

# Global Study Program

Collaborative Learning Abroad



**2025**  
Challenges of  
World Heritage Sites  
in Germany and Japan

Chiba University  
Dresden University of Applied Sciences



## Topic & Research Questions

The topic of this year's Global Study Program was "Chances and Challenges of UNESCO World Heritage Sites in Germany and Japan". As a collaborative workshop program between Chiba U and HTW Dresden, this year's program was held in Germany with the aim of surveying, understanding and evaluating the situation of Dresden's Elbtal valley, which lost UNESCO World Heritage Status in 2009 after a heated debate between the city, the state of Saxony and UNESCO about the addition of a new bridge over the Elbe Valley to ease traffic and make the city more accessible. On the other hand, the German-Czech shared border region of the Erzgebirge (Ore Mountains) became a world heritage regional site in 2019, encompassing 17 sites on the German and 5 sites on the Czech side of the border. Whilst it was aimed that these two central local sites were to be the main topical focal point of this year's program, of course the sites cannot be seen isolated but need to be connected, contextualized and compared to the worldwide efforts of UNESCO to designate World Heritage Sites.

UNESCO, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, established the World Heritage program in 1972 to identify and protect sites of outstanding cultural or natural significance. World Heritage Sites range from ancient monuments and historic cities to unique ecosystems and natural wonders. Their designation helps preserve humanity's shared legacy and promotes international cooperation in conservation. The importance of

these sites lies in their ability to tell stories of human history, diversity, and creativity, as well as showcasing nature's splendor. They attract global attention, fostering education, cultural pride, and tourism. Economically, World Heritage status can boost local communities through increased visitor numbers, creating jobs and funding for preservation efforts.

However, UNESCO efforts have also faced a wide range of criticism. Some argue that it favors sites in wealthy or well-known countries, leading to geographical imbalance. Others point out that the focus on tourism can lead to over-commercialization or environmental degradation. Additionally, political influence can sometimes affect which sites are selected or preserved. Here, especially the sites that have been destroyed by local regimes even though they were considered World heritage sites, such as the Buddhas of Bamiyan or the Minaret of Jams gave rise to the debate whether UNESCO designation rather destroys than protects. Despite these issues, UNESCO's World Heritage program remains a vital tool for global heritage conservation. It serves as a reminder that cultural and natural treasures are not just national assets, but part of the collective legacy of all humankind.

Central issues for the academic discussion of world heritage sites are multi-faceted and multi-disciplinary, spanning questions from historiography, architecture, art, urban and natural planning, preservation, just to name a few.



Students developed first research questions concerning the awareness and acceptance of World Heritage Sites among the local populace as well as foreign visitors. Next, questions of the effects of UNESCO designations as World Heritage Sites for tourism and the impact on the local level were perceived. Further, there are questions of how the application process, the application writing, the designation progress and the aftermath plays out and whether there are differences across countries and borders. As the German-Czech Mining Region holds the special characteristic of being a world heritage that crosses national borders, it is interesting to find other similar sites for comparison, asking also how becoming a World Heritage Site can improve cross-border relations and also be a chance for reconciliation of negative relations in the past.

This year's GSP offered rich opportunities for multidisciplinary exploration touching on questions of law and rights, geography, sustainability, and ethics. Students took heed to

research and understand UNESCO, its purpose and efforts. How are World Heritage Sites selected and what are the criteria? What are the differences between cultural and natural heritage sites? How is human interaction with the environment reflected? Next, questions of comparison of value of such sites came into consideration. Why were the Pyramids of Egypt, the Great Wall of China, or the Galápagos Islands designated as World Heritage Sites? How do these sites compare to an internationally lesser known era such as the Erzgebirge or Dresden Elbtal valley? How are sites preserved, and what challenges do they face? How is the situation at the local level in Dresden and the Erzgebirge? What role do conflict and climate change play? How does politics influence the designation or protection of heritage sites? What are the economic benefits for local communities? How can underrepresented regions or cultures gain more visibility on the list? Such and more were the questions on which the students built their group work.

GSPとは、千葉大学が海外の協定大学と連携して実施する留学プログラムである。2025年度のGSPはドイツ・ドレスデンで開催され、ドレスデン応用科学大学から5名、千葉大学から5名の計10名が参加した。2009年にエルベ渓谷が世界遺産リストから抹消された事例は、世界で2番目のケースとして知られている。本プログラムでは、そのドレスデンを舞台に、遺産の保護と都市の現代化の両立について、フィールドワークやディスカッションを通して理解を深めた。

フィールドワークでは、世界遺産に登録されているドイツ・チェコ国境付近の鉱山や博物館などを訪れ、かつての人々の営みを肌で感じることができた。プレゼンテーションやディスカッションは、参加者全員が英語を第二言語とする環境で行われたため容易ではなかったが、その分、各自が積極性と主体性を発揮し、充実した学びを得ることができたプログラムであった。(小出陽登 / Haruto)



# Schedule of Activities

	Day	Contents
Pre-course	15 April	Online meet & greet, Introduction to the Program
	29 April	Explanations of Cultural Presentations
	13 May	Online lecture by Prof. Albrecht about World Heritage Sites in Germany
	27 May	Online lecture by Prof. Shimoda about World Heritage Sites in Japan
	24 June	Guidance session on OPAL and registration (for Japanese students)
	8 July	Online lecture by Prof. Ebara about the case of Hiroshima
	15 July	JTB Safety and Travel Preparation session
	29 July	Preparation of Cultural Presentations
Main Program	<b>September</b>	
	15	Welcome, Cultural Presentations and Teambuilding
	16	Lecture by Dr. Matthias Lerm about the Dresden former World Heritage Status and current Urban Development at the New City Forum Survey of the Elbtal Valley, Workshop start
	17	Visit to historical mining sites Markus Röhling Stolln and Frohnauer Hammer
	18	Visit to the Mining Museum, Church and inner City of Annaberg-Buchholz
	19	Conduction of surveys, team workshop
	20	Team workshop and Midterm Presentations
	21	Visit to the City of Meißen
	22	Excursion to Freiberg, Technical Universit Bergakademie and historical mining sites
	23	Excursion to Altenberg mining museum and Zinnwald historical mine
	24	Preparations of Final Presentations
	25	Final Presentations and Farewell Party
	26	ChibaU Students Departure for Prague Exploring the Inner City World Heritage of Prague
	27	Return to Japan
Post-course		
	25 November	Feedback from the GSP Team, Reworking of final presentations Final preparations for the 2025 booklet



# | Collaborators and Organizers

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All the other friendly and helpful staff at our fieldtrip sites

All the friendly staff at International Student and International Planning Division (Chiba U)

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# Program Components

The framework of the 2025 Global Study Program between HTWD and Chiba U evolved from a collaborative discussion among the instructors involved on both sides. When the GSP is held in Germany, we always work toward a topic that not only provides insights that can only be found in the locality there, but a topic that in itself is approachable from both technological as well as cultural study-related fields. As the state capital of Saxony, Dresden is a culturally rich and well known historical city. It also gained international "fame" as the first European city to ever be delisted as World Heritage site due to a 2007 decision to build a new bridge over the Elbe river from 2009-2013. Furthermore, Dresden, as well as the City of Chemnitz, the latter awarded as „cultural metropole of Europe“ in 2025, both serve as entrance points to the Erzgebirge region that has been awarded with World Heritage status in 2019. As such, students during the program had the chance to not only visit the rather recently designated sites but have valuable conversations with local stakeholders to learn about the past, recent state, and future plans for the region.

