

Lithuania

Embassy Interview

By Kurumi Onishi



On August 19, 2016, the International School Network visited the Embassy of Lithuania to Japan to interview the ambassador, H.E. Mr. Egidijus Meilūnas, and his spouse, Mme. Galina Meilūniė. Lithuania, which is often referred to as “one of Europe’s gems” continues to awe visitors with their variety of activities and locations. In particular, H.E. Mr. Meilūnas commented that Lithuanians are very proud of their traditions. Tradition is respected and very well kept throughout the nation, as various non-governmental organizations (NGOs) are exploring history, and young people continue to take interest in traditional activities. There is even a Lithuanian traditional village, which is similar to the Japanese “Edo mura”. The site allows tourists to experience traditions such as baking bread, making chocolate sweets and wax candles, hearing stories, and singing cultural songs. Mme Meilūniė mentioned that she is amazed by the beauty of the village every time she visits. Riding hot air balloons is also

an attraction that allows visitors to witness the beautiful cityscape of Vilnius. The annual jazz festival is an event that enables non-locals to catch a glimpse of the ebullience of Lithuanian festivals, as locals dress up in traditional clothes, and sing and dance traditional charms.



The national motto of Lithuania is “the strength of the nation lies in unity”. H.E. Mr. Meilūnas stated that the source of unity of the people of Lithuania is its “history”. There are currently “a lot of Lithuanians living abroad” with a small community of about 180 Lithuanian people living in Japan.



Despite how they are dissipated throughout the globe, he feels that their “tragic, dramatic history, especially in the 20th Century” brings them together. “32 years after our independence, our biggest value is freedom and independence,” H.E. Mr. Meilūnas explained. Ever since H.E. Mr. Meilūnas was in the seventh grade, he possessed a hidden desire of becoming a diplomat. He mentioned that this dream had been forgotten for a while but has been implemented. H.E. Mr. Meilūnas’s passion in working as the Ambassador of Lithuania in Japan is his intrigue in the country. He commented that Japan is rich in culture, history, and innovation.



Furthermore, Mme. Meilūniė’s dream ever since she was a college student was to come to Japan. She perceived Japan to be a familiar country yet a place with mysterious aspects that evoked her curiosity. She is very passionate about being able to interact with many people and visit various places in Japan. H.E. Mr. Meilūnas expressed that he is “happy” about the “friendly relations [between our nations] based on partnerships”. He is glad that Japanese people and the Lithuanian people “share the same values”.



Official diplomatic relations between the two nations commenced in 1922, but even before this, he stated that there was “continuous communication” between Lithuania and Japan. As a message, H.E. Mr. Meilūnas commented, “Let’s work together for the future. The heroic deed of Chiune Sugihara proved to one that even during the most dramatic and tragic time, one person can save the people. He or she saves the world, to save our common world”. “Come to Lithuania!” Mme. Meilūniė added.



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



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Please send us an e-mail; we will be willing to interview you. Please contact us if you would like to post written work. Thank you for reading.

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Bangladesh Embassy Interview

By Madoka Nishina



On September 16, 2016, the International School Network visited the Embassy of Bangladesh to interview the Ambassador, Her Excellency Ms. Rabab Fatima. H.E. Ms. Rabab Fatima explained to us that a unique perspective of education in Bangladesh is the fact that children have a keen desire to receive an education, no matter their families' financial situations. H.E. Ms. Rabab Fatima has been making efforts to strengthen the relationship between Bangladesh and Japan through student exchange programs.



