

Japan Lean Immersive Tour (JLIT) 2025

collaborative cooperation between

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MAKOTO FLOW

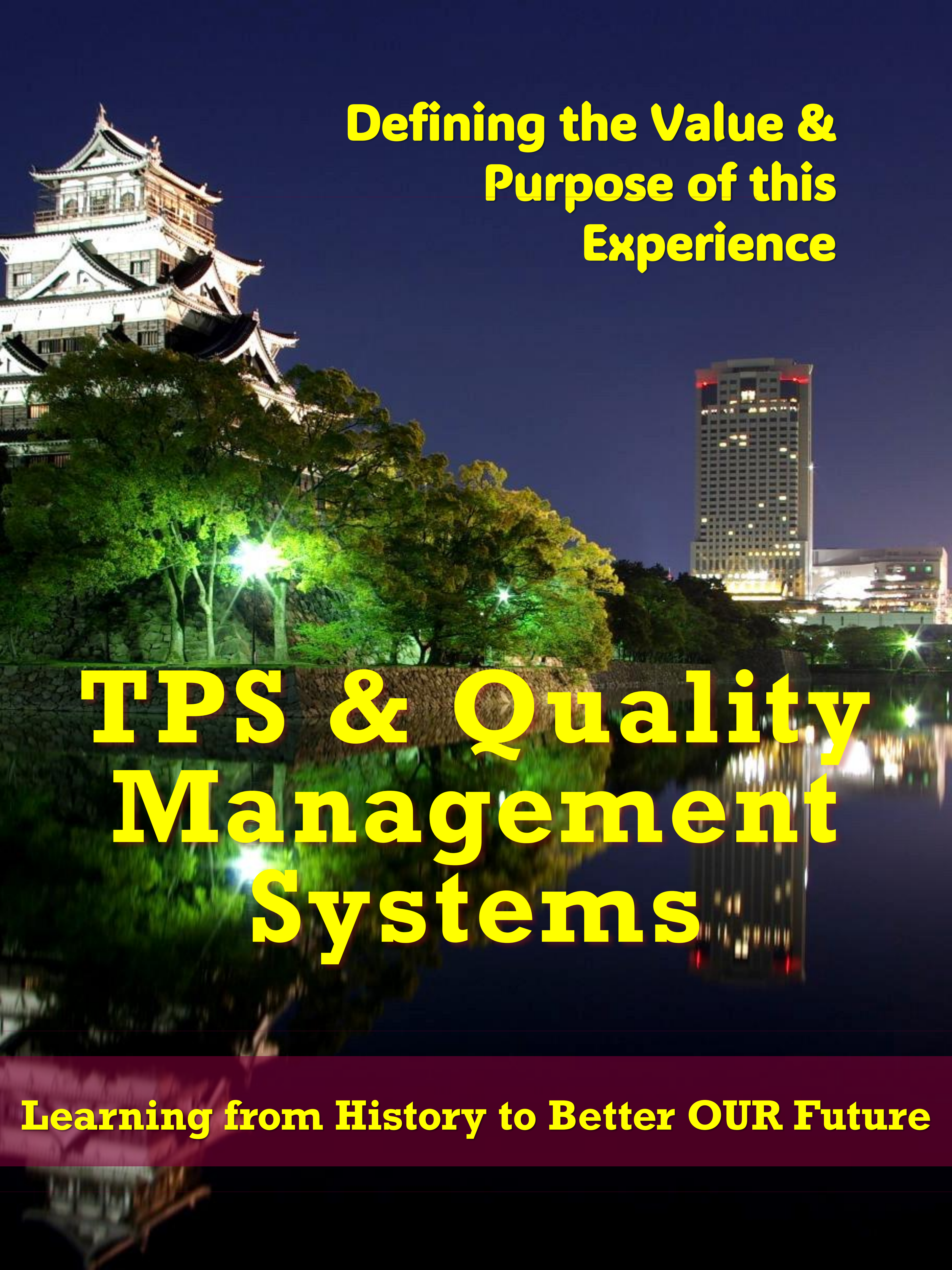
GLOBAL OPTIMIZATION EXPERTS | LEAN LEADERSHIP COACHES

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NAGARA Flow
SIMPLIFY SUCCESS



Please Join Us on
30 Nov – 6 Dec 2025
Experience a Journey of a Lifetime
thru Kokura, Oita, Kyoto &
Yamaguchi



**Defining the Value &
Purpose of this
Experience**

TPS & Quality Management Systems

Learning from History to Better OUR Future

Your Professional Team



DJ Duarte - Owner & Founder of Makoto Flow Ltd.

