



IRELAND Homestay 2016

Report



September 2016

Support Our Kids Committee

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Schedule

July 24- August 7

| Date | | | AM | PM | Evening | Stay | | |
|--------|----|-----|--|----|---|---|----------------|------------------|
| July | 24 | Sun | | | Orientation at Embassy of Ireland | Orientation: Global Mindset | Olympic Centre | |
| | 25 | Mon | Departure to Dublin (via Amsterdam) | | 17:40 Dublin | Meeting Host Families | Homestay | |
| | 26 | Tue | Level check test & Orientation English Lesson | | School Activity: Dublin City Tour | | Homestay | |
| | 27 | Wed | English Lesson | | Minister for Foreign Affairs | | Homestay | |
| | 28 | Thu | English Lesson | | Embassy of Japan / Lord Mayor of Dublin | School Activity: Disco | Homestay | |
| | 29 | Fri | English Lesson | | World Rugby | | Homestay | |
| | 30 | Sat | | | Trinity College | Aviva Stadium | Homestay | |
| | 31 | Sun | Croke Park Stadium | | | | | Homestay |
| August | 1 | Mon | Trip to Northern Ireland | | | | | Homestay |
| | 2 | Tue | English Lesson | | School Activity: St. Patricks Cathedral | School Activity: Juggling | Homestay | |
| | 3 | Wed | English Lesson | | School Activity: Sports & Irish Dance | | Homestay | |
| | 4 | Thu | English Lesson | | School Activity: Chocolate Factory | Ireland Kendo Federation (18:00-2:00) School Activity: Irish Music (20:00-22:00) | Homestay | |
| | 5 | Fri | English Lesson | | School Activity: Final Party | | Homestay | |
| | 6 | Sat | Leaving Dublin | | | | | Overnight Flight |
| | 7 | Sun | Arriving at Narita | | Closing Ceremony at Embassy of Ireland | | | |

※English Lesson

9:00~10:00 Grammar / 10:15~11:15 Reading / 11:30~12:30 Listening

※Presentation about their experience of the Great East Japan Earthquake 2011

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7.24 Orientation



Embassy of Ireland in Japan

13:00-17:00 at Embassy of Ireland

1. Opening Remarks / SOK Committee
Mr. Akizawa (Secretary General)
2. Greetings from Embassy of Ireland
Chris Green
3. Self Introduction (Students)
4. About Schedule in Ireland (SOK)
5. Presentation about Ireland (Students)
6. Japanese Culture "Green Tea"
by Ito En
7. Case Studies (Being in Abroad)
8. About Insurance
9. Group Work:
10. Presentation about
11. Comments from the guests
12. Closing



Mr. Chris Green
Second Secretary,
Embassy of Ireland



Mr. Yoshihiro Tsuchiya
Vice President,
Ireland Japan Chamber of Commerce



Irish Network Japan
Mr. Yoji Tomiyama



Mr. Satoru Miura
General Manager, Ito En
T2020 Promotion Department



Mr. Norio Ishiyama
Administration Division
Deputy Manager Maruto Group



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7.24 Orientation



Embassy of Ireland in Japan



(Left to Right)

Hazuki Toda(16), Mikihiisa Sato(18), Erika Sasaki(15), Genta Shiraishi(13), Ayumi Sasaki(15), Taku Oikawa(18), Kana Nakada(16), Tatsuhiro Toita(14), Mako Akiba(16)

- Team name : Ireland Go!!
- Objectives: Make lots of friends and invite them to Japan.



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7.24 Orientation



独立行政法人 国立青少年教育振興機構
国立オリンピック記念青少年総合センター

19:00-21:00 at National Olympics Memorial Youth Center 『Global Mindset』 by Kenja (Mr. Ted Katagi)

Mr. Ted Katagi / Born in CA, US

Education: BA in Economics and Computer Science, University of Berkeley / MBA, Harvard Business School

Mr. Ted Katagi started his business career in Enterprise Sales for IBM. He joined Bain and Company after Business school and used his four years of experience there to then become Director of Strategy for AirTouch. His 11 year career at Vodafone/Airtouch included Chief Marketing Officer positions with Vodafone Japan/Verizon Wireless/and the Digital Phone Group and the head of the 2 Billion USD enterprise group at Japan Telecom. Mr. Katagi later joined Fidelity as head of their Private Equity Group in Asia and Picsel Software as their COO.

He is currently CEO of his own startup an internet platform company called Kenja.

[Genta Shiraishi, 13]

Speaking English is not everything when it comes to communicating with people speak different language. Being imaginative and creative makes it possible to understand each other. This was an awakening realization, as I had thought speaking English was the only way.



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7.25 Departure

AIRFRANCE KLM

[Tokyo – Amsterdam – Dublin]



Air France / KLM kindly supported us for the air tickets.
Mr. Denis Torres, Regional Station Manager for Japan & South Korea Air France & KLM, was waiting to send students off at the gate.



