

Ukraine

Embassy Interview

By Karen Nishina and Hina Amano



On September 20th, 2023, the International School Network visited the Embassy of Ukraine in Tokyo to interview the Third Secretary Ms. Inna ILINA.

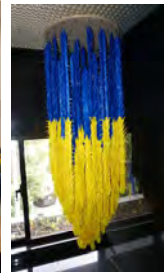
Ms. ILINA began by discussing the significant educational challenges faced by the younger generation due to the ongoing conflict. Many students have been forced to evacuate not just to neighboring countries such as Poland, and even to countries located across the globe, including Japan. Although many evacuees struggle with language barriers, online education is being utilized to ensure they maintain proficiency in their native language as well. Students can attend schools in cities that are not under occupation, yet they must seek shelter whenever the missile siren sounds. Ms. ILINA hopes that everyone, especially those from the heavily damaged eastern regions, will have the opportunity to return to Ukraine.

On the other hand, Ms. ILINA states that there is also another view of experiencing the war, believing it further united the people of Ukraine. She reflects on Ukraine's history of oppression during the Soviet era and earlier, highlighting the long struggle for independence. Therefore, history has proven over multiple occasions that Ukrainians' collective determination to win the war, rebuild, restore, and achieve independence has always brought them together, and even stronger every time. Without this strong unity, she acknowledges, the country would be in jeopardy.

Ms. ILINA expresses confidence that relations between Ukraine and Japan will continue to develop positively. She highlights shared common values, noting the parallels between Japanese Samurai and Ukrainian Cossacks. She mentions many Ukrainians enjoy Japanese culture including Ikebana, tea ceremony, martial arts, as well as Japanese cuisine.



Ms. ILINA expresses her gratitude for the support Ukraine has received from Japan through phone calls, letters, flowers, and food. Notably, 86 universities in Japan have accepted more than 500 Ukrainian students in various fields such as management, language, and Japanese culture. These students have gained a unique opportunity to obtain valuable knowledge of Japan, which Ms. ILINA hopes will strengthen future relations. Moreover, she hopes that Japan, drawing on its experience in construction and restoration, will assist Ukraine in rebuilding efforts, given the extensive destruction of cities and infrastructure. In closing, Ms. ILINA invites the Japanese to visit Ukraine when peace is restored, highlighting its interesting place with good cuisine and rich black soil that produces excellent vegetables and fruits. After the interview, Ms. ILINA showed us around the embassy, which features a small museum displaying gifts and messages from Japanese supporters, symbolizing the deep connection and mutual support between the two nations.



The Republic of India

Embassy Interview

By Karen Nishina and Hina Amano



On October 25th, 2023, the International School Network visited the Embassy of India, Tokyo, Japan to interview the Ambassador His Excellency Mr. Sibi GEORGE.

As a diplomat of India, Ambassador GEORGE mentions that he carries the responsibility to fulfill the leadership roadmap, aspiring to benefit himself, society (world), and his own country. Since he envisions the relationship between India and Japan to further deepen, his daily efforts revolve around building Japan and India's relationship brick by brick.

On the topic of the effects of globalization, he believes that whether it is positive or negative depends on one's perspective. Globalization involves the transcending of borders, resulting in a world unifying as one entity.

500 years ago in India, their core value was

phrased as "The World is One Family." This later became the centered theme for the G20 Summit, "One Earth, One Family, One Future," which in essence values globalization as the connection for the common good for all. However, Ambassador GEORGE also acknowledges the pitfalls that come with easy access to transportation which was especially evident when the COVID-19 pandemic hit the world - the virus proliferated rapidly around the globe. However, with India's philosophy of the world being one family, the nation successfully allocated vaccinations to ultimately surpass 100 countries.

Regarding education, Ambassador GEORGE highlights India's excellence in producing top engineers through its technology and IIT programs. India also has a strong tradition in advanced mathematics and is implementing a new education system focused on personality



development, ethics, and good citizenship.

