

A Prism into Komaba

Komaba Times is an English-language newsletter written by students at the University of Tokyo, Komaba Campus. Our goal is to create a place for students to voice their opinions and thoughts in English. We're delighted to be publishing the second installment of Komaba Times, which is a compilation of the work by seven students who participated in the Journalistic Writing Class in the Winter 2012 semester. We look forward to hearing from our readers as well as future writers!

KOMABA *times*

22 Articles // April 2013 // Issue 2

<http://komabatimes.wordpress.com/>

English Newsletter by Komaba Students

ACADEMIC LIFE ▶

- Building a Bridge for Everyone** by Tomoko Takahashi 2
Once a 'bridge' is built between China and Japan, it is open for everyone to exchange their thoughts.
- True color of Shingaku-Furiwake system** by Daiki Sugiyama 4
Congratulation for entering UT! But next, you'll have to confront the big wall, Shingaku-Furiwake.

CAMPUS LIFE ▶

- The Male to Female Ratio in the University of Tokyo** by Yuki Iida 6
Have you ever looked around, say, in the cafeteria, and noticed how many more men come into your sight than women?
- Frugal vs. Taste** by Masatoshi Takara 8
A full meal on a tight budget? A tasty seasonal meal? Masatoshi shows you how you can eat on the cheap or splurge.

LIFE IN JAPAN ▶

- Essence of Nation** by Xuan Truong Trinh 11
Is there any essence for what we call a country or a people?
- Survival on the Crowded Train** by Narusa Yamato 15
Have you ever wondered how people can bare to ride the train during rush hour? Find out how to reduce discomfort on the rush hour train.

CURRENT EVENTS ▶

- A double life for a week:
IMF World Bank Annual Meetings 2012** by Yuzuha Oka 16
My personal experience at the IMF World Bank meeting from the perspective of an ordinary university student.
- Working globally:
Interview with Mr. Nishida from the World Bank** by Yuzuha Oka 18
Having a hard time finding a job in Japan? Then how about working globally?

ACADEMIC LIFE

Building a Bridge for Everyone

By Tomoko Takahashi

The Clock Tower at Komaba Campus sees me rush into room 120 every Thursday 4th period. Here I am, right in my Chinese class. We articulate each new word, learn new grammar, and read the text out loud translating it. Our Laoshi, or Teacher is He Zhenshi Laoshi from the Department of Chinese Language, College of Arts and Sciences. He Laoshi leads our class, “Beginners’ Chinese as a third foreign language” with a lot of interesting stories about China. This is my most favorite time of the week.

At Komaba, all the students take compulsory foreign language classes. For example, having learned English for at least 6 years before coming to the University of Tokyo, a Japanese student continues with English, and also chooses a second foreign language. We can choose from Korean, Chinese, Spanish, French, Ger-

we learn new languages other than English when English is becoming more and more popular around the globe. I believe there is something very important that cannot be explained from a practical point of view. I interviewed He Laoshi for the reason she started to teach Chinese in Japan.

Her first encounter with Japan was during her university years in China, where she learned Japanese and became fascinated by the language itself. She explained the way Chinese characters and their sounds had been brought to Japan over thousands of years, each time taking different routes and bringing different sounds. “Since then I started to feel I want to teach Japanese to Chinese people,” He Laoshi says in fluent Japanese. After she came to Japan, it turned out that she was a wonderful teacher for Japanese students, too – and here she is, right in room 120 teaching us. She told me what Chinese is to herself. “It is a tool by which I communicate with Japanese people, but at the same time it is a language through which I convey the Chinese culture.” She believes that when conveying culture, personality is very important. She concludes by saying that, “I am building a bridge over these two countries. I want people to walk on this bridge, coming and going.”

True to her words, she is indeed building a wide bridge for us. Studying Chinese, I truly hope to build a bridge like He Laoshi myself, too. Connecting all the bridges, I see what learning a new language brings about to all of us. It provides you with a big opportunity to encounter a new world.



Author's notebook for the Chinese Class
(January 21, 2013, photo taken by author)

man, Russian, and Italian. Furthermore, we are free to learn a third or fourth foreign language, which includes more options.

Acquiring a new language does require hard work, such as struggling with difficult grammar, new words and phrases, getting used to unfamiliar sounds, and scribbling strange letters in your notebook. Some people may even ask why



'Bridge' in Chinese and Japanese (January 21, 2013, photo taken by author)

Christmas Science Lab

By Yuki Iida

Taking a class during the Christmas holiday break sounds insane, especially when you know you're going to be spending your precious Christmas day in a lab from day to night dissecting chicks.

The University of Tokyo had almost 70 of these insane students taking this experimental biology course that lasted for five days, from the 25th to the 29th of December 2012. The purpose of the lab was to culture cells and observe their characteristics resulting from cell differentiation. A chick embryo was pulled out of an egg to be dissected so the cells could be attained from the breast muscles, heart muscles and one other organ of your choice for cell culturing.

This class has been going on for 20 years by Professor Ryoichi Matsuda and his assistants from the Biology Department at the College of Arts and Sciences, and has built a tradition original to it. First of all, the enormous group was broken up in four groups; people who went to all boys schools, all girls schools, co-ed schools, and PEAK students, and were paired up so the pairs would be as mixed up as possible. This allowed students to break clicks and meet people they didn't have any connections with.

Since there were 11 PEAK students that joined the course this year, there were some adjustments made to the 20-year tradition. The lectures and all questions from the students needed to be done in English, and the pairs of the PEAK students that weren't fluent in Japanese



Students working in the lab. Photo by author.

needed to speak in English with them as well. With the exception of explanations of scientific terms, no Japanese was used. It provided a good chance for the Japanese To-dai students to actually speak in English with native speakers, but at the same time, there were some students that had difficulty following the lectures and instructions given in English.

The course ended with a feast prepared

with fish freshly bought from Tsukiji that morning. An angler-fish nabe pot using angler-fish meat dissected by Professor Matsuda and tuna sashimi cut by teaching assistant Mr. Wada filled the tables. This year Professor Matsuda's birthday was coincidentally on the same day, so a surprise gift was given to him, too.

M.N., a PEAK Environmental Studies student, remarked that the course was interesting because it not only conducted an experiment but taught the fundamentals of biology, and it gave chances to interact with non-PEAK students. Despite the fact that a week out of the two-week winter vacation was lost, the contents of the lectures and the experiment was interesting, and there were many valuable experiences that could only be gained through this course that made it highly worthwhile. If you have no special plans during the winter break, this course might be worth considering.



Class picture. Photo courtesy of Professor Ryoichi Matsuda.

True color of Shingaku-Furiwake system

By Daiki Sugiyama

Shingaku-Furiwake system is a very unique system of this university, and many students make an effort to win the battle. Let's disclose the secrets of this system.



