

The Intschool Network News

International School Network News from Japan

October 2012 #1

The Traditional Towns



During the Edo period, **Nakasendou** was an important road that connected Edo and the capital of Kyoto. Out of the 69 post stations, there were 11 inns in Kiso. Upon its first posting station, Narai Juku is divided into three city blocks: in Ue-machi, Naka-machi, and Shita-machi. It is a tourist attraction that has the colorful



Nakasendou Today

emotions on Japan. There were no reservations in order to stay at an inn during the Edo period. Because of the sudden weather changes, the people weren't sure whether they can make it or not. There were no phones or mails to make the reservations, either. The people just suddenly go up to the inns, and negotiate to stay, with the clerks. It is evening when they look for inns, and that is the time when maids are at shops, so there were cases that they tout. (Entrance of the inns)



People who go across the road several times have fixed inns they go to, called "Jyou-yado". For accommodation, there are two ways: the modern way of eating 2 meals, and paying for it. The other way is to buy the inn's firewood and bring your own rice to make. This was called "Kichin-yado".

However, people with high statuses did not stay at ordinary inns. They stay at the best post stations in the best inns, called "Hon-jin", or stronghold. These were very popular with a large number of people, so booking was necessary. For reserving, letters called "Hikyaku", or express messenger, was used.



Off to a Journey

There was no bath in the post towns. People had to bathe in public baths nearby. They stayed in rooms with different people, not only their families. There were no doors in the rooms, and so branches were the boundaries. If you opened the branches, there were other customers. The Japanese unique manners made it safe for people to stay.

Stay at Narai-yuku!

<http://www.naraijuku.com/>

ACEF's 20 Years of Support for Education in Bangladesh

Experience in Bangladesh by Christiane Sachii Hisamatsu

Here in this place, poverty is a way of life,
and one sees through its dark and bright colors.

People have nothing, children are deprived even the basic things,
YET smiles, gratitude, and appreciation are abundant.

For so little that we give they give back
something more that change our lives.

Here at Bangladesh, a new heart is created in me:

I began to understand the common threads
that bind us all human--COMPASSION and LOVE!



The Japanese High Schoolers of Yokosuka-Gakuin went to Bangladesh to help create schools, and they went to check during the summer of 2012. Although I had a hard time switching my diet and lifestyle, I believe that everyone will think importantly about my valuable experiences.



Know the World by Walking



Bogota, Columbia

Nice to meet you. My name is **Saya Tanaja**. I would like to introduce too you, my 9 month journey. Do you have a dream about your future? Your dreams can be in different shapes. It can be about your future occupations or moments of achievement. Since when I was small, I had a dream. Someday, I wanted to go on a long journey to foreign countries. The cultures, daily life, and scenery of foreign countries that I saw in books and on television shows made me amazed about the places on earth I didn't know. I was curious to find out more- I wanted to know if the videos, photos, and reviews were all to learn about. I wanted to find out how the winds feel like, How the people in other countries are living at the moment.

Students of International Schools say that their friends and families have many close connections to the world. Because I did not understand those feelings of switching cultures, I really wanted to go on a journey and check for myself in my own eyes and feel the differences. That was what made my move.



Cape Roca, Portugal

After saving money from part-time job earnings, I studied foreign languages, and by the age of 21, I took a break in my college. At first, I was thinking of the journey randomly, thinking I should go to anywhere I could, but during the nine months outside of Japan, I was able to visit 30 countries. Central Asia, The Middle East, Europe, and Africa all were full of wonderful surprises and times. Fearless, I would tell everyone that I came back to Japan, healthy and full of energy. Now, I will tell you how the trip went!

On April 2011, it was midnight and I departed the Haneda Airport. I went on the airplane to Kuala Lumpur. I had a one way ticket in my hand, and a huge back-pack on my back. I was a little bit nervous, but my excitement dominated my feelings. I thought to my self what to do in this freedom: a non-school, a non-work, it was a journey with no planned activities and dates. The plane arrived at Malaysia the next morning, and I started walking, in the midsummer sunlight.



Lisbon, Portugal

Kanagawa International School

Kanagawa International School promotes self-esteem, equality, and citizenship among the students, encouraging self-expression and individuality. We offer an international perspective in all aspects of education and development, and strive for excellence in the academic and personal development of every child, aiming to prepare students for entry into international elementary and primary schools. "We aim to embrace children of varying backgrounds and heritage, and foster an environment rich in cultural diversity while employing the use of English as a common language. Using English on a daily basis in all facets of communication and learning, we aim for each child to become equipped with the fundamental tools needed to converse with native-English speakers."