She believes that an attractive aspect of Bangladesh is its societal advancements: Bangladesh has learnt and rebuilt from natural disasters, reduced poverty, rose the gender equality, and developed a means for food surplus from food shortages. H.E. Ms. Fatima believes that the Bangladeshi development through food shortages and natural disasters makes a role model for strategic development because Bangladesh has been able to reach the degree of producing enough rice not only to feed its citizens but also to export as excess. Through experiencing the importance of resilience, patience, and tolerance in coping with various challenges, the country has achieved more Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) than most other Asian countries. H.E. Ms. Fatima explained to us what she viewed as the first step towards world peace. She believes in the importance of having respect among nations, and across peoples and cultures. She explained that she views globalization to be inevitable yet necessary to make connections and relationships between people across the globe. Globalization can shorten the distance between countries and improve businesses. She also mentioned to us the importance of cultural identity. H.E. Ms. Fatima considers that the traditions in Bangladesh are very well preserved, using the sari as an example; Bangladeshi people wear traditional clothing as everyday wear.



H.E. Ms. Fatima's message towards Japanese people is her sincerity that Bangladeshi people consider Japan as being a "very special and real friend". H.E. Ms. Fatima explained that Bangladeshi people recall and feel gratitude for how the Japanese helped Bangladesh towards independence. She mentioned stories about Japanese school children donating their lunch money to refugees and crossing borders during war. H.E. Ms. Fatima hopes that the young students of Bangladesh and Japan can take forward the beautiful relationship between the two countries for generations to come.



Zimbabwe Embassy Interview

By Kurumi Onishi



On August 17, 2016, the International School Network visited the Embassy of Zimbabwe to interview the Ambassador, His Excellency Mr. Titus M. J. Abu-Basutu. Spectating traditional performances such as dance and staying at national parks that have campsites and lodges are some interesting things to do in Zimbabwe, but "wildlife is [also] plenty". By climbing mountains, H.E. Mr. Abu-Basutu states that visitors can "look and see the trees and rocks" and the view is "very scenic". In recent years, apart from the basic tourist course, tourists prefer rural tourism to "interact with the people and understand their culture and way of life". He commented that the "diversity of tourism" is what allures visitors.

We must realize that because of globalization, "we don't live in isolation". H.E. Mr. Abu-Basutu prefers to address his country as a "land-linked" country instead of a "landlocked" country. Zimbabwe is dependent on its neighbors for access to the sea, so H.E. Mr. Abu-Basutu mentioned that it is especially important that the country maintains friendly relations with other nations. H.E. Mr. Abu-Basutu stated that the ultimate source of unity for the Zimbabwean people is their "history". In the present day, the "society has grown". There are intermarriages between people of different nationalities and there is the issue of urbanization that "kills ethnicity". Now, the Zimbabwean people may hold "different political values but at the end of the day, we are Zimbabweans," H.E. Mr. Abu-Basutu added. The same "experience, history, and culture" has been continuing to unite the Zimbabwean people together.



H.E. Mr. Abu-Basutu's goal as an ambassador is to "foster good relations between Zimbabwe and Japan". He explains that he wishes to strengthen relations especially in the economic aspect so that the countries can gain a closer relation for the advancement of peace and development. As a message for Japanese students, H.E. Mr. Abu-Basutu commented, "Always have a world view. Students should not confine themselves. Always appreciate the world". In addition, he wishes them to look "over and above the wider view of the world" and not to limit themselves to "only their own fields of studies". Through these experiences, H.E. Mr. Abu-Basutu believes that one can increase awareness and consciousness to "become world citizens".

El Salvador

Embassy Interview

By Madoka Nishina



On August 19, 2016, the International School Network visited the Embassy of El Salvador to Japan to interview the Ambassador, Her Excellency Ms. Martha Lidia Zelayandia. The national motto of El Salvador is “God, Unity, Freedom”. According to H.E. Ms. Zelayandia, the source of unity in the country is symbolized by its flag, whose colors of blue and white represent the two oceans and peace respectively. H.E. Ms. Zelayandia explained to us that Salvadoran people are especially fond of their peacefulness as they concluded their Civil War with “a peace agreement”. Furthermore, H.E. Ms. Zelayandia mentioned that hospitableness is another prominent cultural value in El Salvador, as people often

prepare abundant food for their neighbors, relatives and friends, and are always welcome to visitors. H.E. Ms. Zelayandia introduced to us that Salvadoran people have a close relationship with nature. Houses in El Salvador are constructed to accommodate to the climate. For instance, many households do not use air conditioners but instead have gardens in their homes. However, the country is a victim to natural disasters and climate change. H.E. Ms. Zelayandia believes that the first step towards natural preservation is education; people must understand the environment so that not only its importance but also the methods in saving it can be properly understood.

