



**DENRYU STUDYTOUR
2023
FINAL REPORT**

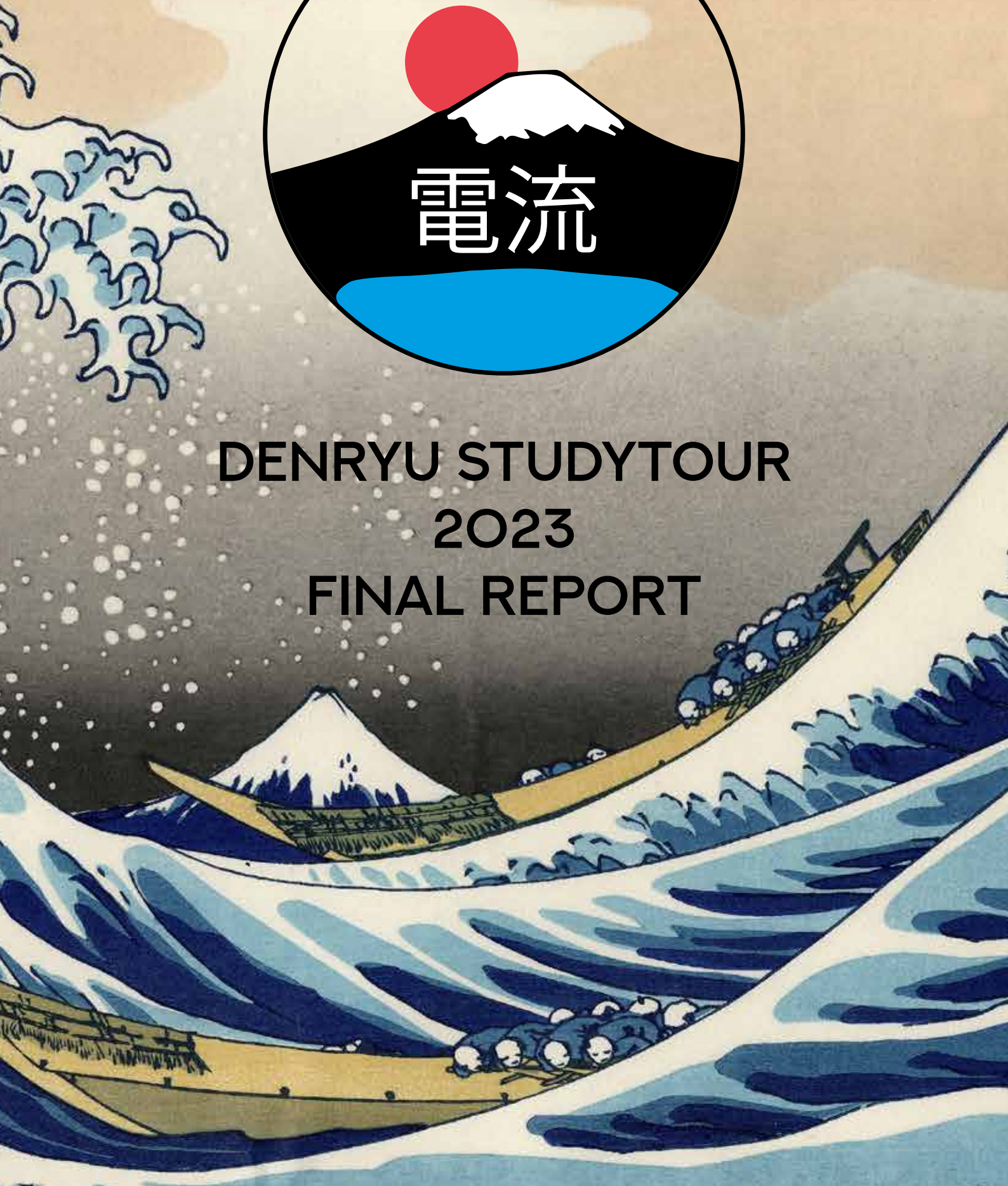




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From the Chairman

It has been 6 years since the last study tour, so we are very proud of the organization that we have done and what we as an organizing committee have set up. And now, we proudly present to you the final report of our study tour! After years of planning, having meetings, and organizing fun excursions, we can say without a doubt that every participant had the best time of their lives in Japan.

But that was not the only purpose of this study tour. Our goal was to show how work ethics and research is done in Japan and broaden the student's perspective on these topics. We did that by visiting multiple companies and universities in Japan, showing what kind of research is done in Japan. That goal has, in my point of view, successfully been reached! Even some of the participants are now arranging internships at some of the companies and universities we visited.

In this booklet, you can read our day-to-day business of what we have done in Japan. In these short stories, the participants themselves give an overview of what they did, together with some beautiful photos (out of a collection of thousands of pictures). The participants also share their experiences in Japan, which contain stories about food, culture, companies, and way of living in Japan.

We want to deeply thank all the parties that were involved in the organization of this trip. Study cases, professors, companies and universities that we visited, participants, and many more, without you this tour would have not been possible! We are very grateful for your help.

For the people who did not join the tour, I hope this booklet will give you an insight into what we have done, and maybe inspire you to visit beautiful Japan. For the participants who did join, We hope this booklet will recall some fond memories. You have been the best participants we as an organization could have wished for, and I cannot wait to meet all of you in the future and share the amazing stories that we have about Japan.

Arigato gozaimasu
Bram Lustenhouwer
Chairman
Denryu study tour committee 2023







Preliminary activities

Our series of preliminary activities had two main goals. First of all, we thought it was important for the participants to get to know each other. Secondly, these participants had to learn some things about Japan in general, as well its customs and traditions. The preliminary activities would gradually move from the first goal to the second.

At the beginning of the first activity, most participants knew a few other participants, by for example having seen them in lectures, or having talked with them in Het Walhalla. However, there was not a single participant yet who knew all others. After all, we were divided over seven generations of students. Therefore, the aim of this activity was just to spend some time together and get to know each other.

Since Electrical Engineering students are usually not the first people to start interacting with people they did not know yet, we set up a few tables in our student bar, Het Walhalla, with some snacks, and a bunch of conversation-starter cards. The topics for these conversation-starters were focused on previous travels that they had participated in, about their study progress and favorite courses, expectations for Japan, and their hobbies and leisure activities. In addition to that, there were a bunch of seemingly totally random questions to get to know some facts about a person that you would not normally ask, but could give away some things about the person. Eventually, everybody started to open up to each other and the conversations started to get going.

Furthermore, we had some Japanese snacks for this activity, such as mochi and samurai cookies. For these snacks, you quickly noticed that there were two main groups: those who just took a snack and ate it without worrying about it, and you had the ones who were very skeptical of the unfamiliar, foreign food. Eating the mochi was the first introduction to the red bean paste that was quite common to Japanese snacks, as we noticed in Japan. Unfortunately, for some, this was also already a conclusion that they were not a fan of red bean paste.



When Het Walhalla closed at 19:00, it was time for us to continue to the next part of that day's program. Nearly everybody joined to go to a sushi and yakitori restaurant together. In the restaurant, we once again decided to mix around so you could talk with some people you had not talked to a lot before. Some people swapped seats later on during the dinner to talk to new folks. During the dinner it also became evident that a few participants still had some practicing to for eating with chopsticks before we would leave. Some others were already significantly more experienced and were looking forward to trying the authentic sushi in Japan.

After a few hours of all-you-can-eat sushi, everybody was full, and we decided to call it a day. Some people decided to still go for a few drinks together, while the rest went home. The day was very gezellig and the participants got to know each other. There was of course still much to learn about each other, but there were still a few months left before we would leave.





Preliminary activities

After the participants had gotten to know each other a bit during the first preliminary activity, it was time to get to know both each other better, as well as get to know Japan a bit. We wanted to do this in a fun, interactive way. Therefore, we decided to organize a pubquiz in Het Walhalla.

The pubquiz was open to all people present in the bar. However, we of course wanted our participants to

get to know each other, which meant that they had to join each other. Therefore, we had divided them in teams of four, in such a way that the teams included students from multiple generations, which often means that they know each other less well. The pubquiz had just a few rounds, with some breaks in between, so that the participants could talk to each other. They would of course talk during the rounds as well, to discuss the questions and their answers, but those conversations were not aimed at getting to know each other better.

The pubquiz was a mix of open and multiple choice questions about various aspects of Japan. From some basic facts, to the translation of some important words. There were also a number of questions about the itinerary to see which participants had prepared themselves the best for the tour. Eventually, one of the participants' groups won the quiz and got a nice prize. They even did better than a group of people who joined the study tour to Japan in 2011.



After the activity, a small group of the participants joined together to have dinner to bond even further. The pubquiz was a big success!



Some nice pictures of all the traveling would be nice





Osaka



DENRYU STUDY TOUR 2023





THREE, TWO, ONE, GO... JAPAN HERE WE GO!

Written by Mihai & Anne

Today it was the first day of the Denryu StudyTrip 2023. After the long hours spent traveling to arrive to Japan, the group experience their first Japanese adventure: a full Japanese breakfast. Delicious! Afterwards, in order to get used to the different time zone, everybody had a free day. Initially the plan was to go to pet capybaras at the Tennoji Zoo but sadly the only day when it was closed was today. Thus, some people went to observe Osaka from one of the highest points: Umeda Sky building; while others decided to go and visit the Minoh falls, while others decided to just relax for the day. As people started to enjoy more and more the time spent here, the group was exposed to their second Japanese adventure: the Japanese heavy rain. After some of them ran for their life and others came all the way to Japan to get some rain, this small impediment did not stop the group from continuing their full experience in the country who gave birth to sushi and drifting. The night ended with a nice Japanese dinner ranging from sushi to some more local hidden gems known only by locals and with a big party celebration for the 26th birthday of our dear Quinten.



電流

OSAKA DAY 2: FROM SEMI-CONDUCTORS TO WHALE SHARKS



Written by Harry & Wouter

2 days after the flight and no jetlag right? Well, after a night of drinks and karaoke, the group had to eat and refresh before 8:25. It was time to take the metro and head for Osaka Metropolitan University. Osaka has an excellent metro system with unique stamps available at every station. You guessed it: we almost lost half the group getting a stamp at a metro station. After a stroll through the burning sun, we were greeted by the people from the departments of Electrical and Electronic Systems Engineering and Physics and Electronics. We attended lectures about edge computing and semi-conductors. The students gave us a tour through the labs where research is conducted on optics and electronics. This is where they spend the most time during their study. After visiting the Osaka university it was time to grab some lunch. We had one hour time to find ourselves some food on the way back to the train station. This is where we learned that it will take considerably more time to get good food from a restaurant. I with a group of fifteen people found a small restaurant with some amazing food. I (Harry) even played some piano for the owner's birthday. Since, most people were going to be late at the train station, it was decided for everyone to travel separately to the aquarium, which would be our next visit. The aquarium was simply amazing, It was gigantic, with all fish imaginable. We saw some seals, dolphins and penguins getting fed. There was also an octopus getting bullied by some fish. And many more fish to talk about, but I believe there are plenty of pictures taken to show all of them. After finishing our visit to the aquarium we had one last item on our program and that was the Ferris wheel next to the aquarium. Everyone was brave enough to take the ride, including the people afraid of height (no names revealed). Next it was time for dinner so everyone split up to hunt for the best foods. Some people strolled around the mall and some people went back to find something near the hostel. This is where we caught back up to reality, so can't tell you about the future, but I am sure some people will go out and find some amazing bars and have some great experiences.



