

When I saw the weather forecast that a typhoon was heading towards Japan, I thought that it must have been a mistake. It's too early for typhoons, I thought to myself. I must be really confused about the seasons! It's easy to forget that it's already the middle of July (remember what I wrote about summer vacation?). I'm not as excited about this typhoon as I usually am when I hear this news, because tomorrow morning I'm heading to Hong Kong. I just hope that the typhoon doesn't interfere with my travel plans!

When I first came to Japan three years ago, I didn't know what a typhoon was. On my first night in Mie, I experienced my first typhoon. It was just windy, but I'm almost entirely sure there was no rain. Typhoons aren't so bad, I thought. I'm still not sure of the difference between hurricanes in the Western hemisphere and typhoons in the Eastern hemisphere. Many people have told me that they are exactly the same thing, but I'm sure they are different. The destruction from hurricanes in the southeast United States can be unbelievable.

After my first typhoon experience, I became really blasé about them. It's just a long rainstorm, I thought. But then there was a typhoon that came and flooded a lot of Mie. It didn't FEEL like a very bad storm, but when I saw water rushing down the hill in front of the Education Center, it was the first time I ever felt like my home might be in danger from the weather. It was scary!

Of course I know that typhoons can be very dangerous in some places. I am always extremely cautious about where I go or what I do when there is a storm, but I have to be honest, that whenever there is an impending storm, I feel a little bit excited. Who knows where the storm will go, or what will happen. It is also fascinating for me to watch the skies as the storm passes through. The different cloud formations, both overhead and out over the bay, are so interesting to me. I might never live in a place with weather like this again, so I think I should enjoy it while I still can. I don't feel particularly threatened by these storms where I live, which is probably part of the reason that I look forward to them. But in the past two years, there haven't been too many bad storms in Mie so I don't feel bad. While I certainly hope that no dangerous storms come to Mie again this year, I am looking forward to some exciting weather. I hope I don't miss anything while I'm away this weekend!