than Germans. But that the Japanese are so different has sometimes really overwhelmed me. To point out one's misbehavior directly to someone is very impolite in Japan, so that my (unconscious) misbehavior was often simply ignored without comment. When things got serious at the company in terms of decisions or responsibilities, I only got feedback by superiors shortly before it was too late. They told me that I had behaved wrongly in the situation. However, since I had already behaved this way in some situations all along and had no problems with it, I only became aware of my "misconduct" at the last second. I am very grateful to a Chinese colleague who often told me directly how I should behave in a situation, how I should write an e-mail, or how I should talk to superiors. Since he is also a foreigner, he was able to protect me from making the same mistakes as he did before. It is often said that the Japanese are very tolerant when foreigners misbehave. This might be true. But I think that inside many of them still feel hurt or offended, which they would never admit.



Shibuya Crossing, Tokyo

A foreigner in Germany would always notice his misbehavior immediately and often even harshly, so that he can better adapt to society. In Japan, you have to be able to empathize, watch for signs and trust friends. A



Japanese person would never give feedback directly. If it's really important, you talk to a third person about it and have them deliver the feedback, so you don't lose face in front of the person.

Reserved and introverted best describes Japanese society. I would not speak of flexibility, willingness to take risks, or decisiveness. Although the Japanese are basically very open and tolerant of new things, it takes time to deal with a new topic in detail in order to identify all the risks. In my experience, the Japanese do not allow you to "walk in the door" with new topics, new regulations or changes of any kind. This creates discomfort and disturbs harmony, which is expressed in ignoring or not believing the issues. Only when the information comes from different sources or superiors is it taken seriously.

I feel that people are very respectful of other people's privacy. That someone approached me to contact me rarely happened. But when I have approached other people, they have

been very happy that I have approached them. Sometimes it seemed as if they get relieved. Addressing a stranger directly is very difficult for many Japanese.

As an outsider, you don't see that two people are in a relationship. Hugging or even kissing are a no-go in public. However, holding hands is becoming more and more accepted.

### Omotenashi

Omotenashi is the term for Japanese hospitality. Unlike German "customer service", omotenashi does not expect anything in return. On the flight to Japan with ANA, although only economy class, I was quite amazed at the excellent service. If possible, I would always prefer the Japanese airline over a German one on a flight to Japan. Omotenashi is all about giving the customer the best and making him feel comfortable. It is not about taking as much money out of his pocket as possible with special "service". I also always had the feeling that salespeople were honest with me and didn't want to "rip me off". In addition there would have been certainly innumerable possibilities, since I often did not understand the language. There are also some Japanese who take Omotenashi, e.g. in restaurants, for granted and take full advantage of it. I would not have such a good feeling about it.

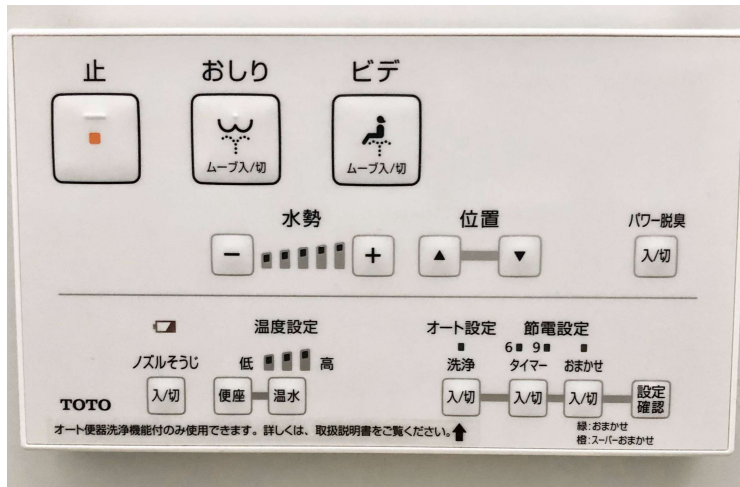


Hiroshima-shi - Sakura/Cherry Blossom



## Other peculiarities

Japan is a very hygienic and clean country. You can compare it, like Germany with Corona now. People basically don't shake hands and the personal comfort zone of the individual is also larger. (I think in the subway in Tokyo, a lot of people must feel very uncomfortable because of this). When I came back to Germany, I also



noticed my personal comfort zone got larger than before I went to Japan.