OSAKA DAY 3: STRENGTH AND DEVOTION

Written by Stan

After a great night out in the city, the group luckily got to sleep in a bit today. We left around 10am to our first destination for today: Osaka Castle.

This 8 story museum located in the main building of the old castle showcased a lot of historical artifacts and letters, mostly related to the creator of the castle, his life and his conquest of various other regions and countries.

After spending a couple of hours at the museum, I decided to get a refreshingly cold drink with a small group of people, before grabbing some lunch from a street vendor and walking back to the Metro station, where we took an above ground line to our next destination: Sumiyoshi Taisha Temple

This temple functions as the main shrine for all Sumiyoshi shrines in Japan. Inside, we made an offering at one of the shrines, stroked a lucky rabbit for good health, almost crashed a baby shower due to the language barrier and saw some baby turtles.

After a long day and a lot of walking, I decided to go back to the hostel to relax for a bit, before going to a small ramen place for dinner. We visited Dotonbori to see the running man and browse Don Quijote, a large supermarket which sells everything you can imagine and more.

While walking back to the hostel, we spotted a sign for a 'Milk bar', which intrigued us. While they did not serve milk as we had hoped, it did end up being a great whisky bar frequented mostly by locals. Knowing that we had no plans for tomorrow morning, we decided to round out our day with some drinks.

TOO MANY THINGS TO DO, NOT ENOUGH TIME



Written by Valérie & Pavel

Today was a free day according to our planner. Since some people went out and had a very good time enjoying the nightlife of Osaka yesterday, sleeping in this morning was very common. Some people even skipped breakfast. Personally I (Valérie), wanted to check out one of the many shopping malls around here for the famous Uniqlo store. Afterwards we stumbled upon an 11 floor amusement center with all games you can ever think of. Including three floors with sports like baseball, tennis, archery, darts, and soccer. There was a casino floor, karaoke, multiple floors with bowling, and the rest of the floors had all the arcade games you can think of. The lights and sounds were quite overwhelming. But the Spocha is definitely a fun experience.

Some others went to Kobe where they went to the zoo “Animal Kingdom”. At the zoo they saw animals like the magnificent tiger, pet the unbelievably cute capibaras (which were engaged in some not really cute stuff) and saw Oogway reincarnate. Others in Kobe went shopping and walked around Chinatown. There they had meat buns, sesame balls and dumplings. In the evening a few guys and me (Pável) went to the number one rated Kobe beef restaurant where we had A/5/12 rated Kobe beef. It was mind-blowing. The steak just melted in your mouth and tasted absolutely amazing. It was also pretty expensive, but I will cope by saying it was worth it. Overall it can be said that even though everyone did their own stuff, everyone had fun on our free day.



LIVE FISH AND BURNING LEGS

Written by Gialesi & Renate

Today was our last day in Osaka, and the ReisCo let us all loose in the street markets of the Shinsekai area this morning. Some took the chance to visit the kitchenware stores, while others adventured to a restaurant that served live fish! Well, you had to catch them out of the water basins yourselves, hand them over to the staff, and tell them how you wanted them to be prepared. It was quite the experience to catch a fish with a fishing pole, then try to catch it again with your hands because it escaped and is now flopping around on the floor, and finally see it nicely prepared on your plate a few minutes later.

For the afternoon: exit Osaka, enter Nara, a small village in the area with a Buddhist temple in the hills nearby, where we will stay for the night. During our climb into the hills, we enjoyed a beautiful view of the forest and the temple and surrounding buildings. Sadly, many of us now regret skipping leg day, since our suitcases had to be brought with us on this climb as well. Once settled, we were given very comfy Yukutas (a kind of bathrobe/kimono) to walk around in all evening and enjoy dinner, and got to relax in the large hot baths in the shower areas.

It is a pity the doors to our stay will close at 22:00, since the surrounding area is richly decorated with Torii and shrines along the many paths across the hill, and there is much to see while exploring the area. However, going to bed this early might be for the better, since we have been invited to join two ceremonies tomorrow starting at 5:00 in the morning, only 20 minutes after sunrise.



Written by Thimo & Marco

Alarms started ringing at 4:15 am today as there were a lot of early morning activities.

Last night, people already explored the temple grounds and found a beautiful hike up the mountain to a viewing point that reached sight to multiple city's. Therefore, some of us decided to go up again in the morning to enjoy the views during sunrise.

The sunrise was a quick one though, as sunrise was planned at 04:57 and the fire ceremony started at 05:00. After taking a few pictures we hurried down and reached the location on time, but drowned in sweat.

Even though the heat of the fire did not improve our state, it was still quite the experience as the ceremony was filled with singing, drumming and visuals. After the ceremony was done we were allowed to wave the smoke of the fire towards us, as this would bring luck, and pray to the god in the chamber besides the firepit.

Immediately afterwards, the morning prayer happened in the main temple, but as this cost 5000 yen (~32 euro's) to attend and watching it from the outside was free, we as dutch students of course chose to watch it from the outside.

Later on, after enjoying the breakfast in our Yukata and made a group picture, we left for Nara. While the busses here don't take 32 people at ones, we split the group in two and met again in Nara park.

Nara park is known for its many cultural sites and not to forget, the deer! The many, many deer. The deers were tame, so you could easily pet them. However, once someone got the buyable cookies in their hand, the tame deer became greedy beasts that tried to get their snack, which resulted in one of us getting headbutted in the balls (by accident of course).

After visiting some cultural sites in the park like the massive Buddha in the buddhistic temple and eating some udon noodles, we eventually gathered again to leave for Kyoto.

Drowned in sweat again (yes, this will be a reoccurring thing during the trip) we dragged our suitcases to the new hotel and enjoyed our well deserved showers and got some time to rest, eat and prepare for tomorrow.

New city and many more new adventures to come, so read you tomorrow!



Kyoto



DENRYU STUDY TOUR 2023





KONNICHIWA FROM KYOTO

Written by Zabiollah & Andreas

Our day in Kyoto started with a very rich intercontinental breakfast buffet which was a nice change from the usual rice dish we were having in Osaka. The group then gathered and headed towards the first stop of the day which was Nijo Castle. This castle from 1603 was the residence of the first shogun in the Edo period (1603 - 1868). Here we had a really informative guided tour and saw the meanings of different symbols used in Japanese art that can be found in castles like this. We also learned about the history of the castle and main events that happened throughout the years. Then me (Andreas) and others found a really nice local Japanese cafe where we had some tasty sandwiches and chatted with the owner. After the castle me (Zabi) went with a few others to continue our personal quest to test all spicy fried chicken from the “7/11” “konbini” (Japanese Grocery store). Which we masked by calling it our lunch.

Spoiler Alert: Fried Chicken will be reviewed in the following text, so fellow participants of the trip should abstain from reading until they form their own opinion.

I concluded henceforth that the “7/11” fried chicken is proportionally better than the “Family Mart” (another store), by having simply better quality meat. However the breading and spices, still have some ways to go to even get close to the “Lawson” mart.

After this we went to Kyoto University where first we learned more about how the universities here function. After which we got a tour through the labs by the students, I was able to learn a lot about the ins and outs of everything from “Stoichiometric Analysis hafnium nitride thin layer film” to “Spin Orbit Torque”.

And also a bit about their personal life, what their goals are, their hobbies etc. As an extrovert myself I am really happy to be able to finally converse easily with the people who live here.

Lastly, we ended the tour with a poster session where we could eat and drink together while discussing each other’s findings, a moment for me to learn more about the topics mentioned earlier.

Now that all ended, the students invited us to dinner and a few drinks. And of course who could oblige to that. That is where I will leave it, as I have to experience the rest of the eve.

All in all a great day.



Written by Florian & Mayke

Today we had the honors of visiting the headquarters and factory floor of Omron Corporation in Kyoto. This was the first day that everyone had to “dress to impress” as we were visiting as representatives of the TUE and Thor. After a small commute we arrived at the headquarters with some help from our newly acquired friend/Omron-guide Mickey. We started our tour at the factory museum where we got to know the founder of Omron Kazuma Tateishi and how he tried to achieve his dream of bettering society through technology. We got to see the very first touchless switches, automatic money exchange machines, and public transport ticket machines. The second part included a demo room full of Omron robotics which included a robot that could play ping pong with a human player. What really stood out for me was the work they were doing towards healthcare, especially for the elderly. They developed easy ecg devices that allow accurate measurements to be taken at home without any highly trained professionals present.

After the museum tour, the group split up for two different factory tours. Our group went with Mickey to the Katsuse factory, where we visited a production line hall out of many (industrial) engineering students’ dreams. The automation process got explained to us and we got to meet Ladybird, Firefly, Stag and Beetle, the factory robots that take care of the transportation of products from one line to the other!

In the evening we planned to visit the Nishiki food market, but unfortunately it was closed. This meant that the group split up between many different food places, from ramen to sushi and everything in between. I, Mayke tried the experience of Izakaya for the first time, Japanese bar food in a shared dining kind of setting, while enjoying a drink!



LAST DAY IN KYOTO

Written by Radu and Leonard

Today we had a free day in Kyoto.

It felt nice to have some time off and relax, but of course we didn't just stay in the hotel all day.

Some people went to see the Nanzen-Ji Temple and have a nice walk in the morning, while others (myself, Radu, included) slept in a little more and started their day a bit later. The last few days have been pretty packed and everybody was feeling a bit exhausted from all the walking around.

Later today I went on a little lunch walk and visited the famous old Geisha district that happened to be quite close to our hotel. There I saw some nice narrow and traditional streets where tourists were buying gifts and taking pictures.

In the evening I went to a restaurant with a few friends and we had some authentic sushi (the kind the chef prepares in front of you). Needless to say, it was delicious.

I (Leonard) was part of the group that went to the temples. It was nice to get out of the city and into some greenery. After the long walk in scorching sun I met up with some friends and visited the old town of Kyoto where one can see beautiful small wooden houses with small shops selling various foods and souvenirs. We then went to the top of the old town where the Kiyomizu-dera temple is located. From there a nice view of Kyoto is to be had. After a dinner pitstop, time for drinks! For that the 250 ¥ (equivalent to 1.60€) for any drink bar would do the job.

Tomorrow, time for a new city. Tune in tomorrow to see where we will be next.

ORI ORI ORI, THAT'S A LOT OF TORII!



Written by Bram & Sanne

After a short and rough night by the river of Kyoto, we headed to Fushimi-Inari shrine in the morning for a hike up the mountains.

This particular shrine is known for its many torii (red gates) and beautiful roads.

Even though the temperature and humidity, were very high, the torii and bamboo and trees kept us cool whilst walking up the stairs towards the top of the mountain.

During the track up the mountain there were several small shrines and we got a beautiful view of the city. At the top of the mountain we were rewarded with seeing the shrine and getting an energy boost because of the nice view.

With this renewed energy we were ready for lunch and our next journey of the Shinkansen!

We had lunch at a very small shop which served the best udon noodles we ever had.

Now our trip to Fukuoka commenced with a trip using the Shinkansen and eating a bento box. The bento box is a traditional lunch in Japan, and the Shinkansen is a train which goes 300 km/h with an acceleration of 3 km/s! But, enough with the nerd facts. We had a very nice and tranquil travel towards Fukuoka, at which we arrived around 21:30.