You will read these many books.
(January 18, 2013, taken by author)

When students enter the University of Tokyo, with an exception of some exchange students, the faculty they can enter in their 3rd and 4th year is not determined

yet. It is decided according to their choices and results of examinations or quality of reports during the first three terms.

This system is so unique that there are only three universities which apply similar systems in Japan: the University of Tokyo, the University of Hokkaido and Tokyo Institute of Technology. Even so the system of Hokkaido University is only applied to some students, and that of Tokyo Institute of Technology is used to decide not faculties but only majors. The Shingaku-Furiwake system of the University of Tokyo is the biggest one in Japan.

It has continued for a long time. It stems from the entrance examination from Dai-ichi High School to Teikoku University which was the first university in Japan.

The most important advantage of the system is that students can study a wide range of subjects regardless of their major for the first two years in the university. We can choose which faculty to enter our 3rd and 4th years based on our experiences and various kinds of knowledge obtained in the first three semesters. So we can enter into a faculty that is the most suitable to us. Moreover, the knowledge we learn in the two years will be useful after we enter our next stage of education.

It is true that students endure the pressure of the system and have to struggle hard. Many students even choose lessons according not to their curiosity and will to learn, but the easiness to get high scores that will benefit in the for system. But imagine our campus life without the system. The very pressure is the essential factor to drive us to study hard. We have to get along with the Shingaku-Furiwake system. The system will continue to be a double edged sword that both suffer and empower students in the future.

New Perspectives from Around the Globe

By Tomoko Takahashi

Every single thing you encounter in your life may well affect your 'View of the World', and one step into the KOMCEE 21 Lecture Hall on Monday 2nd period will bring you a new perspective with a diversity of 'World Histories' around the globe. "Sekaishi no Sekaishi" ("the World History of "World History") is held as a 'Gakujutsu Fukan' course, where several professors take turns giving lectures in an attempt to show us the overall picture of a theme. This course is hosted by Professor Masashi Haneda (Previous Director of Institute for Advanced Studies on Asia, an institute of the University of Tokyo), and his ultimate goal is to ponder over how 'World History' can contribute toward having people respect, share and hopefully transcend different 'Views of the World', thus making it easier to work together on increasingly globalizing issues.



Poster for the Gakujutsu Fukan Course

The primary target audience is freshmen and sophomores on Komaba Campus, a lot of whom had just experienced studying 'Sekaishi' (usually translated as 'World History'), a typical examination subject for high school students in Japan. Studying 'Sekaishi' for examinations means no matter how many views there may be we have to learn and memorize the details on the textbooks authorized by the Ministry of Education. But come to think of it, do high school students all over the world learn this so-called 'World History'? The answer is no, and even the word 'World History' has various meanings.

So far in this course, Professor Haneda has given us three profound questions;

what is 'World History', who writes 'World History', and why do we learn 'World History'? This leads us to another big question – what value do we see in 'History' itself? The way one lives is something deeply related to the way one sees the world, which is clearly reflected on the way one regards 'World History'. Associate Professor Ryuto Shimada from the Faculty of Letters says some people regard 'World History' as a tool through which we find 'truth', while others suggest it teaches us a lesson from the past – just as the proverb goes: "History has a strange way of repeating itself." While thinking how 'World History' could be understood in our rapidly changing times, what we can say for sure is that there are countless opinions.

Professor Haneda suggests that we can share 'Views of the World' when we "face other people one by one", trying to establish a relationship of mutual trust with every single person. Komaba Campus has welcomed many foreign students this fall, opening its door wide to greet new perspectives. This is the time when we can try to "face people with different backgrounds one by one". Let's not just stick to the same perspective – something you have always taken for granted will suddenly change into an exception, and something unusual into a norm. It is always good to see things yourself, and is often the case that your views may be overturned in the most unexpected moment.

●The URL for the course website : <http://www.gfk.c.u-tokyo.ac.jp/inSession/inSessionTop.html>

PEAK Meets Rakugo

By Narusa Yamato

A man dressed in kimono, sitting on the zabuton (Japanese cushion) acting out a story in Japanese and laughter fills the room, even amongst the PEAK students who are mostly non-native Japanese speakers.

On January 8th, 2013, orator Sanyuutei Ryuraku came to the Komaba Campus to perform a Rakugo for the PEAK students as part of the Japanese course. Rakugo is a traditional Japanese verbal performance, in which the orator tells a story in front of a group of audience. They only use two tools, a *sensu* (fan) and a *tenugui* (handkerchief) to represent every prop that comes up in the story, meaning that some imagination is required for the audience. Moreover, as the Rakugo was performed in Japanese, as a native Japanese speaker, I was concerned that some students would not be able to understand the story. However, the amazing fact was that all the students were laughing at the same point in the story, meaning that they were able to understand not only the story itself, but also the humor of it.

So why were the PEAK students able to understand the humor of Rakugo? As Seo Jin Lee, a PEAK student from Korea pointed out, it was mainly the "facial expressions and the acting that were funny". I personally also thought that the changes in tone and speed of the voices, as well as the gestures using the *sensu* and the *tenugui*, helped make the humor come across. As the two stories "Chotan" –(a story of a short-tempered man and a long-tempered man) and "Chiritotechin" –(a story of a man who is always polite and happy, and another man who pretends to know everything and is never satisfied) based the humor on the two contrasting characters, the way in which Ryuraku san changed the tone and speed of the voice, facial expression and movement (i.e. gestures etc.) made it look as though there were actually two completely different characters. Therefore it was easy for the students to understand what the *tenugui* and the *sensu* rep-

resented, thus they were able to understand the plot and the humor of it.

From the fact that PEAK students were able to enjoy the humor of Rakugo performed in Japanese, I think that the importance of non-verbal communication tools in inter-cultural communication was emphasized. Therefore, we might want to make sure that we are not only trying to convey our message through words, but also through non-verbal communication tools, especially when communicating with people with different cultural backgrounds.



Photo of Sanyuutei Ryuraku san performing Rakugo

The Male to Female Ratio in the University of Tokyo

By Yuki Iida

Male and female ratio seen from the everyday cafeteria scenery



Have you ever looked around, say, in the cafeteria, and noticed how many more men come into your sight than women? The University of Tokyo has a female population below 20%, which reflects the social views and customs that restrain the will for women to enter it.

The male to female ratio of the University of Tokyo is extremely unbalanced. According to the University's enrollment chart, the female percentage varies in the department from 9.6% at minimum in the undergraduate Engineering and the maximum 37.9% in undergraduate Education course.

Japan has a male to female ratio in the student body of 40:60, but other advanced nations have higher female proportions. In the UK there is an almost 50:50 ratio and the US have a female dominance in the student population that is even alerting New York Times journalists. Japan technically is able to provide higher education to more females like them, but there are still some traditional views that work on women's psychology that draws them back from attending the top colleges and universities.