Moreover, the toilets are always clean and also equipped with modern technology. There are so many features, the heated seat is just the most basic. After I tried the first time the models of Toto or Panasonic, I knew that I will also buy such a model at home.

### **Washlet - Remote**

In all restaurants, even at McDonalds, you can get an "oshibori". This is a wet towel that you can use to clean your hands. Before, I only knew this from the airplane. People who have a cold always wear mouth masks. This was the case even before Corona. I have heard that in winter many people wear masks because of influenza. In fact, in Japan, if you can't come to work because of illness, you should take vacation days for it. Absence days are generally not paid. Employees get about 10-20 days of vacation per year. Most of them take only 5 days, the rest of the days are saved for emergencies or given to the company as a gift. Since there are weeks with many holidays in a row three times a year, it is also not desirable for someone to take more than 2 days off at a time.

## Hiroshima – City of peace

Hiroshima is an impressive city with world-shaping history. Hiroshima is often associated with the atomic bomb of August 6, 1945. This event changed the world we live in today. However, Hiroshima is very diverse and interesting not only for the atomic bomb memorial but also for the impressive landscape and regional food. The city is located about 600km west of Tokyo has about 1.2 million inhabitants today. In my impression, the culture here is even more traditional than in the big cities like Osaka and Tokyo, which are already strongly influenced by the West.



Hiroshima has a very densely populated city center, but it doesn't take long to get to the "countryside". The landscape is very mountainous and offers many opportunities for hiking. There are also many golf courses around Hiroshima.



**Hiroshima City – Photo taken from Ochausu-yama**

I also often visited the island of Miyajima, south of Hiroshima. Either for hiking, or to spend a relaxing weekend with my friends. On the island are beautiful temples and the Itsukushima Shrine with the famous torii floating in the water. Unfortunately, the torii was under restoration all year and you couldn't see it. However, the time for restoration was strategically well chosen because there were no foreign tourists in Japan due to the restriction of entry. Even the atomic bomb memorial in Hiroshima city and the roof of the Kinkakuji (golden pavilion) in Kyoto were being restored at this time.

## Living at the limit - Out of my comfort zone

### Do you even have "unhealthy" food?

I missed the German food from the first day. I could hardly eat lunch at the company in the beginning. The offered Bento Boxes with a daily changing menu were ordered by many colleagues. Certainly, the bento provides all the necessary vitamins and you do not have to feel bad for your health. After several weeks I did get used to it, but I still missed something that really fills me up. However, I was almost never tired after lunch, as it is sometimes the case after a festive meal in Germany. With the thought in the back of my mind that it was very healthy, it did work out for me. Unfortunately European dishes were never available in the company.



Bringing something from home was too much work and too expensive for me. When I cooked at home, it was usually pasta or steak. For Japanese dishes, I probably could have gotten all the ingredients without any problem, but I never cooked Japanese style. I can recommend Japanese food to anyone who wants to live a healthier life.

The quality of the food is impeccable. In the supermarket you don't see apples or pears. Almost all food is packed in plastic. You don't see bananas, tomatoes or grapes. And there is no cheese counter. It is not that expensive, but it is mostly imported and very

I know that in Germany tons of food is thrown away every day, which was not sold. In order to reduce this, Japanese supermarkets give discounts on food that is

expiration date. Starting from 10% discount, new stickers are stuck on the products again and again until 50% are reached. With Germany there is already partly, but not so consistently. I think it's a good idea.

In many restaurants, you are usually asked to take off your shoes before entering. You often don't sit in a big room with strangers, but in a separate room with your friends. For the corona time this is of course an advantage.

The quality in all the restaurants I visited was excellent. I also remember well a Yaki-Niku dinner I was invited to by the vice president of Hirotec after I passed my master's thesis. It was one of the best restaurants in Hiroshima and everything was perfect. It was a great honor for me to be invited as a student by the vice president of a company with about 5000 employees. Not only was the food excellent, but I also had interesting conversations and was able to learn quite some new things that evening.