First, thanks to a presentation and discussion with the head of the city planning division of Dresden students could learn on how and why Dresden became a World Heritage site and why it equally lost the status. A walk along the former World Heritage site helped the students to survey and understand the situation, especially given the light of the recent crash-in of the central Carola-bridge (2024) that was central in linking the City across the Elbe river.

From then, the program component focus shifted toward the Erzgebirge „Ore Mountains“ region.

The Erzgebirge is a picturesque mountain range that stretches across the border between Germany and the Czech Republic. Known for its striking landscapes, the region is rich in history, culture, and tradition. The Erzgebirge has long been associated with mining, particularly the extraction of silver,

tin, and other ores, which played a pivotal role in the development of Central Europe during the medieval and early modern periods. This industrial heritage, combined with the stunning natural beauty of the area, has earned the Erzgebirge a special place in both German and European history. The region is also renowned for its craftsmanship, especially its wood carving tradition, which dates back centuries. Iconic wooden ornaments, nutcrackers, and incense smokers are made here, often reflecting the folklore and customs of the region. The Erzgebirge's Christmas traditions, including its world-famous Christmas markets, attract thousands of visitors each year. Today, the Erzgebirge is a UNESCO Global Geopark, recognizing its geological significance, but its cultural and historical importance remains the heart of the region. The area continues to inspire art, music, and literature, making it not only an industrial hub of the past but also a cultural treasure trove of the present.

An over-night stay during a two-day excursion in the region around Annaberg-Buchholz gave the participants ample chances to talk to local stakeholders and those directly involved in running and preserving the former ore mines and related professions such as blacksmiths and stamping mills („Pochwerk“) but also the close link to religion and ore mining, inspecting „Mining churches“ and learning about traditions such as the „Mettenschicht“, the special celebrations at the final shift of the mining year before the Christmas/New Year's break.

During visits to Freiberg and Altenberg, students could further learn about the rich traditions of the ore mining region, but also about its effects on the natural environment. Here, especially the survey of the so-called Altenberger Pinge, a mountain that collapsed in 1620 due to excessive mining. Moreover, students learned about the problems of former uranium mining in the region and how tourism affects the region. There are even plans to take up mining efforts again due to European demand for lithium. Thanks to visiting a diverse

range of mines and mineshafts, students further could first-handedly experience the differences and common points between the individual sites as well as differences due to the historical development of mining techniques across centuries.

It was most interesting that students could experience themselves how intangible cultural assets are also playing a role with World Heritage sites. Prominently during the program, we learnt about the Ore mountain variant of "bobbin lace", the beautiful art of Klöppeln, which was first past-time, then a welcome addition to the livelihood of people in the region. The beautiful decorations and ornaments lead to the region becoming a site of ornamental business, next to other arts such as tinmaking, diorama making and more. Finally, the organ as the most important instrument of Church music was also perfected by settlers in the region, which is why German organ technique is also part of World Heritage. Thus, albeit the program was rather cultural, economically important factors were also duly introduced.



GSPは、自国での事前学習と文化プレゼンテーションの準備、渡航先での協働学習やフィールドワークから構成されています。事前学習では、今回のテーマである世界遺産について、複数の教授による講義をオンラインで受け、文化紹介のプレゼンは各グループでテーマを決めて準備を進めました。渡航後は、お互いの文化プレゼン、ドレスデン市内外でのフィールドワーク、与えられたトピックについてグループでの発表制作をしました。ドレスデンは抹消された世界遺産であり、それについての講義を受け、遺産取り消しの要因となった橋を実際に見に行きました。加えて、世界遺産に登録されているエルツ山地も複数回、様々な土地を実際に見て回りました。鉱山に入ってガイドの方の詳しい説明を聞き、同時に鉱山で栄えた町全体についても、文化的側面を含めて学習しました。そして、現地で見聞きしたことを踏まえ、グループワークでは各チームのトピックに沿った調査や考察を行いました。発表は、中間と最終の二回あり、発表後は学生・先生たちからの質問やフィードバックの時間もありました。(石井杏佳 / Kyoka)



## Pre-course lectures and activities

# Pre-course education

The pre-course education began in late April and consisted of twelve online sessions. The first session was a meet and greet to get to know the participants in the respective countries. Cultural Presentations were explained and sessions held to fine-tune the student work. There was also a session on safety and travel preparation and another one to familiarize the Japanese students with the online learning platforms we used during the program. Three main lectures held online introduced central topics of this year's GSP and gave an outline of the history of UNESCO and problems associated with World Heritage sites.

The first lecture was a simultaneous-interactive lecture by Professor Albrecht, which focused on the overview of UNESCO and deepened our understanding. For instance, Europe has an overwhelming number of World Heritage sites, with Germany, which we visited, having 52, twice as many as Japan. Also, details about the application process and efforts of the ore mountain region were mentioned. The second lecture was held in May and involved watching a video lecture by Professor Shimoda of the University of Tsukuba. In class, we learned about several examples of heritage sites that had been removed from the UNESCO list, including Dresden. He pointed out the dilemma of a growing number of World Heritage Sites and decreasing resources to conserve and manage them. We learned about several examples, which was meaningful and helpful during the program. In the final lecture, Professor Ebara, Faculty of Engineering at ChibaU, explained the history of the Atomic Bomb Memorial Dome in Hiroshima.

Prof. Ebara touched not only on its historical background but on the structure itself, highlighting the challenges of its application and preservation efforts. In addition, she discussed the industrial aspects of the region's development and urban development after its registration. Thus, the lectures were a very helpful introduction to our topic, giving us insights from various angles. (Takeshi)



## Preservation and Use of World Heritage Sites in Japan

Ichita Shimoda  
University of Tsukuba  
Graduate School of Comprehensive Human Sciences, World Heritage Studies







## Main course start! Cultural Presentations



The Trabi today

- Classic & collector's car
- Symbol of freedom and nostalgia

At the beginning of our GSP, we held several cultural presentations to introduce different aspects of German and Japanese culture. Each group chose a unique topic, and together they gave us a lively and diverse picture of both countries. The first presentation focused on cars, especially VW, the Trabant, and Mercedes-Benz. It showed how the automobile industry reflects not only technical progress but also social and historical developments. The contrast between the simple East German "Trabi" and the luxurious Mercedes illustrated how divided Germany once was, but also how both sides contributed to today's strong car culture.

