

# **FARMAN ULLAH, A STUDENT OF YOKOHAMA NATIONAL UNIVERSITY**

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## **JICA SCHOLAR (GRADUATE SCHOOL OF INTERNATIONAL SOCIAL SCIENCES)**

### **REPORT AND MY PERSONAL IMPRESSION ON MITSUI V-NET VOLUNTEER GROUP**



I am pleased to write about my experience regarding the time I had with this organization, particularly with my tutor Ken Sakamoto San. I remember, when I received an email from Yokohama National University to apply for the volunteer. I did not believe it would be so interesting, but I applied to experience something new. We are missing such networks in our country (Pakistan) dedicated by senior members enrich with their experiences. I was interested

in the cultural exposure, travelling to the different places and Japanese language learning. Luckily, I have been assigned the volunteer services of Ken Sakamoto San. Finally, I found it very meaningful and amazing in the following ways.

#### **Japanese Language Learning**

I spent major part of my time with him for Japanese learning. It was my innocent notion that Japanese will be very good at foreign languages speaking especially English. However, I found language environment mono lingual. Only Japanese could facilitate me to mingle with the local people. This is why, I prioritized practicing Japanese. All the way, generous guidance is provided by my tutor. I am impressed by his compassion and kindness. While learning some funny things happened. One day I forgot the meeting time and tried to convey my excuse by phone call in Japanese that I forgot the timing. It was my negligence, however, he did not like the expression “wasure chatta”. In the next meeting, after hello he reacted this is not a good way of replying and avoid such expression next time. The point is, I have learnt the basic Japanese speaking with making mistakes and getting his guidance. He taught me not only the basic Japanese skills like speaking, writing and reading but facilitated me for providing book and papers. Additionally, he served me refreshing stuff all the time. I was also respected sharing some gifts. His support gave a great confidence speaking Japanese. These days I feel like I could speak basic Japanese. This credit goes to my volunteer who enabled me through his hard work.

## **Tour Programs and Others**

Tour programs were also a fruitful experience. Our trips were organized to different industries like Nissan, Kirin and Ajinomoto. I also enjoyed the trip to Jagashima Island which made a good memory. During the visits, my volunteer guided me well with a good translation. I got a good knowledge of Japanese industrial sector and its achievements. This organization is honest in their services. He gave me a good hand at explaining the official documents which is normally in Japanese. Regarding the Corona vaccine appointment, I have successfully got vaccinated through his assistance. Unfortunately, I have missed several trips offered by this organization due to my academic engagements, particularly Kimono Dressing. He always diligently received my calls when I needed his help. He stays with me like a friend, teacher and sometimes a good mentor. He always respected me and was very consistent with his schedule.

## **History and Cultural Learning**

Apart from language learning and tour programs, he taught me a lot about the Japanese culture, religion and history. I received detailed knowledge about the education system of Japan and its different levels how it functions. He gave a comprehensive description about the Buddhism and Confucianism in Japan. He helped me to understand how the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Commerce evolved. I have also learnt how funeral services are carried out. One day, he took me to the funeral center. He also shared experience regarding the wedding culture in Japan and gave me a wedding card for the purpose of learning. In our meeting, we practiced business dialogues. That helps me a lot to improve my fluency.

Finally, I am thankful to **Mitsui V-Net Volunteer Group** for giving me this learning opportunity. I wish that the cited organization should flourish more for the social and academic growth of the country. It is a good forum for bridging the gap between the senior citizens and youth. Youth could avail the knowledge and experiences of the members of the organization. I recommend it to the students who need doorstep guidance and assistance.

I extend my apology if I could not convey my message well.

Best wishes to Ken Sakamoto San and **Mitsui V-Net Volunteer Group**

**Farman Ullah (Pakistan)**