



# The Doshisha Student

No. 3

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## Over 100 Doshisha Students Answer “Experiences of Cross Culture”

1. Yuhei Tanaka Faculty of Policy Studies 4<sup>th</sup> year Hyogo prefecture

When I home-stayed in Canada for a month during 8<sup>th</sup> grade, I was surprised how they ate bacon with honey.

2. Shinsuke Fujiki Faculty of Commerce 4<sup>th</sup> year Hyogo prefecture

When I went to China, the taxi driver was earpicking while speeding on the freeway.

3. Seichiro Harada Faculty of Economics 3<sup>rd</sup> year Fukuoka prefecture

The most impressive memory is when I played kabaddi with an Indian when I was in elementary school. They played seriously, even though I was still little.

4. Takushi Aoyama Faculty of Policy Studies 4<sup>th</sup> year Ibaraki prefecture

When I was in elementary school, I played soccer with a Brazilian and he wasn't very good. That's when I realized that not all Brazilians are good at soccer.

5. Masakazu Matsutori Faculty of Policy Studies 2<sup>nd</sup> year Fukuoka prefecture

When I was on a flight to go overseas, a flight attendant bumped into me and didn't apologize.

6. Yumi Tanaka Faculty of Policy Studies Graduate of 2009 Chiba prefecture

The bus I took went off route and made a detour. I eventually got to my destination but until the very last minute, I was worried that I took the wrong bus.

7. Ayako Hashimoto Faculty of Policy Studies Graduate of 2009 Ehime prefecture

I was surprised at how Italian people were very cheerful, completely the opposite of Japanese people.

8. Sachiko Fujita Faculty of Policy Studies Graduate of 2009 Okayama prefecture

When I was in India, a cow charged at me. I was astonished because they're usually apathetic toward passersby.

9. Ayano Yoshida Faculty of Policy Studies Graduate of 2009 Mie prefecture

I thought it was nice how people in Europe were friendly towards strangers and to be able to exchange a conversation comfortably.

10. Faculty of Policy Studies Graduate of 2009

I know its part of the law, but I was shocked at how not only the shops in the city but most of the sightseeing areas were closed on Sundays.

11. Sho Hisaoka Faculty of Policy Studies 2<sup>nd</sup> year Hyogo prefecture

When my international friend told me that he was shocked at the jam-packed trains in Japan.

12. Mai Heji Faculty of Policy Studies 3<sup>rd</sup> year Kyoto prefecture

I realized that Americans don't care as much about what other people think compared to the Japanese.

When I saw a show on stage, people were freely cheering.

13. Sai Ineoka Faculty of Economics 2<sup>nd</sup> year Kyoto prefecture

When I was invited to a foreigner's home, they showed me every single room. Also, the fact that they kept the door open when someone was there and how they closed the door when no one was there.

14. Taiki Agata Faculty of Law 3<sup>rd</sup> year Osaka prefecture

The way people in France had bread as their main food everyday.

15. Rie Endo Faculty of Law 2<sup>nd</sup> year Mie prefecture

How guys give girls presents on Valentine's Day.

16. Emi Sasaki Faculty of Letters 4<sup>th</sup> year Osaka prefecture

The fact that they don't use bath tubs, put ketchup on food, wear shoes inside the house, and don't have a saying before eating meals.

17. Moemi Sakamoto Faculty of Letters 3<sup>rd</sup> year Osaka prefecture

Communicating with my teacher while I was studying a foreign language during a class at school.

18. Yoshitaka Yasuda Faculty of Science & Engineering 3<sup>rd</sup> year Mie prefecture

During a school festival at my high school, I made a donation to a student in Cambodia. Later, I received a letter saying, "I was able to go to school because of you." I was very happy and it left an impression.

19. Arisa Nagata Faculty of Economics 3<sup>rd</sup> year Hyogo prefecture

A foreigner carrying a big luggage being the first one to give away their seat to an elderly person in a crowded bus.

20. Yu Itabashi Faculty of Letters 3<sup>rd</sup> year Tottori prefecture

By leaving my hometown and coming out to Kyoto, I realized that I had to build human relations starting from zero.

21. Atsushi Morita Faculty of Letters 3<sup>rd</sup> year Osaka prefecture

When I went to Los Angeles for my senior trip, I felt the intercultural by being in an environment with only English. I sensed the difference between America and Japan.

22. Kazuhiro Yamauchi Faculty of Science & Engineering 4<sup>th</sup> year Fukui prefecture

The fact that Japan performs whale hunting for food, it causes a controversy with countries that strongly oppose and are for animal protection.

23. Graduate of 2009 Tokushima prefecture

I thought I spoke in the standard language, but I had a hard time not being able to make myself understood.

24. Yoshiyuki Iida Graduate School of Engineering Graduate of 2008 Mie prefecture

During a trip to Vietnam, I met an Israeli and an Icelander at the hostel I stayed. We then later went to the pool, and was shocked to see that the Israeli's body was covered with tattoos.

25. Marie Tsubono Faculty of Letters 3<sup>rd</sup> year Hyogo prefecture

I feel a cross culture when I listen to foreign folk music. I realized that a melody that is considered beautiful is different depending on the culture.

26. Maiko Oshima Faculty of Letters 3<sup>rd</sup> year Osaka prefecture

I became friends with a Korean girl during an international student volunteer and the sight of her challenging tea ceremony was impressive.