The second topic, Hakone Ekiden, gave us an insight into Japan's famous long-distance relay race, where teamwork, discipline, and spirit play a central role. Another group presented Japanese vending machines, which fascinated us with their creativity, convenience, and variety, showing how innovation can be part of daily life. The final presentation concentrated on German traditions and local celebrations, showing how they strengthen community life and preserve cultural identity. Together, these four topics helped us see culture as something dynamic, connecting people across countries and generations. (Max)

**事** 前教育は4月の下旬に始まり、全3回にわたってオンラインで行われました。初回はHimmer教授による同時双方向型の授業で、ユネスコの概要を中心に理解を深めました。例えば、欧州の世界遺産登録数は圧倒的で、私たちが訪れたドイツの登録数は日本の倍となる52にのぼります。第2回は5月に行われ、筑波大学の下田先生による講義動画を視聴しました。授業内ではユネスコによって登録を抹消された遺産の例をいくつか学び、ドレスデンもその一つでした。この事実を渡航前に知ることができたのは大変有意義で、プログラム中も参考になりました。最終回は千葉大学工学部の瀬原先生に担当していただき、広島原爆ドームについて深く掘り下げたものでした。歴史的な背景だけでなく建物の構造そのものについても触れ、登録に至るまでや保全活動における難しさを感じました。加えて、登録後の地域の発展や都市開発などの産業面の話もあり、こちらも興味深い内容でした。3回の事前教育で得た知見はどれも新鮮で、現地で議論する際に必要不可欠なものでした。(條川武志 / Takeshi)



## Main Program: September 16

# Lecture by Dr. Matthias Lerm



On the second day of joint activities, the students visited the Dresden City Forum in the heart of the Dresdner Altstadt. There they were welcomed by urban planner Dr. Lerm, who gave a lecture on urban development over the last decades and current challenges.

During his presentation, he was able to use a large model of Dresden's city center, which is permanently installed in the City Forum, to illustrate his points. In addition to the loss of the World Heritage title due to the construction of the Waldschlösschen Bridge in the Dresden Elbe Valley Cultural Landscape, he also discussed the recent collapse of the Carola Bridge built in the late 1960s and future plans to limit traffic in the city. Dr. Lerm explained that a reduction in parking spaces would automatically lead to a decline in inner-city traffic. As this is a very controversial issue, not all students were able to agree immediately, and a lively exchange with the expert ensued. The Japanese students also took an active part in the discussion, as traffic volume seems to be a current issue in their hometown as well. The Waldschlösschen Bridge, with its modern appearance, supports traffic in Dresden, but in 2009 it meant the loss of the WHS title. Dr. Lerm explained that the revocation of the title did not result in a noticeable decline in tourism. Tourists would usually intend to visit Dresden mainly for its reputation and architecture and not for a prestige title. Nevertheless, he said he would endeavor to reduce traffic to a minimum in the future in order to preserve the quality of Dresden's historic architecture. (Florian)





## Waldschlösschenbrücke & Blaues Wunder Exploring the Elbtal Valley

Our excursion in Dresden focused on the connection between the city's cultural landscape and its World Heritage history.

We took the tram to Waldschlösschen, where we visited the Waldschlösschen Bridge – the construction that ultimately caused Dresden to lose its UNESCO World Heritage title. From there, we walked across the bridge and took time to observe the Elbe Valley, which had once been part of the World Heritage Site. The view clearly illustrated how the modern bridge has changed the appearance of the landscape, which has been one aspect for UNESCO to withdraw the title.

After crossing back, we took the tram to Oberloschwitz and walked to the historic funicular railway. From the viewing platform above the city, we had an impressive panoramic view over Dresden and the Elbe Valley, which helped us to better understand the spatial relationship between the urban area and the surrounding landscape.

Finally, we rode the funicular down to the river, visited the famous “Blue Wonder” bridge, and then took the tram back to the HTW. The excursion gave us a deeper insight into how urban development, landscape, and heritage protection can come into conflict – and how visible these tensions still are today in Dresden. It also showed us that the new river crossing is an important lifeline for the city – and that it is adaptable to all form of mobility. (Taiga)



次の日は朝8時前に学校を出発し、Markus Röhling Stolln に到着後、ガイドツアーに参加しました。ヘルメットを装着しポンチョを身につけて鉱山内へ進むと、ひんやりとした空気に包まれ、息が白くなるほどの寒さの中で、かつての鉱夫たちの厳しい労働環境を実感することができました。ガイドの方からは鉱山の歴史や採掘の仕組みについて詳しい説明を受け、学びの多い貴重な時間となりました。昼食は「Waldgasthof & Hotel Am Sauwald」にて取り、テーブルいっぱいに並んだ料理の数々に皆が歓声を上げました。どの料理も非常に美味しく、旅の疲れが癒やされました。午後は Frohnauer Hammer を訪問し、伝統的な鍛冶技術や当時の作業風景に触れました。金属を打つ力強い音に圧倒されつつ、職人の技術の高さを改めて感じました。実際に世界遺産を見学することで、その価値や保全の重要性をより深く理解することができ、中間プレゼンテーションに向けて大きな学びを得る一日となりました。(石野渚空 / Sara)



Main Program: September 17

## Röhling Stolln & Frohnauer Hammer



The Markus-Röhling-Stolln was our first underground mine experience, and it immediately became one of the highlights of our field study. Before entering, we were equipped with helmets and ponchos, and received a short safety briefing from our guide, Nico. After a cheerful “Glück auf!”, we boarded the small mining train and rode deep into the tunnel. Nico guided us through different sections, explaining both the historical mining techniques, still visible through the original marks on the rock, and the modern methods with their impressive machines. He answered all our questions professionally, yet always with humor, and kept us engaged by asking us questions in return. The tour was not only informative but also truly immersive. After another “Glück auf!” we left the tunnel, had a short conversation with Nico, and continued our day with a new appreciation for the mining heritage of the Erzgebirge.



Next, we visited the Frohnauer Hammer, a historic forge that has played an important role in the region's mining history since the 15th century. For many generations, tools that were indispensable for underground work were forged here. Particularly impressive was the hammer mechanism, which is still fully functional today. It works almost automatically, but is based on the simplest of means and is powered solely by the force of water. This technique was demonstrated in a vivid live demonstration. A round iron blank was heated and forged into a point to show how blacksmiths back in those former times sharpened their tools. In addition to the forge, building also houses a small museum. There, visitors can marvel at historical ironwork as well as traditional wooden artworks typical of the Ore Mountains region. (Max / Florian)





## Main Program: September 18 Mining Museum & St. Anne's Church

After a healthy breakfast we checked out of the beautiful youth hostel of Annaberg-Buchholz and moved to the inner city, where we had an introductory walk before visiting the Mining Museum with its mine "Gößner". After completing the fascinating guided tour of the "Gößner" silver mine, our group continued on to visit the famous St. Anne's Church, one of Annaberg-Buchholz' most remarkable landmarks.