After checking in to the hotel, we explored the neighbourhood a little bit before getting a good rest, ready to discover what the city has to offer properly tomorrow!

じゃあね, Bram and Sanne!

THERE IS A VERRY NICE PICTURE OF THE TORI GATES SO PASTE THAT HERE



Fukuoka



DENRYU STUDY TOUR 2023





FIRST DAY FUKUOKA

Written by Anouk & Joel

Reisco invited us on a gruelling hike to limori mountain today. Which me, Anouk, and my co writer, Joel, politely declined.

When the more diligent part of the group left for limori, me and Anne headed for Across Fukuoka. This building looks from a distance like a hillside forest in the middle of the centre. When walking on the step garden, it feels like that too. The only major difference being the spectacular view of the skyline Fukuoka city on the very top.

After catching a breath we made our way to Ohori Park and met up with Joel. Ohori park once was an inlet of Hakata bay, later made into an outer moat of a castle, and has now become a massive park. It has so much to see and do, I'm sure we could spend days there. For now we had to settle for a quick walk right through it. We saw some lily ponds, castle ruins and gardens on our way to its famous lake.

After some very fluffy pancakes we turned back around again to canal city. A pretty shopping mall with greenery and nice water/light shows. Here we met up again with the limori hikers. Together we explored all of canal city and watched the malls own Disney show.

Later on we had a funny dinner at an Japanese-Italian pasta bar. We ate mentai-ko cream carbonara with oolong tea, while listing to Mariah Carey's "all i want for Christmas is you" playing on the background. After dinner we stranded at a Japanese summer festival. We talked and danced in circles with the locals, from who we learned some dances. We now know to clap when the singer says "hundai" and pretend to wash the windows at "wipa".



Written by Niek & Renate

University & company day! Today we had the privilege to visit the Kyushu University and the Kyulux startup. Now you might think, how is that related to beer? We'll get there!

Because it was quite a long trip, it meant getting up very early to be on time. Unfortunately, it was a very humid day so despite the early morning, we were soaked with sweat when we arrived.

We were welcomed at the ISEE [1] department with a presentation after which we had three tours through labs focusing on research into:

bioelectronics, developing sensors to be used on people's body (e.g. skin) with innovations to avoid misplacements

gas sensors, of which some were printed with an ordinary printer (with special ink)

sensors to measure human senses, such as smelling and tasting.

And the last one is where the beer comes in; the group experimented on many different beers from all over the world to classify them on a scale of bitterness and sourness. Of course, Heineken lacked all taste and was rated low on both scales. Grolsch and Bavaria were also tested and scored significantly better.

We continued at the OPERA [2] lab, where the next generation OLED is researched. Very interesting to see, their technology might be found in many devices in the future! In the lab tour, we saw the process of material synthesis and analysis, and the device manufacturing and analysis. In addition, some examples were shown of technology making use of flexible OLED screens.

After lunch, we continued at the Kyulux company, who will bring the next generation of OLED to the industry. Very nice to see!

When we left, the weather had done a full 180. Again we were soaked, but this time it was rain instead of sweat. Our last destination of the day fortunately allowed us to admire the incoming thunderstorm from a safe and dry place with a very nice view: Fukuoka tower. This is a hollow tall building with the sole purpose of entertaining tourists. It could be considered a bit of a waste of steel and space when it is built like that, but the view was good!

Now it is time to bring theory into practice, so we will taste some beers ourselves □

[1] ISEE: Information Sciences & Electrical Engineering

[2] OPERA:

Center for Organic Photonics and Electronics Research

TLDR; Beer and OLED



BYE BYE FUKUOKA

Written by Gialesi & Radu

Today we had to say goodbye to Fukuoka. In the past few days we have been exploring the city and we have managed to squeeze in some really nice activities, such as visits to the Kyushu university, Kyulux (a company that researches OLED technologies) and some tourist attractions within the city.

We took the Shinkansen to Nagoya, but before that, everyone had some well-deserved free time in the morning. Some people (Radu included) decided to explore the city a bit more, while others left the hotel early and made a quick visit to the city of Hiroshima, which was largely destroyed by an atomic bomb almost 80 years ago. Another group (Gialesi included) went to the peaceful Ohori Park. Here we enjoyed the (relatively) cool temperature in the shadow of the trees and next to the big lake in the middle of the park.

In the Shinkansen we enjoyed the Japanese landscape, which included the urban outskirts of Kyoto, the mountainous villages between Osaka and Nagoya, and last but not least the beautiful Vantelin Dome, baseball stadium home to the Nagoya Chunichi Dragons.

After our 3 hour trip with the shinkansen, we finally arrived at Nagoya and had a few hours to explore the city before going to bed. But before that some of us spent some time at the lovely sauna and warm bath at the hotel. Tomorrow we will be visiting some museums and explore the city even more.

電流

title



text here





Nagoya



DENRYU STUDY TOUR 2023





Written by Florian & Thimo

New day new blog post. Today we got to visit the Tokugawa art museum where a lot of the Tokugawa's family art is being exhibited. The Tokugawa shogunate are considered the military leaders to have finally unified Japan and marked the end of the sengoku jidai (time of warring states). Interestingly enough a lot of the art present was from China as that was considered to be a symbol of wealth to fill all the rooms except for the inside rooms with Chinese reliquaries. These were all from the Yuan-Ming dynasties and all very beautiful. All of the old family blades and armour were present too which was very impressive especially the records kept on them about who inherited what. The most impressive display they had was the tale of Genji an old legend not too dissimilar to the British Canterbury tales in importance. Unfortunately the real legend is too fragile to be displayed but still impressive none the less.

In the afternoon a trip to another museum was planned. This time it was the Toyota museum for industry and technology.

It consisted of two main parts: the first was the history of cotton production, which included actual machinery that operated with the assistance of the staff while they explained the workings during the operation.

The second part was about the automobile industry, which began with a part of history about how cars were built and eventually led to a massive factory with enormous machines that could be operated by the visitor with the press of a button, which was really impressive to see.

Unfortunately, we only had 1,5 hours to walk through the museum before it closed, so we were not able to visit other parts of the museum, like the sort of arcade (sad us).

On the way back, we grabbed some dinner and freshened up at the hotel, because it was time for karaoke! For 2 hours there was a big room filled with the 32 of us, combined with unlimited drinks, which is of course a very dangerous combination.

The poor waitress couldn't keep up with our orders, but luckily that did not influence the mood as we sang "uit volle borst" until we finished the evening with "piano man".

Most of the group went to a bar afterwards and some went back to the hotel to sleep, because tomorrow is a day off, so check in again to read what everyone did!

FREE DAY: EXPLORING NAGOYA AND VISITING DISNEYSEA



Written by Harry & Pavél

After a good night, where everyone was able to show off their vocal skills, during the karaoke. Today it was a free-day, so everyone could make their own plans. Some people arranged a visit to the Nagoya institute of technology, some people went for a baseball match, a group of people went for DisneySea, while there were also some people recovering from the night before. We (Harry and Pavel) went both to DisneySea so we will be talking about our amazing experience. First we took the Shinkansen from Nagoya to Tokyo. Tokyo station was absolutely huge and it took us a while to get to the metro. We arrived with the metro and immediately we saw all the beautiful buildings and structures of Disneyland. We then took the Toy Story themed monorail to DisneySea. DisneySea was made for Japanese people to be able to experience countries from around the world without actually going there. It contained some classic attractions like the tower of terror, but also had a lot of new ones like the Soaring attraction. The first attraction we experienced was the Journey to the Center of the Earth based on the novel by Jules Verne. The attraction was located inside a huge volcano. Even though the waiting time was pretty long (90 minutes), the ride was exhilarating. After a lot of other rides we got to see the end show, which included fountains, lights, music, boats and fireworks. Lastly it was time to take the Shinkansen back to the hostel, with all the experiences fresh in mind.

電流



Waiting for the world to change

By Niek en Marco

Today was travel day! Everyone is preparing for the busy and active schedule in Tokyo, but we first still have an university visit. You might guess it; Nagoya University! But first, let me introduce the theme of the day; waiting!

Being with such a big group takes some patience, somehow people always seem to disappear the moment we have to leave. Some would say there's more waiting time than actually doing stuff :p. This is of course the main reason you had to wait more than a day for this blog to pop up ;)

Anyway, we checked out at the hotel, after which we had to wait for everyone to grab their luggage which was stored at the hotel. Then we traveled to the uni for a very early lunch (11:00). Afterwards there was still half an hour to wait before we gathered to go to the lecture hall where we waited another 45 more minutes. But then our tour started!

We visited three labs (and not all of them were photonics!):

1. Power Electronics: we got three general demonstrations, mostly showing that power electronics is everywhere!
2. Semiconductor fabrication: we were allowed to enter the clean room where we saw the fabrication process of the semiconductor devices the uni fabricates. And as in any clean room we all had to wear lovely coveralls and for the first time we got clothes the were in our size ;)
3. Autonomous driving: mainly based on LIDAR sensors, radar and camera's, some cars (ofc Toyota's) were adapted to drive autonomously. It was nice to see that this wasn't only research but actually testbeds where students could program and learn. They even had an autonomous car entirely done by students. In their WISE program students can apply for a grant and a required to get points for extra curricular activities in all kinds of interesting projects.

Then we went on to hear about and see the university racing team of nagoya, who compete against our own URE. They showed us around their garage and we had atleast 4 people at the same time taking our group picture. So again we could wait standing and smiling until our little photoshoot was finished.

After this cool uni visit, it was time to take our last shinkansen, to To-



kyo! Prepare for trouble, because Tokyo is huge and traffic is very busy.

After quite some waiting, the shinkansen left, which is always a very relaxing experience. After arriving at the hostel, the waiting was finally over, the time of beer was here! Whilst some people went to Shibuya to go out until the first train would ride again, I preferred a bit more than 2 hours of sleep, so I (Niek) made a quick trip to the Senso-Ji temple, awesomely lit at night. After having some beers, our day ended peacefully.





