

The Doshisha Student

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Season of Joy, Celebration, and Job Hunting

THE FUTURE IS IN YOUR HANDS

Special report: J-League player Genki Ohmae gives seminar about his life, at Doshisha University

英字新聞部開催・大前元紀選手講演会「自分の未来は自分で決める！」

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Athlete Genki Ohmae (23), who was an offense player for the J-League Shimizu S-Pulse soccer team and is now headed for Germany to play for Fortuna Düsseldorf next season, gave a seminar talk at Doshisha University on December 12th, 2012. A bustling crowd of people – many of them students who had experience with soccer – gathered in the Kambaikan lecture room to hear Ohmae's talk about his personal experiences, including the hardships and the achievements he has had in his life so far, and his goals for the future. "It wasn't an uptight 'lecture' talk at all," says a student, "He was joking around and spirited, telling us his actual life, his own story." At first, the audience all looked at him as "the soccer player Ohmae Genki," but soon, they were drawn in by his personality and felt connected to him. Through his talk, Ohmae told the youths gathered there the meaning of living with a positive attitude.

Born in Yokohama in 1989, Genki Ohmae has been playing in a team since junior high school. His senior high team became the strongest in Japan. In addition to his team's success, Ohmae himself was named the top goal scorer (Golden Shoes, or *tokuten-ou* in Japanese) in all three national cups they participated in – an achievement heretofore unheard of. After senior high, he joined Shimizu S-Pulse. For the first two years, however, he could not play in real games. Although he even considered quitting soccer then and going to university instead, there were always people around him who encouraged him, and this gave him the power to keep up his efforts. As a result, he was able to participate in games from his third year, and since then, he has become a regular and an important player for the team. Right now, he is



set to transfer to Düsseldorf in the first division of the German Bundesliga, and he is living his dream. How can we live like him? Let's find out how he became who he is now.

Ohmae is not the type of athlete to show off his hard work. He works perseveringly in an inconspicuous way, away from people's eyes. However, he believes, "If you keep on working hard, even when no one is looking, there will always be someone who notices your efforts." From all his experiences, he became more confident. He learned that persistent hard work never goes to waste – that someone will always be watching, and it will be recognized and rewarded. He knew that he had worked harder than anyone else, and that is where his confidence comes from. Just the stoutness of his legs tells a tale of more hard work than one can imagine.

Everyone says being positive is good – but why so? We can find the answers in Ohmae's story. "The main impression I got from the seminar was

that Mr. Ohmae is a very 'positive' person," a student tells us. "I could tell that he had to overcome many obstacles to be where he is now – but because he is optimistic, he doesn't look at it in a bad light. He harnesses the hardships into positive energy." Ohmae conveyed to the students the important message that everything depends on our perspective, the outlook we have on life. When we have a positive outlook, even unpleasant things will not drag us down. This gives us the power and courage to keep on trying – to keep on challenging ourselves. For instance, imagine practicing *tobibako* (vaulting horse) in P. E. class – if we get scared after one mistake, we cannot jump the second time, but if we stay positive and do not fear mistakes, we *can* jump after all. "Being positive is good" because it gives us the power to challenge ourselves, and this brings us closer to success.

"Mr. Ohmae gave us many insights about living life," comments a student. The message that Ohmae hit home was this: by finding something that we really want to do, we can encourage ourselves

to work hard, challenge ourselves, and as a result, enjoy the life that we are living now.

To live the "now" that we have – by finding our own passions – is such a simple thing, something that we could all do if we really tried. We would like to call to all the youths who are struggling right now – especially the students going through job hunting – to remember to set a goal and challenge yourself to do not just anything, but what you *want* to do. Even the dreaded "*shukatsu*" can be a chance – a chance to think about yourself and take a step closer to realizing your goals. Fly to your dreams – the future is in your hands!