With the largest young population globally, India is well-positioned to support other nations facing skill shortages, particularly in human resources and the semiconductor industry, underscoring the critical role of education in personal and global advancement.

Finally, Ambassador GEORGE mentions Gandhi, who is perceived as the father of India. Gandhi gained great respect despite a period where only a few leaders succeeded in doing so. His method of tackling issues only using peace, and without violence and weapons, is what is still cherished among the people today. Additionally, India's economy is a quality Ambassador GEORGE desires to bring more attention to Japan. India currently holds the 5th position, while Japan stands as the 3rd largest economy globally. Therefore, he emphasizes the importance of fostering greater collaboration between the two nations, having more engagement with each other, and working together at every level.

The Independent State of Samoa

Embassy Interview

By Karen Nishina and Hina Amano



On October 18th, 2023, the International School Network visited the Embassy of the Independent State of Samoa in Tokyo, Japan to interview the Ambassador Her Excellency Mrs. Faalavaau Perina Jacqueline SILA-TUALAULELEI.

Ambassador SILA-TUALAULELEI strongly believes that women are equally capable of pursuing fields that are traditionally associated with men. Ambassador SILA-TUALAULELEI aspired to become a firefighter as a child, but her father told her that only men can be them. She mentions that this experience sparked her strong passion for



woman empowerment. She is also passionate about saving the environment, especially due to climate change affecting the lives of Samoans. Ambassador SILA-TUALAULELEI explains that children in Samoa receive education from three primary areas; informal education, Sunday school, and elementary school. First, she mentions that education starts from the home, which values communal ties. From a young age, children can learn the significance of taking care of one another. Next, the literacy rate is said to be 99% in Samoa, signifying the significant value of education among Samoans. She mentions that Samoan and Japanese students both seem to hold a passion towards education

to cultivate a better future for themselves. Additionally, both countries are excelling in sports on an international stage. However, she notices demographic changes such as there being less children, compared to when she was a child. She further emphasizes the importance of cooperation in our current world. On a national level, she hopes that communal ties, such as looking out for one another will continue to foster. On an international level, promotion of peace and equality is always crucial. She states that it is a natural occurrence for a culture to change over time, but emphasizes the importance of not losing sight of core values.



The Republic of Turkey

Embassy Interview

By Karen Nishina and Hina Amano



On November 29th, 2023, the International School Network visited the Turkish Embassy in Tokyo to interview the Ambassador His Excellency Mr. Korkut GÜNGEN.

Highlighting the 100th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Turkey and Japan in 2024, Ambassador GÜNGEN expresses pride in the strong relationship between the two countries, particularly their mutual support during natural disasters. He notes Japan's significant support following Turkey's two major earthquakes in February 2023.

During the interview, Ambassador GÜNGEN shared a traditional Turkish dessert, baklava with pistachios along with black tea served in beautiful Turkish glassware, showcasing a taste of Turkish hospitality and culture. Regarding education, since the system in

Turkey is government-supported it ensures free education for all.

Especially since it is built on values of equal opportunity, anyone is open to pursue education regardless of their ethnicity or gender. Notably, Turkey provides education for nearly 4 million refugees, predominantly from Syria.

Ambassador GÜNGEN emphasizes that Turkey is united by its rich history, culture, language and religion. Religion holds significant importance in Turkish identity, with around 98% of the population being Muslim. Moreover, Turkey's long history includes various influential states like the Ottoman and Seljuk empires. He highlights Istanbul, the largest city and the former capital of three empires: the Roman Empire, the Eastern Roman Empire (Byzantium), and the Ottoman Empire. Additionally, the Turkish flag's emblem, featuring a large star and 16 surrounding stars, symbolizes the nation's historical states.



Therefore, given Turkey's experience in international affairs, Ambassador GÜNGEN believes that Turkey can significantly influence and contribute to global issues including climate change.

