

Shinkansen : A Train to the Outside World

One year has passed after the Hokuriku Shinkansen started their operation. The Hokuriku Shinkansen connects Kanazawa and Tokyo. The Shinkansen makes the journey to Tokyo in about two and a half hours. Since, the Shinkansen has helped close the gap between Tokyo and Kanazawa, crossing Japan now seems easier than ever.

My dream is to study abroad. I have always enjoyed learning English and being able to communicate in English is vital when traveling abroad. Although, studying abroad has always been a dream of mine, seeing the impact in Kanazawa from the Shinkansen has only made me more eager to share our wonderful culture from Japan and even more specifically, Ishikawa. I am looking forward to the day when I can easily talk to foreigners about the riches of Ishikawa such as Kenrokuen, one of Japan`s top ranked gardens, Tsuzumimon, the great gate of Kanazawa station, traditional Kutani craft, and so on.

The Shinkansen is truly, not only a train in Japan, but a train to the outside world. It has not only shortened the distance between Tokyo and Kanazawa, but it has shortened the distance of people as well. People from all over the world are now able to access Ishikawa like never before. Ishikawa sometimes has a problem of being a sheltered community. So many people don't realize how much really goes on outside, of not only Japan, but even just outside of Ishikawa. The Shinkansen is now bringing new culture to Ishikawa every day. The exposure to this new culture brings new ways of thinking, which is a necessity to the growth and development for Ishikawa and Japan.

Although, I want to speak English and inform people of Ishikawa abroad, I would also like to communicate with foreigners within Ishikawa as well. Promoting tourism in Ishikawa is very important because I know how lively and cultural Ishikawa can be. By being able to communicate with the travelers in Japan, I will be able to help the foreigners and the locals as well.

The Shinkansen is truly a gateway to the outside world. It brings people from Japan and the rest of the world into a land which is unknown to them. Before the Shinkansen,

few travelers visited Ishikawa, but now there is an abundance of travelers passing by. It is our job to make Ishikawa as welcoming as possible for everyone who is able to visit. That means that speaking mainly Japanese is not the only option anymore. English is now a necessity in Ishikawa to make it comfortable for foreigners. This will help promote Ishikawa in the future and make our local tourism even better. I hope to one day travel abroad and bring back my knowledge of foreign countries, along with my local knowledge, and I too, can become a gateway to the outside for Japanese and foreigners alike.

Thank you for listening.

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