(More photographs on p. 2)



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CHOOSE YOUR OWN FUTURE

Scenes from Genki Ohmae's seminar



Photographs by Daniela Lemmermann (University of Hamburg)



Above : the seminar poster

Below: fans gather around Ohmae for a chance to shake hands.

Bottom: the audience listens intently to Ohmae's talk.

Above and below: attending students gather around Ohmae for a special photo session.



Thank you for coming, everyone!! – from The Doshisha Student crew

Working Around the World

What is it like to work abroad? What about finding a job in the first place? What can I do to take a step forward?

– Here are some answers.

In this globalized world in which permeating technology can spread all kinds of information in a matter of seconds and connect people all over the globe (and even outside the globe, as a matter of fact), it is not surprising to see countless students crossing the borders to study abroad and setting their goals on working outside of their native countries. We at The Doshisha Student organized a questionnaire targeted towards current university students in Japan (mainly at Doshisha University, but also at others). From the results, we gathered that the students who want to work abroad have chosen that path because of many different reasons, including these – they wish to (1) work in a more globalized environment; (2) expand their horizons; (3) become acquainted and communicate with many people of different cultural backgrounds; (4) have new possibilities, opportunities, and experiences that would not exist in their own country; (5) live in more freedom (6) volunteer in other countries; (7) achieve a goal they have always had. We found out that in order to work abroad (or simply to learn more about the culture, or interact with international people), many students not only study English, but also Chinese, Korean, Spanish, Portuguese, French, German, Russian, et cetera. Having many international students as our members ourselves, we wish to introduce some useful information and enlightening stories about having a “global perspective” and working abroad. (Read on to p. 3-5)



Real Experience

A Japanese Beer Meister

Colette Miyoko Kronenberg (Tübingen University)

The very first thing that crosses someone's mind hearing the word "Germany" is in the most cases probably "beer". A reasonable thought in view of over 5,000 different types of beer produced in this country. Popular worldwide many Japanese as well use to enjoy this alcoholic – or sometimes non-alcoholic – beverage on several occasions: whether in bars when meeting with business partners, or get-togethers with friends, or after coming back home from a long day at work. Someone who turned his interest in beer and its complex production process into his profession is 36-years-old Saito Toshiyuki. Living with his wife and two little kids in a suburb in Southern Germany, Saito is responsible for the in-house beer production of a traditional Swabian tavern located in Nürtingen, a small town near Stuttgart.

But how does a Japanese end up living in a German suburb brewing his own beer? To understand his path to becoming a master brewer, let's take a look on his professional development. Born in Kitami, a quite populous city in Hokkaido, Saito decided after graduating high school to attend the TSUJI Culinary Institute in Osaka, followed by the TSUJI Culinary Techniques Institute with emphasis on Japanese cuisine. Successfully graduating these, Saito started to work as a licensed chef. Up to that point, he didn't have any particular interest in beer apart from drinking one here and there. What called his attention was a special edition of a culinary magazine dealing with German beers and their master brewers: from this moment on Saito set his mind on going to Germany to learn the art of beer-brewing. Quitting his employment, he started to get German lessons while working as a so-called "freeter" (a Japanese neologism composed of the English word "free" and the German word for worker, "Arbeiter"). His desire to get to know more about German gastronomic culture lead him back to Hokkaido, where he worked closely with a German ham and sausage meister on a North plain farm in Okoppe. "He was the one who gave me the address of the German beer association and in response to a written request they mailed me a list of 50-60 breweries. After sending job applications to each one of them, I finally got two acceptance letters and I took up the job at a brewery in the Black Forest in Southern Germany."

"When I told my parents and the people around me that I want to go to Germany to learn about beer," he says, "they arranged things for me. How I met the sausage meister, how I found my employment, how I lived in Germany for eleven years - these were all possible because of the people I was fortunate to meet, who gave me help."

For the next four years, Saito served his apprenticeship and learned the principles of brewing. He started brewing beer on his own when he got a job at the "Hausbrauerei Schlachthof Bräu," a Swabian tavern with in-house brewery. There, he is not only responsible for the brewing but acts as chef, in service as well as at the bar: a many-sided job with a lot of responsibility.

