

The Intlschool Network News

International School Network News from Japan

December 2015 #8

APOSTOLIC NUNCIATURE

Vatican City Embassy

By Madoka Nishina and Kurumi Onishi



H.E. Archbishop Mr. Joseph Chennoth explained that the people of Vatican City greatly believe in the importance of nature. The embassy holds a very beautiful Japanese-style garden, which mirrors the largest feature of Vatican City itself: the vast garden that covers more than half of the country's land. The new encyclical of Pope Francis published earlier this year states, "Care of Earth, our common home". This means that the Earth is the common home of all humans, and so it is important for us to take good care of the planet. Nature is very important in the Vatican, as it is believed that people must treasure and value God's creations. H.E. Archbishop Mr. Chennoth stated that this mentality is very similar to the Japanese value of living in harmony with nature.



On July 17th, 2015, the International School Network visited the Apostolic Nunciature, Embassy of Vatican City, to interview the nuncio (papal ambassador) His Excellency Archbishop Mr. Joseph Chennoth.



Vatican City is one of the most influential countries in the world, with a very strong historical importance. People in Vatican City centrally cherish freedom, human dignity, solidarity, friendship, and equality, which are the ideas towards building peace treasured by the Catholic belief. H.E. Archbishop Mr. Chennoth stated that the understanding of peace is essential for achieving world peace. Vatican City continues to preach peace and set a moral example to the world. As the ambassador and archbishop of Vatican City who has worked and studied at numerous countries and is fluent in seven different languages, H.E. Mr. Joseph Chennoth is especially responsible for sharing ideas of moral authority, solidarity, and friendship to the whole of human society.



Relations between the Vatican and Japan began in 1582, when four young Japanese boys were sent from Nagasaki to Europe by the Japanese Christian feudal lord Ōtomo Sō-rin. They were presented to the Pope and kings at the Tenshō Embassy, as they proceeded to learn more about Christianity. H.E. Archbishop Mr. Chennoth feels that these actions demonstrate the open-minded and adventurous nature of Japanese people.

H.E. Archbishop Mr. Chennoth believes that Japanese people are kind, hospitable, and hardworking. He especially cherishes the Japanese idea of "omotenashi (welcoming guests wholeheartedly)", which shows the warm spirit immersed in the mentality of the Japanese people.

He hopes that people can understand the Pope's promotion of justice, education, and peace to the world. "The Pope was appointed by Jesus Christ and he is the one who represents God's message," he said. "We are all brothers and sisters. We love and help one another, especially those who are in need."



H.E. Archbishop Mr. Joseph Chennoth wishes that visitors in Vatican City see the artworks and experience the country's welcoming nature. Additionally, he hopes that visitors can realize the motivation behind this: working for the supernatural spirit of love and charity, inspired by Jesus Christ. H.E. Archbishop believes that love can be demonstrated by caring for those around us and by respecting human dignity.

The message H.E. Archbishop Mr. Joseph Chennoth has towards young students is to concentrate well in studying and to be open to other cultures. He believes that openness towards different people and languages is very important in the understanding of others. Although it is important to assimilate with different cultures, he comments that it is particularly important not to be swept away by other cultures and to be aware of your own identity.



Kanagawa International School

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



• Totsuka School
3940 Totsuka-cho, Totsuka-ku, Yokohama, Kanagawa
• Fujisawa School
17-1 Minami-Fujisawa, Fujisawa, Kanagawa
URL www.kischool.com info@kischool.com
045-841-3928

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Reporters: Kurumi Onishi (11th grade St. Maur), Karen Nishina (6th grade St. Maur)

NAMIBIA Embassy Interview

By Kurumi Onishi



On June 30, 2015, the International School Network visited the Embassy of Namibia in Tokyo, Japan, to interview Her Excellency Ambassador Ms. Sophia N. Nangombe, about her country. Namibia is situated on the South-Western Atlantic coast of the African sub-continent. It is a very vast country, with a surface area of 824,268 square kilometers. This is more than twice the size of Japan, which consists of only 377,915 square kilometers. The nation is often referred to as the "Land of the Brave", symbolized by the welwitschia plant; an indigenous plant that grows in the Namib Desert. The plant grows in an environment of very little water, surviving bravely in the extreme climate.