Tokyo



DENRYU STUDY TOUR 2023





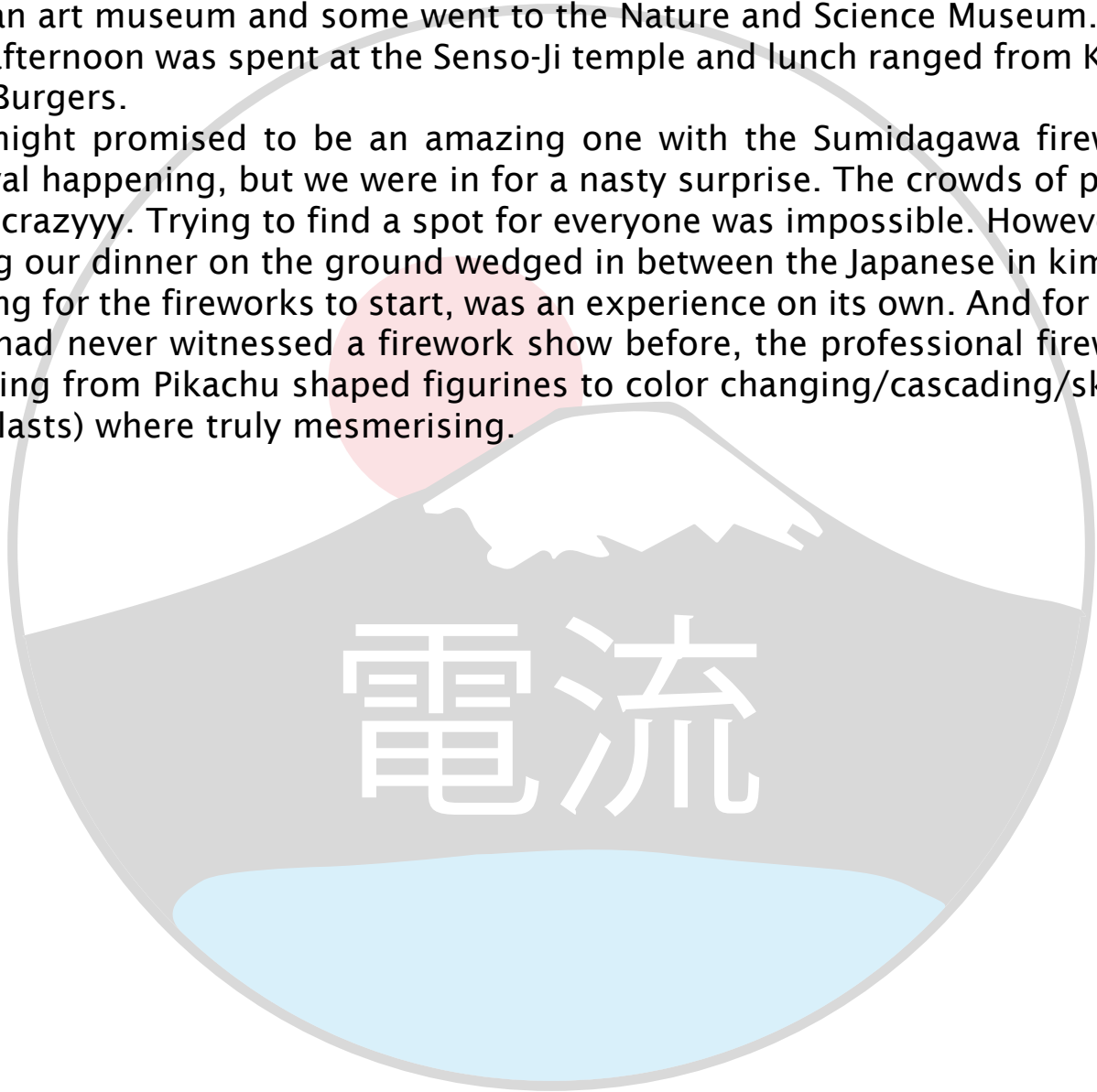
TOKYO OR NEW YORK?

Written by Anouk & Valérie

This is our first full day in Tokyo. The nightco already had a taste of Friday nights in Shibuya, as well as taking the first metro back to the hostel at 5:01. After a light breakfast we traveled towards Ueno park where everyone could chose what to do: walk around the park and lake, visit Tokyo National museum, an art museum and some went to the Nature and Science Museum.

The afternoon was spent at the Senso-Ji temple and lunch ranged from KFC to Mos Burgers.

The night promised to be an amazing one with the Sumidagawa fireworks festival happening, but we were in for a nasty surprise. The crowds of people were crazyyy. Trying to find a spot for everyone was impossible. However enjoying our dinner on the ground wedged in between the Japanese in kimonos waiting for the fireworks to start, was an experience on its own. And for those who had never witnessed a firework show before, the professional fireworks (ranging from Pikachu shaped figurines to color changing/cascading/sky filling blasts) where truly mesmerising.



HITTING BALLS AND DIPPING FEET



Written by Wouter & Leonard

The day started with a visit to Meiji Shrine that was surrounded by a big park. Especially because of the heat stroke alarm (again) the group enjoyed a walk through the shadows of the trees. From this place everyone had the afternoon free to explore Tokyo.

Few days after going to a professional baseball game some of us decided to go to a baseball batting range to try and see if it's really that hard to hit the balls. We tried different speeds for the balls going from 70 to 130 km/h. Professionals throw the balls at speeds higher than 150 km/h. When leaving the batting range we could hear loud cheering next to us so we decided to investigate. It turns out there was a high-school baseball game going on so we joined for free. Surprisingly, thousands of people were watching. It turns out that high-school baseball is a massive thing in Japan.

Then we moved to teamLab Planets for a real immersive experience: walking through artwork. Some even more trippy than others. The rooms with mirrors on the floor, walls and ceiling made it look like you saw yourself in third person when looking up. Additionally, walked through the fish projections in knee-deep water. The day ended with a drink on the embankment with a view of Tokyo skyline by night.

電流



TOKYO TRIPLE A'S: FROM AIST TO AKIHABARA TO ASAKUSA.

Written by Sanne & Mihai

Today we finally learned what ReisCo meant when they said the company visits would include a lot of travel time. Since it would cost us so much time to go to AIST with public transport, we got a direct, private bus and it still took us more than an hour to get there. But all the travel was definitely worth it, as we learned a lot about their research on Photonics.

After some introductory talks about co-packaging and optical networks, we got a tour of their labs. Here we saw some very low latency technology, which makes sure that video calling has less of a delay, and even 3D 4K video went through without noticeable delay.

After a nice lunch, the bus brought us back home, so we could change to something more casual, ready to explore Akihabara.

In Akihabara the group explored the famous buzzing shopping streets, trying to get a grasp of what the capital of Japan has to offer, from electronics to manga, anime, and video games. Some of us finally got our dream anime figurine while others started already searching for souvenirs for the people at home.

After the lousy streets, it was time for dinner where some groups decided to continue eating Japanese while others feeling a bit homesick decided to test the Tokyo dürüm.

Tomorrow the Denryu StudyTrip team will face a new challenge: waking up the earliest on this trip to visit two companies. Stay tuned tomorrow to see how the adventure went.

THE RESEARCH, THE STORM AND THE SARDINES



Written by Joel & Anne

Today we had an early start to go to our first company visit of the day, Sumimoto Electric in Yokohama. We departed at 7 AM and got to witness the very busy metro and had to pack ourselves tighter than sardines in order to fit.

At Sumimoto Electric we were able to see their optical fiber factory and learn how they are made. They also produce other equipment, but these are manufactured at different factories.

After a bento box lunch, we departed to our second company of the day, Furukawa Electric. During our short trip of 5 minutes in the train, a thunderstorm had started and a typhoon warning was issued for the Tokyo area. Lightning flashed and hit buildings as close as 20 meters to us.

This delayed our company visit, but gave us a chance to get rainproof 7-11 drip, such as raincoats and umbrellas. At Furukawa, we got to meet some of their young engineers and the research they were doing. They had research on photonics (again), heat transfer, power cables and material properties, giving everyone on our trip something to discuss no matter their field. This ended our day in Yokohama and the evening was rather quiet as people started resting for the next day.

電流



FINDING RARE DUTCH HILLS IN JAPAN

Written by Andreas & Morgan

This morning we went to the Dutch embassy, which is located on Holland Hills, yes the Netherlands actually has some hills. We had some nice reflections about the differences in cultures we found. We were taught on what the Dutch embassy does in Japan and who to contact if we lost our passport. Which surprisingly was the police since the chances are high it will be found and given back to you. One of the participants even experienced this already. Afterwards we had a quick lunch before visiting Tokyo Institute of Technology. Here we saw some Integrated circuits, electromechanics, OLED, quantum sensors, solar cells and high power DC converters in the Power Electronics lab. As a break we were able to see their newest super computer which is the most energy efficient super computer. It uses 800 kW which is as much as 3000 Dutch households per second. And it uses only 5% of this power in cooling. While their previous models used 30% of the consumed energy. Afterwards we visited the Shibuya district. Here we could have a look at the famous Shibuya crossing from either the actual crossing or from far and above in the many high rise buildings providing cool view points. We ended our night in the Shibuya Sky building where we saw even more spectacular views of the city. With this district having so many small bars, most of us will actually not close off their day until tomorrow morning.

電流



Written by Bram & Mayke

Today is one of the rare days where we could sleep in a little. To celebrate that, we started off with some all you can drink karaoke. Bram accidentally booked a private room at a different karaokebar, but after we promised he would get to sing his own songs he eventually got his money back and came to the correct location. Around 4:00 everyone's singing/drinking desires were settled, high scores were reached and everyone got to the hostel for a beauty sleep.

We traveled to NICT, the institute where our supervisor Simon has spent 6 months during his PhD. We got three tours at NICT, where during one we got to see an atomic clock, which is used for determining JST (Japanese Standard Time) and we learned how and why atomic time and astronomical time have a 37 second difference.

This day also concluded our days in Tokyo and therefore we enjoyed a hotpot dinner with all of us together. Being the only vegetarian, Mayke has experienced some troubles in finding food in Japan the past week, however this evening the tables were slightly turned since it took quite a while for the rest to get food while Mayke was happily chomping away. However luckily the drinks were included and we were entertained by beautiful speeches of whoever dared to stand up.

電流



Written by Stan & Zabiollah

After waking up, packing my bags and checking out from the hostel, it was necessary that the group found a supermarket or convenience store to secure both breakfast and lunch. Breakfast, because the hostel only provided water, bread and a concoction that could only be called soup in the most broad definition of that term, and lunch, because there would not be any time today to get it anywhere else.

The next stop on our trip was the materials science company DOW. To get to their office, we took the Tokyo monorail, which provided us with great views, but was also slightly bumpy. Overall a 8/10 traveling experience.

After a slight struggle with the coffee machines at Dow, it was finally time for us to familiarise ourselves with this company, and what working there entails. In what capacity I can disclose it in this blog is however not clear, so we will skip that for now.

Before this blog continues first a new entry on the Conbini Fried Chicken Tier-list also referred to as the (CFC list).

Coming in at a S-tier, the cream of the crop:

1. Lawson – all chicken great (mostly referring to the spicy chicken/red spice variant)
2. New Family Mart – Habanero Chicken (Chicken is fine, but spice mix alone, straight bussin’).

Then coming in at a fair B-tier, which will get the job done.

1. 7/11 – The standard spicy chicken

Last we got F-tier, for the most atrocious concoctions you could imagine:

1. Family Mart – everything excluding the habanero variant.
2. New Daily Yamazaki – straight up worst chicken.



now we continue onto the blog:

After our immaculate and exhilarating visit at DOW, we went back to our hotel to quickly get our luggage for we are heading to Nikko!

Nikko will be our last stop, and from the pictures it looks great so I could feel the excitement. It would be nice to get to see a rural area after the amount of big cities.

However the trip for me wasn't so smooth mostly because the wheels on my suitcase went from 4 functional wheels all the way down to 1.

Luckily after some ingenious engineering, by putting my suitcase on top of Jos's. I' only had to deadlift my suitcase over crossings and ledges.

After the train trip to Nikko, I treated myself to some fine dining, a microwavable karee rice from the 7/11.

The 8 of us sharing the room decided to watch The Hangover in the living-room of the apartment. After which I called it a night.

