

Report on the Project for the Development of Human Resources
and Support of Self-Organization in the Tikal National Park
Tourist Corridor

Human Resource Development Training
for Promoting Sustainable Activities
in the Communities
around the Tikal National Park Tourist Corridor

Miguel Ángel Echeverría Tager

Kanazawa, October 2019

Attendants to the Workshop

Trainees sponsored by Kanazawa University - JICA

From Guatemala:

Ms. Ingrid Francisca Morales Jiménez from the Ixlú Community

Ms. Cristel Michell Pineda Orellana from Tikal National Park

Mr. José Francisco Cano Ozaeta from INGUAT (Guatemalan Institute of Tourism)

Mr. Carlos Abigail González Gonzáles from INTECAP (Institute of Technical Training and Productivity)

Mr. Mynor Alexander Urizar Chavarría, project director assistant

Mr. Miguel Ángel Echeverría Tager, project director assistant

From Honduras, by special invitation of Kanazawa University:

Mr. Cristian Napoleón Aguilar Nieto from IHAH (Honduran Institute of Anthropology and History)

Hostess

Ms. Risa Ogata, Domestic coordinator of JICA Partnership Program, Kanazawa University

Assistants (post-graduate students at Kanazawa University and foreign collaborators of JICA Partnership Program)

Mr. Masahiro Ogawa

Mr. Alejandro Falla

Translator and Guide (El Secretary company)

Mr. Toru Taki

The Workshop, Day by Day

October 6

The trainees sponsored by Kanazawa University - JICA coming from Honduras —Mr. Cristian Napoleón Aguilar Nieto— and from Guatemala —Ms. Ingrid Francisca Morales Jiménez, Ms. Cristel Michell Pineda Orellana, Mr. José Francisco Cano Ozaeta, Mr. Carlos Abigail González Gonzáles, Mr. Mynor Alexander Urizar Chavarría, and Mr. Miguel Ángel Echeverría Tager— arrived at Tokyo, Japan, in the morning of Sunday, October 6, to attend a workshop held at Kanazawa University. This yearly training workshop is part of the Project for the Development of Human Resources and Support of Self-Organization in the Tikal National Park Tourist Corridor that is organized by the Center of Cultural Studies of the same university. Mr. Masahiro Ogawa, a post graduate student at Kanazawa University, was in charge of welcoming the group at Narita Airport; he guided them to the train station to continue the trip with them to their final destination: Kanazawa.

The first session of this workshop, an orientation session meant to welcome the trainees to Japan, introduce them to the persons who would be accompanying them during these days, and hand out important information on the scheduled activities of the workshop, was held that same afternoon at a conference room at the Garden Hotel Kanazawa. Ms. Risa Ogata, project coordinator of JICA Domestic Affairs, acted as Master of Ceremonies and Prof. Seiichi Nakamura from the Center for Cultural Resource Studies presided the meeting. Mr. Toru Taki translated from Japanese to Spanish and vice-versa. He was in charge of giving the trainees useful practical information and advice on behavioral rules that a foreigner must observe while visiting Japan.

October 7

The official opening ceremony of this workshop was held on Monday, October 7, at a conference room in the Social Sciences and Humanities building of the University of Kanazawa at Kakuma Campus. Ms. Risa Ogata acted again as Master of Ceremonies; Prof. Yoichi Nishimoto, Chair of the Center for Cultural Resource Studies, Prof. Seiichi Nakamura, also from the Center for Cultural Resource Studies and director of the project, and Mr. Yoshihiko Chujyo and Tetsuhiro Ike from JICA Hokuriku presided the ceremony and welcomed the participants. In their speeches they remarked the importance this project has for their respective institutions. On behalf of the group of trainees, Mr. Francisco Cano also had the opportunity to address the attendants with a speech that expressed the group's gratitude to the university and to JICA. Mr. Alejandro Falla also attended this ceremony.

After the photographic shoot session at the end of the ceremony, Ms. Risa Ogata herself guided the group on a tour around Kakuma Campus. They walked around the different buildings of the university and visited the Center for Cultural Studies, the Center for Regional Collaboration, the Natural Science and Technology Main Hall, the Central Library, and the Kanazawa University Museum where they were able to learn about the history of Kanazawa University and appreciate works of cultural and historical value.

