



The Asahisha Student

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Travel

I love to travel and have always been interested in going to new places and having new experiences. I have now been to several cities and countries, but I think my most memorable trip was when I visited Korea. Although I had been living in Japan for six months, I was not prepared for my experience in Korea. It was completely different; from the food and culture to the language and people. Korea was full of unexpected surprises,

My Most Memorable Trip: Korea

but I enjoyed every minute of it! In Korea I visited the towns of Seoul, Jeju, Busan, and Gyeongju. Seoul was a huge metropolis, much like Tokyo or New York City. There were so many things to do. On the first night my friends and I went out to eat our first taste of authentic Korean food in Korea. We all spoke virtually no Korean, therefore we could not read the menus. In this particular restaurant there were no English menus and no one could really speak English, therefore we had to point at what we thought might be appetizing and hope for the best. It was all

delicious, but because everything was so spicy, we all learned how to say the word "water" in Korean very quickly. We visited palaces, towers, and went to the infamous DMZ, or Demilitarized Zone. It is the border between North Korea and South Korea at the 38 parallel. It was the most militarized place I have ever seen in my life. It was quite an eye opening experience. After Seoul, we all went to Jeju. Jeju is a beautiful island in southern Korea. It was absolutely gorgeous. The water was so clear and clean. It felt like a dream. We climbed mountains, explored

caves and took so many pictures. I definitely recommend Jeju for anyone vacationing in Korea. We took a ferry from Jeju and visited Busan. It reminded me so much of Seoul and many other big cities. We did not do as much there, but we did go up Busan Tower. From the tower, one can see monuments dedicated to the Korean War. We left Busan and headed to Gyeongju by bus. Gyeongju is a very historic city in South Korea. We saw many tombs and ancient sites. We even visited some temples. They look similar to their Japanese counterparts, only

the color scheme was very different. Many of them were purple and green. In Kyoto, when I think of temples, I usually think of the color red. I believe most of Korea was similar, yet so different from Japan. Finally, we went back to Seoul on a free bus from Gyeongju. It was free for all foreigners. My experience in Korea was so different in language and culture, but it gave me a yearning to visit Korea again someday. I definitely want to go back, but this time, I would like to know something about the culture and speak the language.



Evans, second from far left

"An Experience is Always Good"

I have been kindly asked to write a little about myself and my travels. My name is Marcus and I am born, and have lived for most of my 21 years, in Stockholm, Sweden and have fairly recently come to Japan and lived here for about a year. I have had many interests over the years such as rugby, martial arts and reading. But one of all my interests has followed me like my own shadow throughout the years. Languages. Speaking and understanding foreign languages has always intrigued me and I picked up small phrases of English when I traveled with my grandparents in my pre-school years. Receiving praise and amused smiles from the kind people of the places we went to was enough to fuel my interest throughout the early school years. In my teens I started to travel alone to different places and got to use and

exercise the English and Spanish I had been studying. I realized what my mother's intentions might have been when she encouraged my language studies. Being able to speak and understand a foreign language, even if only a little, does not only help you get by but also makes the very thought of travelling a more enjoyable experience. During high school I decided that studying Swedish, English and Spanish was not enough to get by all over the world, even though knowing two languages that an incredible amount of people know or at least understand would let me get by on most continents. I looked at the list of the Asian languages available at my school and applied for the Japanese classes which directed my gaze towards Japan, studied for three years at high school and continued a year at the university before departing

Marcus Ekarana (Kyoto Institute of Culture & Language, 2010-, Sweden)

the greatest adventure in my life. Coming to Japan. When it comes to travel there are of course a multitude of views, mental images and concepts which meaning and design that surely varies depending on the different experiences a person may possess. In my case traveling has become something more than taking myself from point A to point B do X amount of activities before returning to point A. I have come to view traveling as something like a, as silly as it may sound, modern way of adventuring. When you read books of great adventures such as the Odysseys or Lord of the Rings etc. you have the element of progression of both action and character through travel. I believe that travel is not only a way to spend a vacation on a comfortable place but also a way of getting to know more about different cultures, different

people and oneself. Because through the reactions and experiences you attain during your travels you will get to know how you feel, react and think in situations outside your everyday life and I believe that through that you will use those experiences to mature, though that is not automatic I'm afraid. Gathering experiences whilst traveling is not only a thing only oneself and one's companions can enjoy but when either returning to point A or moving on to the next place you can still tell stories of special events of your travels to the people you meet on the way and in turn you could also get to hear one or two stories related to your own. Being able to share one's experiences might be a wonderful way to get closer with the people around you, if told in moderate amounts. I have been told by family and friends that I should write it all

down, but as I am the person not knowing where to start I have not taken that up, yet. However I believe it could be an interesting way to record one's adventures and be able to reminisce when one's memory does not serve as it did once. I remember sitting by the table in the living room with my grandfather and listening to his adventures for hours, so it might be a great thing to share those experiences with the coming generations. Of course, travel is not a dance on a flowered field in full bloom. There are mishaps, accidents and other not as enjoyable factors in traveling. Such as being robbed, getting lost in a country when you cannot speak the language or some other uncomfortable situation where just common sense is not enough to get you out of that situation. I have ended up in some situations but with

common sense, but mostly a fair amount of sheer luck, managed to get by. It has given me a bit of a new way of thinking which I employ whenever something enjoyable or less enjoyable happens on my adventures. I came to think of it one night in Malta where I had my share of problems. Before I stop typing I wish to share that with you. "An experience is always good. You might dislike the result of it, but it is always good." I wish you all luck on your future adventures.



The Trip to Maldives

My wife and I took a one week of our summer break to go to Maldives. Maldives is not fairly known in Japan. But in my country, China, it is known as the heaven for tourists and it is also a place any new brides would want to go as their honeymoon. Maldives is an island nation made up of 1,198 islands in the Indian Ocean located in the southwest of Sri Lanka. Maldives, a beautiful island known for long time as "the pearl necklace," is now popular for the luxurious resorts. The basic styles of these kinds of resorts are one island per one resort with private spaces. Fundamentally, in Maldives, one hotel equals one island. With that, many people who come to

visit Maldives use their time mainly to relax at their hotels rather than traveling around to certain places. Male is the smallest capital in the world, and it is located at the southern edge of North Male Atoll. Here, you can see what the people's lifestyle is like. We found an inexpensive Maldives Tour from a Chinese Tour Company. We traveled by plane from Taiwan to Kuala Lumpur in Malaysia, and with 12 hours of flight, we finally reached to the capital Male in Maldives. When we arrived at Male, it was already 3 in the afternoon. However, I couldn't wait to see the beautiful ocean view on the next day, because I have only seen it on television when I was a child.

Zhou Weiwei (Business School, 2nd Year, China)

I was so thrilled that I didn't feel tired at all from the 12 hours of plane ride. In the Exist of the Male airport, staffs from "ANGSANA IHURU" a hotel we registered, came to pick us up. From the Male airport, we rode a small boat and headed to our hotel. Four staffs came to assist us, but there were only two of us as their customers. I felt really good by being assisted by so many staffs. In the dark, the small boat continued to drive forward. After 25 minutes, we reached our hotel. A woman welcomed us inside and as I looked at her, she was a Japanese name "Kana-chan." I asked what she was doing in Maldives, and she said she is attending a special training school for Switzerland

hotels and was sent to Maldives for her internship. We checked in our hotel, and were escorted to our room. The room had a hot spring bath and when we opened the door on the backside of the room, there was a deck chair and a hammock. Also the backyard was filled with palm trees and tropical plants along with the beach right in front of us. Anywhere around the area, except for bars and restaurants, there were no internet connections or televisions. This was a way for people to forget about the busy everyday lives and enjoy the soothing time on the island. When we finished eating breakfast, we started our first day out

at Maldives. In the morning, the water temperature was relatively high, so many divers went out to the sea after their morning breakfast. There were magnificent corals, and various shapes and sizes of fish swimming around the sea. I was deeply moved by watching them. After diving for three days, I could get close to a sea turtle and a shark. I felt really scared when I noticed a shark, twice as big as my height, was swimming 50 meters below where I was. A cold sweat ran down my spine when I noticed it. We went back to our room, after going diving, and took a shower. But because the ocean was so beautiful like anything I have ever seen before, I went back there again three or four times and took a shower every time I came out from diving. During the afternoon, we took a five minute ride on a boat to

go to an affiliated resort called "VABBINFARU" run by "BANYAN TREE," the same enterprise hotel of a major company. We saw a show of people giving out foods to sharks. We gave out foods ourselves to the parrots that flew from the forest. We really enjoyed our time out in nature. At night, we gathered around a dining table and enjoyed our foods and excellent sake while we watched the musical show. We had a very wonderful day.