After the war, gaining independence became the ultimate goal to the Namibian people. Pursuing this goal was a long, steep climb for the Namibians. Cultural values the Namibian people established through its history are unity, liberty and justice. However, some parts of Namibian values are demolished due to the effect of modernization. This includes Namibian ways of showing courtesy, such as the act of bowing, and expressions of respectful feelings towards others. Since H.E. Ms. Nangombe was appointed as the Namibian Ambassador to Japan in 2013, she has been observing the attitudes of Japan and its people. She was truly impressed by the Japanese culture and the Japanese people's high level of ethics, efficiency, and respect for each other.

As her future goal, H.E. Ms. Nangombe wishes to concentrate on what she can learn



from her experiences, including those in Japan. As a message to the Japanese people, she commented, "Try to understand Africa a bit more. Those who can afford to do so should visit Namibia as well as other African countries" From history to literacy rate, African countries differ from one another. Through visiting these countries, H.E. Ms. Nangombe believes that one can deepen their understandings of different African nations and their cultures.



MOZAMBIQUE Embassy Interview

By Madoka Nishina



On July 27, 2015, the International School Network visited the Embassy of Mozambique to interview the Ambassador, His Excellency Mr. Belmiro José Malate.

The name "Mozambique" derived from Mozambique Island, the former capital of the nation. There are many beautiful tourist destinations in Mozambique, including the colonial buildings and castles. With more than 30 different tribes home to Mozambique, the nation's culture is very diverse. Each ethnic group has their own specific values, rituals, and significance. In Mozambique, both patrilineal and maternal societies exist, where



the man or woman is the head of the family. H.E. Mr. Malate commented that gender equality in Mozambique is very fair, as the nation has had a female Prime Minister in 2010, and currently has policies that require 50% female participation in parliament. H.E. Mr. Malate explained that environmental preservation is a very important part of the Mozambican culture, as they are aware of their proximity to nature. Examples of such measures include planting new trees (especially fruiting trees), substituting the use of healthy wood with dried-out wood for fuel, and respecting conservation pacts for marine and forest life. The relationship between Mozambique and Japan began during the 16th Century, when Yasuke, the first and only African Samurai, came to Japan. Legend states that he was from Mozambique Island. Nobunaga Oda,



the samurai daimyō warlord during the time, was believed to have developed a strong and amicable friendship with Yasuke. H.E. Mr. Malate stated that the first step towards world peace is to "promote understanding between the people". He believes that people have the potential to live together in harmony whilst still being diverse. H.E. Mr. Malate also introduced his desires of seeing more contact between students in Mozambique and those in Japan. His message towards students was: know more about Africa, and interact with people living there.



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MALDIVES Embassy Interview

By Madoka Nishina



resources as the key of success and achievement. The Maldives is home to beautiful world-famous beach resorts. The country has strict regulations to preserve the environment such as the restriction of constructing buildings taller than the coconut palm (maximum of two stories), and the ban of net fishing to maintaining the sustainability of resources.

Diplomatic relations between the Maldives and Japan began in 1967. H.E. Mr. Khaleel commented that Japan has been the biggest development partner of the Maldives since the last 40 years. Japan helped the Maldives build several schools, develop fishing and communications industries, build a sea wall in 1987 (which served a great importance in 2004 by protecting the nation from a tsunami), and build a youth development sector (sports facility) in the 1980s.

The average elevation of the Maldives is 1.5 meters above sea level, and the land size of the country is very small. This makes sea level rise, resulting from global warming and climate change, a large threat to the nation. As a country that depends heavily on natural resources, the warmer sea temperatures that affect the coral reefs and the migration patterns of the tuna fish, and the



irregular weathers which make storms and rains fiercer negatively impact the lives of the people.

H.E. Mr. Khaleel mentioned that he would like people to be more aware of the importance of working together to protect the environment. "We must protect our planet together because climate change has no borders". He believes that knowing each other is the first step towards solving global problems.

On July 15, 2015, the International School Network visited the Embassy of the Maldives in Tokyo to interview the Ambassador, His Excellency Mr. Ahmed Khaleel, about his country.

With an exceptionally high literacy rate of 98%, the nation values education and human



NEPAL Embassy Interview

By Madoka Nishina



daytime instead of at night. Shortly after the earthquake, aid and support were offered from all over the world. We hope that the affected areas are on their way to recovery.