When asked what life is like in Germany, he answers, "Comfortable. The houses are spacious, the beer is delicious and there's no really hard work. It's a life with great latitude." However, living in a foreign country with a completely different culture and mentality also caused him many problems. "The biggest problem I had to face was the language. I learned German in Japan by going to an English conversation school near the train station, but the German that is actually spoken in Germany was difficult. Learning the language while drinking beer at pubs was the best way to do it. Beer is a beverage that can make people cheerful. It can take away the "emotional barrier" that is normally there somewhere in their minds. Even though I made mistakes, I was able to keep on speaking without being afraid to do so." Besides, there are many different dialects, and normally, people do not talk to someone so patiently like, for example, his German teacher in Japan. Nevertheless, or perhaps just because of that, he considers the ability to speak the national language absolutely necessary if one plans to work in a foreign country. Besides the language barrier, of course there have been lots of other problems, too. Unfortunately, he had the bitter experience that in times of trouble, the embassy does not really help; and he became aware of the importance of building relationships to people in your daily life that you can count on.

For Saito, it was easy to interact and become familiar with people because of a common interest: beer. "When you drink beer with someone at pubs, you can immediately open up to each other. In my case, there was already the fact that 'I came to Germany because I like German beer,' so I think it was easier for me to adjust and fit in. No matter what country you're from, it's not a bad feeling to hear that

semester final exams then. While I was looking on Internet for what was available, an idea struck me to check the British and American embassies' websites. Luckily, the British embassy had a few openings, for which I could apply online with a résumé and a cover letter. They contacted me later in June by e-mail, and after a security interview I could start working.

What range of jobs would you say is available for those who wish to work abroad?

From what I know, if your goal is merely to experience living in another country, you can go on a short-term basis with jobs such as picking strawberries, waitressing, or teaching your mother tongue. All could be easily found on Internet. "Work and travel" would be a good program to look into for the U.S. On the other hand, if you are intending to work as a professional, what I see from my little experience is that you would have to either work it out through a company in your country that has branches worldwide or go for graduate/undergraduate study in the desired country. For both, of course, fluency in the language of the country would be a must.

Do you have particularly memorable moments from working abroad? How did you feel about the differences in culture and language?

There have been funny moments when by accident I would use words that are non-existent in English. Most of the times my coworkers would simply laugh. It has not caused me any serious troubles yet. But of course, at times it can be difficult. Some tasks take more time for me to complete if they require reading detailed technicalities.

What are some positive aspects of working abroad?

In the U.S., I would say the freedom - the ability to share one's thoughts freely. Regardless of one's rank, new insights are always respected, appreciated and encouraged.

What about the negative aspects?

Definitely, the cultural difference. Of course, in the U.S. the topic of conversation would always be American movies, American politics, American writers, etc. I miss the same kind of conversations in my country where everyone knows what I am talking about, and I know to what everyone is referring. If you decide to live in another country, it is true that you have to adapt to that country's culture in a major way.

Which job was your favorite so far? What do you have in mind for the future?

My favorite has been the robotics research because it is related to my major. As of now, I am resolved to try to stay in the U.S. for a year after I graduate, trying myself as a programmer. My student visa permits me a year of work experience upon graduation. If I get an offer to stay longer from the company I will be working for, I'll then decide whether to stay or return home, depending on how much I miss my family and my culture.

Our members spoke with a few people whose experiences tell us what "working abroad" entails. Here are some interesting life-stories told first-hand.

somebody likes your country's products or culture, is it? So I talked about those kinds of things while drinking beer with guys I had just met. Sometimes they would even treat me to drinks."

In the future, Saito wants to get to know even more types of beer and sales method and ideas of several German breweries. Although he enjoys life in Germany, his wish for the future is clear: "Someday I want to go back to Japan and start my own brewery."