At Vabbinfaru Island

The Memories of My Vacation: Kyushu

Do you remember the time when you counted the days until the field trip and couldn't sleep because you were all excited about it? Or maybe there were times when you were afraid the field trip might get canceled from the bad weather and checking the forecast every time you wake up. You might have felt frustrated or worried then. But with all those feelings in mind, you eventually took your mother's home-made lunch box, and left the house with joy. This is something you probably have experienced during your childhood. As I became older, I have realized that during my childhood, I wasn't able to experience something more than what I had when I was young. But, I wasn't disappointed, because there was something better than a school field trip, a vacation! Vacation is an opportunity for people to have a break and refresh ourselves from a tired and boring everyday

lives. Also, it is a time in life when people can have, once again, those excitements, in their childhood. The vacation I went four years ago, a trip to Kyusyu, was the most memorable trips of all. There are two reasons why I think this. The first reason is this vacation was a gift from my family to congratulate me for having to overcome the difficulties and being able to enter at a university. The second reason is this vacation was the first time to travel abroad with my whole family. For the first time in my life, I traveled in Kyusyu. There are four places I want to introduce to you. First place was the village of Yufuin in Oita Prefecture. It is located in a highland 452 meters above the sea level, holds the peaceful atmosphere with fresh air. In this village, the villagers sold many cute and gorgeous products.

Seon Hyeri (Center for Japanese Language & Culture, Chonnam National University Exchange Student, 2010 Sept-2011 February, Korea)

Second place was the city located an hour away from Yufuin called Beppu, where it is widely known not just in Japan but also in Korea. This place was amazing because it is the biggest place in Japan where many hot springs erupt. This hot springs, however, emit from below 300 meters with hot steam and mud water creates a place like hell. These hot springs were called JigokuOnsen. These Onsen as Japanese think them like hell. Along with the JigokuOnsen, there was a different type called a Umijigoku, the hell of the sea. This Onsen got its name from the mixture of the dark emerald light, similar to the ocean color, of the lake and the hot steam appearing just above the surface. Each of the eight hot springs holds different traits from each other and I was able to understand them from the translated explanations kindly placed near each of the hot springs. From

visiting these Onsen, I enjoyed, for the first time, the hot springs there. Third place was the Mount Aso, a largest active volcano in Japan. The magnificent nature there took my breath away. You can't find anything like this in Korea. Also, there is the Kumamoto Castle, considered as one of the premier castles in Japan along with the Himeji Castle and Matsumoto Castle. It still keeps the trace of the history. They are the two most famous places in Kyusyu areas. I also want to mention the Dazaifu Tenmangu in Fukuoka Prefecture. This Shinto shrine is dedicated to Sugawara Michizane, who is known as the god of scholarship. This Shinto shrine is listed as one of the important cultural properties of Japan. This place was judged by the Japanese Agency as the important place for Japanese people. Every year, many people visit the Dazaifu

Tenmangu to pray and worship their gods. When I visited there, I saw many high school students, visiting by a chartered bus, to pray for good luck on their upcoming exams. Traveling, I think, matters who you travel with: friends or family. To me, I felt I had a wonderful vacation and a fantastic time because I traveled with my lovely family. After four years passed, each person in my family is going back to the busy life. But sometimes we think back to those terrific times we had together on a Kyusyu trip. Although I am living with my family, it is not easy to spend time together with them since we all have our own work to do. However, the little time, and the memories we spent together will never be forgotten. These memories, with my friends and family, will give me strength throughout my whole life. I think it is a good idea to

sometimes leave every work you have to do behind and go traveling. It not only gives you time to relax but it also gives you the chance to get to know about yourself better. So through away what you got in front of you and travel somewhere with your neighbors, your family, or your friends! There might be a chance, when you go traveling, to feel those excitements just like when you were young!!



Beppu Hot Spring

Challenging is Everything ~from studying in Korea~

I have decided to study abroad for two reasons. The first reason is I wanted to know more about a country next to Japan. The second reason is I wanted to acquire a skill to speak Korean. During the time when "Winter Sonata," series of television drama, was broadcasted, there were Korean waves and booms in Japan. However, there weren't much of them unlike today. Because of this, many people ask me, "Why are you going to study at Korea?" I thought many Japanese didn't know about Korea, a country next door. What is the difference between Japan and Korea? What are the lives of teenagers like? I was simply just curious.

There are many similarities, as well as differences, between Japan and Korea. The biggest difference is that there are military services in Korea. The eldest son in the host family is in the military service now. He is attending college, and living a normal life. Unfortunately, if he receives convocation from the country, then he will have to stay in the army for about two years. Even though people like him who is living a normal life, I couldn't believe there are military services pulled away from the world we live in. The Koreans have warm hearts and they are very powerful. Once I get closer to them, they treat

me like a family. People are very close distance with each other. For example, it is normal for girls to hold hands with another girl. There was also a time when a girl, who sat behind me, braided my hair during a class period. When I was studying in Korea, I came to understand how gentle Koreans were. I was very surprised that Japanese idols and dramas were really popular in Korea. However when it comes to news on television, it only picks up the scenes in which Koreans are burning the Japanese flag of Hinomaru. There could possibly be the opposite as well. Nonetheless, not all Koreans feel hatred toward Japan, and vice versa.

In Korea, August 15th is a public holiday when Korea was liberated. I was there on that day. Not knowing when a demonstration could occur, a large number of police men scattered around the city. But, almost all the people who were there avoided taking those roads with police men. Many people were afraid of these guards who were behaving excessively. I have realized that the world seen on television was different from the world I saw. I strongly felt that it is more important to see the real world yourself than to accept the given information. Korea is a country known to be far but also close to Japan.

As of now, the import and export of the different cultures were commonly held. I am happy that Japan and Korea are close not only by their distances but also by their cultures. Because of this, Korea became a place where people could travel easily even on their weekends. From now on, I wish that Korea and Japan will continue to have a respect for and understand about each other. From my experience of studying in Korea, I have realized that it is importance to challenge yourself with anything. I took the chance of going to Korea, and made it come true. When I was there, I talked with a lot people than when I was in Japan, and I

challenged myself with everything I could. I have found out that things will change if you take action before thinking about it. Studying at Korea, gave me the valuable experiences I have ever had!



Shinohara, center. "I was strongly impressed with the traditional arts of Korea"

My Journey & Me: Budapest in Hungary

I really love to travel with meeting new people, making new friends, and experiencing things I normally couldn't do. I get really excited when I hear the word "travel." But most of all, I love traveling because I get to share the most memorable times with my friends and becoming "truer" friends. I get really excited that I can't sometimes sleep before taking off to a new journey.

I have been to America, Mexico, Brazil, Korea, Italy, Australia, Switzerland, Portugal, Hungary, France, England and Germany. Out of all those places I have been to, I want to introduce to you the most memorable trip I had.

