

## Fukuoka! What a Delicious City!

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During March 26 to 29, I visited Fukuoka which is the central city of Kyusyu region. It is not my first time but probably 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> time to visit Fukuoka. Frankly speaking, I cannot remember how many times to visit this city, because it was always short visiting like just half of a day. This time, staying about four days are enough to enjoy Fukuoka, and it was really meaningful time to interview.

If somebody asked what the most attractive city is to live in Japan, I would like to say that it is Fukuoka without any hesitation. The biggest reason is delicious dishes of Fukuoka such like Tonkotsu Ramen (とんこつラーメン; noodle with a pork bone broth), Motsunabe (もつ鍋; giblets cooked in a hot pot), and Mentaiko (明太子; seasoned cod roe) so on.



Figure 1 Tonkotsu Ramen with Mentaiko at Hakata station



Figure 2 Motsuyaki (roast giblets)



Figure 3 This is the YATAI!!!

Fukuoka is not only delicious city but also city for business. Offices of public sector for Kyusyu are mainly located in Hakata ward, Fukuoka city. I also visited this area for my interview about city region planning of Kyusyu region and some plan for promoting industrial clusters. Interviews were very exciting; I could get useful information so much. They told me many things at least 2 hours over. I could feel their kindness.

Fukuoka is located 1,100 km far from Tokyo, and it is near Korea and China. From Pusan, Korea, it takes only 3 hours by high-speed ferry. They seem to think about the neighbor. For example, we can see sign has written by Korean and Chinese<of course English also> at everywhere.

At the last night of Fukuoka, I wanted to try Yatai (屋台; a street stall) alone. There were so many salary man came after their work, and they had a dinner and sake. To conclude, I could not enter Yatai that night, because my shyness. I strongly recommend you that if you go to Fukuoka, please try many dishes and sake at Yatai, you can feel warmness and chimney of Kyusyu.