

# The Intlschool Network News

International School Network News from Japan

July 2015 #7

## PERU Embassy Interview



On April 10th, 2015, the International School Network visited the Embassy of Peru and the Ambassador's residence in Tokyo. The Ambassador, His Excellency Mr. Elard Escala, welcomed us warmly with his wife Her Excellency Madame Cristina Escala. Today, he acts as a bridge way between Japan and Peru, forming peace in the relationship.



The relationship between Peru and Japan started in 1899. On April 3rd, 790 Japanese emigrants arrived to Callao, a seaport in Peru. They crossed the Pacific, seeking for a better social and economic status. The diplomatic relations between Peru and Japan were established in 1873, as the first country in the Latin America region. Since then, Japan and Peru have maintained a strong bond, forming the history of Japanese-Peruvians ancestors.



HE Mr. Escala presented us the Quinoa Grain, produced from the unique nature of Peru. This grain is very healthy, as it contains all amino acids and a variety of proteins and vitamins.



2013 was officially declared as the "The International Year of the Quinoa" by the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO), and it has also been appointed as the main food for astronauts in space. Additionally, Peru is the original country of potatoes, with more than 3,000 varieties, and the home to Tunki coffee, which received an award for being the Best Coffee in the World three years ago.



Peru is globally recognized for their high population in alpacas. Since quality wool can be obtained from alpacas, they can be used in many different ways, such as for the production of clothes such as sweaters, dresses, and scarves. In this way, Alpacas are greatly appreciated in Japan. There are currently four million domestic alpacas all over the Andes and 90% of all alpacas in the world live in Peru. Other Peruvian animals include llamas and vicuñas. Fur of vicuñas are globally very appreciated for making thin cloths.



In order to protect the lives of these significant animals, numerous natural parks have been created. Due to Catholic influences during the 15th to 16th century, Peru has become a religious country. However, Peruvians are supportive of all traditions, and fusions of western and native culture can be seen in many art pieces in Peru.



Tradition is protected as cultural heritage. Peruvian festivals can be very traditional but could also include aspects of western culture. Every town has its own unique festival. Costco, a festival related to nature, is the largest festival in Peru. Through our interview, HE Mr. Escala stated that what Peruvians cherish the most are their families. Peruvians believe that family is the core of society and Peruvians so they have deep respect for them. He also mentioned that the main cultural values of Peruvian people are honesty and working hard to achieve goals.

*Reported by Madoka Nishina  
Kate Shimizu  
Kurumi Onishi*

## 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,  
•Fujisawa School  
17-1 Minami-Fujisawa, Fujisawa, Kanagawa  
URL [www.kischool.com](http://www.kischool.com)  
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## PERU (Manners lesson)



In addition to our embassy and residence tour, His Excellency Mr. Elard Escala, the current Ambassador of the Republic of Peru, and his wife, Her Excellency Madame Cristina Escala had kindly prepared us all dinner. We were presented by not only one dish but a delicious full course along with guidance in table manners.

We were served some unique foods of Peru such as various types of beans, corns, and quinoa. We ate black and white quinoa salad, corns and beans, different sauces with Peruvian rice, Peruvian desserts, and golden-colored Inca cola. As young students who wish to pursue a global career, it is extremely significant to fully understand the table manners.



HE Madame Escala taught us the importance of manners and how manners differ across different countries and cultures. We were able to enjoy a meaningful, memorable, and educational dinner with the finest cuisine.

*Reported by Kurumi Onishi*

## Arabian Bazaar



The International School Network was invited to the 17th Arab Charity Bazaar, by the Jordanian Ambassador's spouse, Her Excellency Madame Shifa Haddad. The bazaar was held at the Izumi Garden Gallery in Tokyo, in April 2015, organized by the spouses of Arab ambassadors. The bazaar started off with an opening ceremony, where a tape was cut at the entrance by the spouses of Ambassadors of Arab countries.

There was a stage where forms of entertainment related to the Arabian cultures were performed. The highlight of the bazaar was the fashion show where women presented traditional clothes of their countries. They also performed unique cultural dances along with traditional celebratory music. I was also able to appreciate the diverse cultures of Arab countries through



the traditional foods and items sold in numerous booths.