I want to talk about the trip to Budapest in Hungary. A friend I went with was a Brazilian dorm

mate who I met when I was studying at Germany. He was a closest friend as well. This was an unforgettable trip because it was my first time to travel with a foreigner. Not only that, but I was also able to experience something I normally couldn't do. To tell the truth, I was very worried about how the vacation was going to turn out, but in the end, it was a best trip ever!

The first day when my friend and I arrived in Budapest, it was already dark and we went into the city to have dinner. Then, a Russian lady came up to ask if we had a map and she invited us to have a cup of coffee. She then led us there. But it wasn't a cup of coffee but rather champagne! We weren't given a menu and the lady already ordered the

drinks for us. By the time the bill came, and looked at it, it was 70 euros per glass of champagne! It was a pain for us because we were trying to make the vacation as cheap as possible. The Russian lady forced us to pay. We realized this woman was teamed up with this bar! We were, thankfully, able to pay the 140 euros. We immediately went back to our hotel after we paid for our drinks, and talked to an employee about a problem we just faced. An employee said, "What you two just experienced was the Budapest best way for the visitors to be tricked." "Usually," as he continued, "The woman takes 500 euros." Compared to that, my friend and I were lucky. We just looked at each other and started laughing. Afterwards, we

Naoto Oishi (Faculty of Economics, 4th Year)

went to the pub to have some drinks and talked a lot. Normally when you have this sort of experience, you feel you just had a bad start on your trip. For me, I just set it as "I bought a good experience with a cheaper price."

We had many more problems along the way but the trip to Budapest truly was a great vacation. The Chinese woman, who we met at the hostel, also came with us to Budapest. We all went to the beautiful places, ate delicious foods, and celebrated the New Years together. My friend and I

had a small fight here and there, but we got over soon enough. Going traveling with a friend and sharing the same time together, being able to experience many things, made this trip wonderful.

Traveling to me, is not just eating the countries' particular meal or looking at the great view. It is also meeting with different people and traveling with your friends and making it into a memorable trip. I want to continue to travel with my friends more, and experience more things. I hope to make



Oishi, left, with the Brazilian friend

more valuable experiences throughout the rest of my life. Hope everyone will find your own traveling styles and create your own memorable trips!

Discover Perth

I have traveled to more than 20 countries through my life. Recalling my memories of travel, I would like to introduce to you especially about Perth in Australia.

Although I have only stayed there for 4 days, it was one of the unforgettable trips I have ever had. I visited there because of a school competition called "Vis Moot." When four of us, including myself, have arrived in Australia at midnight, we first took off our coats. Because the season was opposite than Japan, the temperature was 35 degrees celsius in middle of March.

Perth is such a beautiful city. We could not help without sightseeing. Passing through the three-lane road, I saw everybody wearing sunglasses while jogging, walking to work or walking with their dogs. On the half way, we rode the bus and went toward

Ruriko Mitsuishi (Faculty of Law, 3rd Year)

the Kings Park. Kings Park is located on top of the hill. Once we got there, the wide view of town welcomed us. The view attracted us and we kept taking pictures.

Afterwards, we headed for the beach for sunset. After 3 stops by taking train from our hotel, the long coast appeared. We walked around the beach like other Australian kids did with bare foot. During the sunset, I was fascinated by its natural beauty.

Foods were very important for us. While staying at Perth, we ate and ate especially seafood. My favorite was lobster with fried Karameros. Lobster is a giant shrimp about 20~30cm, and it is locally known seafood for Australians. Yum.yum.yum. During my trip, I forgot about the diet.

I was glad to have this won-

derful opportunity to know about Perth. Taking a journey, you sometimes experience unexpected happenings, but at the same time, you can find something special that might change your point of view. This is the reason why I like traveling. At last, I would like to remind university students, "People, get out of Japan, and let's explore the world!"



Mitsuishi, far left

Review



Three exchange students, three Japanese students, and myself, wrote articles on "Traveling." I found common points that impressed the writers about traveling. I organized them into four parts.

1. Being surrounded by nature and taking the time off from their busy lives.
Faith Evans wrote an article about his time in Korea. She enjoyed visiting famous attraction sites and eating the local foods.
2. Experienced the language, the culture, and the customs of other regions as well as of

Zhou Weiwei (Business School, 2nd Year)

other countries. They had unusual experiences, and cross-cultural experiences.

3. What the writers have felt or discovered from the experiences above. While Yui Shinohara was studying in South Korea, she had experienced meeting up with the South Korean military service and was able to get in touch with the local residents there. Also, they felt that they should not believe what the mass media broadcasts about the relationship between Korea and Japan. In Marcus Ekarana and Ruriko Mitsuishi articles wrote about how their experiences of the cross-cultural communications changed them. It brought them a wider field of vision, accepts the different cultures and changed their way of thinking.
4. Having wonderful times with their companions.

Seon Hyeri wrote about his family vacation and I wrote about a honeymoon trip with my wife. Both articles gave the understanding of the strong family relationships in Korea

and China.

Naoto Oishi article was about a story of his trip in Hungary with his Brazilian friend, who he met while he was studying abroad. Although his money was stolen by a Hungarian woman, they accepted this unpleasant problem and considered it as "buying a good experience with cheap price." By honestly accepting and being optimistic about this problem, made this trip to be unforgettable.

While I was reading their article, the images of their experiences appeared in my mind, and I felt exactly the same way as the writers have felt while they were writing their articles. It is very difficult to say to do things like what the writer have done, unless they actually travel to certain places and experience many things there. Those experiences, those thoughts, those feelings, that they have gained while traveling are very valuable and, may give clues to your future dreams or goals.

International Exchanges

Frontier of International Exchange

Hisakazu Takagi (Graduate of 1964)

(Editor's note) Takagi made a speech on June 21 at Doshisha University. He was a former Deputy Mayor of Kyoto City, and now he is a Chairman of Advanced Scientific Technology & Management Research Institute of KYOTO.

What does being "international" essentially mean? Instead of a straight answer to this question, a discussion is generally made

about some examples such as international persons, companies, cities, or countries. As many people have experienced, quite a lot of time, is spent excitedly for such a discussion. It is also interesting that the discussion is made to compare with others. For example, most participants speak in comparison with other universities not only in Japan but also in other countries, when discussing whether the Doshisha

University is "international" or not. In other words, it is a kind of examination to evaluate how "international" Doshisha is.

To avoid such endless examination on international quality, I would like to focus my discussion on people. Thinking of the present situation of the world, international understanding is the most important. People need two common methods, at least, to understand each other. One is a

common language, as a matter of course, and it is generally English. The other is logics which are more important but more difficult for most Japanese.

Many meetings of various levels are held every day in the world. People talk, discuss, debate and argue officially or personally. They do not always reach some agreement but they often come to an understanding of differences among the attendants. People are not free from their national backgrounds such as politically, economically, socially, religiously, or culturally. The recognition of mutual differences surely nourishes an understanding and friendship.

Unfortunately we, the Japanese are not ready for a logical debate. We do not like to answer "no" to most of the questions we are asked. In the English language, however, all simple questions are expected to be answered as "yes" or "no". When the Japanese answer neither "yes" nor "no", the questioner hardly

understands what the answer means. We do not want to hurt anyone by apparent objection or refusal. It comes from the Japanese cultural background. Japanese often understand each other even in silence but silence means nothing to foreign people. They may not agree with us, but we must try our utmost logical efforts to let them know the differences. When we talk about such differences, just be reminded that it is neither your difference nor my difference. It is the difference between the two of us.

An important domestic problem is instantly an important global issue nowadays. The accident of the Fukushima nuclear power plant is a typical example. Everybody says that the necessity of nuclear energy must be discussed all over the world. This is an issue which needs one definite answer through serious debates. We, the Japanese people, must realize what we need are not emotional comments but rather logical abilities to such debates.

