



On January 21, 2010, we gathered a group of exchange students from Korea, China, United States, and Hungary and had an endless discussion on various topics such as girl's fashion, marriage, and likes and dislikes of Japanese boys.

We started off the discussion casually by talking about ordinary **fashion** in each country. As for hair color, the shade of black was most common in Korea and China. There was a phase when dyed and bleached hair was popular, but nothing can beat the traditional Asian image of straight, black hair. DoGi Kang from Korea explained how she was surprised to see the majority of the girls in Japan with dyed hair. "It seems as if the only time they have their hair black is when they have job hunting," says Kang. That is most likely true, but another reason may be because many Japanese girls have a childlike face. It doesn't help that they are also more petite compared to girls in other countries, which tends to give them an image of cuteness. In the United States and Hungary, there are more varieties in hair color. While most people keep their own natural color, there are people who like to change their image by challenging a different color. The most common transformation would have to be blonde to brown or vice versa. There are also cases where people dye their hair to dark colors including black and funky colors such as red and green.



In case of **make up**, there was clearly a difference. While most girls in Korea aimed for natural make up, girls in China wore close to none. On lazy days, girls from both countries stated that they would wear hats so others wouldn't notice that they weren't wearing any make up. In Hungary, most

girls have their eyebrows plucked and have them tattooed. Punk rock styles such as black makeup, hair, and clothes seemed to be popular within teenagers. American girls are somewhat similar but they tend to accentuate one feature of their face. On a typical day at school, one may wear some eyeliner and on a fancy date, one may brush on some mascara and bright red lipstick and you're good to go.

The way people **dress** is most likely different for each country, but there seemed to be a similarity. Everyone nodded to the fact that their outfits revolved around t-shirts and jeans. But of course, outfits differ in each season. While Korea and China may require sweaters and coats in the winter, Hungary and some parts of the United States may only need thin knits and jackets. Also, outfits are chosen wisely by occasion. When it's the time and place, we step up our outfits too. Since we agreed on the clothing styles, we shifted the discussion to girl's fashion in Japan. I'm not sure if its just Doshisha University but the girl's are fashionable. Their outfits are so nicely coordinated that it makes a jeans and t-shirt outfit seem overly casual. They dress well, but there are few things about their fashion that turns our head. For instance, a tank top over a t-shirt and jeans under skirts. We can't help but think, "Was the extra layer of clothing necessary?" It would be interesting to hear about foreigner's fashion too.



As for **marriage**, there were a few customs and opinions that clashed with others. In Korea and China, men must be fully prepared

Special Feature on Girl's Talk

Marina Suga (Faculty of Letters, 4th Year, U. S. A.)

before proposing or the women won't agree to marry them. The men in Korea must have furniture and other household equipments, while the men in China must have a house ready beforehand. There is something similar in Japan, but the women were the one that needed to prepare things before marriage. In the United States, both men and women are not obligated to prepare things ahead of time and most purchases are done together. By looking at this, the position of men and women in each country was evident. Since the women in Korea and China are somewhat stronger than the men, they hold a different opinion towards the life after marriage. The majority of them preferred to continue working after marriage and wished for the men to help out around the house. They explained how much of a waste it would be to throw away a career after trying so hard to achieve it. Not only the women in Korea and China, but women in other countries too are choosing to work after marriage. It may be because of the poor economy or because they wish to keep their independence. Hence, the image of leading men is beginning to slowly fade away.

To switch to a lighter topic, we asked about some popular **desserts** in their home countries. Tteok, which are delicious rice cakes from Korea have different fillings such as red bean paste, nuts, and honey. Most Korean desserts are healthy and are made with nutritious ingredients. There is also Su Jung Gwa, which is a sweet, ginger flavored drink with dried persimmon and pine nuts. Even though there are many desserts, girls would rather skip those calories and stick to coffee. Nian Gao, also known as sticky cake is a traditional dessert in China that symbolizes a rich life. They are filled with dried fruits and can be steamed or baked. Zeen Doy, also known as sesame seed balls are also delicious. They are filled with red bean paste, rolled in sesame seeds, and then fried. Chocolate cake, apple pie, and brownies are high on the list of American desserts. Brownies are rich and moist chocolate cake often sprinkled with nuts. It's a plus that these desserts can be made easily by purchasing mixes

sold in supermarkets. A traditional Hungarian dessert is Túró Rudi, which is a chocolate bar filled with cottage cheese. It doesn't sound like an appealing combination at first, but you'll be hooked once you taste it. There are also various selections of Rétes, which are strudels with toppings of sweet cottage cheese, cherries, apples and etc. The list of desserts continues but we'll let you explore the rest on your own.



