

# A Dream Come True

Atimpao Lanelyn Golingab, the 2018 Kochi Government Trainee  
(specializing in agriculture and landscaping)

When I was a student, I learned that Japan is an advanced country, and from that point on, my ambition was to apply for a job in Japan after graduation. I can still remember my favorite professor sharing about his great experiences in Japan. I didn't know at that time that someday I would also be given the chance to have the same experience. My professor, Dr. Alfredo Tipayno, was the first trainee for this program, and I thank the Prefectural Government of Kochi for making my dream into a reality.

Kochi is a beautiful place to live, and with warm-hearted people around I was able to adjust easily. When I started living here, I found out how convenient it is. There is no need to worry about drinks because vending machines are everywhere, and the proper disposal and segregation of garbage is observed on the right days. Because of these things I grew to love Japanese people. I love how disciplined, peaceful and nature-loving they are. I love how they think of the future generations to come by taking good care of their nature. I appreciated them even more when I worked with them. They don't stop when they are tired, they just stop when they are finished, and they value and love their work.

I am also thankful to the Japanese people I met who took me to many places around Kochi. I appreciated the beauty of the landscape and the tourist sites themselves. The mountains are covered in trees, rivers are clean and tourist spots are beautiful with well maintained toilets. They also took me to festivals, and the best part of it for me was having a centralized area for garbage. Wow! We left the place as clean as it was at the start, no garbage! I hope that one day this will also happen in my own country. Dancing Yosakoi was another memorable experience for me. I enjoyed watching the other teams dancing with big smiles.

My first set of training was on soil management, which I

found enjoyable. Each day was very interesting because of the different experiments that we did, including "the effects of different fertilizer and compost rates on Kumatsuna plants". I was lucky and very thankful to have Miyazawa-san there, who is Japanese but can speak English fluently. With him, I was able to understand more about the things I wanted to know. I studied Japanese for six weeks but I can still only speak and understand a little. It is even more difficult to understand technical terms in Japanese.

My second set of training was on landscaping. At this placement I was challenged to learn Japanese because none of the staff could speak English. But that was no reason for me not to enjoy my training, and I had a lot of fun working with everyone. I thought before that Japanese people were very serious when it came to work, but I was wrong. They also have a sense of humor and we spent a lot of time laughing. One thing I appreciated from this training was the orderliness of their store room. Everything was kept tidy, and every afternoon the tools and other items were returned to their proper places. "Safety first" was also observed, and everyone had to wear safety gear before starting work. They did their best to teach me pruning techniques and I also saw how to

make a Japanese style bamboo fence. The result was beautiful and attractive.

Lastly, I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to everyone who contributed to the success of my technical training. Specifically, I am indebted to the Prefectural Government of Kochi, KIA, and the Owner and staff of Hayama Teien. I also want to thank the Director and staff of Kochi Agricultural Center for their effort to come up with experiments that suited my interests, and to Chief Ninomiya and other friends I met here for making my life in Kochi colorful and enjoyable.



指導員であり日本語の先生でもある宮澤さんとレタスの収穫  
Harvesting lettuce with Miayazawa-san, my trainer and Japanese teacher

以下は英文の要旨です

## 夢実現 アティンパオ レーンリン ゴリンギャブ (2018年度高知県協力交流研修員 研修分野：農業と造園)

卒業後の夢は進んだ日本で仕事に応募することだった。最初の研修生である担当教官のアルフレッド・ティパノ教授から日本での素晴らしい経験を聞いていた。夢をかなえてくれた高知県に感謝している。

高知の美しい街と温かい人々のおかげですぐに溶け込むことができた。どこにでもある自動販売機などの便利さに気付かされた。ゴミを正しく分別し、規律的で平和と自然を愛し、仕事に誇りと愛情を持つ日本人が好きになった。

木々で覆われた山、澄んだ川、観光地の清潔なトイレなどの景観の美しさも気に入った。祭り会場では前と同じようにきれいにし、ゴミは落ちていない。よさこい踊りも忘れられない経験となった。

英語を流ちょうに話す宮澤さんの存在は私にとって幸運だった。彼のおかげで理解できることが増えた。土壌についての実験のおかげで毎日がとても楽しかった。

造園の研修は英語を話せる人がいなかったが、仕事はとても楽しかった。彼らにはユーモアのセンスがあり、私たちはよく笑っていた。倉庫の整理整頓と安全装備には感心した。作ってもらった日本の竹垣の出来栄は美しく魅力的だった。

最後に、高知県、KIA、葉山庭園の社長と社員には特にお礼を申し上げたい。また私の興味に合う実験を準備された高知県農業技術センターの所長並びに職員、及び高知での生活を豊かにしてくれた二宮チーフとここで出会った友人に対してお礼を申し上げたい。



異文化理解講座でフィリピン文化について講演するアティンパオさん。講演の中で、高知県が同州に対して行ってきた農業分野の技術協力に関する質問に、「自国で役立つ技術を教えてもらいすごく助かっている。」と述べた。

Atimpao presenting about Filipino culture at a lecture to promote intercultural understanding. During her presentation she was asked about the agricultural technology related cooperation that Kochi Prefecture has conducted with Benguet Province, to which she replied "it has been really helpful to learn about technology that will be useful in the Philippines".