H.E. Ms. Zelayandia described globalization as a phenomenon that cannot be stopped. She believes in the importance of working together to preserve traditions. El Salvador has been



making efforts to retrieve their traditions, as apparent in the language, Nawat; the language had been diminishing because “people were afraid to talk [in the language]”, but is now being recovered and treasured. Yet at the same time, H.E. Ms. Zelayandia noted that changes and fusions in culture are also important, especially in adjustment to globalization.

H.E. Ms. Zelayandia is the first female Salvadoran Ambassador to Japan. Although she observed women being left behind on various civil rights in the past, H.E. Ms. Zelayandia is assured that now this situation has “changed 180 degrees”. H.E. Ms. Zelayandia expressed her gladness for advances in women’s rights in both El Salvador and Japan. She hopes the relations between the two countries can further prosper in the future.



The Netherlands

Embassy Interview

By Madoka Nishina



On August 29, 2016, the International School Network visited the Embassy of the Netherlands to interview the Ambassador, His Excellency Mr. Aart Jacobi.

When asked about the unique aspect of education in Netherlands, His Excellency Mr. Aart Jacobi commented that Dutch education promotes initiative and creativity with lively discussions in class. H.E. Mr. Jacobi noticed that among Dutch cultural values lie tolerance, which allows people from across the globe to visit and assimilate well in the country. H.E. Mr. Jacobi also introduced to us that honesty and openness is another feature of the culture that allows people to speak and discuss topics directly.

H.E. Mr. Jacobi noted various tourist

attractions that he recommends in the Netherlands, such as the traditional styled streets of Amsterdam. He strongly recommends cycling for tourists who desire sightseeing. “The Netherlands is a country with more bicycles than people,” he explained. H.E. Mr. Jacobi mentioned his aspirations for connections between different people and cultures to strengthen as a step towards world peace. He mentions that such efforts will act as a “buffer against conflict” with more contacts and understanding between nations. H.E. Mr. Jacobi believes globalization is a positive phenomenon that can allow for people not only to deepen their understandings on other cultures but also their own. He believes diversity and interdependence can lead to more hope, stability, and peace across the globe. In the past, H.E. Mr. Jacobi had wanted to become a captain of a ship. At age 17 he pursued his dream and traveled across the oceans. When he had a stay at Japan that led



him to fall in love with the country. With a scholarship, H.E. Mr. Jacobi studied at a Japanese university and now considers Japan as his second home country.

When asked for a message towards Japanese people, H.E. Ambassador Mr. Jacobi mentioned to us a simple message: “It is two words: Go abroad”. H.E. Mr. Jacobi expressed his concern for the diminishing interest for Japanese people to travel abroad. He believes that experiencing another culture at an early age is a meaningful experience that allows one to broaden their mind and know of the existence of other cultures that are different from their own.



Afghanistan Embassy Interview

By Madoka Nishina



On August 30, 2016, the International School Network visited the Embassy of Afghanistan to interview the Ambassador, His Excellency Dr. Sayed M. Amin Fatimie and the Deputy Head of Mission Minister-Counsellor, Dr. Bashir Mohabbat. We were served delicious Afghan cuisine for lunch.



H.E. Dr. Fatimie expressed to us his passion for maintaining durable peace. He stated, “We [Afghans] are the victims of regional and international terrorism”. H.E. Dr. Fatimie expressed that Afghans are peace-loving and freedom-loving people, and that they are fed up with war. As an ambassador, minister, and individual, H.E. Dr. Fatimie aspires to see a peaceful and violence-free nation in the near future, with no more destruction or loss of the lives of his citizens. H.E. Dr. Fatimie believes that Afghanistan has a wonderful constitution which allows people to enjoy liberty and the freedom of choice.