電流



Nikko



DENRYU STUDY TOUR 2023





A (NOT SO) TOUGH DAY

Written by Bram & Gialesi

One group went for a hike up a mountain. This was not anything like we had done before. This became clear to us when we had to hand in a paper with the number of people in our group, our start and estimated finish time. Also, the number of Japanese hikers in full gear did not . Even though we weren't all dressed well for the hike, with a lot of drink and eating breaks and struggling, we reached the top of the mountain. On the way, we encountered different kinds of terrain. The start consisted of mostly dirt and tree roots which functioned as stairs. After that, we had a more rocky section. We ended with a nice section of volcanic rock. At the top we had a lovely view of the clouds surrounding the mountain. To make matters worse, it also started raining when we reached the top. So, after a quick photo session, we started the slippery climb down to get from 2486m to 1200m above sea level. In total, we burned more than 4000 kcal that day. This hopefully makes up for all the good food we have eaten in the last weeks. Afterwards, we had a good night's rest and tomorrow we will probably be sore all over.

The other group took the more lazy route! We went to see the beautiful Kegon falls followed by a boat ride on Chuzenji Lake, where we got off at the first stop to walk in the water a bit as it was quite shallow water. Walking around in the water was very calm and nice. After staying in the water for half an hour, we continued the boat trip and became very hungry and thus went for a nice ramen lunch! After that, this group split up where some went to the apartments and some of us went to an onsen to relax some more, which was an interesting experience!



Written by Lars

The day started with going to the Toshogu Shrine. A beautiful shrine dedicated to Tokugawa Ieyasu, the founder of the Tokugawa shogunate. After visiting the whole shrine, we went to the museum near the shrine to learn more about Tokugawa Ieyasu, his life, and why he is such an important person in Japan.

After we walked over the Shinkyo bridge. Which according to legends appeared after a Buddhist monk, prayed to the mountain gods for help with crossing the river.

After a nice lunch, a group decided to go to an onsen. When we were there, it started to rain but sitting in the hot water while the rain was hitting your face was very relaxing. Even though the Japanese thought that we were a bit weird. After a short walk back to the bus (through the rain) we went back to the apartment complex, where the Reisco organization was presented with presents from everybody for organizing the trip (thanks again everybody).



電流



ALL GOOD THINGS COME TO AN END

Written by Thimo & Andreas

Today we departed from our relaxed apartments in Nikko and took the train to return back to the busy city of Tokyo. Here we had free time to roam around for a last time, buy some last minute gifts or make use of an onsen. It was a surreal feeling to realize that this would be our last lunch in Japan after this whole month! Besides this, it is also one of the last moments we as a group will be together. We started off as a big group of different years and levels, but ended as a unity where the whole bunch from youngest to supervisor could go for a drink together.

When time came, we took a private bus to Narita airport. Here, the experiences did not end as 12 of us were on standby for the second flight. Still uncertain about the situation, we waited for a few hours until it was time for our flight at 23:00 local time towards Dubai airport.

Once arrived in Dubai, we eventually got informed that we were all seated and for most of us even with extra leg space near the emergency exit (so probably they wanted to wait for people to spend money on those seats, but that's just a theory).

So luckily, we can end the journey without any troubles. We are planning on fully ending it with a drink in our bar "Het Walhalla", but then our journey and these stories come to an end.

Some of us will meet again in the future, some won't, but we have a shared memory of a beautiful trip that will always keep us connected

電流





Simon Rommel

To Japan and back? Denryu 2023
Japan, the land of the rising sun, of a famously polite and considerate, yet somewhat peculiar society, and the destination of the Denryu 2023 study trip, thirty students from a Dutch university, from TU/e's very own department of EE no less - how could those possibly fit together? Somewhere along those lines were my first thoughts when asked to join as a supervisor for the study trip to Japan organized by THOR in summer 2023. And Japan in July/August, at the height of summer heat, air saturated by humidity and daily



official heatstroke warnings? My experience of living in Japan - the reason I was invited and to join this trip in the first place - told me this trip would not be without its difficulties and no small feat to organize for our Denryu 2023 ReisCo.

The trip itself then proved our ReisCo fully capable and our students to be able to adapt to an unknown environment and equipped with an open mind to enjoy Japanese food and culture and to make the best of visits to companies and universities, learning about local study and work culture and the latest technologies. A trip during which I believe we all got to appreciate what Japan has to offer and to enjoy the local hospitality, where I hope the students learned to appreciate the differences in culture, society and work life - and where my respect for the organizers and participants only grew; well done everyone, it was a pleasure to accompany you to Japan. And while of course no trip of this caliber is free of minor upsets - be they flooding small Japanese buses with a too large group (and luggage!) or the usual dynamics of a group of people not necessarily familiar with each other beforehand - it speaks to the credit of the participants (and the patience of our ReisCo) that the trip will by far predominantly be remembered by the positive experiences, impressions and memories it has created!



Starting in Osaka, known for great (street) food and its lively, open culture, and taking in Nara and Kyoto before heading south to Fukuoka, the first part of the trip provided ample opportunity for learning about early- and mid-Japanese imperial history and admiring its vast multitude of shrines and temples – including staying the night for a temple experience – alongside the first university and company visits – and for those savvy with the rightfully famed Japanese railway system even allowed the chance to visit Himeji castle and/or the memorials in Hiroshima. Fukuoka proved Japanese culture does vary across the country and provided for a short escape from the big cities, before stepping up the pace in Nagoya and especially the sheer endless metropolis that is Tokyo – where a whole week, packed with company visits and research institutes, proved at the same time much too little to do the city justice, but at the same time long enough to bring on a certain level of saturation from seeing the latest developments in electronics and photonics and the hustle of big-city life. A welcome, though bitter-sweet escape then to spend the last weekend of the trip in Nikko, a final dose of hot springs and mountains – including a substantial hike up and down the steep slopes of Mt. Nantai – before commencing the trip to the return to the familiar plains back home.

Having experienced Japan before, living in the somewhat mind-blowing metropolis of Tokyo, and travelling around the country mainly on my own, it was an experience in itself to see everyone reacting to everything any given day in Japan throws at ones senses and to observe the group slowly building an ‘understanding of Japan’, only to have half of it shattered upon the next ‘fast travel’ on the Shinkansen bullet train to the next Japanese metropolis: noticeably still Japanese, but usually markedly different and a new challenge to adjust to. With the culmination thereof in Tokyo: sensory over-





load for anyone who first visits, and yet in a form consistent and familiar to me even six year's after living there – a happy return and a privilege to be able to introduce the group to some more than what initially meets the eye (or is found in any tourist leaflet..). A privilege happily shared with my co-supervisor on this trip, Martijn, who not only filled the gaps six years and a pandemic had left in my local knowledge, but was a pleasure to travel with, keeping an eye on the group from half a step ahead or behind – usually without need or reason to interfere with ReisCo's arrangements and guidance or the self-organization of the group.

Since returning from Japan, I've been asked countless times how I survived such a long trip with a group of students, how we managed to get everyone through the trip safe, sound and happy – the answer always is: because the group was great. And, such is my hope, in addition to the impressions and memories of Japan – and there will be many of different variety, all similarly unforgettable – everyone will have returned with an appreciation for what such a study trip can do: introduce another country and culture in a way no other trip could, while forging a random set of travelers into an actual group. In that sense: ありがとうございます to everyone involved, on the trip or enabling it from home, よくがんばったね to our ReisCo and a resounding じかいまで to everyone in the group – and to Japan itself!

電流

There are some special things, some opportunities, that only present themselves during your time as a student: Study tours are a prime example. Unmistakably different from a normal holiday, the Thor study tours allow students to submerge themselves in another country for a few weeks, exploring the unique technologies, universities, companies, and of course the completely different food and culture. Denryu was all of that, and more.

Organizing a four-week study tour through Japan for 32 people is no small feat, requiring many people to work together. First of all there is the ReisCo, the study tour committee of e.t.s.v. Thor consisting of 7-8 students. Exactly six years ago, during the organization of the 2017 SPARK study tour to Russia and South Korea, I experienced first-hand how much effort goes into this committee and how rewarding this effort is. The study tour would not have been possible without the aid from many people within and outside of the EE department: think of funding, sponsoring, and very importantly the sponsored and supervised 'case studies'. The organization of many technical excursions can be attributed to well-connected professors at TU/e, and of course a travel agency helped pull the most important strings concerning travel and lodging. I was invited to join Denryu as one of the two department supervisors. When I asked my own supervisors if I could accept, the response was 'Well, I would find it odd if you would say no to a trip to Japan' – exactly the answer I was hoping for, of course. As a PhD candidate I'm still relatively close to the participating students in terms of age (According to the travel booklet I turned 27 on the last day of the trip) so I was a little curious of what to expect from my supervisory role. As the organization of the tour was left to the students, I surmised the main task of Simon and I was to 'not make the TU/e look bad'. A group of 30 young EE students used to beer, loudness, directness and het





Brabants kwartiertje, finding themselves in a country with strict and unwritten social norms, sub-minute-level punctuality, quiet trains and tiny restaurants, what could possibly go wrong?

My fears were unfounded: I was surprised by how well the group adapted to Japan, how professionally they behaved during excursions, and how naturally the group could split up and form together again to accommodate the busy rush-hour metros and tiny lunch places. I'm sure the buddy check system helped there, somehow.

I've been lucky enough to have visited Japan already, in the autumn before this trip. Osaka, Nara, Kyoto and Tokyo were places I had been to before, but none of them I would ever describe as 'checked-off', or with 'been there, done that'. These places certainly deserved a second visit, and I wouldn't mind re-visiting the same places later in life: many participants will surely agree. I've blazed through Nagoya once before in a Shinkansen bullet train: blink and you missed it. This trip we could luckily spend some more time there and enjoy a proper Japanese karaoke with the entire group. Fukuoka and Nikko were completely new to me, both were good places for a hike: I'll certainly not forget the steep 1200 meter climb onto a cloudy old volcano and the subsequent rainy descent.

Please don't ask me what my favorite part of the trip was, there is too much to choose from. Ask me to show photographs instead: I had a blast revisiting my 'FotoCo' era and taking my new camera for a spin. Of the 10-20 times I've been asked 'How was Japan', my answer always started with 'hot, and humid' but as you'll probably read in the rest of this book that does not even begin to cover it. If I absolutely must choose one moment, I'll say the last evening in Nikko where we shared gifts and stories with the ReisCo and each other. Through the inside jokes and laughter I saw that our 30 students had indeed become a closer group.

Arigato gozaimasu to the ReisCo, to the participants, and to my fellow supervisor. It's been an unforgettable trip!





Before the tour, people always asked me: 'What are you looking forward to the most?', in which my standard answer was 'The moment we leave'. And I must say, after 5.5(!) years of waiting to go on a study tour, I got teary eyes when I first gazed upon Japan from the plane. We were finally in Japan!

And what a study tour it was. 4 weeks of experiencing the amazingness of Japan, still felt too short to do all the things you wanted to do. From eating the most delicious food, enjoying the wonderful culture, and meeting some amazing people, Japan had it all. From the beautiful shrines, temples, and bowing deer, to horrific events in Hiroshima and the anime culture (and shops).

But it was not all culture and food, because we also had to visit some universities and companies. Although it contained a lot of photonics, it gave an insight into Japanese research and work ethics. I learned a lot by talking to those researchers and students (in which some students showed us the most sketchy bar ever). Now I get the question: 'What did you like the most?'. Honestly, I have a hard time answering that, as we have done a lot of very cool stuff! I cannot wait to go back to Japan and explore more of the country myself. I had a wonderful time with everyone, and I hope to see some of the participants in the future!