We spent some time inside, admiring its architecture and atmosphere. The famous altar with scenes from the long mining history in the region especially impressed us.

Then our schedule allowed us a bit of free time. Everyone quickly found their own way to enjoy it: the Japanese exchange students were excited to capture as many photos as possible, focusing on the city's stunning views, old streets, and the colorful flowers decorating the streets.

Meanwhile, the German students had a more practical mission—finding a place nearby that offered both tasty food and reasonable prices. After a short search, we discovered a small butcher's shop just around the corner, where we enjoyed a surprisingly delicious and affordable lunch together. With our appetites satisfied, we continued exploring the town, strolling through one of Annaberg's charming districts.

Walking past its historic houses and lively streets gave us the chance to talk, laugh, and enjoy the special mix of cultures within our group. (Moe)



博物館では、たくさんの古い骨董品、伝統的なクリスマスの飾り、そして興味深い古い機械を見ました。私が知っているものや想像していたものとは違うスタイルの、最も古い伝統的なクリスマスの飾りを見られたのは、とても印象的でした。鉱山にも行き、水車も見ましたが、それ以上に、当時の文化や生活様式を理解できる展示が私にとって興味深いものでした。博物館を見た後、私たちは大きな教会へ向かいました。とても素晴らしく、興味深かったのは、その教会が鉱業の繁栄のために建てられたという点です。これは日本の「五穀豊穡」を願う神社と似ていると思いましたが、特定の産業のための教会や神社があるという話はそれまで聞いたことがありませんでした。その後は自由時間だったので、街を散策しました。木彫作品がたくさん展示されている小さな教会にも行きました。天気も素晴らしく、町を十分に楽しむことができました。私は、地域の有名で代表的なものを聞くと、たいいていそれに注目し、それを体験したいと期待してしまいます。しかし、たとえ鉱山が世界遺産であっても、それに関連する重要な遺産や歴史が数多く存在することを知りました。知らなかった物事に目を向けるのは面白く、いつも独自の発見があります。(Kyoka / Sara)



For the mid-presentations, Japanese and German students were divided into three groups, each consisting of three to four members. The research themes assigned to each group were as follows: 1. Awareness and Acceptance of World Heritage Sites; 2. Effects of World Heritage Sites on Tourism and Local Communities; 3. Motivations for Applications, Application Process, Failure, and Challenges. These topics were assigned by the professors, but not in order to limit us but rather as a framework for us to develop our own questions.

Within a limited timeframe, participants shared insights gained through a preliminary study and collected additional information online. Moreover, by conducting street interviews with local residents, we valued the voices that could only be obtained on-site and deepened our understanding of the relationship between World Heritage Sites and local communities. This was especially important as it provided us with voices and thoughts of those who were in Dresden at the time when it was awarded World Heritage Status and when the World Heritage Status was taken away. Moreover, it prepared us for doing more rounds of qualitative surveys during our outings in the Erzgebirge region.

Prof. Biontino gave us a short but down-to-the-point lecture on how to create survey questions and the caveats when conducting surveys with people addressed in public space, pedestrians.





## Main Program: September 20 Workshop and Mid-Presentations

Before the mid-presentation, we conducted fieldwork at a mining site near the border with the Czech Republic, where we were able to experience a World Heritage Site firsthand. During this visit, we sought to comprehensively examine the nature of World Heritage from three perspectives: those who protect it, the residents who live around it, and the tourists who visit from outside.

For the mid-term presentations, we prioritized the deepening of our ideas over the design or format of the presentation itself. On the presentation day, the session proved to be an important step leading to the final presentation. Through active discussions among students and constructive feedback from faculty members, students could gain a deeper insight into pending issues. After the mid-presentations, we made a roundtable to decide how to proceed for the next week leading to the final presentation. In doing so, we had the opportunity to restructure groups also to ensure that everybody could delve deeper into the aspects deemed most interesting by the respective students. (Haruto)



中間発表では、日本およびドイツの学生を交えて3つのグループを編成し、各グループは3～4名で構成された。各グループの研究テーマは以下の通りである。1. Awareness and Acceptance of World Heritage Sites; 2. Effects of World Heritage Sites on Tourism and Local Communities; 3. Motivations for Applications, Application Process, Failure and Challenges 限られた時間の中で、事前学習において得た知見を共有するとともに、必要な情報をオンライン上で追加収集した。さらに、現地住民への街頭インタビューを通じて、現地でしか得られない住民の声を重視しながら、世界遺産と地域社会との関係性について考察を深めた。

直前のフィールドワークでは、チェコ共和国との国境に位置する鉱山を訪問し、世界遺産を実際に体感した。現地では、世界遺産を保護する立場の人々、地域住民、そして外部から訪れる観光客という三者の視点から、世界遺産の在り方を多角的かつ包括的に捉えることを試みた。(小出陽登 / Haruto)



Main Program: September 21

## Visit to Meißen: Albrechtsburg, Dom



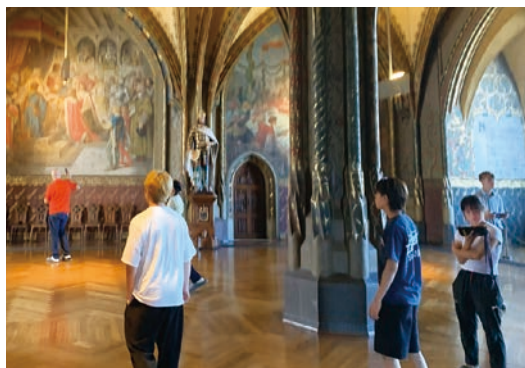
On Sunday, our only free day in the program, we chose to visit the Meißen Wine Festival, following my recommendation as a local.

We arrived early to see the grand parade, which was full of color and excitement. Local sports groups marched proudly, performing to promote their clubs and attract new members. Festival participants in costumes added to the lively atmosphere, often stopping to refill our glasses with wine (for free!), which made the event even more cheerful.

Afterwards, we enjoyed tasting different varieties of regional wines, each with its own unique flavor.

Later, we visited Albrechtsburg Castle and Meißen Cathedral, two of the city's most famous landmarks. At the castle, we learned about medieval life, the history of Meißen porcelain, and admired detailed architectural drafts and tools. Inside the cathedral, we were impressed by its beautiful interior and the display of medieval garments.

In the afternoon, we had free time. The Japanese students tried local festival foods like Langos and Federweißer, while others sampled more wines. Before leaving, we spent some time at the funfair, where one of our friends discovered a love for adrenaline rides. It was a wonderful, memorable day full of culture, history, and fun. (Moe)







Main Program: September 22

## Excursion to Freiberg



Our excursion began with a short introductory presentation about the city and its historical role within the region. In heavy rain, we had a guided walking tour through the old town, which gave us a vivid impression of the city's rich architectural and cultural heritage. We visited the historic town hall and its underground cellars, including the former prison rooms that offered a glimpse into Freiberg's past social history. The tour also included a small exhibition showing semiconductor products made in the Ore Mountains as well as the old minting press used for coin production.