Kindergarten Class Age : from 2 years old

Regular Class : Monday to Friday 9:00-14:30

Saturday Kindergarten Class : Saturday 9:00-14:00

Elementary Class Age : 5 to 12 years old

Sunday Elementary Class : Sunday 9:00-15:00

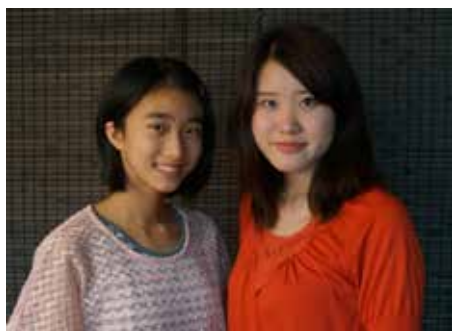
Middle school Class Age : 11 to 15 years old

Sunday Middle School Class : Sunday 15:00-17:00



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University Girl who Thinks about the World



Left: Madoka (interviewer) Right: Rei

Hello my name is **Rei Yamada**. Now, I go to Aoyama University and I major in International Politics. I'm happy to have a chance to introduce to every one about my field of studies and future plans.

Why did you choose this course?

From before, I haven't had a clear vision about my future. I was not interested in just one specific type of study. However, I did have an outlined future plan: to become a global citizen, and I like to spend time using English. I wanted to make this plan come true, so I decided to choose this course.

What are you learning about?

I'm learning mainly about Politics and International Relationships, and this term, I take Political Sciences, Economic Developments, and Area Guidelines. The other subjects include English (6 times a week, which is a lot),

and there are practical work involved. Thanks to this, my English skills are still good. In addition, I also belong to the prep school which is held for the students who want to be a diplomat, or want to work for U.N. There are the studying classes for freshman and sophomores, and classes for juniors and seniors to cultivate their knowledge. Some of the elder students have worked in various international organizations, and some of them worked as a diplomat, so I am able to hear valuable information a lot from them.



From now on, what would you like to learn about?

I found the Security Management very interesting, so I would like to study about that more in depth.

What are your future dreams?

As a diplomat, I would like to be responsible for connecting the country Japan, to the world.



What is your message?

Having a dream is what I think is the most important. If you continuously have a big dream, and if you try hard to make it come true, you will have vivid eyes that will attract you. The people around you will respect you, and would like to be like you. I have met several people with these characteristics, so I have been influenced entirely, to become a wonderful, positive human being. I would like to cherish this thought, and contribute to my environment.



Hahaoyaeigo (母親英語)



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・Living Things : animals · insects · fish

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URL www.intschool.net

J-POP 乃木坂46

In August 2011, 33 members chosen from 38,934 girls all over Japan performed "Oide Shampoo" and "Hashire! Bicycle", which has been number 1 for the Oricon Weekly Chart. I asked Reika Sakurai about what she was putting effort in for Nogizaka46, and for her self. She answered, "As a music artist group, our goal is to encourage and entertain people through music and dance, so we need to brush up our singing and dancing skills in order to send our passion to everyone. In addition, it is very important for us to communicate with a variety of people because we have a lot of chances to appear on variety shows, like talk shows, quiz shows, etc."



Traditional Japanese Culture Telling

"Nogizaka Romance"

Nogizaka Romance is a short television show from Monday to Thursday (nights). There, one member reads the scenes of traditional Japanese literature novels and models with the beautiful Japanese scenery. "When you record the Nogizaka Romance, what kind of preparation do you take, and how do you feel about it?"

Sakurai Reika, the Captain, answered, "There are some members who have read the Japanese literature from before, and some members who haven't. We all start by reading through the book, once receiving it from the staff. After interpreting the novel ourselves, we talk about it with the staff, checking over where which section we are going to read."

I am ensured that each of the members read through and worked hard to interpret the story, and its history, by facing the Japanese literature. At the same time, we can feel the beauty of Japanese tradition from not only their faces and clothing but also from their facial expressions and behavior. I highly recommend watching and learning from "Nogizaka Romance" when you study Japanese Culture.



Yumi Wakatsuki · Erika Ikuta

High skills of dance and singing are for granted for these members of Nogizaka46, and they each have other individual talents. In September 2012, Yumi Wakatsuki got selected in one of the most difficult art exhibition in Japan, "**Nikaten**," and her artwork is on display in the The National Art Center in Tokyo. A young, famous pianist, Erika Ikuta, was selected as the vocal for the major character, "Rue" in the Japanese Dubbed Version of "**The Hunger Games**," which is a prize winning Hollywood movie, 2012. There is Rena Ichiki, Japan's Latin Dance Representative, Mai Shiraishi, the cooking expert, and the very active Rina Ikoma. Other talents and skills of Nogizaka 46 include balet, swimming, and literature. These girls bring their study books to work, and we believe that they will be the talents that will be recognized to the world.



Here are 16 performers of "Hashire Bicycle," their 3rd single, of Nogizaka 46. The Bottom Middle two girls are Madoka and Karen Nishina, the interviewers.

Please mail us, and we will go to interview!

Please contact us if you want to post any written work.

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