Hi! It’s nice to meet you my dear IADS family!

I’m Shiori Horimoto from the Japan Dental Students Association (JDSA). It is a great pleasure to officially become a part of IADS family and finally introduce my country, Japan.

Our association, JDSA, was established in April 2018. We’re a quite a new association. However, we have 29 dental schools in Japan and dental education here has a long history. Currently, 23 schools are members of our association and now work actively for internal and external activities. As JDSA, we already had our 1st meeting and the 2nd meeting is coming up. We’re planning many activities which are coming up soon. To introduce Japan, let me begin by talking about a Japanese dental student’s life.

We take 6 years to graduate and need to pass CBT (Computer based Testing) and OSCE (Objective structured clinical examination) to start the clinical studies and in the end of our dental student life we have a national examination, the passing rate of which, is almost 65%.

Our academic year begins in April and ends in March. Moreover, I would like to introduce our extra activities as dental students such as sports festivals, scientific competitions, volunteer programs and study abroad programs.

Let’s talk about how we do. Firstly, I will describe our most unique and most popular activity, which is the sports festival. We have a competition in more than 20 sports between teams from most universities and it takes place once a year during summertime.
It's one of the biggest events of the year. Let's move on to the scientific program. Our biggest difference in curriculum as compared to other countries is that we study basic dentistry and bioscience for 4-5 years and after that we start clinical study, so it means we have many opportunities for research. Therefore, we have a big and historical competition for research and many students are researching to get a chance to experience basic dentistry.

We hope that we can share our researching culture with dental students from all over the world. We also have many experiences in volunteering and exchange fields. We would like to share our experience and be part of a new world with the IADS family. JDSA is super motivated to work with IADS and we want to collaborate with you in many ways, so please don’t hesitate to contact us for new activities!

I hope we can make many memories with dental students from all over the world. Thank you again for accepting us as part of you and see you soon in Strasbourg.