Students were happy to receive a gift "Miffy Name Tag" from Air France / KLM



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7.27 Department of Foreign Affairs & Trade / Presentation



12:30 At Iveagh House Mr. Charles Flanagan Minister for Foreign Affairs & Trade

Minister Flanagan

The Irish Fine Gael Politician and On 11 July 2014, Flanagan was appointed as Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade,

[Schedule]

- 1 Greetings from Minister
- 2 Self-Introduction
- 3 Support Our Kids Video
- 4 Presentation regarding the disaster 3.11
Hazuki (Leader), Mikiyisa, Erika, Genta
- 5 Photo sessions



【Minister Flanagan】

Welcome to Ireland! This is the most important meeting today. I'd like to welcome you to Ireland. I've never been to Japan but I'd like to see more Irish people to go to Japan and more Japanese people coming to Ireland because we have a lot in common in terms of our people. There is a huge impact on our everyday lives from Japan and Japanese products and Japanese industries. So you are very welcome.

(after watching SOK video) It was a great video and the messages on the video were very strong. Many sayings were demonstrated on the screen but the most powerful message was "Nothing will stop us". Nothing will stop you from connecting with each other. That is why it is hugely important that you are here in Dublin and I hope you have enjoyable occasions.

(after the students' presentation) I'd like very much to thank all of you for your demonstration of appreciation at what the Irish government did in the aftermath of the horrific experience earthquakes in Japan in 2011. It truly was a time of difficulty, this tragedy for you, lost of life, injury, lost property, damage to everyday life. I want to thank you for your words, so that I will be speaking to my government colleagues at 2 O'clock. I will be happy to talk directly to Mr. Prime Minister that you took the trouble of coming into Department of Foreign Affairs with your words of appreciation, which is very much of value. Thank you. I want to wish you a continued success in your school, your exams, your college. I hope that someday some of you would be back in Ireland as business leaders, or perhaps even as Ambassador to Ireland.

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7.27 Department of Foreign Affairs & Trade / Presentation



【Hazuki Toda, 16】

Minister Flanagan spoke words of appreciation to us about traveling a long way to Ireland and welcomed us with a smile in his face. The Minister was very interested in the SOK video especially when ENYA appeared. He seemed to be happy to know that an Irish singer had contributed to the reconstruction of Tohoku Japan by participating in the SOK charity event.

When we showed pictures to the minister during our presentation, he was moved when he saw the terrible consequences of the disaster and the progress of the reconstruction.

Minister said "Please visit Ireland again as an Ambassador or the president of a company."

We will try to live up to the expectations and keep connecting with Ireland.

【Mikihisa, 18】

Minister Flanagan listened to each of us and said that our stories were very touching and he would tell the Prime Minister about our visit to the Department of Foreign Affairs at his next meeting during that afternoon. He is looking forward to our next visit to Ireland as business leaders or ambassador to Ireland. I felt he welcomed us visiting all the way from Japan. I hope I could be the person who is supporting someone else by my next visit to Ireland.

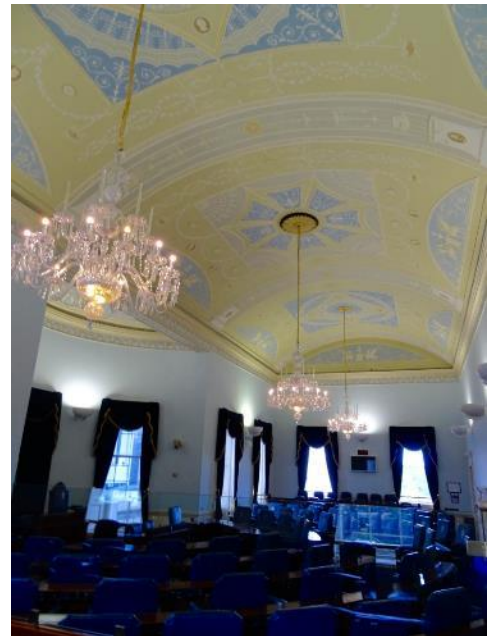
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7.27 Leinster House



Leinster House

Leinster House was originally the ducal palace of the Dukes of Leinster. Since 1922, it is a complex of buildings, of which the former ducal palace is the core, which house Oireachtas Eireann, its members and staff.



[Mikihisa Sato, 18]

I learnt not only about the political systems in Ireland but also its detailed history to form the current system. I felt its history when I heard that they still vote by the traditional way.

There are some similarity to the system other countries use but I was deeply impressed that they make their own way. It made me feel that I would like to know more of their politics and history and would like to tell many people about this.

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7.28 Embassy of Japan

14:00 Ambassador Ms. Mari Miyoshi

【Schedule】

- 1 Greetings from Ambassador
- 2 Self-introduction
- 3 Presentation regarding the 3.11 disaster
 - ①Kana (leader) ②Taku ③Erika ④Genta
- 4 Comment from Ambassador
- 5 The Embassy Tour
- 6 Support from Ireland to Japan by Mr. Sugita, First Secretary
- 7 About Ireland by Mr. Gilis



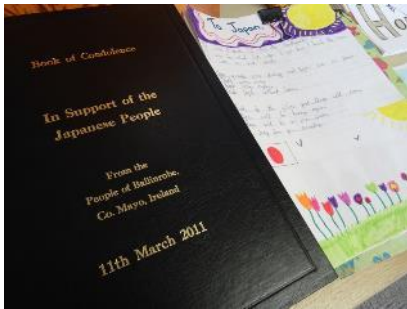
【Ambassador Ms. Miyoshi】

I came to Ireland in December 2015. I studied in Munich for 2 years and worked in Berlin, Geneva, Vienna, also for the UN in the U.S. While I worked as the Director-General of the Immigration Bureau in Sendai for 2 years (since 2012), I visited the affected areas of the disaster in Tohoku. The reconstruction and recovery has been progressing with the effort of Tohoku citizens. There will be a G7 Finance Ministers and the Central Bank Governors' Meeting Sendai this year. I respect you all for visiting abroad like this. You should tell your friends about your experiences when you are back home. There are many monuments of "Never forget the Tohoku Earthquake" but I believe that it is important to hand down your stories to the people around the world. In this respect, I hope you will take this role.

