



Taxi driver's recommendation!

To the OKINAWA WORLD

A taxi driver advised me, 'please see the super show of Eisa (Okinawan folk dance that marks the end of the Bon festival) by all means.' So, we visited the OKINAWA WORLD where the show would be held. Since taking photo was prohibited, we have no pictures unfortunately. But the drumming and dance performance of show moved us because of its powerfulness.

The OKINAWA WORLD had 'Gyokusendo Cave', one of the biggest caves in Japan, and operated 'the battle show between the habu (Trimeresurus flavoviridis) and mongoose'.

To 'the Gyokusendo Cave' - one of the largest in the country

The total length of it was about 5km. It has over 1,000,000 stalactites approximately.



おきなわワールド

Extra edition

Daimyo



The summer vacation of Hanamoto Takashi in Okinawa The congratulatory surprise party for the twentieth anniversary of DAIMYO



Hanamoto Takashi, the president of Daimyo, has run the DAIMYO, our firm, for 20 years and supported the staff and their family members like his family. In order to show our gratitude for that, we had a surprise party. All of us wore t-shirts with the print oh 'Takashi', his name, and headed to 'Live House Shimauta' - a restaurant of Okinawa cuisine and live music. (Nēnēs, a music band, plays a live music with their songs in this place.) He saw the scene that we got t-shirts with his name printed, he said with his embarrassed face 'I wish I could get it as well'. He is a big fan of Nēnēs and was dancing Katcharsee, a festive Okinawan folk dance, happily. In the middle of live show, a member of Nēnēs said 'you get a cool T-shirts'. That pleased him. For a time, our first surprise party was successful.



bravo!

Next, we moved a Karaoke bar.



Songs from the three sisters, his nieces.

We presented the Takashi T-shirt and whisky with his name printed on a bottle.



Finally, his wife and Muttu, his son, read the letters of thankfulness. Their letters moved him very much and he as well as all of us wept.



On the way to the accommodation, many passers-by stared us and some of them talk to us:-). The president looked his satisfied face. We had the happiest and best memory.

We had our trip staying in Okinawa for 4 nights and 5 days with learn and play. It was really enjoyable. Our president's generous character did enable us and our family to visit Okinawa. We hope you remain a cool leader and the best Dad in your family from now on. Let's get together about Daimyo and YAMATODAMASHII to the future.

How about this Yamatodamashii? We need your opinions and feedbacks more. We are waiting for them!

Please write as 'Sub: reply to the newsletter' and send it to us



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有限公司

大名

Daimyo Company Co., Ltd.



We deliver

大和魂

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The Philosophy of Daimyou Ltd.

The Philosophy of Daimyo Company Limited.

Under our slogan of 'We deliver the YAMATODAMASHII', the Daimyo Ltd offers information about the Japanese history and antique goods and aims at guiding our customers to the old Japanese world by fulfilling our customers demands to antique gears.



Our company trip in OKINAWA

Hello! This is Hanamoto Takashi.

How is going? I am going to talk about Okinawa where our company had a travel in last July in this article. When I visited Okinawa five years ago, I went to the Okinawa Prefectural Peace Memorial Museum. In that place, I had a chance to read a lot of vivid experience notes about the Battle of Okinawa. In the notes, it was written that not only the solders of Japanese Imperial Army, but also many Japanese civilians had been involved the battle and received heavy damages. The Battle of Okinawa was very huge, which showed the death toll of civilians was bigger than that of solders, As the president of company to tell you Japanese history and make you back in the old time, I thought I needed to study about the Battle of Okinawa with our staff. Finally, I was able to make my dream come true. If I could contribute to create the world peace through this column even a little, I would be very happy.



The history of Okinawa



In 1492, King Shō Hashi united the whole Okinawa and founded the country. Okinawa traded goods and products with China, Japan, Korea and Southeast Asian countries. In 1609-Edo Period, the Satsuma Domain in Japan invaded Okinawa with forces. Even though it was under the control of China officially, Okinawa was a dependent state of Satsuma Domain and Tokugawa Shogunate. In 1879, Okinawa was the country of Ryukyu Kingdom before Ryukyu Domain had been abolished and Okinawa Prefecture was settled.

I find Coconut crabs and fishes which I have never ever seen.



