

こころねっと



HELLO!

こんにちは

كلمة السلام!

BONJOUR!

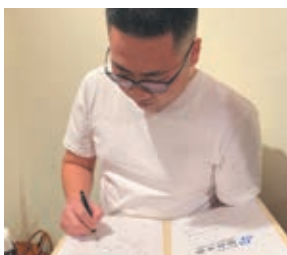
SALAM!

福井大学留学生ネットワーク誌
Spring 2026 vol.26

福井大学留学生同窓会新支部設立

福井大学留学生同窓会は、マレーシア、タイ、インドネシア、韓国、西安、上海、浙江、台湾、北京、ハンブルク、日本、バングラデシュ、ミャンマー、メキシコ、フィリピン、ブータン、タンザニア、華南の18支部に、2025年3月20日に新たにベトナム支部が加わり、19支部体制となりました。

同支部設立大会の開催が、今年のころねっと2025年春号の原稿締切の後だったため、誌上報告が1年遅れとなってしまいましたが、当日は、大学からの代表団として末信一朗理事、鈴木梓特命助教、マルコム英子国際課主査が訪越し、新支部会長所属企業、前田工織の角田社長と共に見守る中、喜んで駆け付けた新支部メンバー代表5名の中から選出された三役、会長Nguyen Van Vuong氏、副会長Nguyen Manh Hung氏、事務局長Bui Thi Thu Hien氏がベトナム支部設立宣言書に署名し、同席の参加者も証人署名を行い、会長により同宣言書が高らかに読み上げられ、第19番目の新支部開設を祝いました。留学生リクルートや同窓会支部推薦奨学金制度などへの協力をはじめ、今後の協力態勢作りや支部活動計画等々について、和やかに意見交換が行われました。



支部設立宣言書に署名する参加者たち



支部設立宣言書に署名する参加者たち



支部設立宣言書を読み上げる会長



ベトナム支部設立宣言書

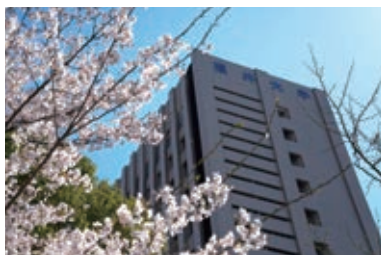
Introduction of Various UF Programs



Aysa Asif (Pakistan)

連合教職開発研究科 教職開発専攻

The University of Fukui offers a wide range of undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral programs that are closely connected through a shared commitment to learning, research, and global engagement. Rather than existing as separate academic units, the university's faculties and support programs collaborate to create an environment where professional training, cultural understanding, and community involvement naturally intersect. This approach allows students to follow clear academic pathways while gaining experiences that extend beyond the classroom.



Faculty of Education



At the heart of the university's academic foundation is the Faculty of Education. It offers undergraduate, master's, and doctoral programs that focus on teacher education and educational research. Students begin with intense training in pedagogy and classroom practice at the undergraduate level and gradually move toward advanced research, curriculum development, and academic studies at the graduate and doctoral levels. Practical teaching experience and research-based learning are emphasized throughout the program. International students are also supported through training programs that introduce the Japanese education system while encouraging broader, global perspectives on teaching and learning.

School of Engineering

Alongside education, the School of Engineering represents one of the university's strongest academic and research fields. It offers bachelor's, master's, and doctoral programs across mechanical, electrical, materials, information, and applied engineering. These programs combine theoretical knowledge with hands-on research and problem-solving skills, preparing students to address real-world challenges. International students can also benefit from English-taught degree options, such as the Global Engineering Program for an Innovative Society, which is available at both undergraduate and graduate levels. These programs foster an international learning environment that enables students from diverse backgrounds to study and conduct research together.

School of Global and Community Studies

The university's focus on society and global issues is reflected in the School of Global and Community Studies. This school offers undergraduate and graduate programs that explore global and regional challenges through an interdisciplinary lens.



Students study topics related to society, culture, policy, and globalization, developing strong analytical and critical thinking skills in the process. A key feature of the program is its emphasis on fieldwork and community engagement, which allows students to connect academic learning with real situations in local communities and beyond.

School of Medical Sciences

In the field of healthcare, the School of Medical Sciences offers undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral programs in medicine and



nursing. These programs are designed to train future healthcare professionals through a balanced combination of scientific knowledge, clinical practice, and ethical responsibility. Graduate and doctoral studies place greater emphasis on research and advanced

clinical training, preparing students to contribute to medical innovation, healthcare leadership, and academic research.

Japanese Language and Cultural Support

Supporting students across all faculties is the university's strong commitment to language and cultural learning. Through the Center for Global Education and Research, the university offers non-degree Japanese language programs that support students enrolled in undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral studies. Courses are available at beginner to advanced levels, developing speaking, listening, reading, and writing skills. Students can also take classes on Japanese culture and society, helping them better understand daily life in Japan. Additional support is provided through U-PASS, which offers tutoring and language exchange opportunities, assisting international students to adjust smoothly to both academic and social life.



University-Wide Global Programs

Beyond formal degree programs, the University of Fukui offers university-wide initiatives that allow students to strengthen global competence within their academic journey. One such initiative is the University of Fukui Global Leadership Program, which is open to



undergraduate and graduate students across faculties. The program is structured around clearly defined learning components, including global awareness, ethical leadership, and cross-cultural understanding.

Students complete a combination of approved courses and program-specific activities that are integrated into their regular studies, making it possible to develop global skills without extending their degree period. Participation encourages students to reflect on global challenges from multiple perspectives and to connect their specialized field of study with international and societal contexts. Upon completion, students receive official certification, formally recognizing their global learning achievements alongside their degree.

Campus Life and Global Engagement

Academic life at the University of Fukui is further enriched by an active and welcoming campus community. Students at all levels can take part in a wide range of clubs and activities, including sports, cultural groups, music, dance, and creative organizations. The UF International Student Association organizes events such as welcome and farewell parties, ski trips, barbecues, and cultural exchange activities, helping students build friendships across cultures.



The Institute for Global Engagement and the Global Hub provide spaces for language exchange, peer mentoring, cross-cultural workshops, and seasonal events. Students also have opportunities to connect with the local community through school visits, homestay



experiences, festivals, workshops, and hands-on cultural activities such as kimono or yukata try-ons, calligraphy, and traditional crafts. These experiences allow students to learn not only about Japan, but also from the people and communities around

them.