That afternoon, the group paid a courtesy visit to Dr. Koetsu Yamazaki and Dr. Yoshio Otani, president and vice-president in charge of international affairs of the university. Directors of JICA Hokuriku, Mr. Kazuhiko Kikuchi and Mr. Tetsuhiro Ike, were also present during this visit where the trainees were welcomed with a cup of green tea and a traditional chestnut dessert. This time, it was Ms. Cristel Michell Pineda Orellana who spoke on behalf of the group. After the meeting, the president, the vice-president, and the trainees exchanged gifts.

October 8

The workshops proper began Tuesday, October 8, with every participant having the opportunity to present the situation and the problems that each one of the communities and institutions they represent face in regards to the development of the Tikal National Park Corridor. A Q&A section followed each presentation and quickly turned into a discussion where all the participants exposed their points of view on each other's situation.

Ms. Ingrid Francisca Morales Jiménez took the first turn and explained the actual situation of the Ixú Community, the community she represents. She expounded on the archaeological, natural, cultural and even gastronomical patrimony that her community possesses and is most often ignored by local authorities and rarely advertised to tourists. Following her presentation and the Q&A section, the discussion followed the objective of trying to establish a strategy to promote a particular product that is unique to this community and could be commercialized and advertised as a touristic attraction.

Mr. José Francisco Cano Ozaeta took the second turn. Representing INGUAT (the Guatemalan Institute of Tourism), the governmental institution that enforces the politics of tourism, he presented the problems and the issues arising around touristic security, his area of expertise. He focused his presentation on the need of a joint effort between the various institutions involved to face together the challenge of developing a local economy based on safe tourism.

The presentations continued in the afternoon with Mr. Carlos Abigail González Gonzáles who came representing the INTECAP (Institute of Technical Training and Productivity). He presented the history of this institution and expounded on the problems that offering a technical education in a rural area pose. He addressed the issues of the lack of trained personnel and the lack of necessary equipment just as the lack of a true interest in education from the people in areas outside city limits.

Ms. Cristel Michell Pineda Orellana followed with a presentation on her work on the preservation of the natural patrimony that Tikal National Park possesses. She presented the work done by the park to monitor water sources, air contamination, and the population of various protected species. Her presentation tried to raise awareness on the attendants of the challenges that preserving natural patrimony will pose on the future development of tourism.

Mr. Cristian Napoleón Aguilar Nieto, the only representative of Honduras, took the last turn and closed the day's session with a presentation of the natural, cultural and archaeological patrimony protected by the IHAH (Honduran Institute of Anthropology and History) and the projects of conservation and social

development that the institute has implemented with the aid of foreign institutions. The IHAH has worked with Kanazawa University and JICA in projects around Maya Site of Copan, an archaeological site in the list of UNESCO's World Heritage Sites.

October 9

For two days, Wednesday and Thursday, October 9 and 10, the group of trainees was taken to the streets of the historical quarters of Kanazawa. As part of the workshop, the group was taken on a tour around the main touristic attractions of Kanazawa to observe and experience how tourism is organized. The group visited the Kanazawa Castle, the Kenroku-en garden, Naga-machi, the samurai house district, and Higashi and Nishi Chaya quarters, the east and west geisha districts. Ms. Risa Ogata led the way and Mr. Alejandro Falla, quite interested in the promotion of touristic attractions, accompanied the group and served as guide and a translator assisting Mr. Toru Taki.

The tour began with a visit to Kanazawa's City Hall, where Ms. Masako Ogawa of the Tourism Section presented a conference on the development of tourism in Kanazawa. She focused on the research and the planning that the city has taken to attract tourism. She also presented statistics of foreign and local visitors distributed according to their country of origin, and showed how numbers have increased since new touristic strategies were adopted. Focusing on municipal policies, efficient planning, effective advertisement campaigns and sufficient facilities to cater for tourists, she demonstrated how a city like Kanazawa has been able to grow around tourism.

The group was then taken to see the Kanazawa Castle Park and the Kenroku-en garden next to it. A tour guide was already expecting the group; he explained the history and the structure of the castle and of the gardens as the trainees walked around the park. The tour guide explained the meaning of some of the scenes built at the garden and talked about how they monitor and take care of trees during the winter.