His 36+ years residency in Japan as a Global Optimization Expert & Lean Leadership Coach based on the principles and practices of the Toyota Production System. His unique ability to develop lean leaders with the right mindsets & behaviors to support the sustainable changes is just one of his great strengths. His expertise spans 7 continents, 47 different cultures, 18 different industries and several leading global consulting firms. With more than 70 JV Partnerships globally, DJ's powerful network can assist any organization in adopting the worlds most impactful change management practices on earth today

David Fitzpatrick – Co-Owner of Zenkai Improvement Partners

David has more than 28+ years of residency in Japan and his fluency in the language has made him a sought-after facilitator and coordinator for many international projects. A passionate practitioner of all things TPS and kaizen related. Assuming key roles in the delivery of FIFA World Cup in 2002 and the Rugby World Cup in 2019 are among his achievements. Since 2014, he has worked very closely with Sensei Akinori Hyodo and has taken a lead role in coordinating many key projects in the Asia-Pacific region.



Key Site Visits & Their Value Proposition:



TOYOTA

Toyota Kyushu – Miyata Plant

Combining innovative technology and expert craftsmanship for world-class Lexus quality, all of our team members share a common goal, we build world-class quality and technology into every car, made with care in Kyushu.

TOTO

TOTO SunAqua – Kokura Plant

This site is especially good with Ergonomics and Low Cost Automation. The whole place is immaculate and overflowing with pride and Joy. The innovation we can see on their shop floor is better than most places.

MIFUNE

Mifune Co. – Nagoya Plant

So much goodness to learn from such a small site but it has so many of the elements of a coherent strategy and structure to achieve that strategy. The energy coming from this company is contagious and it's interesting to see that they focus on things that they know will give them a long-term payback (e.g. making own molds).



MAZDA

Mazda Motor Corp. – Hofu Plant

This production system is different than Toyota. Here you will see more “Takumi” or expert craftsmen/women in action. Sure its modern with tech and robots, but more work is done by people connected to the assembly process and can learn how JIT and Quality intersect.



HillTop 21 Company – Kyoto Site

Challenge Makes the Innovation at HillTop. The greatest mission as a company is to “develop people”. At this site, they have no “artisans”, only programmers. They put in all the knowledge of the old workers in the program. (Tools, strength, diameters, etc.the most powerful knowledge mgmt. system).

At least one other site plus Japanese Shrines & Temples that we link to the application of TPS!

Accommodations During Your Stay in Japan:

Day 1



ARRIVALS

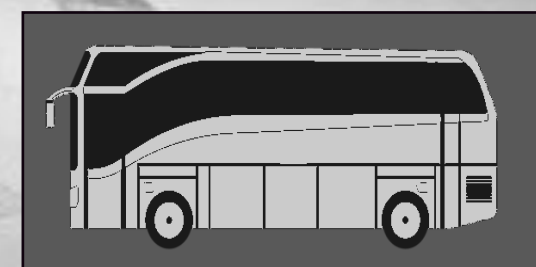
ANA Crowne Plaza Hotel – Nagoya

Offering a breath-taking panorama of Nagoya and beyond from the top floors along with exceptional convenience and service. With a 5-minute train ride to Nagoya Station, this hotel is perfect for our base of travel.

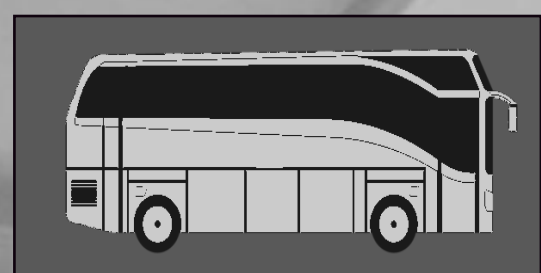
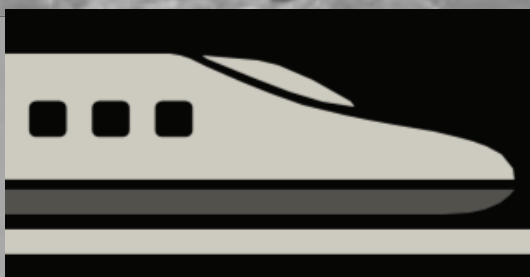
Rihga Royal Hotel – Kokura

This is Kitakyushu's landmark hotel where one can enjoy an extraordinary moment with the magnificent view of Kitakyushu, which is a district that serves as an entry point into Kyushu and Fukuoka. Just a 3-minute walk from the Shinkansen, its prime location makes it a convenient hub for business & tourism.