Though the number of females is increasing in a steady pace, there are still very few females in the top universities such as the University of Tokyo. According to a female student at the University, males are more aggressive than females when it comes to getting better education for getting better jobs. She thought the stereotype of Todai being more of a 'guy thing', added on to the alternative option of being a housewife instead of working, were some of the core reasons female students feel hesitant to take the chance and apply to Todai.

This thought may have come from the inequality between the sexes, as it can be seen in the fact that Japan ranks 98th out of 135 countries covered in the World Economic Forum's Global Gender Gap Report. One aspect taken up by this report is the working environment, such as the difference in the total income of males and females and maternity help. The Japanese Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare reveals that females can only receive 70.6~77.5% of the male's income and many women leave their workplace as there isn't enough maternity support such as flexible working hours.

The "Promotion Committee of Gender Equality" was established in the University of Tokyo in 2002, and contributed to gradually increase the female enrollment in the student body and in the faculties. Female students covered 7% of the undergraduate students in 1992, 17.1% in 2001, and 18.3% in 2012. Even so, there is still a long way for the University to have a completely gender equal community. There are attempts such as the scholarship given from next year to non-Japanese female students, to increase the rate of female students in order to promote gender equality, but there are more basic things we need to fix.

In order to attain more females in the University of Tokyo, there is a need to change the society's view on gender. The ancient stereotypes must be broken along with preparing proper foundation for females, such as the maternity and childcare support through new facilities and work hour adjustments, so they may prosper in the society after they get their higher education, and have more will to enter the University of Tokyo.

Work Cited "Enrollment." *The University of Tokyo*. The University of Tokyo, 01 May 2011. Web. 12 Nov. 2012. <<http://www.u-tokyo.ac.jp/en/about/data/enrollment.html>>.

"The University of Tokyo." *JUMP*. N.p., 2012. Web. 12 Nov. 2012. <http://www.uni.international.mext.go.jp/university_list/tokyo/Data/Index/>.

"[平成 23 年版 働く女性の実情] (概要版)." 厚生労働省. Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, n.d. Web. 12 Nov. 2012. <<http://www.mhlw.go.jp/bunya/koyoukintou/josei-jitsujo/dl/11gaiyou.pdf>>.

PEAK Friends, New kids on campus

By Masatoshi Takara

PEAK stands for Programs in English at Komaba. It is the first program at the University of Tokyo (Todai) that offers students from around the world a chance to take classes taught entirely in English and obtain a 4 year degree at one of the leading Universities in the world.

PEAK Friends serves as a student run group to make assimilation into University life in a different country, with perhaps the most dissimilar culture in the world, Japan an easier process. In the beginning they made a pamphlet which covered everything from local restaurants and grocery stores to Japanese slang that we may encounter. They also threw events and offered a friendly community to jump start incorporation into the Todai lifestyle from the get go.

In the fall there are no club fairs that expose all that campus has to offer and PEAK Friends serves as the perfect bridge to fill in any gaps and questions that international students may have. PEAK Friends believes that communication spans beyond words and it wishes to break down barriers that have proven difficult for previous international students.

Ryotaro Doi, leader of PEAK friends commented that “we (PEAK friends) are trying our best to promote cross cultural communication at Todai.” They invite non-English speaking members as well as English speaking members, so if you’re curious, why don’t you come take a look? They throw “Global Interaction Lunches” every week right in front of



PEAK Friends in action.

the School Cafeteria. There are students from PEAK, Todai students, and even AIKOM (abroad in Komaba) students as well. We may start to see Komaba campus filled with fresh faces from all around the world; be a part of the revolution and come meet new friends and break out of your comfort zone.

Music of Hammers – Tatakiba

By Xuan Truong Trinh

**Abandoned in sunshine, lively at night. Music crafted by wood and hammers.
The factory of stages and panels: Tatakiba.**

When you walk through the gate of Todai, starting your new day, you see the variety of notice boards showing the coming performances or clubs introductions. Have you ever wondered where those panels were made? My wandering feet took me to the answer: the Tatakiba – literally Place of Beats, located between Gym 1 and the multipurpose hall.

Without people, the place is an open ground scattered with uncompleted pieces of wood, which looked more like a messy sketch of an artist, or storage of junks. But afterschool, Tatakiba comes alive with the rhythm of hammers, marking the construction of a stage or notice boards.

The major habitants here are the theatre groups, especially during preparation for their performances. They paid for all the materials here, including nails, woods,

and machines, which are locked in the storage nearby. “We don’t sell tickets for the performances, so most of the funds are from Kampa, donations from audience”, said Marimo Satou, a member of theatre circle Prism.

Independent, serious and passionate, the atmosphere in Tatakiba truly capti-

vated my curiosity and utter enjoyment of Todai’s afterschool activities. Put it simply as Haruna Horiuchi, another member of Prism, “I am here almost every day, and I really like it. It’s like a call, you know.” So, if you are not too busy after 6 p.m., why don’t you take a stroll there, and listen to the Call of Tatakiba?



The “tatakiba” at Komaba. Photo by author.

Endeavors of the Komaba Festival Committee

By Daiki Sugiyama



Photo courtesy of the Komaba Festival Committee.

Komaba Festival, one of the biggest annual festivals of the University of Tokyo, was held from November 23rd to 25th in 2012, and lit up the campus. A key factor of this success was the projects that the Komaba Festival Committee launched.

In Komaba Festival, various kinds of street stalls opened all over the university. In addition many fascinating performances and projects were done by student clubs. However, these owe the Komaba Festival Committee a great deal, for example, their arrangement of rental goods and setting of all stages. The Committee had been preparing for Komaba Festival since summer vacation. One of the committee members said that he had difficulty arranging many projects, but helping others perform perfectly was good experience for him.

The projects done by the Komaba Festival Committee were the biggest events in the festival. First of them was *Zenya-sai* held in the evening of the 22nd in front of the first building. Students who are repeating the same class stood on stage and talked about not only their regrets but their good experiences gained because of their failure. It was very effective to arouse motivation for students. A committee member who prepared for *Zenya-sai* said that he felt his efforts were rewarded when he saw that many audiences enjoyed the festival.

Another one was *Chuuya-sai* held in the evening of the 24th at Ichou stage. Various kinds of performances were carried out like a capella, manzai, and folk music were held. The audience enjoyed watching these performances. At the end, La voce, a capella circle was chosen as the best performance by the audience. The crowd was filled with shouts of joy and laughter. In order to hold *Chuuya-sai* successfully, the committee invited performers and made a lot of arrangements, and set up the stage. I joined *Chuuya-sai* as a performer of Showlonpow, a manzai circle, and enjoyed performing because of the endeavors of the committee.