After walking up and down the Kanazawa Castle Park, a remnant from another time in the heart of a modern city, the group of trainees visited the Ishikawa Prefectural Museum of Traditional Arts and Crafts. They all expected to see there the gold-leaf crafts for which Kanazawa has been known for a long time, but besides that they also found precious clothes and sophisticated tableware: Kaga embroidery, Kaga yuzen designs, Wajima lacquerware, and Kutani porcelain.

The visit to the Museum of Traditional Arts and Crafts and the visit to the Castle and the Kenroku-en had a purpose; the trainees were quick in grasping it and in arriving at a conclusion: it is not just the past and the present that live side by side in this city, art and utility are also inseparable in Japan. Institutional policies, everyone noticed, act accordingly to maintain this equilibrium.

The day finished with a visit to Higashi Chaya, the western tea house district and one of the historical quarters where geishas are still active. A friendly guide explained what geishas were and how samurais and feudal lords were entertained by them in this district. Aware that the trainees were not just tourists and were visiting these quarters as part of a workshop, he also explained the different categories that institutions in charge of conservation have established to organize the streets in this neighborhood according to their importance.

The highlight of the day's tour was a stop at Hakuza, a gold leaf craft store in one of the most visited streets of Higashi Chaya where there is a gold storehouse in the backyard.

October 10

The second day of touring the historical quarters of Kanazawa began with an instructive visit to the Kanazawa Institute of Traditional Crafts. As the day before, Ms. Risa Ogata led the way while Mr. Alejandro Falla and Mr. Masahiro Ogawa accompanied the trainees and helped Mr. Toru Taki, the translator and tour guide that always accompanied them. Mr. Yoshitada Fuchi, Administrative Director of the Institute, received the group and showed them a presentation with pictures of the training the artisans receive. He spoke about the role of an educational institution such as this one in a city where conservation of architecture demands highly qualified artisan labor. Mr. Carlos González, the trainee that came representing a homologous institution in Guatemala, was most excited about this visit. After hearing the presentation and visiting the actual workshops where students train in the art of carpentry, tatami manufacture, roofing, wall construction, and wood, bamboo, paper and tin foil craftsmanship, he expressed his gratitude to Mr. Yoshitada Fuchi. They both introduced themselves and exchanged presentation cards with the intention of being able to contact each other and possibly work together in the future.

In the afternoon the tour of the samurai districts of Kanazawa continued with a visit to Nagamachi Yuzenkan, the workshop of Kaga yuzen designer Ikkou Teranishi. A very short presentation on the process of manufacturing Kaga yuzen was followed by the opportunity to touch and admire the soft texture of silk and the sublime decoration of the curtains and the kimonos that were on display. Before leaving, the group had the opportunity to meet the artist who designs the yuzen they had just seen. An artist known beyond the boundaries of Japan, Ikkou Teranishi appeared as a humble old man that was surprised when one of the trainees asked him for his autograph.

Next, the group of trainees walked to the Samurai Houses and visited the reconstructed house of Nomura, a once powerful family. The house is a faithful reconstruction that also offers the view of a beautiful garden in its interior. The group had the opportunity to walk on a floor covered with tatamis similar to the ones they had seen before at the Kanazawa Institute of Traditional Arts and Crafts, a soft experience for the tired feet of some of the trainees. One of the main touristic attractions in this house was a tea room neatly furnished with cushions for sitting on the floor, a kettle, and a couple of cups; all the visitors could take pictures of themselves posing as if in the middle of a tea ceremony. The touristic resource of setting a stage and letting tourists participate of the exhibition instead of just observing it passively seemed to be the most popular attraction of the house.

While some of the trainees kept touring the house, others took the time to go back to the garden and delight in the peaceful atmosphere it evoked. Every one noted that even in the smallest spaces along this city life is always kept in harmony with nature. Even with only small spaces available, there seems to be no limit to what can be done. The efficient use of space in architectural design has remained a constant throughout Japan's different historical periods. Just like a samurai house built centuries ago, today's public spaces are also designed and distributed with mathematical precision.