This was especially showcased during the presidential election of 2014 when 7 million people casted their votes, in which more than 40% were female. Despite the violence and severe weather throughout most of the country, this high number of votes indicate how Afghans embrace democracy and how they are able to “push [terrorism] to the wall”. H.E. Dr. Fatimie explained that Afghanistan has been making persistent efforts to promote peace as a strategic goal. He stated, “Social justice is the key to durable peace.”



Before becoming the Ambassador of Afghanistan to Japan, H.E. Dr. Fatimie worked in the Ministry of Health. His mission has therefore always been to save and protect the lives of his people, and to promote health for all human beings. H.E. Dr. Fatimie believes that through education, students have immense potential in promoting peace and prosperity for generations to come. Afghans highly value education and “acquiring knowledge”, which can be seen through the dedication of Afghan students who walk for miles to attend schools, sometimes climbing and crossing mountains along the way.



H.E. Dr. Fatimie recommends Bamiyan as a tourist destination. He described Bamiyan as being a peaceful province located in Central Afghanistan, where the people are generous and hospitable. He explains that Bamiyan is an attractive destination for both locals and tourists. H.E. Ambassador Dr. Fatimie expressed that it is a “great honor to serve as a link” between Afghanistan and Japan: “two nations who enjoy friendly relations”.



H.E. Dr. Fatimie used the metaphor of a coin to symbolize globalization. Globalization has two sides, one of which is positive, and the other negative. H.E. Dr. Fatimie explained that we cannot stop globalization, but we can control it by choosing how to proceed with the choices we have. H.E. Dr. Fatimie hopes that globalization will be under control so that people can enjoy its positive impacts while ensuring global health and both the maintenance of cultural values and financial benefits for all.



H.E. Dr. Fatimie explained to us his respect and admiration for Japan as a nation that has supported various countries in achieving development and peace, he aspires for Japan to “please keep up this excellent work.” H.E. Dr. Fatimie promised that he will “spare no efforts” in further strengthening the bonds and friendship between the two nations through various means. He stated, “When the people of Japan are happy, we, Afghans, share your joy”



Greece

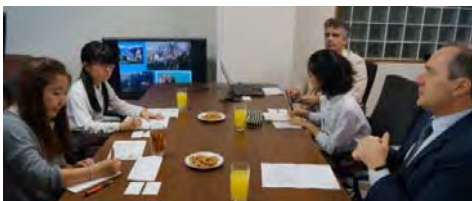
Embassy Interview

By Kurumi Onishi



On August 19, 2016, the International School Network visited the Embassy of Greece in Tokyo for an interview with the Ambassador, His Excellency Mr. Loukas Karatsolis. Prior to the interview, H.E. Mr. Karatsolis introduced us to the mesmerizing world of Greece with a brief presentation video. As the Greeks are known to have “not only influence[d] but also invented what we think” in fields such as philosophy, arts, and sciences, H.E. Mr. Karatsolis expressed how they “have a burden to preserve this ancient heritage” to “integrate or encourage [various] interpretations”. This idea is reflective in their education system, which puts emphasis on retaining this element that is “not only important for Greece but [also for] all of mankind”.

The Parthenon—a former temple of the goddess Athena— has survived numerous earthquakes over the centuries. The durability of such architecture has inspired many architects based in different parts of Europe, Latin America, and Africa. H.E. Mr. Karatsolis feels that the Parthenon “symbolizes the value of this civilization” and he believes that many architects hope to recreate this feeling.



Greece is also known as the inventor of the Olympic Games, which is now significant not only as a sports event, but also as an event that unifies citizens of the world. Although the ‘desire of victory’ is a factor that motivates players and observers, H.E. Mr. Karatsolis hopes for them to reconsider the goals behind sports culture by considering their values and how they were conceived.

