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The 49th Kishibe Festival: "OGU International Street"

As mentioned in the last Newsletter, the international students worked special booths at the Kishibe Festival during October. Below we feature stories from an International student, one ISST member, an OGU student and a teacher/staff member.

Sanae Hagino (International Studies, 3rd year student)

As an ISST member participating in the festival with international students, I was looking forward to the festival because there was a large number of students and three booths just for the "International Street" this year. It was quite different from last year. The International students were the main players and coordinated the preparation and the shifts of each group. The group leaders were international students and the OGU students assisted them at the booth. To tell the truth, some of the communication didn't go well and some things were last minute and we didn't know what to do. However, the international students helped us and took the initiative to sell food and draw in the customers. Simply observing their energy, both uplifted my spirits and I began to enjoy the festival with them. All the international students helped each other and they really appeared to enjoy communicating with the customers who came to the festival. I feel confident this festival was an unforgettable experience for everyone! The international students also taught me we could not manage the booth without cooperation. It was important that each

one of us shared ideas and took responsibility for them. I pledge to continue giving strong support for all international students as an ISST member in the future!!

Kim Pilju (Soonchunhyang University, Korea)

The Kishibe Festival was such a success! Although it was not an easy task and we worked really hard and became very tired, it was an enjoyable three days. Everyone pulled together with the other international students and OGU students who hadn't yet met. We made tteokbokki and jeon that I often ate when I was in Korea. I was so happy to serve some of my favorite dishes to so many people at the festival. It was the consensus of our group to donate the majority of the profit we made at the festival to a cause and use the remaining profits to go to Arashiyama on a group outing. I am happy that I have such a wonderful memory I can take home when I return to Korea.

Russell Sumitomo

(International Chat Lounge staff)

With all bustle in October, the Kishibe Festival is meant to be a fun and exciting event for students and campus clubs to make additional money for their expenses.

Being a part of the staff from the International Center, I knew this year's festival would be larger compared to previous years. With 73 exchange students, the most in any years, along with ISST members, OGU students, teachers and staff, were divided into 4 booths to sell foods featured in America, China, Europe and Korea.

As a staff leader, I was placed in charge of the European group. They had a great student leader from Finland, Toni Heikkilä. I put my trust in him as he has great leadership skills. There were cultural differences in each group's customer service. Team America made the



"OGU International Street" Menu

America: Grilled Cheese Sandwiches

China: Dumplings, egg soup, shrimp crackers

Korea: Tteokbokki, jeon, Yuzu tea

Europe: Pea soup, pancakes



customer orders once they were placed. Team China and Team Korea, had work lines going to keep up with the numerous orders. Team Europe sold "Pea Soup" which was appreciated by the older festival visitors. Team Europe appeared to have a more relaxing time during the 3 days of the Kishibe Festival. With no competition and compensation, the 4 teams as a whole, successfully did their jobs, had a lot of fun and made a lot of food. In the end, they made a surprisingly sizable profit! Thanks to everyone's efforts, hopefully, every exchange student, ISST member, OGU student, staff and teacher had a positive experience and will look back at this event as a treasured memory during their stay at Osaka Gakuin University.

Summer Short-term Study Abroad Experience: Hideyuki Matsukawa (Economics, 3rd year student)

Hideyuki participated in the three-week English study program held at Medicine Hat College this past summer. He is highly motivated to learn English and foreign culture, so he learned many more things than many.

It was a treasured experience to participate in this program because I not only learned English, but I also experienced what I could not have touched or seen simply staying in Japan.

In the future, I would like to work for an airline company, so English is an essential requirement to work in the field. Once I decided to go to Canada, I set my goal to learn and be able to understand even some English.

Prior to leaving for Canada, I had little confidence in my English abilities. Not only could I not speak English, I wasn't good at English grammar either. Would I be all right in Canada with my limited English skills? Once I started living with my host family, my worries disappeared. They were so nice to me and they always tried to speak slowly and use easy and simple English words. They also cared about me all the time. Thanks to

their hospitality, I felt comfortable and gradually began communicating with them in English. However, my English was not perfect.