[About Ireland]

Northern Ireland belongs to the U.K. and there is a border between Ireland and Northern Ireland in this small Island. There used to be many conflicts but it gets calmed down these 20 years after the peace negotiations. "Border" (territory) is a huge problem. I used to be in charge of the refugee matters so I know very well the facts like the borders were drawn artificially in Africa, there are lots of conflicts there. Irish people are paying attention to the UK's leaving from EU.

7.28 Embassy of Japan



【Kana, 16】

We saw many messages sent for Japan from people in Ireland in 2011 displayed. It was touching to know that we received support even though many of those were "invisible".

According to Mr. Sugita, Ireland had a difficult time in 2011 but they supported financially. We shouldn't forget to show gratitude towards them. If someone needs help, I would like to move to act even I can't support them directly.

【Tatsuhiro, 14】

It was very touching to hear the story from Ambassador Miyoshi and see the messages from people in Ireland who are trying to support us. I was disappointed myself that I didn't have such important information until recently. I want to know more and keep this feeling of gratitude towards such things.

【Taku, 18】

Ambassador Miyoshi was really warm and kind and she listened to us cordially. She talked about Ireland and we learnt a lot from her. Mr. Sugita is also a gentleman and he replied to all questions from us. It was my first time to see the letters of support from people in Ireland there, it was touching to know they are thinking of Tohoku Japan when they are also having a difficult time.

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7.28 Lord Mayor of Dublin

16:30 Lord Mayor of Dublin Mr. Brendan Carr



The 347th Lord Mayor of Dublin
Mr. Brendan Carr from Labour party councillor

【Schedule】

1. Greetings from the Lord Mayor
2. Photo Sessions
3. Self-introduction
4. Presentation regarding the 3.11 disaster
①Mako ②Taku (leader) ③Tatsuhiko ④Genta
5. Comment from the Lord Mayor



With Lord Mayor of Dublin Mr. Brendan Carr and
Ambassador of Japan Ms. Miyoshi



Lord Mayor asked some questions to each student.



Lord Mayor listened to students' presentation carefully.

【From the Lord Mayor】

Obviously what happened was a disaster. You can repair buildings, you can repair ships, you can repair cars. But it's brave people like you who just go and repair families, and repair the Japanese people. The fact you are here today goes to show how you are brave because you were at the very difficult time. And if there is anything we can do from Dublin, from Ireland, to help you rebuild your communities to be the strongest you were and most of you were strongest. We will do it because someday we may be looking your help and we help each other. And again, thank you very very much for coming to Dublin and thank you for this presentation. It's actually touches when you hear it first hand. A lot of stories we hear through media. When you hear first hand, makes it very real. And it is powerful that your message goes around the world the way you were sent here today. I just want to say hats off. Fabulous people.

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7.28 Lord Mayor of Dublin



The chains which the Lord Mayor is entitled to wear.



SOK T-shirts with messages



Mr. Brendan's son Jason (7yrs)

【Lord Mayor of Dublin】

It's very important that we have overseas visitors, that we try understand their culture, hopefully when you go home and in the future you come back to Ireland and make more friends and more relationships. Because what we are trying to do in Dublin is, make Dublin very multicultural so we look for people all over the world to come and live here and work here. Hopefully have families here. Likewise Irish people and Dublin people to go to Japan and other parts of the world and make the whole world more multicultural.

That is our main objectives.



【Mikihisa, 18】

When we introduced ourselves, the Lord Mayor looked at the map which we were holding and showing where we were from and he gave a comment or question to each of us. When we had a presentation he looked into our eyes and photos we tried to show. He said to us "You are very brave".

We related our experience of the intensity of the disaster, and showed gratitude for their support.

I strongly felt that I will be coming back to Ireland in future and I would like to do something in return, for their support, and for the chance to meet again in the future.

【Genta, 13】

I was very impressed when the Lord Mayor looked at our disaster pictures very seriously. He called us "the brave people" who overcome the disaster and I felt he was deeply concerned about us.

【Taku, 18】

The lord Mayor is a busy person but listened to us seriously and he talked very slowly so that we could understand his words even we thought we had a interpreter. When we introduced ourselves, he ask questions to all of us and he showed his interest in Japan too. His son Jason, who is 7 years old, likes Japanese animations and games. I want him to visit Japan and like Japanese culture more.