After a short lunch break at the Schankhaus, we continued our walk towards the "Alte Elisabeth" silver mine. Then we visited the "Reiche Zeche" mine, where we learned about historical mining technology through a detailed model of the ore stamping process and an original underground water wheel that pumps water out of the tunnels. The city is clearly proud of its mining heritage, which is reflected in its monuments, preserved buildings, and local identity. (Taiga)

日 帰りでフライベルクに行き、大学の教授によるフライベルクについての講義を受け、町をガイドしてもらいつつ散策しました。講義は、フライベルクの変遷がメインの内容で、世界遺産に関しても触れられました。古代は森だったが、銀などが採掘できると分かり、人が集まってきて、町になっていったという話を一番覚えていました。町では、教会や鉱山採掘に関連する建物、中世の牢屋などを見学しました。世界遺産のエルツ山地に含まれる鉱山を学んだというよりも、フライベルクの町そのものを感じられる内容でした。私が印象に残っているのは、少し高いところから見渡したフライベルクの景色です。あいにくの曇天でしたが、森だった場所が鉱山により発展して、閉山後の現在もお町として続いていることに何となく歴史ロマンを感じました。私の感覚では、何か撤退・衰退することは過疎化、限界集落などマイナスな方面と結びつくものだったからです。鉱山業によりできた町が、閉山後も世界遺産の鉱山を軸の一つとして維持されていることを知って感じられる学びがありました。(石井杏佳 / Kyoka)



Main Program: September 23

## Excursion to Altenberg



First, we visited the Zinnwald Visitor Mine on the German-Czech border in the eastern Ore Mountains. Walking through the narrow, dimly lit tunnels, we gained an impression of the demanding working conditions faced by miners in past centuries. Our guide explained how tin and other ores were extracted with simple tools, later supported by explosives and machinery. The visit showed us how strongly mining has shaped the region's landscape, economy, and cultural identity. The underground "chamber of the dead," where corpses of casualties were kept, was especially interesting because it is unique to this facility.



During our visit to Altenberg, as highlight we explored the impressive open pit called "Pinge", a vast former mining site that now reveals layers of reddish rock and offers a breathtaking view of the surrounding hills. This crater was created in 1620 when a hillside which was intensely mined, collapsed. Standing on the edge, I could imagine the intense work that once took place there, shaping both the landscape and the local community. The site has now been reclaimed by nature, with green trees and plants growing along the slopes, creating a striking contrast between the natural and the industrial past.



Later, we walked through the peaceful countryside nearby, where wide green fields stretched under a bright blue sky. The air was fresh, and the quietness of the place gave a strong sense of calm and freedom. It was a perfect moment to appreciate the beauty of nature and landscape, and also to reflect on how the region has transformed over time. During our walk, we were explained all the details of the region and the special sites along the way by our guide. (Albert and Shotaro)





## Main Program: September 24 Workshop and Final Presentations



Toward the final presentations, three groups were formed, each consisting of three to four Japanese and German students. The research themes were as follows: 1. Acceptance and Criticism of UNESCO Sites – Promises and Reality; 2. Border-Crossing World Heritage: The German-Czech Mining Region Compared to Another International World Heritage; 3. Success Story, Failure, Endangered Status of World Heritage Sites.

All presentations explored their respective areas deeply. We conducted research on the historical background and heritage value of the mining regions, as well as their position within the UNESCO World Heritage “Ore Mountains/Krušnohoří Mining Region.”

Particular attention was given to the influence of mining development on urban formation and technological innovation, and to the relationship between cultural landscape preservation and local communities. Through the presentations, we reaffirmed the historical significance of mining towns and deepened our understanding of the conservation and sustainable use of industrial heritage. (Sara)

最後の遠征先は、ドレスデンから路線バスで1時間ほどのAltenbergでした。吐息が白くなるほどの寒さで、最眠気も吹き飛びました。午前中は現地ガイドに引率していただき、通算4度目の鉱山体験でした。2時間近くに及ぶ案内でしたが、過酷な環境下で懸命に働いた先人たちの話に胸を打たれ、瞬間に時間が流れました。外の明るい世界に戻ると馬車が待機しており、私を含めた多くの学生が驚いていました。乗車中は杯を交わしながら80分ほど談笑し、その後昼食をとりました。午後は雄大な自然を眺めながら鉱物などの歴史についての話を聞き、その途中で“pinge”と呼ばれる災害の爪痕を見学しました。400年前に発生した大規模な崩落によって山肌が出現し、そのときの揺れは数十キロ離れたドレスデンまで伝わったと言われています。このプログラム中、世界遺産の鉱山地域に何度も足を運びましたが、それぞれの地域ごとに固有の歴史がありました。事前に調べて大まかな情報だけでなく詳細な内容を伺うことができ、どれも有意義な機会であったと思います。(條川武志 / Takeshi)



Main Program: September 25

## Final Presentations and Farewell



Across all three groups, the final presentations demonstrated solid engagement with the fieldwork in the Ore Mountains and a commendable effort to connect local observations with global UNESCO contexts.

Group A presented a balanced view of promises versus realities, though the argument occasionally remained descriptive rather than analytically sharp. They identified the prestige-responsibility tension well, but the comparison with the Pyramids would have benefited from clearer methodological justification and deeper reflection on why such different outcomes emerge. Group B offered a thoughtful exploration of cross-border dynamics, showing good integration of insights from the guided tours. The comparison with Mount Fuji was innovative, yet at times the presentation relied too heavily on listing challenges instead of synthesizing them into a broader conceptual argument about border governance. Group C delivered a very well structured narrative, moving effectively from success to failure to endangered status. The case selection was strong, though the “failure” section risked oversimplifying complex political processes.



Overall, all groups demonstrated growing analytical competence and presentation skills. Everyone received lovely backpacks as farewell presents. During farewell dinner, it did not feel like a farewell at all, and we had a wonderful last evening in Dresden.







Main Program: September 26, 27

## Prague as World Heritage Site



The Japanese group headed for Prague to catch their flight back to Japan. They left Dresden by bus at 9 and arrived in Prague at around 11. After checking into our hotel for the night, we explored the city. First, we had a walk through the inner city Old Town (World Heritage) with its Charles Bridge, to the famous astronomical clock, then went to the Jewish quarter and finally to the Hradčany Castle area.



Albeit we only had one afternoon, we could enjoy traditional Bohemian food and learn much about the city. It was quite crowded but we could see that Prague has all the means to handle massive tourism. Unfortunately, we had not much time so we had to skip museums. In the evening, we met an old friend of Prof. Biontino who is a specialized guide for the Jewish history of the city. He did not only show us interesting sites related to the world famous writer Franz Kafka but also some "Japanese Hotspots" of the city.

The next day, our plane was delayed so we had an adventurous flight back to Japan.

