

Junior High School and High School

Great

To be someone who can express the attractiveness of Okinawa

12th Grade, Nago High School by Sho Nakamoto

Okinawa is one of the most famous sightseeing spots in Japan. It has a beautiful ocean and sky, with a plentiful nature, traditional culture and delicious food. During the golden week holiday this year, many tourists visited Okinawa. After my club activities I was caught up in the traffic congestion. “Why do so many people come here? How satisfied are these people? And, what should be done to enhance the attractiveness of Okinawa?”

Firstly, Okinawa sightseeing spots consist of Chura-umi Aquarium, Shuri Castle, Okinawa World, Ryukyu Village, and Kokusai Dori (Literally International Avenue). I have been to most of the places mentioned, and local people also find these places attractive to visit. While some think that they can visit these places anytime in their lives, I suggest you visit and enjoy these spots as soon as possible when you are still young. I will eventually have a chance to introduce these places to people I meet. I, however, will not tell them what I know, but what I have experienced. It is just like when you try a bowl of ramen noodles before telling people how it tastes; otherwise, it is not persuasive enough.

In order to preserve the scenery of these sightseeing spots, not only the corporates, but the Government is also funding the efforts to keep the beaches clean. In Japan, the 10 best beaches ranking, 8 beaches are in Okinawa. Of course these beaches are not littered. It is not because no rubbish is there naturally, but because there is someone who picks up the garbage and cleans the beach. You can understand if you have a look at the beach near the place I live. My school organizes beach-cleaning activities three times a year. Each time the garbage can fill 2 trucks. Plastic bottles, aluminum cans, plastic bags, containers of detergent and fishing tools are found. After the beach cleaning, we think about how to prevent rubbish that flows from foreign countries. Not only beaches, but also public facilities including roads and parks have to be cleaned so that Okinawa Prefecture can maintain its blue sky and ocean. Only in such an environment can new events and services be created, allowing Okinawa to raise its fame and develop further.

Finally, the attractions of Okinawa are not just visual. There is something we should not forget. That is the inside of our heart and feelings. Although I do not mean to be conscious all the time, I sometimes take actions in daily life. The place where I live is close to the sea, and I am often asked by drivers and tourists for directions. At such times, I always stop to answer with a smile. It may be very normal, but the reason I do this might be due to the experience that it was difficult to ask the way as people were in a hurry when I was traveling in other prefectures in Japan. After all, not only to tourists, but treat every person you meet kindly. The unforgettable experience may

become the feeling of wishing to visit Okinawa, introducing to friends and wishing to live in Okinawa.

In conclusion, I think we should recognize the merits of Okinawa, have a warm heart to widely accept others, and protect the environment so as to develop without harming the goodness. And in the near future, I may have a chance to live in other prefectures, or interact with other Japanese and foreigners. I would like to become someone who can express the attractiveness of Okinawa with pride.