On the 11th of July 2023, it finally happened, we were going to leave for Japan for four weeks after three long years of organizing this study tour. Planning this trip while considering all the regulations regarding traveling due to COVID-19 was a lot of work, but so worth it! Till this trip, I was used to going on vacations inside Europe by car or train mostly, either alone or with a small group. Organizing such a trip for 30 people and also quite a bit farther than what I was used to was an awesome experience, as well as being there with such a big group. As Japan offered a lot to do in our free time you could often find other people who were willing to go and do the weird thing you wanted to give a try. Of all the things I have experienced, three things especially stand out to me. Firstly, the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum, with a small group we went and visited this museum, and it gave an impactful experience, which I am glad to have experienced. Secondly, the enormous size of the cities and Tokyo especially amazed me, one night we stood on the roof of a skyscraper, and it felt like the lights of Tokyo continued to the horizon in every direction. This size also became apparent by walking around in the city and always having some new part to explore. Lastly, I really enjoyed looking for the smallest restaurants to have dinner which were not as much oriented towards the tourists. Some of these restaurants only had space for four persons to have a meal and still felt cramped. These restaurants also tended to only have the option for a maximum of three different meals, but overall, the food was really good here and tended to be some of the best food I had on the trip.

With this trip my ultimate dream came true of taking the Shinkansen! The fact that I adore trains was already widely known before we even left or before I even joined the reisco but it was not far from the truth. I could enjoy myself to the fullest by taking pictures of all the beautiful trains and reading up on the train history by visiting the Railway Museum in Kyoto or annoying people with random railway facts. Next to the beautiful dragons of steal on tracks Japan left me with a profound sense of curiosity on how society can also be. From creativity in everyday life like gathering train station stamps (Sorry dagco for introducing people to this fact and slowing us as group so much at each metro exit), atm's playing anime them music on withdrawal, the fact that you could by steam locomotive formed lunch boxes with rice forming a steam cloud, or in the evening that you could find many people singing karaoke alone in a room to relax. Sadly, also the opposite view held true with seeing all students working 8 to 21 where each lab contained a couch with sleeping bag to get up on some sleep on long workdays. As treasurer I would often go to a 7/11 at 1 am after having a drink with other participants and withdrawing cash to distribute the next morning in such a large sum that I had to withdraw multiple times and the cashier not daring to look at me after noticing my multiple withdrawal. The thing that I am not going to forget is going on my own to the mountains north of Nagoya to hike and onsen taking a 1.5-hour high-speed train to get there. I was the only western person there, no one spoke any form of English. After some hiking and chilling in an onsen I tried to get back, but a huge storm hit Nagoya and all rail transport was stopped. After being friendly guided by employees using hand gestures, I had a 4 hour stop-train ride to get back through I storm that I would say far exceeds any I ever experienced in the Netherlands. Sadly, tired on the final metro back I lost my beautiful banana hat as seen in the photo (R.I.P my favorite hat). My experience as treasurer had some difficult moments with getting enough funding and managing all the finances on the trip but I would say it was worth it when I would hand the funds to each participants every so many days and seeing them light up on receiving their dinner money.





Quinten Aalders

The Denryu study trip was an amazing experience, and I am glad I was able to organize it with my fellow committee members. After being in the ReisCo for five years, having our Shenlong study trip to China canceled due to COVID, and having to delay Denryu for a year also because of COVID, it was a massive relief to finally go on this incredible journey.

Before ever going to Japan, I was already completely absorbed by the country's culture. I watched Japanese anime, read about Japanese history, and dabbled in learning Japanese. Because of this, I suggested the country when we were searching for our new destination and was delighted when we voted to go there.



Going into the trip, I was scared of being disappointed because of my high expectations. However, nothing could have been further from the truth. I absolutely loved the trip from the first to the last second. The food in Japan was better than I ever imagined, the people were incredibly nice, and the public transportation was well managed. Initially, I wasn't too excited about the prospect of visiting various universities and companies, but these were also very interesting experiences.

Finally, I would like to thank the rest of the committee for organizing this trip together and the participants for not being too annoying (most of the time). Of course, I would also like to thank Simon and Martijn for joining us on the trip.



Our 2023 Japan study trip was an interesting experience with regards to navigating Japanese corporate culture. As the one responsible for arranging company visits, I encountered a fascinating mix of customs and challenges. One surprise was the initial difference in hierarchy when you yourself are merely a visitor. Without having any official authority, I often found myself addressed as “Sensei” (teacher), I think this was partly because we, in their eyes, chose to spend our precious time in Japan by visiting their companies, this instilled a culture of respect. However, the hierarchical structure presented a hurdle. Decisions required approval from the top, creating frustrating delays. Fortunately, a key contact emerged as our secret weapon: Prof. Chigo Okonkwo. His connections granted us premium VIP treatment at certain companies, This took many forms, from complimentary meals to transportation suddenly being paid for when they found out we received their contacts through Chigo. Company size also surprised us. Giants like Sumitomo boasted extravagant headquarters, while smaller companies had limited space. Yet, one thing remained constant: the core engineering areas seemed roughly the same size regardless of the company’s facade. We returned with a deeper appreciation for the nuances of Japanese business practices. It was a valuable lesson in how respect and efficiency can coexist. Ultimately, the trip provided a glimpse into a fascinating Japanese corporate culture.

電流



Jos Willems

I really hope that I won't become one of those people who is constantly like "when I was in Japan...", but I know that is a hopeless case already. This trip has been without a doubt been the most impactful trip I have ever been on and I think it will be hard to beat that.

Of course I made a lot of big, memorable memories, but I think that a lot of the smaller memories were great as well. For example some visits to certain restaurants, some rides in public transport, or the panic on the faces of Florian and Quinten when Morgan and I decided to get off the metro one stop early.



One thing that I really looked forward to was actually meeting all the people I had been in touch with for a few months while organizing the visits to the universities and Kyulux. I really enjoyed those visits and I hope others enjoyed them a lot as well! I also thought doing the presentation at Kyoto University was fun for a change (and of course enjoying the brief moment where all the Japanese people thought I was a professor).

I certainly want to return to Japan at least once, but I think I will choose another season to visit then, because these summer temperatures were a bit cold obviously.



Japan was an amazing country to experience. I have always been interested in Japan even before joining the reisco, as I have watched a lot of anime (although I now mainly read manga). But to be there and recognize a street from an anime I watched or a castle from manga was not something I ever expected. ofcourse going to one of the fireworks festival were the main character of every romantic anime/manga needs to have there first kiss, was a big highlite.

But ofcourse Japan had way more to offer than only anime and manga, from the amazing food in the restaurants to the beautiful nature and shrines everywhere.

It was sometimes difficult to explain what you needed in Japan because there were not a lot of people who could speak English fluently, but that didn't stop the Japanese from trying to help and with Google Translate as my friend I have never felt that I was unwelcome somewhere.

From the little mountain village, we went through to hike to the companies and universities we visited everybody in Japan was very nice to us.

Ever since we came back, I have wanted to return to Japan, and I'm trying to get my parents and sister to join me on the trip!

電流



Andreas Papevripidis

Travelling to Japan for a whole month was an eye opening experience for me. Given the circumstances and the great organization from the ReisCo I honestly believe I would never have the chance to experience so much on my own. The food, the culture and the sheer size of everything was truly remarkable. I loved all of the cultural activities we had and I was amazed by the beauty of temples, castles and shrines. I also had a great time exploring all kinds of shops and I am glad I could try so much different food; from sea urchins to wagyu beef and all kinds of weird matcha desserts. I would also never imagine how much sensory overload was possible before walking into a pachinko store or watching Japanese people go crazy in dance revolution games in the arcades. Weirdly enough, all kinds of stereotypes I had for Japan in general were validated. All in all, the whole trip went amazing and I am so glad that I could share so many memories to my friends and family. I would definitely visit Japan again in the future and relive all the exciting moments.



電流



When I first heard there was a study trip to be organized to Japan I was immediately enthusiastic. I was already quite interested in Japanese culture and combining that with some nice electrical topics now and then made some bonus points. The 4 weeks we spent there also turned out lovely just like expected, though for me the weather could've been a little bit less hot from time to time. There were a lot of companies and universities we visited and even though some of them weren't exactly my area (cough cough photonics), these visits were overall quite interesting. Though some might find all the sensory overload there is on the streets and practically everywhere in Japan a bit tiring from time to time, it made me super hyper, which I see as a very positive thing. Especially when the sensory overloads were in the form of very cute desserts, which I might have eaten way too much of during this trip. And still, I magically managed to lose weight during this trip. So that just proves dessert is good for you, don't be fooled. And most of all, the people we went with made this trip very enjoyable and I am very thankful for the Reisco for making this wonderful experience possible.





Anouk Westhoff

Our trip consisted of busy days planned with great effort. However our poor DayCo was often sabotaged by an unrelenting sun, dangerous storms, suitcases without wheels, new business shoes with slippery soles, fast paced public transport, hills and mental breakdowns.

When the summer heat waned in the evenings, and the day's planning came to its end, we were able to enjoy Japan at a slower pace. I spent entire evenings at food markets, niche shops, summer festivals with traditional song and dance, karaoke bars, temples and parks. But out of all of that my favorite evening activity was sitting in a tiny restaurant with a few friends. Often run by only one person, the owner goes above and beyond for you with great food, good advice and if their English allows it, stories too.

When I'm in Japan again my planning will consist of a list of tiny restaurants, nothing more.



電流



Visiting Japan has been the number one thing on my bucket list for a few years. When I heard that Thor organized the Denryu study trip to Japan I immediately subscribed to the raffle and was very lucky to be chosen to join the trip.

It was an amazing experience with 31 other beautiful people. From eating authentic Japanese food in a small place that looks like a grandmother's attic, to visiting museums where we learned about the legacy of the Tokugawa family, everything was an amazing experience. I cannot name one thing that stood out the most, there was so much to see in these 4 weeks. That is why I will highlight two of these moments!

We visited the Kyoto University where they luckily had air conditioning as it was hot and humid outside. Here, we had a tour and afterwards a banquet and a poster session from students of both our university as well as theirs. The evening did not end however, as we invited the Japanese students to join us for a drink in Kyoto. On recommendation from one of the students, we visited a (not so clean) bar and had a few drinks with them, and ended the night by paying for their drinks, which they only accepted after insisting for a few minutes.

We also got to see the Sumida River Fireworks Festival in Tokyo, which was a breathtaking experience especially in our beautiful yukata's.

I have not yet seen nearly enough of this beautiful country. I will definitely return!

