

# The Doshisha Student

No. 2

October 2008

## The Doshisha Student Staff Asks 100 International Students at Doshisha: What Was the Most Memorable Thing Studying/Living in Doshisha, Kyoto?

1. After meeting a middle-aged woman from work, I made a conclusion that people in Kyoto tend to tap ones back whenever they try to make the moment more fun. But to me, it only looks as if they are trying to make me look stupid. I only have a bad impression: Peggy, Graduate School of American Studies, 2006-2008, Indonesia

2. Within the 8 years I've been in Japan, I've lived in Kyoto for 5 years. I have an impression of Kyoto being very hot and humid in the summer. The first problem I faced was when I was approached in the Kansai dialect. To me, Doshisha is my loving school: Lan Lan, Faculty of Law, 2002-2006, China

3. In April, I went to go to see the cherry blossoms in Arashiyama with my friends. It was very beautiful. They had takoyaki, karaoke, and other stands around the area. It was delicious: Wang Jing, Graduate School of Economics, 2007-, China

4. As an international student in Japan, my experience is quite unique compared to my classmates. I graduated from Loyola Marymount University in 1999 and worked for about 8 years before deciding that my previous profession was not for me. So, looking for a change and an adventure I came to Japan without any knowledge of the language or culture outside of movies and rudimentary history lessons. The staff and professors are excellent and spare no effort to help their students even one's as remedial as I was when I first entered the school. On top of that, the international experience of being in the program of Center for Japanese Language has allowed me to meet people from other countries that I would never have had the opportunity to meet: Bryan Gerard, Center for Japanese Language, 2007-2008, USA

5. The most memorable thing is when all the international students rode the train to Shiyogakuin. We had curry for lunch with disabled and emotionally unstable persons, which I still remember the taste. Before we left, they sang to us, which I will never forget. I also enjoyed the illumination at Arashiya-

ma and the Gion Festival. I've known those events through the TV when I was in Korea so I was really excited: Song Jisun, Center for Japanese Language, 2006-2007, Korea

(6 ~ 15) The Japanese Center for University of Tübingen, 2008, Germany

6. I think it's amazing how there are convenient stores everywhere. (Claudia, Germany)

7. Woman dressed in kimono shily smile in the narrow streets. (Jun, China)

8. When I lost my Student ID the first day, someone dropped it off at the police station 3 days later. Japanese people are very helpful. (Patrizio, Germany)

9. Japanese people's point of view and the way they think is funny. (Roland, Germany)

10. Participating in the tea ceremony at Urasenke. (Ludgera, Germany)

11. Thanks to all the good experiences in Kyoto, it made me want to live here. (Francesca, Italy)

12. I enjoyed walking along the Kamo River. (David, Germany)

13. I like how Japan's traditions and modern nature coexist. (Gordon, Germany)

14. I had fun hanging out with my friends from the club. (Tobias, Germany)

15. Japanese people ask strange questions like, "Can you see the moon in Germany?" (Carina, Germany)

16. I've always had the fact in my mind that Kyoto was the old capital of Japan. But the most memorable thing is Kyoto being beautiful. The Kamo River dyed with the color of the cherry blossoms, the Gion Festival in the summer, the sunset in Arashiyama in the fall, the Daimonyama covered in snow in the winter: Srisophon Pasurot, Center for Japanese Language, 2007-2008, Thailand

17. The bond I have made between my friends is the most memorable. The memories I have made with them will always remain in my

heart, no matter how much time passes by. It will leave me with happiness just by thinking about it. Things that cannot be seen such as friendship is amazing because it has the power to stay in your heart forever: Ketrunghiran Narintorn, Graduate School of Policy and Management 2008-, Thailand

18. I'm thankful I got to live at Richard's House, which was close to the campus, because I was able to make many Japanese friends. Since I was in Center for Japanese Language, there weren't many opportunities in meeting Japanese students. Therefore, I am very glad that I had the chance to meet people while living together. It was great being able to exchanging each other's culture: Jeon Hari, Center for Japanese Language, 2006-2007, Korea

19. After I finished studying at Center for Japanese Language, I joined the Faculty of Letters for a year as a special student. Then the year after, I passed the entrance test for the regular international program. I will not forget the two years it took me to enter Doshisha. The Kamogawa River I spent for 6 years while being in Kyoto would have to be the most impressive memory. There are four seasons, and the river that flows calmly which represents Kyoto itself: Han Kika, Faculty of Letters, 2003-2007, China

20. The Gion Festival was the most memorable to me. It is known to be one of the three major festivals in Kyoto, which attracts many people from all over the world. In the evening, the street close down and is only allowed for pedestrians: Meng Na, Center for Japanese Language, 2006-2008, China

21. The most memorable event is going to the Gion Festival wearing Yukata's with my friends: Shan Hui, Graduate School of Commerce, 2007-, China

22. I've really enjoyed meeting such a variety of people-both international and Japanese students. Everyone in Kyoto has been so friendly and welcoming: Bertram, Greta Robertson Ricard, Center for Japanese Language and Cul-

ture, 2007-, UK

23. In relation to my work, I had the chance to go to Japan last year. I stayed in Osaka for most of the time but I went to Kyoto once to do some sightseeing. Since Kyoto has a long history, it includes rich modern elements, which allows it to stay new at all times. Just like Suzhou, China, Kyoto is a charming city: Geng Kunpeng, Center for Japanese Language, China

24. I think Kyoto should be known as the cradle of traditional culture. I went to many events during these past 6 months, but the most memorable event has to be the Kawanabekyousai Special Exhibition. I was deeply fascinated at his pictures: Lin Jie, Center for Japanese Language, China