Walking around the samurai house district, the trainees were suddenly surprised by an image of Jesus Christ coming out of a garden. After following a trail, they found themselves in one of the very few Christian churches in Kanazawa. Entering a Christian church brought every to the realization of the great distance that separates the West from the East. Half of the church had the usual benches found on any churches on the West, the other half had tatamis. Side by side, East and West were never better portrayed.

To finish the day's tour the group headed to the Nagaya district, to Nishi Chayagai, the eastern historical quarter where geishas still offer their services. This time, a local guide took the trainees to visit the Shiryokan Museum and took them to see a reconstruction of a historical geisha house with multiple independent entrances and exits from a small theater-like hall where geishas performed and entertained men. The guide explained that, under the policies of preservation of historical buildings, teahouses such as the one where the Shiryokan Museum is located must conform to certain specifications, especially regarding the façade's blinds.

Walking around the quieter side of Nishi Chayagai, one of the trainees heard music that did not sound familiar to his western ears. They were walking past a geisha school and future geishas were learning how to play the shamisen. Everyone had just seen that stringed instrument in display at the museum and everyone then stood in silence hearing the strange sounds of traditional Japanese music as yet another instance of West meets East.

October 11

After two days out on the streets of the historical and cultural quarters of Kanazawa, all the trainees returned today, Friday, October 10, to the classroom to hear two presentations. Mr. Masakage Murano from the Museum of Kyoto presented to them the theory and practice of Public Archaeology. Mr. Masakage Murano works for the Museum of Kyoto, but has done extensive work in archaeological parks around the area of Chalchuapa, El Salvador. His presentation addressed the problems that public archaeology faces in Central America, and the solutions he proposed always came from an educational and a political perspective. Since all the trainees are involved in some way or another in the development of the area around Tikal National Park —itself an archaeological park—, the theory covered in Mr. Masakage Murano's presentation was something everyone could easily relate to. All the trainees could not help but agree that the lack of leadership and organization —whether in the educational system or among the policy makers in Guatemala—, are one of the major problems that need to be situated in the foreground of any discussion on social development. The two Q&A sections served to share this opinion and to point out the similarity between the situation of archaeological parks in El Salvador and in Guatemala. The attendants to this lecture included two undergraduate students of Kanazawa University from Latin America that also participated in the discussion held after the presentation was over.

The second presentation was an introductory session for the upcoming visit to the town of Shirakawa. Mr. Tatsuya Ozaki from the Section for the Promotion of Tourism of the Town of Shirakawa, presented the recent history of this town that has been part of UNESCO's list of World Heritage Sites since 1965. Aware of the project that brought all the trainees to Kanazawa, his presentation focused on how Shirakawa grew up from being a recondite town in the mountains and became a touristic attraction that lures thousands of people to Japan. He expounded on the politics of tourism that the town has adopted

to attract visitors and presented accurate statistics that form the grounds for any decision regarding touristic policies.

The presentation went on as Mr. Tatsuya Ozaki thoroughly explained the advertising campaigns that have been developed to target specific touristic sectors. Social network posts, printed material, video and multimedia presentations were handed out or projected on the screen for everyone to see. The exposition of the marketing research that lies underneath all the results that everyone had seen favorably impressed all the attendants.

October 12

Friday, October 12, took the trainees back to the streets. This time, they visited two of the most popular museums in Kanazawa: the Ichikawa Prefectural Museum of History and the 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art.

The first museum on the agenda was the Museum of History. Right after the museum had opened its doors all the trainees entered. Being the first visitors of the day, they had the museum all to themselves. The tour around the museum began with the tour guide excusing herself for not being able to speak Spanish. She told the trainees that the museum has been trying to include guides that can attend groups in other languages. More than half of the tourists she receives come from China and Korea. Everybody knew that for a fact since everyone had already seen the statistics that the Section of Tourism of Kanazawa's City Hall had presented a couple of days before. What came as a surprise was that this museum actually offered guided tours in French and in Spanish —France and Spain (together with Italy) being the two European countries that visit Japan the most—, but when the trainees arrived there, guides that lead such tours were not available.