The highest point on Earth, Mount Everest, is the world-wide symbol of Nepal. Nepal has a very diverse culture and a wide range of natural features, as the different elevations of land allow for different climates, vegetation, and human settlement. In Nepal, there are more than a hundred tribes and ethnic groups

who speak more than 100 languages/dialects. H.E. Dr. Bhattarai explained that Buddhism and Hinduism, two religions with strong historical and architectural relevance to Nepal, are practiced closely by people in the country. Relations between Nepal and Japan first began during the 6th century alongside the introduction of Buddhist teachings to Japan. The two countries have kept a very close and amicable relationship. There are about one thousand Japanese people in Nepal, and over 40 thousand Nepali people in Japan, making Nepali people one of the largest groups to be present in Japan. H.E. Dr. Madan Kumar Bhattarai commented that he is working to promote a better friendship and understanding between the two countries of Nepal and Japan.

On July 14, the International School Network went to the Embassy of Nepal to interview the ambassador, His Excellency Dr. Madan Kumar Bhattarai.

A powerful earthquake of magnitude 7.5 hit Nepal on April 25th, collapsing half a million houses and taking the lives of about 90,000 people. Although the earthquake left a disastrous mark in areas of Nepal, H.E. Dr. Madan Kumar Bhattarai believes that its effects could have been much worse if the timing had been different. The earthquake hit during springtime as opposed to during the cold and rainy Nepali winter, on a Sunday, which is the official day off in Nepal, and at



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SAMOA Embassy Interview

By Madoka Nishina



On August 17, 2015, the International School Network visited the Embassy of Samoa to interview the Ambassador, Her Excellency Ms. Faalavaau Perina J. Sila-Tualaulelei, about her country.

H.E. Ms. Sila-Tualaulelei explained the importance of cultural adaptation to changing times. For generations, Samoan culture has adapted to the evolving time periods while preserving the “main heart” of their culture. “Fa Samoa” is a Samoan expression that conveys this traditional Samoan way of life, which Samoan people make sure to teach the children.

H.E. Ms. Sila-Tualaulelei introduced that Samoan dancing is a great way to express



feelings and emotions, especially joyful and welcoming ones. She explained that it brings national pride and unity to the country. H.E. Ms. Sila-Tualaulelei also mentioned that similar to Japan, students in Samoa are very studious, and that education is a valued priority in Samoa.

Samoa is a tropical country with beautiful and clear beaches. The Samoan people and government are showing efforts to preserve nature and research climate change. H.E. Ms. Sila-Tualaulelei explained to us that sea level rise has a huge effect on the small island



country. Ms. Sila-Tualaulelei stated that beaches she had seen before are no longer there”, emphasizing that global warming directly has an effect on people and their societies. She states that it is not just a matter of “losing food” but is becoming a “human security issue”. Global warming is taking away the islands, forcing people to leave their houses, villages, and hometowns.



H.E. Ms. Sila-Tualaulelei explained that she is passionate about promoting the understanding of Samoa in Japan as the lovely country whose people loves the world and promotes peace and development. She hopes for more trade between the two countries. Products H.E. Ms. Sila-Tualaulelei recommends are the Samoan coconut cream and noni juice, which she explains are not ordinary items. She aspires to increase Samoan-Japanese cultural exchanges such as dance festivals and rugby events.

ARMENIA Embassy Interview

By Kate Shimizu
and Kurumi Onishi



On August 14, 2015, the International School Network visited the Embassy of Armenia to interview the Ambassador, His Excellency Dr. Grant R. Pogosyan.

With the help of Diana Abgar, the first female diplomat to Armenia in 1920, Japan was one of the first nations to recognize Armenia as a republic.

Armenia and Japan are both leading nations in both traditional preservation and technology, which H.E Dr. Pogosyan explains, “Although different in size, Armenia resembles Japan.” The official language of Armenia, Armenian, is known to be one of the earliest indo-euro language, which Armenians still use today. While preserving the nation’s traditions,

there are signs of innovational encouragements, such as hosting awards for individuals who have contributed in the IT industry. H.E. Dr. Grant R. Pogosyan commented that the harmony of both traditional values and new, innovative values are important in order to develop whilst maintaining true identity.



H.E. Dr. Grant R. Pogosyan pointed out that Japan and Armenia both have mono ethnic population. Different from multicultural states who have unique family traditions, mono ethnic societies have similar life styles and ways of thinking as a separate state. H.E. Dr. Pogosyan explains that as globalization is happening, one of the biggest hurdles for mono ethnic groups is narrow mindsets. He believes that neutering the global mindset is important as it opens more doors to understanding and to make better judgements. We would be able to think more about



countries and cultures with accuracy once we think “outside of the box”. Although globalization is sometimes portrayed negatively, it is positive as it allows us to truly understand and learn from other cultures. Today there are many opportunities for students to reach out to global communities, such as on social networks. HE Dr. Pogosyan encourages students to “take the challenge” to become a global minded person. He believes that this is a reformation in education that must be made in the future.