# 高知県・ベンゲット州友好新聞

## MABUHAY ANG ATING SAMAHAN

(私たちの友情がいつまでも続きますように……)



元研修員と記念撮影(右から4人目:高知県国際交流課の澤村課長補佐、右から5人目:高知県国際交流協会の廣瀬スタッフ)

A commemorative photo with the former trainees (Fourth from the right: Deputy Director Sawamura from the International Affairs Division, and fifth from right: Kochi International Association staff member Hirose)



公園用地を無償で貸与したハイト家及び関係者と記念撮影(中央:吉川会長)  
A commemorative photo of the Haight family, who lend the park land for free, and related persons (Center: Chairman Yoshikawa)



公園内にある「SAKURA」のオブジェ

A piece of artwork in the park spelling out the word "sakura"



2018年度研修員のアティンパオ氏(中央)とミニはりまや橋で記念撮影(右:高知県国際交流課の澤村課長補佐、左:高知県国際交流協会の廣瀬スタッフ)

A commemorative photo with 2018 local government trainee Atimpao (center) at the mini Harimaya Bridge (right: Deputy Director Sawamura from the International Affairs Division, left: Kochi International Association staff member Hirose)

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## 特集

# 姉妹交流公園と桜の最新状況について

2016年6月に開催した植樹祭(19号に掲載)から早や2年以上が経過しました。今回号では、姉妹交流公園と桜の最新状況について、当推進会議の吉川会長に話を聞いてきました。

(聞き手: 高知県国際交流協会 吉田進)

—植樹祭の時に植樹した桜の現在の生育状況はどうか？

「1本を除いて順調に育っている。雪割桜は背丈が2メートルくらいまで成長し、7本の雪割桜が花を付けた。もう一方のセンダイヤについては風に当たりやすいところに植えたせいもあり、雪割桜に比べて成長のスピードが遅い。」

—桜のことがマスコミの報道を通してフィリピン全土に知れ渡り、公園を訪れる観光客が増えたとお聞きしました。

「多い時で1週間に1,000人ほど訪れているようだ。花が咲いていない時にも観光客が来るようで、私が2018年12月に現地を訪問した時も女性グループやテントを張っている観光客を目にした。花も咲いていないこの時期にどうして来たの?と女性グループに聞くと、桜の木があるだけで満足との返事もらった。木に花が付いているイメージを想像して楽しんでいるのだろうと思った。」

—花が咲いていない桜の木を見て楽しむことができるという感覚は、日本人である私にはすぐには共感できないのですが、観光客が増えていることによる地元へのプラスの影響とマイナスの影響はありますか？

「プラスの影響としては、州政府が現地を案内できる観光ガイドを養成し、ガイドが観光客からガイド料をもらっているらしい。マイナスの影響としては、幹線道路から公園に導く道路を観光客の車両が行き来することが多くなったため、地元住民の日常の買物や農家の野菜や肥料の運搬に支障が生じている。道路を拡張する話も出ているようだが、具体化には至っていない。」

—公園の整備状況についてお聞きします。公園を囲うフェンスとトイレを州政府の予算で建設する計画があると以前お聞きしましたが…。

「フェンスは完成したが、トイレはまだ着工もしていない。トイレについては最適な立地場所を検討中で、立地については景観の面も配慮しなければならないため、私が次回現地を専門家とともに訪れる時に最適な場所を調整したいと思っている。」



公園入口(「ようこそ姉妹交流公園へ」と書かれた看板が訪問客を出迎える)  
The park entrance (a sign board with "Welcome Benguet-Kochi Sisterhood Park" greets visitors)



公園に咲く雪割桜  
(北ルソン日本人会が2018年2月に撮影したもの)  
Yukiwarizakura blooming in the park  
(photography by the Japanese Association in Northern Luzon, February 2018)



公園内にテントを張る観光客  
Visitors camping in the park



女性グループの1人が  
吉川会長と握手

One of the women from the  
group shaking hands with  
Chairman Yoshikawa



建設中の簡易宿泊施設(左)とフェンス(右)  
Construction of the simple accommodation facility is  
underway (left) and the park fence (right)



