

The Doshisha Student

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Explore *omoroï* Japan

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A unique and dynamic festival

There are many festivals in Japan. Among them, Gion festival is one of the biggest festivals in Kyoto. In the festival, some big mikosi travel slowly around Kyoto. However, we have another festival that is more exciting and get fascinated called Danjiri festival which is held in September and October. Danjiri is a kind of mikosi whose height is about 4 meters but it is too heavy to hold on shoulder which almost 4 tons. Also has wheels like a car but it has no handle to be surprised, so it turns by human power. Danjiri is made from zelkova woods, which symbolizing sacred in Japan. Danjiri festival begins from 1703 which was Edo period in Japan. It refers that it has continued for 300 years. The purpose of this festival is to play bumper crops.

Author interviewed Hiroyuki Tani, who is a student of Kinki university and a management member of Danjiri for more than 15 years. On the interview, he said that there are three appeal points of the festival.

The first is turning the corner which is called Yarimawasi. Wheels of Danjiri



cannot rotate thus it's very hard to changing the direction. Then, you might going to curious that how dose it turned? He said that young men pull it in the front, and middle age men push the bar for right or left in the back, so leverage is worked then danjiri changes its direction. He also said Yarimawasi is completed perfectly when the timing of both power is matched.

Second, the music of Danjiri festival is so fabulous and audience in Kishiwada also got fascinated by listening. The music is made up of four musical instruments, a big Japanese drum which is as big as an adult man, a small Japanese drum which size is about 70 centimeters, a Japanese flute, an unique bell. People shout out the voices with the melody and pull.

The last is carving of Danjiri. It's very beautiful and elaborating. It carved in Japanese cultural history. For examples, Image of a scene of battle in sengoku period, and Niou is

elaborating arts pass you at a very high speed. Which is dazzled!

Mr.Hiroyuki also mentioned that Danjiri does not always contain enjoyable events. Sometimes, accidents occur since this festival could be extremely dangerous to participants and several men.

Participants practice for 2 months each year before festival. The practice continues until midnight. Mr. Hiroyuki thinks that it accompanies pain thus it becomes unable to sleep enough amount of time during preparation and the festival, but it is enjoyable for him to cooperate with his members to participate in the festival.

At last, he added "It is a big moment for me when I do Danjiri, so please come to Kisiwada city to watch it from September to October." What about experiencing Japanese traditional history?

By Kouki Tani



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Ever Evolving KABUKI

Kabuki is one of the Japanese traditional entertainment which includes play, dance and song. This is very famous of the actor's makeups. However, it is not as popular as to the young people. Image of Kabuki is line written in old Japanese. Therefore it is difficult to understand what the actors say and the story. Furthermore, the most famous three Kabuki actors passed away one after another before the next generation grew up enough to take over their skills. It is feared that those two reasons made decreasing the audience.

In this situation, the young actors struggle to improve Kabuki. Originally, the meaning of Kabuki is "to be out of ordinary" or "to try new things." Thus they making new trials like collaborating with the modern play producers and remaking the old Kabuki plays, making new types in Kabuki; Super Kabuki and Kabuki Next. In this year 2015, These efforts lead successful results.

In this summer and autumn, "Aterui

(阿弖流為)" was presented in Tokyo and Osaka. This play was directed by the modern play producer and the Kabuki actor, Somegoro Ichikawa. (He held "Kabuki Spectacle" in Las Vegas.) This freak modern play made people interesting in Kabuki for the first time.

In this autumn, in the park of Osaka Castle, the Heisei Nakamura-za, the small kabuki playhouse was built for the short term which had inspiration from the playhouse in Edo era and the playhouse in 1960s. The audience on the first floor need to sit on the tatami just like the audience in Edo era. When the wall of behind stage opens, the audiences are able to see the real Osaka



Castle as a part of the stage arts. This system makes those who saw "Aterui" hooked on Kabuki totally.

In next March, "Super Kabuki II ONE PIECE" will run in Osaka Shochiku-za Theatre. This play has already ran in Tokyo and aroused huge interest from the Kabuki manias, original ONE PIECE mania and the ordinary people. Kabuki do not have system of cancellation. Once the program starts to run, it will start every day and night that has been scheduled. "Super Kabuki II ONE PIECE" also run every day and the theatre was full with audience. Through of many attempts, Kabuki is getting a new fan nowadays. Kabuki is no longer a difficult thing for all people. All the new Kabuki programs are played in modern Japanese and you can borrow the earphone guide at the theatre. You also be able to buy a ticket only for one act in a low price. Everyone can see Kabuki more easily than people's image even if they are foreign people.

