

## A JOCV's Dream Come True

"Life is but a Dream..." this is what kept this young Japanese girl reach her ultimate quest to go places, meet new people, learn new culture and be able to share and impart her knowledge to her host country. As well.

Her dream started when she was in high school. JICA volunteers were doing their pitch in all schools in Japan, encouraging students in the spirit of volunteerism. As a young girl, this made a great impact on her as she wanted to go abroad. Her curiosity was fired up by ads on TV regarding the JOCV program. She also often read this call in the newspaper, So in high school she embarked on a ten-day training program in Thailand. She searched and surfed the internet to learn more about the program.

So, to fulfill her dream, she took up course in Agriculture to connect with JICA.

It was not an easy way for her to pursue her dream. It took some seven years before she was able to fulfill her dream though.

In her first try, she was disqualified as she was lacking in experience. This did not deter her. To qualify, she embarked on training programs in Asia: Thailand and Taiwan to beef up her credentials. She did a ten-day hands-on training in a cattle and pig fattening farm in Thailand in her high school days. After graduation in College, she had a 2 year and 6-months stint at the calf department of the Ozaki Chikusun Mikana Farm in Mie prefecture. She was engaged in the feeding management of some 140 calves ages 2-3 weeks old.

After going through the motion, she was once again applied. Again, she was not accepted as she had some skin problems. She was advised to first seek medical assistance and cure her skin problems. Finally, when she was medically safe to go, she again applied. Last May 2007, she received a call from the JICA informing her that she was accepted. She was so surprised as she received the good news when she was answering to the call of a nature in a public rest room. She said she was not able to speak immediately and was stupefied for a while. Then she hurriedly went home and informed her family and friends. They were also happy for her.

Immediately after she reported to the JICA office in Hukushima, Japan for her 65-day pre-assignment orientation, where she was given training in English language, development studies in cross cultural relations.

Finally, she received her marching orders for the Philippines on January 8, 2008. She stayed another week in the JICA – Makati headquarters. There she was briefed about the Philippines, security measures, about food, trying the local transport and did sightseeing. She was able to explore Malacañang Palace, Fort Santiago and the China Town



Chie Tamaru – new JOCV stationed at the Mejino residence in San Francisco, Sto. Tomas, Batangas ( Chie-san, Mrs. Mercedes Mejino and Ching Lumanta)

Personal Profile:

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