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BANGLADESH Embassy Interview

By Kurumi Onishi



The Ambassador explained to us about the cultural values of the people in Bangladesh. Because of its reliance on agriculture, they hold many rural values. Extended families are very common in Bangladesh. People respect elders and support each other during emergencies, especially in times of natural disasters such as cyclones (which is common in Bangladesh due to low elevation).

Moreover, Bangladeshi people achieve satisfaction and happiness through little things and largely value education. They believe that through education, people from any social class will be able to rise up; since there are no barriers in society. Bangladeshi people are a very homogeneous population, who love music, dancing, and festivals, especially in the harvest season.

H.E. Mr. Momen stated that his goal as an Ambassador is to improve the relationship between Japan and Bangladesh. He expressed his desires to make continuous efforts so there will be more Japanese investments and tourists that come to Bangladesh. He wishes for Japanese people to be friendlier to the environment and hopes that more people use jute products from Bangladesh to save the world.



On July 24th, 2015, the International School Network went to the Embassy of the People's Republic of Bangladesh in Tokyo for an interview with the current Ambassador, His Excellency Mr. Masud Bin Momen. Bangladesh is a riverine country situated in South Asia. The nation mainly consists of flatland and mountains are rarely seen. Because of low land, the land is rich in fertile soil and the economy is largely dependent on the primary sector (24% contribution to the nation's GDP). Some exports include LED lights, garments, sea food, leather products, and products made by jute; an organic fiber, which is environmentally friendly.



JAMAICA Embassy Interview

By Kurumi Onishi



According to the Ambassador, the specialness of the brand was what made the coffee so attractive. As a result of frequent migrations of various ethnic groups, there is a large racial diversity within the country. The Ambassador stated that there is no racial discrimination or segregation in Jamaica. Although the people are from diverse racial background, being Jamaican is about "identity and nationality", and not about "physicality and appearance". Tourism makes up about 50% of the foreign exchange in Jamaica and 60% of the tourists



who visit Jamaica return to visit the country again. H.E. Mr. Allicock discussed to us about the cultural values of the Jamaican people and how their attitudes contribute to the welcoming culture of the nation. Jamaican people are very hospitable and friendly. Therefore, welcoming tourists is like a "second nature" to them. This depicts the beauty of Jamaica which continues to allure tourists.

The Ambassador mentioned that his main goal is to continue nurturing friendly ties between Jamaica and Japan. The most important thing to him is to ensure that the people of Japan feel connected to Jamaica. In addition, he believes that the unification promoted for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics can lead to a unification of people within different areas such as in promotion of women's rights and return in birth rate. He stated, "Things will start to change but keep pressing on for betterment of the country. Don't lose faith in your own nation and embrace your nation."



On August 17, 2015, the International School Network visited the Embassy of Jamaica in Tokyo, Japan, to interview the Ambassador, His Excellency Mr. C. P. Ricardo Allicock, about his country. Jamaica is an island country, located in the Caribbean Sea. The nation itself is mountainous, the highest point being the peak of the Blue Mountain (2,256 meters). The Blue Mountain Coffee contributes to approximately 15 million USD but despite the smallness in economic value, its recognition is extremely significant. The Blue Mountain Coffee is exported mainly to Japan as the Japanese market takes 70% of them as imports.



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IMF

International Monetary Fund

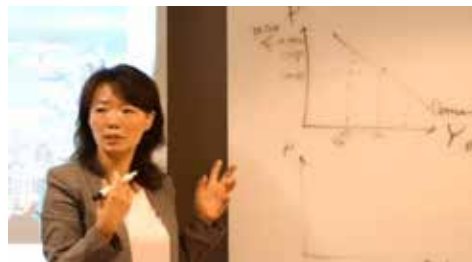
By Madoka Nishina



Today, there is not a single time that the international organization, International Monetary Fund (IMF), is not related to the stories on the newspaper. IMF is essential in the current world as a forum of discussion between various countries, and as a provider of short time financing to help countries with economically difficult situations. On June 29th, 2015, the International School Network visited the IMF Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (OAP) in Tokyo, Japan. There, we were able to listen to a presentation made by Deputy Head of Office and OAP, Ms. Yuko Kinoshita, and satisfy our burning curiosities regarding IMF and its activities. We were also able to have a brief encounter with Mr. Odd Per Brekk, the Director of the OAP.