27. Shoko Kurisu Faculty of Policy Studies Graduate of 2009 Tokushima prefecture

Two years ago, a Canadian said even though there are good people in Japan, he cannot accept the government.

28. Mari Sakata Faculty of Policy Studies Graduate of 2009 Mie prefecture

I was deeply impressed by being able to break the language barrier through sports and enjoy spending time together.

29. Yuko Inoue Faculty of Letters Graduate of 2009 Osaka prefecture

When I went to a rural district in New Zealand during 9<sup>th</sup> grade, there were no signals, trains, and everyone walked outside barefoot.

30. Sachie Kamino Faculty of Policy Studies Graduate of 2009 Hyogo prefecture

Through an international exchange, I became friends with an American couple and was able to talk freely about everything.

31. Ginjiro Katsuma Faculty of Policy Studies 2<sup>nd</sup> year Kyoto prefecture

I was surprised to have dinner at five in the afternoon.

32. Toshiyuki Shimizu Faculty of Policy Studies 3<sup>rd</sup> year Kyoto prefecture

Being able to hug in front of others.

33. Yuya Mamenari Faculty of Economics 4<sup>th</sup> year Osaka prefecture

The fact that trains and buses arrived late.

34. Risa Yoshinaga Faculty of Economics 1<sup>st</sup> year Kumamoto prefecture

I was impressed when I saw the news about the folk dispute.

35. Takuya Goho Faculty of Social Studies Graduate

I felt a culture shock in Taiwan with the following things: betel, the number of bikes, fashionable masks, the spread of Japanese culture, lottery of receipts, and the lively street vendor's at night.

36. Masayoshi Kobayashi Graduate

When I went to Taiwan, it was clear that Taiwanese people were more willing in offering seats to the elderly

in trains and buses. I was also surprised at how the young generation was very religious.

37. Masashi Yasuda (Matthew) Graduate School of Social Studies 2<sup>nd</sup> year

In Taiwan, everyone wore bathing suits in hot springs. It was revolting to have the bathing suit stuck on my body.

38. When I went overseas, I was surprised at how there was a room for the custodian in the bathrooms at the airport.

39. Saori Kamada Faculty of Policy Studies 2<sup>nd</sup> year Hiroshima prefecture

A foreign customer that came to eat at my work put Tabasco on everything he ate.

40. Yurika Shimomae Faculty of Policy Studies 2<sup>nd</sup> year Kyoto prefecture

The sizes of the hamburgers were humongous.

41. Rie Kitao Faculty of Policy Studies 2<sup>nd</sup> year Kyoto prefecture

The sizes at McDonalds were big, getting your own drink at fast food places, and how they sell things other than food at supermarkets.

42. Kisa Kawashima Faculty of Policy Studies 2<sup>nd</sup> year Aichi prefecture

Cows crossing the streets, taking showers in the morning, having brunch on weekends, seeing an aurora from my window, how the wallpapers for every room was different and cute, and how the Dad did the housework. (In Canada)

43. Faculty of Policy Studies 2<sup>nd</sup> year Kyoto prefecture

When I worked at a bakery, they used their hands instead of tongs to handle the bread. Also, the fact that they are more conscious about ecology.

44. Faculty of Policy Studies 2<sup>nd</sup> year Hiroshima prefecture

I was startled when I saw a Bulgarian on TV pouring yogurt on most of their food.

45. Chihiro Tamaura Faculty of Policy Studies 2<sup>nd</sup> year Nara prefecture

I was overwhelmed by the size of the country, how the fast food was double the size of Japan, and the fact that they didn't have purikura. (In the US)

46. Ayako Tanaka Faculty of Policy Studies 2<sup>nd</sup> year Aichi prefecture

On freeways, they have carpool lanes where people with two or more passengers can take. I was surprised that some people put full-sized dummies in the passengers seat just to be able to drive in that lane.

47. Faculty of Policy Studies 2<sup>nd</sup> year Nara prefecture

How the meaning of words are different in Japanese and English. For example, "morning" indicating close to 12pm and "night" indicating the usual sleeping hours.

48. Maki Nagamura Faculty of Policy Studies 2<sup>nd</sup> year Hyogo prefecture



The photo provided by Hideo Ishida

The way dumplings (Gyoza) are only eaten with layou, and women not allowed at the dinner table during funerals. (In Korea)

49. Manato Nakamura Faculty of Policy Studies 2<sup>nd</sup> year Kyoto prefecture

Having corn flakes cereal for dinner.

50. Uyuki Suzusho Faculty of Policy Studies 2<sup>nd</sup> year Kyoto prefecture

Not taking a shower everyday.

51. Daiki Iwamoto Faculty of Policy Studies 2<sup>nd</sup> year Nara prefecture

Entering the house with shoes and having whole roast chicken for school lunch.

52. Faculty of Policy Studies 2<sup>nd</sup> year

Drinking tea while eating jam by scooping with a spoon. (In Russia)

53. Aki Niekawa Faculty of Policy Studies 2<sup>nd</sup> year Osaka prefecture

The teriyaki sauce tasted awful.

54. Kei Nishimura Faculty of Policy Studies 2<sup>nd</sup> year Kyoto prefecture

In Germany, sniffing your nose was considered dirty and a violation of manners.

55. Jyunsuke Ihori Faculty of Economics 4<sup>th</sup> year Osaka prefecture

When I felt a foreigner's power during a match. I wonder if there's a difference in what we eat.

