

Historic School Building and Warm Friends Wishing to Become a Bridge between Japan and China

Zhao, Yue and Wang, Xiaobo

Master's Course in Modern Social Human Studies, Graduate School of Social and Cultural Sciences

Mr. Zhao Yue and Ms. Wang Xiaobo are Chinese students studying at East Asia Business Communication Course in the Graduate School of Social and Cultural Sciences. They say they want to work as a bridge between Japan and China by learning about Japanese culture and the differences in the business cultures of the two countries.



In front of the Memorial Museum of the Firth High School.

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I Want to Contribute to the Growth of My Country! Appreciating the Perfect Learning Experience at Kumamoto University

Atufenua, Maui

Master's Course in Computer Science and Electrical Engineering, Graduate School of Science and Technology

Mr. Atufenua Maui graduated from university in Australia and worked in IT for the government of Tuvalu. He now studies cutting-edge computer techniques at Kumamoto University and looks forward to spreading and developing the use of computers back in his home country.



Mr. Maui lives with his wife and 3 children. "I like to eat natto-maki and udon (natto (fermented soybean) sushi roll and udon noodles)."

■ Tradition and history are our pride

In the East Asia Business Communication Course in the Graduate School of Social and Cultural Sciences, students from around Asia are studying the cultures of Japan and China, Japanese business, Japanese communication, and other subjects. Wang and Zhao are currently studying in this program.

Zhao came to Kumamoto after studying tourism management at Southwestern University of Finance and Economics in Sichuan Province. He now works part-time at a cell phone shop after school and assists customers using Japanese, Chinese, and English. The theme for Zhao's graduation thesis is "Business Management of Chinese Companies in Japan," and he proposes that Chinese companies will increase the number of branch offices in Japan as the Chinese economy grows. Zhao summarizes this phenomenon in his thesis.

On the other hand, Wang majored in Japanese at Dalian University of Technology (DUT) in Dalian, Liaoning Province, and came to Kumamoto University, which is DUT's partner university. The differences in values in the service industries of Japan and China seemed interesting to him. "For example, some shop clerk in Japan will apologize even when the customers is to blame, won't they? That is unimaginable in China. I think paying great care to other people to preserve peace is a cultural attribute particular to the Japanese."

They both say, "We learn, not only from school, but also through the people we meet, and every moment we spend in Kumamoto."

■ A perfect environment for international students

"The biggest issue when it comes to studying abroad is the accommodations. Kumamoto University has the International House, and I did not have to worry about expensive rent or needing to buy furniture when I came to Japan. Moreover, we have strong ties with other international students. We exchange information online when we have problems in our daily life. Kumamoto University is a truly wonderful environment for international students," say Wang and Zhao.

"Sometimes, I have communication problems in Japanese or struggle with my research. When I am troubled, I get help from my supervisor, and from my friends, who support me with positive thinking. I will value the support from my professors and friends my whole life," Zhao said, expressing his deep gratitude.



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This article is partly omitted from the original because of space.

■ Studying about IT -the key to the development of my home country- at Kumamoto University

"In April last year, I came to Kumamoto University from Tuvalu, located about 1,000 kilometers north of the Fiji Islands. I study computer science in the laboratory. I specialize in computer-based teaching materials and an e-learning system to manage and analyze academic records. In my country Tuvalu, the percentage of households owning a computer is still low. IT competency is probably the most essential factor for the development of our country. In January this year, I developed e-learning teaching materials for students in Tuvalu. Following advice from my professor and sources from around the world, the learning system I developed is being used by students at Motufoua Secondary School in Tuvalu to learn online today."

■ Spending a happy academic life with good friends and in a good environment

"Even if I do encounter communication problems and difficulties in research, I have great support of my professor and Japanese friends in the laboratory, as well as other international students from Indonesia, Korea, Mongolia, Papua New Guinea, China, Tonga, and other countries. When I am tired at the laboratory at night and I look out the 12th floor window and gaze at the beautifully lit up Kumamoto Castle, I am reminded of my fortunate circumstances, and can focus again on my research."

"On weekends and after school, I play on a rugby team, and visit Fukuoka or Miyazaki for a game. Kumamoto has good food, sake, and nice people. I appreciate that I can study using

cutting-edge computer science technology in this blessed environment. I hope to absorb more knowledge to contribute to my home country."



Working up a sweat playing rugby. He met many great friends here too.

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A Walk In Kumamoto
Information of Kumamoto

The Water of Kumamoto

Bubbling up from its source in Mt. Aso, the groundwater that supplies domestic water for over 700,000 residents makes Kumamoto City a "groundwater city" like few others in the world. Mineral water is available for drinking at the turn of a tap. Even baths and toilets in Kumamoto use mineral water!

