

## Expedition Report 2018

During the summer period of 2018, I spent three months living in Tokyo, Japan as I was accepted for an internship at Shingetsu News Agency. I was working as a journalist which meant that I was writing articles on Japanese national and foreign affairs, I was producing video reports on Japanese tourism, and I had attended numerous political conferences and a press tour in Iiyama, Nagano. I was also invited with my boss to attend a celebration at the Egyptian embassy where I was amongst Japan's Foreign Minister Taro Kono, as well as diplomats and ambassadors of various states. Outside my working hours, I had the opportunity to explore Tokyo with other interns that had applied through the InternGroup as we were all fascinated and excited to see everything that Tokyo had to offer – we also made a short trip to Kyoto during a national holiday.



### Internship – Shingetsu News Agency

Working in Tokyo was an amazing experience, one that I would love to relive. There was never a typical day in the office as each day I had something different to do - whether it was researching into Japan's foreign relations or investigating into political scandals that were taking place within the country. However, I also learnt that this was not same experience for everyone as many interns in other sectors did not enjoy their internship as they were regularly tasked with either checking candidate's CVs for the whole day or being tasked to do something they had not applied for. The working industry in Japan in general is also quite extreme as I learnt that one reason for Japan's high suicide rate is because of its working conditions. However, I was fortunate to have a completely different experience as I was working in a field which I always had a passion for and I had the freedom to pursue research and tasks that I was interested in.

My most favourite assignment during the whole internship was when I was selected to represent the news agency and attend a press tour in Iiyama, Nagano. During this assignment, the local tourism bureau in Iiyama wanted foreign journalists to come and promote the town – so to write about the activities tourists could do, the type of food and accommodation that was available, and all the sightseeing spots. Through this assignment, I also met another journalist and a photographer who were far more experienced than me, both gave me great advice regarding journalism as a career path, the positives and the negatives.

My article on Iiyama can be found on the following link:

<http://shingetsunewsagency.com/travel/2018/09/10/iiyama-a-little-kyoto-of-nagano/>

The articles I had written relating to Japanese political, social and economic news:

<http://shingetsunewsagency.com/author/tahian/>

## Tokyo

As well as working, me and the other interns spent our free time during the weekday evenings and during the weekends travelling around Tokyo. The food there was amazing – even though I’m not the biggest fan of raw fish, the sashimi there was spectacular. The vibe and the whole environment was completely different to that of London, and the etiquette of the Japanese people was amazing. I remember the first day I was lost in Tokyo whilst trying to find my workplace, and a Japanese elderly woman tried communicating with me through hand signs and drawings for 15 minutes trying to help me find my way to my workplace as I couldn’t speak Japanese – I think it’s fair to say in London, if you were lost, the most a person would help you would be a minute or two, if they stop for you!

Tokyo is buzzing with so much to see with numerous temples and shrines, several popular parks and gardens, as well as the famous Shibuya crossing. Whilst walking around the city, you will also see people dressed in Kimonos, which is the traditional Japanese attire. Tokyo is also known for its arcades and technology, especially within Akihabara – fair to say, I had visited many different arcades with a few of the guys as we enjoyed gaming and playing bowling and table tennis. In all honesty, there is so much to do and see whilst in Tokyo, words on here cannot describe my entire experience as I had done so much; for one to truly experience it, they must go and experience it for themselves, a trip they will never regret.



## Kyoto

As mentioned earlier on, a few of us also visited Kyoto, which is also known in Japanese history as being the former Imperial capital of Japan. Personally, I preferred Kyoto more than Tokyo as it is a city that is filled with so much culture. This can especially be seen in the architecture of the buildings and the design of the towns within it. Kyoto has always been a dream to visit and for anyone that does plan on visiting Japan, it is one prefecture not to be missed.



## Gallery

As a photographer, I like my photos to tell a story of my travels and adventures, which is why I haven't spoken too much about my experiences. Below I will include a gallery of photographs I had taken and some of me that were taken during my stay and I hope you enjoy it and see the beauty within the country.

Follow my Instagram for more posts and photos of higher quality: [www.instagram.com/tahian\\_ahmed/](https://www.instagram.com/tahian_ahmed/)