By Kaoru Ishida

Japanese Strange Words

Where are you from? Where have you grown? Is there any dialect in your homeland? Have you ever heard Japanese people speaking odd words?

Nowadays, most of English words are changed forms and used in Japanese ones. When translating, the dialect has become troublesome to understand what sentence means, in other words, it's difficult for foreigners to tell which dialect word accords to the standard one. This time in this article what I would like to introduce interesting characteristic of Japanese language.

First of all, check the following list:

All the expressions are dialects of Osaka, Shizuoka, Shimane, and Yamanashi. Have you ever heard of those expressions? Even though you have not, there is no need to worry. These dialects confuse even Japanese people as well. There are many origins of Japanese people. For instance, some are from urban city, while the others are from countryside. If you are not born in Japan, you may think Japanese people use different words that you have never learnt. This is mainly because there are too many variables for Japanese

dialects. For example, Doshisha University is in Kyoto is in Kansai area. Therefore, people in Kansai Area speak "Kansai dialect" as common. The one of features of "Kansai-ben" appears on the end of the words. Japanese dialects are so much difficult because most regions have their own dialects. In other words, there are whole different features in each dialect such as intonation, conjugative suffix, and so on. This is the reason why it is complex to both for foreigners and even for Japanese.

Interesting factor is Japanese people are proud of their own dialects and believe that they express their own identity. When you realize interesting characteristics of Japanese dialects, you will be fascinated to study those strange words whether you like it or not. Let's study Japanese dialects! You will see the new and queer, and interesting aspects of Japanese!

By Hibiki Imagawa

OSAKA	SHIZUOKA	SHIMANE	YAMANASHI
なんでそうなんねん	書けにゃあ	いうとるじゃろうが	あと5分寝かしてくりょ~
Nandeyanen	Kakenyaa	lutorujaroga	Ato gohun nekasitekuryo
Why does it?	I can't write.	I said to you, didn't I?	Let me sleep for 5 more minutes.

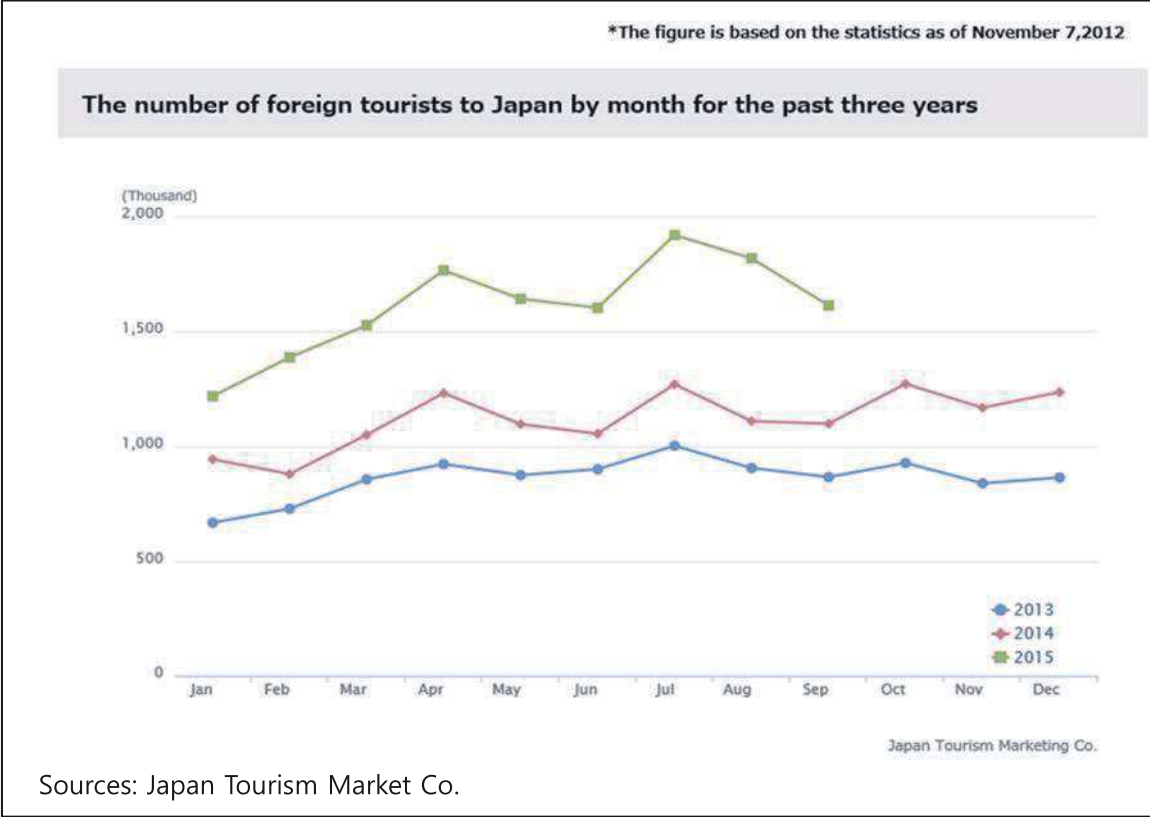
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Tourism Boom in Japan: Is Kyoto Ready for That?