As much as girls love to talk about make up and shopping, we are unstoppable when it comes to the topic of **boys**. The girls skipped their introduction of the boys back at home and went straight to the pros and cons of Japanese boys. In the case of fashion, there seemed to be more negative comments than positive ones. Many of them remarked about the leggings that are worn under shorts and pants. If you thought leggings were only for girls, think twice. They have recently come up with leggings that come in handful of colors and designs, which allow one to express their individuality. I don't know if they wear them to stay warm or to be fashionable but we all agree that it's best if you pass on the leggings. But on the other hand, skinny jeans were approved. LinTing Shi from China stated, "I wonder if guys wear them to show off how skinny they are." Maybe, maybe not. Either way, it doesn't hide the fact that most Japanese boys are skinny. It shocks me how some boys are skinnier than girls. It wouldn't hurt to add a little bit of meat to these boys.

But what's more important than looks is **personality**. No

matter how drop dead gorgeous a guy may be, if he has an awful personality, the relationship wouldn't go well. The majority of the girls liked the fact that Japanese boys were quiet and nice. They may not necessarily follow the "ladies first" rule but they show a fair share of politeness such as offering a ride to the train station after dinner. However, they stated how there are times when they can't read what their feelings but compared to boys in the United States and Hungary, they seem to be on the bottom of the list. Sadly, we're not psychic so it would help if boys communicated better with us. For instance, if we ask what you feel like eating for dinner, don't just say "whatever" or "it's up to you". It's fine if you're really up for anything, but if you actually have something in mind, it would be easier on the both of us if you spoke up.

As for **manners**, who pays for dinner? In Korea and China, it is quite the norm for the guys to pick up the check. Even if it's a casual lunch with a friend, most of them offer to pay. As envious as that may sound, in the United States and Hungary, the paycheck is usually split in half and each pays for their own meal. But Katie Seno from United States stated that there are times when the boys pay for group dinners to show off to the ladies. We don't expect for the guys to pay every time, but it would be nice if they offered the gesture. In most cases, it's the thought that counts and girls just simply like to be pampered from time to time.



While opinions on manners may be split into two, **dating and relationships** differ for each individual. Overall, it seemed like the couples in Korea communicated the most. The majority of couples keep in touch throughout the

day by either texting or calling. It may be after they wake up in the morning or just to ask what they are up to. There are some cases in Korea where couples talk on the phone while watching television. Some people might think this is too much, but it may be nice for a couple in a long distant relationship. In China and the United States, they aren't as lovey-dovey but they do enjoy calling before they go to sleep. I have to admit, it is nice to hear the voice of a loved one before drifting off to sleep. They also seemed to have interest in Japanese dating scene. While there may be couples who constantly keep in touch, there are also couples who barely text/call and only meet few times a month. But this is a very rare case and is not the Japanese standard. JeongHoon Lee from Korea stated, "How can you be okay with seeing your boyfriend only few times a month? If I were in this situation and told my friends back at home, they would question my relationship." But there must be reasons why some couples can't see each other that often; long distant relationships perhaps? In these cases, I think its rather safe to talk on a normal basis to make up for the time they can't spend together. However, not all couples fall under this category and there are couples who manage to make things work and have a happy relationship. As most people already know, relationships are challenging in every country. I'm no expert but I think the key to a successful relationship is to find a partner who you're not afraid to be yourself around and to have good communication with one another.

It was interesting to hear different opinions on numerous topics such as girl's fashion and Japanese boys. Even though it might have seemed like the foreign girls only held negative outlooks on the boys, one must understand that they come from a different environment and that it has only been a short period of time since they've been in Japan. As an international exchange student myself, I know how difficult it may be to accept the differences at first. But I do believe that as time goes by, these girls will come to realize the good traits of Japanese boys.

Comparing Japanese Women to “Foreign” Women — We Are All Different, We Are All the Same —

Robert Clinton Hovis (Center for Japanese Language, U. S. A.)



I as well as many other students here at Doshisha University will always remember stepping off the plane and into Japan. Absolutely hoping the Japanese we had studied at our own Colleges would serve us well. As any student of language soon realizes, it doesn't ever seem to be

enough. While there is no doubt that knowledge of the basics helps incredibly, how can anyone really know what vocabulary is essential for real life? That in itself is one of the many reasons people all over the world choose to take the plunge and immerse themselves in a language and culture different from their own. No other form of learning a language is as difficult or as captivating, as actually going to the country itself. I think many students planned to do much more than the verbs they memorized.

Of course language is not the only aspect of culture there is to experience. Language is just one way in

which we get to do something really remarkable; getting to know the people that make up the world we now find ourselves in. This world having roughly 128 million people in it, all have stories to tell and something to belong to. The dynamics between men and women is also another story within itself. When my good friend and head of the Chinese Student Union Joe here at Doshisha asked me to write an article comparing Japanese women to “Foreign” women, I thought it seemed very amusing if nothing else. I told him I would give it a shot.

