

CHINATOWN ON 10TH FEB 2010

On 10th Feb 2010, we went to Chinatown with our classmates to celebrate this Chinese New Year! In Japan we usually celebrate the New Year which isn't the Chinese New Year. While the New Year for Japanese is based on New Style, the Chinese New Year is based on Old Style. So it is surprising and fresh for me.



At first, we assembled ourselves at Chinatown Station and then we went to a restaurant for dinner. The street was already crowded with people who come and go and everywhere in Chinatown was fascinatingly decorated to celebrate coming Chinese New Year. As soon as we arrived at the restaurant, we ordered many food. This restaurant served Hot pot (Chinese : *huo guo*) and we could select favorite foods from several ingredients by ourselves, for example, chicken, pork, mutton, fish, vegetables and so on. There are two kind of soup, one is plain hot boiled water and other one is Mala sauce which is red and

spicy. I really like spicy taste, of course I chosen the latter. There are most people who drink some alcoholics here, but I am allergic to alcoholics, so I drunk only coke. As result, the meals are too spicy for me but I was satisfied with them because I felt good mood they were enjoying there.



After dinner, we took a walk around Chinatown. At the street I felt town's atmosphere was similar to some Japanese places. It's cheerful and lively, so just like *Shitamachi* 'Japanese traditional Area'! The street

and buildings are historical and old-fashioned, exactly like Ueno and Asakusa before and after the New Year. Especially I really felt the street markets are the same as them. I didn't buy anything there but I enjoyed only window-shopping.

After all, we walked for a long time but I wasn't tired much. Probably I think my interest in this town and mood might be stronger than my tiredness. I've visited Chinatown at a



afternoon once, however it was different from what I've seen. If I have such a chance, I'd be delighted to go anywhere, anytime.

Incidentally, I was given mandarins to celebrate the Chinese New Year at the party in my hostel, but quantity of it is too much for me. So in a few days I often ate them after meals.

