

Tokyo Trip
February 22-27, 2008
Randy alone on business

Friday, February 22, 2008

Subway to DCA; fly to ORD; then fly to Narita (flight goes over international date line). It never gets dark during flight. Beautiful mountains and snowfields while flying over Alaska and western Canada.

Saturday, February 23, 2008

Arrive in Narita. Train to Tokyo. Find hotel and crash.

Sunday, February 24, 2008

Spend day in Tokyo. Breakfast at Starbucks. Walk around Imperial Palace Gardens. There are nicely shaped trees and some plum trees in bloom. Subway to Senso-ji Temple. Have trouble figuring out ticketing system on subways. Buy the wrong ticket by mistake. Find the right line and the right ticket. Realize that the way that I was going needed to change subway lines and that I was going to need a new ticket. Take an alternative route that stayed on the same group of lines. Arrive at the temple and shopping area in front of the temple. Buy some dumplings for lunch. Take walking tour of Shitamachi district (lots of slot machine and off-track betting parlors). Take subway downtown and visit Bridgestone Art Museum. Walk back to hotel. Go to train station for dinner and find where bus to Tsukuba leaves. Check out mall under station. Go back to hotel.

Monday, February 25, 2008

Wake up in time to see Tiger Woods win golf tournament. Subway to Tsukiji Central Fish Market. Wild and weird! Every type of ocean creature imaginable. All sorts of shellfish, squid and octopus, frozen tuna. Produce market is nothing but boxes. Outer market is little stalls with knife merchants who will sharpen your purchases for you. Eat at MacDonalds. Go back to hotel and check out. Take subway of Meiji-Jingu temple and walk surrounding grounds and park. Find original ticket is for JR train and ride circle line back to hotel. Don't see much. Get luggage and bus to Tsukuba. Try to take bus to hotel but can't find it. A local man puts me on a taxi and pays for the ride (about \$30)! Nice reception at KEK. Work on speech in hotel room.

Tuesday, February 26, 2008

Breakfast in hotel and bus to JPARC. Beautiful lunch. Tour new facilities. Accelerator tunnels are amazingly clean and very wide. There is a lot to do in the next year. Have T2K discussion. Return to hotel and go out to dinner.

Wednesday, February 27, 2008

Breakfast in hotel again and discussion with Chang Kee. Hotel limo to bus station and bus to airport. Flight to ORD is cancelled. Get tickets for a later flight. Have sushi in airport. Go through security and change flights to a non-stop to Dulles. Arrive home two hours earlier than previously planned.