The committee also planned a lot of extension lectures for the public during the festival. Some of the lectures were given by professors of this university, such as Professor Yujin Yaguchi who belongs to the division of Area Studies, and Professor Kiichi Fujiwara who belongs to the department of law and political science. Others were given by famous people invited such as Shigeaki Koga who is a well-known former bureaucrat of the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry. The committee invited these guests and arranged the rooms and schedules. These lectures made the festival not only enjoyable but also enlightening.

On the finale stage held by the committee at the end of the festival, Mitsutaka Nakao, the chairperson of the committee made a speech of the impression he got from the festival and stated his appreciation with tears. Nakao's tears recalled all the hard efforts of his colleagues that have been put into this event.

We should not forget we all students owe these great memories to the endeavor of the members of the Komaba Festival Committee.

Frugal vs. Taste

By Masatoshi Takara

Have you ever wondered how to get the most bang out of your yen at the cafeteria? At the same time did you want to splurge and gorge yourself into some delicious food? This comprehensive guide will tell you how to eat on the cheap and have a hearty meal, as well as certain items worth splurging for once in a while.

Now many of you are probably thinking, if I wanted to eat on the cheap I would bring my own food and make my own bentou! That is without a doubt the cheapest way to eat, but some of us want some fresh food or aren't good

enough cooks to do so! With that being said the frugal way to eat at the shokudou is to bring your own rice. If you bring your own rice the only thing you will need to buy is the okazu! If you follow this method you can keep your lunch spending under 300 yen no problem. Items to look for are the "saba no misoni" or "saba no himono". What better item to add a little variety to your lunch than the "misoshiru" which is a baffling 20yen! The tip here is to go to the "cafeteria" section of the food line and cherry pick from an assortment of options which won't break your wallet so

you can save money for that new jacket, a fun night out, or even more important, paying rent.

Did you know that the cafeteria offers different menu items for the changing seasons? With the temperature starting to drop and Christmas being around the corner, the cafeteria introduces new items that will be with us this season. They are the "milky miso ramen", "shyake oyako-don", "butter shio ramen" and the "buta don." On a quest to find out how they tasted my trusty group of reporters, who are actually just hungry

Genkatsugi, superstitions to beat finals blues

By Masatoshi Takara

90% of the semester can be summed up as one big adventurous journey to dreaded finals. Besides working hard and drinking a lot of coffee, do students at the University of Tokyo do anything superstitious or original to help boost their grades? I'm a firm believer that irrational behavior can affect the outcome of a test score. My weird superstition is wearing a shirt and tie on test days ever since I aced the SATs and ACTs (Standardized American Tests). Let's take a look at what silly superstitions Todai students follow.

Ai Takahashi, a first year student, informed me that these superstitions are

called Genkatsugi: the belief that imagining and acting out positive scenarios by various actions will lead to positive outcomes. Although Miss Takahashi is not a firm believer in Genkatsugi she is inclined to drink milk tea and eat chocolates to keep her glucose levels up on test day. There is also wordplay in Japan where "Kit-Kats" the popular wafer chocolate candy is interpreted into "Kitto-Katsu", which means "will surely win". She is persuaded to eat some near or on test day because it can't hurt to get every little bit of help.

Kazuki Sakurai, a second year student, eats the popular Japanese snack "karu" which wordplays with the Japanese word "Ukaru" which means to pass or succeed. Mr. Sakurai said that he also participated in the well-known practice of eating "Katsu-Don" before test days. This is because "Katsu", which means pork, has the same spell-

ing as the word win. It must have worked for him because he ate it the day before his entrance examination for Todai! I'm sure it wasn't the quality hours of hard work and relentless studying that paid off...

Jun Adachi, a third year student over at Hongo Campus said that his usual routine before a test includes lots of studying in an environment that calms him down. His place of choice was Starbucks. Mariko Kawai, a second year student, wears her favorite pajamas the night before tests and wake up extra early to do her hair. She says "I like to look good when taking my tests."

These are various ways students try and gain a small advantage for finals week but remember, what makes the biggest difference is studying. Tomomi Amakawa, a graduate student, said that she ended up using her energy to procrastinate by updating her blog and LinkedIn the week before finals. As a wise man once said "Studying doesn't suck nearly as much as failing." Good luck with finals everybody...I should get back to studying.



Finals blues....

friends at lunch time, got a different item from the special season limited menu. I got to try each and every one of these delicious creations. They say to each his own, but to me to each his all! Every single menu item I tried was delicious and definitely worth giving a shot.

So grab your jackets and bring your appetite, because the cafeteria has something to offer for everybody.

- *"saba no misoni" – Miso sautéed mackerel
- *"saba no himono" – dried mackerel
- *"misoshiru" – miso soup
- *"milky miso ramen" – miso ramen with milk



- *"shyake oyako-don" – salmon egg and salmon on a bed of rice
- *"butter shio ramen" – salty, butter ramen noodles
- *"buta don." – pork bowl

Keep your wallet fat and your stomach full.

Gakuyukai: Strong Supporter of Club Activities

By Daiki Sugiyama

*Gakuyu-kai room in Campus Plaza
(December 18, 2012, taken by author)*

Gakuyukai is an association to support many of the clubs. It is not well known but plays a lot of important roles for our club activities. How does Gakuyukai help activities of clubs?

On the 3rd and 5th of December in 2012, Gakuyukai General Meeting was held with leaders of many clubs. Attendance at this meeting is one of the duties of clubs to be supported. During the meeting, Gakuyukai informed their work of this year and some clubs report their activities.

The roles of Gakuyukai are various. First, it gives clubs two kinds of supports, material support and budgetary support. Through material support, clubs can get materials such as paper, packaging

tapes, Copy Card to use printing machines, wood to use to make advertisement boards within a certain amount of money. Actually, not only clubs but classes can receive this support. On the other hand, through budgetary support, some of the clubs chosen by Gakuyukai can receive financial support directly.

Secondly, Gakuyukai distribute rooms in Campus Plaza and Gakusei Kaikan to clubs to use as club rooms. The number of the rooms is limited, so it decides which clubs are proper to get rooms according to the number of their members



and how necessary is club rooms for them to have action.

December was a month when many clubs changed their leaders. If you are going to become a leader, you have to pay attention to Gakuyukai. It will help you and your members.

On top

By Xuan Truong Trinh

Sometimes, all it takes to see a beautiful world is to take a different perspective. I looked up to the sky of Komaba Campus and wondered which building was the highest. The question took me to a place, opened to my eyes to the sunset over Fujisan and the dazzling light play of Tokyo metropolitan.

It was a 12 floored building, which was an office rather an observation deck. It took my breath away to gaze at the vast scenery of Tokyo. Shinjuku characterised with giant buildings, Yoyogi Park spread like a

forest amidst the modern city, and Fujisan covering the sun, more beautiful than ever. I felt like becoming a titan, absorbing the spectacular panorama into my eyes. Beside the scenery, I could watch Todaisei moving around, playing soccer, going to the cafeteria - like miniature figures in an enormous toy university.

