

Amy in Iwakura • The importance of multicultural experience

Hello everyone! This time I would like to talk about some of the differences in Japan and Mongolia.

Did you know that Mongolia is around -35 degrees when it is the winter season? Mongolia was even once called “the most dangerously cold country in the world”. But I was surprised to see that Japan’s winter does not even go to minus degree and I felt very lucky to be living in Japan during the winter because when my friends were wearing 5 layers of clothes in Mongolia, I was only wearing one sweater and it was enough. But everyone is afraid of Japan’s summer because it feels like I am entering a hot spring or a boiling water during the summer in Japan. However, Mongolia’s summer is not that hot compared to Japan.

When I ask my Japanese students “What is the most famous food in Japan?” in English, they all say “Sushi”. Mongolia has a lot of rivers and lakes but we do not have any ocean or seas. Therefore, Mongolian people do not eat seafood everyday like Japanese people do. Of course, we can get seafood from restaurants and supermarkets but seafood is not Mongolia’s normal home-made dinner. Mongolian people love to eat fresh meat like beef, pork or stakes. Japanese people eat rice for dinner or lunch everyday but Mongolian people like to eat food with flour, noodles and vegetables.

There are many people in Mongolia who still live in a traditional housing called “Ger” in the countryside. Mongolia has the most beautiful and wild nature in the world. Many people who live in the city go to the countryside during the summer. In the countryside of Mongolia, there are no big buildings or fancy restaurants or entertainment centers. But in Japan, even the countryside is like a city with tall buildings and fancy restaurants and entertainment centers. Japan is an extremely developed country with a lot of fun things to do. But today’s globalized world, the only thing that is keeping Mongolia’s culture and history are its countryside nature and environment.

There are so many differences between Mongolia and Japan but there is only one similarity which is the fact that both of these countries are my home. I love living in Mongolia because all my close family and friends and my hometown are there. However, I also like living in Japan because the environment is clean and safe, the people are kind and the food is delicious so it has also become my home. Either way, traveling around the world and learning other cultures and meeting different kinds of people is the most exciting experience that everyone should have. Because you learn a lot about the world but most importantly, you learn a lot about yourself. Thank you so much for reading my journal and please ask me anything about Mongolia if you want to know more. See you all next time!