At the event, many visitors including families and children were enjoying the bazaar. We saw countless smiles eating delicious foods, conversations sparking across cultures, and gestures used for communication between people who speak different languages. The hall was soon naturally filled with the warmth of people's hearts caring for one another. As a reporter, I felt a sense of unity among the people. Beyond our nationality, we all are the same, as people who make up a part of the globe. We all share the same feelings of happiness and joy as well as fear and sorrow. At that moment in the bazaar, I felt the warm heartedness of everyone in the room. This Charity bazaar has linked various people across borders to wish for united happiness and peacefulness of Arab countries.

*Reported by Kate Shimizu*



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## POLAND

### Embassy Interview



On March 31st, 2015, the International School Network went to the Embassy of Poland to interview the Ambassador, His Excellency Mr. Cyryl Kozaczewski. During our encounter, he shared with us the wonders of Poland including the well-known Polish composer Chopin's impact to the nation's recognition, as well as some other aspects of Poland that can be appealing to future visitors of the country.



The flatland geography is a characteristic of Poland that many people associate to the nation with. Agriculture is the basic activity despite it being industrial in southern areas, where the geography is mountainous.

Moreover, the country is often referred to as the "Land of 1000 Lakes". Home to Europe's oldest forest, there exist various types of fascinating animals such as bison. Eagle is a well-respected bird and symbolizes the country.

Poland is known to be the first exporter of apples. The nation has a strong industry with steel and chemicals. Southern Poland is also rich in coal mining and to this day, the country is one of the biggest coal exporters within the EU.



The Ambassador told us how Poles have consistently been a contributor of the development of ideas and prosperity. He also served us delicious Polish candies and explained that Polish people love sweets.



The greatest cultural value of Polish people is family, which was emphasized by the days of war. He explained to us the significance of remembering the experiences of people who have experienced war, and mentioned that no Polish family is untouched by war.

Lastly, HE Mr. Kozaczewski commented that there are many stories that link Poland and Japan. In the future, he would like to do wonderful things with the Japanese people and is interested in communicating with everyone to help promote his nation.

*Reported by Kurumi Onishi*



## AUSTRIA

### Embassy Interview



On March 6, 2015, the International School Network visited the Embassy of Austria in Tokyo, Japan to interview the Ambassador, His Excellency Dr. Bernhard Zimburg.



The interview started by the explanation of how the Republic of Austria is a landlocked country in central Europe. Austria's geology, which was shaped during a similar time to Japan, has interesting similarities with the geography of Japan. Both countries have young mountainous ranges, as 75 % of Austria's land area is covered with the Eastern Alps mountain range. The coming and going of ice ages formed lakes and valleys in Austria, which are now very popular tourist attractions.



Austria and Japan are also similar in the sense that both countries have a limited amount of minerals, live in harsh climates, and have little vegetation. In Austria, there is only one season for harvesting agricultural products. This shaped the country's civilization and craft culture, from the need to manage the scarcity of resources. Both countries have their traditional ways of preserving food and crops with feelings of gratitude towards nature.

Lastly, His Excellency Dr. Zimburg, explained that in the time of 1970s, many Japanese students were all over the world studying internationally. As the number of Japanese students studying abroad are decreasing, he suggests Japanese students to have curiosity and observe the world they do not know about. "The trend should be reversed and Japanese students should be outgoing again," HE Dr. Zimburg states.



As an ambassador, he makes effort to improve this organizing youth exchanges so that students can learn in multicultural societies. Throughout the interview, he taught us that experience is part of our growth as he announces to the students to "go and see the world."

*Reported by Kate Shimizu*



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## MYANMAR Embassy Interview



The International School Network visited the Embassy of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar in Tokyo, Japan to interview the Ambassador, His Excellency Mr. Khin Maung Tin. Myanmar is situated in South East Asia, with about 800 islands with a coastline of 1300 miles. About half of the area in Myanmar consists of forests, plains, rivers, and mountains. Nature in Myanmar is well preserved, as it is home to a diverse variety of animals. People who live in the villages near Inle Lake travel by watercraft on the floating gardens flooded with water. Rice grown in fields in Kachin State are grown in beautiful steps.