The vision cultivated my imagination greatly, as I was granted the ability to zoom in and out of the world, manipulating the size of things, capturing the whole area with a single glance. I was no

longer dominated by the tall buildings or confused by the maze-like landscape, everything became clear, and endlessly intriguing. It became one of the corners I resort to when choked by the stress of being a student. A source of consolation and inspiration it was.

About the exact location, I would like to leave the excitement of discovery to you, my dear readers. The world does become much more beautiful, when we tilt our head a little bit, taking on a new perspective.

Go up there, explore.

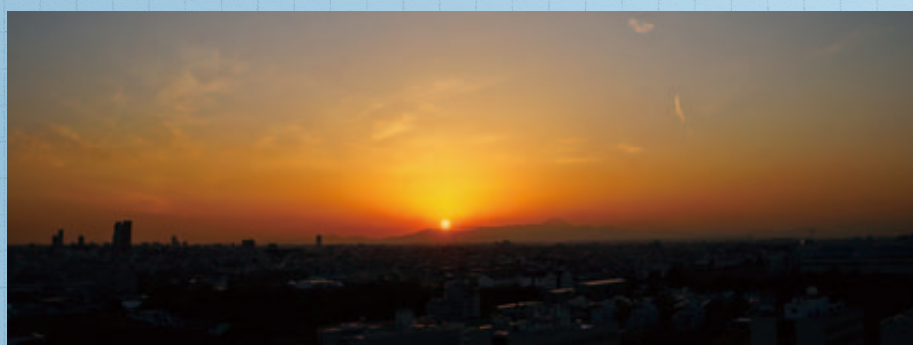


Photo by author.

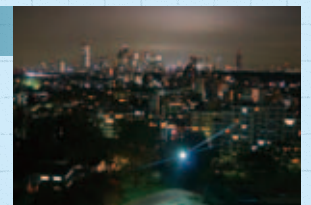
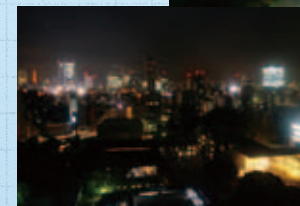


Photo by author.



LIFE IN JAPAN

Essence of Nation

By Xuan Truong Trinh

Japan, this is the third country I have been living in. Living here makes me wonder about the most basic things I used to take for granted. I am a Vietnamese, but now I start to question: What is Vietnam? What makes Vietnamese different from Japanese? Or, a more fundamental question, is there any essence for what we call a country or a people?

In Tokyo, I have been socializing with some Vietnamese communities. They came to study, to work, or even to get married and to live here. During those dinners, I was so glad to be embraced in what I call 'feeling home', the kind of feeling I have when I stay around Vietnamese, speak Vietnamese, eat Vietnamese food, and do things in the Vietnamese way. It is a collection of experiences that I thought I could only have in Vietnam, yet I am experiencing it here.

The experience is very different compared to the time I went to the Vietnamese community in Otahuhu, a district in the south of Auckland, New Zealand. As a high school boy, I was more than eager to see how my fellow countrymen lived in another country.

Expecting something familiar, I was puzzled to see them in suits, speaking only English, and having a totally different manner. They still looked like Vietnamese, but the feeling I had near them was just not the same as my 'feeling home'.

"They have been living in New Zealand for too long," – I was explained. It is true that compared to the Vietnamese I met in Tokyo, they were born in New Zealand, raised in New Zealand, and thus behaved just as a New Zealander would. Although I sometimes find it difficult understanding how Vietnamese here talk, it is only because they have different

dialects. Also, perhaps they are not so updated with the so-called 'teenager language' that is evolving every second through social networking in Vietnam. They said they were going through 'language isolation'. At this rate, I could envision how they may diverge from being a typical Vietnamese. Sometime later, perhaps I might see in them a Vietnamese community like what I have seen in New Zealand.

Then, is nationality a thing that could be washed away? Of course I am not referring to the detail on the passport, but



Does putting on a hanten make me Japanese?

the actual identity of a person. If there is something that makes a person different from everyone else, it is perhaps his memory. Similarly, for a country, it is her history. To formularize the formation of Vietnam, it could include the local Southeast Asian tribes, similar to Laos and Cambodia, plus a millenium worth of colonization by China, and more than a decade of colonization by France, America and Japan. The formation of Vietnam demonstrates strong influence from external factors on the identity of a country. What it shows is, yes, even the nation itself changes, so nationality would inevitably transform over time. Therefore, at

this age of globalization, radical changes are well expected.

So far, I have met Vietnamese who have lived in Vietnam all their life; Vietnamese who have been living abroad since their adulthood; Vietnamese who have been born and brought up abroad; and Vietnamese who have been born abroad, from parents who have never been in Vietnam at all. For me, that is the gradient of changes. Besides, there are international marriages and their children. Vietnamese usually seek out of Vietnam, but on the other hand, there are people

like Joe Ruelle, a Canadian writer who has come to live in Vietnam, adapting to our way of life. In a similar way, such changes will be enhanced by globalization, which might eventually lead to the 'melting pot' phenomenon, when everyone share a universal global identity, independent of where they come from.

Similarly, the physical border between nations would need reconsideration. For example, Chinatowns are present in a large number of countries. Consider a place where people speak Chinese, eat Chinese food, live the Chinese way and in

fact, are Chinese; is it different from China? This is not to disregard sovereignty, but to rethink what is the essence of a nation.

As the existence of a permanent essence is questioned, it is important to notice that there is nothing unchangeable about a nation and its people. I am glad to have the opportunity to examine different cases of the rapidly evolving cultural values. By representing those observations here, I hope to intrigue you into critically observing and receiving changes that are happening around us. How are we changing?

Flavors of the Fading Seasons

By Yuki Iida



Trees gradually changing its colors as autumn approaches

A gash of wind passes, and you move your eyes to the slice of sky peeking between the two rows of golden ginkgo trees. Tens of hundreds of fan-shaped leaves dance in the air before it joins the golden carpet by your feet. The scenery that surrounds everyone may be accepted as something normal, and may not be seen as something of great importance, but to me, who have lived more than half my life in countries that do not have the



Camellia flowers blooming next to the cafeteria

four seasons, the changing seasons are astonishing.

I took biology in high school, so I knew all about the chemical changes happening according to the changing seasons so I knew the logic, it is entirely different to see the change by my own eyes. I have lived in South Africa, which does have seasons, but the changes in the seasons were dull compared to Japan. There were many trees that changed to their autumn leaves, but there were far more evergreen trees. Even if they did change color and dropped their leaves, most of them merely turned to shades of brown instead of the bright yellows, oranges and reds found in Japan.