25. As one of the major cities in Japan, Kyoto can be known to be busy but also quiet. Kyoto is a wonderful city because it has traditional traits and modern buildings which harmonizes perfectly: Lan Yunchin, Center for Japanese Language, 2007-, Taiwan

26. The place that made the biggest impression on me in Kyoto was Kyoto-? dere. I visited there first thing in the morning when it had opened. There were very few people there so it was peaceful and beautiful. I was surprised at how Japanese people react while talking on the phone. I thought it was funny how they would use gestures even though it's impossible for the person to see it: Thomas Peter Asquith, Center for Japanese Language and Culture, 2007-2008, UK

27. I think Kyoto is a beautiful city. It is quite different from other cities, but it's calming. I love Kyoto. I'm planning on going back home in August, but I hope to come back one day: Chong Laiping Agatha, Center for Japanese Language, 2007-2008, China

28. When I visited Kyoto with my mother 3 years ago, my impression was that it was a relaxing ambience. I'm happy to have been able to deepen my understandings of Kyoto more while living here for a year: Wang Yalin, Center for Japanese Language, 2007-, Taiwan

29. I think Kyoto is a beautiful city because it has traditional history and technology. They kept the old buildings, which best capture the image of Japan: Wu Chihchu, Center for Japanese Language, 2008- China

30. Despite all the temples in Kyoto, I think it was wonderful that Jo Neesima built a Christian school 133 years ago. I feel honored to be a graduate of Doshisha: Li Yan, Graduate School of Letters, 1992-1998, China

31. The most impressive experience for me is the days I spent with the kids of Keihan International Kids Camp in 2006. I was so lucky to have such a wonderful chance to communicate with Japanese little kids. Deep friendship was fostered among us after 5-day camp life, playing sports, swimming, and studying English together. My best wishes for those cute kids forever: Xiao Yajing, Center for Japanese



The photo provided by Public Relations Department, Doshisha University

Language, 2005- 2006, China

32. I will never forget my professor's kindness: Li Yang, Center for Japanese Language, 2005-2007, China

33. Kyoto is a very peaceful city, which allows me to relax. Even though Osaka is only 40 minutes away, it has a completely different feeling. That's when I realized that Kyoto was better, in the sense of being able to bring out my academic skills: Zhao Lianwei, Faculty of Social Studies, 2006-, China

34. During my first two months, I was introduced to a family that was interested in China through the Kyoto City International Foundation Center. I've been keeping in touch with them ever since. We discussed about each other's history and exchanged ideas and opinions. They've taken care of me and celebrated my birthday, which was a lot of fun. As an international exchange student, I am very thankful that Kyoto had the International Foundation Center. I don't think I will ever forget this experience: Liu Haixin, Faculty of Policy Studies, 2008-, China

35. I participated in the "Doshisha American Football Audience Mobilization Improvement Campaign" for one of my seminar class. As a member of the committee, I was able to spend time with Japanese students and work together towards the same goal: Zhang Chi, Faculty of Social Studies 2005-, China

36. The S-cube introduced me to an assistant, who came with me to class every week and helped me with my studies. I was touched at how well they treated me: Zhu Shaobo, Faculty of Law, 2008-, China

37. I was impressed at how reliable, dedicated, and hard working Japanese people were towards their work: Ma Qianli, Faculty of Social Studies, 2005-, China

38. To me, Kyoto is quiet and relaxing, compared to Tokyo and Osaka. I like how the trains for commuting to work school are hardly packed: Meng Wei, Faculty of Commerce, 2005-, China

39. Studying about impartiality and war at Doshisha for three months was the most memorable thing to me. Also, students' being passionate towards studying was impressive: Fu Yuexia, Graduate School of Commerce, 2008-, China

40. At Doshisha, ones individuality is respected. The fact

that the foundation of the school, moral education, is based on Christianity is appealing to me: Zhou Weiwei, Faculty of Commerce, 2006-, China

41. Even though it's already been three months since I started school, I cannot say that I am used to my lifestyle. In the beginning, there were times when I felt down, not only because of schoolwork but also because of the language barrier. But I eventually opened up and made the effort to make new friends. I am looking forward to having fun and studying hard for the next three years: Liu Cheng, Faculty of Economics 2008-, China

42. Doshisha is surrounded by rich nature and is filled with energy. It is a well-known, international college, which holds a great amount of history. The fact that it concentrates on foreign languages is great: Chen Kan, Faculty of Engineering, 2007-, China

43. Doshisha is overflowed with academic atmosphere. I admire how the students are positive towards everything they put their mind to. If one says Kyoto is the city of studies, you can say Doshisha is the sacred place of academics: Wang Peng, Graduate School of Commerce, 2008-, China

44. Doshisha University has a fine faculty for researching. I am excited to have the opportunity to spread my knowledge, since my professor has researched many different fields: Wang Jixi, Graduate School of Commerce, 2008-, China

45. Since the school buildings were similar to my old university, I felt relaxed and at home. At the campus, you would see people reading and studying, which allows you to get a feeling of the academic traditions. I am very glad that I came to Doshisha: Tang Qian, Graduate School of Commerce, 2008-, China

46. Being a foreigner in Japan is an indescribable experience, to pinpoint a single thing or event that had the biggest impression on me during my stay in Japan is therefore impossible. I believe it's a combination of everything, such as food, people, culture, language, just about anything. If I have to choose on of them I would say the Japanese people left the biggest impression on me. Friendly, funny, interesting and also some strange people as the Japanese can only be found here. Kaj Lavander, 2008-, Switzerland

## The Visiting of the Waseda Guardian Staff

September 17, 2008 (Wednesday)  
The Waseda Guardian, Chief Editor, Yuriko Takahashi and 3 editorial staff made a visit for the interview in the Fall Issue, and had a talk with The Doshisha Student staff and OB.