When looking at Japan's history with women in mind,

one can't help but mention the Shaman Queen Himiko. She alone governed her people during the Yoyoi Period (300 BC to 300AD) in peace and also with an enchanting sense of magic. Needless to say the presence of women in Japan has always been extremely significant. That being said, many Japanese women feel that while their role is important, it is also categorized.

Many Japanese women I spoke with on this issue referred to turning on the TV or looking in a magazine only to see women in slightly domestic or “cute” roles—though this is not always the case it seemed to have an

effect on many of the women I spoke with. Another issue that seems to be different between Japanese and non-Japanese women is their own sense of individuality verses belonging to a kind of group. Many American women for example, feel that their own lives must reach a certain level, before choosing to start a family or pursue other goals entirely. This sense is what some women said drove them to come to Japan at all. Many expressed the will to discover something while here in Japan, something they felt could only be found after leaving their own country. This is also becoming the case here in Japan—recently with women

who have decided to continue working or traveling even while their peers might opt to quit in order to marry. The more traditional choice of marriage is often thought of as noble and is sometimes done out of a sense of duty or belonging. But as with any society—all women are never strolling the same trail.

Being given the chance to see a new culture has shed light on many things. One being that in no culture is everyone the same. This is an important realization in any language, and I am truly looking forward to learn more.

My Hometown's International Exchange — Busan, Korea version

YoungWoo Jang (Faculty of Economics, 5th Year, Korea)

Do you know where the biggest harbor in Korea is? How about the most beautiful beach? Well, the answer is Busan. While most foreigners are familiar with Seoul, the capital of Korea, not many people are aware of the beauty of Busan.

Busan is the second largest city in Korea with a population of approximately 3.6 million people. It has one of the largest harbors in the Republic of Korea and is the known as the fifth largest harbor in the world. The city is located near the Eastern Sea (Sea of Japan) and is possible to travel to Fukuoka by a ferry, which will take about 2 and a half hours. The city of Busan has held many major sporting events such as the 2002 Asian Games and APEC 2005 Korea. It has also held the 2002 FIFA World Cup and is

considered as one of the most festive cities in the country. Not only is it a center of numerous events, but it also has a very famous beach known as Haeundae.

I was born and raised in Haeundae and I have many joyful memories there. They have one of the biggest beaches and have many natural hot springs, which are visited by many tourists. During the summer, they fill up the beach and create a line of parasols on the seashore.

Besides the stunning natural scenery, Shinsegae Centum City has the world's largest department store in Asia and is now one of the newest landmarks. The Busan Lotte World Tower is a 110 floor, 510.1 m (1,674ft) super skyscraper and is expected to be completed in 2013. After completion, it will

be the third tallest building in the world after Burj Khalifa and the One World Trade Center.

Of course, Haeundae isn't the only famous place in my hometown, Busan. There is a magnificent bridge in my neighborhood called the Kwang-Ahn bridge. The lighting of the bridge was brilliantly done and is now recognized as an artificial structure that symbolizes Busan. The bridge faces the Kwang-Ahn-Ri beach and has a lovely view during day and night.

Ships that come in and out of the Busan harbor have to pass the Ohryukdo, also known as the symbol of Busan. The seafood market, Jagalchi is famous for its people since they are widely known for their compassion and generosity. Nearby, there is a town called Nampodong

where the international film festival is held annually. It's proven to be famous worldwide since many people from across the country attend this event. The place has received much attention because of its frequent visits from many Hollywood celebrities.

Nakdong River is Korea's 2nd longest river followed by the Aplok River. Around the fertile delta, there are many migrating birds that rest during the warmer seasons. It is one of the best bird watching sites in the world. The view of the sunset is so beautiful that words cannot explain. It is also considered a great dating spot.

Busan is not only a beautiful place but is renowned for its delicious food. I often enjoyed eating raw fish since I was born and raised in Busan. I also

love seafood too. When I was in Busan, I had seafood two or three times a month. Live octopus is one of my favorite foods, however, I don't get to eat it frequently because it is very expensive. If you enjoy raw fish, you should definitely go to my favorite restaurant. It has a taste that you will never forget.

To conclude everything, I am very proud to have been born and raised in such a great city. If you ever have a chance to visit Busan, I highly recommend enjoying the scenery while driving along the highway and the delicious food. I promise that you will not be disappointed.



Join us at the Kyotanabe gathering!



Some people might worry because it doesn't require one to speak English. We simply hang out and exchange with international students during

lunch. It's a great opportunity to bounce off ideas and to share experiences with one another. In addition, you can learn about other international clubs such as DESA and AFS. If you have any questions towards international students, feel free to participate in the gathering. There is no need to worry about communication because the majority of the international students at Doshisha University can speak Japanese. So if you are interested in foreign languages or learning about different cultures, come join our club!