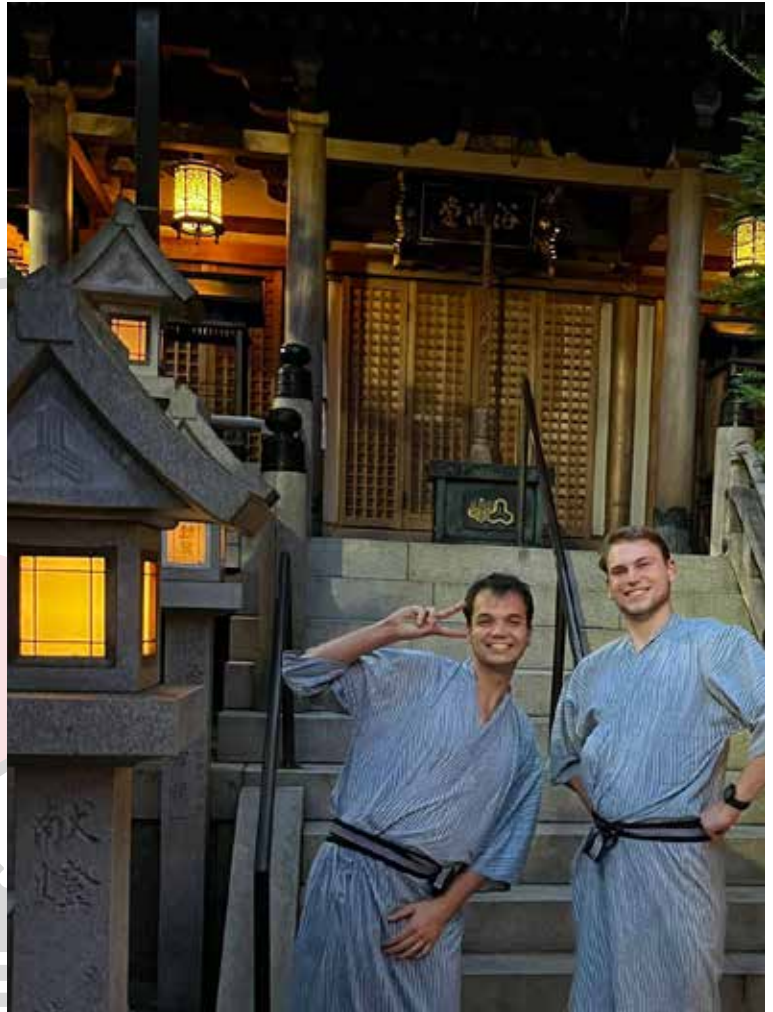




Florian Bingel

“Denryu” is Japanese for electric current and just like its namesake this trip is most aptly described by all the jolting experiences we experienced together. Starting in Osaka we first found ourselves in a foreign country halfway across the world where the food is not only delicious but also affordable and seeing architecture unfathomable to our Western mindsets. The first few things I learned in Japan are that the toilets were made for people with sensitive bottoms, which I greatly appreciated, and how to say thank you (arigato gozaimasu if you were wondering). Those first two lessons came in handy when I learned that their supermarkets and most bars are open all night, so being able to say thank you after buying some drinks and not being scared of the repercussions the next morning was excellent.

With all the informal experiences mentioned, I almost forgot about the formal ones like visiting universities, companies, and cultural heritage sites. Learning about the cultural differences within these things was extremely interesting like how at universities master students are already doing full-time research, that at companies free time is sparse, and how many of the old buildings in Japan have been burned down and rebuilt (It took a while to realize that putting metal on top of the tall wooden structure is not a very good combination). After visiting the second city I realized I had to come back because every minute of every day felt like I was discovering something new, akin to being a young child exploring the world for the first time. The last thing I want to say is that I greatly appreciate the organization that went into this fantastic trip and I am grateful for the new friends I made along the way!



Honestly, I did not know much about Japanese culture before going on the trip. This meant I had much to learn and this I did. Seeing 4-story Manga stores, eating a lot of fish (special shoutout to okonomiyaki, also known as the Japanese pancake/kapsalon), and singing a lot of karaoke. On the other hand getting a peak in Japanese work life while visiting all the companies and universities there. Besides this, we also saw a lot of shrines and temples, mostly accompanied by beautiful nature. The mountains there are something completely different from the hills we have in the Netherlands. But, next to a lot of differences, there were also a lot of similarities between Japan and the Netherlands. The trains and public transport were punctual (even more than in the Netherlands), the atmosphere in sports stadiums was awesome, and the beers always tasted like more. All in all, it was a great experience in which I learned a lot about Japan. Last but not least I want to thank everyone in the group for making this trip unforgettable: Oregano Mayonnaise!





Harry verspagen

Japan is a fantastic country. Going into this trip I had quite some expectations, but none would be able to encompass the actual trip. It is like you are going into the future and the past at the same time while being subjected to the different culture and amazing food. Still, nothing could have made this trip as unforgettable as the people. Both the people joining me on this trip as well as all the interesting Japanese people we met along the way. The students who were willing to join us for a drink, the friendly train staff that helped us every time we made a mistake with our Icosa passes and of course all the other people. Not to forget this was a study trip, so we got to visit a lot of companies and see the Japanese work culture for ourselves. Their productivity is mostly based on making hours instead of actually being efficient. Also, they find us generally too direct. Still, it was very interesting to see how they can accomplish seemingly impossible things, with their discipline and dedication. All in all, I can conclude that I love the country and will definitely go back at every chance I get.





In my eyes, Japan was a case study of a country which is so conservative yet incorporates so much technology for its daily life. Walking through the busy streets, whether at day or night, I would often run into temple grounds hidden between 10 story buildings, where the locals would gather and pray. Yet the temples had vending machines on the side of their entrances. This would also happen with certain neighborhoods keeping their Edo period layouts. The whole thing felt as if I was jumping through time every day.

But perhaps my favorite eye-opening single event on the trip was the Yurikamo transit line. This line takes you on a sightseeing tour around the Tokyo Bay area. And it's only here where I fully understood the scale of the city, as hundreds of high-rise buildings and dozens of skyscrapers could be seen. The city poured into every direction it could, all while preserving its time jumping identity.

While visiting universities, Japanese students also surprised me. When considering their future in either a company or in academics, they would always put great emphasis on specific companies or professors. The university they were picking did not have as high of an importance as the man or woman who would be supervising them. This loyalty was prevalent in many universities, and they claim it persists in companies as well.

All in all, even though I spent a month in Japan, I feel like I barely scratched the surface and will visit again to learn more about it. However, I should practice my Japanese a bit more.

電流



Do you know what the favourite sport of Japanese people is? Sumo wrestling or football? For me it was a surprise to learn it was baseball and it was fun experiencing it. I went to a professional and also a high school students game and to be honest the latter had the best fans. Thousands of people were assembled to watch teenagers play, I have never seen that in Europe. And besides also visiting hidden bars, learning about the legendary Shogun Tokugawa Ieyasu, tasting dubious (but tasty) foods and climbing the sacred Mount Nantai it was really interesting to learn about Japanese universities (expect maybe the photonics parts...). As a recent Bachelor graduate I did not have much experience with labs so I saw a lot of massive and expensive setups for various areas of EE. Mostly photonics :(and semiconductor research. I also visited a clean room for the first time and yes I did feel fancy in my overall. Having students explain their own research and being able to discuss it with them helped me understand better how things were done differently between TUE and Unis in Japan. And to conclude I would like to give final thanks from my part to all the ReisCo members for having organised this crazy trip.





My experience in Japan was one of contrast. A contrast like one I never have experienced before. Walking through the neon-lit streets of the Dotonbori district in Osaka you are lured in by gigantic animated seafood and loud sounds luring you in to try the delicious local food. Taking a single turn down a dark alley I found myself in a peaceful Jazz/Whiskey bar listening to vinyl. Japan is a country where the old and the new meet, where any turn can reward you with anything ranging from an anime store, 10 story mall or a peaceful shrine. Whether walking in the middle of the night through a temple to hiking up a misty mountain the memories are too many to count and too contrasting to group. I can only finish this by thanking ReisCo for their hard work and the warm-hearted people of Japan for their hospitality.





'It feels like we went 30 years into the future and 30 into the past at the same time', is the quote from one of the other participants that for me encapsulates our experience in Japan.

The contrast of this quote was Swen everywhere, like the luxury of food, vending machines, toilets and public transport available at every moment yet trashcans are nowhere to be found and cash rules the Japanese world.

The students, studying the same fields as us but their understanding of English is limited, since everything is in Japanese. It made me think about how I giggle if someone talks about 'regeltechniek', 'halfgeleiders' or 'doorslagspanning', because for me Electrical Engineering and English are inextricably intertwined.

Somewhat in parallel to this was how proud the Japanese can be. When we went to museums from Omron and Toyota, there were significant parts dedicated to the founders and how the world has changed for the better because of these founders alone. Where in the Netherlands we would give credit to everyone and their mother.

Japan has raised my interest like no country ever has and I am curious to see what the future holds. Who knows, it might even come to me embracing the Dutch language in my research field and Japan placing some trashcans. I am definitely coming back!

電流



The first time I heard of Japan was when I was 8 years old, and a new student joined our primary school in Romania. She was half Japanese, half Romanian. Every summer she used to go there and bring back plenty of things we never saw at that time in Europe. Who would have thought that in 15 years, I would have the opportunity to visit together with the university the country I heard so many stories about, Japan, the land of the rising sun?

Japan for me was an interesting experience and a country I will visit again sometime in the future. The first thing that shocked me in the Nippon culture was the perfect integration between the old and the new, as one of our colleagues said: "I feel like I am in the 90s and in 2023 at the same time". Secondly, I was impressed by the level of politeness Japanese people had and how the different levels of bowing had so much importance for them. Furthermore, the food was good and diverse ranging from fresh meat to fresh fish (which I got (un)lucky enough to catch a pufferfish and experienced one of the most poisonous dishes on earth). Lastly, the company and university visits offered us so many insights, ranging from the fastest ticket delivery machine (Omron) to producing the most reliable cars (Toyota).

Thank you very much for such an opportunity and thank you ReisCo for organizing such an amazing trip!



電流



Morgan van Tilburg

I'm writing this after completing my second batch of okonomiyaki (savory Japanese pancakes) from scratch. As someone who dislikes eating fish, I was both delighted and terrified to go on this adventure. It didn't sound like my kind of food paradise for a country famous for its sushi. Of course, the country does not simply offer seafood, and I had so much delicious food during my time there that I'm still attempting to replicate some of it. On the first day, I was baffled as to why people were so quiet on public transportation, but after a few days in Osaka, I began to understand. Their billboards featured talking advertisements, and it was crowded practically everywhere. So it was logical that they created a space where everyone could relax before and after going to work. So when the Italians on the train started chatting loudly, I stared at them with the same judgmental glances I received from the Japanese the first couple of days. As someone mostly interested in Signal Processing Systems, the electrical engineering departments in Japan did not have that much to offer to me since it isn't part of their faculty. I however did learn a lot about Japanese work culture and student life which wasn't my cup of tea. For someone who tried to prepare as much as possible for the trip. I was almost just as lost as everyone else. Which I think, as a participant, was the best way to experience this trip.



電流



It is very hard to summarize a 4-week trip in only a few sentences; but let me try nonetheless. I will even try to say it in two words: breathtakingly amazing! But luckily I can write more than two words!

First thing to mention are the Japanese people. The way they behave and how they treat each other is very special to see as a foreigner. They have so much respect for each other and for rules. Furthermore, Japanese food is amazing! It was so good, I made it a habit to take a photo of meal I ate. Lastly, I was impressed (and by the end, so done with) how the cities are always turned on: lights, flashes, sound, movements, so much is happening everywhere! Lastlastly about the excursions; a little too much photonics and not enough kiloAmpere (but still cool)!

A big arigatou gozaimasu to the organization for organizing such an amazing trip for us!