日本へ戻るために再びプラハへ向かいました。ドレスデンを午前9時にバスで出発し、11時頃にプラハへ到着しました。1泊用のホテルにチェックインした後、さっそく市内観光に出かけました。まずは旧市街の中心部を散策し、有名な天文時計を見学。その後、ユダヤ人街（ヨゼフオフ）を訪れ、最後に丘の上に広がるプラハ城エリアへ向かいました。わずか半日の滞在ではありましたが、伝統的なボヘミア料理を味わい、街の歴史や文化について多くを学ぶことができました。観光客でかなり混雑していましたが、プラハは観光都市としての受け入れ態勢が非常に整っており、その成熟ぶりを実感しました。残念ながら時間が限られていたため、美術館や博物館は訪れることができませんでした。夕方には、ピオンティーノ教授の旧友であり、プラハのユダヤ人史に精通した専門ガイドの方と合流しました。彼はフランツ・カフカゆかりの場所だけでなく、プラハに点在する「日本人に人気のスポット」も案内してくださり、短時間ながらも充実したツアーとなりました。

# Final Presentations (Sep 25)

## 1. Acceptance and Criticism of UNESCO Sites

Our final presentation, subtitled "Promises and Reality," aimed to explore how UNESCO World Heritage status is perceived in practice, and whether the promises of recognition, protection, and development truly meet the expectations of local communities.

As a group, we based our research on several field visits in the Ore Mountains region, where we had the chance to talk with staff, guides, and locals who are directly involved in maintaining the heritage sites. Through these experiences, we learned that, while the UNESCO title brings international prestige and pride, it also creates new responsibilities and sometimes challenges the everyday work of local organizations.

In the presentation, we discussed both the positive aspects, such as cultural preservation, strengthened cooperation between Germany and the Czech Republic, and the creation of a strong

regional identity, and the critical points, including strict regulations, limited funding, and the gap between global recognition and local awareness.

We also compared the Ore Mountains with other UNESCO sites, such as the Pyramids of Giza, to show how the same title can result in completely different realities. Some sites face overtourism and pressure from mass visitors, while others struggle with low visibility and limited attention.

Overall, our presentation concluded that UNESCO World Heritage status provides protection and prestige, but its promises do not always align with reality. Acceptance of these site remains high, yet awareness and practical support, especially in terms of financial support and staff management, still need to be improved. (Max)

## 2. Border-Crossing World Heritage

The presentation, subtitled "The German-Czech Mining Region Compared to Another International World Heritage", focused on World Heritage Sites in a cross-border context. Because the Ore Mountains region also straddles the German-Czech border, the group was able to gain an impression of the relationships and cross-border management during the guided tours of the previous days. To enable a comparison with another World Heritage Site, Mount Fuji in Japan was also a topic in the presentation which is shared on a national level by the prefectures of Shizuoka and Yamanashi.

While organizational issues such as waste management and handling of hazardous and evacuation situations play a major role at a prefectural border, additional problems such as language barriers and joint seismic monitoring of tunnels at risk of collapse arise at an international border. However, the group also came to the

conclusion that a border running through a World Heritage site can also have advantages.

It forces the parties on both sides to maintain an organisational and cultural exchange. This makes the Ore Mountains region like a weld that strengthens German-Czech relations. In the subsequent discussion round, there was a lively exchange of views on the differences between national and international borders. UNESCO advisor Professor Albrecht from the TU Bergakademie Freiberg shared his impressions of cross-border cooperation and concluded that borders at the national and international level cannot be compared in any way.

The main reason for this would be the language barrier, which significantly hinders cooperation. At the national level, however, communication is much more fluid and problems could be resolved much more efficiently. (Florian)

### 3. Success Story, Failure, Endangered Status

We subtitled our presentation "A Comparative Survey of Dresden – Ore Mountains – Shiretoko."

First, we gave an overview of UNESCO World Heritage Sites. We explained the different types, the idea of UNESCO Global Geoparks, and the cultural significance of heritage. Our emphasis was on how these sites protect identity, bring economic benefits, and encourage long-term preservation.

Then we continued to present the success story of the Erzgebirge/Krušnohoří Mining Region. We shared general facts, outlined the three-part application process, and explained how recognition took more than 19 years. The key points highlighted the principle of preservation, the way heritage returns value to society, and the site's connections with other World Heritage locations.

Next, we introduced two examples of failures. The first was Dresden Elbe Valley, which lost its status because of local decisions, showing the lesson: "Without local political will, UNESCO cannot enforce preservation." The second was Bagrati Cathedral in Georgia, where over-restoration led to delisting, reminding us that "restoring too much can harm heritage as much as neglect."

Lastly, we concluded with a Japanese World Heritage Site called Shiretoko, which faces challenges as an endangered site. We described its importance, current risks such as mass tourism and damage to the ecosystem, also the need for safer tourism rules, ecosystem restoration, and cooperation with local communities. Our message here was clear: "Protecting Shiretoko today means preserving its global value for the future." (Moe)

### Final Observations by Prof. Himmer

For several years now, HTWD and ChibaU have been jointly conducting the GSP. The topics relate to Japan and Germany, but are also of global relevance. In mixed Japanese-German groups, the students have gained insights into the fields of tourism, mobility concepts, disaster prevention, light electric vehicles and urban gardening over the years. In 2025 the topic was: "Challenges of World Heritage Sites in Germany and Japan".

The students managed to work out specific issues in different groups, such as awareness and acceptance of World Heritage Sites, effects of World Heritage Sites for tourism and motivations for applications, application process, failure and challenges. After the first week, the results were presented in their mid-term presentations, working aptly in international teams.

The topics were then clarified again and new topics were set. In the final presentations, the students showed that they can prepare complex issues well and present these results in a clear and structured manner.

The program included interesting lectures from Japan and Germany and excursions, such as visits to museums, mines, collapsing shafts, dumps and hammer mills.

A special highlight was the visit and support of Prof. Helmuth Albrecht from TUBA Freiberg. He is the "father of the application" for the Erzgebirge/Krušnohoří mining region and an outstanding expert not only in the region, but all questions concerning World Heritage Sites and UNESCO. He generously shared his time and experience, what he has learned for many years with all of us, greatly facilitating our understanding.

# Final Presentations (continued)

## Final Observations by Prof. Scherzer

All student participants in the 2025 Global Study Program were ready to expose themselves to new topical fields and motivated to learn, research, explore, present and discuss the fascinating issues of UNESCO World Heritage. By its very nature as a world-wide initiative, the topic lends itself well for exemplary global studies. For the Japanese students being in Germany meant to cope with an unfamiliar cultural environment and sometimes leaving their own comfort zone but the cultural presentations and several social events allowed the whole group to get to know each other and familiarize.