There are 50 members in The Waseda Guardian and has a background history of more than 70 years. It is published 4 times a year, but the "Waseda Soul" (charged a fee) is included. Even though the Waseda staff was very busy, they made an visit with Doshisha and were able to make a historical encounter. The Doshisha Student exchanged with The Waseda Guardian some years ago. With the small number of English newspaper publica-

tion throughout Japan today, the revival at Doshisha is gathering attention. We are

hoping to deepen the exchanges with both universities.



(Front row: from right) At the welcome party-Takahashi, Chief Editor of The Waseda Guardian, Otsubo, Chair, Alumni Association of The Doshisha Student (including Kiyoshi, Ishikawa, Noguchi (Waseda) Sugimura, Uneno, Takada (Doshisha))

47. I am extremely glad to have decided to study in Kyoto. Kyoto has many famous temples, shrines and festivals so there are always a million ways to spend your free time. It is also a small city, so you can get used to it quickly and eventually know it quite well. The most important aspect, however, has been my personal growth. Meeting new people allows me to see the difference between others and myself and understand myself much better: Lan Le, AKP (Smith College), 2007-2008, Vietnam

48. Since there are many different clubs, most students tend to join. They are serious when it comes to clubs: Lee Minhyang, Faculty of Science and Engineering, Korea

49. I was impressed with how many people go out for a walk in the city wearing their kimonos: Lin Chiapeli, Center for Japanese Language 2008-, Taiwan

50. I met a very kind woman in Kyoto. One day when it was raining, I was carrying things with both of my hands, not being able to open my umbrella. Not only did the woman share her umbrella with me, but she also gave me the umbrella: Hsieh Yiling, Center for Japanese Language, 2007-, Taiwan

51. The fusion of the various nationalities and culture and the ancient traditions is Doshisha's charm: Huang Hsini, Graduate School of Social Studies, 2007-, Taiwan

52. Enjoying Kyoto, Japan while spending time along the Kamo River and bathing in the cherry blossoms: Wang Chengming, Faculty of Economics, 2006-, Taiwan

53. Actually visiting the temple we were learning about in class was the most impressive memory: Marina Suga, 2007-, Faculty of Letters, USA/Japan

54. I was impressed with the number of buses they have. I've used it a few times, but I still don't know which bus goes where: Shi Jionq, Faculty of Economics, 2004-, China

55. My most impressive memory living in Kyoto has to be the traditional Japanese image and the gap living in Kyotanabe: Kurahashi Shusuke Bob, Faculty of Letters, 2008-, USA

56. Since Kyoto is famous for sightseeing, I enjoyed going around the city with my friends on the weekends. Arashiyama and Kiyomizu Temple were the most beautiful: Wang Ling, Faculty of Economics, 2007-, China

57. I don't understand why college students have brand named things. Are most Jap-

anese people rich?: Chen Yubin, Faculty of Law, 2008-, China

58. Honestly not really. I'm not that into temples, which was one of the largest parts of the history class, so that wasn't so great for me. But it was nice to see about why Japan is set up the way it is and the language class I also had a lot of problems with. Overall, I didn't enjoy school very much: Steven Q Singleton, Stanford University, 2006, USA

59. I think Japan's clothing is too simple. They attach greater importance towards the combination of the outfit but not so much on the color combination. I think people should dress more in color: Han Bing, Center for Japanese Language, 2007- China

60. Like the term "doshi", I was blessed with meeting wonderful people. I was able to have a meaningful stay at Doshisha for six years: Tang Xianghui, Graduate School of Letters, 2004-2006, China

61. I was most impressed with the Imperial Palace coming to Kyoto. I was moved at how large it was and how the greenery was richer compared to a man built architecture. While it has the holiness of the Royal Family's palace, it maintains to coexist the peace with the nature and the common people: Wang Sheng, Graduate School of Business, 2008-, China

62. It has already been two years since I first came to Japan in September 2006. I look back at the times I spent at Doshisha Center for Japanese Language with nostalgia. I enjoyed experiencing Japan's traditional history such as food, tea, and kimono. I would like to express my appreciation to my professors at Center for Japanese Language, and I plan to make use of everything they have taught me throughout graduate school: Sun Mingyu, Graduate School of Policy and Management, 2008-, China

63. I first came to Japan in April 2002. Before I went to Kyoto, I spent six years as an international exchange student in Kobe. I feel like the buildings in Kyoto are a little behind in time compared to Kobe. To put in other words, due to the various district history, us foreigners end up having different impressions. It's hard to say that living expenses are pretty comfortable, especially with the soaring prices of housing. Since I've only been here for four months, I haven't been able to deeply understand the city: Graduate School of American Studies, China

64. The best bakery in Kyoto,

which names Le Petit Mec, is just nearby the apartment which I lived in. Their breads are too awesome to describe. I enjoyed breakfast at that lovely bakery every weekend and I will never forget those wonderful times: Diana Dung-Hua Chen, Center for Japanese Language, 2006-2008, Taiwan

65. The most memorable happening for me is all the friends I made at Doshisha this year. I will not forget them even when I go back to America: Andras Molnar, AKP (Connecticut College), 2007-2008, USA

66. Kyoto has the convenient factor of being a city, but also has the beauty of nature. It is awesome living in Kyoto!: Sam Shoushi, AKP (Middlebury College), 2007-2008, Jordan/Philippines

67. There were times when I was studying and I didn't understand the contents. Not only did the professors at Doshisha help me explain about schoolwork, but they also gave me advice on things I had trouble with. In Kyoto, there are many traditional history and sightseeing, which makes me like Kyoto more: Saisakulpinyo Tippyaporn, Center for Japanese Language and Culture, 2008-, Thailand

