

SUMMER RESEARCH EXPERIENCE IN JAPAN

Antonio Caraballo

**JSPS Summer Research Fellow
2009**

**Research Supervisor:
Professor Shuji Aihara
The University of Tokyo**

My Background

Originally from Cartagena,
Colombia

BEng in Metallurgical
Engineering from the
Universidad Industrial de
Santander

5 years living and working in the
UK

Currently working as a Pipeline
Integrity Engineer for Wood
Group Integrity Management

Part-time MSc Student at the
Cranfield University



Experiences in Japan

- Master Student at the Japan Advanced Institute of Science and Technology, JAIST (October 2001 to March 2004)
Monbukagakusho Scholarship (Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology)
- Summer Research Fellow (JSPS)
Fracture Mechanics & Safety
Assessment Engineering Laboratory
The University of Tokyo



Practical Aspects Before You Go

- Check availability of required software in English
- Ensure materials, books etc are available
- Buy your Japan Rail Travel pass (JR Pass)
- Change some money (ATM's may not be open 24 hours). You'll receive the funds at the host institution.
- Divide your luggage
- Prepare your poster

When You Arrive

- Ask at the airport the correct stop for the shuttle bus
- Jet lag & culture shock
- Arrange the transfer of your luggage to the host institution
- You'll be tired but try to attend all the lectures
- Exchange contact details with other fellows
- Start practicing your Japanese

Home Stay Family

- Do bring them presents
- Let them know if you have any dietary requirements
- Enjoy the activities they have prepared for you
- Stay in touch
- Don't worry about the language barrier



Living in Japan



- Cost of living
- Accommodation
- Paying utility bills
- Banking
- 100 Yen shops
- Recycling
- Mobile phones



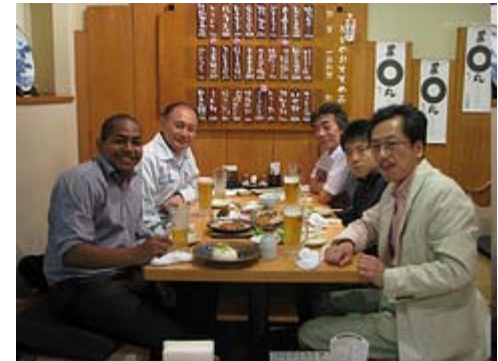
Research Work

- Be prepared to put in some hard work
- Define common goals
- Do not hesitate to ask for help
- Try to understand the differences in socializing in the work place
- Good communication is key
- Remember you are there also to experience the culture
- Don't be surprised if there are sleeping facilities in your lab



Social Activities

- Be sure to make time for socializing
- Do participate of the social activities organized by the group
- More relax atmosphere to build relationships
- Do I have to eat that? be open minded
- Drinking (Nomu-nication)



Leisure Time

- Travelling (Discuss with your host)
- Sports
- Food
- Explore Japanese culture



In Conclusion

- Embrace the culture
- Achieve your goals
- Create follow up opportunities
- Have fun!!



Acknowledgments

- JSPS
- Professor Aihara and the members of the Fracture Mechanics & Safety Assessment Engineering Laboratory at The University of Tokyo
- My wife, Miia, for her support during our summer stay in Japan

QUESTIONS??

Antonio.caraballo@cranfield.ac.uk

Antonio.caraballo@wgim.com