

Report on the Business Trip to Canada – March 1st – 9th, 2023

President Ezaki, Professor Matsushita, and I visited Edmonton Alberta from March 1st to March 8th, 2023.

March 1st

After arriving in Edmonton via Vancouver from Narita, a car was rented, and we settled into the hotel.

March 2nd

AM: Conducted online virtual meeting with Vanessa Ostapchuck of the Edmonton Waste Management Facility. The facility looks like a good place for our students to see how the issue of waste management is being handled in Alberta, Canada.



PM: Visited and toured the TELUS Science Center. It was determined that this facility would be a good place for students to learn English while studying simple topics connected to science.



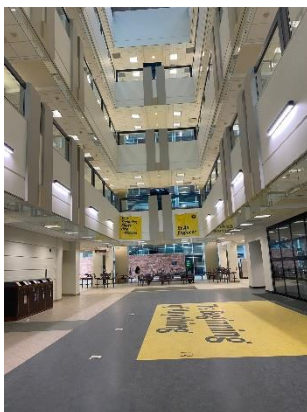
March 3rd



AM: Visited and toured the South Edmonton facilities for ATCO Energy. The tour gave us a brief explanation and history of the ATCO company and we discussed various engineering sites that the students could visit. We then did a tour of the gas pipeline control center and decided that this would be a very good educational opportunity for our students. The subject matter is quite advanced so students will be required to study about these sites before they go on the trip to Canada.

PM: Visited the Royal Alberta Museum. This site would be a good half-day tour for students that will help them understand a little bit about the history of the land and people of Alberta, Canada.

March 4th



AM: Conducted a self-guided tour of the university of Alberta Campus. We walked through various Engineering buildings and Education buildings. We ended our tour by examining the physical education facilities as well. Students will be able to tour the same sites in September and negotiations are still underway about the activities. We have been assured that we will have a guided tour for our students in September at the least. Classroom and lab visits are also possible.



PM: Visited the Old Strathcona and Whyte Avenue areas of Edmonton. These areas will provide students with a chance to see local area small businesses and some local Edmonton historical sites. This will provide the students with a greater understanding of Canadian authentic modern lifestyle and history.



March 5th



AM & PM: Visited the West Edmonton Mall which is one of the largest shopping centers in the world. It has hundreds of shops, along with restaurants, movie theaters, an ice rink, water park, hotel, go-kart racing, and indoor theme park. This will be a great place for students to spend one of the tour days exploring and shopping in a modern Canadian shopping center.

March 6th

AM: Visited three different hotels in the South Edmonton area. These hotels are currently being contacted and negotiations are underway to secure cheap, safe, and comfortable rooms for the students. We then met Ben Feldman from Ross Sheppard for lunch and discussed the possibility of touring some Edmonton engineering sites in September. He has a connection to the Dean of Engineering at the University of Alberta who also owns his own engineering company that is currently building and expanding a public transit rail system in Edmonton.



PM: Visited the Edmonton Police Service's Northwest Division and did a tour of the facilities. This division is not only a police station. It is also a training and monitoring facility for all of Edmonton. Students will be able to see inside a real police training and policing facility. This could provide a valuable insight and comparison to similar Japanese facilities.



March 7th

AM & PM: Visited the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology (NAIT) to meet with the president of that school and sign a memorandum of understanding (MOU) between the two schools. We met with the president and 6 members of the staff and administration. After signing the MOU, we were given a tour of the schools various buildings and departments. We were also given lunch in the school-run restaurant. The nature of the partnership was discussed, and many future possibilities were put forth including the option of NAIT staff and students visiting Nagano, Kosen students doing training and internships at NAIT, and the possibility of creating joint online projects between students and professors of both schools.



March 8th

We returned to Narita from Edmonton via Vancouver.