By bringing together structured academic programs, global learning opportunities, language and cultural support, and a vibrant campus life, the University of Fukui offers a truly connected educational experience. Whether pursuing undergraduate, master's, or doctoral studies, students are supported in developing academic knowledge, global awareness, and cultural understanding, preparing them to grow with confidence in an increasingly interconnected world.

From an Unknown Melody to “Sumimasen” and Beyond: My Journey of Learning Japanese



Rahman Md Tayefur (Bangladesh)

工学研究科 知識社会基礎工学専攻

Some people can point to a single moment that started their Japanese journey. Mine didn't begin with a dramatic decision. Rather, it began as a quiet pull of music.

I grew up around Japanese pop culture like many others. As a kid, I was into the exciting world of anime like *Dragon Ball*, *Pokémon*, *Bleach*, *Beyblade* and such, without thinking too deeply about the language itself. Back then, Japanese was just part of the atmosphere. Fast voices, exciting themes, coolest fight scenes, and dramatic lines I couldn't separate into words. I enjoyed it, but I didn't *understand* it. The story was the story, and Japanese was just the sound it traveled through.

That changed later, when I started to realize that there was something I was missing.

When Songs Stopped Being Noise

At some point, Japanese songs started doing something strange to me: they stopped being “background” and started feeling like *messages*. I'd catch a repeated phrase in a chorus. I'd recognize a word from somewhere else, and suddenly it wasn't random sound anymore. It was meaning... almost within reach.

For me, Songs did what normal listening practice couldn't. They made me want to replay the same lines repeatedly without feeling forced. A single track could loop in my head for days, and without realizing it, I'd be rehearsing pronunciation, rhythm, and intonation. Research on music and second-language learning often highlights exactly this advantage: songs naturally support listening, pronunciation, vocabulary recall, and motivation because repetition feels enjoyable rather than exhausting.

I was not studying yet, not seriously. But I was building familiarity. And familiarity is an underrated kind of progress.

The “Later” Phase When I Wanted to Understand Everything

Ironically, that early anime exposure became meaningful much later. As a kid, I watched without understanding. But later, when I could appreciate plot, emotions, and character relationships, I started feeling the gap between what subtitles gave me and what the original language probably carried. I also started watching many Japanese vlogs and listening to podcasts. At that point, learning Japanese transformed from being just a fun hobby to a serious challenge that I was eager to take seriously.

Years later, I found myself in Japan, studying my dream subject here in the University of Fukui.

Arriving in Japan and Feeling Mute

Nothing prepares you for the moment you realize you can't express even the simplest version of yourself.

When I first arrived in Japan, I couldn't speak. Not in an “I'm shy” way, more like an actual shutdown. All I could say is 「ありがとうございます」 and 「すみません」. That was it. Two phrases I used like survival tools: thank you, sorry, excuse me. Everything else felt locked behind a door I didn't have the key for. There were times when I confidently said 「おふる」 instead of 「ふくろ」 when asking for a bag. I remember feeling almost invisible in conversations. People would speak around



My first weeks in Japan

me, and I'd smile, nod, and hope my face didn't reveal how lost I was.

Choosing Engagement Over Comfort

The thing is, staying silent is comfortable. It protects you from mistakes. But it also “silently” traps you.

So, I started doing something that felt ridiculous at first. I tried to engage anyway, even with broken and faulty Japanese. Even when I knew my grammar was wrong. Even when I had to pause mid-sentence and replace an 80% of a sentence with gestures, English, or a desperate “*etto...*”

One of the most important parts in my learning journey was the Japanese classes from the university. The Japanese-1 class helped me to build a solid base that made the process a little easier. Then, I began to treat every interaction like training data. The biggest growth came from talking with Japanese people who didn't speak English at all. That sounds scary, but it became a challenge I learned to embrace. When English isn't available as a shortcut, you're forced to build meaning using whatever you have in your stock such as simple words, context, tone, facial expressions, and a lot of patience.


And slowly, something changed. Conversations stopped sounding like one long sentence. I started hearing *boundaries*. Familiar words popped up, certain phrases repeated in predictable situations. I wasn't fluent, but I was able to decode.

Online tools to make Kanji Feel Possible

Around this time, I met the “wall” every Japanese learner talks about. **KANJI!**

It's one thing to recognize spoken phrases. It's another thing to stand in front of real-life signs, menus, forms, notices... and realizing the world is written in characters you can't read.

Online learning tools made the chaos structured. One of them is WaniKani. Although I started using it before coming to Japan, I didn't



take it as seriously as I do now. It uses mnemonics and a Spaced Repetition System (SRS), which means it schedules “reviews” of what you learned and see it again *right before you're likely to forget it*. There are a lot of online resources to choose from. The key is to start and figure things out along the way.

For me, the biggest benefit wasn't only “learning kanji.” It was building consistency. Even on busy days, I could do reviews. Even on days when speaking felt hard, I could still feel progress. One kanji, one vocabulary item, one review session at a time.

The Role of Consuming Media, But Now with New Ears

The funny part is once my Japanese improved a little, songs and other media returned as a different kind of teacher.

A line that once felt like pure emotion suddenly became understandable. A chorus I used to memorize by sound revealed grammar patterns I had been studying. These became a bridge between the “*study Japanese*” world and the “*feel Japanese*” world. Same goes for Anime and Manga, known stories became understandable in a new language.

I think in language learning, this bridge matters. It keeps you motivated. It reminds you why you started. It makes the process personal because your favorite song or anime is not an exercise; it's a memory.

Where I Am Now

I'm still learning, there is a lot more to learn and experience. And I think that's the point.

Japanese didn't become meaningful to me because I was ever “good at it.” It became meaningful because I kept showing up through awkward conversations, kanji reviews, playlists, watch lists, and the everyday pressure of living and studying in Japan.

And every day, I'm a little less “*mute*” than I was when I arrived.

Life in Fukui, Japan



Anjili (Pakistan)

連合教職開発研究科 教員研修留学生

Fun fact is: The “J” in my name, Anjili, remains unchanged—from **Jacobabad**, a city in Pakistan where I come from, to **Japan**, a country I never truly imagined myself in. It was not a place I was fascinated by, nor a destination I had ever planned to apply to. Yet here I am. Among so many countries I once considered—and many I never did—Japan was the one destiny quietly led me to.