Toshiyuki

Made in Japan, Raised in America

Yui Kajita (Faculty of Letters)

Yuki Kawae is a graduate student at Rhode Island School of Design, soon to graduate. He has lived in the US for about thirteen years, ever since middle school, and is planning to start work there. Let's find out what he has seen of job hunting and internships in the US.

What is job hunting like in the US?



Yuki

The most crucial part, I think, is being pushy. You need to keep on pushing and be persistent, trying to get in touch directly with those you want to be hired by. Finding a way to have direct contact with them is probably the first step – at least when you want to work in design. Take my friend for example – she sent e-mails to a design firm for about a year without getting any reply, but when she finally tried calling them as a last resort, they said, "We didn't know about that. Do you want to come in for an interview?" So she works there now. The firm even got her a visa, since she's Indonesian. As you can see, direct contact is important. Japanese people might think that would be impolite or annoying for the company and refrain from it – but I think being persistent is better.

I also have the impression that job hunting isn't as patterned as it is in Japan. The individual, the company, the positions – they all seem to be moving freely. Even after you start work, how you build your career – whether it's moving up in your current company or moving on to a different one – is up to you. You look at your own abilities and experiences, then decide what position is suitable for yourself.

How are the interviews different from Japan?

The biggest difference is that if the interviewer asks the interviewee's age, married or single, et cetera, this is seen as discrimination. In Japan, people aren't supposed to ask these types of questions, but they still do - and it's all written out on the résumé anyway. In the US, there's a lot of thought to discrimination; they don't write age limits and things like that in job descriptions. If they want to avoid getting applicants who are old or physically challenged, for instance, they write: "Those able to lift ten kilos with both hands."

How would you compare the two internships you've done in Japan and the US?

Well, I think the internship I did in New York isn't really "America." My boss was Italian, and the office advisor was Japanese. The work ethic there was very strict. I always worked really late, whereas my friends at other internships always finished around 5 or 6 pm and went out for a drink at bars and so on. American firms are probably more relaxed. I think it's important to create a mood in the firm that suits the work (in my case, design) and to respect the employees' lives.

In my internship in Japan, they taught me not only work but also manners. They were strict about that, but maybe they were kinder than in New York. The hard work I put in was always noted and appreciated by my employer. In the US, everything was taken matter-of-factly because it was part of the work. Though it depends on the firm, I heard that in the US, people adhere to their own job descriptions – in other words, their authority and responsibility. Whatever's outside it, they don't do.

While you were doing your internship, did you ever feel a difference in how you were treated because of your ethnic background?

Not at all. I think it's all up to you – how much you interact with others and try to talk with them. If you're too afraid to act, they might look at you in a strange way. It's good to mingle.

What is the good part about working in the US?

Individuality. You can keep your individuality.

What is the bad part?

The food, I guess.

Do you want to work there for all your life?

Wherever the job takes me, I'll go – wherever I can make quality work. But eventually, I believe I should go back to Japan.

From Russia to the U.S.A.

Elena Kirillova (Colby College), Yui Kajita (Faculty of Letters)

Before we begin, could you tell us a little about yourself and your work experiences?

I am originally Russian and, as of now, still a citizen of the Russian Federation. I have graduated from a Russian high school and afterwards went to Wales for two more



Elena

years of high school aiming to improve my English. After that, I chose to apply to an American university. American Liberal Arts education gives one a chance to try out various classes in freshman year before declaring one's major, and I needed that freedom. My first job

in America was part-time IT tutoring for students and professors at the university's IT office, which I did through every academic year. My next job was in the summer after my freshman year: being an assistant in a robotics research with the Computer Science department. Sophomore summer, I worked at the British Embassy back in Russia as an entrance-clearance assistant.

You have had quite a variety of jobs. What made you want to work outside of your own country?

In a way, for me it all naturally turned out like that. As a student, I needed money to support myself with personal expenses and textbooks. That's how I first started working part-time at college. My next job as a robotics research assistant was related to my major. It was a great opportunity to brush up on my programming skills. By next summer, I had started getting homesick and yearned to spend some time in the culture where I belong, which led to my job at the British Embassy in Moscow.

