2013 Japan Studies Institute

Project Summary

Martha Vungkhanching, Ph.D.

Associate Professor, MSW Program Coordinator

Department of Social Work Education

Fresno State University

During the 2013 Japanese Studies program at San Diego State University, I learned invaluable information about Japan including historical and current social and economic issues, religion, literature, films, arts, aesthetics, Japanese language, business culture, and the changing roles of women and tradition. Although there are a few plans I have to share the knowledge and experience gained through the JSI program with my campus community, I will share two of my plans. 1) I plan to integrate some aspects of the Japanese studies in *SWRK 137 Principles in Cross-Cultural Competency.* This course is offered to students from all majors in the spring semester. *2)* I plan to develop a study abroad program to Japan primarily for social work major entitled “*International Social Work*” but I will consider broadening the scope that will be of interest to non-social work majors as well. The study abroad program will focus on enhancing students’ understanding of Japan and Japanese culture with special emphasis on social and economic issues, educational system, healthcare, and mental health and social services. The study abroad program to Japan will be an extension of the study abroad programs that I led to Hong Kong and India for Fresno State students in recent years (2009-2011).