Before delving into my journey from Jacobabad to Japan, I would like to share a little about who I am. I am a public primary school teacher from Pakistan, deeply connected to education and to the small but resilient community I come from. Teaching has never been just a profession for me; it has been a space of responsibility, learning, and quiet hope—one where I continuously seek growth, both for my students and for myself.

With this desire to grow, I began exploring international opportunities that could help me enhance my skills as a teacher and broaden my understanding of the world. Teaching is a role that has shaped not only my profession but also my aspiration to grow beyond the classroom. I was always eager to apply for programs in different countries that could help me improve my teaching skills and support my personal growth. Like many others, I imagined myself in countries such as the UK or the USA—places that felt familiar and manageable.

Japan, however, was never part of that imagination. The language barrier, the food, and the cultural differences made it seem like a place where survival itself would be difficult. Because of these assumptions, I never once thought of applying here. Yet when those paths did not open, destiny quietly redirected me to Japan.

Today, I see this redirection as one of the most beautiful coincidences of my life. The country I never thought I would be in has

become one of the most meaningful experiences I have ever had.

Let's now delve into my experience of how I spent my first semester in Fukui. To let the readers know, I am here as a trainee in the Teacher Training Program. Of course, before coming here, I was curious to meet and get to know my fellow trainees from other countries. I met them during the orientation, and little did I know that they would turn into really good friends and a family away from home.

After the three-day orientation, the program officially began. In this semester, I was required to complete an intensive Japanese language course. I had to take multiple subjects, including Japanese Integrated, Writing, Reading, Speaking, Kanji, Completion Research, and one of the most interesting courses—Traditional Industry Visits.

Learning Japanese has been quite a tough ride for me, along with settling into a whole new country, but I must say it has been fun too. Learning a new language is excellent brain exercise, especially at this stage of life when you get to relive your student days. Meeting assignment deadlines and preparing for quizzes and exams remind you of the pressure your own students go through because of you.

Apart from these academic anxieties, the most enjoyable part was the traditional industry visits. Through this class, I had the opportunity to visit some significant traditional industries of Japan, such as Washi paper-making, the Takefu Knife Village, and soba noodle-making, among others. A lazy person like me might never have gone to explore such places on my own, so I am truly grateful for this industrial visit class.



Life in Fukui has been quite busy, simple, quiet, yet beautiful in its own way for me. Why wouldn't an introverted person like me enjoy the quiet and calm atmosphere of Fukui?

That being said, I have not explored much of Fukui yet. By the time I finally settled in and felt ready to go out and explore, the snow blocked many things for me. Guess what? The city I come from is one of the hottest cities in Pakistan, and here I am now in super-cold Fukui. Witnessing snowfall for the first time in my life was truly a dream come true; however, it only excites you in the beginning. Now I understand why most Japanese people do not like snow.

Moreover, witnessing the autumn season was even more beautiful than I had ever imagined. In Pakistan, we do not get to see leaves turning red and yellow. Watching the leaves change colors was the most fascinating experience for me. Being fascinated by the weather and environment is one thing, but I am equally fascinated by the people living here as well.

Coming to Japan has made me realize one important and much-needed thing: kindness and humanity do not require extra effort; they come naturally. The way Japanese people go above and beyond to



help others is proof of that. Many things that people might take for granted are deeply valued in Japan—such as kindness, punctuality, maintaining cleanliness, and the hardest yet healthiest habit of all: walking.

This reminds me of my initial days here. I come from a city where walking is not really common because there are many local transportation options available. I probably never walked even 1,000

steps a day in my home country, and here I was, walking around 20,000 steps a day! Not going to lie, I definitely cried because of my aching legs.

Despite this, I won “Discover Fukui – Global Rogaining 2025” with my teammates after living in Fukui for only around 10 days. It was a map-based navigation scavenger hunt held in Fukui in October 2025, designed to encourage international participants to explore local, often hidden, cultural and natural attractions.




This event at least allowed me to see a small part of Fukui. However, not exploring much of Fukui does not mean that I spent my entire semester in my room. I had my first trip to Tokyo in November 2025 and my second trip to Kyoto in January 2026.

I visited Tokyo to attend a welcome event organized by MEXT, but I remember the trip more for the wonderful time I spent at DisneySea; another dream come true for me. While many people might prefer Tokyo for being a vibrant and happening capital city, I personally liked Kyoto a little more because of its cultural significance.

Places such as the beautiful Kiyomizu-dera, the crowded Fushimi Inari Taisha, the serene Kinkaku-ji Temple, and the calm, lantern-lit streets completely captured my heart. I would definitely love to visit Kyoto again.





Amidst all these experiences; snowfall, cultural discoveries, long walks, and short trips; I was also navigating the core purpose of my stay here: learning Japanese and completing my first semester. It has not been easy, but it has been deeply rewarding. As I now approach the end of my first semester, I hope to clear my final examinations successfully and step into the next phase of this journey with more confidence than I arrived with.

Life in Fukui may not be loud or dramatic, but it has quietly reshaped me. In its calm streets, snowy mornings, autumn leaves, and long walking days, I have discovered a slower, deeper way of living. It has taught me resilience in the cold, discipline in routine, appreciation for simplicity, and above all, gratitude for kindness.

Fukui may not have been part of my original dreams, but it has become a chapter I will always carry with me. Sometimes, the places we never plan for become the ones that transform us the most.

And perhaps that unchanged “J” in my name was never just a coincidence. From Jacobabad to Japan, the journey was not something I designed. It was something life designed for me. And in the quiet beauty of Fukui, I am learning to trust that design.

Life in Fukui – an unforgettable journey in my life



Nguyen Van Tien (Vietnam)

国際地域学部 特別聴講学生

My first time going abroad brought me with a lot of excitement and nervousness. Adapting to the daily life in a foreign country, especially Japan, requires significant adjustment and resilience. Even though I already learned a lot of Japanese language and culture a lot prior to coming to Japan, I still need a lot of time to adjust to the new life here, and meeting up with new people. In addition, prior to my arrival, my impression of Fukui wasn't much, I mostly knew about Fukui being in a region called 雪国 (snow country) and its renowned glasses' production. However, I soon realized there is much more to it than my first impression.