How did you go about job hunting?

For the part-time job in college, I knew I would have one before I even arrived on campus. American colleges understand that there are students in need of an extra income, so there are always openings available. One can apply through the special system on the college website. For the summer research, I simply inquired of my professors, and, being qualified by the courses I took in programming, I applied for the robotics one. A summer job in Russia was a little bit trickier to find. To begin with, I wanted to make use of my English abilities, so my targets were internships at international companies. I aimed for such names as Procter and Gamble, Japan Tobacco International, Adidas, etc., but unfortunately, all of them required a face-to-face interview, which I could not attend because I was in the middle of my

The Job Hunting Diary



GERMANY

Daniela Lemmermann,
Agathe Okumura (Univ. of Hamburg)

A lot of college students are thinking about working abroad after their graduation. Because of its save pension scheme and its intact social- and health system, a rather attractive country is Germany.

But how can one find a job in Germany?

The first and probably the most important step is to determine one's aims and abilities. People who are still uncertain about that can obtain a lot of information on various jobs and positions at www.arbeitsagentur.de, which is the official homepage of the Bundesagentur für Arbeit (BfA, the German employment bureau). There, one can also receive career advice from counseling service.

Furthermore, a lot of companies prefer applicants who have already had some working experience through internships.

As soon as one has found the job of

one's dreams, one may choose to apply via an unsolicited application, but that would not lead to success in most cases. The common way is to apply by responding to an offer of employment. Such offers are to be found e.g. at the homepages of the companies themselves, at the BfA, or in local newspapers.

Found an interesting offer, now what shall I do?

The Application Procedure

Step 1: The written application

In case of the written application, there are strict policies. One has to collect and submit a whole set of application papers (written application, curriculum vitae, a copy of the last graduation certificate, certificates of internships, etc.), flawless and tidy in a special application folder. This folder has to be sent in time to the correct receiver. If one doesn't know who is the correct receiver, it's recommended to call the company or to go there and ask for the name of the person in charge. By doing so, one shows

interest, which is always warmly welcomed in Germany.

Step 2: The job interview

If the written application was a success, one is usually invited to have an interview. From now on, it will get even more complicated. What shall I wear? In Germany, it is not obligatory to wear a black suit. However, the dress matters of course, and it is better to wear clothes that are not only tidy and respectable, but also that make the applicant feel comfortable. It is recommended to choose clothes, which fit into the dresscode of the company in question. Keeping all of the above in mind, one should also never hide one's personality.

Dressed up? Here we go! Following the motto "Better too early, than too late," one should absolutely and at all costs make sure one is not late. Usually, Germans are too early rather than too late!

During the interview, one has to prove one's abilities and sell oneself in the best way possible. It is very important to show that the decision to apply for the job at that company was

How the job hunt is done in various countries – focusing on the ones we have more first-hand knowledge of.

company was made consciously and that one will be an essential gain for the company's good. Typical questions at a job interview are:

Why did you decide to apply for this very job?

Why of all things do you want to work for our company?

What interests and abilities do you have that are important for this position?

It is only reasonable to think about the above-mentioned questions and other similar questions before going to take an interview.

In the case that one could convince the company during the interview, one receives an employment contract. With this contract, one can apply for a residence title for specific purposes, which is a kind of visa that allows one to live in Germany if one is employed, at the aliens department in charge.

Viel Glück! Good luck!



U. S. A.

Yui Kajita (Faculty of Letters)
Elena Kirillova (Colby College)

Fitting for the country of "freedom" and "individuality," job-hunting in the United States is a rather individualized process, largely depending on one's experiences, abilities, and self-assertion. I talked to a few people who have seen a bit of both sides of the story – an undergraduate and a graduate student, and an employer – in order to gain a more hands-on view of job searching in the US.