Ambassador GÜNGEN also highlights the importance of understanding diverse perspectives and striving for collaboration. Especially in achieving world peace, persuading others that cooperation is far more beneficial than destruction becomes crucial. This approach aligns with his goals as an ambassador to strengthen the relationship between Turkey and Japan through solid projects and encouraging communication. Finally, Ambassador GÜNGEN addresses the issue of gender equality, a persisting global issue. He noted the worldwide prevalence of domestic violence, limited educational and job opportunities, and unequal wages affecting women. He stresses that these challenges must be faced with support from both women and men to recognize that gender equality is a shared issue impacting everyone.

The Hellenic Republic (Greece)

Embassy Interview

By Karen Nishina and Hina Amano



On March 29th, 2022, the International School Network visited the Embassy of Greece in Tokyo to interview the Ambassador His Excellency Mr. Dimitris CARAMITSOS-TZIRAS.

Ambassador CARAMITSOS-TZIRAS highlights the unity of Greece, attributing it to the nation's rich history. He explains that ancient Greece was part of the Byzantine and Ottoman Empire for 400 years, followed by its independence on March 25th, 1821, playing a crucial role in uniting the nation. These historical struggles contributed to the cohesion of the Greek people. Since their independence, Greece has become a member of the EU, NATO, and the eurozone. Education in Greece is characterized by a generalized approach, providing students with

a broad spectrum of knowledge. Foreign language education starts in primary school, with students learning a second language in high school. This multilingual capability is beneficial for the tourism industry, given Greece's numerous popular destinations. However, Ambassador CARAMITSOS-TZIRAS acknowledges the challenges students face when entering universities, as the education system does not focus on specialized fields.

In discussing world peace, Ambassador CARAMITSOS-TZIRAS recognizes the challenges posed by rich countries creating friction for their advantage, leading to conflicts. He emphasizes that globalization has widened the gap between the rich and poor nations. To address these issues, he stresses the importance of empowering organizations such as the UN to secure peace and control the effects of globalization, ensuring a more equitable distribution of wealth.

As for his goals, Ambassador CARAMITSOS-TZIRAS outlines his duties to improve bilateral relationships, including political, trade, and cultural relations, as well as assisting Greek citizens living in Japan. He expresses hope to strengthen relations between Greece and Japan by increasing exports of Greek foods and wines and importing Japanese industrial products.

In his closing message, Ambassador CARAMITSOS-TZIRAS encourages Japanese students to make the most of their time, especially in university, by engaging with people from different cultures. He advises students to travel not just for leisure but to learn about other cultures and worlds, suggesting exchange programs and extensive reading. He emphasizes that the goal of life is not only to succeed in business but also to succeed as a global citizen.



The United Mexican States

Embassy Interview

By Karen Nishina and Hina Amano



On May 18th, 2022, the International School Network visited the Mexico in Tokyo to interview the Ambassador Her Excellency Ms. Melba PRÍA.

Ambassador PRÍA began by emphasizing that diversity is what unites the nation of Mexico. This diversity comes from the Spanish colonization period, during which various cultures and peoples merged, resulting in what is called "Mestizaje." She highlights Mexico's rich historical tapestry, mentioning the many kingdoms that have existed, including the Maya, Aztec, and Olmec civilizations. At school, in addition to Spanish, students learn their mother tongue - choosing from 35 languages - during their first two years. Furthermore, she mentions the importance of family and community values,



particularly the respect for elders, which are deeply ingrained in Mexican culture. In addition, Ambassador PRÍA highlights three key features of the Mexican education system: it is free, secure, and obligatory. In Mexico, tuition is free from preschool through PhD, and education is compulsory until the age of ten. Every school holds an assembly where students sing the Mexican National Anthem while raising the national flag, fostering a sense of unity. Ambassador PRÍA also spoke about the unique qualities of Mexico, noting its modernness, rich nature, enduring indigenous communities, and advancements in high technology, including robots. She mentions that Mexicans excel in producing and exporting food. Specifically to Japan, Mexico exports fresh produce such as blackberries, blueberries, avocados and tuna.