Day 2



Day 3



Yubel Japanese Hotel – Yamaguchi

Enjoy this “Ryokan” style hotel with their rich hot spring waters straight from the source at Yuda Onsen. Here we will experience a Traditional Japanese kaiseki dinner made with seasonal ingredients, including their specialty puffer fish & Japanese beef all the while donning a traditional “Yukata”.

Daiwa Roynet Hotel – Kyoto

Here we experience the “Japanese Business Hotel” for in country travel. Based on the theme of kimono culture, which symbolizes Kyoto, the hotel's interior design makes lavish use of gorgeous Nishijin textiles. The proximity to the Kyoto Shinkansen makes this an idea transitional hotel on our journey.

Day 4



Day 5/6



DEPARTURES

Kanayama Hotel – Nagoya

We close our accommodations at a very “convenient location” hotel with wooden floors, easy access to both the Shinkansen (3 min walk) and the Nagoya Express Train to the airport (25 min ride). In the heart of Nagoya where all the action happens and a variety of eateries right at our feet. Relax & Enjoy the last two nights in Japan.

Knowledge Sharing & Deep Understanding (Monozukuri & Hitozukuri)

物作り

Monozukuri & it's Deep Meaning

- ❖ Translates into “The Process of Making Things”.
- ❖ The Deeper Meaning is about having a **state of mind**, the **spirit to produce** not only excellent products (process) but also have the **ability to constantly improve** the production system and its processes.

人作り

Hitozukuri & it's Deep Meaning

- ❖ Translates into “The Process of Making People”.
- ❖ It's a way to **nurture a lifelong process** that involves **developing people's passion and skills**, and helping them learn how to **work together and overcome challenges**. It's more than just education, and it's a way to nurture people's craftsmanship and personal growth.



Toyota Sensei – Takeo Furuya (QMS in Toyota)

- ❖ A graduate of Tokyo Univ. as IE, who entered Toyota Motor Corporation in 1977 with 38+ yrs in the company.
- ❖ Began work in Production, then Engine Design and eventually into the Director position of the Total Quality Management (TQM) & Control Department.
- ❖ A passion for teaching and engaging the solving of problems.



GPS Dojo with Japanese Sensei – Akinori Hyodo (Former Toyota Plant Manager)

- ❖ The President & CEO of GPS Training Center Co., Ltd. is Sensei Akinori Hyodo. His insights of more than 37 years in the automotive industry primarily in roles as either “Factory Management” and “Factory Reform” has now been shared with more than 75,000 leaders.
- ❖ Understanding of “Standard Work” and how best to apply it in any business. Just knowing about it is not enough.

Your Journey Throughout The Week in Japan



**Arrival &
Departure**



Site Visit Locations



TOYOTA



mazda



TOTO

Kokura
2
Yamaguchi
3
Kyoto
4
Nagoya
5
1

JLIT Participant Testimonials:

Interim COO – Netherlands

“The JLIT experience is so valuable for your thought processes and your mindset to impact changes. DJ and his team know precisely how to bring Lean/TPS alive and how to help your understanding reach that next level of execution. In my opinion, JLIT is a necessity if you are a leader/manager by profession.”

Production Manager – UK

“To all those who would like to grow their knowledge of TPS, this is the best place to see it live. These guided tours of various facilities, you will experience TPS firsthand and during the classroom sessions, you will get a detailed overview of the facility and what they bring to the world of TPS. Additionally, this is a great opportunity to learn from each other and take away best practices from different parts of the business and countries that we all come from. So, grab the opportunity and absorb their knowledge and create that network for you and our business needs.”

Operations Manager – Malaysia

“DJ, I really wanted to express my sincere thanks for an amazing JLIT week in Japan. The deep learnings from the visits/lectures, our 1-on-1 discussions on the challenges ahead of me and the clear connections to changing the culture was fantastic! For sure, more of my team will be on your next tour.”

Business Excellence Coach & Mentor – Switzerland

“It’s something very special to witness on site in Japan, the country of origin where TPS & Lean Management started. Seeing how consistently & naturally those principles are implemented and used as a competitive strength. Talking directly to top management from a variety of companies, learning from their implementations is fantastic. You will discover what it means to rethink and in return, receive a bountiful of practical ideas for implementation upon your return.”

Head of Transformation – USA

“A fantastic week in Japan! I have never experienced such a well-prepared business trip. It was very impressive to see how the various companies we visited applied TPS. For us as a Team, DN repair community has come together. And all future initiatives in our network will benefit from the relationships built during this trip. My most important insight from this week is that processes must be built around people in order to be successful, and not the other way around. I also learned that TPS can be applied in other areas – for example, in R&D processes.”

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