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7.29 World Rugby



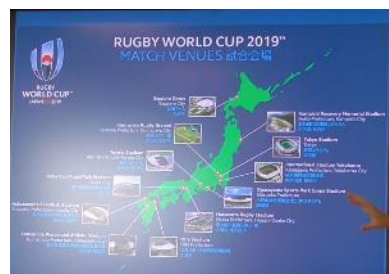
14:00-15:30 at World Rugby House

Mr. Colum Lavery, Member Services Manager

Ms. Simone Papirnik, RWC Rugby Services Manager

【Schedule】

1. Greetings from Mr. Lavery
2. Self-introduction
3. About Rugby World Cup by Ms. Papirnik
4. About Support Our Kids (Movie)
5. About "Dan Carter Charity for All" (Movie)
6. Presentation regarding Kamaishi Memorial Stadium by Ayumi Sasaki
7. Q&A
8. Comment from Mr. Lavery



「RUGBY WORLD CUP」 by Ms. Papirnik

Rugby World Cup is very important to World Rugby. In 2015, this is what we called the biggest and the best world cup ever. This was because it was the most well attended in terms of tickets sales, most watched on TV. It's very important for us to spread venues across the whole country. So no matter where you lived in England you could access the RWC.

RWC 2019 is also very important to World Rugby, the first time in Asia in a non-traditional rugby market. The main objective of RWC 2019 is to grow the game in Japan and Asia in order to leave a rugby legacy in other countries. A very important factor to the success of RWC 2019 is the success of the Japanese team, as we know that they were very successful in 2015. Match venues are similar to what we have done to England, we spread them from the North all the way to the South. By hosting RWC matches, there are a lot of benefits to the cities in terms of exposure as tourist destinations, business and job opportunities, infrastructure investments, stadium improvement... tourists and visitors spend money etc.

For Kamaishi, this is an incredibly important story for RWC 2019. We will be building Kamaishi Recovery Memorial Stadium. This stadium will be available to the community after RWC 2019. The other benefits is of course that you have the world best players coming to Kamaishi. More money to area, improve transport links, more hotels and houses will be build, better rails and airways. So we will be contributing not just in terms of the city, but additionally in wider city operations.

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7.29 World Rugby



Ayumi Sasaki (15) from Iwate's presentation regarding the interview with Ms. Endo who had been involved in the activities to attract RWC to Kamaishi as a hosting town.



Both listened to Ayumi's presentation.

I wanted to report back to you about the content of the interview with the lady in Kamaishi. The person I interviewed was a lady called Ms. Endo. She had been involved in the activities of attracting RWC to Kamaishi. The population of the town of Kamaishi is approximately 40,000 people and about 1,020 people lost their lives in the Great East Japan Earthquake. Now 5 years have passed since then and of the people who suffered in the earthquake, approximately half are still living in the temporary housing. So the people of the committee for attracting RWC to Kamaishi decided to get involved in that campaign in the interest of promoting the town and Iwate prefecture and also in the hope of giving energy and hope after the earthquake. The town of Kamaishi was already a very big centre for playing rugby. After the disaster, a lot of effort went into rebuilding the town through, using rugby to rebuild the town. So if and when the RWC is held in Kamaishi, people from all over the world will visit the town and will be wonderful opportunity for the people of Kamaishi and Iwate prefecture to show the world the level of the recovery that has made since the disaster. There are two major objectives for attracting RWC to Kamaishi. One is economic objectives, and the other is for the hearts to restore the psychological vitality of people.

I asked Ms. Endo what kind of town she would like Kamaishi to be. She talked about, that she was worried about the declining population in the town and in the prefecture in general since the disaster. She said she would like it to be a town where children would like to continue living in and the smiles of children are really essential to have, in the vitality in the town and region.

Ms. Endo said if RWC would be held in Kamaishi that will be the achievement of the adults of the town would be achieved and legacy will be able to leave behind for the children. I felt the adults in Kamaishi and in our region have always put the children first in their activities. After the disaster, the adults also made a big effort to hold a traditional festival.

We are keen to respond to the sentimental and support we have felt in the adults, all the support we got in the past five years we feel would like to return that. It's now our turn to protect our town, our Tohoku region. I believe that for Japan to be a wonderful country, not only the cities but all the small towns and villages and country areas need to be full of happy people. I think that it is really important. We hope to work well with everybody to restore vitality to the region.

Finally I have a message from Ms. Endo for you. "Thank you very much for selecting Kamaishi as a town for hosting RWC 2019. The RWC is our hope for the future and there is more support for us. All the people of Kamaishi will work very hard, to absolutely, to guarantee the success of the world cup."
I also want to do what ever I can do to the success of the RWC.



7.29 World Rugby



[Q&A]

Q. Why is World Rugby here in Ireland?

A. World Rugby moved to Dublin in 1996 after having been originally in Bristol. Economic reason, why came to Ireland. At time Dublin seemed to be the best place for World Rugby to be and it has grown there since. It was IRFB, at the time when it was formed, it was in Dublin originally, London, Bristol, and then back in Dublin. It was originally called IRFB, the International Rugby Football Board.

Q. 2019 – what kind of World Cup would you like to be?

A. Inspiring. We would like to see full stadiums, a lot of attendance at the matches because it creates such a good environment in the stadium. It's great for the teams. To grow the game, not just in Japan but in the whole of Asia. We will launch the "Impact 2019" campaign in this September.

