MAEBASHI CITY HALL
CULTURAL AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS DIVISION
JACKSON BANNISTER

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MAEBASHI FOCUS

Coordinator for International Relations (CIR) Newsletter

Howdy y'all!
Though it's only been a few days since the last volume, October was such a busy month for me that I still have plenty to talk about.

The last volume was about my work trip to Italy, but in this volume, I'd like to talk about what I did right before and right after Italy: JOMO JET's International Carnival and participating in the Danbē Odori at the Maebashi Matsuri!



JOMO JET

Starting with International Carnival, for those who aren't aware, it is a day-long event held by the Takasaki International Relations Society (TIRS) in Takasaki every year in collaboration with JOMO JET. Every year, JOMO JET runs booths representing various countries and cultures, where visitors can learn about and experience different cultures from around the world.

This year, JOMO JET held booths for Brazil, Venezuela, India, the Philippines, Mexico, and Vietnam! Though I wasn't assigned to a particular booth, I was chosen as one of the photographers and videographers for the event. This was mostly because of how busy I was with my other work at the time.

Speaking of being busy, International Carnival was held on October 4th, and something else important was also happening that day—my flight to Italy!

Basically, I worked at the event from 8:30 in the morning until 4:30 p.m., and then went straight to the station with the suitcase I had brought with me to the event and hopped on a train to Haneda Airport. By the end of the event, I was sort of in a daze, but I'm glad everything went smoothly despite that!

Now, as for the Danbē Odori, I got back home on the night of Saturday, October 10th, and was scheduled to participate in the dance the very next day, Sunday, October 11th. This, of course, meant I really had no break between getting home and jumping straight into more activities, but it ended up being not so bad!


Vietnamese calligraphy

Weirdly enough, I think the short amount of time between getting back and participating in the Maebashi Matsuri meant that I wasn't actually as tired as I thought I'd be. Not to say I wasn't tired, but I didn't really start feeling the jet lag until the beginning of the following week.

The Danbē Odori itself went well! I, along with other foreign residents of Maebashi, danced for nearly an hour. This year, we had a pretty large number of participants, partly because we had showcased the Danbē Odori to the new JET ALTs at Gunma Orientation, which I talked about in a previous newsletter.

We had actually been practicing every Monday since late August, so by the time of the Maebashi Matsuri, we were all very comfortable with the dance, and it had basically become muscle memory at this point. That being said, I'm still not that good at it!

All in all, this October has probably been the busiest month of my entire time on JET. However, despite how busy it has been, I'm so glad and thankful to have been given the opportunity to do such a variety of fun and interesting work. I never thought that I'd get to do something like go to Italy or participate in a festival as part of my job, so I'm very appreciative that I get to do this for work.

Next month seems to be a bit less busy, but fun and rewarding nonetheless. I'm looking forward to writing about it, and I hope everyone is looking forward to reading it as well.
See y'all next time!


Danbē Odori