Taking in large amounts of information, expressing topics in writing, visual presentations and discussions in English language was challenging and revealed need for further improvement. During the online pre-education, World Heritage experts Prof. Shimoda in Japan and Prof. Albrecht in Germany provided highly relevant information which could have been used more efficiently for systematic orientation. In their own research the students captured important aspects and issues. Group work, finding relevant and comparable criteria for research and evaluation had limitations in language and available time, so a consistent structure in the final presentations was not fully achieved. However, the scope of World Heritage aims and sites, different character and specific conditions and challenges were exemplarily illustrated.

During field trips, professionals and volunteers offered highly interesting lectures or guided tours in the mining landscapes. They answered questions, providing additional background information which would not have been available from other sources. Repeatedly this communication and transfer of knowledge was greatly supported through German – Japanese translations by Prof. Julian Biontino. Prof. Helmuth Albrecht, one of the central stakeholders in establishing the Ore Mountains as World Heritage Area until inscription in 2019, gave valuable insights in the long process of defining topics, selecting sites, convincing stakeholders addressing the difficulties of creating scientific and institutional as well as administrative and political support.

Strong local support through voluntary and educational organisations, businesses, political decision-makers and administrations as well as the existence of robust instruments of protecting and managing natural and cultural values proved to be an important framework. Adequate use of land, valuable buildings and infrastructure as well as dedicated voluntary and professional staff emerged as essential base for preservation and management. How the status – and responsibility – of being World Heritage contributes to identity and self-esteem of the population, supports their work in conservation, education and cultural contributions, could be seen clearly. Economic activities and tourism development, however, have to be responsibly guided. Damage or domination by exaggerated development of buildings and infrastructure, by irresponsible resource extraction or uncontrolled over-tourism need to be prevented or mitigated.

On the other hand, World Heritage areas can open up opportunities and develop into laboratories for interdisciplinary socially and environmentally friendly solutions in culture and tourism, mobility and infrastructure, conservation and innovation – all of them closely linked to local communities. Conservation and transformation under conditions of political conflict, economic restrictions, demographic change and extreme climate have also been briefly addressed in the GSP. They were identified as massive challenges for World Heritage areas and sites not only in Germany and Japan, but on global level.





## Proposal for GSP in September 2026 in Chiba

# Challenges of the Automotive Industry in Germany and Japan

As two global leaders in vehicle manufacturing, both countries are navigating profound transformations driven by environmental regulations, digitalization, and shifts in consumer expectations. Today, the urgency of climate change, intensified international competition, and rapid technological innovation make this topic especially relevant for future engineers, economists, and policy-makers.

Germany and Japan face similar hurdles—transitioning from combustion engines to electrified powertrains, securing sustainable supply chains, integrating autonomous and connected vehicle technologies, and responding to new mobility trends. At the same time, each country must balance industrial heritage with the demands of global markets and geopolitical pressures, including resource scarcity and changing trade dynamics. Understanding how these challenges intersect provides valuable insights into the evolving structure of the mobility sector.

During group work, students could examine questions such as: How should manufacturers manage the shift to electric vehicles while maintaining competitiveness? What strategies enable resilient supply chains for batteries and semiconductors? How can traditional carmakers collaborate with tech companies to accelerate innovation? What role should governments play in shaping the mobility transition? By addressing these questions, participants will gain a deeper appreciation of the complexities shaping the automotive industries of both nations.

As stakeholders, Nissan, Toyota, Bosch, several smaller suppliers on the technical side, but also ChibaU's combustion engine researchers and automotive analysers will help students to further formulate their questions and shaping their understandings of the issues at hand.

Preeducation will start from late April 2025, please keep your schedules open on Tuesdays 14.30-16.00 Japanese Time and 7.30-9.00 German Time.

The tentative date for the GSP 2026 in Chiba is September 14th to September 25th. The program for the first time welcomes students from NCUT Taiwan to attend for a tri-national program.

For questions and further information please contact the GSP team:

Prof. Biontino: [biontino@chiba-u.jp](mailto:biontino@chiba-u.jp)

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Prof. Zipser: [stephan.zipser@htw-dresden.de](mailto:stephan.zipser@htw-dresden.de)



# Participants

I had a valuable experience visiting Germany for the first time and exploring several World Heritage Sites. By actually seeing these sites in person, learning about their historical backgrounds, and listening to the perspectives of local people, I was able to develop a deeper understanding of their cultural significance. Additionally, creating presentations about the sites helped me reflect on how they are preserved and what challenges they face today. This experience allowed me to think more critically about the importance of protecting World Heritage and consider how we can ensure that these valuable cultural assets are maintained for future generations. (Sara)

The GSP was a truly wonderful experience that I can warmly recommend to everyone. I already took part in the program in 2023, and this year's experience was just as inspiring and meaningful. Besides the many interesting museum visits and presentations, I especially enjoyed the free time after our daily schedule, when we could relax, talk, and get to know each other better. The friendly and open atmosphere made it easy to connect with the Japanese participants and to learn a lot about their culture through personal conversations. If you are thinking about joining the GSP, I can only encourage you to do so, and I am already looking forward to experiencing Japan myself in 2026. (Max)

During this GSP program, I had the opportunity to explore various mines and learn about the historical background that led them to become World Heritage Sites. It was also my first time visiting Europe, and it turned out to be an unforgettable experience. I am truly grateful to Mr. Julian, Mr. Thomas, and all my fellow participants who made this journey so enjoyable and meaningful. Through this program, I was able to experience many new things, gain new perspectives, and grow as a person. It