Q. You selected Japan as the country to hold the RWC 2019. What were the criteria for making the selection, what kind of criteria did Japan meet?

A. First of all, we needed to know that Japan could host RWC in terms of the infrastructure. That they have enough stadiums, good enough quality, of right size. It's also about what RWC can do for the country as Colum said "the legacy". What was the vision- Rugby for Japan and Rugby in Asia. World Rugby also has a strategic goals that we aim towards. The host for RWC, that decision comes into those strategic goals and what we are trying to achieve as a governing body globally. So at a time Japan fit that but it's a balance between the infrastructure, financial viability of the tournament and of course the legacy piece. Putting all those pieces as a puzzle together. It's also important to know that at the time of the bid, Japan was competing against South Africa and Italy. Japanese board and the government at that time put together a very competitive and inspiring presentation.

Q. What is the strongest team rugby world wide?

A. Based on who won the world cup - New Zealand. Number one in the ranking. Top 4 -New Zealand, England, South Africa, Australia.

Q. Which is more popular, the Soccer World Cup or Rugby World Cup?

A. Based on numbers, soccer would be bigger. We hope rugby will be a bigger world cup in Japan than soccer world cup.

Q. How many people play rugby world wide?

A. We have nearly 8 million players. That's the player who we know of. There are lots of people who play who wouldn't be in this.

Q. How many years of a lead time before the actual World Cup, do you select host country?

A. For 2019 is a bit different. We chose the host for 2015 and 2019 both back in 2009. Normally, we wouldn't do that. For 2023, we will be announcing the host at the end of next year.

Q. What made Rugby as popular as now?

A. Many factors. Anybody shape, size, speed can play. Also the game is driven by the values. Five values: Discipline, Respect, Integrity, Passion, and Solidarity. For people who play the game, they make friends for life. For people who watch the game, its a very family friendly atmosphere, there is a lot of respect with opposition fans. Unlike soccer you segregate the fans but in Rugby you don't segregate fans. For the likes of Japan, Argentina, Georgia, Canada, they are becoming much more competitive and winning big games. Next week will be Sevens in the Olympics games since 1924.

Q. What kind of activities do you engage in to increase participation, to spread interest around the world?

A. We created the program called "Get into Rugby" which is aimed at countries which normally don't play rugby and introducing and giving a pack which will have some rugby balls, some tops, with tags, play tag rugby. This way we educate them. We educate trainers, trainers going to the countries and countries are introducing to schools. Very much targeted at younger players and develop into their adolescence. We are a non-for profit. The profits of RWC will be invested over the next 4 years. not only getting rugby programs, training and education, cultures, referees, medical people.

Q. Can you conceive of a World Cup for ladies?

A. We already have. Next August it will be held in Ireland. It's the fourth or fifth one, its just not as big, and the finals will be in Belfast.

7.29 World Rugby



【Mr. Lavery】

Thank you very much for the presentation and the videos were very touching. I remember seeing the earthquakes in the news in Ireland at that time. I have a lot of sympathy for most. It's difficult from so far away, trying to help. It's been a tough time for you but it's great to see smiling and happy faces here. It is wonderful to see what you are trying to do the cities getting back to where they were before the earthquake and a lot of credit to yourselves needs to be taken on this.

We call ourselves "the Rugby Family". Hopefully when the Rugby Family comes to Japan for RWC in 2019 can just do a little bit of help, in small ways for your cities, for your people, for recovery, bring some joys to everybody's lives. Hope Japan wins a few games too.

Thank you for taking your time and coming today. Thank you for your good questions, very interesting questions made us think and we'll go and do our studies tonight.

Please enjoy your rest of time in Ireland. It will be sunny between 2pm and 2:15pm tomorrow.



【Ms. Papirnik】

On behalf of the RWC department. Thank you again for coming. We will do what we can do to help. A couple of my colleagues visited Kamaishi, a couple of times now, have spoken to locals hearing stories and its great to see that the area is starting to rebuild and I know it takes time but we hope to do what we can and plays a small part. Thank you for coming.



Each student received a World Rugby RWC2015 mini rugby ball from World Rugby.

Mr. Lavery and Ms. Papirnik was reading messages from students on the T-shirts and the RWC 2019 poster.



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8.4 Irish Kendo Federation



18:00-20:00 at Marion Institute

【Schedule】

1. Greetings from Irish Kendo federation
2. Self-Introduction
3. Presentation regarding the 3.11 disaster
①Mako ②Taku ③Tatsuhiro (leader) ④Genta
4. Game
5. Japanese Green Tea
6. Pizza & chat



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Trinity College Dublin
Coláiste na Tríonóide, Baile Átha Cliath
The University of Dublin

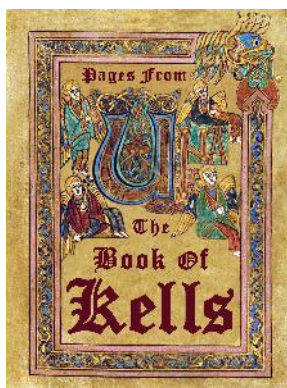
14:00 Trinity College & Book of Kells Exhibition

Established by Queen Elizabeth I in 1592, Trinity is Ireland's oldest and most prestigious university. (Official Name: The College of the Holy and Undivided Trinity of Queen Elizabeth near Dublin)



【Mako Akiba, 16】
Book of Kells left the greatest impression on me. Ancient texts of Ireland was introduced there and I couldn't help looking at its vivid colours.
We also went into the library which contains 5million books and I could smell those old books.

