

また今回は数多くの地元メディアが取材に訪れました。地元紙の愛媛新聞をはじめ、産経新聞、読売新聞には翌日の朝刊に記事が掲載され、「秋山兄弟生誕地で合気道 神奈川協会国際合宿」として紹介されました。また、TV局の南海放送からも取材を受け、当日夜のニュースにて放送されました。

最終日の朝稽古では審査が行われ、朝日の中緊張感に満ちた雰囲気が見られました。その後皆で改修工事が終わったばかりの松山城を見学し、広場に遠足で来ていた小学生たちと英語でふれ合ったりしながら楽しいひとときを過ごしました。カナダの Joan さんより、一ヶ月に及ぶ日本滞在中のレポートが来ていますので一部を御紹介致します。



### An Unforgettable Experience Joan Posivy Nelson, BC Canada

It's been a bit of a challenge for me to stay focused at work this week. Not because of jet lag or a heavy workload, but because during the day I often find myself daydreaming.. reliving so many wonderful experiences during a recent trip to Japan. It has been barely a week since I have been back in Canada after the month long trip and already I find myself contemplating when I can return.

Everyday there were new discoveries to be experienced whether it was in a dojo receiving the gift of instruction from a sensei or sempai, strolling through the many magnificent temples and shrines, or, as was so often the case, witnessing the overwhelming generosity and care shown by the Japanese people.

Our guide and translator was Jean-Rene Leduc, head instructor of the Nelson Canada dojo. In conjunction with his Japanese friends, he created a trip for us that centered around an intense training schedule in a variety of dojos mixed with some unforgettable sightseeing opportunities.

Somehow he managed to find a house big enough for all 21 of us (from Chile, Uruguay and Canada) to call our home base. It was located on a hilltop in Totsuka just one train stop away from our main training location - Takeda sensei's dojo in Higashi Totsuka. It was here that we trained many times each week and everyone in our group commented on how impactful and memorable the keiko experience was in our "home" dojo. It was a privilege to train under Takeda sensei so often during this trip and each time there were many sempai working with us to further deepen the experience. To all of them at the AKI International dojo I extend our greatest thanks.

Although there are too many memorable moments to list them all, one trip in particular stands out. We were on the road for one week and the highlight was the gasshuku led by Takeda sensei in Matsuyama. There we were able to train in a most beautiful, open-air dojo. We enjoyed learning about the history of the area, the dojo and the Akiyama brothers. As a result of the reporters being in attendance, we ended up being on the 6:00 o'clock news too!

Part way home, we stopped in Kyoto for an embukai in front of a very special audience in an environment imbued with a wonderful feeling. There we were treated to a ceremony, which for many of us will have been a once-in-a-lifetime experience.

It seems we were able to do so much in what felt like so little time. In addition to training almost every day (sometimes twice a day), we attended the May 11th event with the Doshu, the All-Japan Demonstration later in the month, several onsens and the breathtakingly beautiful Takaragawa ryokan for an overnight stay in Gunma. These are just some of the many highlights.

Thank you again to Takeda sensei, the teachers and sempai and all those people in the dojos who shared their generous aikido spirit with us, touched our hearts, and caused us to be yearning to once again return to Japan.