68. Last year, I went to the special sightseeing of the Kiyomizu Temple. The temple and the rock path glittered underneath the night sky, and the moment I saw a maiko, my heart was attracted to Japan, as if I fell in love: Wang Xin, Faculty of Social Studies, 2008-, China

69. When I first went to the Kyotanabe Campus, I was surprised at how big it was. Also, I was impressed at how all the facilities were well regulated. I feel lucky to have had the opportunity to study at the Kyotanabe Campus for a year: Yang Liu, Faculty of Social Studies, 2008-, China

70. The mountains, river, greenery, and temples can basically sum up Kyoto. The reason is because you see those scenery wherever you go: Li Liang, Faculty of Commerce, 2008-, China

71. Last week, I went to the Gion Festival with my friend for the first time. I couldn't help notice seeing couples wearing Yukata's holding hands while walking along the festive streets of Shijo Street. That is when I truly thought that Kyoto was a romantic city: He Lefan, 2007-, Center for Japanese Language, China

72. On Saturday and Sunday's at the Imadegawa Campus, the painter of the bell located on the left side of the main gate can be seen.

The Chapel, the conscientious monument, the old, and big tree's traditional ambience is capable of attracting people. I am proud to be a student of the Doshisha University: Wang Kun, Faculty of Social Studies, 2008-, China

73. The traditional atmosphere of Kyoto was the best: Choi Insun, Center for Japanese Language and Culture, 2007-2008, Korea

74. I don't think it was possible to have an amazing year without everyone's help. They gave me tours around the city, cooked various Japanese cuisines, and helped me out during harsh times. I am thankful for the professors at Doshisha and the family in Kyoto that has helped me throughout this time. I can honestly say from the bottom of my heart that I'm glad I came to Kyoto and to Doshisha: Phaplu Sakaoduean, Center for Japanese Language, 2006-2007, Thailand

75. Supposedly, the term "ochazuke" means go home in Japan: Suhartono Ryosunata, 2007-, Indonesia.

76. When I came to Japan, I was shocked at how short the High School girl's skirt was. It was long when they got it from the school, but they made it short themselves. I don't understand why they would do that. I was also shocked how they did their make-up on the train: Wang Chun, Graduate School of American Studies, China

77. I like the Kyoto in the fall. The beauty of the autumn leaves is the most impressive memory: Jie Chunyi, Faculty of Policy Studies, 2004-, China

78. My most impressive memory of my time at Doshisha would have to be of the teaching staff that taught my classes. I struggled a great deal as a student but the dedication and encouragement of the teaching staff remains my fondest memory. The devotion that they have to the students and their willingness to help and be available really made a difference for me in my studies. Given the number of students in the program the amount of personal attention that the professors are willing to give an individual student is something that I was am very grateful for and I don't think can be so easily found somewhere else: Frank Django Mulholland, Center for Japanese Language 2005-2007, USA

79. The thing I was most shocked when I first came to Japan was that the transportation system was always on time: Kin Hyobi, Faculty of Commerce, 2008-, Korea

80. The Matcha parfait was

delicious. There was a funny staff there. It was great being able to visit to well known temples. Kyoto was very hot in the summer and very cold in the winter. I'm glad Doshisha was fun. The Japanese culture class would have to be my most impressive memory. I am satisfied because I was able to experience kimonos, tea ceremonies, kodo, and many other things. It was a very interesting class. I also like the campus, especially the Kambaikan. Not only were the professors and office workers at school kind but the people in Kyoto were also very nice: Chen Chenwen, Center for Japanese Language, Taiwan

81. When I think of something that impressed me about Doshisha, I would have to say that a place called "Bazaar Caf" across from the West Entrance of the Imadegawa Campus. Although I have only volunteered there three times, this place has impressed me because it creates a welcoming atmosphere that anyone can go into (both foreign and Japanese alike). Furthermore, it has delicious ethnic dishes from countries such as the Philippines, Korea, etc): Angelika Ferguson, AKP (Middlebury College), 2007-2008, USA

82. The air in Kyoto is wonderful and you can see the river and the mountains. I think it is the perfect environment to study: Gao Zhuofu, Faculty of Commerce, 2006-, China

(83-91) Pulling the Kannon-yama at the Gion Festival on July 17 was an unforgettable experience. Center for Japanese Language and Culture, 2008, and others

83. Patrick Savage (New Zealand)

84. Chiriac-Marinesc Joshua (USA)

85. Daniel Marks (USA)

86. Barlaan William (USA)

87. Paciorek Andreas (Germany)

88. Magnuson Mauritz Mikko (Sweden)

89. Mewney Matthew (USA)

90. Nicholas Henry (USA)

91. Li Jun (China)

92. My first image of Kyoto was that the air was clean. The view of children playing by the Kamo River, flock of ducks, and the way wild animals live with the people is a beautiful landscape. I love the way Japan cares about nature: Chou Peihsin, Graduate School of Policy and Management, Taiwan

93. In the beginning of the

year, I felt a little lonely not knowing anyone. But when I went into the office, someone called my name. Knowing that someone remembered me was touching. At Doshisha, each and every person is very important: Song Yanping, Graduate School of Social Studies, China

94. The professors at Doshisha were very kind, and treated us, international students, equally. I will not forget how fortunate I was: Sun Minghua, Center for Japanese Language, 2005-2006, China

95. The way Japanese people bow was memorable. They would bow whenever one says, "Sorry", "Thank you", "Yes", or "Good job". The number of times they bow in a day must be countless. One thing I'm not used to seeing is when Japanese businessmen guide their customers to the elevator, they bow right when the door closes. I think that is one of their distinctive characteristics. But since I don't know when would be appropriate to bow, I would always lower my head just to be polite: Ye Chen, Center for Japanese Language, China