In addition, we must listen very carefully to others if we want to be logical and persuasive.

Owing to the kind participants of the meeting on June 21st, the model debate on the necessity of nuclear energy was quite interesting. Let us learn to be logical. Let us listen carefully to our opponents to hold good logics. Let us insist on whatever we believe is right. The door to democracy and good understanding will be open to make our world happier.



My Hometown's International Exchange- Nara

After finishing up my job hunting in Tokyo, I returned to my hometown in Nara Prefecture. When I got off at the train station, I had this feeling of relief. Within the ten years, the view of Nara Prefecture changed. However, the atmosphere and the feelings people had did not. Because Nara is known as a bed town of Osaka, many people consider this city as their hometown. After a long busy day, the evenings of Nara look so relaxed and those faces cover all around the city.

When people hear "Nara," they

think of the Todaiji or the Kofukujii temples. At the Nara Park, people give treats to the deer with deer cookies. Once you climb the Wakakusa Mountain, you can see the nature that only exists in Nara. All the kindergarteners, in the school I used to go to, had to climb every year as class called "Wakakusa Mountain Climbing." I still remember the saying, "If you climbed the Wakakusa Mountain, you are a child from Nara." This place is a very familiar to the local residents.

Taking in one step from the

shopping streets in front of the Nara Station, there is a beautiful district with latticework townhouses. This is a very interesting town because in front of all the houses, there are red stuffed monkeys hanging around. It is the "Nara City" of today which captures the image of the Edo and the Meiji periods. In the Nara prefecture, there used to be a capital located at Gekyo inside the Heijo-kyo. It is a city that changed over time where shrines and temples became part of the businesses and turned the city into a place for sightseeing. "The

Machi-ya," or a town that is still kept since the Meiji period, has features of narrow frontages, and wide depths. The reason goes back in time when this city used to be a place for businesses. The people who lived there constructed the stores equally along the streets to make the buying and selling easier. In addition, inside the "Machi-ya," there are kitchen stoves and on top of that, there are the "smoke passageways." These passages are used when the fire woods are burned, the smoke leads to a well and to the "smoke

passageways" standing on the rooftop. At the same time, the smoke also has a role of protecting the pillars supporting the houses and keeping the insects away from the beams.

"Nara City," is a place where you can understand the traditional ways of people who lived in Machi-ya and experience the lifestyle during that time period. This is the place I encourage people to visit when coming to Nara. Nara is a place where many gentle and polite inhabitants live and also a place with a history of the past. I hope

many people will visit and learn about Nara!



Naramachi

3.11 A Day to Remember

3.11. The day a massive earthquake and a tsunami stricken in Iwate, Miyagi, and Fukushima Prefectures. These natural triple disasters destroyed everything: homes, railroads, cars, and most of all, took away the lives of people's loved ones. Listening to the news and watching stories on television about these affected areas were not enough for me. I wanted to actually go there, and picture with my own eyes. I just felt like I needed to go and so I did.

I applied to a club called Kansai Student Network for 3.11, which concentrates on the problems of the nuclear power plant in Fukushima and do recovery works in Iwate and Miyagi. I registered online right away when I saw a sign in front of the Imadegawa campus. I imagined it would be safer for me to go with students from the same university.

At first, when I applied for the recovery works program, I wasn't frustrated or nervous at all. However, on a week before Tohoku, I was starting to feel really worried. I thought to myself, "Are you capable and willing to do this? Do you have the strength to help the tsunami victims with whatever they need?" These questions circled around my head as I started packing my belongings

into a suitcase.

With tons of feelings in mind, I set myself off to tohoku, the place most need of support. The first day was tiresome, because the four of us, including myself, had to ride the night bus for twelve hours!! Even though I wasn't able to sleep for couple of hours, the four of us arrived at Sendai, the largest city in Miyagi Prefecture. Luckily, the Sendai city didn't have many problems unlike other cities around. The places where I stayed at for a few days were nothing compared to the Sendai city. After taking a rest at near Sendai Station, we took the night bus again for a few hours to reach our final destination in Tono of Iwate Prefecture. Tono city, from the support of "The Union Association of Iwate," is a place where we booked for a couple of nights. A few blocks from there, is the volunteer center of Tono in which all our works at the disaster-stricken areas in Iwate prefecture will be mainly organized. The actual work started on the third day in Tohoku.

First work day was at a temporary housing in Otsuchi. Our assignment was to pick up the weed and dirt to clear around the temporary housing. Picking up weed may sound very easy, but when the roots were all bind

Shinobu Ando (Faculty of Letters, 2nd Year)

together and connected with other grasses, it needed lots of power. The narrow water pipe was filled completely with the soft mud which caused it difficult to see the bottom. After most of the weeds were picked, we headed back to the volunteer center. The time was about 2 in the afternoon, but my back already hurt a little. The residents, who lived in the temporary housing of where we worked, gave us a gift of one drink per person along with a bag of chocolates. It was a way for them to say "thank you" to us and I felt really grateful of their kindness.

The second day was at Rikuzentakata, the most devastated area in the Iwate Prefecture. Because this area was a disaster-hit region, many volunteers were needed. About 100 volunteers went to help out. I was one of them. When we arrived at the starting point, we were separated into small groups to take each section on the long railroads of JR Ofunato line. We picked up rubble around the railroad tracks and separated them into recyclables and non-recyclables. As I looked around, while I was taking my break from work, I couldn't believe that there were still many more rubble scattered around the area. It was very difficult to see an end to it. The

workplace, where we were, was right in front of the sea. I was afraid when the tsunami may hit again or when another earthquake might stricken. Our leader told us, if any tidal wave come near, run as fast as you can to higher ground. Don't save anyone but yourself. What he told us just hurt me. I couldn't think when the tsunami may hit again but I knew that I had to be careful about the tsunami or the earthquake. I felt worried, frustrated, afraid, and scared after the warning. But I had to keep working because that is the reason I came to Tohoku for. I continued to pick up a little debris until it was time to wrap up. With rain starting to pour on us, we left Rikuzentakata and headed back to the volunteer center.

My last work day was at Kamaishi. Similar to the work at Rikuzentakata, we were separated into six small groups, and divided the work by sections. My group, of about 10 people including myself, was assigned to work on the base of a house left with nothing but dirt and weed. What I first did was to shovel out the grass and to pick them up. Later, after the lunch break, I picked up small debris that covered a place which may have been the flower garden. As we were finishing up our work, a woman

who lived near our working area, gave us an Amazake to keep us warm. I felt really relaxed and got some energy from it. When the time came to end our work, the same woman gave us a bag of snacks as a treat for our hard work. I couldn't believe how nice she was! I thought I was going to start crying from how much people appreciated and thanked us from the bottom of their hearts. With those treats in hand, our group and others headed back to Tono volunteer center.

After three days of work, four of us left Tono and went back to Sendai and back home to Kyoto.

I felt... from going to Tohoku, the world featured on television is nothing like what I actually saw.

I understood... from doing volunteer work for three days, there aren't enough helpers working on these areas. The hands of the volunteers are still not enough. From talking with the Tsunami victims in Miyagi Prefecture, I have understood that they have not lost their hopes and their dreams. They are working very hard, every minute of every second, to bring back these

Essays

places once again, Iwate and Miyagi Prefectures, to the beautiful places like before.

I hope to continue to tell my experiences that I obtained in Tohoku to my friends and hope one day they will do the same.

I want to take this opportunity to thank those who supported us while we were in Tohoku. I wish to go back to Iwate and Miyagi again to help out more people who are in need of help.



a Charity T-Shirt

Festivals in China

Lu YeDanZhi (Faculty of Science & Engineering, 3rd Year)

As we know, there are a lot of festivals in China. Today, I'd like to introduce four of them.

The Lantern Festival

Lantern Festival is a China's traditional festival. It is celebrated on the fifteenth day of the first month of the lunar year.

