

## A valuable experience in Switzerland

Uehara Ayano

The home stay in Montreux, was become one of my best memories.

Switzerland has 4 official languages, people who live in Montreux speak French and people who live in Bern (capital of Switzerland) speak German.

So when we went to the Bern, I felt that we came to the different country. It became a valuable experience that we could never do in Japan.

Besides, I was worried about going with other dispatch students that I don't know very well. However, when I actually went to Switzerland, our power of unity became took shape without my noticing, I could understand the mean of "close the distance between each other "

My host family also made me a valuable experience. My host, Dafnya took me hot spring, pool, Nestle building and old town in free day. Host mother makes traditional dinner for me every day. When I can't convey what I really want to say in English well, my host brother, Dylan always listened actively to my poor English. Samuelian family always kind, and they treated me as one of them family. I'm full of gratitude.

Next year, I hope they will experience the Japanese traditional culture.

Swiss students, Japanese students and my host family, thank you for meeting me!

## My Impression of Switzerland

Yuko Kawahara

Before I left Japan, I was anxious about staying in Switzerland. Because I have never stayed non-English speaking country so long. I did not have confident to understand their English and make myself understood in English. Three days of free activity also made me nervous.

However, just after I met Swiss people, my anxiety was eliminated. They were kind enough to made me happy. My Swiss brother Chris, lent me his own room. His family served me rice and let me use chopsticks. They always cared about me therefore, I have never thought that I missed Japan during the stay. I still clearly remember when I found little blackboard that is written "welcome yuko". I was given surprise present from them on last day. That made me cry. I am sure the present from them is the vest present ever.

If I had known about Swiss people, would have not worried so much. Language was not a problem for us. When we could not understand, we used gestures and paraphrased. They took me wonderful places every free day. Even in the car, we talked a lot and had a good time.

Joined in the parade, met the mayor, visited United Nations, every experiences in Switzerland was precious that I probably cannot experience by trip. I sincerely appreciate all people who engaged in this exchange. Next year, I am going to tell them about Japan and Chiba. I will do my best to welcome our friends.

## My treasure

Natsuki Nose

Before I arrived at Montreux station, I was very excited and a little nervous because this trip was my first time abroad. I worried about my English skills, life with my host family, and so on. However, at the moment when I met my host family, I realized it was unnecessary worries.

My host sister Fjolla and parents and other Swiss students were very kind and friendly, so I was able to communicate them without felt that we are from other country. Also, we played volleyball with African and played badminton with Chinese. We enjoyed it very much and we exchanged not only with Swiss but also many other countries.

I found languages are not important through these experiences.

Everything that I experienced in Switzerland was very interesting for me. There are a lot of nature and beautiful European buildings which I have never seen in Japan. All events are became wonderful memories.

There are many different points between Switzerland and Japan. For example, Switzerland has four languages but Japan has only Japanese. However, people's mind is same, not different. They have good mind. I am very happy to go to Switzerland.

I am grateful to my parents, my host family, friends, teacher, and all people who helped me.

Next year, Swiss students will come to Japan. I can't wait to meet them and I want them to enjoy our country.

These experiences became my treasure. I hope our friendship will continue forever.

## Memory in Switzerland

Kanta Furuya

A stay for 2 weeks in Switzerland seemed to be long time and was short time. First Switzerland, first home-stay and first existence as a host family. All experience was for the first time for me. Substantial every day was so my first time in the former life.

When I set foot on a place in Montreux where I arrived via long flight, the feeling that I'm worried sincerely that it was natural melted away quickly. I circled a beautiful surface of the water, be just circled by vast nature, and be filled with an expectation.

And the host family who was cared for me all the durling a stay. They were existence just like the angel who lives in heaven. It was possible also not to become in bad condition and could spend fun every day, thanks to a host family. Other host family in Montreux always touched friendly, too, and I could communicate aggressively. I was worried whether I could communicate in my English skill, but a word and a gesture were used and there was a posture mutual will tell, so talk of a hobby and love was silly conversation, and the beginning could rise. Strange French and Japanese were also taught each other. It was nice time, and I think maybe time when I was here with everyone was illusion. I'm returning to Japan and long for all time in Switzerland. If it can be returned, I'd like to return time.