96. I think Kyoto is very calm, which makes it a perfect place to live. It is comfortable and allows me to live and study leisurely. I have inner reserves of strength and am capable of enjoying the things I am interested in. Since I came to Doshisha, I met many people and got to experience countless things: Yu Zheng, Graduate School of Policy and Management, 2005-2007, China

97. The moment I saw the cherry blossoms swirl and fall to the floor, I felt glad that Kyoto was in Japan.: Yu Jinling, Center for Japanese Language, 2006-2008, China

98. I was able to release stress and feel calm whenever I would take a walk along the Shokokuji Temple and the Imperial Palace with my friends: Zhang Hailian, Graduate School of Letters, 2007-, China

99. When I was walking on campus, I noticed there were many young and attractive girls. I enjoyed looking at their cute fashion sense.: Xing Linjun, Graduate School of Letters, 2007-, China

100. I had the opportunity to be part of the Sports Festival as one of the members of the Chinese Foreign Exchange Team. I was able to break a sweat and work together with my teammates, which is now a great memory: Chen Liqin, Faculty of Commerce, 2006-, China

※AKP (Associated Kyoto Program)

## Sayaka Nakabayashi Reviews 100 Responses



We, The Doshisha Student staff, asked the above-mentioned question to 100 international students at Doshisha University. At the present time, there are 551 international students at Doshisha (May, 2008). The breakdown of the countries is more than 30 (China, Korea and others, May, 2008). There aren't as many opportunities as most people think, for general students to meet international students. This survey allows one to see the truth of what was going on and how their daily life was like. I also think the general students will realize that the international students are not so different from them and that they actually have some

things in common.

Some of the most answered statements were the following:

As one of the major cities in Japan, Kyoto can be known to be busy but also quiet. Kyoto is a wonderful city because it has traditional traits and modern buildings which harmonizes perfectly. (Taiwan)

Last year, I went to the special sightseeing of the Kiyomizu Temple. The temple and the rock path glittered underneath the night sky, and the moment I saw a maiko, my heart was attracted to Japan, as if I fell in love. (China)

The Gion Festival was the most memorable to me. It is known to be one of the three major festivals in Kyoto, which attracts many people from all over the world. In the evening, the street close down and is only allowed for pedestrians. (China)

As stated above, they were charmed by the traditional events and the way the city

remained the same as the old days. There were many opinions on how it was a lot of fun participating in the Gion Festival and that it was one of the most exciting events. There are even Japanese students who come from different prefectures, hoping to experience Kyoto's traditional history. I think it's possible for both Japanese students and international students to participate in the same event and experience the excitement together.

All of the students...

I think Kyoto is a beautiful city. It is quite different from other cities, but it's calming. I love Kyoto. I'm planning on going back home in August, but I hope to come back one day.

I think by seeing Kyoto, one was able to discover something new about themselves and think of the city as a second home. Kyoto also has an image of being a city filled with student life. To all the students that took

interest in the traditions of Kyoto, I hope they have the best experience in both studying and meeting new people.

The next most answered statements were:

Doshisha is overflowed with academic atmosphere. I admire how the students are positive towards everything they put their mind to. If one says Kyoto is the city of studies, you can say Doshisha is the sacred place of academics.

The S-cube introduced me to an assistant, who came with me to class every week and helped me with my studies. I was touched at how well they treated me.

Doshisha University has a fine faculty for researching. I am excited to have the opportunity to spread my knowledge, since my professor has researched many different fields.

As mentioned above, there were opinions on how Doshisha was substantial in the field of studying. Like

the survey, there are many events that support international students. With students worrying about living in a different country, it is important to have these support systems to help them feel comfortable, which will greatly change their impression of Japan in the long run. There were also opinions on how it was nice having a big campus and having good facilities. As an international university, Doshisha continues to evolve along the traditional city.

Well then, as students of a university that has been opened up to the world, how should we exchange with the international students?

The most memorable happening for me is all the friends I made at Doshisha this year. I will not forget them even when I go back to America.

I will never forget my professor's kindness.

There were many students who stated that meeting new people was the most memora-

ble thing. Spending time together and having to connect heart to heart in a different country is indeed a "once in a lifetime chance." Even though one may have been brought up and lived in a different country, we are all human beings, and also students of the same school. There may be a wall between the two at first, but the difference each person holds may be turned into something fun. It's important to be able to think from another point of view and to accept the fact people are different. Isn't that what people are seeking? I also think it's important for Japanese students to know more about themselves, their country, and their culture to be able to send the word out to others. I believe that is one of the good traits of foreigners. As a first step, having more chances to exchange with international students is needed. The opinions that were brought up through this survey will deepen the cultural exchanges.

## Frontiers of International Exchange

# Doshisha University International Student Committee

By Zhao Lianwei

I am Zhao Lianwei, third year in the Faculty of Social Studies, President of the Doshisha University International Student Committee (China)

In 2004, thanks to all the support from the Doshisha Cooperative Society, the International Student Committee was formed. There are two reasons why this committee began.

1. First off, I think there's a sense of requirement to make a community that has a similar environment. But the community we are planning shuts out international students. Hence, we want to make it a community where they actively take part, rather than just wait for someone to reach out to them. The community en-

courages helping each other out and gives excitement to one another.

2. Secondly, we hope to contribute to one of Doshisha's educational philosophy, the international principle. As a simple mission, I hope to give impact to their actions and for them to fully understand Japan's society by deepening the exchanges with the Japanese students.

### Our activities

At the orientation for incoming international students in April 2006, we gathered many recycled electronic products with the help of the international student committee and numerous numbers of graduate students of Japan. I think it is difficult for international students to live on their own, especially by living far away from

home. Therefore, we came up with a special plan to support them as much as possible. We offered the electronic products to international students who needed them. At the time, I was one of the students who received the products and that triggered me to join the committee.

