

2017 TIAS Study Tour (Rikuzentakata City, Iwate Prefecture / Iitate Village, Fukushima Prefecture)

1. Itinerary

From 1st November to 3rd November 2017 / 3 days

2. Participant

TIAS professors, researchers, students (21 people)

3. The Objective

Understanding of the Olympic Educational Value Program (OVEP) by the IOC and to raise the interest in Japanese culture within the Tsukuba International Academy for Sport Studies (TIAS) project.

Students enrolled in the Sports / Olympic Studies Degree Program, visited disaster area of the Great East Japan Earthquake that occurred on 11th March 2011, and interacted with people living there. Additionally, TIAS students led the OVEP project to about 80 students of Iwate prefectural Takada High School to actually know the current state of the local community and school education in Japan and further enhance the educational effect on students in TIAS degree program.

4. Activity report

Day 1: 1st November, Wed. Tsukuba → Iwate Prefecture Rikuzentakata City

Weather: sunny

Departed Tsukuba at 6:30 am, arrived at Rikuzentakata city in about 7 hours with lunch break. Mr. Fumiaki Konno (Iwate Hiraizumi interpreting guide's conversation / storyteller) talked in details of the real situation of the Great East Japan Earthquake at the time, how the town was recovered after the disaster and the students showed deep concern. At night, all the participants had a meeting of OVEP scheduled to be carried out the next day in the hotel conference room.

Lecture along with photos 11th March 2011

Evacuated shrine, the tsunami occurred,



Rehearsal of OVEP



Day 2: 2nd November, Thu. Iwate Prefecture Rikuzentakata-City → Prefectural Takada High School → Fukushima
Weather: sunny

We left the hotel at 8 am and arrived at Takada high school at 9 am. OVEP conducted separately in the morning and afternoon. At the beginning TIAS students and high school students were a bit nervous but as time passed they were able to communicate and students spoke to TIAS students using English and enjoyed the activities of OVEP which TIAS students planned.

OVEP in Takada High School





Day 3: 3rd November, Fri. Fukushima Prefecture Iitate Village → Tsukuba
Weather: sunny

Left the hotel at 7:45 am and moved to Iitate Village in Fukushima Prefecture. We visited the afflicted area of the Fukushima nuclear disaster different from the disaster area of the tsunami in Rikuzentakata. After that, we heard the real voices of victims from Ms. Misaki Otari (reporter from the Tohoku General Administration, Sankei Shimbun). Many questions came from the students, about the current situation. Then we took a lunch and observed the blocked (evacuation order still in place; not yet lifted) J Village from the bus window.

Iitate Village



5. Summary

This 3 days Rikuzentakata, litate study tour was very meaningful for the students as well as for the professors and researchers. By adding tour of the litate village in Fukushima prefecture this year, we were able to learn the damage to the Tohoku area caused by the Great East Japan Great Earthquake from various viewpoints, especially radiation damage and the effect on people and communities. Even now, six years have passed since the earthquake, we felt again that the reconstruction activities continued.

For the students who did not know Japan at the time and living in Tsukuba, it was a truly valuable study tour that made them realize different aspects of Japan.

In OVEP activities, not only students of Rikuzentakata High School but also TIAS students have learning opportunities. Through OVEP activities, TIAS students learned to communicate with partners who do not understand words and experienced difficulty of the value of Olympics through activities.