As the group of trainees walked through the different rooms in the museum, they learned about the history of the Japanese people and commented on the hardships and difficulties they have had to overcome to become what they are now. Leadership and organization was the only answer one of the trainees could think of.

Without a doubt, the best part of the visit was the visit to the area designated as workshops. Destined for kids, in these workshops there are various activities where people can actively participate. Again, just like the tea room in the samurai house the trainees had visited, in this area of the museum there is a school, a kitchen, and a castle where anybody can step into a historical situation: a school during the time of the reconstruction of post-war Japan, a kitchen lit up by fire, and a samurai castle. The most popular was the samurai castle since it was possible to dress up like a samurai and brandish any weapon of choice while someone else captured the moment with a camera. Some of the trainees did not hesitate and immediately went for the samurai costumes. Women were not excluded from the pictures as there was also a kimono to dress-up as Mrs. Samurai. Letting loose the child every adult has inside to play with the costumes was a relief from the grave demeanor the trainees had been keeping in Japan. Even the employees of the museum that were helping and attending them broke their self-controlled conduct and laughed out loud with them at the silly poses and faces that Mr. Samurai and Mrs. Samurai were doing.

The second museum on the agenda was the 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, but the visit was cut short due to the heavy rain and the strong winds that preceded the arrival of a typhoon. Nevertheless, the trainees did have the opportunity to see the work of a couple of the most renowned artists alive today in only the public area of the museum. One particular work of art was of interest for the trainees that had come to learn about tourism and organization: a room announced as a *long term work* titled *Urban Space* that presented a model of a futuristic city with elevated roads connecting buildings above the ground, an underground train transporting people, old and new buildings within the city limits, eastern and western architecture living side-by-side. This work of art was meant to provoke a discussion on the evolution of urban spaces and the planning needed to preserve history without compromising functionality. After spending a week in Japan, all the trainees reflected on the ever-present idea that the Japanese have of planning ahead to anticipate problems.

October 13, October 14

Right after the typhoon went by Japan and flooded some towns in the southeast, the group of trainees hit the road and went to Takayama, led by Ms. Risa Ogata and accompanied by Mr. Alejandro Falla and Mr. Toru Taki. The trainees had experienced the bullet train, but this was their first time on the highways over four wheels. Japanese highways simply go across the mountains through tunnels. This fact was not left unnoticed by the trainees that are used to sinuous roads up and down Guatemalan and Honduran mountainous landscape.

When the trainees reached Takayama, Mr. Hiroaki Hatajiri from the city's prefecture led them through the City Hall and delivered an introductory presentation of the touristic strategy of this historical city. He began his presentation with the statistical projection of population decrease and economic growth: Takayama is a city that is facing a decrease in its population. This, he explained, is a common situation throughout Japan and a problem that local authorities have to think in advance; the touristic strategy they adopted is but a face of the plan they have been following to cope with this situation.

The presentation continued with pictures and explanations of the touristic attractions that Takayama has to offer. Cultural attractions, natural attractions and gastronomical attractions were at the top of the list.

The first place the group of trainees visited was the Takayama Jinya, a monumental government building in the list of National Historical Monuments. Its historical value lies not only within the building itself, but in the collection of documents that it possesses. Having been the cede of governmental authority of this region during the Edo period, the Takayama Jinya keeps records of judicial processes and tax records that are of great value to the person interested in history. The guide in charge of the tour read some documents that the translator delivered to the trainees in Spanish. The one that shocked everyone the most was a farewell letter of a person condemned to the guillotine for leading an uprising. In quite an impassible tone, the condemned expresses his love for his wife and his family and accepts his punishment as if it were an honor.

One place that all had been wishing to visit was a Shinto Temple. Right after having Hida beef for lunch — one of the specialties that was advertised as a gastronomical attraction for tourists— at a quaint little restaurant on a not-so-crowded street in Takayama's downtown, Ms. Risa Ogata took the group to visit

the Sakurayama Hachimangu Shrine. She explained and demonstrated to everyone the ritualistic washing of hands and mouth before entering and the summoning of the temple's deity by clapping twice before praying. Some of the trainees even ventured further than this ritual to ask for their luck after depositing a coin in a box. For some of the trainees with very deep catholic roots, having the opportunity to acknowledge the fact that other religions —religions radically different from Christianity— exist with the same rights, was a revelation. For them, this visit was a very positive opportunity for personal growth.

