

HOKKAIDO TRIP EXPERIENCE

I was very ecstatic when the trip to Hokkaido was announced. Prior to my arrival in Japan, I had heard so many great things about the prefecture including how snowy and beautiful it could get during winter.

Once we landed at New Chitose Airport, we journeyed to the port city of Otaru. There we learnt so many things about the history of the area, from how it transitioned from a port city to a thriving tourist destination. This lesson was so important because I saw firsthand how local economies can adapt to their changing economies to sustain and improve livelihoods of their populace. I had the opportunity to grab a delicious lunch with my fellow classmates and have a good time. It was so refreshing interacting with classmates outside the classroom setting.



From Otaru, we made our way to Jozankei where we stayed at a lovely resort for the night. We had the opportunity to unwind as well as interact with MPMA staff. At the resort, I had so many delicious Japanese cuisine for the first time. After dinner my classmates and I tried a Japanese onsen for the first time! I was nervous initially, but I quickly warmed up once the hotel staff assured me that everything was going to be okay.

After a beautiful night's rest, we grabbed breakfast and made our way to Sapporo! We had some more time to spend before we headed back to Tokyo, so I used this opportunity to explore the underground shopping district. I indulged myself with some tasty Hokkaido treats and scenes.

One thing that struck me was how resilient the people living there were. Although faced with severe weather conditions, the city still functions normally like any other city would. This is a testament to the robust infrastructure the city has built. As a future policy maker, I drew so many lessons on how to replicate this system in my home country.

I would like to use this opportunity to thank the MPMA staff for planning this wonderful and exciting trip as well as enriching us with this wonderful learning experience.

