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Restart... Dorm Life!

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A Learning Experience Outside of the Classroom

-SI Program and SI Awards-



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Introduction

I would like to talk about the SI programs and SI Awards on this WISHTimes issue because it's been a year since I went on the SI Award trip. While I was quarantining in my hometown, I once again realized how awesome it was to live in WISH. I especially want to stress about how amazing the SI programs and SI Awards are, the reason why I am writing this article.

The SI programs is a unique learning program that includes group work and lectures, held from 19:00 to 20:30 during weekdays, and the SI Award is an overseas training program for students that perform well in the SI programs. In the SI programs you can acquire skills and knowledge that are necessary for when you start working, such as effective communication. The program's agenda varies from career seminars, where you get advice from people working in various industries, and study abroad symposiums held by the RAs.

It may be hard for students who have extra activities or classes late at night to attend the SI programs. However, my friend that is majoring in engineering –the department that is said to be the busiest– was elected for the SI Award, and I managed to attend SI programs despite having extra activities during the weekdays. If you plan your week accordingly, I can guarantee that you will have space to attend the SI programs. I truly hope that you can get motivated to attend the SI programs by reading this article.



2019 SI Award trip to South Korea

WISH holds the SI Award trips twice in a semester, and if you are chosen as a member, you get to join one of them abroad. I went on the trip to South Korea, which was held in September 2019.

Before this trip, my perception of South Korea was mainly of having political conflicts with Japan. At that time, a video of a Japanese tourist woman being assaulted by a local in South Korea went viral. In addition to that, the South Korean government insisted on exiting the GSOMIA pact, and the Japanese government removed South Korea from its whitelist. Since I knew that the political tension between Japan and South Korea was increasing, I was a little nervous about the trip. Although I was worried, the locals did not harass us and they were welcoming.

The goal of this SI Award trip was to get to know the South Korean culture and its history. We visited Korean Folk Village and the National Folklore Museums and learned things that we didn't in school. It was such an exciting experience. Furthermore, we went to famous places in Seoul like the Lotte Tower. Needless to say, we enjoyed the local food, such as Korean cold noodles and Korean barbecue which I tried for the first time. They were so delicious that I tried to recreate it after coming back to Japan, but unfortunately, I could not achieve it. One of the greatest memories I made was that we socialized with students from local colleges, and exchange contacts.



The most remarkable experience of the trip

The most remarkable experience of the trip was when I exhausted myself from lack of sleep. I couldn't fall asleep the night before because it had been a while since I went overseas and I was nervous. The exhaustion from the airplane added to my tiredness. Inevitably, I spent the third day of the trip separated from my teammates. This unexpected illness made me really frustrated. I had to go to a hospital, and they tended to me just like in Japan. When the nurse was giving me the shot, she told me “イタイデスヨ” which means “It might hurt” in Japanese, and this made me relieved. From these experiences, I learned that you never know how people from other countries are unless you visit and interact with them. I am so grateful that I got to go to this SI Award trip and experienced such things.





"Use SI program to your Advantage"

It is essential to attend SI programs in order to being chosen as a member of the SI Award. However, I think attending the SI programs just for the SI Award trips is such a waste of resources. This is a great opportunity for you to talk, ask questions, and interact with speakers such as people from corporations, so you should use them to your advantage. Another thing that you can do is to write down what you learned from the programs. After every class, I write down what I learned from the pep talks, and I try to reflect them onto my daily life.

Conclusion

Just like it says on the Residence Life Center's website, “The Reward of Learning is Learning.” I interpret “Reward of Learning” as the knowledge you gain from the guest speakers, and the encounters you have with people in the SI programs. The SI Award trip has truly made a positive impact on me by introducing me to a new learning experience. Unfortunately, the 2020 SI overseas Award is canceled due to COVID-19. However, the SI Program is still conducted online and its value has not changed. Moreover, the SI Award will be conducted in Japan with different problem-solving activities, something that you can only experience now. If you enter WISH, you should attend the SI programs and get the best out of it.

Thank you for reading this until the end. I wish all of the WISH students a fulfilling college life!





“If You Gaze For Long Into An Abyss, The Abyss Gazes Also Into You.”

~ Nakano Broadway, A
Labyrinth 5 Minutes Apart
From The Station ~

Written by Daichi
Translated by Naomichi
Designed by William

What kind of a city is Nakano? As a person who was born and raised in Nakano, I would say it is a fairly convenient city to live in. Not only the location is good for travel, but the access to public transportations (e.g., Chuo line, Soubu line, Touzai line) also makes traveling to various places in Tokyo such as the Waseda university an easy task, which is very crucial for the residents of WISH. Moreover, you will never have to worry about where to shop. However, it is also true that Nakano is an area surrounded and submerged in the great, soaring buildings of the central Tokyo. In fact, most of Nakano is residential area with lower houses (hence the second highest population density among 23 wards of Tokyo.) All self-deprecation aside, as a local, I can hardly understand how Nakano appears to the outsiders.