H.E. Mr. Karatsolis’s main goal at the moment is “to represent [his] country as best as [he] can” and to make aspects of Greece “better known abroad”.



H.E. Mr. Karatsolis believes that “many of the modern aspects [of Greece] must be more correctly presented” and he particularly hopes to put emphasis on the positive qualities of the Greek people, as he feels that “Greeks are the most hard-working people in Europe”. As a message to students, H.E. Mr. Karatsolis stressed that it is “important to study” and “to be open to influences from abroad”. He would like Japanese students to “enjoy youth and the opportunities that life is offering”. “If something is important for you, you will find a way to do it. If something is not important, then you will find an excuse,” he concluded.



European Union

Delegation Interview

By Kurumi Onishi

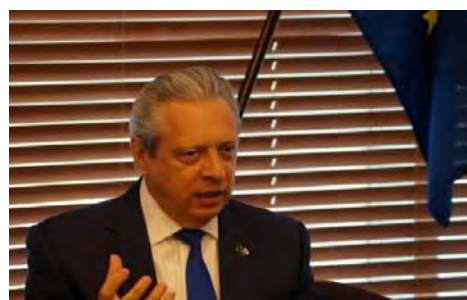


On June 17, 2016, the International School Network visited the Delegation of the European Union (EU) to Japan to interview the Ambassador of the European Union to Japan, His Excellency Mr. Viorel Isticioaia-Budura. Mr. Richard Kelner, the Academic Cooperation Officer at the Delegation, organized our interview and guided us around the EU Delegation. H.E. Mr. Isticioaia-Budura explained to us that the EU is a community that represents chances, opportunities, and partnership. As a complex union with 28 member states, the EU is able to achieve a deeper connection between countries that go beyond what bilateral connections can accomplish. “With 28 friends,” he commented, “[We] can do so much more in one go”. Currently, the EU aims to work not only by observing solely on the economic and

political framework, but also even more so by undergoing ‘peace-making missions’ through shared interest in the economic and political fields. H.E. Mr. Isticioaia-Budura mentioned that the Japanese Prime Minister, Mr. Abe Shinzō, had “spoken highly of the [EU, as a] proactive contributor of peace”.



He explained that particularly since 1999, the EU has been actively engaged in the dispatch of common security and defense missions worldwide, to assist places under crises. Through increased cooperation with Japan, H.E. Mr. Isticioaia-Budura mentioned that he hopes to “consolidate justice” by working more closely with the Japan Self-Defense Force (JSDF). When asked what the ‘driving force’ of the EU is, H.E. Mr. Isticioaia-Budura commented that the member-states of the EU maintain a “common stance” (which is ensured by the membership conditions presented in the Copenhagen Criteria) and that every member-state “respects the rules” set by the EU. The key, he said is to “make dialogue”



and “negotiate, not pacify”. As a message, H.E. Mr. Isticioaia-Budura emphasized the significance of seeking and comprehending the historical values, mentalities, and cultures of different people to acquire objectivity in our view of the world. He hopes for more students to establish platforms to voice their opinions at a more public setting. Moreover, H.E. Mr. Isticioaia-Budura stressed that each encounter will help us to grow and acquire new knowledge that will further help us to handle conflicts. “We are friends now and for tomorrow,” he concluded.



Tanzania Embassy Interview

By Kurumi Onishi



On August 16, 2016, the International School Network visited the Embassy of Tanzania to interview the Ambassador, His Excellency Mr. Mathias M. Chikawe. We were also welcomed by the Minister Counsellor, Mr. Francis Petro Mossongo. It is needless to say that nature is a large part of Tanzanian life and identity. H.E. Mr. Chikawe mentioned that the people of Tanzania “love nature”. The mission of all people in Tanzania is to “protect the nature” and “each community has their own rules and cultures evolved on how and where they lived”. Although there are 126 tribal groups in Tanzania, the common language of all tribes is Swahili. In recent years, the Tanzanian government has been “trying hard to make Swahili a teaching language”. Even to this day, Swahili has become an important part of

Tanzanian culture, as it is most significantly a “source of unity”. The official motto of Tanzania is ‘Freedom and Unity’. H.E. Mr. Chikawe described the people of his country as “peaceful and generous”. Currently, Tanzania shares borders with almost nine other countries. Yet, the Tanzanian people value their choice to “not fight with them”, as H.E. Mr. Chikawe mentioned that neighboring countries can be “potential enemies” as much as they can be “potential friends”. He believes that it is important to keep friendly communication and understanding to ensure peace among nations.