A **Tourism Boom** is a good situation in which a nation becomes particularly attractive to visitors from other countries, who will spend money in the nation and raise its GDP. The government and private companies in Japan are stepping up efforts to divert the flow of foreign tourists from the nation's golden route, the path most taken by visitors, amid record-breaking arrivals in Japan. The tourism boom in Japan is rapidly accelerating, reflecting the depreciation of the yen and the relaxation of visa requirement. According to Japanese National Tourist Organization(日本政府観光局), the number of visitors to Japan from abroad this year reached an estimated 16,316,900 as of October this year. And also with the action of *Bakukai* (爆買い), which means buying things in a great amount, from the Chinese tourists, just until October 1st, 2015, the number of duty-free shop has reach 29,047 stores in Japan. According to the Japan Tourist Agency, the preference of the products they buy in Japan reflects different nationality. Chinese travelers prefer luxuries and brand products and they also have the preference to buy electronic products

which is "Made in Japan". The amount that Chinese tourists contribute to Japanese GDP is higher than other nationality as well. The tourism boom sure creates lots of job opportunities and help the economic recover faster from the recession. Kyoto City, the historical city in Japan, has won first place as the best city to visit last year. Furthermore, Kyoto has reached a great number of visitors now. According to Kyoto tourism organization, within last year, there were 55.64 million people visited, and 1.83 million of them are foreign tourists. The tourist boom encourages people in Kyoto to interact with foreign tourists, and also enjoy the economic benefit from tourism. However, Kyoto city is not a big city at all. With the concern about protecting



historical heritages, the public transportation mostly depends on bus. Kyoto's traffic has always been complained, with more consumption of the tourism, driving through Shijo streets became even more difficult. Not only for traffic, but Kyoto is also lacking of parking spaces for tour bus. From the record data of Kyoto city website, the worst experience of traveling Kyoto from Japanese tourists is that the bus and transportation is too crowded. And from the foreign tourists is that the English signs and English instructions are not detail enough. Venice, a famous city for tourism, has been a place where ordinary people can no longer live and raise families. Kyoto's situation isn't yet that extreme. For one thing, most of the tourists who visit Kansai area choose to stay over in Osaka, the biggest city in Kansai area, instead of Kyoto. According to the survey, Japan national tourism agency had conducted, Osaka had the market share of hotel staying around 12.9%, being ranked as the second place out of other cities in Japan. Kyoto, however, even it was ranked the 4th place in Japan, the share is 7.9%. The geographic distance between Kyoto and Osaka and the great transportation services provided between the cities releases Kyoto from the stress of overpopulation. However, local people still complains. According to Sankei News report, many foreign tourists do not know the way of using Japanese toilet, and this creates some trouble for local people. And also, local people and businesses still complain about the manner of some Chinese tourists. Tokyo 2020 Olympics encourages tourism business to develop and attract more and more tourists to visit Japan. Japanese government has a current goal of 20 million arrivals from abroad in 2020. In the light of the accelerating tourism boom, the goal of 20 million travelers is almost certain to be passed before 2020. Thus, it is important to find the balance between tourism and local life quality. Positively speaking, tourism boom provides a great chance of communication with people and we can also see the tourism boom as the trigger of Kyoto's reformation. In order to welcome more foreign tourists, is Kyoto ready for that?

By Huang Chi Chia

図 2.2 個別残念度			
分類	割合	分類	割合
電車・バスなどの公共交通機関	13.2%	言語, 案内, 標識	13.7%
人が多い・混雑	12.9%	物価	11.2%

Sources: Kyoto city tourism general survey