1. Fukui Station



2. Keihi Jingu Shrine in Tsuruga



3. Asuwa Shrine



4. Futsal match

My time spent exploring Fukui has revealed a wealth of cultural and historical richness here. I can tell for the whole day about attractions in Fukui to everyone! I spent considerable time exploring the area, visiting local museums such as Ichijodani Asakusa Family Site Museum, cafes and restaurants like Tokubee or Gastro, historical attractions like the port of Mikuni or Tsuruga, and shrines and temples like Oshima, Echizen Daibutsu, Asuwa, etc. and there are a lot of other places that I can recommend as well! The novelty of these experiences made me observe my surroundings much more carefully, as each and every sight is so precious. Over time, it became evident that Fukui is truly a hidden gem, possessing an abundance of natural beauty, profound history, and vibrant culture that reveals itself more slowly.

Studying in the University of Fukui, my understanding of Japanese culture deepened significantly. The academic environment provided insights into how Japanese and international students and staffs communicate and work. The students proved to be exceptionally welcoming and supportive and we are able to share a lot of memories together through our shared trips, our daily life activities together and all the parties that we have. I am always fond of the time that we always play futsal together, the trip to Ichijodani and parties at the lounge as well. This is also supported by the fact that there are a lot of facilities in and around the school that provides these common space, such as the Seiren Global Hub, International Students House



5. Japan Model ASEAN Meeting 2026

lounge. Furthermore, the teachers in my faculty consistently dedicated to the students, offering a great deal of support both within the classroom and outside my classroom regarding my future academic and professional paths.

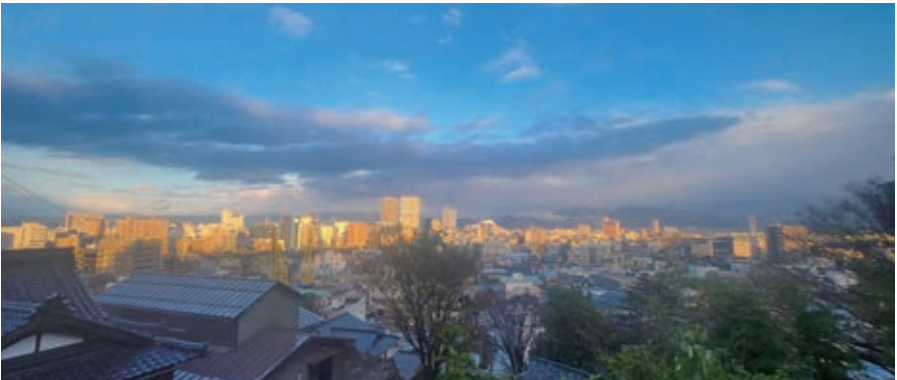
This exchange program has also

made me realize a lot of things and developed myself a lot. The fact that I have to manage my own finances and daily affairs much more made me realize that I am much more independent compared to my home country. This empowered me to go on solo travel and show my perspectives with greater confidence. I feel like there is so much more to the world out there, and I want to explore even further. In these trips, I was fortunate to attain several meaningful milestones, including the opportunity to participate in a conference called Japan Model ASEAN Meeting in Tokyo and the honor of serving as a Friendship Ambassador for Fukui Prefecture.




6. Friendship Ambassador for Fukui Prefecture

Reflecting on the 5 months, this period has undeniably been one of the most enriching journeys of my life. My experiences inspire me to return to Japan, and of course to Fukui, to explore even more, and of course to further academic pursuits. As my exchange program nears its conclusion, I want to appreciate my remaining time in Fukui and Japan. For any students who are contemplating whether to come to Japan and especially Fukui for study, I think that it will be a very



7. Fukui City looking from Asuwa Mountain



enriching experience no matter what! As for me, I will always cherish my time here with all of the people I met here in Fukui and Japan. I have already felt Fukui as a second home, and I would like to come back here again soon!

My experience in Japan



Kumar Sachin (India)

連合教職開発研究科 教員研修留学生

The moment I arrived in Japan, exhausted from the long flight into Osaka Kansai, I felt as if I had stepped into a completely different world. It was my first time abroad, and everything - from the airport's train to the efficiency of the procedures felt grand and unreal. I had heard so much about Japan, its history and technology, but being here was an entirely different kind of awareness. Fukui, especially, gave me what felt like the “real” Japan, the one I probably wouldn't have experienced had I gone straight to Tokyo or Osaka or any other big city.

Japan quickly became a collection of “first experiences” for me. Back home, India's seasons are hot, cold, and monsoon, but here autumn makes the city appear decorated in red and golden, and winter made everything white. I remember standing outside the dormitory during the first snowfall, watching flakes fall all day and feeling so happy about it. Walking in soft snow is a completely new feeling. Spring sakura is still on my list, and I'm already waiting for that moment.



As an Indian in Japan, I feel like I live between two cultural frequencies. India moves in vibrant complexity - emotions layered on top of conversations, multilingual chatter, festivals that can turn entire streets into celebrations. Japan moves in quiet order—trains arriving with precision, people communicating with subtlety, and cities that fall into meditative silence. In



India, strangers become friends within minutes over a cup of chai, with questions about your life asked openly and sincerely. In Japan, relationships grow slowly; silence carries meaning; what is said often means more than the words themselves. I find that fascinating.

Daily life reflects these contrasts. India is loud, colorful, chaotic in the most alive way - street vendors calling, temple bells ringing, rickshaws weaving through traffic, the smell of food everywhere. Japan, on the other



hand, is almost whisper-quiet in public. Nobody attending calls on train, no vehicles honking on the road, no unnecessary noise. At first the silence felt very strange, almost unnerving compared to home - like being in a recording studio. But soon I grew to love it. It gave me space to think, to reflect, and even to start new habits like reading regularly, organizing my life, and making small videos.

Even walking changed for me. In India I was used to taking a motorbike or car even for small distances. Here, without even realizing it, I started walking 30-40 minutes regularly. It became normal, and I've actually begun enjoying it. I hope I can keep this habit when I return home.