On the topic of world peace, Ambassador PRÍA emphasizes the importance of respecting and acknowledging each other's rights. She points out that peace is a complex concept; the absence of war does not necessarily equal true peace. Ambassador PRÍA highlights the strong relationship between Japan and Mexico, noting that both countries agree and disagree on various multilateral issues, such as the possession of nuclear weapons. Her goal is to further widen and deepen these bilateral relations and hopes to increase the number of exchange students between the two.

In her message to Japanese students, Ambassador PRÍA encourages students to ask questions in class, actively participate, and pursue their interests boldly. She highly recommends students to take advantage of exchange programs, despite the challenges they may present. Such experiences, she believes, offer invaluable lessons beyond what can be learned in school.



The Republic of Panama Embassy Interview

By Karen Nishina and Hina Amano



On October 18th, 2023, the International School Network visited the Embassy of Panama in Japan to interview the Ambassador His Excellency Mr. Carlos PERÉ.

October 7th of this year, when the bombing happened in Israel, the devastating occurrence became an unforgettable day for Ambassador PERÉ especially since it was on his birthday. On a different note, Ambassador PERÉ expresses his gratitude for the latest cooperation from Japan, which was the first nation from Asia to establish relations with Panama. He thanks for financing Panama in building the metro which significantly



changed the lives of 700,000 people. As an ambassador, Mr. PERÉ hopes to further strengthen collaboration between the two countries and strengthen friendship. As Japan has made contributions to Panama with the train line 3, Panama has also contributed to Japan through the Panama Canal, being the second largest user, accounting for 60% of the overall users.

Ambassador PERÉ emphasizes that Panama is a true global leader, especially in the green sector. Despite being a small country with just a population of 4 million, Panama is successively in the top 3 leaders in the global green agenda, with negative carbon emissions. 40% of its natural resources are preserved by law, which has a big impact on the whole world.

When considering world peace, he mentions the importance of being altruistic, and at times, the necessities to put one's personal aspirations aside. Greed and personal agendas must be put aside and instead look at the world agenda. Putting aside one's greed for the greater world agenda is especially crucial considering the world has not achieved peace for a significant amount of time. Finally, as a message towards Japanese students, he recommends exploring other countries and cultivating your values. Especially since Japanese students are given the opportunity to receive education, a true gift, he encourages Japanese students to take advantage of it.



The Republic of Panama Reception

On January 10th, 2024, the International School Network was invited to the Reception commemorating the 120th Anniversary of Diplomatic Relations between the Republic of Panama and Japan. The event was graciously hosted by Ambassador His Excellency Mr. Carlos PERÉ, at the Okura Tokyo.



The Kingdom of Thailand Reception

On December 5th, 2023, the International School Network was invited to the Reception commemorating the Birthday Anniversary of His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej The Great, National Day of the Kingdom of Thailand, and Thailand's Father's Day. The event was graciously hosted by Mrs. Prangtip KANCHANAHATTAKIJ, Chargé d'Affaires ad interim of the Kingdom of Thailand, at the Imperial Hotel,



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President of the ICC, Ms. Tomoko Akane

History of
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The Republic of Haiti Embassy Interview

By Karen Nishina and Hina Amano



On March 23rd, 2022, the International School Network visited the Embassy of the Republic of Haiti in Tokyo to interview the Ambassador His Excellency Dr. Hely Monod HONORAT.

Haiti is located west of the Dominican Republic on Hispaniola Island in the Caribbean sea. It is not only the first independent country in Latin America, and the second republic country in the American continent, but also internationally the first black republic. Ambassador HONORAT, highlights the vibrancy of Haitian culture which unites the nation, particularly the music, art, dance, and ancient paintings.