After the autumn leaves color the campus, the leaves would make the branches bare, making the winter visually silent and cold. Soon the camellia trees found

around campus and lining the road to the Komaba International Lodge will bloom, as the ones next to the cafeteria have already done. Komaba campus has a selection of plants that represent the seasons. Within the numerous trees that change into autumn leaves, the Ginkgo trees are one of the most representative autumn trees in Japan. As winter approach, the camellias would bloom their white, pink and red flowers. At the coldest times in January and February, the small plum forest at the corner of the campus would let the small flowers decorate their bare branches and emit a fragrant sweet scent. The cherry trees in front of the gym would bloom as the plums end, and would signal that spring has come. The seasons changes as the young green leaves mix with the faint pink flowers, and eventually take them over.

I have only seen cherry blossoms once in my life, and I will not forget the beauty of it. I cannot wait till I see the changing seasons with my own eyes and feel the four seasons with my own skin. To me, all the signs of the changes in the seasons seem fresh and astonishing, but maybe it has lost its flavor to those who have experienced it many times throughout their lives. I am sure that though it may no longer be something new to you, but if you start to look for the little signs nature gives, the fading seasons should add flavor to your everyday lives!



Golden ginkgo leaves

My Foreign New Year

By Xuan Truong Trinh



Learning to do Calligraphy



Vietnamese Calligraphy for 忍

In the many years away from my country, I have never been so glad to be welcomed as a son in a family, greeting New Year just like a Japanese. I was lucky enough to follow my friend to Osaka and stay in her house for the New Year celebration. Five days there taught me much more about Japanese culture than I could ever imagine.

This moment perhaps capture my induction into a Japanese' New Year. In the Japanese Style house, I could feel the traditional atmosphere. Items around the house held on to the past, untouched by the rapid passage of time. In this family, customs were delicately kept from being melted in globalisation.

I was lucky to be sitting next to Kenji-sama, a lover of Calligraphy. By showing me how to write simple words, he started his New Year with a different experience. Same for me, I was witnessing a holder of Japanese culture, an opportunity not everyone has. "Seeing a person's calligraphy, much of his personalities, stream of thoughts, and even life history is told." - I have heard. There was something familiar.

In Vietnamese culture, we also have calligraphy. Nonetheless, through the course of changes in language, we now

use Romaji for alphabet. Along with that, Vietnamese calligraphy adapted itself to Romaji as well. As I was telling this story, I realized how Japanese and Vietnamese share similarities in culture and lifestyle. It felt like we were distant families, parting off somewhere in the past to grow in different ways, but still bear the likeness to recognise each other.

What I liked the most was how people put aside the worries of daily life to enjoy New Year together. The so called 'Public face' that observed in people here were opened up to create a joyful atmosphere of a Hanafuda game. I learnt then that people had very clear line between their public profile and personal profile, allowing almost no interference.

What is more, family gatherings like this are what I have rarely seen in New Zealand. Family bond is what I like about the East, which gives each person a sense of belonging, of relation to others, of being under the same roof.

It was a delightful New Year that warmed up my winter in another country. It was not only being welcomed, but also finding the intimate relationship between Japanese culture and my culture that really left in me many memorable experiences. Thanks, Japan.



Family playing Hanafuda game in New Year

The Reason Behind its Smell

By Narusa Yamato

One beautiful autumn day, you are walking around the Komaba campus, looking at the contrast between the blue sky and the golden Ginkgo tree leaves, and you suddenly notice a malodorous smell that destroys your pleasant walk. Have you ever had this kind of experience?



Ginkgo trees at Komaba (top), the nuts and leaves.
Photo by Yuki Iida.

The cause of this smell is the rotten Ginkgo nut seed coat that contains certain acids. According to the book *Characterization of the putrid aroma compounds of Ginkgo biloba fruits* (1995) by T. Parliment, the Ginkgo nut consists of a seed coat called sarcotesta that contains 2 types of acid, butanoic and hexanoic acid. It is this combination that gives off this unpleasant smell, which is often described as a goat-like smell.

The smell is often worsened when pedestrians and vehicles crush the rotten nut. Moreover, this also leaves a nasty mess on the street, therefore ideally, the best way to prevent the smell will be to pick the nuts before they rot or get crushed. However, this may be very

difficult because there are so many Ginkgo trees in the campus. Another solution might be to use the nuts for cooking, since they are very delicious.



Although this smell is certainly a negative consequence to us, it may have been one of the ways in which the Ginkgo tree has evolved to survive. Due to the impression of the odor, people might think that the smell has evolved to prevent animals from eating them. However, Peter Del Tredici, a botanist and a lecturer at Harvard University, suggested in the book *Natural regeneration of Ginkgo biloba from downward growing cotyledonary buds (basal chichi)* (1992) that the “existence of carnivores consuming the whole Ginkgo seed, and defecating intact nuts, raises a possibility that the foul smell sarcotesta may be attracting animals by mimicking the smell of rotten flesh”. Therefore, the smell might be a tool for seed dispersion.

Considering these reasons behind the smell, we may be able to perceive the smell of the odor of the Ginkgo nuts differently and enjoy the aesthetic beauty of the tinted autumnal leaves.

The Long Story of the Long Soba

By Tomoko Takahashi

New Year's Eve is just around the corner. Have you ever heard of eating Soba, or buckwheat noodles, on New Year's Eve? If you do, do you know why we eat them on New Year's Eve in Japan? Here are some stories that go with your delicious Soba.

Soba is deeply related to our Japanese culture. We can buy ready-made noodles at supermarkets and simply boil them at home, but some people bother to make the noodles from scratch, which is called Te-uchi-soba, or handmade Soba. We see Soba-ya, or Soba restaurants everywhere, and some are even on train platforms, accepting busy office workers to stop by and eat standing! Soba is a part of everyday life in Japan.

According to the book *Soba – Edo no Shokubunnka (Buckwheat noodles – The Food Culture of the Edo Period)* (2001) by Toshiya Kasai, the very origin of Soba found so far is pollen from a stratum of the beginning of the Jomon period. The direct origin of eating Soba on New Year's Eve can be dated back to the Edo period. Soba was always eaten on special events in those days, and Toshi-koshi-soba, which means the New Year's Eve Soba, used to be one of them. Today, Soba is not regarded as something to eat on special occasions, but still the tradition of Toshi-koshi-soba remains. Two different traditions, the tradition of eating Soba in December and the tradition of eating Soba at the end of each month have fused into the tradition of Toshi-koshi-soba.

Firstly, the tradition of eating Soba in December was popular among the people of the Edo period because it was the last chance of the year to taste Shin-soba, which is Soba made from fresh buckwheat flour. It is true that autumn is the general season of fresh flour, but the most delicious flour was said to be made in December, after exposing the seed to some frost, and grinding it in the cold wind, inside a water mill. December 13th was one of the occasions to enjoy eating Soba. It was the day of Susu-harai, the day when people from all classes of the Edo society cleaned their homes. Soba was served at the end of the day as a treat, and it had to be inexpensive so that anyone tired and hungry could ask for another helping without hesitation. Toshi-no-ichi, which is still held at

Survival on the Crowded Train

By Narusa Yamato



Photo of people getting off the train at Shibuya Station during the rush hour. Photo by author.