Since it was a good opportunity, I have asked several new WISH residents about their impressions of Nakano city.

“Less attractive compared to Shinjuku or Shibuya but famous of the Nakano Broadway.”

“Seems to be convenient because it’s close to the central Tokyo. I’ve heard of the Nakano Broadway before”

“I thought there would be more skyscrapers, but there were more residential houses”

Hmm, such “honest” comments.... The Nakano Broadway is a shopping complex located near the station, and it only takes a ten-minute walk from WISH. In this article, I would like to focus on the one particular location where many interviewees had brought up — the Nakano Broadway.

Well, first of all, it is an matter of surprise that Nakano is as vibrant as Akibahara and Ikebukuro as a subculture Mecca. The Nakano Broadway is the exact source of the Japanese subculture. Not only would people all over the country come to visit the Broadway, there were approximately 2,000 foreign visitors per day before the Corona shock. The Broadway is composed of the commercial area on the B1 ~ 4th floor and the apartment above the 5th floor. While the commercial area is like a complex maze, the mansion of Nakano Broadway is an premium and expensive real estate with garden and swimming pool attached on its rooftop.





The beginning of Nakano Broadway dates back to 1966. Its location was formerly known as the villa of the general Nogi Maresuke (a military who lived during 18~19th century, who had appeared in the famous novel of Soseki Natsume, “Kokoro”.) Although the Broadway is often associated with the “Otaku (オタク)” culture, during the earlier era, it was rather considered to be a high-end fashion complex like Ginza (銀座). It is said that Nakano Broadway had the largest scale among eastern Asia at that time. As its name suggest, it was intended to be a cultural epicenter just like the original Broadway in New York. Nevertheless, the old shops that were formerly established in the Broadway had to shut down after large shopping facilities appeared along the JR Chuo Line one after another. Nakano Broadway had gradually tilted towards subculture since the establishment of “Mandarake”, a manga specialized second-handed bookstore. This is the history of how Nakano Broadway has become what it is today, a unique space where shops for geeks and general shoppers blend and coexist. The historical shopping complex has also been very committed to campaigns to embrace creativity: it has been holding the art show of children’s works for 35 years and begun proactively selecting paintings of people with disabilities.

I have had the honor to interview Mr. Takeshi Aoki, chairman of the Union for Promotion of Nakano Broadway Shopping Arcade. Mr. Aoki is also a great senior of ours, as he had graduated the Waseda university, too.

What kind of town do you think Nakano is?

Nakano is a place that would give its visitors a very vague impression. Having no standout feature is one of my perceptions of this town. It's atmosphere resembles neither that of Shitamachi nor Yamanote (The traditional division for Tokyo for downtown and uptown). That is why it needs its own color. This is a town located between Shinjuku and Kichijoji and has come to this day without obtaining any characteristics.

What do you think the charm of Nakano Broadway is?

It must be to explore the shops that can satisfy the various purposes or interests of each person while waking in the Broadway. You can call it "searching (検索する)" in a more modern Japanese way. Regardless of the generations, if it was a person who is really into something, then he/she might come again and again to "search" for the shops.

How would you like to change Nakano Broadway in the future?

Changing the Broadway is no easy task and is probably impossible by myself (laugh), but my wish is to accomplish post-anime. I would love to see it leave behind the image of an "anime related complex". Actually, I can see it already happening but even I do not understand the details within its process. I suppose the best line of action to understand it would be to directly ask the owners of shops targeting collectors for their future vision. One of the changes that can be seen from the outside is the increase of the luxury watch stores. Usually when we have a new vacant property, a watch store will fill up the room eventually.

Do you have any message for the students at WISH?

Well, first of all, we would love to see more WISH residents visiting the Broadway. I'd also like to know what they demand for this shopping arcade. In addition, I wish you could ask the WISH residents what about the Broadway they feel attractive compared to other shopping arcades in their hometown. Well, I guess that was a lot of homework for you (laugh). Please let me know if you have heard anything interesting from them.

There were so many more interesting details that Mr. Aoki had shared with me during the interview, but unfortunately it was impossible to fit the whole dialog in this limited space. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to Mr. Aoki and the entire Union for Promotion of Nakano Broadway Shopping Arcade for providing me this wonderful opportunity.