He mentions beautiful tourist sites where one can experience Haiti's lively culture such as Labadee, Citadelle Laferrière, and Jacmel. Regarding the educational landscape in Haiti, Ambassador HONORAT notes that although some villages lack internet connection and access to computers, the government makes considerable efforts to support the educational system. Many students engage in extensive learning at cram schools and participate in extracurricular activities after school. Addressing issues of world peace and poverty, Ambassador HONORAT stresses the importance of mutual understanding. He asserts that understanding diverse cultures and individuals fosters a more inclusive world. Additionally, he mentions that ending world poverty requires fair distribution of natural resources and the improvement of education in empowering children.

In his role as an ambassador, Dr. HONORAT focuses on strengthening the educational relationship not only through exchange programs in JICA but also through other initiatives. He particularly aims to cooperate with Japan in risk management because Haiti also experiences earthquakes. Additionally, he seeks to strengthen relations through agriculture by exporting Haitian cacao, coffee, and mango to Japan.

Ambassador HONORAT concludes by encouraging Japanese people to recognize their strength of recovery from the past war and disasters and to engage with Haitian culture. He hopes such interactions will strengthen the bonds between Haiti and Japan.



The Republic of Costa Rica Embassy Interview

By Karen Nishina and Hina Amano



On March 24th, 2022, the International School Network visited the Embassy of the Republic of Costa Rica in Tokyo to interview the Ambassador His Excellency Mr. Alexander SALAS ARAYA and Minister Counsellor & Consul General, Mr. William CALVO.

Costa Rica has a high level education with one of the highest literacy rates in the world. Education is free, universal, and compulsory, focusing on allowing children to discover their skills independently. One aspect which the government supports education, is by investing a whopping 8% of their GDP. Moreover, Costa Rica had a transformation in its economy through the improvement of education. Therefore, leading to the

economies predominance in high technology, Costa Rica is one of the members of the OECD today (as of May, 2024).

The culture of Costa Rica is characterized by sincere respect for human rights, peaceful democracy, and promotion of national identity through culture and values. Globally, Costa Rica is also known as the happiest country, embodying the phrase "Pura Vida" which is symbolizing good health, happiness, and welfare. Since abolishing its military in 1948, the country has focused on promoting peace and environmental protection, including efforts in disarmament, biodiversity conservation, and combating climate change. Ambassador SALAS ARAYA addresses the topic of globalization, acknowledging the inevitability and positive aspects, emphasizing the importance of international cooperation given each country's unique advantages.



However, he stresses the need for cultural respect and identity protection in this global environment. He explains that Costa Rica adheres strictly to both international and national laws, ensuring that investments within the country are secure. Furthermore, as Costa Rica becomes a popular destination for international visitors, efforts are intensified to support local businesses, safeguarding its national identity.

As an ambassador, His Excellency Mr. SALAS ARAYA aims to foster greater understanding of Japan among Costa Ricans and enhance the bilateral relationship between the two nations. He reiterates the importance of education in fostering peace, encouraging students to embrace learning from both past and future perspectives. Additionally, he emphasizes respectfulness, desiring students to appreciate and learn from diverse nationalities, values, principles, and cultures.



The Republic of Kosovo Embassy Interview

By Karen Nishina and Hina Amano



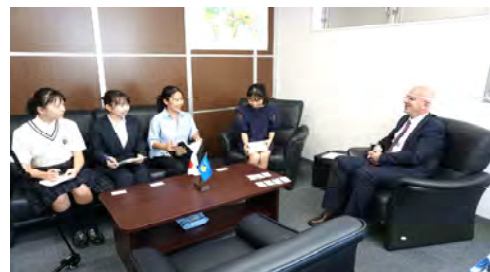
On September 5th, 2023, the International School Network visited the Embassy of the Republic of Kosovo in Tokyo to interview the Ambassador His Excellency Dr. Sabri KIÇMARI.

