During May and June 2015, I was staying in Japan within the framework of international academic cooperation. The main theme of my stay was familiarization with the Japanese education system in the area of ​​environmental protection, where besides primary and secondary schools and universities I visited and visited local institutions and companies that pay great attention to ecology, recycling, waste processing, etc. I got acquainted with the history of environmental pollution and the fact that Japan paid a high price for industrial development in the second half of the 20th century. I saw pictures of black chimneys, polluted water, sick children. As one Japanese professor told us, they were taught them then to be proud of the different colors of smoke that was swaying from the high chimneys because they represent a symbol of Japan's progress. Today everything is different. The awareness of ecology is at an extremely high level, which is why children from the earliest age learn about the importance of a proper relationship to nature and the environment. And not just that. They opened doors and others to learn about their mistakes and showed them the achievements that put them in the very top of the world.

But scientific cooperation may not be the most important goal of academic exchange. It is even more important to meet each other, to admire the diversity of our cultures, to enrich the spirit through learning about a way of life different from ours. To the extent it meant to me, the sentences that I said to my Japanese friends were best said: "Before I came to Japan, I thought that robots live here," alluding to their discipline, precision and restraint. "Today, after a couple of months spent in Japan, I see that there is no robot here, there are extremely warm people here, open and always ready to help. That's why this place will always be deep in my heart. Cheers! "

Professor Branislav Draskovic

Geography Department

University of East Sarajevo