

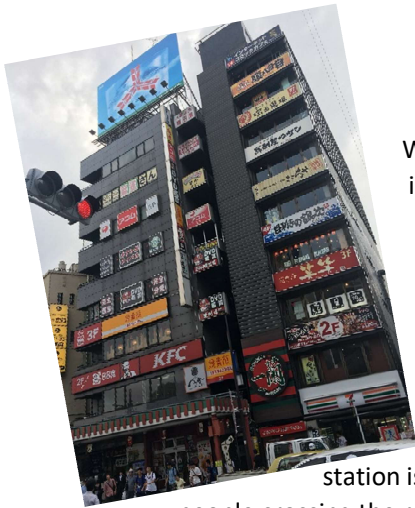
Postcards from Tokyo – away from the venue.

Tokyo has been very hot and humid in July and August, with several heavy downpours that only last a few minutes. Everyone carries a small folding umbrella and a small towel with them (not all public bathrooms have hand drying facilities) so they are always prepared. It will be cooler and drier in November when we are here for the World Cup, so I'm looking forward to the change in seasons!



While there are a lot of cars on the road, there aren't very many taxis, so the preferred method of transport is train. The train stations are huge, filled with lots of shops and small eating places as well as people in

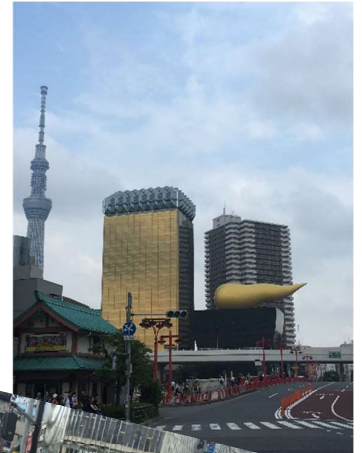
transit. All train stations have information booths near the entrances, and the staff are extremely helpful. If you are not sure where to go, they will direct you. And train station signs are in Japanese, Korean and English – if in doubt, many of the locals will often take pity on a lost foreigner and offer assistance – or will help if you ask.



Walking around the city, there is advertising everywhere! And some very interesting sights...

*Asahi beer HQ - complete with "foam" and the Sky Tower at far left*

However, there are plenty of things to visit, including temples, markets, memorial parklands, the Sky Tower, Shibuya station (home of the statue of "Hachiko" – one of Tokyo's icons as well as a wonderful anime figure suspended from the ceiling!) Outside Shibuya station is the busiest crosswalk in Japan – literally thousands of people crossing the road at a time! Great place to people-watch, with loads of shops and restaurants nearby. A truly wonderful place to visit!



*Images from Shibuya*