56. Atsushi Irie Faculty of Commerce 4<sup>th</sup> year Osaka prefecture

When I went to America for an expedition of wrestling, the amount of food we were given was a lot every time.

57. Tetsuya Takita Faculty of Economics 2<sup>nd</sup> year Hyogo prefecture

The moment I realized that wrestling was famous in foreign countries. I wish it becomes that way in Japan.

58. Kitoshi Komoto Faculty of Economics 4<sup>th</sup> year Osaka prefecture

I saw two foreigners on the train and there was never a moment when they weren't talking.

59. Koki Itakura Faculty of Science & Engineering Graduate Hyogo prefecture

When I saw many people wearing hats during a high school class in America.

60. Shin Kikuchi Faculty of

Commerce 4<sup>th</sup> year Hokkaido prefecture

Suddenly getting kissed by a local foreigner. I realized that there are different ways of greeting.

61. Kosuke Fujiwara Faculty of Science & Engineering 4<sup>th</sup> year Osaka prefecture

I saw a foreigner saying a prayer during a match.

62. Kosuke Isumi Faculty of Science & Engineering 4<sup>th</sup> year Osaka prefecture

I felt a cross-culture when I saw a person wearing a t-shirt during winter at school.

63. Kota Mihara Faculty of Economics 2<sup>nd</sup> year Osaka prefecture

When I met a foreigner who knew more about Japan than a Japanese person.

64. Ryo Monjyu Faculty of Economics 2<sup>nd</sup> year Kyoto prefecture

At work, I saw an African trying his best to use chopsticks.

65. Atsushi Hashimoto Faculty of Commerce 4<sup>th</sup> year Yamaguchi prefecture

By experiencing an intercultural when I traveled abroad, I realized the beauty of Japan. I also thought that mutual understanding was important.

66. Hiroyuki Kato Faculty of Commerce 4<sup>th</sup> year Fukui prefecture

In Japan, people tend to think relying on others causes trouble. However, in China and Korea, people live by depending on each other.

67. Yui Ohashi Faculty of Commerce Graduate of 2009 Aichi prefecture

While in Japan it seems like one loses vitality as one gets older, people in England shows more vigorous to others as one gets older.

68. Eri Osada Faculty of Policy Studies 4<sup>th</sup> year Kyoto prefecture

I once said, "Chinese and Japanese are the same," and was denied. I was able to once again re-think the importance of seeing the difference.

69. Yoshiko Nagata Faculty of Policy Studies 4<sup>th</sup> year Osaka prefecture

In India, people use their hands instead of tissues in the bathroom. Therefore, I thought it was strange how they use their hands when they eat.

70. Daisei Yo Faculty of

Commerce 4<sup>th</sup> year Hyogo prefecture

This may happen to be just the people I met but it was shocking to see a Saudi Arabian having his father and an Italian having a picture of himself on their main screen for the cell phone.

71. Katsunori Fukui Faculty of Commerce 4<sup>th</sup> year Nara prefecture

By seeing how foreign tourists were straightforward with their expressions, I felt that Japanese people weren't good at expressing their feelings.

72. Takao Tsuji Faculty of Economics Graduate of 2009 Saga prefecture

When I stayed in China for four years, I felt a cross-culture with their strength of individualism that lacked in the Japanese.

73. Hironori Aoyama Faculty of Commerce 4<sup>th</sup> year Aichi prefecture

I think its possible to communicate through the heart, without expressing with words. One can feel the difference in their cultures by comparing with one another.

74. Hikaru Shimizu Faculty of Commerce 4<sup>th</sup> year Osaka prefecture

Rather than seeking for people with the same values and ways of thinking, it's important to coexist after accepting the difference of others.

75. Ryuichi Asada Faculty of Culture & Information Science 2<sup>nd</sup> year China

I think by knowing inter-culture, it will make one experienced. It will also allow one to gain a wide point of view, rich knowledge and various ways of thinking.

76. Tomomi Hattori Faculty of Social Studies 3<sup>rd</sup> year Osaka prefecture

Inter-culture may be biased and hard to approach without

knowledge. But after getting deeply involved and breaking the language barrier, it can create common happiness.

77. Manami Tsuguchi Faculty of Economics 2<sup>nd</sup> year Nagasaki prefecture

It's important to take away fixed ideas and stand on common grounds when one experiences cross culture. It also gives you another chance to recognize your own countries culture.

78. Yuta Shibayama Faculty of Law 2<sup>nd</sup> year Kyoto prefecture

I ate things I've never eaten before, saw sceneries I've never seen before and remembered words I've never heard before. Things like these were interesting.

79. Daiki Nakakoji Faculty of Social Studies 1<sup>st</sup> year Osaka prefecture

I was surprised how they didn't have an honorific expression in America.

80. Hitoshi Yanase Faculty of Social Studies 1<sup>st</sup> year Nara prefecture

Even though the driver's seat is on the left in Japan, it is on the right in Korea.

81. Takuma Ikeda Faculty of Social Studies 1<sup>st</sup> year Osaka prefecture

In Korea, hitting someone on the head is considered very bad.

82. Yoshiko Saito Faculty of Theology 1<sup>st</sup> year Kyoto prefecture

Unlike Japan, they don't have a social standing relationship in America.

