SSH全国生徒研究集会に参加して

SSH海外招請校交流会で全国SSH校を代表して歓迎挨拶を実施しました

Ladies and gentlemen, welcome to Yokohama, Japan. Thank you for coming all the way to see us and for participating in this meeting today.

Let’s make this meeting significant, the meeting to be held from tomorrow to the day after tomorrow. Let me introduce our town. These clothes we are wearing are traditional uniforms, which we wear at festivals. By the way, our high school is located in Nagano Prefecture in the center of Japan. Nagano is located in a mountainous area, such as the Japan Alps, and surrounded by rich nature. Nagano is the place where the Winter Olympic games were held in 1998. Many people visit Nagano so that they take a rest in the vast nature.

There are many ruins and relics excavated in Suwa. The Jomon Venus, one of the excavations about 10,000 years ago, is known as a famous national treasure. We have the Suwa Taisha, which is the head shrine of Suwa shrine groups. There are many Suwa shrines everywhere in Japan. It is said to be the holy place of Ancient faith. Since ancient times “the Onbashira festival” has been held every six years. In the “Onbashira festival”, these uniforms are worn. These are called “Happi”. That time the giant trees of the mountains come down to the village and become gods. As sung in “Kiyari”, a lumber carrier’s chant, the giant trees are cut down, hauled down the mountain to the village, and finally erected at the shrine garden and revered as gods.

Suwa is an industrial area where many precision instruments and optical industries have been developing, thanks to Suwa’s clear water and its faithful people. For example, there are the head offices of “Seiko Epson Corporation”. “SEIKO” is one of the top brands for timepiece production in the world, and “EPSON” is one of the top brands for printers, projectors and computers systems in Japan.

Now, the Suwa industrial zone has produced various kinds of parts or equipment for machines, such as cars, planes, and space rockets, based on the technology of precision machinery.

Our school was designated as the Super Science High School by the Ministry of Education in 2002. Since then we have conducted a special curriculum with an emphasis on science and mathematics, which offers various lectures and training in collaboration with several companies and universities. Such as genetic engineering training at Shinshu University, and observations of the Aurora Borealis, Northern Lights and presentations in cooperation with the University of Alaska. We would like to give you some postcards with a photo which Kasai, our classmate took of the Aurora in Alaska, USA on march 3-5 this year.

Now we are faced with a variety of environmental issues. I think there are a lot of challenges imposed on the young generation like ours who have much interest in the various scientific fields. I think that we need to exchange opinions with each other beyond the race or nationality. And we should research and open up a bright future. We are going to make use of this experience, so let’s build a prosperous future together. We hope to speak frankly and exchange views in this national conference for two days. It should be a great experience. Again, we welcome all of you participating in this meeting. Thank you all!