Lantern Festival is one of the biggest holidays in China. Several days before Lantern Festival, people begin to make lanterns. Lanterns are made in the shape of different animals, vegetables, fruits and many other things. While making lanterns, people usually write riddles on lanterns. On the eve of Lantern Festival, all the lanterns are hung up. On Lantern Festival people go outside to have a look at the lanterns and guess the riddles on them. Perhaps you can see some wonderful folk performance, Dragon Dance and Yangko. Everything is very interesting and everyone is very happy. Our lives are rich and varied.

The Mid Autumn Festival

Mid Autumn Festival is a traditional festival of China. It used to be as important as Spring Festival. It is usually celebrated in September or October. This festival is to celebrate the harvest and to enjoy the beautiful moon light. To some extent, it is like Thanksgiving Day in America or Canada. On this day, people usually get together with their families and have a nice meal. Afterwards, people always eat delicious moon cakes, and watch the moon. The moon is always very round on that day, and makes people think of their relatives and friends. It is a day of pleasure and happiness. Hope you have a wonderful Mid Autumn festival!

The Chinese Dragon Boat Festival

The Dragon Boat Festival occurs on the fifth day of the fifth moon of the lunar calendar. It is one of the three most important annual Chinese festivals. The other two are the Autumn Moon Festival and the Chinese New Year.

The story of this colorful festival concerns a famous Chinese scholar-statesman named Chu Yuan who, some three centuries

before the birth of Christ, served the King of Chu during the Warring States period. As a loyal minister, Chu Yuan at first enjoyed the full confidence and respect of his sovereign. Eventually, through the intrigues of his rivals, he was discredited.

Chu Yuan was never able to regain the emperor's favor and on the fifth day of the fifth moon in the year 295 B.C. (Before Christ), at the age of 37, Chu Yuan clasped a stone to his chest and plunged into the Milo River in the Hunan Province.

Respecting the minister as an upright and honest man, the people who lived in the area jumped out of their boats and rushed out in a vain search for him. This unsuccessful rescue attempt is a part of what the Dragon Boat Festival commemorates every year.

Probably the most exciting and interesting aspect of the festival is the racing of the Dragon Boats. These races not only symbolize the people's attempt to save Chu Yuan, but they also demonstrate the Chinese virtues of cooperation and teamwork.

Another activity of the Festival is the making and the eating of a kind of dumpling called *Tzungtzu*. When it became known that Chu Yuan was gone forever, people, living along the river, threw cooked rice into the water as a sacrifice to their dead hero. They wrapped rice in bamboo leaves, and stuffed it with ham, beans, bean paste, salted egg yolks, sausages, nuts, and/or vegetables.

To the Chinese people the fifth lunar moon is more than just the Dragon Boat Festival. Since antiquity, they have believed that this month is a pestilential and danger-fraught period. Children born in this month are said to be difficult to raise, and people tend to concentrate their efforts during this time attempting to protect their families from ill and misfortune. The day of the Dragon Boat Festival is customarily during the time when cleaning and sanitation are stressed. Most families hang calamus and Artemisia above their doors, both as a decoration and as a preventive against pestilence.

Ancient folk medicines such as realgar are added to the food

eaten on the Festival day. This is believed to prevent disease and to promote a healthy digestive system. The drinking of realgar in wine supposedly relieves the effects of poisons accumulated in human bodies.

The sachets are very popular with children and they vie with each other to collect as many as possible. Children are not the only ones who collect sachets. Older people are often given them as a symbol of respect, and they are highly prized because of the intricate and beautiful embroidery that adorns them.

The Dragon Boat Festival is an entertaining and enjoyable event. It gives the observer an opportunity to glimpse a part of the rich Chinese cultural heritage.

The Spring Festival

The Spring Festival, at the Chinese New Year, is the most important festival for all of us. All family members get together on New Year's Eve to have a big meal. At the same time, everyone celebrates with each other. At about 12 o'clock, some parents and children light crackers. The whole sky is lighted brightly. We can watch the fireworks excitedly. How busy it is!

On the first early morning of one year, many senior citizens get up early and they stick the reversed Fu or hang some couplets on the front door. Some houses' windows are stuck on red paper-cuts.

The Chinese New Year lasts for fifteen days. During those fifteen days, we always visit our relatives from door to door. At that time, children are very happy because they can get many red packets from their parents, grandparents, uncles, aunts and so on. The last day of the Chinese New Year is another festival. It is named the Lantern Festival.

Then the Chinese New Year comes to an end.



My Experience as Saiodai

Shiho Kanai (Faculty of Policy Studies, 4th Year)

On May 2011, I had the opportunity to serve as the Saiodai in the Aoi Festival held in Kyoto. I was really impressed by the people living in Kyoto that this tradition festival is still celebrated every year since the Fujiwara era. I can still remember the elegant Heian costumes attendees wore, and the intricate decorations on the ox carriage and the painted paper umbrellas.

May 15 turned out to be a very sunny day with refreshing summer breeze. It wasn't my second time to see the junihitoe, which literally means twelve-layers of traditional styled robes, but I felt the weight of history on me and I felt very nervous. Riding on the mikoshi or the carriage, we took off from Kyoto Imperial Palace, to find an unexpected number of people waiting for us and I felt more and more nervous. However, as the line moved forward, I was able to move my eyes sight from a lovely girl who was walking in front of the mikoshi, to the streets where many people stood. The people who were watching

us waved and smiled and even cheered us too! Because of this, the frustrations I had before disappeared instantly. Not only that, but in *Kamo* street, I felt like I slipped through time in the Heian Period by looking at the new leaves reflected in the sky of Kyoto and attendees parading along the Kamogawa river. The familiar view of the Kyoto City looked very different from the top of the mikoshi, and I was able to see it from a different angle. Because of this, I felt really grateful to be able to have this valuable experience.

While I was studying at an American school during my high school year, I realized that I didn't know much of the Japanese culture and history. On the other hand, I am very proud to be raised in a city where it is full of history and gave me the interest of knowing about the cultures of Kyoto that still exist even today. The Aoi Festival appears in many of the ancient literatures, for example, the Tale of Genji, and it is a festival that

fascinated many people for many years. I am very honored that I was able to get involved in this festival with this sort of history, and this valuable experience will mean a lot to me for the rest of my life.

Serving as a 56th Saiodai and protecting the Japanese tradition wasn't easy for me. I want to contribute and support as much as possible for this festival that is loved and protected by many people, to continue for further generations. I hope this traditional Aoi Festival will continue to be loved by many people.



Kanai, center at Kyoto Imperial Palace

Kizugawa Art—a Budding Art Event in Rural Kyoto Returns in November

Recently, there has been a rush of art events in Japan. They became the big trend, which was especially notable last year in 2010. The most famous of them all is undoubtedly Setouchi International Art Festival, which showcased all kinds of art on the beautiful islands of Setouchi. One that is on a smaller scale but is just as exciting is the event, "Kizugawa Art." This event is held in Kizugawa-shi, a suburb in southern Kyoto, less than half an hour's train-ride from Doshisha University. Although based in a city that is not so famous for its artistic qualities, Kizugawa Art was very successful when it made its debut last year as a "preliminary event." It brought in people not only from the Kansai area, but also places such as Tokyo. This year, since it is part of the National Cultural Festival of Kyoto, it is expected to be an even bigger event. The participating artists have come in from prefectures as far away as Nagano and Hiroshima. By the time this issue of *The Doshisha Student* is out, this year's event will be close to its climax—the dates are set for November 3rd to 13th, 2011.