83. Yu Ito Faculty of Policy Studies 1<sup>st</sup> year Nagoya prefecture

How most college students in Korea had a high tolerance for alcohol.

84. M. Ishida Faculty of Economics Graduate of 2006 Kyoto prefecture

When I found out that

Islamic didn't have a figure to worship like Buddhism and Christianity.

85. Graduate of 1956 Kyoto prefecture

In 1939, there was a children's book called Kinder book that had a picture of a city in England. When I saw that it was completely different from Japan I thought, "I didn't know they had a place like this! This must be a foreign country."

86. Graduate of 1957 Kyoto prefecture

When I entered middle school, an American English teacher sat down on his desk and I couldn't believe it! I thought, "The desk isn't made to be sat on"

87. Graduate of 1989 Kyoto prefecture

When I realized that in America, wearing a T-shirt with obvious holes, one that was considered a favorite, was nothing out of the ordinary. Of course they only wore them at casual places like at school or gym class. I don't know how it is now in Japan but at the time, Japanese people would only wear such clothes at home.

88. Faculty of Economics Graduate of 1958 Kyoto prefecture

In Oslo, Norway, the women have more power. For instance, the women gets off of an elevator first.

89. Faculty of Economics Graduate of 1966 Kyoto prefecture

Ever since I learned English when I entered Middle School, I had an interest and was able to exchange with many foreigners.

90. Masao Suzuki Faculty of Law Graduate of 1968 Kyoto prefecture

The first time I talked with an American during Middle School. I was surprised when I got a response when I said hello.

91. Faculty of Economics Graduate of 1984 Kyoto prefecture

How manners while eating are different due to ones nationality.

92. Faculty of Commerce Graduate of 1977 Osaka prefecture

I honestly didn't feel an inter-culture. I think if one is able to get along with other people, the language barrier wouldn't be a problem.

93. Faculty of Policy Studies 4<sup>th</sup> year Osaka prefecture

The bus left before the actual departing time. The timetable was pointless.

94. Faculty of Policy Studies 2<sup>nd</sup> year Aichi prefecture

Eye contact while talking, the usage of artificial coloring (pink and light blue whip cream), how a lot of English expressions are affirmative.

95. Graduate

Even though water is free in Japan, it costs money in most foreign countries.

96. Graduate

When I went on a trip to Europe, I learned that they have a habit of taking good care of buildings and furniture.

97. Graduate

I was overwhelmed with the power and speed of the minor baseball team, Seals in 1948.

98. Graduate

Whenever I traveled abroad, I had a hard time getting used to the various types of toilets.

99. Kazushige Murata Faculty of Commerce Graduate of 2007 Nara prefecture

How the streets of India consisted not only people and cars but animals too.

100. Hirokazu Aoyama Graduate School of Policy & Management Graduate of 2007 Kyoto prefecture

When I visited a village in Laos, I showed them some pictures that were on left on my digital camera. They were so excited and even other people gathered.

101. Faculty of Science & Engineering Kyoto prefecture

How European High School students thought they were more mature than students in Asia.

102. Faculty of Letters Graduate of 1996 Osaka prefecture

It's important to state your opinions without leaving room for compromise.

103. R. Y. Faculty of Letters Graduate of 1996 Osaka prefecture

I was shocked when my host family greeted me with a hug. Also, when I first hugged an Australian, I couldn't put my arms around them because they had thick muscles.

104. S. K. Faculty of Letters Graduate of 1996 Kyoto prefecture

Eating the same thing everyday and using horses as a main transportation; I was shocked when I saw people riding their horses to the post office.

105. Takashi Yoshikawa Faculty of Letters Graduate of 1996 Kyoto prefecture



At the exchange meeting (Kambaikan Conference Room) with the international students (including the Chinese students) and Japanese students of Doshisha University

## Reviews Over 100 Responses ①



Globalization has advanced and exchanges of economics, culture, science, and sports that have crossed the border have began to conduct frequently. The once known "big" earth is now known as a village of earth. The different skin color, language,

and values that one holds must coexist in the same society. cross-culture have become a part of our daily lives.

For our questionnaire, we decided to ask over 100 students from Doshisha University on their most impressive experience of cross-culture. Thanks to all the cooperation made by many people, we were thankfully able to collect over 100 opinions. The context was very different but I realized an amusing pattern. The opinions that were collected differed depending

on the person that gathered the questionnaire and the opinions seemed slightly similar to the person that gathered them. The way the questionnaire was explained and collected must have been different due to the individual but I think the main reason lies within the ones character and their circle of friends.

① In case when Japanese students collected the questionnaire

Many students pointed out how they were surprised at the different customs, habits, and food but they

## Zhou Weiwei (Faculty of Commerce, 4<sup>th</sup> Year)

never stated why they thought so. It seemed like they didn't think seriously about the point. Since they were raised in an affluent environment, they tend to believe that Japan is the best. It's difficult to say that they didn't show much effort into understanding cross-culture but by looking at the results, I got an impression that they lacked in knowledge towards the matter.

② In case when international students collected the questionnaire

These students have high knowledge towards cross-culture by actively being involved in international exchange events and other activities. There were many opinions where one stated their actual experiences of cross-culture. They also strongly explained how mutual understanding was important.

