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MIC Freshman Party Report

Last Sunday, May 29, 2016, a group of international students, including myself, were invited to attend a welcoming party held by the Musashino International Club. It was a day filled with various events that were highlighting the rich cultural heritage of Japan. It started out with a quick introduction of the members of the club and the attendees. I learned a lot of things about the club members that day and I was surprised to find out that some of us had the same hobbies, which was great. After the introduction period, we moved on to the next event on the itinerary which was a musical show. In that musical show, we witnessed a Japanese traditional harp called *okoto* and the traditional flute called *shakuhachi*, in action. It was a great experience because that was my first time to actually hear and see the shakuhachi and okoto in person. As expected, the music that comes out of traditional instruments is definitely beautiful because the tones are so pure that it almost moved me to tears. Following the musical performance, we got to witness a small-scale tea ceremony where they showed us the proper steps and movements that had to be taken to brew and drink the tea. It was such an intricate process, it was difficult to follow at first but because of the helpful club members, I eventually got to do it right. After the tea ceremony, the party came to a conclusion and at the end of the day, when I reflected on everything that happened, I felt very thankful and fortunate to have been able to experience all of that in one day because not everybody can be given the same opportunity.