Of course, food became its own journey. Indian food is built on layers of spice - roasted, ground, mixed, tempered. Japanese food felt subtle at first, almost too quiet in flavour, and I missed the variety desperately. Over time, though, I understood the elegance behind washoku. Now I make my own curry rice, udon, and soba - with a little extra masala to bridge the gap! I've also shifted to low sugar, low salt, and less oil, which is something I appreciate.

And the variety of breads and filled buns - custard, cream, chocolate, as well as onigiri, are things we simply don't get back home.

Experiencing Japanese cuisine made me appreciate Indian cuisine even more, and vice versa. My friends from other countries find Indian food exciting for its variety of flavour. They're also endlessly surprised that Indians use the same ingredient, like rice - in dozens of different ways. On my side, living in the international students' hostel let me try food from many countries. This has also been an experience in itself. It has made me more willing to go to other countries next and experience their culture from close.

The cultural diversity within India itself often surprises people I meet here. Many international students have different images of India - some think of Bollywood, some of curry, some of spirituality and then they're shocked when they learn how huge and diverse the country really is. Every Indian state has its own cuisine, festivals, clothing styles, and often its own language. With 21 official languages and hundreds of dialects, traveling 300 km can feel like entering a completely different cultural universe.

Spirituality is another parallel where the two countries differ deeply yet beautifully. Japan's spirituality is a gentle undercurrent - shrines tucked between buildings, quiet bows, and rituals that blend into everyday life. India's spirituality is loud and colorful - temple chants, incense, pilgrims, debates on philosophy, and many religions coexisting daily. Japanese people's private, personal way of practicing religion impressed me deeply.



What fascinates foreigners most about India when they come to India?

The multilingual fluency of switching between English, Hindi, and a regional language in seconds, chaotic but charming auto-rickshaws,

the explosion of flavors in street foods like pani puri and dosa, large and interconnected families, and ancient temples placed beside modern malls or companies. They also find the Indian culture of bargaining in markets amusing, since Japan has fixed prices everywhere. I found the idea of not having an MRP (maximum retail price) slightly odd.

Living in Japan hasn't just introduced me to a new culture - it has given me a new lens to see my own. Japan's calm made me appreciate India's warmth. Its subtle communication made me reflect on India's expressiveness. Experiencing both made me realize that differences are not barriers - they're opportunities to learn.

Over time, I've understood that beneath all the surface contrasts - chaos versus calm, spice versus subtlety - people everywhere want the same things: connection, family, laughter, and meaning. Fukui, with its peaceful nature, hot springs, and kind people, became a second home for me. I carry these experiences with gratitude.

To fellow international students: keep sharing your stories. Cook your food for your friends. Learn theirs. These exchanges create memories that stay long after we leave. And to anyone in India thinking about studying here: come. Japan will challenge you, surprise you, and in the most unexpected ways, make you feel at home.

Thank you, Fukui University, for giving me this experience - one that has broadened my understanding of the world. Let's continue building bridges, one conversation at a time.



My Way of Enjoying Life in Fukui



Cheam Narita ជាម នារីតា (Cambodia)

国際地域学部 特別聴講学生

This is my first time being away from my home country for such a long period. Coming to Japan and living in Fukui was a big step in my life. At first, I felt excited, but at the same time nervous and homesick. Everything was new to me: the language, the food, the lifestyle and especially the weather; literally freezing.

Being far from my family and friends was not easy as a family person. Back in Cambodia, I would spend most of my time with my family; travelling to different places every weekend. Coming to Fukui dropped this routine, I had to pick up a new routine for the next 5 months here, and however, this experience taught me how to become more independent and open-minded.

Exploring the Prefecture

I like traveling around Fukui Prefecture during weekends and holidays. I enjoy discovering nature, traditional places, and quiet local towns. Exploring helps me relax and forget my stress from studying. Some of the places I really enjoyed visiting include famous Mikuni beach, Tojinbo Cliff, Osagoe Minka Garden, Happy Jungle Zoo, Cosmos Park, Maruoka Castle, Echizen Daibutsu, Fukui Prefectural Dinosaur Museum and other Echizen famous places during Traditional Industry class where I get to experience local life. Every place in Fukui feels peaceful and unique. I especially love how clean and calm the environment is, compared to big cities.



Participating in Local Events

I try to join local matsuri and other school events whenever I have a chance. Attending my first Matsuri in Sabae helped me experience real Japanese traditions. I enjoyed the atmosphere, food stalls, and performances. It made me feel warm and welcome. Even though I could not fully understand everything in Japanese, I could still feel the happiness and community spirit.



moment.

I also joined other school events and programs like the Tsuruga host family and events hosted by Global Hubs. Participating in these events helped me feel more connected to Fukui and the local people. It was not just about watching, but about being part of the

Hanging Out with International Students and Cambodian Seniors



and more confident about my life in Fukui.

Being with international friends helps me improve my communication skills and understand different cultures. We share our

stories, food, and experiences. Sometimes we study together, sometimes we travel together, and sometimes we just talk about our worries and future plans.



Overcoming Homesickness by Cooking Cambodian Food




I often feel homesick, especially during holidays. I overcome homesickness by cooking Cambodian food with other Cambodian friends. Food helps us feel closer to home. The smell and taste of Cambodian food make us feel relaxed and happy. Cooking

together is not only about eating. It is also about supporting each other emotionally and keeping our identity as Cambodians while living abroad. It reminds me that even though I am far from my country, my culture is still part of my daily life.

Personal Growth and Reflection

Living in Fukui helped me become more independent. I learned how to manage my time, money, and daily responsibilities. I became more confident in communicating with people from different cultures. At the beginning, everything felt difficult. However, step by step, I learned how to use transportation, how to handle daily problems, and how to enjoy living alone in a foreign country. Fukui gave me a safe and comfortable environment to grow. Even though I still miss Cambodia



very much, I am grateful for the opportunity to live and study in Fukui. The peaceful lifestyle, friendly people, and beautiful places helped me overcome many challenges.

Conclusion

My way of enjoying life in Fukui is not about doing something special or expensive. It is about exploring the prefecture, joining local events, building strong friendships with international students and Cambodian seniors, and keeping my culture alive through cooking. Fukui has become an important part of my life story. This experience will always stay in my heart and will help shape my future, both personally and professionally.