Have you ever taken the train in Tokyo between 6 to 8 o'clock in the morning? If you have, you would know very well how crowded it is.

The crowdedness of the train in Tokyo is amazing, because there is literally no space between people. What adds on to this discomfort is the stuffiness and the sensation of radiant body heat emitted by the incredible number of people on the train.

From this description, you might be wondering how people can bare using the train everyday. As a train commuter using the Tokyu Toyoko line during the rush hour to get to Shibuya everyday, I

have found several ways to survive this crowdedness.

The basic advice I would give is to stand away from the doors. From my experience, the place that gets most crowded is the area near the doors. If you are standing around there, you will be in the way of people who want to get off, so they will sometimes push you out of the train although it is not your destination. In this case, you should get off the train, until people have gone off, and then get back on.

Another tip is to try to put your bag on the floor, in between your feet, or on the rack above the seats. This is because the

shoulder is the part of the body which has the largest width, so if you have your bag on your shoulder, you are likely to make the train more crowded. However, when you put your bag on the rack, you have to be careful that you stay in front of it. This is because as more people ride on the train, they will push you, so by the time you arrive at your stop you may end up standing away from where your bag is.

So far, I have discussed the general tips, but as you get used to riding on the train, you might start to discover that some cars are less crowded than others. For example, in the case of the Tokyu Toyoko line going to Shibuya, the front car tends to get more crowded because it has the shortest distance to the ticket wicket* at Shibuya station. Therefore I usually ride on the back cars, which is likely to be less crowded.

By utilizing these tips, you may be able to bare the crowded train. But if you can't stand this, you might want to change the time you ride on the train.

*Ticket wicket: The machine/gate in which you put your train ticket in.

the end of each year as a flea market that sells kitchen utensils and things to celebrate the New Year was one of the popular places to enjoy Soba in December. Besides enjoying Shin-soba, Soba was also eaten to forget the worries of the year, or of December, when debt collectors went around the town.

Secondly, people tended to eat Soba at the end of each month in the Edo period. It was called Misoka-soba, since Misoka means 'the last day of a month'. Soba was regarded as a frugal but special meal. They ate Misoka-soba to celebrate the fact that they have been able to live another month working hard with good health.

For these two reasons, the last day of

December became the perfect day to enjoy eating Soba. Today, people eat Soba to wish for longevity. Since people in the Edo period did not have the custom of celebrating each person's birthday, they regarded the coming of the New Year as 'everyone's birthday'. This led to the idea that eating Soba was to wish for longevity. If you also know Udon, you might want to ask why they don't eat thicker and 'Koshi-no-arui' Udon, with a nice and firm texture, instead of Soba – but it is believed that the truth of life lies in the subtlety that we are destined to



Soba made at home
(December 16, 2012, photo taken at author's home)

die someday. Japanese people preferred Soba to bear this fact in mind. Since the traditional Japanese New Year began in February, it took some time for Toshi-koshi-soba to establish its custom as it is today. Now, everyone loves eating Toshi-koshi-soba on New Year's Eve. Let's all wish for everyone's longevity, and a Happy New Year!

CURRENT EVENTS

A double life for a week: IMF World Bank Annual Meetings 2012

By Yuzuha Oka

A double life for a week. An ordinary university student attended the IMF World Bank annual meetings 2012 as a youth fellow.

Everything began from one essay contest. The IMF essay contest was held this summer, and university students were asked to write a 500-word essay about youth perspectives on global economy and the role of IMF.

On September 3rd, I was surprised to receive an email from IMF saying that I was chosen as a finalist. I was invited to the IMF World Bank annual meetings, which was held from 9th to 14th October 2012. The meeting happened to coincide with the first week of classes in university. Not to miss a wonderful once in a lifetime opportunity, I decided to live a double life for a week.

On the morning of 9th, I had a meeting in Tokyo International Forum (TIF). There I met other youth fellows. Six were Japanese chosen by the IMF essay contest and there were 1 each representative from China, Korea, Thailand and Singapore. They were all university students. I was so happy to be able to make friends with those brilliant and nice people. They were from different backgrounds. Their majors included Economics, Chemistry, Literature.



On 10th, after English class at Komaba, I rushed to TIF again to attend the Youth Dialogue. Some of the youth fellows joined the dialogue as a panelist with

Nemat Shafik, the deputy managing director of the IMF. They talked about youth concerns such as high unemployment rate, and discussed how Asian



Meeting at Tokyo Imperial Hotel



Youth Dialogue on October 10th, 2012



countries can cooperate with each other in the future.

On the 11th, after 1st period, I went to the Tokyo Imperial Hotel. At the entrance, I went through a security check just like at the airport. I went into Kaede room with other youth fellows, and had a meeting with Naoyuki Shinohara, the deputy managing director of IMF. I asked a question about Japan, as Japan is suffering from huge debt. My question was how IMF can help Japan get out of huge debt. His answer was that the Japanese government first must work out to reduce the debt. IMF cannot decide financial policy in place of the Japanese government. Still, IMF can give useful advice to the government.

After the meeting, I hurried to Komaba

for Chinese class. In the evening I went back to Yurakucho and attended a town hall meeting with the Managing Director of IMF and the President of World Bank. I was amazed at the way the managing director answered each question from the participants. Using English and French, she answered respectfully, looking at each questioner.

A panel discussion concerning youth was held on October 12th. There were four people on the panel. Two were from the IMF, and the others were university students. I was one of the panelists and was asked to share concerns about economic issues. What I came in mind was the inequality between men and women. Even though the inequality seems to be diminishing, there still is a fixed idea about the role of men and women. I argued that women should

be treated equal to men in regard of jobs. After the discussion, I got some feedbacks from the participants, who were also university students. They told me that they also had the same concerns and that they sympathized with my opinion. I was so happy that I could share my opinion with people I had never met before.

Before attending the annual meetings, I never thought of studying economics by myself. However, as I had to give my opinion through the meetings, I came to put up an antenna on recent economic issues and tried to understand them. In order to raise interest on economic issues, I think this kind of opportunity, where youth can actually engage in discussions on economic issues, is needed. I definitely had a wonderful once in a lifetime experience.

Working globally-Interview with Mr. Nishida from the World Bank

By Yuzuha Oka

Having a hard time finding a job in Japan? Then, how about working globally?

Working at an international organization is surely one of the options. However, do you have an idea of what you should do to work in an international agency? On 7th January, 2013, I had a wonderful chance to interview Mr. Ippei Nishida, who works at The World Bank in Washington D.C. Let me share this precious experience with you, and listen to his advice for those who are interested in working for international organizations.