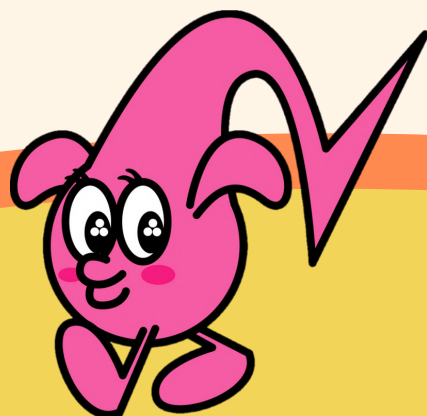
Have you gained any interest for Nakano Broadway? To sum up, I'd like to suggest everyone, regardless of having enthusiasm in certain subject or not, to visit the Broadway once and “search” inside this maze. There surely will be an exciting encounter with a new subject that suits you. In my personal view, the best way to enjoy Nakano Broadway would be to wander around the arcade by yourself, which is the exact reason why this article does not include any store recommendations. Furthermore, there are countless unique spots hidden in Nakano. This is a town with plenty of mystery despite having a low profile. It would be a great pleasure for me if the person reading this article had become enchanted by the charm of Nakano. Finally, I would like to end this article with a famous quote by Friedrich W. Nietzsche.

**“If you gaze for long into
an abyss, the abyss gazes
also into you.”**

I greatly appreciate the Union for Promotion of Nakano Broadway Shopping Arcade for supporting me through the writing of this article.



~ Mascot Characters ~



「PiPi」



「Nakano Nano-chan」

Provided by: Nakano Broadway Shopping District Promotion Association

Home cooking in the Dorm!

Easy Recipes for Local Gourmet

Writer : Ryosuke, Translator: Renuka, Designer: Rina

Hanton Rice



Although we have many foreign residents in WISH, because of the current situation with Coronavirus infections, a lot of residents have been forced to return home, and as a result, the number of residents currently residing in WISH is much less than usual. In terms of diversity, however, WISH remains the same as ever, with residents from various parts of Japan. This time around, I want to pay homage to the gourmet flavours of Japan, by actually trying to cook from recipes of local cuisine. I would love it if you take a look at this article when you feel like travelling, or trying out something new!



Hanton Rice

Hanton Rice This is a local dish from Kanazawa, which consists of fried shrimp and swordfish (which I will use here), with ketchup and tartar sauce on top of omelet rice (omu

Recipe

***Tartar sauce**

Boil an egg, crush it with a fork, sprinkle with mayonnaise and vinegar, and then add with parsley and salt and pepper to taste.

***Fried Fish**

Sprinkle salt on the swordfish and coat it with flour, beaten egg, and bread crumbs. Fry the swordfish in oil for 4 minutes.

***Omurice**

Finely chop the onion and fry in butter until tender, then add rice and ketchup and fry until it mixes well.

Break an egg into a bowl and add milk, salt and pepper.

Put the egg in a frying pan with butter, stir it vigorously, and turn off the heat once it is half-cooked.

Place the omelet on top of the ketchup rice, then place the fried fish on top, and sprinkle with ketchup and tartar sauce. Your dish is now ready!



Hiyajiru(Cold Soup).

This is a local dish from the Miyazaki Prefecture, and is consumed by melting sesame seeds and miso with fish, adding tofu, cucumber, perilla leaves (ooba) and Japanese ginger over rice.

The delicate aroma of fish stock and sesame with miso makes this soup incredibly delicious.

I will use canned mackerel for the fish in this particular recipe.

Ingredients

1/2 can of mackerel boiled in water
1/2 momen-tofu
1 cucumber
4 perilla leaves
300 cc water
1.5 tbsp Miso
1 teaspoon sesame seeds

Recipe

1. Put the canned mackerel and tofu in a bowl and crush the mixture with a fork.
2. Cut the cucumber into thin slices and cut the perilla leaves into small pieces.
3. Add the water from the can, 300 cc water, miso and sesame seeds and mix.
4. Add 2 to 1 and pour into 3 and you're done!

I would recommend this method because the soup stock from the canned mackerel can be used as a substitute for soup stock, which makes it even more delicious.



Minced Japanese Horse Mackerel (Aji no namerō)

This local dish from the Chiba Prefecture is said to have been created when fishermen first made it while on a boat. It consists of a kind of minced fish, made by mixing horse mackerel with miso, green onions and ginger, and beating it with a kitchen knife until it becomes fine.

Ingredients

150g rice (makes 1 bowl)
2 horse mackerel fish (sashimi)
3 cm scallions
3 cm ginger 1 tablespoon miso
A few drops of soy sauce
All-purpose onion and sesame seeds

Recipe

1. Beat the horse mackerel with a kitchen knife till it is minced.
Finely chop the green onions.
2. Add ginger and miso and beat them together.
3. Put 2 on top of the rice, add soy sauce, sprinkle with all-purpose onions and sesame seeds, and you're done!