Ms. Masuzumi, student at Trinity, showed us around the college.
Thanks to Mr. Tsuchiya of Ireland Japan chamber of commerce for arranging this.



Book of Kells
Ireland's finest national treasure. Illuminated manuscript Gospel book in Latin, containing the four Gospels of the New Testament together with various prefatory texts and tables.



18:00 Football match / Barcelona vs. Celtic

"Ireland Go" visited AVIVA STADIUM and watched the match with one of the world best football team Barcelona, sporting famous athletes, like Messi and Suarez. They are very excited to see the unique fans of Celtic for the first time.

Unlike typical Irish weather, it was very sunny and it was one of the best days to watch an outdoor game.

Heartfelt thanks to Cria Warren from the Football Association of Ireland for securing tickets for us.



【Erika Sasaki, 15】

I was so excited to watch the match at the stadium for the first time. I enjoyed it so much even though I had no prior interest in football. The atmosphere in the stadium was so intense and I was screaming too when Barcelona won a goal. I was also very happy to see the world most famous football player Messi in action. No matter which team won, fans from both sides were friendly and smiling at each other and good mood was so positive until the end of the match.

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[Weekend 2] 7.31 CROKE PARK Stadium



7.31 CROKE PARK Stadium Museum & Gaelic Football matches

Croke Park is headquarters of the Gaelic Athletic Association (GAA), is the 3rd largest stadium in Europe and home of Ireland's premier concert and Events venue and one of the country's top visitor attractions. Gaelic Football is the national sports of Ireland and everyone plays at school. Students visited the museum and learnt history of Gaelic sports and enjoyed games before watching the matches.



With Mr. Paraic McGrath from Asia GAA who arranged our tickets for two matches.



【Ayumi Sasaki, 15】

I watched Gaelic Football for the first time in my life and enjoyed it very much even though I didn't understand its rules at all.

At first, I thought this is similar to rugby but they dribble and kick a ball so it seems that this is a sport combined with many other sports.

When they were tackling and scrambling a ball, it had a tremendous impact and the audience was charged up when someone won a goal. The stadium was almost full and children were playing on the ground during the half-time. I got to know that this sport is very much loved by the Irish people.



There is one girls GAA team in Japan.



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[Weekend 3] Bank Holiday

8.1 One Day Trip to Northern Ireland



On the Bank Holiday Monday, students travelled to Belfast, the city of Northern Ireland in the U.K. There was no immigration check so anyone can easily enter the U.K. from Ireland and it was not clear where the border was. Students visited the museum of the world famous "Titanic" and learned history, culture and the commerce of Northern Ireland there.



【Erika Sasaki, 15】

I never imagined that Northern Ireland could be warmer than Ireland until actually arriving there. I noticed that they use different car numbers and traffic signals from Ireland. They only accept UK pound as the currency for the payment so that we needed to change our Euro for Pounds.

At the Titanic Museum, I experienced its history and it was very impressive. They show the history of the Titanic and history of Belfast too. Since I like the film "Titanic", I enjoyed the museum so much.

They exhibited the reproduction of passenger cabins and even the ship itself. It brought back memories of the film and I felt like watching the film again. The museum overall was fantastic.



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Emerald Cultural Institute (Language School)

7.26 - 8.5

emerald
cultural institute



Students studied at the language school from 9:00 to 12:30 everyday. The school had a variety of students from the world and it was about 200 people - mostly Italians and there were other students also from Argentine, Ukraine, Russia, Germany, France, Brazil and more. The students seemed so happy to be at school with their new friends.

Their English level was between intermediate and Upper Intermediate for the first week and some of the students went to the next level for the second week.



St. Raphaela's Secondary School

Emerald Cultural Institute utilizes the building during the summer holiday months of this girls' school.

July 26 9:00-11:30 Level check test & Orientation



Writing & Speaking tests were given to assess their English level on the first day. At the orientation, students' cards and local maps were distributed and students learned how to travel from their homes to school and back. They had no problems finding their way back home by themselves. School also provided the LUAS pass valid for one week so that they can go to the city center or shopping centers along the line.

July 26 14:00-16:30 the Tour of the City Dublin



[Mikihisa Sato, 18]

The city Dublin is totally different from any of the cities in Japan and it has historical buildings. It was very enjoyable to walk around. When we walked around the city we had a chat with the Italian students who were in the same tour group. It was a very meaningful day to me.

My host mother said "Dublin looks the most beautiful on a very sunny day".

