

PII Internship report by Diqian Wang

The company where I interned at is called Hokuriku Housou. It is the oldest broadcasting company on the west side of Japan that does both television and radio. The eight weeks internship breaks down into four parts: the announcer department for one week, the TV production department for two weeks, the radio center for two weeks and the news/reporting department for three weeks. If the intern is interested in any particular section of the company, he or she can stay longer in that department and create his or her own schedule of the internship. If the intern wants a little bit of taste of everything, I think the current schedule is very well structured and within each department, the intern is given a lot of freedom in terms of pursuing his or her own interests.

During the first week in the announcer department, I took classes from different announcers on the correct pronunciation of Japanese. Most of these sessions started with textbooks and drills but eventually ended up being just casual conversations between me and the announcer. Since I hadn't spoken Japanese for almost half a year, it was very helpful for me to get used to the sound again and get to know the announcers personally. During the next seven weeks, I would be working with most of them, so don't worry that they would disappear from your life after your rotation to a different department.

The second base was the TV production department, which, with the news/reporting department, are infamous for their long hours of work; however, the work is rewarding. This department is in charge of special programs, such as travels, public awareness, special events, commercials etc. The directors of each project is in charge of everything from planning, writing the script, to syuzai—collecting data and editing. I was lucky that the first day I transferred, there was an architectural event organized by Japanese and international students and professors. I was able to translate most of the interviews and participate in this project from the beginning to the end. However, one director usually has several small projects at the same time: events varying in scale, from a four-people team to a forty-people crew; in location, from an indoor ice rink to beaches where car can drive like on a highway; in audience, from elementary school children to not-yet-famous local idol groups, etc. During my two weeks, I was always introduced to something new everyday.

The radio station serves almost the same purpose as the TV production. In the Radio Car, I followed the announcers around Kanazawa and its neighboring cities to find something unusual for the audience, such as the new hot spring resort, natural spring fountains, hundreds-years-old shops, new tourist spots, etc. Unlike the TV programs, the Radio Car usually broadcasts everything live, which forces the announcers to be quick and sometimes whimsical in their reporting. I was introduced as a guest (guest speaker?), and spoke about my thoughts on various things from the point-of-view of a foreign exchange student.

The last department is the news/reporting department. Like in any other sections of the company, I learned the basic routines and techniques while was also asked to make a special news report on anything that I like for about five minutes. From submitting my project proposal, to contacting the interviewer and getting the

video permission, I was working like a real reporter. After everything was approved, I was assigned with a team of a senpai, a camera man and an assistant for the project. It was challenging that I need to use everything that I have learned during these two months, but when it was over, I got a firmer grasp of all the concepts.