The city of Kizugawa was formed when three towns—

Yamashiro, Kamo, and Kizu—joined together in 2007. As a result, these towns located along Kizugawa (River) saw gradual but great changes. A conspicuous recent development is the amount of large-scale construction that is accelerating throughout Kizugawa-shi. One train ride from Kamo to Kizu Station will show a passenger the extent to which the land has been altered. Where bamboo groves and open grassland had grown lush and verdant, tractors have flattened out the land, leaving neat, tasteless, trapezoidal mounds of dirt. For many natives, it is both depressing and unsettling. If things continue like this, the uniqueness found in each of the three towns may come to be completely disregarded, even lost.

One of the aims of Kizugawa Art is to turn this situation around and keep the culture alive. In Kizugawa-shi, "a culture that is over a millennium old is passed down as our pride," says the event's website. Poems about Kizugawa and the surrounding land appear in the Nara period's *Manyoshu*, and during this era, Japan placed its capital in Kuni-kyo of Kamo for a few years. There are also temples in Kizu-

gawa-shi that holds national treasures—the land is full of history. At the same time, history merges with the modern in some places, and the city is still developing to make new histories. The histories, memories, and signs of life that still live on in Kizugawa-shi create a certain beauty unique to it. The event's purpose is to "recognize anew this city that is modern, yet ancient, and beautiful at once" through the power of art. It invites artists to present and involve their artwork in this singular environment of Kizugawa-shi. For eleven days, all kinds of artwork—from small ceramic creature-like objects to huge, open-space installations—take up unique spaces in the city expressly chosen each year by the event staff. Visitors are free to explore them in any way they wish. It gives people a chance to interact with art that tugs at their imagination and discover, or rediscover, Kizugawa-shi.

Kizugawa Art is, of course, an exciting event for a citizen of Kizugawa-shi, especially one who is interested in art, but why is it so exciting for people coming in from outside the city? One reason may be that all the artworks are

"I am a Korean Resident in Japan"

GyeongAbe Chang (Faculty of Economics, 3rd Year)

From the title of this article, it is clearly understood that I am a Korean resident living in Japan, and I am the fourth since my great grandparents arrived in Japan. What I am going to tell you in this article is not about the history of a resident living in Japan nor an understanding of the certainty of the Korean residents in Japan, but an introduction of myself. I hope that readers will realize there are Korean residents, like me, living in Japan.

I was born in Japan, and was raised by eating Japanese foods and speaking Japanese as my native language. But, I have never been to Korea before. Many people might feel this to be strange and feel puzzled. Some might have questions like "Why can he live in Japan, even though he is not both Japanese and Korean? Why is he living in Japan? Why is his native language Japanese and not Korean? And Why haven't he never been to Korea before?" I want to explain, in the following paragraphs, about these points many people may wonder about.

First, I want to explain to you the reason why I can live in Japan. The reason is really simple; I have "a special permanent residency" to live in Japan. I won't go much in details about this special permanent residency because I will have to go through the history of it. To put it easily, this special permit proves that I can live in Japan forever. I want to also explain about why I am living in Japan. The reason is that our basis of family life style is in Japan. Because my family has been living in Japan since my great-grandparents' generation, all my life support is based on the Japanese lifestyle.

Next, I want to explain about why my native language is Japanese. To me, speaking in Japanese is comfortable and it comes out naturally because my family was born there. My great-grandparents, who used to live in Korea, have conversations with

the mixture of Japanese and Korean. It is soothing for me when I am communicating with the Japanese people.

Finally, I want to explain about why I don't go to visit Korea. The reason is I just don't want to go there. If I do go, it feels as if I am there in Korea for a vacation and not going back to my home country. There's not much of a deeper meaning to not going there. Of course I do want to go, and I am planning to go to Korea soon.

Up to this point, many people may think that I am no different from a Japanese person. It is true; I was born in Japan, never been to Korea before, and the conversations I have with my family is all in Japanese. (The only time we speak Korean, is when we call each other's names.) Probably from these points, many might think I am just like a Japanese person.

Now, I want to tell you how the Korean residents in Japan are different from the Koreans themselves. All these information is based on my own experience. I will note some points I thought were different.

The biggest and obvious difference between the two is their citizenships. My citizenship is Korea so I have to receive "a foreigner registration certificate." As the law states, I have to always hold onto this certificate all the time. The back side of my passport writes "Republic of Korea" in Korean and it is made in Korea. Whenever I go aboard to countries besides Korea and Japan, I have to have the "Re-entry into a country's permit" to enter the country. Even though I have the special permanent residency with me, I am still considered as a Korean so I have to fill out the form while traveling by plane. Once I leave Japan for a vacation, it is necessary for me to fill out the form in order for me to come back to Japan. This form is only needed when you are coming back from a country that

is not your home country. I don't have a permit for the Japanese election as well. The difference between them comes from the feelings I have towards both Japan and Korea. What I mean by this is that whenever I see the Korean boom of foods, I get really excited. I also feel proud of the Korean K-Pop groups which are popular in Japan.

Throughout this article, there were parts that make people feel I am no different from the Japanese or other parts makes people feel I am very different from the Japanese. To me, I consider myself to be strange for the position I am at, to live in Japan as a Korean resident.

To conclude, I want to tell you about my opinions and thoughts about being a Korean resident in Japan. In my opinion, I feel very weird to be both Japanese and Korean. I don't know which I stand for; both Korea and Japan or neither. They are reciprocal to each other. For example, I cheer for both countries, Korean and Japan, in the Olympic Games. Some people may think I am not patriotic or thinks of me as an awkward person but, I cheer for both countries because Japan is the country I was born, and Korean is my home county. It might be only for me, but I also feel I understand about both Korea and Japan myself. Because I am a Korean resident in Japan, I feel grateful to have the things I love, and be supportive towards many people. I truly love both Korea and Japan!



Let's experience the world

Rieko Yamamoto (Faculty of Law, 4th Year)

(Editor's note)

The English Newspaper Club initiated the discussion meeting on July 15, 2011 at Doshisha under the support of AIESEC. First, Toshinori Shigeie, a former Japanese Ambassador of South Korea, made "a key speech." Second, four panelists (each 2 students from ENC and AIESEC) talked about "the world from the students point of view."

I participated the other day in a lecture meeting "Let's experience the world." The students who participated in the lecture were people from various countries such as Japan, South Korea, and China.

First, there was a speech made by Shigeie. He had an experience of working in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and made various speeches there.

He said, "Greeting someone energetically is the most important thing to do when talking with foreigners. You can easily become friends if you do so."

I agree with him. When I was in Australia for one month, I greeted a lot of people with a smile, even though I was not able to speak English. I could make lots of friends, and made good relationships. Moreover, he

said, "Students should go to foreign countries earlier. It is important to study and experience the world by yourselves."

After Shigeie's speech, a few students who have had the experience of studying abroad in foreign countries joined the discussion. There was one story I have in mind: the story of a male student.

He was a student who played soccer enthusiastically in his childhood, and was playing for Japan's national squad when he was a high school student. By the time he became a university student, he had joined a team in Germany and started on a journey. He returned to Japan once and took the visa because he had passed the test to enter the team when he first went to Germany.

Afterwards, when he returned to Germany once again, he worked hard to join the team. But the people there told him, "We can't make a contract with you." At that time, he lost the team, the house, and the meal. Because of this, he had a really tough time. Since he was not able to speak German, he had to live in the dormitory where he shared the room with a lot of people. In addition, he was suspected of

stealing from a supermarket. However, he was helped by a Japanese translator during that time. After that, he did a home stay at one family's house, and could join a good soccer team.

I have heard that his recent dream is to become a pilot. He told me he will go abroad again to study English from next year, even though he can already speak German and Korean.

This story impressed me strongly. I recalled my mother's words, "A person who has gone through a severe experience is a strong person."

I also have a dream of going to a foreign country. My dream will come true by my going to Ireland this November. I want to see the world with my own eyes.