The second day of this trip took the trainees to the town of Shirakawa-go right on time for the Doburoku festival, a festivity full of traditional music and traditional dancing held on the site of a Shinto Shrine and warmed with a special type of sake prepared for this occasion.

The bus that carried the trainees stopped first at the Shirakawa Michino-eki, the resting area for visitors, the antechamber to the town of Ogi-machi in Shirakawa-go. The location of this stop is most conveniently located in front of a Shinto Temple and in a spot where the village just cannot be seen yet: a touristic spot that just teases the visitor and enhances his anxiety. The trainees stepped out of the bus for short tour of a small museum where a gassho-style cabin is presented through all the stages of its construction. The tour guide of the museum explained to the group how these cabins were made and how the local authorities now take meticulous care to preserve them. Just like the first western architect that set his eyes in these houses, the trainees were also surprised to notice the creative and absolutely logical solutions the Japanese found for housing. Everybody had seen beautifully hand-wrought nail-head covers in the samurai house they had visited, and everybody had spotted them in most of the historical buildings, but his time no one could see any. One of the trainees was just about to comment on this fact when the tour guide explained that no nails are used in the construction of a gassho cabin: everything is tied with ropes made out of natural fibers that are grown specifically for that purpose. No nails, no adhesives: most impressive. The roofing that could withstand a winter on the mountains and provide a fresh night's sleep during hot summers is itself an achievement.

All the trainees agreed that the village of Shirakawa-go was the most beautiful place they had visited so far. Standing on the ruins of the Ogi-machi castle, the first glimpse they caught of this village in a river valley surrounded by mountains is an image they will surely never forget. It was raining, clouds were hanging low on the sky, the profile of the mountains was just insinuated, and the green river meandering along the town was more beauty than what anyone could have expected. The trainees had seen pictures taken from that precise spot in presentations and in magazines, but the actual experience of standing under the rain in a deck on a mountaintop with a full view of the valley surpassed them all.

To see the actual houses, the trainees were then taken to visit the Wada House, a house that belongs to the Wada family and is open to the public for touristic purposes. Besides having the opportunity to take a close look at an authentic gassho house, the trainees could see part of the private life of a Japanese household. They could see the kitchen, the Buddhist and the Shinto shrines that welcomed visitors, and even an exhibition of cases where they used to keep silkworms in the attic.

After visiting the Wada House, the group went directly to the site of the Doburoku Festival, the area of the main Shinto Shrine in Ogi-machi. Traditional dances, music never heard before by their ears, exotic costumes and make-up, all sorts of seafood being cooked out on the streets, rain pouring down, and sake being served to everyone around, visitors and locals alike: it all overflowed the trainees' cerebral capacity.

This was the best opportunity the trainees had to experience the traditions of the Japan of old, and they were all receptive and open to learn as much as they could about it.

October 15

The trip to Ono that was canceled due to the typhoon was rescheduled for Tuesday, October 15. Ms. Risa Ogata and Mr. Alejandro Falla took the group on a short bus ride to this seaside town that is famous for its soy sauce breweries. Ono is a town that has a name intertwined with its soy production. Among the Japanese population around this area —and maybe even farther away—, soy sauce and miso soup are synonyms of Ono, and soy is a staple grain in various Japanese dishes that the trainees could taste: soy sauce, miso soup, tofu. The group of trainees was taken first to the Yamata Soy Sauce and Miso brewery, the most famous of that area.

While waiting for the brewery to open, all the trainees spent some time at the shop next door, a shop that is also part of the brewery they were going to visit. The trainees were surprised to see the many types of soy sauce produced only by this factory. Soy sauces are produced specifically to match certain recipes: soy sauce for sushi, soy sauce for ponzu, sour soy sauce, sweet soy sauce.

