

HOSEI UNIVERSITY GLOBAL EDUCATION PROGRAM

Hachinohe Fieldwork Program

Learning Global Issues from a Countryside of Japan

-Local Society and Foreign Workers-



Minori Suzuki, CEO of Rootwave Inc.

Tanesashi Coast, Scenic Spot of Hachinohe

Why Hachinohe Now? 5 Days to Understand Japan & the World from Local Perspectives

Aomori Prefecture is a treasure trove of primary industries, including agriculture, livestock farming, and fisheries. It supports the dining tables of everyone living in the Tokyo metropolitan area.

Not only that, but it is also home to the U.S. Air Force Misawa Base and nuclear-related facilities, making it a region that plays a vital role in supporting Japan in areas such as national security and energy.

However, Aomori Prefecture has the second-highest population decline rate in the country. As many young people migrate to big cities, it is becoming increasingly difficult to sustain the primary and secondary industries that support our daily lives without the help of foreign workers.

The industries that support our lives in Tokyo are based in rural areas, and those rural industries are supported by people from overseas.

Is this truly just a problem for rural areas?

While this is an issue connected to all of Japan and indeed the world, there are few opportunities in Tokyo to truly grasp this reality.

I want all of you at Hosei University—who will go on to play active roles on the global stage—to see Japan's regional areas in the context of globalization.

Using Hachinohe City in Aomori Prefecture as our field site, we will visit companies, talk with foreign workers, and listen to the voices of local residents.

You'll be able to see the reality of Japanese society that isn't visible through the news or on campus alone. By getting to know Hachinohe, you'll come to know Japan. By knowing Japan, you'll begin to think about the world. That is the essence of this five-day fieldwork program.

Program Overview

Under the theme “How can foreign workers settle long-term in companies and communities?”, four students from Hosei University have formed a team.

Through preparatory research and on-site interviews with local companies and foreign workers, they will refine their understanding of the issue and propose solutions.

[About Hachinohe City, Aomori Prefecture]

Population: Approximately 210,000

Foreign residents: Approximately 2,000 (the highest in Aomori prefecture)

One of Tohoku’s leading port and industrial cities

A central city in the economic region spanning southern Aomori Prefecture and northern Iwate Prefecture

[Percentage of Employed Persons by Industry (Approximate Figures)]

Primary Industry (Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries):
Approximately 5%

Secondary Industry (Manufacturing and Construction):
Approximately 27%

Tertiary Industry (Services, Wholesale, Retail, Healthcare, Welfare, etc.): Approximately 68%

The percentage in the manufacturing sector, in particular, is higher than the national average → This is the backdrop for the increasing acceptance of foreign workers



Benefits for Participation: Cultivate Skills to Work Globally

What skills do you need in the global world changing rapidly?

Skills to collaborate with people who hold different values and proactively solve problems



Creative and System Thinking



Dialogue and Collaboration



Leadership and Social Influence



Agility and Resilience



Benefits for Participation: Experience Real-World Issues in Hachinohe

Japan: The World's Most Aging Society The Front Lines Are in Rural Areas

"A place where the world's future is unfolding today"

- Gain deeper insight into regional and social issues
- Encounter diverse values
- Take ownership of problems and take action to solve them
- Develop a multifaceted perspective



| The Research Questions for This Fieldwork

THE CORE QUESTION

How can foreign workers be encouraged to settle long-term in companies and local communities?

Possible Hypotheses



Language & Communication

Communication beyond work duties. How to overcome psychological barriers.



Living Support

Proper support systems for daily life, transit, admin procedures, and family accompaniment.



Community Engagement and Preventing Social Isolation

How can we create a "sense of belonging" as members of a community?



Fostering a Sense of Belonging to the Community

Frameworks to turn them into "residents who love Hachinohe", not just workers.

| Program Schedule

We are recruiting approximately 2 regular students and 2 international students.
Students will conduct interviews and present proposals to 5–6 partner companies that will collaborate on the program.

1

Pre-learning (Online)

Kick-off & Orientation
Studying the background
of Hachinohe and foreign
workers

2

Fieldwork in Hachinohe

DAY 1: 2/21 (Sun)

Meeting up in the afternoon,
Exploring the town

DAY 2: 2/22 (Mon)

Interviews
Dinner with foreign
residents

DAY 3: 2/23 (Tue)

Review of DAY 2
Interviews

3

Group Work

DAY 4: 2/24 (Wed)

Prep for Presentation;
Define the issue and discuss
the solutions

4

Public Presentation

DAY 5: 2/25 (Thu)

Proposing solutions to local
companies & the Mayor
The presentation is open to
local citizens
The program ends before
noon

* Partner Companies for the interviews are currently being finalized, focusing mainly on primary & secondary industries (fisheries, manufacturing, etc.)