During the interview, we discussed how women empowerment is an increasingly important issue in the Japanese economy. From building her career through IMF for roughly ten years, Ms. Kinoshita has found pleasure being a spokesperson for Japan and for the whole of Asia. She aspires for more Japanese people to work in international organizations, as the Asian representation is currently very small compared to other regions. In order to keep precedence in international discussions and meetings, it is significant to have more officers from Asia.



As a representative of IMF, Ms. Kinoshita enjoys looking at what nations do well and what they can improve on. She commented that it is a “constant learning process”.

She believes that contributing to a large organization and working in an international environment is a very exciting opportunity to improve oneself. She stated a message towards students: “Be ambitious, be global,” and “have a strong will to achieve your goals”. She hopes that this message would be delivered especially to Japanese girls, who she believes are smart with high potential. She believes that they should have a greater freedom beyond gender differences, and contribute more to the world. Ms. Kinoshita commented, “Don’t be afraid to make mistakes and try what you like.”



UNICEF

United Nations Children's Fund

By Madoka Nishina



The United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) is an international organization working for children’s rights all over the world. The International School Network interviewed the director of UNICEF of Japan and Korea, Dr. Kunihiko Chris Hirabayashi. Currently, UNICEF is helping children in 155 different countries so to help them reach a position in which they will be able to stand up on their own legs and work their way ahead for a bright future. Dr. Hirabayashi mentioned that one of the most important and unique strengths of UNICEF is its global and international voice. UNICEF greatly encourages face-to-face talk, as it works hard to gain trust through “CREI”, which stands



for Credibility, Reliability, Expertise, and Intimacy (Passion). Before his career in UNICEF, Dr. Hirabayashi worked as a heart surgeon specialized for children. In 1994, he decided to work in contribution to the betterment of human society in the world, which he believes is a difficult concept. Organizations act towards helping people in large scales but do not directly save lives, whereas doctors, although on a smaller scale, are able to noticeably save lives. Dr. Hirabayashi says that both ways of working are very fruitful and meaningful, as “every one thing [towards helping those in need] is very crucial”. Dr Hirabayashi explained to us that adults must pay close attention to children and use their full capacity to support them.



The message he has towards students is to be ambitious; use all of the opportunities offered in your lives, and open your eyes towards global issues. He advised us to teach our past experiences to the younger ones so that they can create their own shields of defense. Dr. Hirabayashi also believes that students must appreciate and show deep care for their family. He says that one can return the support of one’s parents/guardians not only directly but also through helping other people.



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UNFPA United Nations Population Fund

By Madoka Nishina



On July 15, 2015, the International School Network went to the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) office in the United Nations University of Tokyo, Japan, to interview the director, Ms. Junko Sazaki. UNFPA was created in 1969, in response to the rapid population growth of the world. Ms. Sazaki commented that “those who are poor have a smaller voice in politics.” The long term objective of the organization is to decrease poverty in the world. Since 1994, UNFPA has concentrated their direction towards working for women and couples’ rights. The organization aims to increase women rights for education, improve reproduction health, and educate people



about childbirth and marriage. Ms. Sazaki treasures her engagement in different cultures. She realized the fascinating nature of different the styles of thinking and living, and the beauty of diversity as she met and interacted with people from different parts of the world. She mentioned that by visiting different countries, including developing countries, one can deepen their understanding of the world.

Ms. Sazaki stated that there are many



opportunities for students to raise awareness of global issues. She firmly believes that “indifference is the worst attitude”. She explained that donating to charity, reading articles, and sharing thoughts are the first step towards understanding the world. Ms. Sazaki commented that it is important for us to expose ourselves to different opportunities so we can be surer about our life missions. Her message towards students is to read books and biographies, contribute to raising awareness through social media, travel to many places (including developing countries), and meet and interact with many people. She mentioned that when traveling, it is important to engage in different cultures by talking to the people in the area including the immigrants. Being very fond of diversity, Ms. Sazaki aspires to open her eyes even more to different cultures of the world.

FUJIYA HOTEL Miyanoshita in Hakone, Kanagawa

By Madoka Nishina and Kate Shimizu



The International School Network interviewed Miyanoshita Fujiya Hotel. Having been founded in 1878, the hotel not only has extensive facilities but also a very colorful history. The hotel's intricate exterior expresses its significant history. The interior designs and specific rooms in the hotel also adds on to the intriguing historical display.