Once in the brewery, a very amicable young Japanese explained to them the process of producing soy sauce. She worked next door, at the shop they had just visited, giving free samples of the products and explaining the process of their production; she was already expecting this group of visitors and had already prepared her presentation accordingly. Her presentation was both educational and promotional. She began by explaining the properties of soy and the chemical process of fermentation. She then talked about the importance of soy in Japanese cuisine and briefly recounted the history of the Yamato brewery from origins at the beginning of the XX century. When her presentation was over, she even took all the trainees out to see the actual place that served as a dock for incoming shipments of soy in its early days.

The promotional efficacy of that presentation directed every one of the trainees to buy the products sold at the shop, the various types of soy sauce, miso, and some other unsuspected specialties of the house. Some even ventured to try ice-cream with soy sauce, something people outside Japan would have never thought of mixing. A welcome surprise, soy sauce with soft milk ice-cream was incredibly delicious.

After visiting the Yamato soy sauce brewery, the group walked to another soy sauce shop. The owner of the shop explained the various types of soy-based products that he sells. This shop seemed like a collective shop where all the local breweries take their products and sell them. The shop also serves coffee and offers a limited menu based on local seafood. The idea of a cooperative shop and that of a brewery open for visitors was something that caught the eye of all the trainees that had come to learn about tourism.

Having finished with all the visits the workshop had scheduled, the trainees were taken back to the classroom to report their observations of the trip to Takayama and Shirakawa-go to Prof. Seiichi Nakamura. All the trainees had different appreciations of the places they had seen, but they all agreed that these two visits were going to be in one way or another the models of the projects they will present at the end of this workshop.

October 16, October 17

The trainees spent two days preparing the projects they are going to present. Wednesday, October 16 and Thursday, October 17 were two days to be shut out of the world and focus on the presentation of these projects. Intensive thinking and instructive discussions among all of them were aimed at presenting their best possible work. After all they had seen, after all they had learned, after all they had experienced, they were aiming towards their best.

After preliminary ideas were put on the table, discussion groups were formed to establish how one project idea complemented another and the intellectual machinery began to turn. The discussions began. Projects are going to be presented individually, but they should all be related. This is team work in a different sense: every one works out his own project, but the projects working together make a greater whole.

Ms. Ingrid Morales had a hard time finding the right limits to what she wanted to do. Coming from Ixlú, a community located in a naturally beautiful location, she decided to work on a project that could bring economic growth by conjugating the rescuing of the Salpetén pond, one of the natural touristic attractions that the community has almost forgotten about, and the revitalization of the archaeological park that is in an abandoned condition. Information to guide the tourists, interpretative trails, and a campaign to plant trees in deforested areas were her main proposal.

Mr. Francisco Cano also had a hard time finding a single project that seemed feasible, but finally set for a simple and direct project: the refurbishing of a touristic lookout at El Caoba, a town just north of Ixlú, a few kilometers up along the touristic corridor to Tikal National Park. Inspired by Ogi-machi's castle ruins touristic lookout, an obligatory stop for every tourist going in to Ogi-machi, this lookout at El Caoba is intended to become an obligatory resting spot for tourists traveling to Tikal.

In contrast, Mr. Carlos González, Ms. Cristel Pineda and Mr. Cristian Aguilar seemed to go directly to the point they were looking for.

Ms. Cristel Pineda set her mind on establishing a touristic itinerary that could take tourists going or coming from Tikal through the workshops of artisans along the various communities whose crafts have not received the recognition they deserve. After visiting the Yamato Soy Sauce Brewery, Ms Cristel Pineda decided that the best strategy for selling crafts is to lead the tourists first to see the process of manufacturing, and only then take him to buy the finished products. She even considered the idea of taking tourists to an activity where for a couple of minutes they can become artisans, create an artisanal object, and take it home as a souvenir.

Mr Carlos González already had an idea for a project that could definitely complement the above mentioned project at Ixlú. Throughout all the places the trainees had a chance to visit, he noticed that there were always informative texts available for tourists —a pamphlet, an illustrated map, or a touristic guide. Tourists always have information about the place they are visiting, and his project revolves around this idea of training people in Guatemala to be capable of producing such texts.

Mr. Cristian Aguilar, the only trainee coming from Honduras, presented a project related to the education of the communities around the Maya site of Copán, a World Heritage Site. He believes that by educating people and teaching them the importance of the archaeological park they possess, they can start to use the park for their own benefit. His proposal is based on the belief that the most important step is raising

the awareness of the value that a World Heritage Site possesses. He believes that only then can people begin to take care of the park and use it for their own economic advantage.