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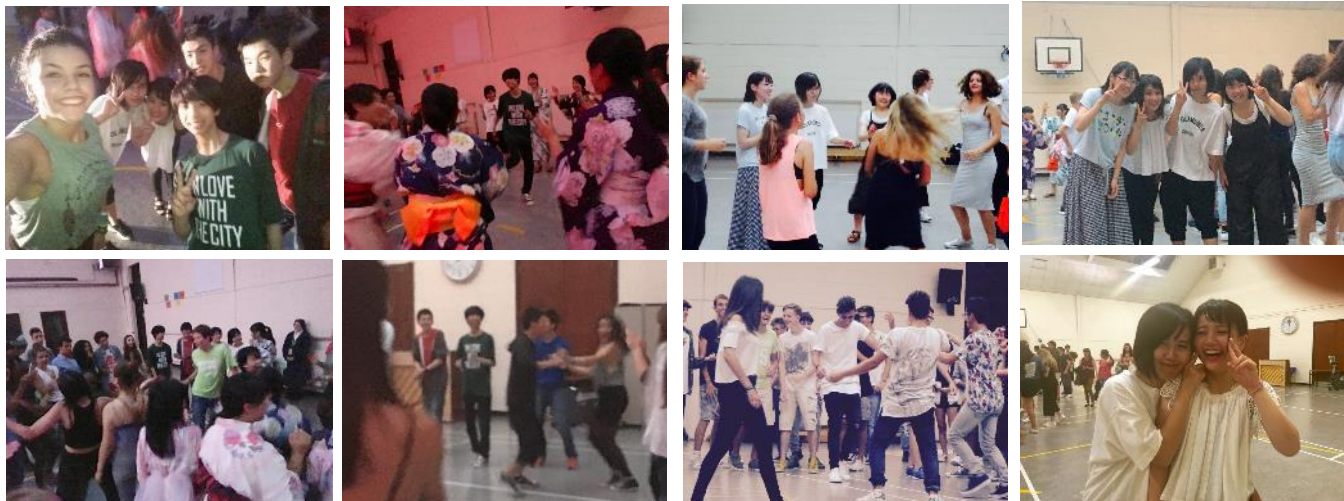
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Emerald Cultural Institute (Language School)

7.26 - 8.5



July 28 20:00-22:00 DISCO at school



August 2 14:00-16:00 St. Patrick's Cathedral



August 2 20:00-22:00 Juggling at Shool



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August 3 14:00-16:00 Sports & Irish Dance at School



August 4 14:00-16:00 Butler's Chocolate Factory



Students went on the tour of the "Butler's Chocolate" factory with some Italian groups. The journey there took about 45 mins by bus. On the way to the factory, the Italians were very impressed when students showed them how to make Origami cranes. Butler's Chocolate is a luxury Chocolatier started in Dublin in 1988. At the factory, the process of making chocolate was open to the public, and students looked from a viewing area above the factory floor. After watching the movie about history of chocolate and Butler's, the students participated in a Question and Answer session and the top three students received prizes.
(※We were not allow to take pictures at the factory.)

【Hazuki, 16】

It was interesting to see the huge amount of chocolates carried on the conveyor belts and their jungle like interior. We were so happy to taste the chocolates and toffees and even a cup of hot chocolate during the tour. After the tour, some members bought lots of chocolates as souvenirs for friends and family. Their chocolates are very tasty and popular.



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Emerald Cultural Institute (Language School)

7.26 - 8.5



August 5 12:30-13:00 Presentation regarding the 3.11 disaster at School

During the lunch break on the last day at school, students made a presentation to the teachers and staff of the school about the Great East Japan Earthquake 2011. There were about 40 people in the audience.

Leader : Mikihisa

①Ayumi ②Hazuki ③Taku ④Genta

[Mikihisa Sato, 18]

As the last presentation, everyone in our team spoke with confidence in the teacher's room.

Teachers looked on steadily and listened to us, then we received much applause after the presentation and we felt that it was a good response. This was the best presentation we had done in Ireland and our presentation came across well. Some teacher said "Thanks for choosing our school" and I believe the presentation was very successful.



[Comments from teachers]

"I'd just like to say how very emotionally I felt, about what you said. I think you are very brave and I appreciate you standing there and telling us this. It might be difficult for you but thank you. I hope you all might come back here again and I am glad that you had a good time here."

"Talking about the hope of the future that you see as such young people who have gone through tragedy but looking at it in a very positive way certainly makes me think about my life and how I should be looking at things more positively and how we can all do things the way you do. You are an inspiration to young people and also to us "old adults". Thank you."

"When you think it's only 5 years ago. These guys were maybe 11yrs old, 10yrs old. They are still trying to reconstruct the lives and the buildings there. Some of the people cannot still return to their own hometown which were destroyed or because of the nuclear problems too, some of them are still living in the prefabricated houses. It will take a while, still, to getting back. But we have a very bright future here."

"Thank you for coming to this school, you enhanced all the classes. The teachers thought you were wonderful, and of course you were. You worked hard, you were very respectful, and thank you very much for coming and for being such pleasure, here in the school."

August 5 14:00-15:30 Final Party



Last day at school. The final party was held at the gym and students received a certificate from the school. The head of the school Mr. Mauro Biondi spoke briefly about Support Our Kids.

"This special group comes from the area affected by the earthquake and tsunami in Japan and share their experiences of earthquake and tsunami with us. We are delighted that they are here because they remind us the solidarity, relationship, cooperation and friendship among the people which we want to develop in our lives. They are here to share with us their experience. We feel close to all the people who are suffering in affected areas, be it in Syria or other countries. They remind us of the need from the world for peace and cooperation. I want you to give them a big applause."