H.E. Mr. Chikawe explained to us that Tanzania and Japan have been working closely for many years. The JICA Tanzania office has been operating for almost 35 years, allowing for various exchanges. He believes his main goal is to ensure that Japan and Tanzania continue their ongoing cooperation



by sharing voices in international forums to contribute to the betterment of both countries. As a message, he wishes for Japanese students to “learn about Africa” and to be “adventurous”. He expressed that his dream is for young people of the two countries to connect, so that strong connections can be made for the future of both nations. “We have a good relationship, and it is up to you and your generation to continue it,” H.E. Mr. Chikawe explained.



East Timor Embassy Interview

By Kurumi Onishi



On August 15, 2016, the International School Network visited the Embassy of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste to interview the Ambassador, H.E. Mr. Filomeno Aleixo da Cruz. As H.E. Mr. Aleixo mentioned, East Timor is “a half island country” with the presence of different languages and ethnic groups, as well as picturesque sites. Mount Ramelau is the highest mountain in the country and is “the symbol for highness”. The highness of the mountain could be superimposed upon the highness of a leader status of a key political party. Additionally, H.E. Mr. Aleixo stated that nature is a part of the East Timorese lifestyle and nature is “always with” the people, who had protected the nation for independence.

H.E. Mr. Aleixo mentioned that East Timor and Japan have been maintaining a “strong relationship” from World War II. Although the occupation period was not as extensive, he mentioned that there are still Japanese influences seen today, such as the use of the word ‘katana’ (a Japanese sword) in East Timor. As both nations are part of the East Asian region, H.E. Mr. Aleixo believes that “this relationship should be nourished” and that geographical proximity is something that ties us. He commented that he would like to use these positive qualities “to bring strength and prosperity” to East Timor and hopefully grow together. Regarding the recent relations



between East Timor and Japan, East Timor is currently working out a “strategic development plan”. H.E. Mr. Aleixo wishes to increase cooperation with friends like Japan and desires for East Timorese athletes to be officially a part of the 2020 Olympic Games.



As for globalization, H.E. Mr. Aleixo described the phenomenon as being a paradigm that will refurbish the world. He mentioned that globalization must be used as a tool for interaction that contributes to the betterment of humankind. He hopes that one day it can serve people in “every corner of the world”. H.E. Mr. Aleixo explained that his goal is to serve other people and to secure and strengthen the relations between East Timor and Japan. His message towards Japanese students is to “nourish yourself”, “serve people”, “share values” with “people of the world”, and “fight for excellence, always”.



German Concert

By Kurumi Onishi



On October 13, 2016, the International School Network attended the Salon Concert of the Augustinian Church Choir Erfurt and Reception hosted by the Embassy of Germany to Japan. We were invited by the German Ambassador His Excellency Dr. Hans Carl von Werthern and his spouse Madame Elizabeth von Werthern to their Residence.



With the Monastery of Augustinian Friars as their home, the Augustinian Church Choir Erfurt was founded in 1877 and since then, they have gained nationwide recognition for their performances of the oratorios and passions of Johann Sebastian Bach. Today, in addition to their regular performances at church services, they have been participating in radio and television broadcasts. The members of the International School Network were astounded by the beauty of the harmonious choir.



After the concert, we had some German cuisine and enjoyed the mystic night view of the Ambassador's Residence.