In 16 days I spent in this summer, I could feel an food, culture, a life, the environment and a language. Everything was my valuable experience. All knowledge and experience learned at the site would be food in my life. Even if I thank the person who participated in this program, I can't finish doing. I made the best memory in my life. Thank you so very much.

I'm looking forward to being able to increase a memory by everyone next year.

## **Try everything.**

Nanami Yokoi

I was fascinated by Switzerland through this trip. I was a little bit nervous before I left Japan because this was the first time for me to travel in Europe and I was not sure whether I can communicate with my host family and Swiss students. However, this trip was very invaluable than I had thought. Thanks to all people around me, and thanks to all the things they did for me, Switzerland became one of the most memorable places for me.

Try everything. These words are the motto of mine and also of my host brother Cedric's. We like to try new things. When I introduced some Japanese food to my host family, he was eager to try those unfamiliar things. In addition, when I showed a picture of natto, he said that it looks wired but I want to try it next year in Japan. I was glad that he showed much interest in Japanese culture and tried to understand them. His attitude toward new discoveries made me realized that the important thing is to be open to various challenges and I tried everything in Switzerland.

The wonderful 14 days I spent in Switzerland cannot be told enough in this short report. I experienced a lot of things that I had never gone through in Japan. Especially, it was very impressive that Swiss students, my host family and Ms. Susan who guided us to Switzerland for two weeks did their best so that we could enjoy this trip. In addition, thanks to an amazing guide: my host brother Cedric, I could see, taste and feel the appealing Swiss culture.

Now, it's our turn. It's time to think about how to promote Japan and Chiba. With the knowledge that I got in this trip, I want to think about the way of promoting Chiba through multicultural lens. I'm not sure whether I will be able to promote Chiba well and make Swiss students enjoy in Japan but I will do my best.

## What I learnt at Montreux

Nobuko Shinozaki

It was a great experience for me to attend this student exchange program with a sister city, Montreux as a chaperon.

The content of the program was so full that Suzan and some guides took us everywhere in Montreux and other important Swiss cities like Geneva, Berne and so on. The students of Montreux and Chiba cities became friends and soon had a good relationship like members of a big family as sisters and brothers. As for me, I had two main jobs to do. One was checking their speeches for the official ceremony. Because they worked together around nine o'clock at night, they exchanged their speeches when they came home via SNS until midnight. The other work was recording our experiences. As the students were so positive and bright with smiles whenever I took their pictures through the finder, I felt they were so lucky to have such special experiences in their teenage years.

I had led a life thinking about my parents growing old and worrying about senior citizen's lives before I came to Switzerland. However people that I met in Montreux changed my image to elder people. Especially Mrs. Krystin Bise and Mrs. Susan Morris showed me models of working and living happily. What I learned the most is the richness of life in Montreux. They enjoy everyday life and enjoy themselves. Above all, relationships with nature and human enrich their lives. And for the first time I swam in the lake. Without thinking, I appreciated the beauty of the water, the sun and nature. I was moved by the view in the lake too. Lake Geneva, which has beautiful fish was like a heaven. I had walked a lot, eaten a lot, swam a lot and talked a lot for two weeks. I still feel like crying to remember the beautiful time that I had dinner on a balcony with my host family, talking together with delicious wine and cheese, looking at beautiful mountain scenery...

People in Montreux have their own style. They enjoy music, art and nature. Their lives grows rich in such nature, culture and history. And those influence people. And I call it beauty.

Lastly I would like to express my gratitude to my host family, Susan and Philippe, the students, all people in Montreux, people of Chiba City International Association and related people in Chiba city who were involved in the organization of this trip. Thank you. And see you next year!