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EDITORS & REPORTERS WANTED

The Doshisha Student is now looking for new members who are willing to join our club.
Please e-mail at the.doshisha.student@gmail.com

Participating in the Los Angeles training was a turning point in my life

Ayumi Torii (Doshisha Women's College of Liberal Arts, 4th Year)



In August 2009, I attended the Los Angeles training, which was sponsored by the Kansai Club. It is no exaggeration to say that this experience was a turning point in my life. I was able to discover new goals and a

lifestyle that mark the center of my life.

At the training, I proposed a theme of how to fascinate others. The United States dominates as a world leader because of its techniques of promoting Japanese-American companies in the United States. They research successful Japanese workers and ways to fascinate countries, companies, and people. Besides receiving hints on how to activate the Kansai region, my goal was to learn how to attract people.

By embracing the beauty of

Grand Canyon and the wide blue sky of Los Angeles, I realized the efficiency of the system and lifestyles in the United States. One thing I learned after exchanging with people of experience was that we shouldn't compare Japan with the United States. After acknowledging the good traits and differences, we should think of ways on how to make a difference for not only Japan but also worldwide. I will be conscious of my goals and original intentions and try my best day by day.

Frontier of International Exchange

Expressing Honor Leads to Loyal Education



— Impressive excavation of unknown predecessors of Doshisha in Iwate —

The population of Iwate Prefecture is 1,400,000 with latitude 40 (same as New York). Many famous forerunners were born and raised in Iwate Prefecture. The population of Morioka City is 300,000 and is known as the capital of Iwate Prefecture. It also serves as the central city for Aomori, Akita, and Northeastern parts of Japan.

The aim of the International Understanding Project is to foster and train persons so that they will have a global mind, which will enable them to serve their home country and contribute to world peace. The fruit of the project should be mentioned and emphasized. Paying respect to prominent forerunners of the international exchange program is indispensable. Let me introduce four distinguished forerunners in the field of international exchange programs: **Noe Fuchizawa, Tamenori Yamazaki, and Seiji Katagiri and his son, Tetsu.**

First of all, **Noe Fuchizawa** (1850 ~ 1936) was born and raised in Ishidoriya-cho, Iwate-Prefecture. She was an educator and was known as "The mother of women's education in Korea". In spite of her unfortunate childhood, Noe Fuchizawa studied abroad in the States and studied

Christianity at Doshisha. She went to Korea at the age of fifty-five and devoted the latter half of her life to women's education in Korea. She worked hard with a Christian mentality and was able to find her own way of life. She eventually established a famous women's college, Sunmyon Women's College, which celebrates its 100th anniversary this year.

The society of local women in Ishidoriya began to recognize Fuchizawa's contribution to the Korean society. Therefore, members of the women's society decided to start a project to honor Ms. Fuchizawa. The society sent delegates to Korea and they were very much impressed by her contributions to the Korean society. After coming back to Japan, the delegates began a project to honor Ms. Fuchizawa with support from the local government and Board of Education in Ishidoriya. With their support, many lectures about Noe Fuchizawa were given at elementary schools and junior high schools in Ishidoriya. Thus, Noe Fuchizawa's fame gradually spread throughout the local community by bathing in the light of local TV and newspapers, which featured a story about her life.

The children at Yaehata Elementary School in Ishidoriya dramatized Fuchizawa's life and made it into a play. One child acted as the bearded Doctor, Jo Neesima, which rejoiced the audience. The audience was pleased with the play. Syukuko Murakami, a member of the women's society, published the book, "The Life of Noe Fuchizawa" with the preface written by Dr. Yosinori Matsuyama, a former Chancellor of the Doshisha. Kan Bon Sikku, a professor at Iwate Prefectural University read Murakami's book and was so impressed by the book that he translated the book into

Korean and is selling well in Korea today.

Secondly, **Tamenori Yamazaki** (1857 ~ 1881) was born in Oshu City, which used to be Mizusawa City. He was also an educator and was considered to be one of "the three geniuses from Mizusawa" along with Shimpei Goto and Makoto Saito. He was affiliated with a Christian Association "Kumamoto Band" and entered Kaisei School (the present Tokyo University). He then transferred to Doshisha University.

Although Mr. Yamazaki was considered to be the successor of Dr. Jo Nijima, he died at the young age of 24 years old due to an illness. He was highly honored by great efforts of Mitsuo Takahashi.

After retiring as a high school teacher, he began to show interest in Christianity. Mr. Takahashi was also a Christian and was a member of Mizusawa Christian Church, which was founded by Yamazaki's peer and Doshisha English School graduate, Seiji Katagiri. It is known that the church has a history of 124 years. Mr. Takahashi was the first person to enthusiastically research on Mr. Yamazaki in Japan.