### Getting sick in Japan

One Monday evening in December, I was very cold after work. After visiting the onsen in the dormitory, I was still cold. I knew then that something was wrong. After taking my temperature, I knew I had to inform my colleagues. 38.5 degrees. After that I also had a headache and I felt worse. I knew that fever is a symptom of Corona, but I did not have a cough. Since I spent the last time only with my colleagues, I was worried that the same thing could happen to them. Somehow, though, I figured it couldn't be corona, where would it come from? Hiroshima had very few reported infections and I had not been to Tokyo or Osaka before where many infections had been registered.



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Bento

My colleagues had informed the General Affairs Department, which then brought me something to eat and drink. I was very happy about that and the drinks were also good for me. The next day they would take me to the hospital if I didn't feel better. The next day I felt a little better, but the fever remained. So we decided to go to the hospital. Once there, I had to fill out a questionnaire and wait about 2h, it was probably very busy at that time. When the doctor came he asked me some questions. My colleague helped to translate, because the doctor did not know English. Then he prescribed me some medicine and an antibiotic. He refused a PCR test because the symptoms were not typical for Corona and I had no contact with a confirmed Corona case. He did only ask questions to me but didn't touch me. I was a bit suspicious, but trusted the medication he prescribed.

## Medicine instructions

## Earthquake

## Rain that never stopped



said: " Level 4. evacuation order. Move to a safe place immediately. If it is too dangerous, go to the other side of the mountain." At this point, I could no longer sleep calmly. I briefly went outside into the hallway to see if I could find anyone else. But there was no one there. I didn't want to disturb anyone's sleep now either, so I went back to my room. The next day I went back to work as normal. In the morning, I found out that several people died in a nursing home due to a landslide in the Kyushu region. In total, 77 people died, more than 15,000 houses were destroyed and 11 bridges collapsed due to the heavy rains and their effects. If the government had not warned the people, many more people would probably have died. It's hard to describe the feeling I had in the last night but it was not a good feeling.

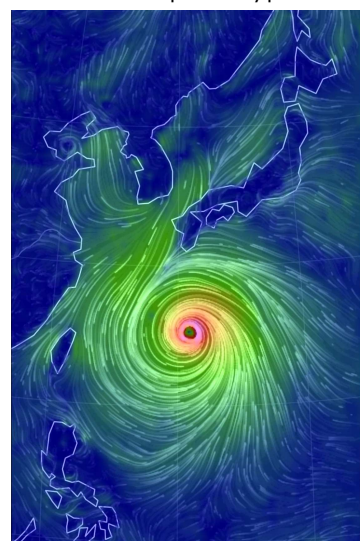
I also received the same Level 4 evacuation order on the night of July 14. I knew there was nothing I could do anyway, so I turned off my iPhone and went back to sleep.



Heavy rain - Tsuyu

### Heavy winds

At the beginning of September, another natural event reached Japan. Typhoon "Haishen" approached Japan and



Windmap

Korea. Due to possible power outages, the government advised citizens to fully charge their cell phones, fill up their cars and fill their bathtubs with water.

The storm reached wind speeds of up to 288 km/h. It was possible

that it would pass over Kyushu. The company was closed for the day as a precaution. Trains and flights were partially cancelled. It was recommended to stay at home in Hiroshima, the wind was moderate, but there were high waves in some coastal areas. I expected worse effects, but I was happy that nothing happened.



