

Welcome to Kyoto: November, 2019

Greetings from Kyoto! Emily and I arrived a few days early for the 2019 Japan Audiological Society meeting had the opportunity to spend time in Kyoto, the site of the upcoming World Congress on Endoscopic Ear Surgery in April 2021. Our hosts, Prof Seiji Kakehata and his wife Kyoko gave us a ‘sneak peek’ at the [Rohm Theater](#) Conference Venue and the surrounding neighborhood.



The [Rohm Theater](#) is a beautiful, modern design exhibition hall located in the heart of Kyoto’s famous [Okazaki District](#). With a large amphitheater and ample breakout conference rooms, the site will serve as an ideal location for the exchange of ideas, research and new technology during WCEES 2021. For conference attendees with limited amount of time in Kyoto, the surrounding area offers access to some of Kyoto’s most important historical sites including the [Heian-jingu Shrine](#) and the [Nanzen-ji Temple](#). In addition, the renowned [Kyoto Zoo](#), [Kyoto Municipal Museum of Art](#) and [Museum of Modern Art](#) are directly adjacent to the conference venue.



The conference hotel, [The Westin Miyako Kyoto](#), is perched on a hill overlooking the [Zen gardens](#) of the Nanzen-ji Temple and is a short walk along the canal to the conference center. During our visit we learned that the hotel will be newly renovated in time for WCEES 2021! The famous ‘[Philosopher’s Path](#)’ winds along the nearby canal and is lined with cherry blossom trees, which should be in full bloom during April. Throughout the Okazaki neighborhood there are plentiful shops, gardens and restaurants. Indeed, one can find every type of food in the area, including many varieties of excellent Japanese cuisine.

Beyond the conference district, Kyoto is a stunning town rich with history and culture. As the former capital of Japan from 794 to 1868, it maintains a distinct feel of ‘Old Japan’ while also offering a view of Japanese





modernity. During our short stay, we were able to visit [Nijo Castle](#), the [Nishiki Food Market](#), the [Gekkeikan Okura Sake Museum](#), and the famous orange gates of the [Fushimi Inari Shrine](#) – all by using the subway. Even without speaking Japanese, it was simple, efficient and safe to navigate the city with ease. Locals were always willing to help if we had any questions.



Just outside of Kyoto is [Nara](#), the first capitol of Japan. Nara is home to one of the world's largest wooden structures – [Kasuga-Taisha Shrine](#) and [Great Buddha Hall](#). Special to the area are the wandering and friendly deer who are believed to messengers from the gods. If you have extra time in the area, this is a wonderful destination. In addition, the [Suntory Yamazaki Whiskey Distillery](#) is a short train ride, as is all of [Osaka](#) – Japan's second largest city.

Finally, not enough can be said for our hosts of WCEES 2021. Seiji and Kyoko Kakehata are consummate hosts with bottomless hospitality and excellent taste. Their thoughtful planning is well underway and will, no doubt, lead to a successful congress and a terrific opportunity for clinicians and researchers from around the world to gather and experience the very best of Kyoto. Indeed, no measure of gratitude ever seems enough for all Seiji and Kyoko do to help colleagues feel comfortable while in Japan.

We hope to see you in Kyoto in 2021!



Emily and Aaron Remenschneider MD MPH  
Kyoto, Japan  
November 2019