Shigeie (guest speaker), Mitsui (Vice-President of AIESEC DOSHISHA), panelists from far right (the photo provided by AIESEC)

Yui Kajita (Faculty of Letters, 2nd Year)

placed in an environment that is peculiar, expressive, and seeping with memories. Whether it is an aged *kura* with creamy clay walls, or the remains of a red-brick railway tunnel, the atmosphere the setting creates by becoming a part of the art is an enchanting world to experience. For people unacquainted with the city, it is an interesting way to explore and get to know an unfamiliar place. Moreover, the artists, who have been chosen out of many applicants all over Japan, are diverse and outstanding. It is intriguing to see what they take in from and reflect to the environment around them. A whole city-turned-gallery, free of charge—it is an enticing prospect.

Although it may not be as well-known as some other art festivals yet, Kizugawa Art has its own strongpoint. One art critic, reviewing all the art events he had attended in 2010, remarked that Kizugawa's event is especially remarkable for its teamwork with the city. Kizugawa Art's project team is mainly made up of some of the city's civil servants, tourist information center personnel, and local volunteers. The critic was pleasantly surprised by the amount of

support the city government and the locals gave to the event. The little details, such as how an information booth was set up inside Kizu Station during the event and how the staff overlooking the artwork were all volunteering locals, gave Kizugawa Art a homely and friendly air, making it an appealing event to go to.

So many things can happen through the power of art. It lies close to the base of all cultures today. It can connect people, encourage people to discover their surroundings, give pleasure, and so on. In short, it can make a difference. Kizugawa Art was partly inspired by a group of local artists, who live and create in a remote mountain area in Kizugawa-shi. Just as the creator of the event discovered this unexpected art scene in a corner of Kizugawa-shi, Kizugawa Art creates opportunities for people both in and outside the city to discover new possibilities for their neighborhoods, come together in a community—and simply have fun.

This year, Kizugawa Art has returned bigger and stronger. The fascinating progress of the event can be found on its official blog. To get a look into a mod-

ern art scene of Japan, search "Kizugawa Art" on the Internet. However, seeing pictures and experiencing in person are two very different things. Curious about what new creation the artists gave birth to in a rural city of Kyoto? Then take a day off in Kizugawa-shi and amble through its artistic streets. Being part of this event is a unique experience that one does not stumble upon often; it is not too late to take a look!



The Yagi-tei *kura*, one of the main exhibit sites of Kizugawa Art

Impression of Institute for the Liberal Arts

Knowing the changing technologies and advancements in knowledge of every field, it has become inevitable for people to move from their country of origin to other places for personal development, and higher education. The personal development is greatly affected by cultural exchange. I have spent a majority of my secondary school years abroad and would like to continue this

learning process by studying at Doshisha University; thus, I enrolled in ILA, Institute for the Liberal Arts, at Doshisha University for higher education. Last year, I wholeheartedly believed that this course will provide me with the opportunity to fulfill my educational goals and as of yet, there is no doubt on my decision.

Japan formulated the plan of 'Global 30', in order to create an attractive educational environment to both international and domestic students. In 2009, 13 universities are selected to Global 30, and ILA at Doshisha University is one of them. The most impressive fact about ILA is that, this program is taught in English for international and domestic students, which will give students an opportunity to thrive in this program. This actually have attracted students who wish to study Japanese language and experience firsthand its culture. Furthermore, even though stu-

dents come from different countries, they share cultures and interact with each other, and ILA helps students in getting social and having friends with people from different origins. Consequently, it gives an understanding of other cultures and traditions along with the expertise of dealing with people from other cultural boundaries. Therefore, the important task for me while studying in Japan is how to understand and appreciate different cultures and expand my own beliefs.

Another impression of ILA is the sense of responsibility. ILA is commenced this year and the 1st year students have to advance themselves by breaking through all of the difficulties. Of course, students are getting a lot of advice from their professors, but we don't have alumni, foregoer or senior members, '先輩' to guide us. However, this responsibility should not be taken as a negative impact on the students'

growth but it in fact is a very valuable factor. It provides them with the sense of commitment. It further helps students in understanding the culture, tradition and values of other people because students have to cooperate or compete with each other in order to advance themselves. In the diversified population of today, it has become an important factor to learn to adopt and survive with people of different backgrounds. Carrying a responsibility could help students in understanding, managing and resolving the issues.

In conclusion, the impression of ILA is not only about cultural exchange, but also I could improve myself in diversified field. However, so far ILA has not been well-known to current Japanese students in Doshisha University and many people emphasize with ILA and consider this as a problem. Moreover, majority of the students in ILA are not familiar with Japanese

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ILA students & professors visited 'Research in Institute for Humanity & Nature (RIHN)'

language and there are fewer opportunities to interact with Japanese students. Consequently, my deep desire is to improve these facts by letting people know and get interests in ILA.

Introduction of Club Activities

AFS: American Field Service

On August 22, four semester students from Mongolia, Malaysia, China, and Peru along with a year student from Switzerland arrived in the AFS in Kyoto. Because of the nuclear power plant and the earthquake disasters, their arrival were pushed half a year late than initially planned. (in March.) However, the five students looked good and AFS staffs were happy to welcome them. Students looked nervous since it was their first time in Kyoto and to meet their host families but after two weeks, they seemed to get along with each other very well. They are learning Japanese and getting comfortable with the Japanese

Atsuko Tanigawa (Faculty of Law, 3rd Year)

life styles. On August 28, the AFS opened up a welcome party for the exchange students. Many people were invited to this party: the exchange students, the host families, the AFS volunteers, and others who were involved in the AFS. I was very thankful to have this opportunity where people who share the same values were gathered together, no matter the country, the gender, or the age. I want to support in any way possible, to create a substantial living for the exchange students for the next half a year or a year.

At this moment, the AFS in Kyoto is looking for people who can be the host family for the high school students who are

coming to Japan for a year from next March.

For more information, please visit our website at: (http://www2.afs.or.jp/kinki/kyoto/) Representative: Tanigawa Tel: 080-4290-6526 Email: info-kyoto@afs.or.jp



SIVIO: Student Organization for International Cooperation

Kazuma Yamamura (Faculty of Economics, 3rd Year)

SIVIO is an international cooperation team for students. After the last issue on *The Doshisha Student*, many 1st year students joined our club. On July 3rd, we did a Summer Festival at a club called "LAB. TRIBE" near the Kyoto Shiyakusyo as a last event for the 3rd year students. About 300 guests came to our festival with some people wearing the Yukata. It was a successful event. The guests and our SIVIO members enjoyed a lot. Also, every year, during the summer

and spring break, we do a study tour in Laos and 21 people signed to go there. Those people were from Kansai, Kanto, and Tokai areas. We played with the children who lives in the Con and Vamhin Villages, which are the places that SIVIO supports, and with the help of the translator, we had the chance to communicate with the villagers and teachers from those villages. I was really happy that the children and the mother from the host family remembered me, even

though it has been a long time since my last visit. SIVIO will continue to work on many more projects, so I hope people will continue to support our club.



At Vamhin Village, Laos

Modern Jazz Ballet Ruriko Mitsuishi (Faculty of Law, 3rd Year)

What's Modern Jazz Ballet? People ask me when I talk about my club. Wearing ballet shoes, we do a dance mixed with jazz. It is a different style from the classical one, so people who have experienced classical ballet, they might get confused with the difference between the two. However, since I am already 21 years old, toe shoes are killing my foot, and I am tired of typical classic style by always doing slow movements.

In our club, trying hard for the Eve Festival and the big performance on November, we make our costumes and dances all by ourselves. Nowadays, I practice dancing based on a famous Japanese group of women performers, Takarazuka. There are no men in Takarazuka and only women. So, the women play male parts. I will play one of the girl parts. During the summer vacation, we go to the training camp in

Himeji. Only girls can enter this club. Therefore, besides the training, we, of course, do lots of girl talk. This is my favorite. Eat, drink and endless talk. Furthermore, we have Joshikai (girls meeting), and celebrate Halloween and Christmas by wearing sweet costumes and dresses. We enjoy the events with the motto "just girls can do."