* Foreign residents attending the dinner event on DAY 2 is expected to be employees working at partner companies

* Optional: Arriving early on 2/20 (Sat) allows you to enjoy the Hachinohe Enburi festival and the 2/21 (Sun) morning market!

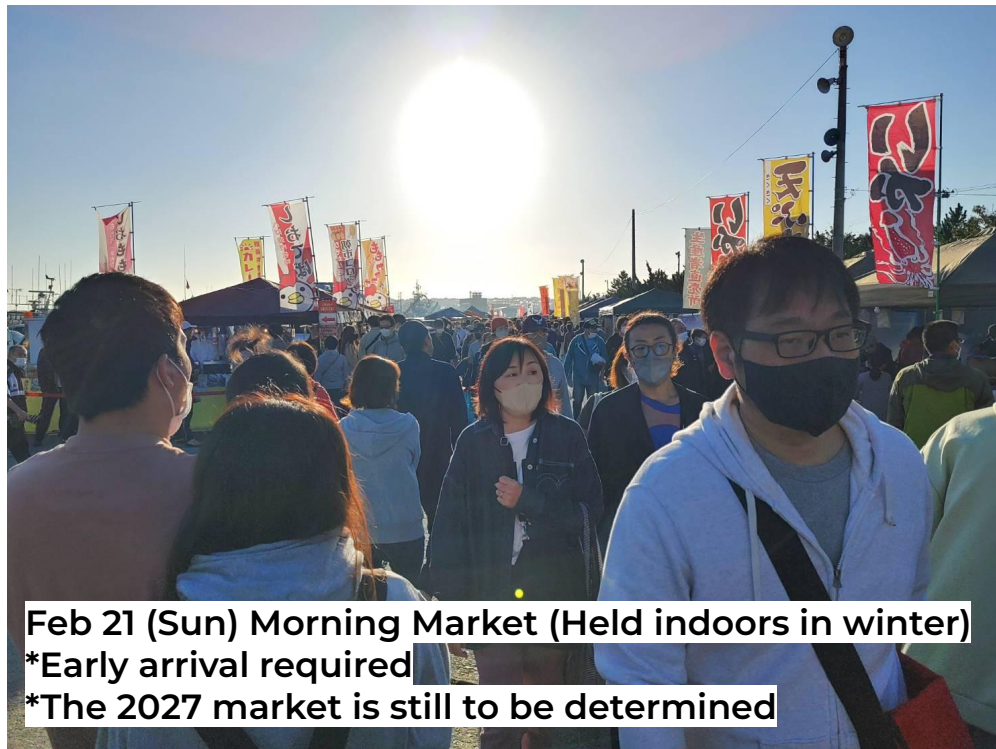
| Accommodation: Hachinohe Guesthouse TOSENOIE

A private whole-house rental renovated from a Showa-era house, operated by Rootwave Inc. Laundry and self-catering available. Includes amenities such as towels, toothbrushes, shampoo, etc.



| Enjoy Nostalgic Hachinohe During the Program





Feb 21 (Sun) Morning Market (Held indoors in winter)
*Early arrival required
*The 2027 market is still to be determined



Feb 20 (Sat) Hachinohe Enburi
*Early arrival required

Organizer: Rootwave Inc. (Hachinohe City, Aomori)



Cross Boundaries. Expand Yourself.

CEO / Representative Director

Minori Suzuki (Hosei University, Sociology Major, Class of 2019)

Born in Towada City, Aomori Prefecture. During university at Hosei, gained internship experience in Italy and studied abroad in the US. After working in sales & planning for an international trade show organizer, relocated to Hachinohe in 2022. Operates guest house "**TOSENOIE**" and cafe "**Hevana**", leading community-building that seamlessly bridges local regions with global perspectives. CAMPFIRE official partner. Has visited 26 countries/regions; loves hot springs and surfing.

● A Message to Program Participants

I embody a lifestyle that engages deeply with local revitalization while staying connected globally. Recently, I completed trail runs in Mongolia and Kazakhstan! Whether you're undecided about studying abroad, uncertain about your future career, or preparing to enter the workforce, we warmly welcome you to join us. Beyond learning about local social issues, engaging in deep conversations with local residents and fellow students will surely offer a transformative experience that shapes your career and outlook on life!

A night scene of a Japanese festival, likely the Gion Matsuri, with snow falling. In the background, a traditional Japanese shrine with a thatched roof is visible. A long wooden fence runs along the right side of the frame. In the center, a series of white lanterns are strung across the scene. The foreground is filled with snow-covered bushes and trees. The overall atmosphere is serene and festive.

From LOCAL to GLOBAL
"Learning about local issues" is nothing short of
"anticipating the future of the world!"

Immerse yourself in the local region, ask deep questions, and learn how to approach an answerless world.
Let's think about the future of Japan and the world together! We look forward to your participation!