

# 「グローバルリレーションズ・プログラム (GRP)」参加者の声 (July 2020)

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Hello world! I am Dyuti from India. I am a doctoral student at Hiroshima University and primarily work on elucidating deformation mechanisms in fault zones, which is a sub-field of the Earth and Planetary Systems Science Program at Hiroshima University. At present, I stay in Hiroshima International Plaza (HIP) as a member of Global Relationships Program (GRP). GRP facilitates as a platform for cultural exchange between the local community and GRP members, by organizing different cultural exchange events. As a GRP member I have been able to volunteer in a number of cultural exchange events, learning about the local customs from Japan and around the world. The time I spent with students at the nearby school during Tondo festival, explaining them about my country and then enjoying roast mochi (rice cake), is the one I treasure most. In addition, there were other such events where, as a GRP member, I got the chance to visit some local schools introducing them to indigenous outdoor games of India. Some events were also conducted in the HIP premises, where many school students came up for an active discussion with us. Seeing their enthusiasm and inquisitiveness have always made me happy.



As for HIP itself, equipped with all the essential necessities and the endearing staffs, I have always felt it as a home away from home. Surrounded by Sakura and Momiji trees, HIP is beautiful in every season. Furthermore, with the indoor game rooms, a well facilitated gym, a beautiful music room and a very interesting library, I think this is one of the best places to live in. More importantly, since the GRP members are from different countries, we have better chances of understanding each other collectively. One of my favorite places in HIP though, is the cooking room, where we cook with other members enjoying authentic delicacies from around the world. The cooking room is also officially used for different cooking events with local community, and fortunately I got a chance to introduce cuisines from my hometown (Kolkata) to the local community.

The beginning of the year 2020 has been difficult all over the world with the ongoing pandemic and frequent natural disasters, however, people around the globe have been enduring and moving forward. Here at HIP too, during these difficult times it has provided great care and kept us in good spirits. Additionally, the in-house medical amenities and frequent medical advices over email by HIP office members have kept us informed and diligent. Also, with the high-speed internet facilities, we have been able to maintain contact with the family and friends. Taking online classes and continuing research work from home have also been quite convenient. I have cherished every day of my stay here and have been able to learn a lot of things from fellow GRP members, visiting JICA members, people from local communities and school students. Hopefully, soon we get to organize more such events once the pandemic is under control.

みなさん元気でね! Stay safe and stay healthy.