If I were to express my view, as a Chinese International Student, in the questionnaire, I would explain thoroughly in a clever way. I have studied under the

Chinese education and I have formed new ways of thinking during my study abroad, which has influenced my values. I'm not trying to point out that a certain way of expression is better, but I think its important to understand the difference and to be conscious why one thinks a certain way about a certain matter.

The key to coexistence is to judge things objectively and to make an effort to mutually understand the differences.

## Reviews Over 100 Responses ②



I love Japan. When I see traditional Japanese culture, I am impressed by the delicate feelings and the subtleties of human nature. When I was in middle school, I learned about Manyoshu and Kokinwakashu, which are one of the oldest tanka poetries in Japan. I still remember the deep emotion. The beauty of

nature, love, seasons, and coincidental moments in our daily life cut, and words are formed into syllable patterns of 5-7-5-7-7. They sometimes used rhyming words and metaphors to deepen the meaning. What a beautiful culture it is to have ingenious words of seasons and nicety feelings included in songs to introduce emotion and love. The smart, playful, delicate heart of ancient people can't help to be admired.

I love Japan because of this. But I don't disdain cultures and histories of other countries. All countries have their own culture, language and historical

background, which have been made by the people. It is impossible to choose which culture or custom is good because all cultures are civilized by fatalities. The original culture was formed by doing so as much as possible. The people who have peremptory overpowering power that lived in the area charged the cultures with prayer, pleasure, sadness and anger. The beauty of the culture sometimes brings emotion. When I saw the Notre Dame Church in France, I was in awe because the decorations made by the Christian culture were beautiful and grand. The

## Yuna Otake (Faculty of Policy Studies, 2<sup>nd</sup> Year)

cultures the people made for long time were all characteristic and beautiful.

But when you meet a person who has a different culture from yours and experience cross-culture, perhaps one feels surprised rather than impressed. The questionnaire actually shows that the general students answered, "I was surprised that" and so on. I examined the questionnaire and had similar opinions with Zhou. I felt the questionnaire showed how unconscious Japanese students were. Many students stated that they were surprised but there were only few who explained further

than that. It's a waste to take in different cultures by being surprised and confused. I was also concerned by how few Japanese students distinct goals. But on the other hand, international students often had a definite vision of their future. For example, one may say, "I will start a business at a certain year!" and "I want to do this!" That type of low consciousness may possibly come from the original Japanese culture that wasn't controlled by other countries and that gave the right.

When one meets a person who has a different culture, they may see something

different about the culture. Like I said earlier, Japanese students have low conscious towards cross-culture. It may be difficult to believe, especially if one have only exchanged with Japanese people. Through different culture experiences, once may see different culture, people, and may discover something about yourself. You may recognize and understand the differences between others and also understand yourself through this.

What you find may be respectable, but I hope you feel "consciousness" by reading this article.

# Frontiers of International Exchange

## Student International Society Group SIVIO

By Ken Kurasaki (Faculty of Law, 4<sup>th</sup> year)



The Student International Society Group SIVIO started in September 2007 by the ex-representative, Ken Kurasaki,

going on a backpack trip to Laos during his second year in college. We began our activities with the concept of building elementary schools in areas that are lacking in Laos so the children can study safely. We are planning on using the profit we make from the tickets for the student charity event that includes live music, dance, and fashion show to build the schools.

In March 2008, students of the Kanto area that sympathized with the activities started a SIVIO Kanto branch office. We held a comedian charity event, including Neko Hiroshi.

In May 2008, ex-representative Ken Kurasaki and representative Kyouhei Yamamoto went to Laos. They had an inspection of the actual location and exchanged with the education

department about the contract.

Combining the Kansai and Kanto area, there have been nine charity events that took place and have collected fifteen thousand dollars. In September 2008, we were able to build a SIVIO elementary school in Luang Prabang, Laos.

On September 18<sup>th</sup>, thirty-five Japanese members went to the actual location to join

the opening ceremony of the school. Currently, there are ten universities with an approximate of fifty students in the Kansai area, six universities with an approximate of twenty students in the Kanto area and a branch office in Nagoya is also planned. We continue to spread charity events to the young generation throughout Japan. In the future, we plan to

organize a scholarship organization for the students at SIVIO elementary school and aiming to build the next elementary school.

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No.6. (dated on November 30, 2008)

## Doshisha University Taiwanese International Society

By Wang Cheng-Ming (Faculty of Economics, 4<sup>th</sup> year)



It has already been three years since I've been offered the position of President of the Doshisha University Taiwanese International Student Society. As I look back, I was left with the position from the President

while feeling a great amount of responsibility and carried feelings of fear. The reason for this was because there was only one person that was older than me when the group was formed. There were much trouble and it wouldn't be exaggerating if I said that we started from zero 4 years ago.

These last few years, the number of people of the Taiwanese Society increased from 1 to 8 people and now there are close to 50 people. Even though I am filled with joy, I also feel a little bit of

pressure. At the orientation where we meet incoming international students every year in April and September, we saw some faces of uneasiness and nervousness. To deepen the bond within the international students, we aimed to have exchanges with one another and to be able to release their worries and that was the reason why I joined this group.

After the welcoming party in April, we held some random events (field trip to the factory, dinner parties, movie nights) that allowed

me to see a change of expression of the students. Now that it's been 6 months, the international students have sympathized with Doshisha University and have created feelings toward Kyoto. At the year-end party, everyone's expressions had changed into a pleasant look. By seeing this change, I felt this must be the true charm of being in charge of the President of the International Society.