As an Ambassador, Dr. KIÇMARI has two main goals. First, he aims to collaborate closely with the foreign ministry of Japan. He finds working with Japan relatively straightforward as both countries share common values such as human rights and democracy. Second, he hopes to increase chances for both countries to interact

with one another.

Regarding the history of education, Ambassador KIÇMARI discussed the challenges due to frequent political changes. Following the Serbian occupation in 1991, changes which students faced included linguistics and schools either getting destroyed or fully shut down. After the war, Kosovo received support from various countries including Europe, the USA, and Japan. With these fundings, Kosovo was able to rebuild schools from the ground up through connecting with various countries which also influenced the diversity of education, aligning with their liberal democratic values.

As a first step to achieving world peace, Ambassador KIÇMARI emphasizes the cruciality in organizing and speaking against war. He believes voices starting from families and up can ultimately reach the government or international committee. What becomes important is to speak openly about the war, and to not be afraid when doing so. Secondly, he outlines the three responsibilities on protection; to prevent war, to protect civilities during war, and to rebuild after war. Finally, Ambassador KIÇMARI encourages Japanese students to engage deeply at their



university and internalize theoretical knowledge as this process contributes to making individuals more humane. He also encourages Japanese students to visit and explore other countries including Kosovo to learn diverse cultures and observe both similarities and differences, realizing that there are alternative ways of thinking.

The Republic of Lithuania Embassy Interview

By Karen Nishina and Hina Amano



On September 7th, 2023, the International School Network visited the Embassy of the Republic of Lithuania in Tokyo to interview the Ambassador His Excellency Dr. Aurelijus ZYKAS and First Secretary Ms. Aiste ŠADUIKIENĖ.

In Lithuania, there are mainly three cultural factors that unite the nation: language, religion, and basketball. The Lithuanian language is unique, with almost no relatives, and an important part of their identity. Both Ambassador ZYKAS and Ms. ŠADUIKIENĖ explains that they are proud of Lithuania's spirit of fighting and succeeding for what is important to their country countless times throughout their

history.

Additionally, traditions such as wearing Lithuanian traditional clothing are preserved through annual events, showcasing a dedication to maintaining cultural identity in a globalizing world.

The population in Lithuania is less than 3 million, and with not so many natural resources, Ms. ŠADUIKIENĖ states that the people play a vital role in shaping Lithuania. As an example, one unique aspect of the Lithuanian education system is the emphasis on foreign languages; 80% of the secondary students acquire 2 or more languages. Additionally, a high percentage of students continue to pursue university degrees. Furthermore, as Lithuania is part of the EU, many families study or work in neighboring countries. Therefore, having systems in place for returnees to smoothly reintegrate into schools in Lithuania is crucial.



Ambassador ZYKAS states that for Lithuanians, a sense of safety and protection is equal to true peace. Having a history of aggressive neighbors, being a member of both the EU and NATO is one aspect that allows Lithuania to feel secure. He emphasizes the importance of mutual understanding, recognizing and appreciating different values, cultures and identities as a goal in achieving world peace to bring countries closer and reduce conflict. Ms. Aiste ŠADUIKIENĖ emphasizes that gender equality remains a great priority. She mentions that more women are starting to pursue their university degrees, although they are not yet to equal the number of men. Therefore, society must change especially given the women's burden on household chores. She also points out the importance for women to believe in themselves.



Kanagawa International School

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Mr. Noriyuki SHIKATA Cabinet Secretary for Public Affairs By Karen Nishina and Hina Amano



On January 18th, 2024, the International School Network visited the Cabinet Office for an interview with the Cabinet Secretary for Public Affairs Mr. Noriyuki SHIKATA.

Mr. SHIKATA was born in Kyoto. When he was 13 years old, in 7th grade, he became interested in international affairs as he began studying English. This interest led to him studying abroad in the US during his freshman year in high school, which sparked his interest in foreign affairs. After returning, he solidified his ambition to pursue a career as a diplomat.