*This interview is based on his individual opinion, and is not to represent the opinion of The World Bank.

What is your job?

"I write research papers on microfinance (a small loan for people with low income). One of the goals of my job is to measure the effectiveness of microfinance and to provide sufficient data and analysis toward people who are committed to political decision-making. Many people would understand that microfinance is useful and effective for the poor who have difficulties in borrowing money using formal financial services.

However, it is still unclear whether microfinance has absolute positive impacts on the lives for poor people. Research and academic papers suggest this issue is still being debated. My job is to provide objective opinion or evidence using specific figures and analyses such as 'Impact Evaluation (IE)', which can be a tool for decision-making by people who are involved in the microfinance business such as local governors or entrepreneurs in developing countries."

Is there anything you did when you were a college student which is particularly useful now?

"Reading books. I read many books when I was in university. Although I cannot remember all of the content, I can at least remember "which books teach what".

When I want some information or knowledge, then what comes into my mind is that "Oh, I have read about this somewhere in that book!" Then I read the books again, and gain the wanted information or knowledge. As I have read the book once, it is much faster to access knowledge compared to studying it from scratch.

Also, books can sometimes be inspirational. One of the reasons I became interested in my research field is a book called "The End of Poverty: Economic Possibilities for Our Time" by Jeffrey David Sachs."

What was difficult in getting a job at The World Bank?

"Many talented people try to get a job in international organizations. I thought it would be quite tough to compete with those excellent people by only applying for job openings posted on our website. I think connection with people working in those international organizations is very important. At my graduate school, there were many professors who have experienced working in international organizations such as the World Bank. I made great effort to maintain good relationships with them, and I asked them to show my CV (a personal history) directly to a ranking officer when a position became vacant. Of course, it is also extremely important to develop and appeal my abilities and skills. However again, if you just compare abilities and skills, there are countless candidates who are superior to me. Thus, in my opinion, the most important thing was to consider

One Second Everyday

By Masatoshi Takara



Do you remember what you did on June 7th this year? How about September 14th. These dates seem so fresh in our

mind, being only a few months, even a couple of weeks ago. We inadvertently forget our most precious memories and our past becomes a blur. Cesar Kuriyama wants to fix that with his new app "1 second everyday". Kuriyama is a tech geek who has given TED talks about the power of 1 second and worked in advertising and computer animation. His app is devastatingly simple. You choose a 1 second video clip to represent your day and it becomes stitched into a video compilation of your life. Projects like this

have been done with pictures but, as Kuriyama says "A photo can't capture my dad's voice... his laugh... or the way my mom's expression changes when I surprise her." Take a video clip for 365 days and you will have a 6-minute video to represent your entire year. All you need is the beloved smart phone you carry with you every day. What makes this app so special is that there are no video editing skills needed! Choose a video clip you recorded that day and the simple interface lets you pick which seg-

how my CV can be seen by as many directors as possible. My answer was not to compete with other smart and qualified applicants, but to jump over them.”

What do you like about working at The World Bank?

“One of the advantages in working at The World Bank is that I can talk to many people whom I would have difficulty encountering if I were just a normal student or office worker in Japan. Some are from private sector, some are from government. For example, you don’t have so many opportunities to talk with bureaucrats when you are in Japan, right? But here, it is easier to get to know those great and respectful people. I also find it interesting to talk with people from various countries and backgrounds.

What’s more, I like what I do as a job; doing research and providing objective data and analysis. Compared to developed countries, developing countries have room for growth. I like watching the dynamic economic development in a high speed.”

Any advice for those who want to work in international organizations?

“In my opinion, please do NOT select “International~” as a major without any particular reason (“nanto-naku”, in Japanese).

Some people choose to major “International relations”, “International politics”, just because these subjects seem to be suitable for working in international organizations. However, that is not the case. I think the most important thing is to have a specialty.

When there is a vacant position, people with a specialty tend to get the position. This is because those people are expected to have an expertise and to be an immediate asset. Rather than studying broadly, I believe it is more effective to gain deep knowledge in some specific field. Plus, it must be more interesting to study in a particular field you like than in broad or abstract subjects.”

There are three things we, university students can do from today.

1. Read books.
2. Maintain good relationship with people. It is more likely for university students to spend time with their friends, but making good connection with professors is also worthwhile.

3. When you choose your major, make sure to choose the field you like; find your specialty.

At the University of Tokyo, there is a system called “*Shingaku Furiwake*”, Late Specialization. I would like to bare this advice in mind when choosing a major in sophomore.

After all, Mr. Nishida’s advice is not only for those who want to get a job in international organizations, but can be applied to all university students. Keep these tips in mind, and you can broaden your job opportunity, even worldwide.



Mr. Ippei Nishida.

ment of the video clip you want to represent that day. The 1 second video clip goes on a calendar in the app to forever be a prompt to recall that day. Imagine you did this for 10 years. You have a 1 hour video clip to remember a whole decade of your life.

What made this app stick out was that it brings upon a sense of urgency to do something interesting. Kuriyama says “I started re-evaluating how I approached each day. Quickly, I was able to see

when a couple of days would go by when I hadn’t done anything remotely interesting or outside my typical routine.” This app pushes us forward to go out and do something by reflecting on our life day-to-day and being critical about it. Recording one second each day allows you to easily reflect back on life – your daily decision. “It holds me accountable to make every day count” says Cesar Kuriyama. Armed with this app, go seize the day and break the boring cycle of everyday life, and go do something

memorable so when you look back on a video of your life, every second is the beginning of an exciting chapter that you can cherish and remember.

Kuriyama had been rallying to raise \$20,000 to publish and finalize his app and it has been funded! His kickstarter campaign can be found here. With a \$1 pledge you can get the iOS app when it comes out in the next 2 weeks right in time for 2013. An android version of the app is in the works.

Contributors

Yuki Iida, 1st year student, PEAK (Literature III)

Yuzuha Oka, 2nd year student, College of Arts and Sciences (Literature II)

Daiki Sugiyama, 2nd year student, College of Arts and Sciences (Literature II)

Tomoko Takahashi, 2nd year student, College of Arts and Sciences (Literature I)

Masatoshi Takara, 1st year student, PEAK (Natural Sciences II)

Xuan Truong Trinh, 1st year student, PEAK (Natural Sciences II)

Narusa Yamato, 1st year student, PEAK (Literature III)

(As of April 2013)



KOMABA*times*

Issue 2
Publication date: April 2013

Editor/Supervisor

Yuko Itatsu

Supported by

PEAK Junior Division, The College of Arts and Sciences

Contact

Komaba Times
PEAK Program
College of Arts and Sciences
The University of Tokyo
3-8-1 Komaba, Meguro-ku, Tokyo 153-8902, Japan

Website : <http://komabatimes.wordpress.com/>

Facebook : “Komaba Times”

Twitter : @KomabaTimes

Email : komabatimes@gmail.com