In February 2001, Mitsuo Takahashi was awarded "The Neesima Prize" for his books on Tamenori Yamazaki by Doshisha University. When he received the prize, Mr. Takahashi was overjoyed and stated, "My work has been acknowledged by research scholars. I have never been happier in my life."

Risa Yoshida, a junior high student at Doshisha, read "The Biography of Tamenori Yamazaki" a year before and she was deeply moved. She wrote an essay on the biography and turned it in for a contest that commemorates the anniversary of Neesima's 165th birthday. Her essay was chosen as one

of the most excellent essays and was awarded a prize last year. When I met Mr. Takahashi, he proudly showed me a thank you letter from Ms. Yoshida, which amazed me how well she had written for her age. I still remember how Mr. Takahashi couldn't help smiling while showing Ms. Yoshida's letter.

In March 2010, another book by Takahashi, "The Life of Tamenori Yamazaki" will be published. Last year, Mr. Takahashi was seriously sick 2 times and since he has been physically weak, he told me that he wasn't going to live long. He also stated that, "My work is to write about Tamenori Yamazaki and I put all my energy into it." I remember his words being full of energy and that it didn't show any sign of physical weakness.

Lastly, **Seiji Katagiri** (1856 ~ 1928) and his son, **Tetsu Katagiri** (1888 ~ 1982) were both born in Oshu City (the former Mizusawa City). Seiji Katagiri supported Dr. Jo Neesima in the early stage of Doshisha's foundation. His son, Tetsu Katagiri devoted his life to women's education in Doshisha's modernizing era. Seiji founded Mizusawa Church in Mizusawa, which will celebrate its 125th year of its foundation. He was the first pastor of Mizusawa Church and was also a pastor at Sendai Kita Church. He devoted his life to evangelical missionary work in the Tohoku area.

Tetsu Katagiri was the President of Doshisha Women's College for a long period of time. He was a theologian and an authority in Hebrew. He was also known as the "father of Doshisha Glee Club", which is a famous male choir at Doshisha.

In October 2007, the Iwate Doshisha Alumni Association managed to find a memorial monument honoring Reverend Seiji and Tetsu Katagiri. The

monument was completed in the sixth year since the project started. Doshisha alumni from all over Japan supported the project financially. Thankfully, the gracious monument honoring Seiji and Tetsu Katagiri was completed. The memorial ceremony held on October 13th included 20 family members, Doshisha's provost, chairman of the Board of Trustees, and other alumni. It was the biggest gathering since Iwate Doshisha Alumni Association started. Later, I received good news from beraved families that separated families came together due to the memorial ceremony being held. They also stated that they have gathered annually in front of the memorial monument, which is good news to the Iwate Chapter of Doshisha Alumni Association.

One usually says it takes 100 to 200 years to realize truly good education. We should move onward step by step to establish good education. For this purpose, we should never retrograde or blunder. It is our duty to inherit our predecessor's idea and dream to the next generation. By honoring our predecessors, we can truly educate the youngsters of the next generation. I can see that youngsters are gradually taking part in honoring their predecessors and I am quite sure that the spirit of predecessors abides in their hearts deeply. These four unknown predecessors were neither aggressive nor egocentric. They were unselfish predecessors and they are probably smiling shyly upon my comments. I hope they continue to watch over us now and always.

Suggestions for the international exchange programs

- 1) International exchange program should be based on deepening global understanding, nurturing global mind, helping one

- another, and world peace.
- 2) We have to make our community a friendlier place to live.
- 3) The adults are responsible for educating youngsters of the next-generation so that they contribute generously to the community.
- 4) We should do our best to attain success, happiness and world peace.
- 5) Thoughtfulness of others should be at the root of global understanding.
- 6) Today, not many youngsters have a chance to learn about the forerunners who have sacrificed their lives to global understanding. Those forerunners achieved their dreams and goals by having a global way of thinking, which also enabled them to study abroad and come up with international exchange programs. Hence, it's important to teach the youngsters about their forerunners.
- 7) I believe there is a strong connection between those forerunners and global understanding.
- 8) The people of the small towns in Iwate work hard toward international understanding. They cooperate and encourage each other toward the future. International understanding should shed light in the dark society.
- 9) It's a good idea to talk about the forerunners mentioned above to enlighten the society.
- 10) The people of the small towns in Iwate earnestly devote themselves to international exchange programs to promote global understanding. They are supportive of youngsters who are interested in international exchange programs.

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My Cherry Blossom Pilgrimage



When I first came to Japan, I knew I had to do two things before I left: eat sashimi and see the cherry blossoms bloom in Kyoto. Waiting for the season to come was the hardest part. Kyoto is a city with famously troublesome weather, exchanging hot muggy summers with bitterly cold winters, and often driving its wealthier residents to seek second homes elsewhere. Part of the reason why Kyoto residents admired the change in the seasons so much is because the city is practically unbearable in its extremes. When fall and spring come, though, the natural beauty within the city more than makes up for its chameleon nature. Foreigners and natives alike trek to Kyoto twice a year to pay homage to natural beauty with the backdrop of historical monuments - the ancient temples and shrines that are Kyoto's finest claim. First, they come in the fall, to see the mountains that ring the city turn crimson with maple leaves. But even this pales before the popularity of cherry blossoms in the spring.