As of January 2024, when we conducted our interview, Mr. SHIKATA's current role is to manage communications both domestically and internationally in the Prime Minister's office. His goal is to further improve and prioritize strategic communication with the Prime Minister.

One challenge Mr. SHIKATA faces is the way to

integrate aspects of communication strategies into the policy-making process. As an example, supporting the people affected by earthquakes, such as the one in Noto Peninsula, requires communication as much as there is a need for other forms of aid and policies. Moreover, in his experience working as the Deputy Cabinet Secretary for Public Affairs and the Director of Global Communications, with Japan being a rather monolingual society, he faced challenges of integrating and being prepared for multilingual communication.

Reflecting on his career, Mr. SHIKATA highlights the Great Tohoku Earthquake as a significant moment. While working as the Deputy Cabinet Secretary for Public Affairs and Director of Global Communications, he mentions an intense period where he had more than 10 daily interviews with international media. These interactions made him realize the significance of the global community through the immense support and help from overseas quoting, "Friends in need are friends indeed".

Mr. SHIKATA acknowledges that the ethic of "mutual understanding" is crucial to achieving world peace. However, he also faces the reality that ethics alone have their limitations in sustaining a nation. He recognizes the need for a realistic national deterrence plan to prevent potential attacks considering Japan's challenging geographical security landscape. Following this, Prime Minister Kishida is focusing on building up Japan's deterrence capability emphasizing the importance of

balancing being a pacifist with consideration of security threats.

Mr. SHIKATA encourages Japanese students to be active internationally. He suggests students study abroad, engage in intercultural studies, and acquire foreign language skills, especially English. Additionally, for Japan to become self-sufficient as a nation, managing the concept of "glocal" - a society both global and local - becomes important. This was addressed considering Japan's main source of prosperity being in Tokyo, emphasizing the need to prosper local areas outside of the big city.



The Republic of Yemen Embassy Interview

By Karen Nishina and Hina Amano



On September 14th, 2023, the International School Network visited the Embassy of the Republic of Yemen to interview the Ambassador His Excellency Mr. Adel Ali Ahmed ALSUNAINI and the Second Secretary Mr. Nezar ALMAKHEDHI.

During the interview, Ambassador ALSUNAINI shared Yemen coffee, considered the most expensive in the world, prepared with a special recipe that includes mocha, cinnamon, and coffee spices.

Regarding education, Ambassador ALSUNAINI emphasizes the educational challenges in Yemen, highlighting the importance of making education affordable. Despite the country's difficult situation, Yemeni students receive a good quality education and have a strong



willingness to study to gain a broader perspective of the world.

Ambassador ALSUNAINI also speaks about the unifying factors in Yemen such as patriotism, the protection of collective well-being, respect for law and order, freedom, and democracy. Additionally, he noted Yemen's many qualities including agricultural lands, mountains, great weather, unique foods, islands, and numerous touristic locations.

Furthermore, he highlights Yemen's strategic location, crucial for global energy flows, and expresses his goal of further fostering collaboration between Japanese and Yemeni companies on natural resources.

Ambassador ALSUNAINI introduces traditional clothing of Yemen explaining that these garments vividly reflect the country's rich culture and heritage.

The Yemenis commonly wear a flowy robe

paired with a turban or "jambiya", a distinctive curved dagger resembling a samurai sword in Japan.

These traditional garments showcase Yemen's diverse regional variations and are still worn on various occasions, preserving the country's unique cultural identity.

Finally, Ambassador ALSUNAINI encourages Japanese people to learn about the beauty of Yemen, visit the country, and spread word of its rich heritage. He highlights that Yemen is seeking for peace, drawing parallels between Yemen's current situation and Japan's post-war experience. Particularly after visiting the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Summit, he found inspiration in Japan's successful nation-building even after great losses. He aspires to strengthen the relations between Yemen and Japan through cultural exchanges, business partnerships, tourism, education, and economic collaboration.