Since I was given the chance to be in charge of the International Society, I think

I had more opportunities than other students to participate in the beneficial school events. The World Student Environment Summit that was held last June and the Peace Now in Okinawa 2 years ago was one of a lifetime experience.

As my duty as the President of the International Society, the work I was in charge made me grow personally and I think it was very useful. I hope for the international students to support, walk, and feel together and to have the best

experience. Thanks to the university and the International Society, I was able to get involved between the school and students by being given the position of President during my study abroad. I would like to end this paper by expressing my gratitude from the bottom of my heart.

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## Through the International Exchange During My College Days

By Mariko Imamura (Graduate of 2009)

During my four years of college, I belonged to AISEC, where a group of students manage internships overseas. AISEC exists in one hundred countries; therefore, there were cases when nationalities and backgrounds were irrelevant once one became active. Within the last four years, I met a total of ten trainees that came from ten different countries to experience internships. We went to Denmark and Turkey to participate in the international meeting. Moreover, we went to Finland, Sweden and Bulgaria to visit the members at the actual place. Today, I would like to discuss my fondest experience in Bulgaria.

### Experience in Bulgaria

On November 16, 2008, I made a connecting flight to Germany from Finland. It took four hours to reach the capital of Bulgaria, Sofia. When I arrived, Dancho, the OB of AISEC, was there to pick me up. He didn't have a guidebook or anything in hand, which made me relieved. He seemed very pure and his smile was charming, however, I was troubled since he didn't speak English. But it was

still helpful and encouraging to have been picked up in a country where I couldn't communicate.

We went to the bank in the city right after but it didn't seem like they understood English either so Dancho translated everything. I am very grateful for this type of kindness. Through AISEC, members of the actual places have always been helpful.

After riding the bus for three hours, we reached Svishtov, where Yuki, the internee that we sent off from our college, lived. While we started talking right away, she asked if I wanted to go to a party that a Bulgarian she met that day was throwing. I decided to go because I thought it would be a waste to go to sleep when I just arrived. They say that in their culture, it's normal to hang out with the people you met that day. Nevertheless, the town's population is thirty thousand people and half are students. It's a small town so it is quite peaceful.

When we arrived at that place that was planned, there were two guys waiting. We took the taxi together and when we got to their dorm,

they led us to a three-person room. It smelled funny and there were three beds in the same room. Just to think that they lived with absolutely no privacy made me feel bad for the students there. Then the party started. We first enjoyed candy and alcohol and danced here and there. But as they became hyper, they began to dance on top of the chairs. It seemed to be normal there. In Japan, there is no way one can have a party with this of a loud volume in a normal dorm room. However, most all of them couldn't understand English so all they could do was dance in that situation. I was lucky to have experienced the young culture for my first night in Bulgaria.

The next day on the 17<sup>th</sup>, I went to the training school with Yuki. She taught Japanese culture and English for her training in two college's in the city. We stuffed our mouth with bread at the bakery where she goes almost everyday and then headed to school by taxi. The bread was less than a dollar but was delicious. Furthermore, I was surprised at how cheap the taxi was. It only cost about a dollar and fifty cents to get to school. I could certainly take the taxi everyday and it would be cheaper than taking the bus.

When we arrived at school, Diana was there to greet us. She worked with Yuki and was also an English teacher. She began her class in total confidence. As she listened to the student's opinions and stated her own opinions, forty-five minutes passed in an instant. Once recess started, the hallways were filled with cheers saying, "Yuki! Yuki!" There were almost no foreign teachers that lived in the town, and seeing an Asian was very uncommon. I know it must have been

Yuki's character but I was really amazed at how popular she was.

Yuki and I went out for lunch at a restaurant nearby that day. The food and the bread were absolutely delicious. If it was just the food, I thought that I could live in Bulgaria. Yuki ate at the cafeteria nearly everyday, but says she's never experienced bad food yet.

We finished the classes for the day and went on a walk along the Danube River. How amazing is it that Yuki can see the Danube River from the window in her dorm! Romania is just next-door.



A typical lunch in Bulgaria.

Coming to Bulgaria, Yuki was surprised at how not punctual the other members were. They say they want to improve management knowledge and utilize it in business. She was surprised by how different their

philosophy was compared to AISEC, but the bigger the organization becomes the more it may occur. Yuki thinks that one needs to maintain a composed point of view at all times.

### Impressions of AISEC

From what I saw, the members of the AISEC committee were friendly and I could tell that they were working hard. Compared to other college students who only party, it seemed like they were trying to change the current situation. But I felt that due to the national character and economic situations, the countries organization's (Student Society known as AISEC) actual situation would also eventually change. Bulgaria is affiliated with the European Union and the economy is unstable due to the European Union lacking in money. Even if one graduates from college, there may only be jobs as waiters and to get a good job one needs to have connection. While they are faced with a hopeless reality, I wonder how much power AISEC has to fill in the gap between idealistic. The participation fee for the International meeting costs more than a month salary of

an average schoolteacher. It's common for teacher's to work in two or three places, even outside of the EU, because they have a hard time living too. They won't have jobs if they don't build a different career compared to the common college students. Yuki was left confused if it was either a nervous situation or not by looking at what the members of AISEC said and did. It's not a level of the members of AISEC being bad or anything but it seems like it would be too simple to wrap it up and say national character. I also reflected on how inadequate my past activities in AISEC were.