Peru Reception

By Kurumi Onishi



On July 28, 2016, the International School Network attended the "Pisco of Honor" and "Oishii Perú" Food Festival upon receiving invitations from the Peruvian Ambassador His Excellency Mr. Elard Escala and his spouse Madame Cristina Escala.

The festival was held at the Embassy of Peru in Tokyo in celebration of the 195th anniversary of Peruvian independence. Upon our entrance to the Embassy, we were welcomed by alpacas, which many guests took photos with. As evident from the title of "Oishii Perú", the members of the International School Network were able to enjoy diverse Peruvian cuisine such as



Albóndigas de Quinoa and Ensalada de Quinoa, as well as some desserts including Mazamorra Morada, Leche Asada, and Delicia Inca. We were also able to meet ambassadors and their spouses whom we have interviewed previously. With delicious food, delightful encounters, and the sound of the little childrens' chorus singing, our hearts were warmed.

Burkina Faso Ceremony

By Madoka Nishina



On December 11, 2016, the International School Network attended the 56th National Day Commemorative Ceremony of Burkina Faso, hosted by the Burkinabe embassy.

The event took place in Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Yokohama, making it the third consecutive year in which the national day reception was held in Yokohama. The Ambassador of Burkina Faso, His Excellency Mr. François Oubida, made a speech on the social and economic progress made by Burkina Faso and future plans to extenuate such development. He then mentioned his gratitude for Burkina Faso's strengthened relations with Yokohama City, as the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD) VI had been held in Yokohama. In this program, in addition to the ceremony, various aspects of Burkinabe culture were introduced.

Music and dance performances highlighted the vibrant West African culture, and fashion shows introduced traditional Burkinabe clothes. Furthermore, exhibitions of Burkinabe folk crafts and photographs were displayed in JICA and Burkinabe cuisine was included in the restaurant lunch menu for a few weeks following the event.



Asian Productivity Organization

By Madoka Nishina



On September 7, 2016, the International School Network visited the office of the Asian Productivity Organization (APO) to interview the Secretary General Mr. Mari Amano. We also received a presentation about the APO by Mr. Joselito C Bernardo, the Director of the Research & Planning Department. APO is an organization that has been enhancing productivity in Asian countries since May of 1961. Secretary General Mr. Amano explained to us that the organization hosts about 60 projects per year and 70 to 80 courses in which participants from different countries join to discuss solutions to problems relating to productivity in areas ranging from manufactured goods to service industries. Different countries host projects to teach practical models to countries with close business styles.

Secretary General Mr. Amano mentioned that efficiency and productivity are similar and interconnected; they both consider how much output can be produced from a fixed number of input, or vice versa. Mr. Amano notes that this aspect of economic development has been an important focus in many countries for a long while, as it was relevant 60 years ago and still is today. He believes that productivity is the key to greatly enhance economic development in nations, and he is passionate that APO can help enhance the productivity and growth of fellow Asian countries in the long term for a more prosperous future.



After the Second World War, the economy of Japan and its productivity facilities were in a devastating state. Secretary General Mr. Amano stated that during this challenging time, the United States had offered Japan insight into their advanced technology by inviting leaders of Japanese industries



to learn and take home technology and techniques, and this had greatly helped rebuild the Japanese economy. Mr. Amano notes that Japan expresses their gratitude for such help by contributing to other nations through the same effective methodology in APO. Secretary General Mr. Amano's message towards Japanese students is to be more curious about the world, with more desires to travel and learn about diverse cultures. Mr. Amano believes that "widen[ing] your scope" will act as a useful experience "as you grow more in society".



Intl. School Network PROJECT



The International School Network will be taking on a project that aims to increase the literacy rate of children in developing countries through the means of teaching across borders. We have derived that the most important step towards world peace would be

to raise the implementation of elementary education for increasing future opportunities for children, and to facilitate more communication between children from different cultures in order to promote understanding and friendship from a young age. To realize this, our project proposes



children in developed countries to teach children in developing countries through online communication as a part of their educational curriculum. Please visit our website for details. We hope you can cooperate with us on this new project and journey.



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