Japanese news Taifun "Haishen"

## Don't go to Japan, there is many Corona!

I still remember well when my friends in Germany advised me not to fly to Japan in February. Because at that time in Asia, besides China, especially Japan and Korea registered very "many" Corona cases. In Germany, only the cases at the automotive supplier Webasto were known at that time. According to the news heard from Asia, it seemed to be very intense there. Cancellation of business trips, extreme hygiene measures and entire ships placed under quarantine. In addition, there were return flights from the province of Hubei in China. On my trip at the end of February, I could already see extreme differences in how seriously the situation was taken in the different cultures. On my inbound flight to Munich with a German airline, there was no trace of disinfection measures, distance or even masks. On the flight to Tokyo with the Japanese airline, however, it was a completely different picture. People were already keeping their distance at boarding, everyone was asked if they had been in China in the last 2 weeks and disinfectant tissues were handed out. But what I remembered most was that both flight attendants and all passengers (mostly Japanese) wore masks. Now I already had a very uncomfortable feeling, although I could have actually felt much more safe than on the previous flight. But just seeing all the people with face masks was so strange to me. Everyone looked the same at the first moment. But I also knew that there was no way back now. There was no rule that people have to wear mask, but everybody did.



Advertisement for mask - Tokyo Station



Osaka - train

I was glad that I brought some disposable masks from Germany, because at that time all masks were sold out in Japan. 3 weeks later, the virus broke out in Europe and the USA. At that point, I would not have been allowed to enter the country. So I had been very lucky. I am also grateful today that I had booked the expensive direct flight instead of a cheaper flight with a stop in Shanghai. This flight would have been cancelled.

I also remember when Japan was initially criticized by Germany for carrying out too few corona tests. Today, we see Japan as a role model for how a reasonably normal life is possible despite the virus and complain that too much testing is done in Germany.

I do not want to focus too much on this topic in this report. In summary, however, I can say that I felt very safe in Japan.

Watch out for the pig!



The semi is a Japanese insect with a very loud chirping sound. I will always associate this sound with the Japanese summer. But I have encountered not only insects, but also larger animals. The dormitory is located 5 minutes walk from the company and quite in the nature. Sometimes in the evening, when I was walking home from the bus stop, I heard a rustling in the bushes. I perceived from the sound that it must be a big animal. At first I thought it was a bear, but then I saw that it was a wild boar. Friends told me that these can get aggressive and you shouldn't get too close. One day I was returning home from shopping when I spotted an adult wild boar about 50m away on the side of the road. Since I had a hot meal from a take-out restaurant with me, I didn't dare go any further. So I waited about 15 min until the wild boar disappeared. The meal was then cold, of course.



Boar at dormitory parking area

## How to survive in Japan

### Living together with only Japanese

I did not have to worry about an apartment at all. I was accommodated in a dormitory of Hirotec near the company, where I shared kitchen, bathroom, shower and toilet with my room mates. To my surprise, someone came to clean the all areas every day and even washed the dishes. It was even possible to order food as a bento. However, I preferred to cook myself.

The dorm even has its own onsen, which you can visit every evening after work. I wasn't sure at first how it works if you want to go to the onsen, but I was happy that my roommates showed me how to use.

My room mates were all Japanese. Some of them could speak English but most of them couldn't or were too shy to speak English. This pushed me more to learn and use Japanese. Then when I talked to room mates, they were very happy.

### How to get daily needs

The first time I went to a supermarket, I missed the shopping carts. They don't exist. Japanese people buy more often and small quantities. My weekly shopping for one person was relatively large. Food is hardly ever thrown away in Japan. Food does not last as long as it does in Germany because it does not contain the preservatives we have in Germany (maybe that's why our food is not healthy). You should take the expiration date seriously in any case. The nearest supermarket was about 25 minutes' walk away. Most of the time, however, I went to the supermarket by car together with my colleagues. The products are also relatively expensive, felt 50% more expensive than in Germany at EDEKA or REWE. Discounters, as we know them here, do not exist. Furthermore,

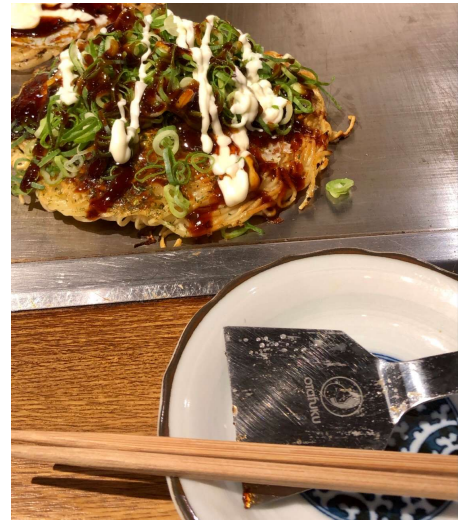
there are many konbinis, which are small convenience stores where you can get all the daily necessities and food. These konbinis are open 24 hours a day. For the daily shopping but not necessarily recommended, but still cheaper than the things at gas stations in Germany. Nearby were the outlets of Hiroshima. There are also very many cheap restaurants in a large food court.