Cherry-blossom viewing is a highly-anticipated event, complete with cherry blossom forecasts that show the "front"

moving across Japan. In the far southern islands of Okinawa, the cherries may display their petals as early as January, while in Hokkaido, the delicate petals often hide until well-into the spring. Kyoto's blossoms, on the other hand, are perfectly timed at the beginning of April, which the whole country recognizes as the time of spring and new beginnings. The beginning of April is the beginning of the Japanese school year as well as the fiscal year. It is the time when new employees begin their jobs. In Kyoto, the cherries appear as if to welcome them.

For me, *hanami* - or cherry-blossom viewing - would be an opportunity to finally see some of the famous sites of Kyoto as they are always pictured in guidebooks. The word *hanami*, I knew, implied a major expedition, usually packing some sake and treats as company for an extended contemplation of the trees. For my own cherry-blossom pilgrimage, I only took along a camera and enough coins to pick up whatever roadside sweets might catch my eye. I started out traveling light because I had a busy schedule in mind, strolling from one temple and famous spot to another throughout the afternoon. I worried that maybe I would miss the point of really appreciating the blossoms, but I was more worried about the weather: the sunny Sunday I picked to set out was the first day without rain in a week, and cherry blossoms are delicate enough that they can be prematurely ended by a powerful rain. This might be my only chance.

First blossoms at Maruyama

My adventure started when I took the train to Maruyama

Park - home of Kyoto's most famous cherry tree, an enormous shidare-zakura, known for its dangling, weeping-willow-like branches. I knew Maruyama Park as a mild, peaceful place - a little drab, perhaps, but pleasant enough, with strolling walks and small ponds dotted around an undistinguished landscape, and attracting the occasional street musician by the stream on sunny afternoons. So I thought I knew what I was getting into. I was wrong.

Without quite realizing it, I had always pictured cherry-blossom viewing as a solitary endeavor: standing on the dark bridge in the wind, watching the cascade of pale petals, contemplating my own mortality. I should have known better. Approaching Maruyama Park, the streets were so crowded with people that we crowded in single-file lines among a sea of heads. I looked up at the huge, branching cherry tree which forms the center of the display in Maruyama -- in the brilliant sunlight, it was a spectacular sight. All around its confines, a shuffling mass of people held up cellphones and blinked into screens obscured by the glare, trying to preserve a glimpse of history. Some posed in front of the blossoms, coached by friends with cameras. Even faced with a famous symbol of temporality, we can't resign our urge to arrest the past.

As I shuffled past the endless rows of *yatai*, or street stalls, I couldn't help gaping at the sheer numbers of people who had gathered in Maruyama. If the flowering cherries offered a profusion of petals, the crowds sprawled out on blue plastic mats in every corner of the park rivaled them for a proliferation of abundance. It turns out that the *saakuru*, or clubs, of Kyoto's many universities often gather at

Gion Station for their first welcoming-party of the new school year, and induct their new members under the trees at Maruyama Park. Anyone who doubts that ancient Kyoto is also a mecca for the young should observe the vast crowds here. As if to make the modern point, I turned from watching a busy stand selling grilled bamboo shoots to hear the cheerful, blaring tones of "Twist and Shout" echoing from a nearby loudspeaker, as the club who had brought the music twisted en masse to the pop music. The park was a cross between a festival and the largest street fair I'd ever seen.

Joining the crowds

The spectacle was overwhelming. America, of course, has its own seasonal events -- a steady trend of New Yorkers escape the city to see the fall colors change in rural New England, for example, and Independence Day celebrations (on July 4) are similar to the summer festivals here with happy families, fireworks, and food -- but there's no equivalent to the tantalizing one-week blooming time of the cherry blossoms to draw crowds of people in an extremely short period of time. (Legend has it that the ancient Japanese courtiers originally revered the earlier-blooming and fragrant plum blossoms more, but grew to prefer the cherry blossoms as more metaphorically poignant.) It's hard not to pick up some of the excitement, even if you're not affiliated with any of the groups, as I wasn't. I picked up a seasonal food, *sakuramochi* - a kind of mochi flavored with the pickled cherry blossom leaves and wrapped in a tree's leaf - and watched the "Twist and Shout" partiers improvise an on-the-spot dance. If

Heian courtiers spent these days listening to the plucked tunes of the Japanese *biwa* and savoring sweets from elaborate tea ceremonies, I thought, perhaps our community celebration at Maruyama Park wasn't far from the spirit of their well-rounded entertainment.