福井を楽しむ — 私の場合



MUHAMMAD YAASIN BIN SABARUDIN (Malaysia)

工学部 物質・生命化学科

「福井には遊ぶところがない」と言う人もいますが、私はそうは思いません。福井の魅力は、季節ごとの自然や地域の人々との深い関わりにあります。この2年間で見つけた私流の福井の楽しみ方を四季別に紹介します。

【春】福井の自然でキャンプ

春はマレーシア人の先輩たちとキャンプに出かけます。福井市の海辺「鮎川園地」、桜に囲まれた「たけくらべ」、山深い越前市の「みどりと自然の村」、川遊びができる大野の「麻那姫湖」など、少し車を走らせれば最高のキャンプ場が待っています。星空の下でBBQを楽しみ、自然に触れる時間は、勉強のストレスを消し去ってくれます。



【夏】地域の「メンバー」として暮らす

夏は坂井市竹田地区での「竹田Tキャンプ」がメインです。ここでは「お客さん」ではなく、地域の一員である「メンバー」として活動します。学生拠点の周りには、体験施設『ちくちくぼんぼん』、歴史ある『千古の家』、油揚げの『谷口屋』といった名所が集まっています。地域の方と汗を流し、盆踊りの夜に輪になって『じょんころ踊り』を踊る時間は、コミュニティの一員になれた実感が持てる最高の瞬間です。



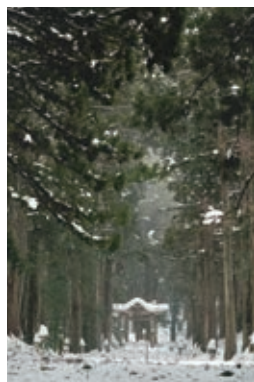
【秋】 伝統工芸の熱気に触れる

秋は鯖江・越前エリアで開催される体験型イベント「RENEW」を楽しみます。福井は越前和紙や漆器、眼鏡、越前焼など、世界に誇る伝統工芸が息づく「ものづくりの聖地」です。どの工房でも職人さんが温かく迎えてくれます。繊細な職人技を見学し、ワークショップで素材に触れる体験を通して、日本のものづくりの精神と歴史の深さを知ることができます。夜は、「河和田アートキャンプ」とco-minkaに宿泊して、日本の古民家とアートの暮らしも体験できました。



【冬】 歴史と四季を感じる電車旅

冬は一人で、えちぜん鉄道や福井鉄道などのローカル線に乗ります。駅の近くにある古い建物や歴史的な場所を訪ねるのが好きです。おすすめは、勝山永平寺線で行く「平泉寺→勝山城博物館→越前大仏→ゆめおれ勝山」です。恐竜の魅力だけでなく、長い歴史を感じる勝山のまちは、四季を通じて楽しめますが、雪に包まれる冬の景色は特に幻想的でおすすめです。



福井を楽しむ — 私の場合

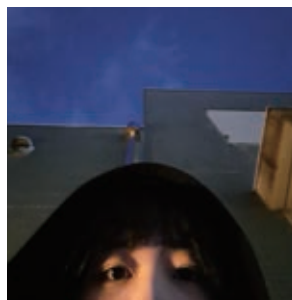


LI JOU HUI (李柔卉 TAIWAN)

国際地域学部 特別聴講学生

私は、最初から福井の環境が好きで、ここに来ました。田舎の静かな感じや、きれいな空気が好きです。田舎は何もなくてつまらないという人もいますが、私は自分なりに福井を楽しんでいます。

私は空を見ることがとても好きです。どんな時間の空でも好きです。福井では、空の美しさをゆっくり楽しむと感じています。道は都会ほど人や車が多くないので、歩きながら空を見ることができます。また、光が少ないため、夜は星がとてもきれいに見えます。毎日、登下校の道で空を見上げると、とてもリラックスできます。時々、夜に寮の近くを散歩しながら夜空を見ることもあり、一日の疲れやストレスがやわらぎます。福井の空はいつも私を引きつけ、思わず顔を上げて、澄んだ鮮やかな青や、星に彩られた黒を見てしまいます。



私は、部屋の窓辺に座って、外をぼんやり眺めることもよくあります。晴れの日や雨の日、雪の日など、どんな景色でも、窓の外を見ていると福井の静けさを感じます。窓辺は、部屋の中でいちばん好きな場所です。そこで家族とビデオ通話をすることもあります。この場所で一人の時間を楽しむだけでなく、家族ともこの風景を分かち合っています。

私は、パディと一緒に出かけたり、おいしいものを食べたりすることもよくあります。東尋坊で海鮮を食べましたが、福井の海鮮はとても新鮮でおいし





かったです。日本海を初めて見たとき、その深くて青い色がとてもきれいで、印象に残っています。また、福井駅の近くにある養浩館にも行きました。ちょうど



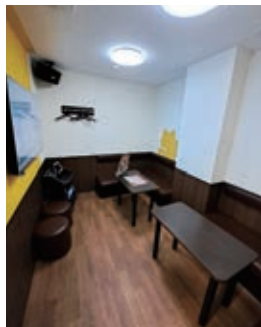
葉が赤くなる時期で、福井で美しい紅葉を見ることができて、とてもうれしかったです。さらに、福井の名所である永平寺にも行きました。雪が降る日に訪れましたが、雪景色がとても美しく、楽しく見学することができました。これらは、福井に来てから知った場所ばかりで、どれも美しく、心に残る景色でした。



私がいちばん楽しんでいるのは、一人で出かけて、のんびり歩く時間です。福井では、一日の中で、にぎやかさと静

けさの両方を感じることができます。福井にいる間、一人でカラオケに行ったり、映画を見たり、買い物をしたりしました。この街の落ち着いた雰囲気が、一人で出かける楽しさを感じました。ゆっくり歩きながら、空や川を眺めたり、福井駅前に座って大道芸人の歌を聴いたりします。道行く人たちは落ち着いて、かわいい子どもたちが遊んでいる姿も見られます。

福井は、ほかの都市とは少し違います。空気がきれいだし、空は青いし、人もとても親切です。大都市のような忙しさや圧迫感がなく、留学生の私たちにとっては、アルバイトなどのプレッシャーもあまりありません。授業のあとは、自分のペースで福井での



生活を楽しむことができます。福井には、山や海、恐竜博物館など、さまざまな観光スポットがありますし、食べ物もおいしいです。福井は、帰国したあとも、また訪れたい所です。この半年間、福井での生活はとても心地よく、楽しいものでした。みなさんにも、ゆっくりと福井の魅力を感じてもらえたらうれしいです。



FILM REVIEW: Trần Anh Hùng's Trilogy of Homeland Memories



LÊ TRƯỜNG PHÚ (Vietnam)

国際地域学部 特別聴講学生


Fierce and tender, loud and hushed, this may be the most poetic image of Vietnam you have ever seen on the big screen.