The Denryu study trip was definitely the trip of a lifetime. We got to go to Japan for a month and not only experience the abundance of Japanese culture in seven cities across the country, but also visit universities and companies. At first I expected that all our days would be completely filled with university and company visits, but I was pleasantly surprised that we also visited a lot of cultural monuments and museums. And we also had more free time than I expected, which we could fill as we pleased. On one of these free days myself and few others decided to go to DisneySea, which is Disneyland, but focused on other countries' cultures and themes. This day was definitely one of the highlights of the trip for me, but honestly it felt like almost every day was a highlight. From the bowing reindeer to eating my new favourite snack: the melon bread ice cream sandwich. The thing that was most jarring is definitely the difference in culture in public compared to the Netherlands. Everyone was really nice and extremely polite. For example, all the carriages in the metro/trains were almost always dead silent and if a foreigner had any trouble with anything they would always want to help, even if they could not speak a word of English. I want to thank the committee for all their hard work to make this trip possible and all the other students for making the trip as fun as it was!

電流



For me, Japan has been an amazing experience. One that I hope I get to redo sometime in the future.

The most striking thing about Japan for me was the difference in culture. I cannot even say if their society as a whole is better or worse than the one I'm used to. It's just different. From their organized way of staying in line and following rules, to their respect for society and the others around them.

I was also struck when I saw their commitment to offering very convenient good quality food and snacks. From their tiny restaurants all over the place in the cities we visited, to the abundance of vending machines in even the most remote places, I never felt hungry or thirsty and had no choice of eating something that was both cheap and tasty.

I would definitely recommend everyone to visit Japan for a few weeks at the minimum. But if you want to pay a lot less for your flight tickets, just go outside the tourist season. Japan is beautiful all year long.

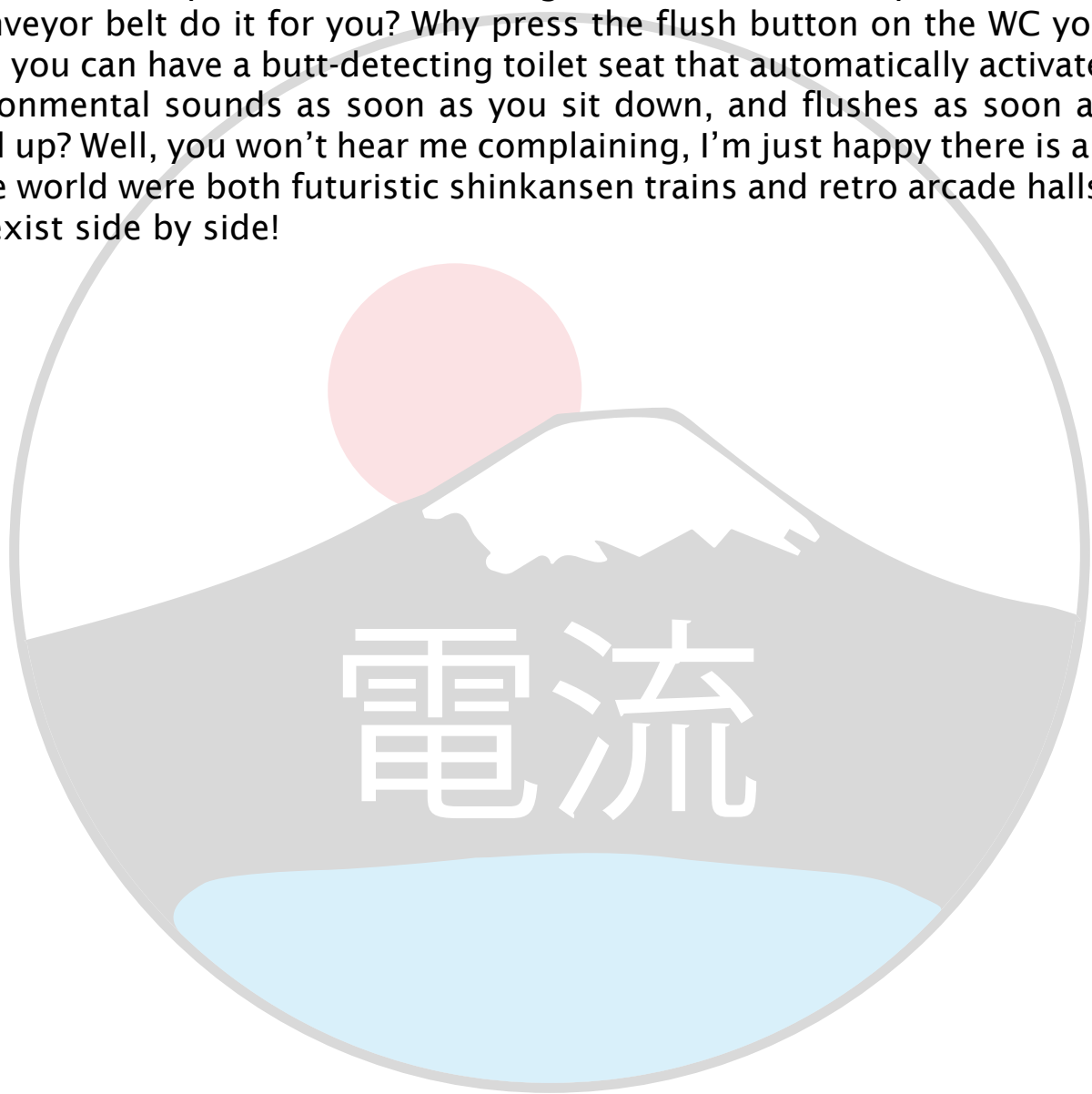
P.S. stay away from Japan between June - August. You'll probably never experience such intense heat in your life.





Renate Debets

Travelling to Japan feels like you are not only travelling to the other side of the world, but also travelling 20 years into the past AND at the same time, 20 years into the future. I mean, digitalisation is still far behind the western world and many aspects of society are still very traditional. But they also have a habit of inventing systems to optimize everything, way better than in The Netherlands! Why hire a waiter to bring the sushi around if you can also have a conveyor belt do it for you? Why press the flush button on the WC yourself when you can have a butt-detecting toilet seat that automatically activates the environmental sounds as soon as you sit down, and flushes as soon as you stand up? Well, you won't hear me complaining, I'm just happy there is a place in the world where both futuristic shinkansen trains and retro arcade halls happily exist side by side!





Since we've been back, there has been no shortage of people asking me how I experienced my time in Japan. Which is not really a hard question to answer, if you have a few hours to listen to me. Now I have 150 words. In short, it was amazing, the food was delicious, the people went above and beyond for you and there were lots of temples. It was also overwhelming at times, especially with our tight packed program, but also because there's lights and sounds everywhere and it seems like Japan never sleeps (which on the other hand of course also allowed for fun nights).

But none of this really describes the feeling I left Japan with. I've done a ton of stuff and would love to tell you all about DisneySea, canyoning, the food, conbini and the night life. (I could even talk quite a while about the companies and universities we visited, I definitely know more about photonics now.) However, I could never bring across the complete picture, the feelings that came with it all. Japan is really something you have to experience for yourself, and I will definitely go again, rather sooner than later.





Stan Schuurman

I registered for the Denryu study trip on a whim. The chances of getting in were not great, as the trip was very popular. I thought, nothing ventured, nothing gained, and I could always cancel if something came up. I did not know yet that this decision would lead to one of the best experiences of my time at this university.

After getting in, I did a deep dive into everything I could encounter while I was in Japan. The culture, the language, the sights, and most important of all: the food. I'm a huge foodie, so of course I had had Japanese food before at home, but it does not compare to the real thing.

Besides just eating, we enjoyed the many sights that Japan has to offer. Enormous temples and mountains riddled with red gates to guide you to the top stand in stark contrast to the futuristic vibe of the streets of Tokyo. Traveling to Japan truly invokes the feeling of time travel to both the future and the past at once.

I am very glad to have shared these experiences with my fellow students, and would like to extend a special thank you to the ReisCo for putting their blood, sweat and tears into organising this trip.





Reflecting on what I knew of Japan beforehand, it was much but also nothing at the same time. All my knowledge was general; anime, shinkansen, polite, workaholic and all of that appeared to be true. The funny thing was that most of what I knew had two sides to it and that was very interesting to experience. The whole trip and experience was insane. Getting to know all aspects of such a different culture feels like you are doing something new every step of the way. Reisco planned some amazing things for us to see and do and together with the company of the whole group, it is now a memory of a lifetime.

However, during these activities the real experiences came forward. Walking through the streets and seeing all the figures and flashing lights, but also seeing the very introverted, calm Japanese people was the first thing I noticed, but definitely not the last one.

I think there is much we can learn from their culture, but there is also much I appreciate from our culture. And that is also the beauty of these trips. Being able to learn how things can be done differently and making your own view of what you think is best for you.

Even though we were there for four weeks, there is still much more to explore. So I hope to see you back in the future Japan!

電流



Valérie Tjin-A-Djie

Over the span of four immersive weeks in Japan, I traversed a mosaic of experiences that both challenged and enriched my understanding. Osaka's bustling metropolis introduced me to vertical Google maps and food to be found almost everywhere you looked. Getting to try ramen, gyozas, takoyaki, okonomiyaki, yakiniku, teppanyaki, izakaya's, and onigiri warmed my foodie heart. Kyoto was a beautiful illustration Japan's dual identity, from attending a traditional tea ceremony to high tech company visits and taking the shinkansen (high speed train).

Cultural observations extended to the silence in public transportation, the willingness to understand through language barriers, and dedication to work and productivity. Castle grounds and serene temples offered insights into history's echoes, while Tokyo's mesmerizing fireworks spectacle served as a finale to a journey that unveiled some layers of Japan's identity.

I will remember this trip and the people I met with gratitude.





I came home after 4 weeks in Japan and asked myself: “Man, how can such weird people be that organized?”. The Denryu committee prepared us well to stand in line on the platform and be quiet inside metros. (The latter is a lot to ask from Dutchies.) However, one station even had markings for a second line for the subsequent train! This (over)organization extends to the road: unclear traffic situation? Not in Japan, since traffic controllers are everywhere. Additionally, I loved the bird sounds from traffic lights, an original jingle for every train station or trucks driving around playing funny songs. A bit sad, however, were the girls standing on the side of the street hoping you would enter their maid café.

My favorite experience was the baseball match in Nagoya, where cheering fans were led by a frontman like an orchestra led by a conductor. The level of dedication Japanese people have as sports fans or for their jobs is truly admirable. Considering the long days they make, the need for a silent commute back home doesn't come as a surprise. Overall, the Japanese people came across as very welcoming and (overly) polite. Many thanks to the Denryu committee for making this beautiful trip happen.

電流



Zabiollah Amiri

This trip was (hopefully not) a once in a lifetime experience. Describing it in 250 words doesn't do it justice, but I will try. Of course the rich history, and culture are in and of themselves already quite appealing, I really loved learning about feudal Japan, reading about the exploits of the Daimyo, Some of them meant so much to the country that after ~400+ years, you still see their names everywhere.

And of course the food, it was great, whether you go to a small family run restaurant, or to a bigger more luxurious place, you will definitely walk away satisfied with the food and service, and for us foreigners it was quite affordable as well.

But for me personally the memories that I will cherish the most were the friends that I made on this trip, be it within the group, or some Japanese people that I was lucky enough to get to talk to. It was very interesting to learn about how these people live their lives, from the salaryman to a student and even a street musician it was quite the awesome experience.

I will definitely head back and travel to Japan someday, as there are so many more places to explore and visit, and so many more things to learn.





富嶽三十六景 神奈川沖
浪裏

舟江島一景

