

Other Memories- FLEAT II

Willard Daetsch reports the following FLEAT II memories: [There was] the brass choir which welcomed us on the first morning, the delicious and artistic reception, the tea ceremony, the final party and the many informal meetings, late night talks, breakfast together every morning [at the IALL headquarters hotel], etc. Then there was the personal side which left [my wife] and me next to speechless. I expected to have a chance to see some of the family which I had met as an occupation soldier in 1945, but the extent and warmth of the reception was amazing. Apparently the memories of friendship which I have carried with me since leaving Japan in February of 1946 and which I renewed with Christmas cards, was felt also by the children of the family in Japan. Either I have to describe it with "WOW!" or with recourse to describing it as a spiritual experience. -W.D.

Notes from Jackie Tanner, who also attended FLEAT I in 1981: The Chubu campus is lovely, new, on a hill, modern buildings. Bright friendly young Chubu students clad in nifty blue FLEAT II t-shirts directed visitors from the trains to the buses and all around the campus. At 8:15 on opening day a large group of us trooped off to the train station (providing entertainment for the locals), made the bus transfer (encouraged by the students in the blue t-shirts) and welcomed cool drinks offered by Chubu staff-Japan in August is hot and humid, like D.C. The opening formalities provided recognition for the concerted efforts of LLA and IALL committee members who produced the conference. Jerry Ervin gave an appropriate and culturally sensitive opening address, and charmed both western and eastern members of the audience with his flute renditions.

Thursday evening was highlighted with a special tour of a fortress and observation of the historic cormorant fishing. Mrs. Niwa sent cookies to everybody on the bus; what a treat! Many Japanese conference participants took part in the cormorant fishing trip, which gave us a chance to get to know each other better. Since this is a family vacation activity, while there were two boats of conference participants, there must have been thirty boats filled with Japanese families of all ages. In cormorant fishing, people and birds work together. The traditionally dressed fisherman sends the bird into the water with a cord on its neck, tight enough to allow small fish to go down, but not big ones. The fisherman usually controls twelve of the large black water birds at a time, and the fishing scene makes a beautiful night show with bonfires, fireworks, and a boat with music and dancers.

Friday, the farewell party was another example of outstanding hospitality: lovely flowers, lots of drinks, good food, music again from the talented Chubu University symphony, and new friends. -J.T.