The Republic of Zambia Embassy Interview

By Karen Nishina and Hina Amano



On September 26th, 2023, the International School Network visited the Embassy of the Republic of Zambia in Japan to interview the Ambassador His Excellency Dr. Tobias MULIMBIKA.

As a child, Ambassador MULIMBIKA has always been interested in peacemaking, and one of his first aspirations was to become a police officer to help enforce laws in communities.

Ambassador MULIMBIKA emphasizes that the people of Zambia believe in unity, and do not leave anyone behind even if they are a "stranger". If anyone sees someone in need, they would always assist by communicating and helping with transportation if needed.

Zambia is a friendly nation where the people place value on each other's lives and are good not only to themselves but to others as well. Additionally, Ambassador MULIMBIKA explains that the diversity in Zambia unites the nation. People treasure various cultures, and make the country a peaceful place to live in for all. Furthermore, education in Zambia focuses on cultivating a broad perspective contributing to the citizenship of loving one another from a young age.

On the topic of globalization, Ambassador MULIMBIKA explains that there are both positive and negative aspects. One positive aspect of globalization is that it allows the world to become like a village. With easy access to transportation, the world can easily share resources with one another. For instance, in recent years, technological innovations such as cars from Japan are being imported at a cheaper price compared to the past. However, some countries have an advantage depending on their technological developments allowing them to gain more than others. Therefore, Ambassador MULIMBIKA believes there needs to be further emphasis on equality with globalization.

To this, he stresses the importance of always recognizing and loving each other as love can

be the first step towards world peace. With love, one can recognize that every individual is a human being. On the contrary, without love, people opt to become selfish, act for personal gain, and control others. Overall, Ambassador MULIMBIKA highlights the importance of loving one another especially in our current increasingly globalizing world where it has become easier for people from different backgrounds to come together.



The Republic of Poland Embassy Interview

By Karen Nishina and Hina Amano



On October 6th, 2023, the International School Network visited the Embassy of the Republic of Poland in Tokyo to interview the Ambassador His Excellency Mr. Pawel MILEWSKI.

As an ambassador, Mr. MILEWSKI aspires to further develop cooperation between Poland and Japan, emphasizing that political dialogue is important. He hopes to further unite with Japan to exchange knowledge to understand each country's point of view.

Ambassador MILEWSKI believes that friendship and peace are what unites the nation. For instance, he mentions a historical incident when Japan assisted in bringing back approximately 800 orphans from Russia, which happened 100 years ago when Poland was facing difficulties.



Since then, a celebration commemorating and expressing gratitude for this has been held, which happened to occur a week before our interview with Ambassador MILEWSKI. Moreover, on the other hand, during the war, Polish Catholic missionaries assisted the Japanese, offering various forms of support. These occurrences set the foundation of the relations between the two countries, and it demonstrate how humanitarianism and the act of helping each other give universal values. Additionally, Poland has also supported Japan during crucial moments such as the 1995 Kobe Earthquake and the 2011 Fukushima Earthquake inviting the Japanese children to Poland for a period of relaxation and relief. Ambassador MILEWSKI further emphasizes the importance of continuing solidarity, unity, and friendship.

Regarding education, Poland's education system ranks 5th in Europe and 10th in the world.

In Poland, education reflects gender equality. The number of women serving as ministers in Poland is one factor that proves this point. Polish society acknowledges the cruciality of education, evidenced by the saying that "educating a man is equal to educating a man" while "educating a woman is equal to educating a whole generation." This perspective comes from how women are understood to have their roles as mothers and grandmothers who teach their young generation. Moreover, women play a strong role in society, as many responsibilities, beginning with raising and educating their children, rest with mothers and grandmothers. Finally, Ambassador MILEWSKI encourages Japanese students to study hard, be open-minded to other countries, respect oneself and others, and be tolerant. Moreover, he encourages Japanese students and people to travel around the world, experience by themselves, and learn about other countries.