In June, we were able to have an international cooking party mainly consisted of international students, thanks to everyone's help from the Doshisha Cooperative Society. There were about 50 Japanese students and 30 international students. We cooked together and enjoyed the food while talking over the different cuisines in their countries. I think we were able to experience a little on the cultures of China, Korea, America, Thai, and etc.

In September, I participated in the Japan Nationwide College Cooperative Society

Project, Peace Now, in Okinawa. As the one place the US landed on Japan's territory during World War II, there are still many postwar problems left at Okinawa. By participating in the Peace Now Activity, I was able to think about peace once more with other people. We are going to have a report study meeting in December.

In October, a meeting for entering that consisted of few members of the committee and Japanese students was held with the help of the professor at the Center for Japanese Language. It wasn't only about the guidance for entering but it was also about the troubles that were faced, which I think was useful in the long run.

As the Doshisha University International Student Committee, I wonder how we can support more and how we can deepen the exchanges between the international



At the dinner party (Kambaikan) with the Chinese students of famous universities in China and Japanese students of Doshisha University after the trial lessons of Graduate School of Business, Doshisha University on July 24, 2008. Doshisha University International Student Committee cooperated at this event.

students and Japanese students. We are constantly thinking about this matter. I hope to strengthen the growth through the intercultural exchanges.

Today, there are 10 students in the Doshisha University

International Student Committee that are from China.

The articles were reproduced and modified by the "Doshisha University Staff English Club News "Topics" No.5. (dated on May 31, 2008)

## My Experience in the International Exchange

By Yasuhiro Kuwata



Prof. Hatta, President of Doshisha University) receiving a donation from Kuwata, (left), Chair ESS Tokyo Alumni Association). Its Association starts "Contribution campaign": We came across with a dramatic scene that a farmer donated two dollars instead of buying a train ticket back home when Neesima delivered a speech in a small New England church, opening up his intention of establishing a school in Japan- from Website of ESS Tokyo Alumni Association

### Kuwata's profile

Born in Kyoto in 1942. In 1965 he graduated from Doshisha University, the Department of Cultural History, Faculty of Letters. In 1967 he graduated from the University of Oregon, School of Journalism and joined Heibon Publishing Company. In 1968 he resigned from Heibon and joined Honda Motor Co., Ltd. as a staff member of International Advertising Department. After one year he moved to the Middle East Sales Department and worked for four years. In 1972 he established Honda Trading Corporation and worked up to 1979. In 1980 he moved to the Asia Sales Department and in 1983 he was assigned to Honda Philippines Inc. as Managing Director. In 1986 he returned Japan and was appointed as Sales manager for the Central and South America Sales Department. From 1991 to 1996 he was General Manager for International Marketing and Sales Department of power products. In 1997 he was assigned as Managing Director to Honda Moscow office and retired from Honda Motor Co., Ltd. in 2002.

Paris, the capital of France, is a lovely and charming city where I really feel at home. I have made this city as the base station and enjoyed traveling around Europe by train for the past five years.

Mr. Bernard, the owner of my favorite "Petit" hotel, and his family members have been my good friends for seven years. I am quite far from a view that French people have the trait of excessive individualism. Rather, I feel that a consistent man to man contact will break down any barriers to be caused by the difference of nationalities.

A four-hour train ride will take you to Colon, Germany, from the East Station, Paris and Brussels, Belgium, is reached in one hour and twenty minutes from the Montparnasse Station. You can even arrive in Turin, Italy in five hours and thirty minutes from the Lyon Station, Paris. Any station at your destination is filled with the whole bunch of people coming from various countries just like Paris. When a question arises, people have almost no hesitation to ask anybody around regardless of nationalities, colors of skin and difference of languages and in return I shall do the same. When I have some waiting time to get on a train, I shall drop into a Caf for a cup of coffee and chat with the couple sitting at the next table. Once I happened to speak with a migrant worker from Cameroon and at another time tourists from Australia.

Since I can reach towns of different countries in several hours I do not feel that I have come to a foreign country. It may well be understood that Paris, Colon, Brussels, Turin and others

are the cities of the same country called Europe. People look like a similar mosaic image of Paris wherever I go. I believe that "international exchange" is an expression unique to an island country such as Japan. On continental Europe inter exchange with a neighboring country is a matter of everyday life and this reality exists without being conscious of it. I do not know when, but whenever and wherever I visited a foreign country, I could get along with people on a man to man basis without paying attention to the country.

I strongly feel that such an approach to people as mine is a cream of my interest, study and polish-up activities given to English, the most commonly used language in the world. When I was in the second grade of junior high school, I started corresponding with a Japanese American in Hawaii. It was the first experience that I used English as a tool of communication not as a study subject at school. During my senior high school days I attended Bible classes at the Catholic church near my house every Thursday and took English conversation lesson for an hour. At Doshisha University I devoted myself to the study of American history and an extracurricular activity in ESS, English Speaking Society. "Foreigner hunting," meaning meeting and speaking with a foreigner at various sightseeing spots in Kyoto, is still an unforgettable memory of ESS days. Also, it was those days that I came to realize the importance of studying Japanese history. I regard this period as the fundamental stage of my English study.

It may safely be said that I moved into the application stage of using English everyday when I studied abroad at the University of Oregon for two years and worked for Honda's international business operations for thirty four years up to my retirement. Particularly my business experiences at Honda trained me hard to get almost the mastery of English. Among many experiences the management of Honda Philippines Inc. as President for four years and Honda Moscow Office as Managing Director for six years have given me tremen-

dous amount of intangible assets. For these ten years I worked with both Filipino and Russian local people to settle managerial problems, implement restructuring plan, encourage and motivate salesmen to achieve a higher market share, revitalize cash-flow program and so forth.