The letters of Ryukyu (琉球) was said that the Chinese letters of 流球 were originally used. 琉球 meant under the control of China. The Chinese Kingdom granted the letter of 'King' (王) and the letters of 流球 was changed to the letters of 琉球. The letters of 琉球 were used politically and officially. But local people used 'O(h)kinawa'. ('Oh' means 'King')



Enjoy walking in the Kokusai Street!

At Kokusai Street

Hello! This is Nakabori Akemi. Are you OK? Now, it is in October. I can feel the approach of autumn. This summer had a violent heat as well. We, the staff of Daimyo and their family members, had a company trip to Okinawa with the 10th anniversary surprise party. The first experience to ride an airplane pleased and excited the staff's children.

The 1st day

At the Churaumi Aquarium

The aquarium had some coral leaves in Okinawa and a lot of fishes with interesting characteristics. I saw a whale shark swimming in the aquarium gracefully. It was very impressive for me. In all creatures shown in the aquarium, the 'spotted garden eels' were the best! Sometimes, they extended, but they shrank at other times. Their moves were so adorable. Even though the time to stay in the aquarium was very short,

I enjoyed this visit so much.



So many fishes!

You might not be eaten by the manta?

The mouth of shark is so huge!

This Japanese sake is so tasty!

The sea grapes are so delicious!

I got an instruction of dancing Kitcheree



All of us have a party tonight!

The itinerary of our company trip

Five days four nights
Visiting the Churaumi Aquarium for a short while
Enjoying the sea in Okinawa
Studying the history of Okinawa (especially the Battle of Okinawa)
Extra event

We had a eat-and-drink party at the Amanogawa(milkyway) restaurant and made a big noise happily. 'Katcharsee' is a festive Okinawan folk dance with moving dancer's hands, according to a quick tempo folksong of Okinawa. It means 'stirring' in a dialect of Okinawa. Dancers wave their hands above their heads from side to side while dancing. It looks like stirring. So, this name is said to be given. In accordance with the songs of singers, we danced Katcharsee. It was the first night of Okinawa with a lot of fun!

The 2nd day

At the sea in Okinawa

When it comes to Okinawa, it is the sea! We enjoyed playing some marine sports, visiting the Blue Cave and feeding fishes. Only in the Blue Cave, the colour of sea was changed and mysterious.



The fishes are so close!



It is so comfortable in the sea!

The water in Blue Cave was so clear!

I swam so much that it made me exhausted on that day. At last, we will have a plan to study the history of Okinawa on the next day. Don't forget to make sunscreen measures. Have a good sleep!

The 3rd day

Studying the history of Okinawa

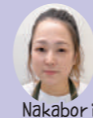
At the Okinawa Prefectural Peace Memorial Museum



US had occupied the Pacific Islands and had a plan to get Okinawa and use it as a base for attacking the Japanese mainland. That was the Battle of Okinawa for US. On the other hand, Japan intended to have 'a long-drawn-out battle' to nail the US Forces in Okinawa and kill time in order to protect Japanese mainland. The first huge damage was the 'Air Raid on October 10th'. The total number of deaths was 688 people including soldiers and civilians. The US task forces repeated their fierce raids in five times. The targets of them came to be private facilities like hospitals as well as military establishments, which meant an indiscriminate bombing. Especially, Naha City had a massive damage and about 90% of the city had been burned down. From the end of March to June in 1945, the hard military conflicts between the Japanese Imperial Army and the US forces were occurred mainly in Okinawa main island. For 'the homeland security', the Japanese military bases and trenches were created in the Okinawa main island and remote islands. A lot of people in Okinawa were forced to work for the war preparation of Japanese Imperial Army. The US forces landed in those places, and they became battle fields. The battle for about three months from this time was called the 'Battle of Okinawa'. The US troops had about 550,000 military personnel with logistic supports. The

Japanese Imperial Army had 100,000 soldiers approximately. The differences of war capability between them including the quantity and quality of weapons were ten times bigger or more. The twenty and some thousands soldiers out of 100,000 of the Japanese Imperial Army soldiers were not regulars. They were called 'the defence team', 'the military volunteers' - consisted of the men over a certain age in Okinawa. They were collected in haste as soldiers. And some young guys of the twenty and some thousand soldiers were called as 'Student Corps' whose members were junior high and high school students in current times. Most of them had been killed in action. The civilians in Okinawa were involved in the battle as well. The number of victims by the battle was much more than the number of dead soldiers. Many younger children had been killed, too. The number of the Japanese dead was 15 times as many as the number of the US dead in Okinawa. The one out of four residents in Okinawa prefecture were said to lose their lives. The place the death toll of civilians was larger than that of soldiers was only Okinawa in Japan during the World War II. It was September 7th that the Japanese Imperial Army being stationed in Ryukyu Island including Okinawa main island had completely surrendered.