There are many wonderful cherry-blossom sights in Higashiyama, the "Eastern Mountains" area of Kyoto -- everything from the long rows of weeping cherry trees along the wide and shining Kamo River, to the pink and white blooms that flutter in front of old temples along the lovely "Philosopher's Path," wending along a narrow canal with the backdrop of green mountains. The *maiko* dancers in Gion every year prepare a traditional entertainment called the *Miyako Odori*, or the "Dance of the Old Capital," to celebrate the changing of the seasons and the coming of the spring -- and there, peacefully resting in the center of the teahouse's moss-and-stone garden, is a gentle pink cherry tree. I saw petals on the ground by the old Takasegawa Canal; and much later, when I ventured west of the city, I marveled at Kameoka forest awash in flowering cherries. For *hanami* in Kyoto, there's really no place you can't go.

Last farewells at Heian Shrine

And yet there is one place that everyone agrees must be held for the last, treasured in its fragility. In *The Makioka Sisters*, Juichiro Tanizaki writes of a fading Kansai family that steadily preserves its traditions with one sacred springtime visit, commemorating the Kyoto blossoms in a justly-famous passage: "The cherries in the Heian Shrine were left to the last because

they, of all the cherries in Kyoto, were the most beautiful. Now that the great weeping cherry in Gion was dying and its blossoms were growing paler each year, what was left to stand for the Kyoto spring if not the cherries in the Heian Shrine?" He wrote in the 1940s -- the great weeping cherry of Maruyama Park, I am glad to say, still survives. But the faith in the Heian Shrine as the emblem of all things Kyoto is stronger yet.

The Heian Shrine was only built in 1895, but it recaptures the essence of a much older capital dating back over a thousand years, to the days when Kyoto was first founded and known as "Heian-Kyo." That delicate past is now shrouded in mystery and myth, and many fleeting human lives have passed away from that day to this, as Kyoto endured through the ravages of fire and war more times than we can count. But the cherry blossoms still bloom every year. When I visited the Heian Shrine at last, the rain had begun to fall from a cloudy sky. In the wide garden of an aristocratic shrine, the cherry blossoms that draped everywhere from trellises began to reveal almost a noble look, a mournful character. Some were in full flower, a triumph of lovely endurance against the sky. Some were already beginning to fade. Such is the quick, silent joy of the cherry blossom season, and its yearly tragedy. For myself, I think I love the blossoms best that are "left to the last," and I'll treasure them -- until the spring, as always, comes once again.

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Miranda Hannasch (2009-2010 Amherst-Doshisha Fellow)



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Tradition and Modernization

YoungWoo Jang (Faculty of Economics, 5th Year, Korea)

On November 22, 2009, I interviewed Shonosuke Korenaga (Graduate of 1960, Faculty of Commerce), Secretary General of Kyoto Nishiki Market Shipping District Promotion Association with Marina Suga, Liu Cheng, and other staffs of the *Doshisha Student*.



Nishiki Market

Not only is Nishiki Market well known to locals but to foreigners also. This arcade

is definitely on the to-do list for tourists who look forward to experience Japanese cuisine. The merchants must have worked constantly to receive the fame it holds today. While having a history of more than 400 years, it kept up with the changing times and continued to use the traditional values as a weapon to succeed in the modern marketing.

During the interview, an interesting incident caught my attention. In 1967, there was a prevention of advancing large markets. Rumors spread that a major super market was planning for construction near the Nishiki Market. But before you knew it, Nishiki Market Shipping District Promotion Association purchased the

land from the landowner to stop the construction. By changing customary ways such as making price tags instead of saying prices out loud, securing walking pathways, and creating an arcaded street, it proposed modernization to other markets in Japan and worldwide too.

Nishiki Market succeeded to spread their name throughout the world. It created its own brand and gathered people with a trust that major super markets don't have. At some time or another, every business must face the problems of tradition and modernization. Through this interview, it made me realize the maintaining tradition is the form of modernization we aim for.



Shonosuke Korenaga

When I first came to Kyoto, I was absolutely clueless. But as I began to wander around the city, I gradually found interesting places such as the Nishiki Market. I was used to seeing

small markets in Korea, but there was something different about the Nishiki Market. The street was only three to five meters wide, 400 meters long, and I have never seen anything like it before.