Trần Anh Hùng is a major name in Vietnamese cinema, for he has carried a distinct French sensibility to portray a Vietnam that is at once lyrical and rustic. His debut feature, *The Scent of Green Papaya* (1993), though produced in France, remains to this day the only film representing Vietnam to have been officially nominated for the Academy Award for Best International Feature Film in 1994. In my youthful shallowness, when I had just begun to acquaint myself with cinema, I approached his work expecting something grand, something on the scale of *Schindler's List*, for instance. I was disappointed. Halfway through the film, I realized there were no dramatic narrative turns to anchor my expectations; what lingered instead were the skillful transitions and the meticulously arranged, beautiful compositions. I asked myself: Does Trần Anh Hùng offer anything beyond that?

Of course, many films only reveal their depth after time and experience have nourished the soul, enriching one's emotional capacity. Six years later, I revisited *The Scent of Green Papaya*, partly because I remembered a scene of water spinach being stir-fried that made my mouth water, and partly because



Tran Anh Hung photographed in Paris by Cyril Zannettacci for the Observer New Review, January 2024.



I was writing an introductory piece on cinema for readers; Vietnamese cinema, surely, deserved mention in such a context. I then watched, in succession, the trilogy of homeland memories by Trần Anh Hùng: *The Scent of Green Papaya* (1993), *Cyclo* (1995), and *The Vertical Ray of the Sun* (2000). Three films, one country, and thousands of emotional states stirring the depths of the heart. I spent an afternoon contemplating them, offering readers another image of Vietnam as it exists within me.

This time, *The Scent of Green Papaya* still left me with a vague unease before a picture too perfect, too serene, too painterly, as if it were trying to preserve life rather than let it move. The story follows a young girl named Mũi who comes to the city to work as a servant for a middle-class family in the 1950s. Every gesture she makes follows strict rules, almost like a ritual. The film's rhythm is so slow it nearly stands still; each drop of water, each movement of an insect, is magnified. The film is beautiful yet inert, resembling a museum exhibit of Vietnamese domestic life. Only later did I recognize that such stillness conceals tension. Traces of colonial history, class differences, and the fragile line between dignity and hardship shape the calm compositions. What appears to be nostalgia in his hands is, in fact, a patchwork. The entire set was constructed in France; every wall, every window frame is a recreation of a lost Southeast Asian rhythm of life. Vietnam in *The Scent of Green Papaya* resembles an echo chamber: detailed and elegant, yet entirely artificial, memory reimagined from exile. Perhaps that is what gives the film its quiet pain. The long, unhurried takes reverberate like voices from the arid memory of a vanished time. Trần Anh Hùng seems to be asking: What happens when memory becomes the only homeland left, when even the scent of fruit becomes a gate one cannot pass through?

Two years later, *Cyclo* came, and the shock was absolute. With a cast primarily composed of Vietnamese actors, the film also features Hong Kong film star Tony Leung. In their place was the chaotic

substance of Saigon: motorbikes, poverty, dirty neon lights. It was as though Trần Anh Hùng had set fire to the house he once carefully built in *The Scent of Green Papaya*. Here, Vietnam is no longer filtered through memory, but through survival. A nameless, wordless boy pedals his cyclo through a city that is slowly devouring him. Unlike the pastoral tone of his debut, *Cyclo* is filmed in the suffocation of its era: dense close-ups, rapid cuts, restless motion. The director once likened *Cyclo* to a fever dream; watching it, I could truly feel waves of heat pressing against me. Though steeped in harsh realism, the film never abandons Trần Anh Hùng's visual lyricism. Blood is tinted gold, puddles shimmer like mercury, and even violence is choreographed. Everything seems to revolve around aestheticizing poverty. Yet he cannot help but find poetry in the streets, even in their squalid shadows. Beauty becomes both a shelter and a trap. Ultimately, the director compels us to feel Vietnam from within, sweat-soaked, desperate, yet profoundly human.



When *The Vertical Ray of the Sun* was released, Trần Anh Hùng seemed to have reached an inner truce. The heat, the dust, the frantic rhythm had dissolved. The film opens with an old Hanoi morning so tranquil it feels surreal. We follow three sisters, Sương, Khánh, and Liên, as they peel back the layers of family life, once seemingly poetic in their parents' generation and in their own, yet long concealing quiet affairs. The film is filled with light: lazy sunlight lingering on banana leaves, faint reflections on bedroom walls. Beneath this calm surface are quiet secrets, for nearly every character hides something, and



the camera understands this. At this point, Trần Anh Hùng no longer tries to define Vietnam; he allows it to breathe. Family, love, time, these are the slices of Vietnamese essence he explores. Vietnam emerges as a peaceful resonance tinged with melancholy, a love story without an ending.

Placed side by side, the three films form something like a cinematic autobiography of exile: *The Scent of Green Papaya* dreams of the homeland; *Cyclo* confronts its reality; *The Vertical Ray of the Sun* mourns both and moves forward. They not only record the evolution of Trần Anh Hùng's cinematic sensibility but also reflect his relationship with memory. For him, Vietnam is not merely a territory; it is a state of being woven from myriad images, the trembling heartbeat within the expatriate's chest. The trilogy does not speak of Vietnam as it exists, but of the feeling of Vietnam as it is remembered, misremembered, and recreated.



Watching these films again now, I realize my understanding of nostalgia has also changed. Perhaps the true crisis in Trần Anh Hùng's Vietnam is more emotional than political. It is the pain of constructing beauty from absence. His camera does not ask us to look at Vietnam; it asks us to sense its shadow. And perhaps that is what cinema, in its most powerful form, has always done: allow us to return to what we have lost, if only for two hours.