### "Man to man contact is important"

These experiences can be taken as a true and real battle of man to man on one hand and sharing joy on the

other. In short, it could be taken as the confirmation of human bond. I did not feel at all they were Filipino or Russian but I felt they were my people and my friends.

Today marks the period of highly advanced IT technology. Just one click on a keyboard of a computer will provide you with tremendous amount of information about what is going on throughout the world. A super sonic jumbo airplane has been developed to shorten a long distance flight. It is quite

common and natural that economic giants renders helps and aids to the third world. International marriage is on remarkable increase. We live in the world of today that a foreign country is just on the opposite side of a river. The idea of man to man contact may come out to be a driving force and become a major international exchange concept.

The articles were reproduced and modified by the "Doshisha University Staff English Club News "Topics" No.4. (dated on May 31, 2007)

## Nagisa Naota Comes Back from International Internship Hong Kong

I (fourth year, Faculty of Policy Studies), stayed in Hong Kong for about 7 months to work as a trainee from March 2008 to September 2008. I would like to talk about how I felt a different standard between Hong Kong and Japan and also on what I thought from these experiences.

Hong Kong is a very energetic and active city. I wonder when they stop chatting and sleep. The company I worked had 8 Japanese workers, including myself, and 13 local workers. It mainly targeted on Japanese companies in Hong Kong and I worked as a Japanese staff assistant. Hence, I was able to figure out characteristic points between Hong Kongers and the Japanese.

First of all, we need to clearly separate each responsibility in Hong Kong. If one doesn't let a Hong Konger know his/her responsibility (job duties) clearly, he/she may not fulfill the job duties or might not do it at all. In that case, a Japanese would ask why it isn't finished. But in Hong Kong, it is very natural and one would probably answer, "because that is NOT my job". As long as one doesn't clearly tell someone their responsibility, that responsibility does not belong to them. Therefore, it seems irresponsible and troublesome sometimes.

On the other hand, Japanese tends to leave each responsibility unclear. I think this comes from thoughts that cooperate to virtue. Generally, we like to help each other out and I agree that this way is very smooth. Then we don't need to talk about job descriptions all the time. But unfortunately, when a trouble comes up, it is difficult to distinguish whose responsibility it belongs to.

The way I think changed a little bit since I acknowledged the different ways of thinking. Before, I would almost order people what to do because that was the only way for others to understand their responsibilities.

### My experiences

Through these experiences, I realized that mutual under-

standing requires compromising. When we live in a certain country or area for a long time, it is normal to think that your culture is the standard. I guess it is tough for everyone to fully adjust himself or herself to the different area. It just means that everyone has his or her own standards and that nobody has the right to deny it. That's why everyone must compromise at some point to live with people with different backgrounds. It may be difficult to adjust, but you can always find things to compromise.

Lastly, I would like to thank everyone who has given me this unforgettable opportunity. I strongly believe that this experience will be a great advantage in my near future.



Naota (third row: third from right) during the internship (Hong Kong)

## The Doshisha Student

The Doshisha Student is published twice a year by the Doshisha English Language Newspaper Society, Kyoto, Japan.

Advisor: Masaaki Ueno  
 Editor-in-chief: Mariko Imamura  
 Assistant Editor-in-chief: Satoshi Chikamatsu  
 Editors: Nagisa Naota, Chika Fukuma, Sayaka Nakabayashi, Soichi Minakawa, Marina Suga, Zhao Lianwei, Wang Chengming, Ken Kurasaki  
 Treasure: Chika Fukuma  
 Contacts: Mariko Imamura (mariko0420@yahoo.co.jp)  
 Website: <http://dsnews.web.fc2.com/>

In 1956, it was first published by the Press Section of the English Speaking Society as "The Doshisha". The Doshisha English Language Newspaper Society was established in 1964. The paper was renewed as "The Doshisha Student" in 1966, disappeared in 1999, and was revived in 2008.

Printed by Kimura Keibunsha Co., Kyoto, Japan

### Takarazuka, Mecca of Opera

Hello everyone. I am Chika Fukuma, third in the Faculty of Letters at Doshisha University. Today, I would like to report on the international exchange project at my hometown, Takarazuka City. Do you know which prefecture it is part of and how big the area is? Takarazuka is located in the southeast of Hyogo, right between Osaka and Kobe. Well then, what comes to mind when you think of Takarazuka? Some of the things may be the group of unmarried women in the theatrical association, Takarazuka Opera Group and the hometown of the famous author of Black Jack and the iron-armed Atom, Osamu Tezuka. Not many people are

aware of this but Takarazuka is also known for hot springs, which attracts many foreigners every year. I wonder what kinds of international exchange projects have taken place in the proudly known city.

### Sister cities

First of all, I will introduce the overseas sister city of Takarazuka. There are two sister cities: Augusta Richmond District (America) in first year of Heisei and the sister city cooperation joined together. During the eleventh year of Heisei, the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary project for the Takarazuka-Augusta sister city cooperation was held in both cities. In September, the mayor of Augusta and his troupe visited. Both mayor's

held the "sister city exchange promote corroboration announcement — famous" with the residents of Takarazuka in front of them. By October, the mayor was the head leader and the "Takarazuka resident Augusta goodwill visit association" went to August. "The sister city exchange promote corroboration announcement famous ceremony" and the "Welcoming Exchange Party" was held with the residents of August. We exchanged through music, art, cooking, and golf and the "Exhibition of Takarazuka" was opened at County Art Museum to introduce Takarazuka's sceneries, lifestyle, and culture.

The second sister city is the realm of music, the 9<sup>th</sup> Ward of Vienna, Austria. Though Vienna is well known for music, at the 9<sup>th</sup> Ward one can see Schubert's birthplace and the Liechten-taler church where he was baptized. Beethoven and Mozart also lived in the area.