埋設された浄化装置の上で野菜が育つ  
The purification system runs below the ground, and  
vegetables are grown on top of it

—フェンスとトイレの他に何か整備されているものはありますか？

「公園のために土地を無償で貸してくれたハイト家が、小規模で簡易な宿泊施設を現在建設している。計画によると、宿泊できる部屋は全部で3部屋あり、あわせて12人が宿泊できるらしい。また、トイレ等から流れる汚水を処理する浄化装置を日本人の技術者の協力を得て設置済みで、この浄化装置はトイレだけでなくこの宿泊施設から出される汚水の処理にも対応できるものとなっている。」

—公園や桜の維持管理のために地域住民などの協力はありますか？

「公園のあるパオアイ村の村長が世話をしてくれている。」

—最後に、今後の展望をお聞かせください。

「最近現地を訪問した時に、公園のある場所からさらに高い場所まで登ったところ、360度見渡せる大変眺望の良い場所を見つけたので、公園からこの場所までのアクセスを良くし、公園と相まって、この地区の観光地としての価値を高めるために関係機関と協議していきたい。また、公園整備や桜の維持管理にかかる費用を賄うための募金への協力を引き続きお願いしたいと思っている。」

—どうもありがとうございました。

## Feature A Report on the Sisterhood Park and its Cherry Blossoms

Already over two years have passed since the tree planting ceremony took place in June 2016 (see edition 19). In this edition, we talk with the Chairman of our Kochi-Benguet Sisterhood Development Group, Mr. Yoshikawa, to hear about how the Sisterhood Park and its cherry blossom are doing.  
(Interviewed by Yoshida from Kochi International Association)

**How are the cherry blossom trees that were planted at the time of the tree planting ceremony faring?**

All but one tree are growing well. The Yukiwarizakura (P. introrsa) have grown to heights of approximately two meters, and seven of them have blossomed. The Sendaiya (P. jamasakura) were planted in an area that is exposed to wind, one factor that has halted the speed of their growth in comparison to the Yukiwarizakura.

**I heard that news of the cherry blossoms spread across the whole of the Philippines thanks to their featuring in the media, and visitors to the park have increased.**

Busy periods can see up to 1000 people visit in one week and it seems that tourists are coming even when the cherry blossoms are not blooming. When I visited in December 2018 I saw a group of women visiting and tourists putting up tents. I asked the group of women why they were visiting at a time when the cherry blossoms were not in bloom, and they replied that they were content to just see the trees there. I thought they must find it fun to imagine the trees covered in blossom.

**As a Japanese person I find it hard to understand how one can enjoy looking at cherry blossom trees that are not blooming! Has the increase in tourists caused any advantages or disadvantages for the area?**

One advantage has been that the provincial government has trained up tourist guides who can show people around the local area for a fee. A disadvantage is that due to the increase in tourists driving on the road between the main road and the park, local residents face problems with their daily shopping and farmers have issues transporting their vegetables and fertilizer. I have heard there are talks about expanding the road, however this is yet to actually be implemented.

**I'd like to ask about park maintenance. I heard that there was a plan by the Provincial Government to fund the construction of a fence around the park as well as toilets...**

The fence has been completed, however the toilets have yet to be started on. They are currently looking into the optimal location for the toilets. The scenery also has to be taken into consideration when choosing a location, and so I would like to coordinate finding the best position for the toilets with a specialist when I next visit the park.

**Aside from the fence and toilets, is there anything else being worked on in terms of maintenance?**

The Haight Family, who lent us the land for the park free of charge, are currently building a simple, small-scale accommodation facility. According to the plan, three rooms can be used for accommodation, allowing 12 people to stay there. Furthermore, the installation of a purification system to dispose of the dirty water, such as from the toilets, has been completed thanks to the cooperation of a Japanese technician. This purification system isn't only to be used for the toilets but also to help dispose of dirty water from the accommodation facility.

**Is there any cooperation from the local people for the maintenance and management of the park and the cherry blossom trees?**

The Barangay Captain of Paoay Barangay, the administrative division where the park is located, is offering their support.

**Finally, I would like to ask you about your vision hereafter.**

Recently when I've visited the park, I've climbed from one place in the park to a higher point and found a good spot offering a great 360-degree panoramic view. I would like to improve access to this spot from the park, and hold discussions with organizations to try and raise the value of this district, coupled with the park, as a tourist spot. In addition, I'm hoping for continued cooperation for donations to fund the costs for park maintenance and the maintenance and management of the cherry blossoms.

**Thank you very much.**