Later, Yuki and I talked about the gap between the ideal and reality of AISEC and some of each other's past experiences in AISEC. When we were a freshman in college, there was a Turkish internee that we just left unattended and sadly ended up going back to his own country. Because our consciousnesses were low, the trainee we were in charge for canceled their contract.

I felt a great amount of responsibility by facing situations where one decides everything in a person's life from right to left. At the same time, I felt responsible to face the incompleteness of the international society of AISEC.

I was able to meet many people by joining the international society of AISEC. This experience is irreplaceable and is my greatest fortune. My last student life trip abroad to Bulgaria made me remember the beginning of my activities in AISEC. From now on, I hope to grow as a person in a society where one can respect each other though the nationality and position may differ.



At the college dorm (Imamura, center)



The energetic kids

## The Doshisha Student

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Growing up as an African American, I felt I owned the rights to activities and information that belonged solely to my ethnic group. When it came to certain slang and foods, I was everyone's main source of knowledge, their go to guy. The fact that I'm a musician also gave me the highest authority when dealing with contemporary Hip-Hop and R&B. Having not only lived in the land, but also being raised in the culture that it was created in, I figured there was no way anyone outside of this world could have a bigger interest than me, let alone teach me anything new. Then, in 2007, I stepped foot in Tokyo for the first time. Outside of a McDonald's in Shibuya, I noticed a young Japanese man covered from head to toe in things so familiar to me that it through my head for a spin. He wore large, all white sneakers with no scuff marks to be seen. His blue

jeans and button-up plaid shirt were extremely baggy, with only the shirt's top button being fastened. His long, black hair had been corn rowed straight back, partially covered by the bandana that wrapped around his head. On top of all this, he was crypt-walking in the street to the sounds of some rap being played over the loud speakers near Hachiko station. Normally my reaction would be to join in the festivities and possibly test the stranger's dancing ability against mine, but I was too taken away by the sight in front of me. How was it that this man living 4,000 miles away still resembled a Californian hip-hopper? The only thing different I could find at first glance was his non-African American looking attributes. From that day forward, my interest was piqued, and I felt compelled to discover exactly how much the Japanese knew about the world I laid claim to. How

## African American Music:

### A look from both sides of the Pacific

By Christopher Gillyard (2008-2009 Amherst-Doshisha Fellow)

deep did their knowledge of Kanye West and Kool Herc go? Did they know what influences Ray Charles had on today's music and what influences came before him? Is there something they know that I don't? What exactly is it that I know? All of these questions and more are what have brought me to Kyoto 2 years later.

Before perusing the thoughts of others, I had to delve deeper into myself and see what knowledge I actually possessed. Upon further review, it was obvious that I had a basic understanding on most any music derived from an African American influence, but nothing with any real substance. With that in mind, I thought it prudent to better inform myself before examining the understanding of others. After schooling myself, I found a few avenues into the African American culture here in Kyoto and started exploring. My three biggest interactions include the Doshisha University Gospel Choir, a Blues Jazz Classic R&B band member named Take, and my friend Tac who works at a Hip-Hop dance studio and club. I've had experience with all three of these activities in the states, so I tried going into these situations keeping my prior involvements in mind.

#### Different location, same great feel

The gospel choir here is split into two classes of students and elder members

around the community. All the songs we sing are tunes I've known since I was a child, and despite some trouble with pronunciation, all of the members have no problem memorizing the lyrics. The only thing lacking at times is the Gospel energy that goes into these songs. Due to the quiet nature of Japanese society, it was difficult to get the choir to come out of its shell at times. Still, the community feel exist, and shines through brightly during performances.

I was introduced to my blues-singing friend Take through a multitude of other friends I've made during my stay here. He's a part of a band called the Four Aces and The Twins with his twin brother Chikashi, and they play in bars all over the Kansai area. Besides the lyrics of the songs he sings, Take speaks very little English. This confused me because I had no idea someone could sing lyrics with such soul and not understand what he was saying. I learned later that he had full understanding of not only the words, but the feeling behind the songs. I was blessed with the opportunity to perform with him during a solo show at my favorite shot bar. It was the best feeling I've had singing since I entered Japan, and I look forward to joining him again sometime soon in the future.

Looking for a place to take dance lessons, I met Tac through a mutual friend. Not

being much of a dancer himself, I learned that Tac was an aspiring rapper and learned English in a year while living in Canada through rap. I've been invited repeatedly to events at the dance club he works at, full of poppin', lockin', breakin', and any other form of Hip-Hop dance you can think of. I've had the pleasure of challenging a few people on the dance floor while he looked on. After every event, we'd have long talks about rap here and back in the states, and I thank him profusely for giving me a familiar place to go to for Hip-Hop.

All of these experiences have involved different people in different areas with different connections to these styles of music. Many of them will never meet each other or have any other connection than through me. None of them have grown up in the burrows of New York or the hoods of Baltimore,

though few have been lucky enough to visit. Despite their separation from what I know as the "actual existence" of this music, all of these people have the right to call themselves a member of the Gospel, Blues, and Hip-Hop community. It may be true that they've learned a few things from me, but they taught me that such a thing as music can't be confined to those who originated it. Each style has grown and adapted to its new surroundings and has become better for it. It's still evolving into an extremely different beast, becoming more grandiose than its predecessor every day, and it's clear now that I have no license to it as it stands today.