Because several performances were waiting in a fall semester, the schedules we had were kept busy. Nevertheless, by the end of the show, when I saw people giving us cheers, I had this sense of accomplishments, and felt I wanted to dance again on this stage. In this club, I learned about how important teamwork is, and made friends who have variety of backgrounds. I got Sempai (senior members) who scold my failures but kindly taught me their techniques and recently told me about their ex-

periences of job hunting, and Kohai (freshmen, sophomores) who raised me to have a leadership. They are my precious members and I am glad to meet them.

We usually practice at Keishikan in Imadegawa, and also in Karasuma twice a month on Sunday morning. If you are interested in this club, please contact here Eri Sakaguchi (Faculty of Economics, Junior) at bei0569@mail3.doshisha.ac.jp You are always welcome!



DENSHO Megumi Kawa (Faculty of Social Studies, 4th Year)

DENSHO is a club that mainly college students get involved in, along with teenagers and people in their thirties. We hold events on the stories we inherited from the old generations about the history of war and thoughts for peace. Our purpose is to tell those stories to the future society. We also hold a project on August 15th, the day when the war ended, called "Gathering of ones who love 'peace'" for the same purpose.

We are an DENSHO for students and we planned an event called "Share Lights ~ together let us resurge Japan ~" 66 years after the war. The World War II victims are decreasing every year, and the memories of the war are disappearing as well. Our goal of this event was to once again, understand the war experiences from the old generations and to enhance the young people with hope and courage to rebuild the

places which were lost from the March 11th catastrophe.

We headed to the stricken regions of Miyagi Prefecture. We interviewed a person who have experienced the air-raid in Sendai, and the student volunteers who were working very hard to clear out these areas. Understanding the people with the sorrow of the war and people trying their best to bring back the stricken regions, may lead to some hints as to how to stand up for the devastation of March 11th. In this event, based on the interviews, we showed a documentary about the air-raid in Sendai and a resurgence of the aftermath of March 11th. The information of this event, that was finished, is down below.

[Information about the Past Documentary]
 Date: August 15th, 2011
 Place: At a plaza in front of the Kyoto City Hall. We showed

the same documentary in Sendai as well.

Others: We did Illumination and showed an individually produced document called "Words into the future. Volume 2."

The next event we are planning is a drama from a true story of the wartime experience, titled, "where the Winner went" at Kambaikan Hall of Doshisha University on November 30.

DENSHO started just last year and we are asking for new members!



AIIESEC: The Welcoming Meeting of Freshmen

This year, 40 freshmen have joined AIIESEC Doshisha Local Committee. Since 70 members are running our organization, it seems that there are many students who are interested in the activities which you can be in touched with other countries. This is because of the globalization. We have five themes which are the basics of creating international internships. For internships abroad, we have "East Asia" and "The Developing Countries." For internships in Japan, we have "Environment," "Tourism," and "Education."

In the first half of the year, there were many students who participated in our international internship programs. 20 students

Takahiro Mitsui (Faculty of Commerce, 3rd Year)

applied for them and they worked hard in Tanzania, Malicious, Philippines, Thailand, and Uganda. They were especially interested in business, because they were thinking of working in the global society. It is important to have working experiences in the foreign countries. We assume that the number of participants will increase in the near future.

We have also welcomed participants from Russia and Hungary. They worked in the kindergartens from April. They experienced many things by this internship program and interacting with our members in Japan. We hope they will act as mediators for Japan and their countries, and have great impact on both countries.

In autumn, we are going to accept new applicants. We think it is necessary for us to have working experiences in an international society to live in the future. Let's challenge ourselves to become one of the participants of AIIESEC's international internship program!



Habitat for Humanity: Change & Growth-Global Village-in Thailand

Yui Shinohara (Faculty of Policy Studies, 2nd Year)

As part of the work in Habitat for Humanity, I went to a GV in Thailand during my spring break. GV is a short form of Global Village, a project where we build houses for people without homes or people living in poverty.

I felt, beforehand, that I really wanted to help out those people who are living difficult lives in the GV of Thailand. The reason is that the GV I did in India, last summer, ended up as an enjoyment. This time, I had a stronger will and flew to Thailand.

However, Thailand was no longer a developing country. I headed to the north of Thailand in a place called UdonThani, where there was a shopping mall, with a normal life similar to Japan. Taking a drive around UdonThani, there were rural areas, but it didn't seem like something was needed. People there were living a normal life. I met a homeowner who wanted a home to solve his family problems. No matter what their reasons may be, I think we should

always built houses for the needy. But then I asked myself, why do I put more priority on the extremely poor people than the slightly poor people? There is no exact answer to this question but I do want to approach to the extremely poor people because there are many, especially children, who are having difficulties.

Coming back from Thailand by plane, I have decided I want to study abroad in Spain. I made this choice because the company I want to work at requires many language skills. By possibly getting into the United Nations and JICA, the two international agencies, I want to give a hand to those people who are facing many challenges and needed help. I want to help out people like a woman who was treated as poor. I want to save the children who accidentally involved in the beggar business, and lost their future dreams. I want to rescue the children who have to follow what their parents have said. I have also planned to

study English at New Zealand, even though I can't speak English very well. I have realized the importance of being able to speak many languages opens up many doors to things I want to do.

During the GV in Thailand, I was able to think about myself and look back to myself. By experiencing many setbacks, I was able to know what I really want to do and what my dream is. The GV was a big turning point for me and built me into a stronger person.



Shinohara, center "The children are the treasures throughout the world"

The Chinese Students Association:

Shi Zhe (Faculty of Science & Engineering, 3rd Year)

Every year, during the Golden Week in May, the Doshisha Chinese Students Association, bring people in for a camp at well-known places in Japan. This year, we went to Amanohashidate in the north of Kyoto. On the first day, we all met at the Kyoto Station and rented two cars to drive up to the Amanohashidate. After three hours, we arrived at the hotel we would be staying at. To save up our money, we stayed at a residence hotel with beautiful Japanese style rooms that impressed us a lot. On the second day, we went to the Tango Eco Future Park in Kyoto. Everything looked so small on top of the mountain. At night, we stayed at a different hotel and did a barbecue outside. We ate with a little light that was there, sang songs, and played video games. We played all day long until midnight when we

finally went to sleep. On the third day, we reached our final destination at Amanohashidate. This place is known for one of Japan's scenic views and the meaning of the name is a white bridge in heaven, from its geological feature. There is a sand bar that is about 3.6 kilometers long and in it, there is a "Amanohashidate View Land" of Monju Mountain. From the View Land, you can see an amazing view of Hiruyukan, the floating dragon. The Amanohashidate is also beautiful from the Kasamatsu Park. People were taking out their own cameras to take pictures of those great views.

Overcoming the difficulties of the lifestyle and the education, the Chinese exchange students who are studying in Japan, are enjoying their time in Japan. With those times, camping was something necessary for the ex-

change students to get to know others and to become friends. The camp is usually planned on May 1st. However, for the new students, in purpose of getting used to the college life, we do it earlier for them.

The trip to Amanohashidate was really fun, we made lots of friends, and we enjoyed the time together.



At Amanohashidate

ICG: International Communication Group

Mathew Zeng (Faculty of Science & Engineering, 3rd Year)

Once a week, in the ICG International Exchange Club, there are language classes of English, Chinese, and Korean. Students participating in these classes are people who have trouble learning their second languages and people who are interested in knowing different languages. We

also have music parties once a month with the Kyoto International Exchanging circle called "You & Me," where students could meet new people and communicate with international students. This event became a place for students to get to know the international students.