There are approximately 135 ethnic groups in Myanmar, and spoken dialects differ by region. The most important cultural value of the people in Myanmar is respecting the elderly, as Buddhism is widely practiced. Myanmar is famous for ancient and religious sites, such as the Pagoda sacred temples, the Rock of Mt. Popa, Mandalay Palace, and the bolder of Kyaikhtiyo. The U Bein Bridge is a 1.2 km long wooden bridge that stretches across Taung Thaman Lake.



Myanmar is a country full of festivities, with traditional festivals celebrated during every month of the year. In April, the people in Myanmar celebrate a water festival, where people pour water on each other to wash away sins of the previous year. Originally, scented water was sprinkled from a small bowl, but now many people use hoses and water pistols to splash water.



The New Years in April is celebrated by caring for elders. People visit traditional temples and help the elderly to wash their hair and cut their nails. In October, to mark the end of the rainy season, people in Myanmar celebrate a fire festival where they hold balloons and have impressive fireworks. The Ambassador commented that the relationship between Myanmar and Japan has always been and will continue to be very amicable.

*Reported by Madoka Nishina*



## PANAMA Embassy Interview



The International School Network went to the Embassy of Panama to interview the Ambassador, His Excellency Mr. Ritter N. Diaz, and Ms. Akiyo Yamamoto. The Republic of Panama is a country in Central America. Inhabited by indigenous tribes, Panama is a country of colorful cultures. People in Panama value the enjoyment of life, as they dance, sing, and openly talk to one another on different occasions such as during carnivals and folklore dances. They tend to be very cheerful with open personalities, as life and respect of human rights are highly valued in the country.

Ambassador Mr. Diaz commented that the education system is unique everywhere in the world. Each country has something to focus on, and education is constantly changing. He mentioned that the focus of education is currently moving towards a reliance on digital technology.



The Ambassador also told us the importance of maintaining peace over war. He says that the price of peace is expensive, but is less expensive than the cost of war. This is demonstrated on the flag of Panama, where the red represents the liberal party and the blue represents the conservative party. The Republic of Panama was established when the two parties stopped fighting and made peace, which is represented by the color white. Therefore he comments that whatever the cost, it is important to maintain peace and to prevent from going to war.



The Ambassador mentioned that his main goal is to keep strong relations with Japan. He explained to us the importance of climate change and pollution, as it knows no country borders. He wishes to establish equilibrium and balance across the globe. The Ambassador's message to students is to "feed your brain with good knowledge". He says that when one grows and becomes independent, knowledge will be the key to survival in the future. He says that it is important to be wise enough to use the knowledge earned to help oneself and the community.

*Reported by Madoka Nishina*

## AUSTRALIA Embassy Interview



On March 30, 2015, the International School Network visited the Embassy of Australia in Tokyo, Japan to interview the counsellor, Dr. Alexandra Siddall. She works to manage the public affairs in the embassy.

Dr. Siddall discussed the cultural values of the Australian people and how it shapes their culture today. Australian people tend to have a tolerant attitude towards different cultures. In return, the society also requires incoming people to have the same act of tolerance that is being shown to them. Additionally, the Australian government highly values their relationship with the indigenous people, as they treat everyone equally without barriers. Australia lists equality as their highest priority under the law to offer the same opportunity for everyone in the society.



The ideas of tolerance and diversity in society are essential in Australia, as their multicultural society continues to expand.

*Reported by Kate Shimizu*

## The Intschool Network Project



By undergoing various activities, the members of the International School Network are working to protect world peace and human rights including those of children and women.



To do so, we aspire to convey the importance of equality, such as the equality of gender, social status, wealth, race, and nationality, to students across the globe. To deepen our understandings of the countries of the world, we interview ambassadors about their countries, their view of global issues, and their messages towards Japanese people and to students. We also interview United Nations agencies about their contributions. We have interviewed institutes such as UNAFEI, UNICEF, and IMF, which helped us to understand the growth of the world that we live in.