It is said that the joining of the hands was possible because of the Takarazuka Opera Group's origin, Volk-soper Theatre. Don't you

# My Hometown's International Exchange — Takarazuka Version

By Chika Fukuma

think it's wonderful how Japan's opera city, Takarazuka, and the world's origin opera city, Vienna cooperated together? Chocolate, wine, and monetary gifts were sent after the earthquake in the seventh year of Heisei. Later on, Vienna's musical groups visited and exchanged with the Takarazuka residents and the city's commerce party visited the observation training. In the eighth year of Heisei, we supported the fundraiser for the "The 1000<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding's of Austria Danube River 1000 Tree-Planting Project." The residents of Takarazuka attended the tree-planting ceremony. Till this day, the commemorative ceremony has taken place every year.

Next, I would like to report on the resident's level of the international exchange project. Based on the results of the census in the twelfth year of Heisei, there are 3000 foreign residents in Takarazuka. In the specific nonprofit activity foundation of Takarazuka-City International Exchange Society, many international exchange events of resident levels have taken

place every year. For example, we've had cooking classes, barbecues, language classes, and original international exchanges for foreign residents of Takarazuka City. The main purpose is to have foreigners see the makings of the Takarazuka Opera Group and to understand the history that lies within it. There were 11 international exchange students from international universities at the event that took place in 2006. They all came from different countries: Vietnam, Korea, America, Thai, Finland, China, and France. It seems as if they were moved in a way they've

never been before.

As you can see, many international exchanges have taken place in Takarazuka City. But I still feel like there aren't that many residents who are taking active part in the international exchanges. In the society where things are quickly globalizing, I hope to change the city into a more comfortable place to live for both foreigners and Japanese residents. How is your city? Try taking another look at your city from a different point of view of international exchange. You might discover something new.



Fukuma, right

## AFS Activity Report

By Asami Kaneko & Chika Kawamoto

Asami Kaneko (third, Faculty of Technology and Engineering)

On June 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>, I worked as a student representative, also known as the "head" in AFS, at the Short Program Sending Orientation that was held at the Osaka Hall. This orientation is held every year by the AFS for high school students who are going to have a home-stay

for four weeks in the summer. The participants of the orientation at the Osaka Hall were mainly consisted of high school students from western Japan. But there were new participants: four from Doshisha, two from Australia, and two from Canada. During the orientation, everyone discussed about their eagerness towards the

home-stay and they all seemed very excited. I hope they come back with many memories and I wish the best of luck to all four of them.

Chika Kawamoto (first, Faculty of Law)

"In the mid of June, an orientation was held for high school students who are studying abroad for 11 months starting from the summer. Five meetings over the student preparations were planned within the 3 days 2-night program. I hope the students were able to learn something from the orientation."

Since then, Kawamoto has also worked as a farewell party staff at the AFS Kyoto branch for the temporary students who came to a university in Kyoto.

※ AFS (American Field Service)



Short Program Sending Orientation in Osaka  
(Four Doshisha Senior High School female students participated)

mayor is near to a citizen, and a citizen's opinion is reflected. Volunteers are well included, for example, more than 30% seem to have a volunteer at a hospital. Therefore, volunteers are well incorporated in an organization. Everyday life is reflected and is worthwhile to each other. In addition, libraries at American universities are open 24 hours, as most

people say. Students study as exams approaches.

Next, I went to the Hitachi Chemical Center and they discussed about the Nobel Science Prize. There were many American winners in the successive Nobel Prize in the department of Chemistry. That may be because "Americans never does that a person does it". On the contrary, it often seems to be

that the Japanese does that a person does it. Will this not be common to the life not applying to only Nobel Prize either? I took stimulation to challenge more lives.

"Thicken the life how long I failed"

Finally, I would like to wrap things up with a certain quote. I "thicken the life how long I failed". The

## The Impression of Student Training Program in Los Angeles

By Ken Kurasaki

I (third, Faculty of Law) went to Los Angeles for 12 days of training sponsored by Kansai Club this summer. I wore magnificent American clothes and traveled from the airport to Las Vegas for approximately 7 hours by car on the first day. I played the person's New Year's flower arrangement casino. It was a dollar slot machine and I did pretty well. The second day, I went to the Grand Canyon and saw the sunrise and sunset. The weather wasn't exactly great but the scenery that shined in the Grand Canyon was impressive. On the third day, I visited various companies. One of the people I met being the Consulate General, JETRO, House Food Industrial, union bank, MI... I met many

people and learned so much within the 12 days. Today, I would like to discuss what I learned in U. S. A. while taking account some of the words stated from the people I met. I will generally explain everything since I cannot remember every single detail.

First of all, I would like to talk about the American system. I didn't notice at first but when I got into the car, I noticed how the signal would change from red to green within seconds. I was surprised at this and when I asked Mr. Sumiyama, he said it is a sensor senses which direction a car approaches

from under a road". A signal changes to green immediately so that the flow of the car lets you smoothen it at a crossing even if the signal of at hand becomes red. In other words, there is little time to wait for a signal idly. When I heard this, I thought that it was a splendid system. I thought that this system should be introduced to Japan.

The Irvine municipal assembly was held on the third day. The state of the assembly was projected with TV cables, and a citizen stated, "I argue how problems are solved." The distance of the



Ito (third from left), Consulate General, Sumiyama (right), Oda (left), Kansai Club, Kurasaki (second from left), and two trainees in Consulate General of Japan in Los Angeles on the seventh training day of training

person is afraid of failure, but it is experience not failure. A new idea appears when one fails and things tend to spread out steadily. Hence, it is important that everything is challenged. It is not a matter of fact if you can or cannot do it. What matters the most is if one actually did it. I hope everyone takes a challenge for a possibility.