The most astonished thing for me was that the Japanese soldiers threatened the many lives of residents in Okinawa, treated them as secret agents and actually killed many of them. In Hiroshima where I am living now, the Atomic Bomb was dropped. I have been told that the war is terrible since my childhood as many lives have been lost in a short while. Even in such a situation, I have never heard that Japanese civilians were killed by the Japanese soldiers. In the Battle of Okinawa, many people escaped in bombproof shelters. But when their babies cried, some people blamed that the cry of babies would make the US soldiers find the existence of residents and had suffocated their babies. This story was written in the museum. I had an unspeakable feeling, and my heart was so painful.



Nakabori Akemi

'The Okinawa main island has still some unexploded bombs and 50 years will be needed to dispose them completely' - that fact surprised me. Some people who experienced the Battle of Okinawa wrote the story. 'Local residents without any weapons did not know how they would be treated by US soldiers if they got found by the soldiers. So, the residents were obliged to kill themselves in a group.' I read this description and was unable to take my eyes off it. I turned over the pages of resources in which the story was written with my daughters. And I had a talk with them, 'we never have to repeat the war.' And I thought we should never forget that and hand that down from generation to generation.



Shimatani

At the Himeyuri Monument



It is a memorial to the 'Himeyuri students' who were sent to the battle fields as nurses and killed. The cave with a big hole in front of the Himeyuri Monument is the site of the shelter where the Third Department of Surgery, Okinawa Army Hospital. In Okinawa, caves and shelters were called 'Gama' in the Okinawan dialect. At that time, there were about 100 people of medical staff, Himeyuri students, residents and so on in the cave where Himeyuri monument is now established nearby. On June 19th after the dissolution order of hospital, the attack with gas by US troops killed over 80 people in the cave.



Gama(the cave, shelter)



The origin of 'Himeyuri' comes from a red star lily(姫百合), the name of school magazine of the Okinawa Daiichi Women's High School and Okinawa Shihan Women's School. 227 people in total-211 students and 16 teachers in this school-finally had lost their lives in the Battle of Okinawa. In the museum, some belonging to the victims of Himeyuri students had used were presented as the living proofs. I strongly felt that they were the requiem for the dead students and teachers and expressed the importance of each life. The female teenagers in this school saw their friends were shot by guns, ran away to the sea and drowned, and committed suicide with hand grenades. I recognized again there were the horrible situations they were unable to escape from the hell. My children in the same age showed their complex expressions in their faces because it was unimaginable for them in such modern times.

When my son was in the fifth grade of elementary school at that time, he went to the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum and studied about the war. He saw many terrible pictures in which a man with heavy burn was taken and looked away from them unconsciously. When he visited Okinawa, he was a junior high school student. He did not run away from the similar pictures in Okinawa Peace Memorial Museum, read 'the requiem' the victimized students had remained and learnt seriously about the Battle of Okinawa. Now, the Japanese schools come to have less time and opportunities about studying the war than before. What we saw in the museum in Okinawa like the photos and witness were close to the truth and very unforgettable to my mind seriously. I do not know about the war. But I thought I should succeed the information and knowledge I received in the museum on my way to the next generation. What I should really hate was the war, not the human being. I reconfirmed the significance of peace again.



The Himeyuri students were gathered in Okinawa Army Hospital and only supported the wounded soldiers without sparing time for sleep. I was so surprised at the fact that they were always within a hair's breadth of death and had to go out from the cave in order to bring their meals at the risk of their lives. Though they got the 'dissolution' order, they felt they might get and harsh treatments with sexual abuse from US soldiers and had no place to go after escaping from the cave. When I only thought about their situations, I had a pain in my chest and was so scary.

