

1st Column (2015. 10. 15)

Self-Introduction

Hello, my name is Arthur Lechte from Tasmania, Australia. I'm the Coordinator of International Relations at Toyohashi City Hall starting this year. You probably can't tell from my name, but I'm actually half-Japanese, half-Australian. I lived in a bunch of different places because of my father's job. Specifically, I lived in Australia, Japan, Sweden, New Zealand, and the US. My family moved nearly once a year so it was a bit hard for me to repeatedly adjust to different cultures and languages, but I think that has helped me understand a lot of issues that result from cultural clashes. So when people asked me "where do you come from?", I wasn't really sure how to answer the question, but now I simply say that I'm from Tasmania because that is where I've spent the most time in my life (although technically I was born in Gamagori!).

When you hear 'Australia', you might imagine our iconic animals like Kangaroos and Koalas. Maybe some of you have heard of the Tasmanian devil. Yes, that devil comes from the same place as me, Tasmania. Tasmania is the small island down south and it is the coldest part of Australia. The night before I left, the temperature was minus 1 degree Celsius. It was a bit of a shock when the heat and humidity struck me at Narita Airport, but I'm slowly acclimating.

Now that I'm actually here, I would like to try lots of things I can only do in Japan. I plan on travelling around Japan in my spare time to fully experience the Japanese culture (especially the food).

I studied Japanese, international business and international relations in Tasmania hoping that I would find a job where I can contribute towards intercultural exchange and foster mutual understanding between Australia and Japan. My position at Toyohashi gives me that exact opportunity and I am absolutely thrilled. I hope to make the best of my time here.