With the help and advice of Mr. Alexander Urizar and Mr. Miguel Ángel Echeverría, by Thursday afternoon all the projects were ready. The trainees rehearsed their presentations in front of Dr. Seiichi Nakamura who commented on the weak points and also gave useful advice to all of them.

October 18

The last day of the workshop arrived, Friday, October 18, and this is the day the trainees presented their projects. Dressed-up in formal suits –women wearing their most elegant attire— in the same conference room in the Social Sciences and Humanities Building of Kanazawa University where the inaugural ceremony was held the presentations were delivered by the trainees in Spanish while Mr. Toru Taki translated them into Japanese for Mr. Tetsuhiro Ike from JICA Hokuriku to understand. Representing the International Center for the Research of Cultural Resources, Dr. Seiichi Nakamura was present. Mr. Masahiro Ogawa and Mr. Alejandro Falla also attended this final presentation.

All the presentations received applause, few questions were posed at the end of each one, and everyone seemed satisfied with the results. Everyone seems pleased with the proposals.

The closing ceremony was held right after the presentations and in that same room. Besides the persons present before, high-ranking personnel from the Office of Social Sciences and Humanities of Kanazawa University arrived: Mr. Toshiaki Yonebayashi, Mr. Shoji Koromoya, and Mr. Ryuichiro Mimuro. Mr. Kazuhiko Kikuchi, director of JICA Hokuriku joined his colleague, Mr. Tetsuhiro Ike, and Professor Yoichi Nishimoto, head of the International Center of Cultural Resources Research took a special seat along the presiding table. On behalf of Guatemala, Mr. Carlos González addressed the attendants to express his gratitude. Mr. Cristian Aguilar did the same on behalf of Honduras. All the trainees received a gift and a diploma that certifies they completed this workshop as part of the Project for the Development of Human Resources and Support of Self-Organization in the Tikal National Park Tourist Corridor from the hands of Mr. Kazuhiko Kikuchi and of Prof. Yoichi Nishimoto. After the photo shoot session, the trainees corresponded with the gifts and presented all the attendants with a pound of Guatemalan and a pound of Honduran coffee.

October 19

Due to a temporary suspension on the bullet train service connecting Kanazawa and Tokyo, the trainees were scheduled to board a train on a different route to be able to get to Narita Airport on time. Ms. Risa Ogata was in charge of taking the trainees to Tokyo; she accompanied all of them until she dropped them off at the gate where they boarded the plane that would take them back to their home countries.

The Projects Presented by the Trainees

1. Comunidad de Ixlú [Ixlú Community]

presented by Ms. Ingrid Francisca Morales Jiménez from the Ixlú Community

2. Proyecto para la rehabilitación del mirador turístico El Caoba [Project for the Rehabilitation of the Touristic Lookout at El Caoba]

presented by Mr. José Francisco Cano Ozaeta from INGUAT (Guatemalan Institute of Tourism)

3. Emprendimiento innovador de atractivos turísticos de la comunidad Ixlú [Innovative Entrepreneurship for Touristical Attractions in the Ixlú Community]

presented by Mr. Carlos Abigail González Gonzáles from INTECAP (Institute of Technical Training and Productivity)

4. Proyecto para el reconocimiento de actividades artesanales como atractivo turístico en las comunidades del corredor al Parque Nacional Tikal [Project for the Recognition of Artisan Activities as a Tourist Attraction in the Communities of the Corridor to Tikal National Park]

presented by Ms. Cristel Michell Pineda Orellana from Tikal National Park

5. Propuesta de formación y apoyo a la autoorganización en el sitio turístico Sitio Maya de Copán [Proposal for Training and Support of Self-organization in the Touristic Maya Site of Copán]

presented by Mr. Cristian Napoleón Aguilar Nieto from IHAH (Honduran Institute of Anthropology and History)

All the projects were done with the help of Mr. Mynor Alexander Urizar Chavarría and Mr. Miguel Ángel Echeverría Tager, assistants both to the project director, Dr. Seiichi Nakamura.