Itadakimasu!



**Yakiniku**

Japanese cuisine is very healthy. You will find fish rather than meat and vegetables rather than fruit. This is probably why the oldest people in the world live in Japan. Rice is part of almost every meal. I have not unfortunately managed to reprogram my sense of taste to Japanese cuisine, however, I have discovered some favorite dishes. Among them are okonomiyaki, yaki-tori, ramen, onigiri and yaki-



**Okonomiyaki**

niku. Sushi is also a great meal, of course, and the sushi-restaurants are much cheaper than in Germany. Nevertheless, I will probably never become a real sushi fan. You can also get almost all the food that you can buy in Germany. However, a dish is then quite quickly so expensive that it is even cheaper to go to a restaurant. There you always get free green tea or water, can enjoy excellent omotenshi. Tipping is not done in Japan. The service rate is already included in the price. I have the feeling that in Germany waiters are only nice so that they get as high a tip as possible. However, if they were as nice as in Japan, it would probably seem excessive and you could not take them seriously.

For lunch at work, there was the option of ordering a bento or getting hot food from the kitchen such as ramen, udon, soba or curry. However, many colleagues brought lunch from home.



## Shigoto

My daily work routine was to get up at 6:30, have a small breakfast after showering (usually toast or cereal). The shower was always free in the morning, as I had to share it with my roommates from the dormitory. For my benefit, as in Japan it is customary to shower in the evening. Around 7:30 a.m. I walked to work. Break times were two times 10 minutes each and a 40 minute lunch break. Working hours were from 8:15 a.m. to 5:15 p.m. Overtime was also sometimes necessary due to web meetings with Germany because of the time difference. My colleagues were always very friendly and accommodating. In the first few weeks, colleagues from HR and General Affairs



**Hirotec Corporation Saeki-Ku Plant**

showed me everything and how I could best find my way around. I noticed especially that there is an extreme focus on work safety. The fact that even all "near" accidents are documented in detail amazed me. In production, everyone wears a helmet. I think that's a good idea. I remember hitting my head twice during a summer job in an automotive production facility in Germany, so a helmet would have been good.

The term Shisa-Kosho means pointing your finger to check something. For example, when you cross the street on the factory floor, you not only look left and right, but also point your finger at the same time. The first time I observed this was on a flight to Tokyo, when the flight attendants were checking to see if the door was really locked. This method is supposed to prevent mistakes caused by carelessness. By involving the body, you would be more likely to notice if you forget to point to a spot.

In production, it is very clean. Many attachments are quite old, but they are still used because of the good maintenance.

What always pleased me every day was when the gatekeeper greeted me after work with the words

お疲れ様です (otsukaresama desu).

In this context, it means something like "Thank you for your hard work!"

## How about doing some sports?

Once a week I went to play badminton with colleagues. Sometimes I also went hiking in the countryside on the weekend alone or with friends. In the summer months of July and August, however, it is so swelteringly hot that after only a few meters of altitude, you look like you've just stepped out of the shower. Golf is also a very common sport in Japan. In fact, there are more golf courses in Japan than in all other Asian countries combined. I once went to play at a nearby driving range with my work colleagues after work. The most popular sport in Japan is baseball. I remember well when I was invited by my colleagues to a game of Hiroshima Toyo Carp. Due to hygiene measures, every second seat was kept empty. In addition, shouting and cheering was

prohibited, only clapping was allowed. During the game there was an eerie silence, that the fans remained so disciplined quite surprised me very much.