Introduction of Club Activities

AFS: Would you like to have an international exchange? ~ Let's take a step forward ~

On November 12, 2009, an international exchange exhibition sponsored by the AFS Kyoto branch was held at the Kambaikan in Doshisha University. The AFS Kyoto branch plan and manage the admission of students from foreign countries and various events of international

exchange. The administration obtained support from the host family, host school, and volunteers of the working society and was conducted due to the student volunteers. It provides an opportunity for a close international exchange and I apply myself to the activity day by day

Shiho Kanai (Faculty of Policy Studies, 3rd Year)

believing that mutual understanding of the differences of countries lead to world peace. At the exhibition, they introduced international students who came to Kyoto through AFS and displayed a glimpse of their life in the city through pictures and videos. It also introduced

various international exchange events and explained how the students were going to interact with their host family. It was helpful to hear experiences of people who have been a host family in the past. There were people who stated, "Even though it takes courage to have an

international student in our own house, it actually looks like a lot of fun." I hope many people were able to take a step forward and that it made them want to be part of international exchanges by participating this event.



Kanai, far right

AIESEC: Doshisha Overseas Internship Program in 107 countries

Have you ever heard of AIESEC? If not, this is your chance to find out!

(What is AIESEC?) (www.aiesec.org) AIESEC is the largest student-run organization located over 107 countries and regions. There are more than 35,000 members throughout the world. We provide an international platform that allows young people to explore and develop their lead-

ership potential and to have a positive impact on society.

(How we work)

We provide valuable experiences to students through the Overseas Internship Program, which is held throughout the world. One may acquire valuable experiences that will lead to the future. Through AIESEC, we create a global-minded leadership, which holds values and skills that are

required in society.

(Types of Internships)

There are 4 types of Internships (Traineeship).
1. Management Traineeship (Work in companies)
2. Technical Traineeship (For students who have studied engineering)
3. Development Traineeship (Work in NGO, NPO)
4. Educational Traineeship (Work in schools)

(Advantages of the AIESEC Internship)

1. You can design your own internship (Choose from 107 countries, 4 types)
2. You will receive student support on deciding internships and during the internship.
3. Since AIESEC is a NPO and is run by students, the participation fee is CHEAP!

(The difference between volunteering and studying)

1. You can experience responsibilities through working (you will get paid).
2. You can experience working with people from different countries.

(History of AIESEC)

After World War 2 ended, a small group of university students in Europe found a way to develop leaders and alleviate tension between countries. They made an organization that allows



Sawada, fifth from far left (event at a Kindergarten)

students to gain leadership skills and reach a new level of cultural understanding through an international Internship Program.

DESA: Many International Exchanges

DESA is an official international exchange club at Doshisha University. We perform exchanges with international students from Stanford, Tübingen University, AKP, and many others. Not only do we conduct Japanese classes and campus tours requested by Doshisha

University, but we also plan out sightseeing trips to Kiyomizu temple, Arashiyama, Ryōan-ji, and Kinkakuji.

We also exchange with the international clubs of Keio University and Dokkyo University. During spring or summer break, we invite the international students of Keio

University to Kyoto and give them a tour of the city.

Therefore, we have been able to exchange with international students from various countries. The picture below is from when we went to go see the cherry blossoms at Goshō with the students of Tübingen University last

spring. We enjoyed some sukeroku sushi while gazing at the weeping cherry tree. Even though there were only 3 DESA members against 30 international students, we clicked right away since they were very outgoing by approaching us in Japanese. Approximately 4 months

later, the students of Tübingen University returned home. We were invited to their farewell party and it was amazing how much their Japanese skills had improved in such a short period of time.

It still surprises me how fluent they were in Japanese.



Sawada, far right, front row

SIVIO: Student Organization for International Cooperation

Ranko Fujiwara (Faculty of Economics, 3rd Year)

We are a student organization for international cooperation that supports education in Southeast Asia, Laos. Our goal is to have more people acknowledge the current situation of Laos, spread our activities, and to organize charity movements. We mainly hold club events,

parties, and street fund-raising. The profits from the events are used to build elementary schools in Laos. Not only is SIVIO active in the Kansai region, but also in all three branches of the Kanto region with approximately 120 active members. Two years ago, we

were successful in constructing an elementary school in Don Khon, Laos. But since the number of students increased, there weren't enough classrooms. Therefore, we made a plan to construct an additional school. In February, members visited due to the study tours

and held a transferring ceremony of the completion of the additional building. We were given a precious opportunity to have a home-stay and were able to experience the culture and customs of Laos by exchanging with the villagers and children. We, SIVIO, will

continue to support the education of Laos and conduct charity movements by involving people throughout the world. I will keep on challenging.



Enjoyable charity movement

Photos from the front page are quoted from the following HP.

"Getty Images" <http://girlsforacause.wordpress.com/2009/04/06/clothing-exchange/>

"Free-Extras" <http://www.free-extras.com/search/1/holding+hands.htm>

"Best Wedding Rings" <http://cheap-wedding-favors.blogspot.com/2008/08/best-wedding-ring.html>

"Forever 21" <http://www.forever21.com/product.asp?catalog%5Fname=FOREVER21&category%5Fname=dress&product%5Fid=2072549223&Page=2&pgcount=100#>