

Magical trip in Bo-So-Peninsula (Get Together in Chiba)

On 28th March 2018, I met 16 participants from USA, Australia, Norway, UK, along with Japanese members and the other three Chiba group hosts at Makuhari International Training Centre in Chiba down town. Next day we started to Yo-Ro-Valley on a local railway. Then we took 1.5 hour excursion around the river. The area is mostly abandoned but protected by the council because of the valuable preservation zone.



One night spent at Minshuku (Japanese inn) was most delightful. We relaxed on Tatami-mat and an oak brown colour hot water Onsen at the mom-and-pop run inn. The dinner was delightful seasonal cuisine. After the pleasant meal, we could talk with the lovely family for a while, a welcome surprise to the travellers.

On 30th, March, we took a unique local train called 'Isumi'. Only one carriage and the body colour is light yellow and part is designed with a Moomin's picture. In fact, we came across many enthusiastic people, standing with their tripods at the roadside to capture a picture; alongside sakura (cherry flower) and canola in full bloom. Alongside the two-tone flower tunnel, the train decelerated on a narrow path. Thank you for this paradise!



At Katsu-ura; port town, we visited a flower garden in season and dropped in to a doll souvenir shop. Everyone enjoyed this and then temple and bowl at a Japanese restaurant. After that we walked to Tomisaki shrine. There are red and blue coloured little fish charms there. The material used is Japanese paper. The red one shows sea bream, the blue one might be tuna. We then strolled the beach side for a while connecting with Pacific Ocean. The landscape at the point is outstanding. On 31st March, all participants gathered at my place to take our finale. Four Chiba group members carried handmade dishes from their homes. Before the lunch break, they guided around the area; the flower museum, Chiba

Bay etc. The weather was perfect, magically. Also we enjoyed a special live music concert at my home, with shakuhachi (Japanese flute) and key board. I love the peaceful and excellent tone. Akemi, who was a day visitor from Tokyo, danced Japanese Mai performance with her kimono costume and I joined with playing the Ocarina.

The four days combination between all of the participants and four hosts in Chiba resulted in happy, smiling faces! Dear everyone, I want to express my thankfulness to all of you. With my gratitude and until I next see you. **Kayoco**