

## Event

# Sakura Viewing Excursion (観桜)

*International students from Juntendo University and Tokyo Medical and Dental University went on a day long excursion to Koma Jinjya, Shoden-In Temple, Taishokaku Inn, and Naguri Onsen, located in Saitama.*

International students from Juntendo University and Tokyo Medical and Dental University (TMDU) took a break from their studies to go on a day long Sakura Viewing Excursion (観桜) to Koma Jinjya, Shoden-In Temple, Taishokaku Inn, and Naguri Onsen, located in Saitama, on April 8, 2012. The excursion was the second event planned around TMDU President OHYAMA Takashi and Juntendo University CEO OGAWA Hideoki's idea of bringing both universities' international students together through Japanese cultural related events. The excursion provided international students the opportunity to experience Japanese culture through Japanese history, flower viewing, food, and onsen baths.

Students gathered at Juntendo University and together rode a bus to Koma Jinjya. The weather upon the arrival at Koma Jinjya was perfect, no wind, sunshine, and newly blossomed saku-



*Above: Juntendo University and TMDU international students, staff, and faculty in front of Koma Jinjya.*



*Above: Juntendo University CEO OGAWA Hideoki guiding Juntendo University and TMDU Juntendo University students through Shoden-In Temple.*

ra flowers. Juntendo University CEO OGAWA Hideoki guided the students through Koma Jinjya and Shoden-In Temple, along the way explaining the significance of the history, buildings, statues, gates, and writings.

Koma Jinjya dates back to the year 666 when Prince KOMANO Jyakko visited Japan as an emissary of Goguryeo, a Korean Kingdom at the time. However after Goguryeo lost the battle against Silla-Tang alliance Prince KOMANO was unable to return to his home. Prince KOMANO under the orders of the Japanese YAMATO government helped establish the 1,799 Goguryeo people that remained in Musashino. After Prince KOMANO Jyakko's death, Koma Jinjya was built to pay respect to the Prince. Koma Jinjya is known as "Syusse-Myoujin," the god of career

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success. The international origins of the Koma Jinya provided an ideal starting point for the excursion.

After the tour of the temple and the flower viewing, students rode to Naguri Onsen, where everyone ate lunch together at Taishokaku Inn. Lunch included traditional Japanese soba, tempura, along with many other delicious foods. Following lunch each of the students made a short speech about themselves, including their favorite Japanese

word. To close out the day students got the chance to enjoy and relax in the Naguri Onsen. All of the different events throughout the day provided many of the international students with new experiences in Japanese culture.

On the bus ride back to Juntendo University the students expressed their pleasure with the trip. Students enjoyed the sakura flowers, lunch, speech, onsen, and chance to make new friends from other countries. One student said

that although he has studied abroad before he has never had an experience quite like this one. Students enjoyed the trip and at the same time gained new experiences in Japanese culture.

Juntendo University would like to thank TMDU and all of the international students from both universities for their participation in making the trip a success and a great start to the spring of 2012. ■