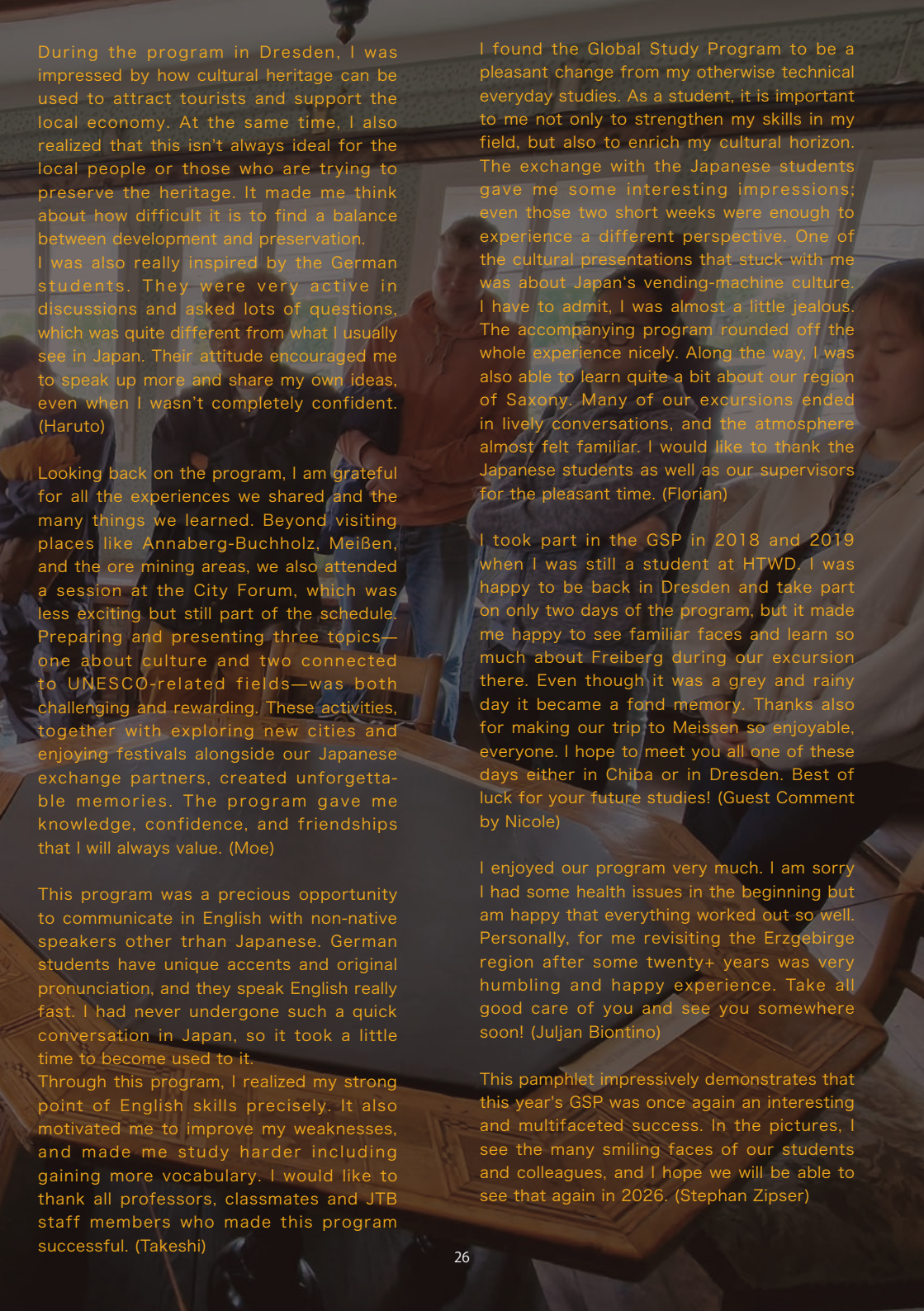
was an inspiring and enriching adventure I will always remember. (Shotaro)

I found the Global Study Program very interesting and informative. The time we spent together with the Japanese students was enjoyable, and the shared activities created a great atmosphere. The excursions were diverse and engaging — we visited many different mines and learned a lot about the mining traditions of the Ore Mountains. The visit to the Frohnauer Hammer forge and the various museums provided a good balance to the underground activities and our free-time experiences. Overall, the program offered a unique combination of cultural exchange, practical learning, and teamwork that made the experience truly memorable. (Taiga)

I was really satisfied with this program in terms of inter-cultural communication and a lot of excursions to mining areas. Every place and every person I met was precious, I will never forget. I believe this experience will help to motivate and enlarge my interests. It was exciting for me to visit mining sites from the Middle Ages. I got a new perspective that the title of World Heritage Site and UNESCO is absolutely reliable. I need to be more critical toward the world authority and general thinking to live independently. In addition, this was my first trip to Europe, and I really enjoyed many cultural experiences. My ordinary days in Japan are not always excellent, so it was new and interesting to see many people enjoyed dishes outside, go to the wine festival, grow flowers on the balcony and feel the atmosphere of weekend. Thank you all! (Kyoka)

Due to other responsibilities this year I could not take fully part in the GSP. I however have been part in the past two programs and feel that I benefitted greatly from the programs, be it improving my English or be it my critical thinking abilities. I enjoyed the few days spent together this time very much and wish you all just the best for your upcoming endeavors! (Guest Comment by Horst)



A background image showing a group of students in a museum or gallery setting. They are looking at a display case. The image is slightly blurred and has a warm, orange-toned overlay.

During the program in Dresden, I was impressed by how cultural heritage can be used to attract tourists and support the local economy. At the same time, I also realized that this isn't always ideal for the local people or those who are trying to preserve the heritage. It made me think about how difficult it is to find a balance between development and preservation. I was also really inspired by the German students. They were very active in discussions and asked lots of questions, which was quite different from what I usually see in Japan. Their attitude encouraged me to speak up more and share my own ideas, even when I wasn't completely confident. (Haruto)

Looking back on the program, I am grateful for all the experiences we shared and the many things we learned. Beyond visiting places like Annaberg-Buchholz, Meißen, and the ore mining areas, we also attended a session at the City Forum, which was less exciting but still part of the schedule. Preparing and presenting three topics—one about culture and two connected to UNESCO-related fields—was both challenging and rewarding. These activities, together with exploring new cities and enjoying festivals alongside our Japanese exchange partners, created unforgettable memories. The program gave me knowledge, confidence, and friendships that I will always value. (Moe)

This program was a precious opportunity to communicate in English with non-native speakers other than Japanese. German students have unique accents and original pronunciation, and they speak English really fast. I had never undergone such a quick conversation in Japan, so it took a little time to become used to it.

Through this program, I realized my strong point of English skills precisely. It also motivated me to improve my weaknesses, and made me study harder including gaining more vocabulary. I would like to thank all professors, classmates and JTB staff members who made this program successful. (Takeshi)

I found the Global Study Program to be a pleasant change from my otherwise technical everyday studies. As a student, it is important to me not only to strengthen my skills in my field, but also to enrich my cultural horizon. The exchange with the Japanese students gave me some interesting impressions; even those two short weeks were enough to experience a different perspective. One of the cultural presentations that stuck with me was about Japan's vending-machine culture. I have to admit, I was almost a little jealous. The accompanying program rounded off the whole experience nicely. Along the way, I was also able to learn quite a bit about our region of Saxony. Many of our excursions ended in lively conversations, and the atmosphere almost felt familiar. I would like to thank the Japanese students as well as our supervisors for the pleasant time. (Florian)

I took part in the GSP in 2018 and 2019 when I was still a student at HTWD. I was happy to be back in Dresden and take part on only two days of the program, but it made me happy to see familiar faces and learn so much about Freiberg during our excursion there. Even though it was a grey and rainy day it became a fond memory. Thanks also for making our trip to Meissen so enjoyable, everyone. I hope to meet you all one of these days either in Chiba or in Dresden. Best of luck for your future studies! (Guest Comment by Nicole)

I enjoyed our program very much. I am sorry I had some health issues in the beginning but am happy that everything worked out so well. Personally, for me revisiting the Erzgebirge region after some twenty+ years was very humbling and happy experience. Take all good care of you and see you somewhere soon! (Juljan Biontino)

This pamphlet impressively demonstrates that this year's GSP was once again an interesting and multifaceted success. In the pictures, I see the many smiling faces of our students and colleagues, and I hope we will be able to see that again in 2026. (Stephan Zipser)