### Do you have a car?



**Stance Nation Yamaguchi**

The Japanese love their cars. Many have a Kei-Car. This is a very small car with a 3-cylinder gasoline engine which offers a lot of space inside. These cars are very popular because of the cheap purchase and affordable maintenance. German cars are very expensive here and are seen more as a status symbol. To be honest, our Mercedes, BMW or Audi are not really practical because the streets and parking spaces are very tight. Our German cars can score more with design and image. Japan is also home to the tuning world. As a tuning enthusiast, I have found the "place to be" here. Everything is possible, there are no limits to creativity. And there are not these "haters" who are envious or talk bad about your car. In the German tuning area all cars look almost the same. You are hated if you do something that you personally like, but does not necessarily meet the taste of the general public. In Japan, on the other hand, the tuning culture is much more open, relaxed and varied.

### How to communicate with Japanese people

About half a year before I went to Japan, I attended a Japanese course for beginners at the University of Landshut. The teacher of this language course comes from Japan and taught the language, which is very foreign to us Germans, very well. Reading and writing the Japanese characters requires practice, but it is possible to learn it. The language course was sufficient to form simple sentences and to introduce oneself. The language course would not have been absolutely necessary, but it helped me in some situations, such as the first day of work, to lighten up the situation a bit and make a good impression. In the company, I got along with English without any major problems. In my department, I was able to communicate well with everyone.



Every weekend I also attended a language course in Hiroshima, where I was taught by university students. Since there were relatively few foreigners in Japan at that time, I received "private lessons" from several students at the same time. I really enjoyed it.

Thanks to the digital university semester 2020, I was also able to take part in language classes at Landshut University online again. After one year in Japan, however, I cannot yet claim that my Japanese is already at business level; it is enough to master some situations in everyday life and to send easy messages with friends on "LINE" (Japanese messenger app). Today I am still continuing to learn Japanese and can talk with my colleagues in Hirotec.

## Japan has changed me

What I take away from my stay abroad in Japan is that someone living in Germany is doing really well and he or she should be grateful for it. Although Japan is an economically strong country, it also requires a lot of work. I have become more open to new cultures and ways of working and know how to respect them. In Japan, there is very little space, many people are frugal, cars are small, and groceries are small. Japan showed me that you can be satisfied and happy with less. Looking back, I wouldn't do anything differently during my stay abroad. I also made (cultural) mistakes from which I learned a lot and which showed me what is ok and where the limits are. How could I have known beforehand that I would make these mistakes? In Hirotec I was allowed to actively participate in the Kaizen spirit and my ideas, both small and large, have been implemented for the development of the new company in Germany. I was able to save costs in some places and I got a key position in the new plant, also bridging the gap between the different cultures.

I think as I came back to Germany, I am living a lot differently than before. I got more relaxed and got a better feeling for people. Right now, I'm seeing how my German colleagues get emotional, complain, or even become hysteric about little things. Because Japanese always try to cover their feelings and emotions, I have developed a feeling for how you can sense the mood anyway. I learned a lot more about what respect really is and how great communication can be if you allow the other person to really finish what they're saying and actively listen. If I hadn't come back to Germany, I wouldn't have been aware of it.

I've noticed that foreigners in Japan like to keep to themselves and not hang out with the locals. Due to the global pandemic, I had virtually no choice, as there were hardly any foreigners in Japan. Even at the weekly Japanese class, there were only Japanese.

I was very rarely looked at strangely by Japanese people, because of course they see that I come from somewhere else. Then, when I looked back, I noticed that it made the person uncomfortable.

I was also asked by many people if I could imagine living in Japan forever. I could imagine a life in Japan, but I am not sure if I would be happier in Japan than in Germany. Comparatively speaking, in Japan a person's age has a higher value than his or her qualifications. I think people over 50 can live a very good life in Japan.

Maybe I will spend my retirement here. Nevertheless, I definitely could imagine coming again for a longer stay about 4-5years.

The stay abroad has shown me many opportunities and I am very grateful to everyone who supported me before, during and after this time. It would be a very long list to enumerate everyone from family, friends, colleagues and acquaintances here. I wish that the people reading this will feel addressed here.



Thank you very much

ありがとうございました

Takehara