留学生在学状況

(2025年10月現在)

	学部生				大学院生					科目等履修生／研究生／特別聴講学生／特別研究学生				合計
	教	医	工	国	教修	医博	工修	工博	国修	教	医	工	国	
アルゼンチン										1				1
Bangladesh						3	16	5				2		26
ボツワナ										1				1
カンボジア			4				3	1					2	10
中国			5	3		1	12	12	2	6	3	7	4	55
インド							2	2		1				5
インドネシア			1				1	2						4
イタリア													1	1
ケニア										1				1
キルギス										1				1
韓国			2	2						3			7	14
ラオス			1											1
マレーシア			14	6			1	2		1				24
マラウイ					1									1
メキシコ												2		2
モンゴル			1											1
ミャンマー			2											2
パキスタン					1					1				2
フィリピン								1		2		2		5
台湾			1				1	1				2	11	16
タイ							1							1
トルコ													1	1
ウガンダ							1							1
アメリカ合衆国								1					2	3
ベトナム			5			1				1			5	12
合計	0	0	36	11	2	5	38	29	2	17	3	15	33	191
							67							
	47				76					68				

地域社会との交流活動

Local Community Exchange Activities



250416 FCIA外国人講師派遣「アルゼンチン」



250427 FCIAしゃべり場「駅前には何があるか」



2505-2602 FIA日本語常設講座



250523 FCIA韓国ジュニア大使受入通訳



250615 FCIA グローバルフェスタ2025



250615 FCIA グローバルフェスタ2025



250622 FCIA 福井市総合防災訓練



250629 FCIA浴衣で養浩館ウォーク



250712 FCIA浴衣で養浩館ウォーク



250731 FCIA外国人講師派遣「韓国」



250811 FCIAワールドクッキングツアー



250823 FCIA 万灯夜ツアー



250912 FCIA外国人講師派遣「マレーシア」



250914 FCIAしゃべり場「電話をかける」



250917 FCIA外国人講師派遣「バングラデシュ」



251012 FCIAしゃべり場「おりがみ体験」



251013 FCIA やさしい日本語研修会



251019 FIA福井国際フェスティバル



251028 FCIA防犯講座



251101 FCIA通訳ボランティア研修会【福井鉄道】



251101 FCIA通訳ボランティア研修会【福井鉄道】



251109 FCIALしゃべり場「オノマトペ」



251115 FCIA越前和紙でお正月飾り作り



251210 FCIA外国人講師派遣「台湾」



251220 FCIAワールドkidsくらぶ「 Bangladesh 」



251227 FCIAしゃべり場「忘年会」



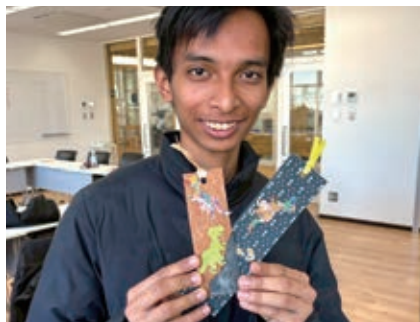
260111 FIA気軽にグローバル交流（英語カフェ）



260121 FCIA外国人講師派遣「韓国」



260221 FCIA ワールドkidsくらぶ「ウガンダ」



260222 FCIAしゃべり場「日本人らしさって？」

学内交流活動

On Campus Activities



20250525 Campus Festival China



20250525 大学祭 中国



20250525 Campus Festival China



20250525 大学祭 中国



20250525 Campus Festival Malaysia



20250525 大学祭 マレーシア



20250525 Campus Festival Malaysia



20250525 大学祭 マレーシア



20250620 APS Exchange Group from Malaysia



20250620 マレーシアからの訪問団



20250704 Fukui Global Circle Summer Fest.



20250704 福井グローバルサークル夏祭り



20250824 English Camp in Katsuyama



20250824 勝山英語キャンプ



20250824 English Camp in Katsuyama



2025 多文化ダンスイベント



202601 New Year Event (書初め)



202601 New Year Event (福笑い)

学位記授与式

—degree conferment ceremony—



260323 Degree Conferment Ceremony



260323 学位記授与式



260323 Degree Conferment Ceremony



260323 Degree Conferment Ceremony





260323 Degree Conferment Ceremony



260323 学位記授与式



260323 Degree Conferment Ceremony



260323 学位記授与式



260323 Degree Conferment Ceremony



260323 学位記授与式

表紙デザイン

Aysha Asif (Pakistan)

連合教職開発研究科 教職開発専攻

Konnichiwa and Salam! I'm Aysha Asif from Pakistan. I am a graduate student at the Graduate School of Education at the University of Fukui under the Japanese Government (MEXT) Scholarship Program. I am truly happy to have the opportunity to design this year's cover for Kokoronet magazine.

The idea behind this cover is to express the diversity and warmth of the international community. The characters exchanging greetings such as "Hello," "こんにちは," "Bonjour," and "Salam" represent students from around the world meeting in Japan, sharing their languages and traditions, and learning from one another.

The background features well-known symbols of Japan, including Mount Fuji, cherry blossoms, and a torii gate. These elements reflect the country that brings us together and provides a place where students from around the world can study, share experiences, and form lasting friendships.

The bright and lively colors represent the energy, memories, and cultural exchange that shape our journey as international students in Japan. I hope this cover reflects the spirit of Kokoronet and the connections that unite us.



編集後記

2015年春号から担当してきた「ころねっと」編集作業も、編者の定年退職により、この2026年春号をもって最後となりました。今号では学内交流活動写真が非常に少なくなり、留学生が楽しむ様子の記録を多く残せなかったのが残念でした。予算執行見直しや危険回避、大雪などにより毎年恒例のサマーキャンプ、スキー旅行、留学生と教職員の交歓会が中止となったためですが、次号からはまた彼らの笑顔の写真であふれることを期待したいものです。とは言え、今回も相変わらず原稿執筆協力が少なく、探すのに苦労しましたので、後任编者には協力者を増やす方法を考案し、留学生の卒業アルバムでもある「ころねっと」が未永く発行され続けるようご尽力いただきたいと思います。忙しい中ご協力くださった編集委員の皆さんには、厚く御礼申し上げます。これをご覧の卒業生の皆さんも、近況報告と共に写真やメッセージなどをお送りいただければ幸いです。ご協力よろしく願いたします。

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Le Truong Phu	Li JouHui
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格致によりて 人と社会の未来を拓く

国立大学法人

 **福井大学**
UNIVERSITY OF FUKUI