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Christopher, right

## My Hometown's International Exchange — Inuyama Version

By Yuna Otake (Faculty of Policy Studies, 2<sup>nd</sup> Year)



the Inuyama castle

I would like to introduce an international exchange of my hometown, Inuyama city in Aichi prefecture. Have you ever heard of Inuyama city? It's not a popular tourist area in Japan, but it is quite a wonderful place. There is the Inuyama castle, which was built in the Azuchi

Momoyama era; I am always moved when I see the cherry blossoms in full bloom every spring. There is also the temple located in the mountain, Jakkojin, which is known as Momijidera. It displays many beautiful maples in the autumn.

#### The history of international exchange in Inuyama city

Inuyama city got down to international exchange when the term was introduced in Japan. On September 2, 1989, the Nihon Rhine sightseeing tied up with the KD company that served rafting for visitors. This was the first international exchange that took place in Inuyama city.

At present, Inuyama city tied up with the Goarshausen city in Germany, Davis city in America, and with the Xiangfan city in China as sister cities. Inuyama city also recently joined with the State of Eritrea and Germany for one municipality- one country friendship project was held at Aichi Earth Expo in 2006.

Inuyama city's first international exchange country was Germany, therefore, Inuyama city was especially close with Germany. The strong connection between Inuyama and Germany was deeply involved with the Kiso river, which runs in the north of Inuyama city. Mr. Shigetaka Shiga, deceased Bachelor of Science who traveled in Europe, named the Kiso river, "NihonRhine" since it looked like the Rhein river which runs along the midland of Germany. Then, in June 1992, Inuyama city tied up with the St. Goar city as a friendship association city. This town was one of the most famous cities for "Rhine rafting" in the world. In July 1995, Inuyama city welcomed Mr. Julia Bartels as an international exchanger, who actively made an international exchange between the two cities. Now, Mr. Stefanie Sasaki-Sellmer is known as the fifth international exchanger and the Inuyama residents were able to experience international exchange by lectures, study tours, cooking, and other various projects on German through him. The "Freude", Inuyama International Sight-Seeing Center, means pleasure and joy in German. Through the following, one can see the deep relationship between Inuyama city and Germany.

These international exchanges of Inuyama city expanded to the local residents by having activities become more dynamic.

#### Recent international exchanges in Inuyama city

As of right now, there are 14 international exchange groups in Inuyama city. They are very various, for example, there are groups who hope for international peace, introduce different cultures by having cooking lectures, tea ceremonies, and flower arrangements. There are also groups who want to contribute to international exchanges. Thus, the joining of international exchange is open to various directions. The residents of Inuyama city actively participated in these exchanges and have gathered about 850 members of international exchange.

Hence, not only does Inuyama city vigorously exchange with sister cities but to other countries also. Last July, they visited the seeding base of Naimanqi city in the Inter Mongolia China autonomous government, and helped grow sajjih seeding in forests to protect greenness from desertifying. Inuyama city also exchanged with Peruvians who live in Japan.

#### Problems with international exchanges

But above all, there are problems with international exchanges in Inuyama city. First of all, the worldwide depression rate increased with foreigners (who live in Inuyama city) becoming jobless as they are put in a difficult situation to survive. Due to this problem, Inuyama city came up with fundraisers, charity events, and food support. Resident volunteer groups also helped out by donating and supporting them financially.

Secondly, it is difficult to

have international exchange with the State of Eritrea, which is a difficult area. The State of Eritrea continues to face tension between its neighboring countries at its border. Also, the latest serious drought brought bad domestic economy. Inuyama city think medical support activity should be held for the State of Eritrea, but it is difficult not only because of their security and peace conditions but with Inuyama's financial condition.

Sadly, I do not know my hometown's exchanges with other countries. But I often feel that we need to have international exchanges, hence, I don't know what we can do to help. I heard about the international activity in Inuyama and looked up some international exchanges that took place in Inuyama to write this article. I learned what the essential meaning of international exchange was and how it was important to me. Mr. Kakutani, who is currently active in the forefront of international activities, lectured differently as in a normal class, which made me interested and gave me great inspiration.

I would like to thank Mr. Kakutani, secretary-general of Inuyama International Sight-Seeing Center. I'm sorry I couldn't write about the other international exchanges he explained.

How does your hometown support international exchange? I would like you to find out, especially if you are not aware. The international exchange' door is always open for you to make a start.

## Report of AFS Activity

### Participation in EVE-SAI known as Doshisha's school festival, which was held on November 25th to 28th, 2008

By Yuki Nanri (Graduate of 2009)

Doshisha's school festival, EVE-SAI, was held between the 25th to 28th of November. It was our first year to participate and we sold 363 tacos in three days. We were able to spread news about the AFS activities as we sold the tacos. Although it was very busy at times with attending meetings and preparing for food, we really enjoyed participating in the

event of Doshisha EVE SAI. Even though this was a different type of event from the usual AFS activities, it ended up with similar results by meeting a lot of people and letting them know about our activities. We sometimes exchange with other groups of Doshisha and enjoy each others company and share informations. During the festival, we met a Mexican

guy at our booth. We also met different volunteer groups and AFS retinee's. I really enjoyed seeing many kinds of people there, and it was very similar experience to our AFS activities. I'm happy that I was able to be part of selling the tacos at the campus, and to be an active Doshisha student.

※ AFS (American Field Service)