The hotel has an indoors pool, and an outdoors pool that is limited for the summer season. We were able to enjoy swimming at night after the interview.



Charlie Chaplin is one of many celebrities that have stayed at the hotel. The hotel room he stayed in has been preserved, and is available for guests. John Lennon from the Beatles has also stayed, and the hotel has a memorial table, in which he sat at with his wife Yoko Ono. Please visit our website for details.



We were very thrilled and excited to stay at a gorgeous and historically significant room. The room was magnificent, with comfortable beds, beautiful lamps, and a classical music player. The view outside of the windows showed the beautiful hotel gardens. The hotel has many gardens, both western-style and Japanese-style (with a koi pond) themes.



As school students, we had a strict budget. We were unable to eat at the hostel restaurants, so we bought breakfast and dinner at a convenience store.

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The Kingdom of THAILAND Embassy Interview

By Madoka Nishina



On August 10th, 2015, the International School Network went to visit the Royal Thai Residence to interview the Ambassador, His Excellency Mr. Sihasak Phuangkitkeow, and his spouse, Her Excellency Mme. Varaporn Phuangkitkeow.

The Royal Thai Embassy's official residence consists of a beautiful Japanese garden and a gothic building which resembles a medieval castle. This has been the official residence of Thai ambassadors to Japan since 1943.



As Buddhism is the official religion of Thailand, Buddhist beliefs have been closely encrypted in the cultural values of Thai people. H.E. Mr. Phuangkitkeow explained that people in Thailand value the respect for other people and cultures, and the positive approach to life. Thailand has been known to be one of the best ranked countries in the world for quality of life. According to H.E. Mr. Phuangkitkeow, this is due to the hospitable nature of Thai people, as the citizens of "the land of the free". Since Thailand is the only nation in South Asia that was never colonized, Thai people are proud of their freedom and independence. H.E. Mme. Phuangkitkeow commented the women's rights in Thailand are satisfactory, and that they have been steadily increasing

during the past years. Queen Sirikit of Thailand has been very active in promoting women's rights in Thailand, especially in remote areas where she supported women learn new skills. In 2003, the Queen herself had designated the 1st of August as Women's Day in Thailand as an annual day to recognize the roles of women in society. The Queen has been recognized by the United Nations for her contribution to the welfare and wellbeing of women. H.E. Mr. Phuangkitkeow assures that Thai people are very tolerant and that they respect every human being without discrimination.



After the interview at the residence, H.E. Mr. Phuangkitkeow and H.E. Mme Phuangkitkeow kindly prepared for us a light lunch meal of Thai cuisine. (See photo above.) We were served a very delicious dish of shrimp pad thai (stir-fry rice noodles) and a few small and crisp spring rolls. The pad thai was accompanied with the fresh vegetables of bean sprouts and leek. Diplomatic relations between Thailand and Japan began approximately 180 years ago, but the actual relationship dates back to about 500 years ago. This was when Yamada Nagamasa, a Japanese samurai, traveled to Thailand and served the royal courts. Since hundreds of years ago, Thailand hosts a Japanese trading village, which to this day, has an alcoholic drink made by a technique of the Ryuku people, Aomori, embedded in the culture of

the region. This symbolizes the historical relationship between Thailand and Japan. H.E. Mr. Phuangkitkeow also commented on the amicable relationship between the monarchs of Thailand in Japan, and the significant economic ties between the nations. Just as Thai food is very commonly eaten in Japan, Thai families eat at Japanese restaurants at least once or twice a month.

As an ambassador, H.E. Mr. Phuangkitkeow commented that his goal is to maintain the very amicable relationship between Thailand and Japan. He explained that greatly appreciated the interaction between Thai and Japanese citizens supporting each other during times of natural disasters.

H.E. Mme. Phuangkitkeow, she stated that her goal is to promote Thailand. She aspires to publicize the good aspects of Thailand while at the same time correcting any misunderstandings she comes across.

H.E. Mr. Phuangkitkeow's message to students is to know more about different cultures, and to contribute to the internationalized world. H.E. Mme. Phuangkitkeow commented that students must chose their friends wisely. "It's better to have one or two good friends than to have a hundred that are not." She also commented that one must never forsake their family, as they are the ones who love and support unconditionally.



-The International School Network-



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St. Maur Int'l School, Grade 11



Karen Nishina
Reporter
St. Maur Int'l School, Grade 6

We aspire to convey the meaning of world peace through the importance of tradition, cultural diversity, environmental preservation, and social, gender, and ethnic equality.

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