



From World to Kumamoto University

Acquiring Japanese Language and Culture I Love and Want to Play a Role as a Bridge between Japan and Indonesia.

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(Japanese Studies Program)
I Putu Sanrio Sutandi**

Sanrio (his popular name, Rio) has been studying at Faculty of Letters in Kumamoto University since September, 2013. He has been dedicating himself to acquiring the high skill of Japanese in a bid to work as a bridge between Japan and his country in the future.

I started to study Japanese in the first year of high school because I got interested in Japanese animation and Manga which are popular in Indonesia. I also envisioned that it would be useful in the future if I master foreign languages since the tourism is one of the growth industries in my hometown Bali, Indonesia. First, I learned Japanese in “STIBA Saraswati, College of Foreign Language” in my country. When I got eligible to Japanese Government (Monbukagakusho: MEXT) Scholarship (Japanese Studies Students), I came to Kumamoto University in the fourth year of my college.

You can choose your school to study in from dozens of universities. In my case, I chose Kumamoto University because I imagined that it must be interesting to study in the university where Soseki Natsume and Yakumo Koizumi once taught in the history. I also like the location of this university, which is not in metropolitan cities and is located in the southern part of Japan. I thought that the climate here may be similar to that of my hometown first, but it turned out to be totally different and it took me a while to get used to the coldness here in winter.



In the welcome party held in the University for international students enrolling in autumn, Rio-san made a speech in place of the branch chief of the Indonesian Student Association in Japan who was on his business trip.

This program has two courses. One is “Japanese Language Intensive Course” and the other is “Japanese Studies and Japanese Culture Course”. I have been taking the former course to improve Japanese skills. I believe studying Japanese attracts you with a plenty of words and expressions describing four seasons. I feel, as the person who came from a country which has only rainy season and dry-season, that Japanese culture is based on its clear division of four seasons. Haiku containing seasonal words essentially is one of the examples for this, which symbolize rich Japanese culture. I love writing Haiku and it is popular in Indonesia. Indonesian loves Japanese culture more than you imagine.



In the early days of his stay in Kumamoto, he experienced Hakama (traditional Japanese clothing) try-on with friends from Malaysia and Indonesia. The second left is Rio-san.

I will study here by the end of this September. Now I am working on the report on the analysis of the works of Haruki Murakami for the completion of the course. Although my Japanese skill is not enough yet, I would like to realize my dream to work as a bridge between Japan and Indonesia by keeping my dedication to studying Japanese.