Even though the actual application for jobs begins after graduation for most university students, the preparation beforehand often goes back as early as high school. In the US, high school students are encouraged to excel both in academic and extracurricular activities such as athletics, arts, or volunteering. They are required to do certain hours of "community service" in order to graduate; and to be accepted into a "good" university, they must have something to show for their years spent in high school other than simple grades. Thus the "extra" part of their schooling is emphasized because it becomes useful when applying for work. All of these experiences can be harnessed into the students' future jobs, as well as help students make a strong résumé. Actual experience and abilities are prioritized attributes when applying for a job, in deciding what position is suitable whether in the perspective of oneself or one's prospective employer.

After high school, one place where

students can begin the job hunt is the careers service in their college. In many universities, the career center does a big job. They have tutors who are available to help students write their résumé; they perform mock interviews and organize various workshops – preparing students to fight any and all battles on the path of pursuing their careers. The most helpful part of the career center is the substantial network built by the university with various companies and college alumni. By notifying the career center, alumni often inform their alma mater about openings at their companies. In the same way, companies contact the career service directly, seeking future employees in excellent students. Firms reach out by sending representatives to campuses to perform interviews right on the spot. The careers service often gives many opportunities to job-seeking students.

Another indispensable step in job-hunting are internships. In general, American companies invite university students for internships in the summer of their junior year (although it may differ). Depending on the student's performance over that time, the company might offer a position to the student at the end of the summer so that he or she can return to the company in a year. The value of getting such an internship goes to quite an extent. Some statistical data show that if one does not do an internship after junior year, by the time he or she graduates, all the "goods spots" will be taken by those who have completed internships and received offers from their companies. Since internships are an excellent way to gain practical knowledge, experience,

contacts, and much more that is crucial to job hunting, the earlier it is done the better. Before then, especially in the freshman year, summer is spent rather on discovering one's interests – students often participate in volunteering projects, such as building homes in India. In terms of job hunting, this gives variety to one's experiences and show potential employers that one can work hard in situations outside the office as well.

After deciding on what industry or firm suits one's own characteristics (though in many cases students are lead to try their luck at any job they can reach because of the on-going difficulties in the economy), the application process begins. Many undergraduate students begin applying for jobs in the winter before their graduation. (For students with a post-graduate degree, the summer after graduation is the season to do so.) It is crucial for job-hunters to be "pushy" and take the initiative – in other words, not only send e-mails, but also make calls or visit offices directly. Large firms often hire another entity especially for organizing the application forms – separating them into piles of ones that the firm they are meant for would see and another it would not. Therefore, getting in touch with the people who actually work inside the firm – someone who can make decisions about hiring new employees – increases the chances of one's application being considered. This can be done through one's contacts, or attempting direct communication with the company, for example by calling the office and asking for an email address of someone of authority

in the firm. Building contacts is generally considered to be an essential part of job-hunting.

One issue for "foreigners" to keep in mind when planning to work in the US is the challenge of getting a worker's visa. Especially in recent years – ever since the 9/11 terrorist attacks in 2001 – the US has made their border regulations more severe than before. Even overseas students who have done a full university degree in the US but are not a US citizen find it difficult to obtain a visa that would allow them to be a permanent worker in the country. The best chance a non-citizen has in acquiring the necessary documents is for the company looking to hire the person to arrange it for him or her. However, this is likely to happen only when the person (and their abilities and experience) is a particularly useful asset to the company. Therefore, it can be concluded that before the gap in culture and language, there is a formidable wall of such regulations in the way of overseas job seekers. Whether or not to take that risk is up to one's choice – there still may be something that is strangely alluring about the "American dream," however changed it may be.

In A Word

アメリカの大学の回生の呼び方:

Undergraduate ("Undergrad")

- Freshman = 1st Year ("Fresher" in the UK)
- Sophomore = 2nd Year
- Junior = 3rd Year
- Senior = 4th Year

Graduate

- "Grad student" (categorized by type of degree)