By interviewing and introducing many aspects of the globe, we can then explore what we can do to contribute to the world as students.



Another goal of the International School Network is to introduce Japanese culture, which is the culture of our home country. We interview not only the traditional elements of Japanese culture, such as traditional streets and clothing stores, but also aspects of modern Japanese culture, such as the "Cool Japan" culture promoted by the Ministry of Economy, Trade, and Industry of the Japanese government.



Some features of the "Cool Japan" culture we have interviewed include idol groups, maid cafés, cosplay, and the Akihabara Electric Town. We have also interviewed the Immigration Office of Narita Airport in Japan.



## Future Project

We would like to ask female ambassadors and spouses of male ambassadors in Japan to meet with us for a discussion of the various rights and education of women. Please send us any suggestions or ideas that you have regarding the event. We are looking forward to working with you!

*Reported by Madoka Nishina  
Karen Nishina*

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## INDONESIA Embassy Interview



On March 2, 2015, the International School Network visited the Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia in Tokyo, Japan to interview the Ambassador, His Excellency Dr. Yusron Ihza Mahendra, Principal Mr. Supardo of Tokyo Indonesian School (Sekolah Republic Indonesia Tokyo), and Secretary Ms. Sayuoka Widani.



Indonesia is a country consisting of 1700 islands, being 6400 km wide with three different standard times. The climate in Indonesia is very hot. Ambassador Dr. Mahendra explained that this shapes the easy going aspect of the people.



There is a very wide biodiversity in the nature of Indonesia. The country is home to many protected endemic species, including (single horned) rhinoceroses, orangutans, komodo dragons, and unique flowers (such as Rafflesia). Durians, the King of fruit, and mangoes, the Queen of fruit, are both bound to Indonesia. Ambassador Dr. Mahendra comments that the nature in Indonesia is very important to the whole world, and that the rainforest and species of fauna and flora are treasures to everyone. He explained to us the importance of preserving nature, as it maintains a balance of wildlife and developing industries.



There are over 700 ethnic groups in Indonesia, and the country is working to preserve local cultures and languages. The Ambassador, being a good chef himself, mentions that each province has a different culinary food, such as spices including chili peppers. Schools in Indonesia teach children traditional dancing, as a means to preserve culture. The national Indonesian language is important for the unification of the country, as the single language serves to unite the different cultures of the country and to create a national pride.



The Ambassador also commented on Asian pride. He stated that Japan winning victory in a war with a European country allowed Indonesians to gain confidence as an Asian nation, that Asian countries are as equally qualified as the rest of the world.



As a teacher, Principal Mr. Supardo commented that he would like Japanese people to know more about Indonesia. He also hopes that the young generations of Indonesia and Japan maintain excellent relations with each other so that in the future, when the young generation grows to become important persons, the two countries can gain a stronger relationship.

Ambassador Dr. Mahendra commented that he hopes to see an increase in the cooperation and open-mindedness between the countries of Indonesia and Japan. He stated that understanding more about each other can lead to even better relations and support, as Indonesia and Japan can share goods, services, and ideas that the other country doesn't have. He says that Indonesia and Japan are like legs, because with the cooperation of both countries, it is possible not only to stand stable, but to walk and run. The Ambassador mentioned that strengthening the relationship between Indonesia and Japan is his goal, and through this, he was able to achieve setting free visas for Indonesians to Japan.

*Reported by Madoka Nishina*



### Economic relationship between Indonesia and Japan

The peaceful diplomatic relationship between Indonesia and Japan is necessary for Japan to maintain its high energy consumption society. Although Japan is the third largest oil consumer in the world, Japan maintains only 16 percent of its energy resources as self sufficient. It relies heavily on energies received from import. Indonesia provides more than 22% of natural gas imports of Japan, being the top natural gas importer. In addition, it is also the second highest importer of coal to Japan. Indonesia has helped Japan survive through the scarcity of energy resources for over 40 years.

*Reported by Kate Shimizu*



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