REPORT FOR JAPANESE HOMESTAY

By Wang Yue

It was quite an opportunity for me, an exchange student studying at NUS to take part in this Japanese Homestay Programme. It is to enhance the understanding of Japanese culture and Japanese lifestyle specially for us Japanese learning students at NUS.

About My Host
Mrs U was my host during the two-day stay. She is teaching at a Japanese school in Singapore while her family is in Japan now. Mrs U is an organized and patient person. And perfect to be my host, or hostess, I would say.

Meeting-Up
On December 5, 2009, I arrived at the Pasir Ris MRT station. There, my host, Mrs U picked me up. I was surprised that Mrs U sent me a short message in Chinese to indicate that she was wearing pink! Well, this made the appointed meeting much easier.

Home-made Japanese Cuisine
During the two-day home-stay, I learned and ate Japanese gourmet food. Mrs U made the food herself at home. Although the cooking methods were not sophisticated, the food was quite delicious and I enjoyed it very much.

For example, one of the dishes I had at night on December 5\textsuperscript{th}, was called \textit{siyaki}. Mrs U and I went to the supermarket nearby and bought some salmon. She cut the salmon into two pieces, added salt on the salmon carefully, put the salmon into the grill, and set the alerting clock for some 30min. During the 30min, she cooked other things like rice, spinach-tofu soup, fried chicken etc. I offered to assist cooking and she taught me how to cut the tofu. And I learned a lot!

The other day, we made fried egg with tomato sauce, the sauce’s name was \textit{Hondasi}, with an attractive flavour. And at noon, we made curry beaf and rice with \textit{furikake} as our lunch. Hearing that I was intersted in Japanese food, Mrs U even gave me several packs of condiments and let me try them when I arrived hometown. I was really happy with it.

And at night on December 5\textsuperscript{th}, Mrs U recommended me a famous Japanese movie about cuisine—Udon, to be exact. From that movie and Mrs U’s patient explanation, I learned Japan’s long history of Udon making and several of the most famous places of Udon making as Inaniwa and so on.
Outing Together
Well, I did have a good time eating. But eating was not all that I get. Mrs U inquired the place that I wanted to visit in Singapore. As I had never been to National Museum before, I answered that I intended to go and have a look. And I was so glad to see Mrs U wearing the agate bracelet that I gave her as a little present.

She searched online for the exact location and the way to get there in case we got lost. We spent the whole afternoon at National Museum of Singapore. I touched Singapore’s past vividly. Mrs U accompanied me, although we didn’t chat much, I learned a lot and was thankful to have such a patient host to be with me.

To Sum up
Two day was not long, but it was long enough for me to have a vivid glimpse of Japanese lifestyle and culture. I learned some good habits specially at cuisine making. And I am going to introduce all the delicious condiments to my family at home and let them touch Japanese culture and know modern Japanese lifestyle as well.

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