This recipe is also really simple, so if you have a horse mackerel fillet, you can make it in about 10 minutes. Additionally, if you boil 1/2 teaspoon of dashi stock and 150 ml of water and add it in, it becomes dashi chazuke, so do give it a try!

So, did you guys enjoy yourselves? I hope this article inspires you to try and cook with your friends and also learn about different local gourmet foods. Furthermore, I believe it can be very enjoyable to make a habit of cooking by yourself from time to time. Don't forget to have lots of fun cooking at home by making not only delicious local dishes, but also your favourite ones!

Special Feature on the WISH 9th Floor

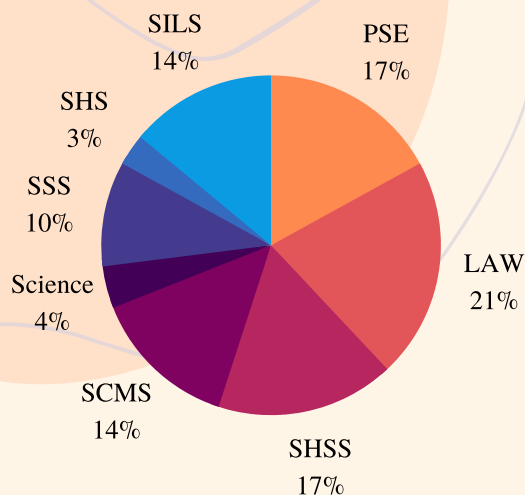
Writer: Ryona - Translator: Naomichi - Designer: Ainun

"Do you want to make friends from the same faculty?"

"Do you want to know what kind of people are living on other floors?"

As a WISH resident who had just started living here a month ago, I am still very interested in other floors and I am quite positive that there are many others like me inside WISH, which is exactly why I am going to write about the characteristics of the 9th floor and the residents. I am hoping that this article can become a good chance for you to understand the diversity of WISH residents!

Faculties




As you can tell from the figures, the largest group is composed of students from School of Law (LAW), followed by those from School of Political Science and Economics (PSE), and School of Culture, Media and Society (CMS).

The high proportion of students majoring in Law despite the high number of PSE and School of International Liberal Studies (SILS) in WISH overall is one of the features of the 9th floor. Also, it is worth mentioning that there are undergraduates from the all 4 campuses (Waseda, Toyama, Nishi-Waseda, and Tokorozawa) so that the floor's atmosphere is highly academically diverse. We often see the residents enjoying themselves chatting about the unique stories of their faculties.

The Atmosphere of WISH 9th Floor

"Peaceful" would be a perfect word choice to describe the color of the 9th floor. According to the sophomores and RAs, many of the students usually prepare their own meals in the kitchen. It has also become a huge entertainment for us, the new residents to watch TV channels and enjoy meals while having a social distance in the kitchen. It has become a centerpiece of our social networking in WISH, as we would actively talk to students we haven't met before. By the end of the day, not only that we have been connected on SNS, but we would probably be intimate enough to call each other's name too. In addition, since we can constantly meet a WISH student somewhere, no matter in the corridor or through the glass window of the living room, you can always sense the presence of other residents and their conversations.

Note: The numbers are according to the survey to the 2020 freshmen.



The peacefulness is always present when you spend your time here. Aside from the freshmen, the sophomores and RAs are also very amiable as they keep supporting us with their deep benevolence and smile. Regardless of the places, they will always make sure to communicate with you. Inside each unit, there are students exchanging their experiences and feelings with people from various nationalities and school years.

Moreover, a new floor project is arriving soon! The *“9th floor bicycle sharing”* is a wonderful solution to help address the inconvenience to travel of students who do not own bicycles. With this new project, we can visit places a bit far away from WISH, such as Nakano Broadway in a much easier way. I truly admire the strong bond among the 9th floor residents to make such an attractive project possible.

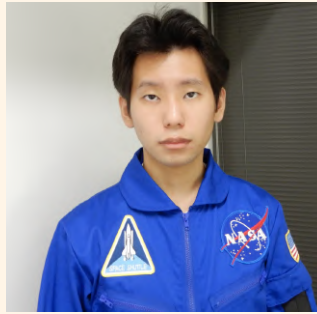
I wish you have been able to see the rough portrait of the WISH 9th floor. For any of you out there who want to make friends with the LAW and CMS students, or those who simply want to know the residents on other floors, why don't you try to contact someone from the 9th? We're looking forward to hearing from many of you! Also, for the girls on other floors, please don't hesitate to step into the 9th floor and come hang out with us!

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