

PII Internship report by Kai Shibuya
Hokuriku Housou

The summer after my sophomore year, I was given the opportunity to intern for eight weeks at Hokuriku Housou. Known and referred to by most locals by its call sign, MRO, it is the only local station that broadcasts via both television and radio, as well as one of the oldest stations on the west coast of Japan, facing its 60th anniversary in 2012.

During my time at Hokuriku Housou, I spent one week in the announcers department (アナウンス部), two weeks in the television production department (テレビ制作部), two weeks in the radio production department (ラジオ制作部), and three weeks in the news/reporting department (報道部). I also was able to briefly observe the work done in the advertising department (営業部) and the technology department (技術部).

For my brief time in the announcers department, I shadowed a different announcer each day, observing them as they picked which news topics to read on the radio, timed and practiced reading scripts, read the news live on the television, pre-recorded talk shows and advertisements for radio, and even went to a local library to read stories to schoolchildren. I also practiced pronunciation and reading with a few announcers, which not only helped me improve my Japanese speaking skills, but also taught me just how difficult an announcer's work is. Through observing their work, I realized that announcer's job is not simply to speak on the air, but includes much preparation to be sure that information can be conveyed clearly – both in terms of comprehension and pronunciation – that one can only know if one goes behind the scenes.

My time in the television production department was my favorite, just for the sheer variety of work I was able to observe. I was allowed to brainstorm with a director in charge of planning a live broadcast; accompany directors, announcers, and film crews as they filmed around Ishikawa Prefecture for information programs, variety shows, and infomercials (and was occasionally allowed to appear on camera as well); observe directors editing hours of footage down to a five-minute program complete with subtitles, sound effects, and voiceover narration; as well as watch programs I had observed from their birth finally be aired on television from the control center of the studio. Through this, I was able to understand how a television program – broadcasted live or from a recorded video, a three minutes or an hour long – is created from start to finish. Participating in location shoots also allowed me to engage in activities of traditional Japanese culture, such as making an *uchiwa* out of *washi*, as well as activities that I would have never done if it were not for the opportunity given, such as standing under a waterfall.

I was also allowed a similar experience of learning more about Japanese culture and Kanazawa in the radio production department. When I wasn't in the studio observing the live broadcast of the station's daily radio show, おいねどいね, I was in the Radio Car with announcers, broadcasting live from various places around the prefecture including a *shamisen* shop, from which I played live on the air, to a watermelon field, where I ate watermelon with the announcer and offered my impressions of the field and its fruit. Even though many of the live broadcasts seemed to cover similar topics to those used on television, I learned that the lack of a picture really did change how information could be clearly conveyed and observed the many tricks announcers had for communicating with their listeners.

For the last three weeks of my internship, I spent time in the news/reporting department. Similar to the television production department, I accompanied reporters as they went to various places around Ishikawa to gather information for the daily evening news program, レオスタ. However, much of my time was spent creating my own five-minute program with the help of a few veteran reporters and a film crew. From the basic idea to the flow of the program, the filming, the script writing, the editing, and even the narration, creating my five-minute program was the culmination of my internship, allowing me to use all the skills I had learned over the past two months.

In this way, I not only got a taste of the environment of a Japanese workplace, but was also able to have a hands-on experience of work in mass communications, experience both everyday life and the traditional culture of Japan, and know Kanazawa and Ishikawa Prefecture more deeply – not to mention greatly improve my ability to speak Japanese. I would recommend anyone interested in the internship program to go for it – it will be a summer well spent.