School announced some best students and Mikihisa was awarded as the best dancer and Mako as the most friendly student. At the last of the party, "Ireland Go!!" members gave some gifts to other students, such as sweets, origami etc.

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Emerald Cultural Institute (Language School)

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【About school】

The school hosted students from all over the world. There was a very international atmosphere. We talked about our culture and customs in English in an effort to make new friends. During the class, we were only allowed to speak in English so I improved my speaking within 2 weeks. They provided us with plenty of activities and we had many opportunities to speak with our new friends at each activity. At the Disco party, my friends created such a lively atmosphere and I was awarded the Dance Prize at the final party. I was grateful to those friends. I am so happy that they enjoyed my dance. Dance is a universal language. I wish to go back and study with the same classmates at the same school. (Mikihisa, 18)

I enjoyed communicating with people from different countries at school. I talked to everyone in my class, those from Italy and Germany and the rest as well. I even had a chat with students in other classes during lunch breaks. My host family understood my English, even when it was a wrong pronunciation or intonation, it didn't work like that when I talked to friends at school who were not native English speakers. I felt I need to put in more effort and study English more. In the afternoon, we had a variety of school events such as disco, Irish music etc. I enjoyed that. In the classroom, I couldn't understand what teachers said and I was not able to reply to them at first but gradually I got used to listening and found that I could reply to them in English. I believe my English has improved by studying in English everyday and I appreciate that I experienced things which I wouldn't have had a chance to in Japan. (Ayumi, 15)

At school I proactively spoke to students from all over the world and got to know their culture. When we had difficulty in our conversation because of my lack of English language skills, we somehow understood each other and had a happy times. With my host family, at the beginning, I found it hard because of the differences of our customs, but I learned a lot through our communication. It was emotionally painful when I had to leave Ireland. (Genta, 13)

My best memory is making and being with friends at school. At the beginning, I was very nervous and couldn't talk to any of them. When Italian students came to talk to me I became very happy. From the next day, I started to say hi to them and they responded to me. (Erika, 15)



I focused on making friends as much as possible at school. They were from Italy Argentine, France, Spain, Ukraine etc. They seemed very happy when I gave them origami works and wrote Japanese Kanji. I exchanged addresses and emails with new friends so that we can still contact each other after going back to our own countries. I like all of them and I missed them so much when I returned to Japan. I definitely want to meet them again. I was awarded "the friendliest person" at school. When my name was called lots of people stood up and gave me the biggest applause and that made me incredibly happy. Friends are irreplaceable to me. Global population hits 7 billion and I met those people. I am really happy! (Mako, 16)

I studied in different classes during the first week and the second week and both classes had lots of Japanese students. I tried to speak with students from Japan and Ukraine so I did well. I had about 10 friends and I am very satisfied with it. I didn't exchange numbers or emails but my hearts will always be with them and I feel like they are my best friends. (Taku, 18)

In my class, we had students from Italy, Japan, Germany and I talked to all of them. What I was surprised was the difference in our sense of taste. Italians don't like wasabi taste snacks but they like something we don't like, which tastes like rubber or a tire to me. I was very shocked to see the people who want those snacks. (Kana, 15)

We became good friends with everyone. On the first day, I was very nervous and couldn't talk to anyone at all but my class mates, especially Italians, were very friendly and I felt really relaxed and happy. From the next day, I tried to say "Hi" to everyone and they responded to me. I was very happy with that. (Tatsuhiko, 14)

In the first week, we had Japanese students in 2/3 of the class but during the second week I moved to a different class and I was the only Japanese out of 8 students in my class. I was a bit nervous but I had to use English so I felt my English improved. What I found the most important thing about speaking English was that I should be able to explain the difficult words with very easy words. It was difficult to understand what people from other country were saying because each country has each unique pronunciation and accent. But my friends seemed trying to understand what I was saying and it helped me a lot. When I said "Germany" in Japanese accent, the Germans said "No!" and corrected me - that was impressive. (Hazuki, 16)

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Japanese Green Tea Tasting (Sponsored by Ito-En)



At the orientation students learnt how to Make a nice cup of Green tea and received a set of tea pot and cups from ITO-EN.

Students explained about green tea in English and offered tea at the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Kendo Federation.

They also made a cup of tea for their host family in order to show their gratitude.



[Comments from the people who tried Green Tea]

- It wasn't bitter and it was tasty.
- I had green tea before. I think it tastes nicer after brewing in a pot.
- That's great. Tasty. I like it.
- I would like to drink this every morning.

[Reaction]

- They thought it was Matcha.
- Impressed to see the tea served equally into each tea cup until the final drop was poured.
- Surprised to discover tea could be drunk without sugar or milk.
- Showed interest and started to make tea by himself.

(Report by Genta Shiraishi, 13)

Thanks a million!

Special thanks to

Embassy of Ireland
Emerald Cultural Institute

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Department of Foreign Affairs & Trade
Office of the Lord Mayor of Dublin
Embassy of Japan in Ireland
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Football Association of Ireland
Asian GAA
Kendo na hEireann
Ms. Claire Fitzpatrick (Interpreter)
Ms. Haruka Masumizu (Student at Trinity College)

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