A week after I arrived in Canada, I went to a huge supermarket called Wal-Mart. You can find anything imaginable at Wal-Mart. I was shocked to see the home appliance section. I saw very few Japanese home electric appliances there. You may think it was no wonder because I was in Canada, but, I saw many products made in Korea. I was surprised! You may have seen the Korean brand "Samsung" before. 90% of the products sold in that store were the Samsung brand. The price was half of the Japanese products, so although they have Japanese products, they were all very expensive. Who do you think would purchase expensive products? For example, a Korean cell phone costs 20,000 yen, while a Japanese cell phone costs 100,000 yen. The majority of products you see at smaller shops are often times made in Japan. However, in Canada, Korean products dominate the market. I worry that Japan will be left behind by other countries when it comes to making and exporting products to foreign coun-

tries.

Through this study abroad program, I experienced the warm-hearted hospitality of Canadians and much more about their culture. I have no words to express how much this experience meant to me. I became much more interested in English and made a bigger effort to get serious about studying English. I promised my host family that I would visit them next summer. I would like to improve my English by then, so that I can communicate with them better. I highly recommend you participate in the OGU short-term study abroad program if you are interested in studying abroad and learning foreign languages!



Hideyuki with staff at Medicine Hat College (Second from left)

OGU International Students

Li Ji Fa (Economics, 1st year student)

Wang Daliang (Graduate School of Commerce, Graduate student)

In the exchange program of the International Center, we accept exchange students from institutions in our global network as well as privately-funded international students. In addition, there are other international students who study full-time at OGU. Presently there are a total of 9 students. Five undergraduate students from Taiwan and China, 3 graduate students from China, and 1 from Thailand enrolled at the junior college. Although this is not a very high percentage given the overall population of OGU, these students do a fine job managing various cultural and linguistic barriers. They study very hard immersed in classrooms with the regular Japanese students. There is a lot to be learned from their dedicated attitudes towards their studies. For this issue, Li Ji Fa and Wang Daliang will share their experiences so far at OGU.

Li Ji Fa "My life as a student"

I'm very pleased that I came to Japan to study. Honestly, before I came to study at OGU, I was entirely dependent on my parents. I grew up not knowing anything about the real world. Since I came to Japan, I feel that I have grown up. When I first arrived, I was really struggling as it was a challenge not to be able to communicate and on top of that, my time as a college freshman was not



an easy adjustment.

Living alone, I had to do things by myself. I didn't think that working at a part-time job while attending school, was something I'd actually be doing. Yet I am, and it's really physically draining. However, my daily life has become fulfilling

and I now experience things I have never been able to in my life. I work part-time, and at my job I laugh and I make new friends and learn a lot from them. I definitely kill two birds with one stone. "Use your head and make something happen" is what I learned from my job. There are definitely a lot of difficult things in this world but they aren't things that I can't manage. If I use my head and give as much effort as possible, I will be capable of doing anything.

I enjoy my college life very much and participate in many activities. The Japanese language that I've learned I use with other Japanese students on campus and my classmates and friends. My teachers complimented me about my Japanese, and this makes me very happy! Lastly, I've finally learned the joy of studying.

The International Center staff, are very kind to me. I feel as if they are like my family. I really appreciate all their help. When I encounter problems or am concerned about anything, all I have to do is go to the International Center and ask for help. The staff looks after me

like their own kin.

I'm now focused on my study of English and would like to study abroad in different English speaking countries. This is one of my future goals. I believe that if one has a goal, he is able to make progress. In addition to experiencing new things and growing as a person, I feel as if my world-view has expanded and I have grown stronger. I have no regrets about coming to Japan and from the bottom of my heart, I say "continue on enjoy life!"

Wang Daliang

"The I-Chat Lounge and I"

I majored in the Japanese language at a university in China. After graduation, I worked in a small firm in Dalian. As someone working for the first time, I was unable to make conversation in Japanese. One might say that this is because I was a newbie. I was told by my colleagues, who were great achievers, that one needs to acquire experience and specialized knowledge. I was in the sales department and often caught between Japanese clients and

the Chinese owner and the expectation to speak Japanese was upon me. This is what motivated me to study in Japan.

Through my studies in Japan, I never dreamed that I would be able to improve not only my Japanese, but also my English. However, this became a reality when I came to OGU, thanks to the I-Chat Lounge. A relaxing atmosphere, kind staff, clean interior, free drinks and a setting to use English—this is what the I-Chat Lounge is to me.

My first encounter with the I-Chat Lounge was as a member of the International Student Support Team when we had the study tour for the international students. "Hello! How do you do? I am Leilani." I still remember even now the warm greetings from Leilani, a staff



at the I-Chat Lounge, who was really nice. Too bad I got so nervous that I forgot to even say "Nice to meet you". Instead, I replied only in Japanese.

At the I-Chat Lounge, sitting together with people from different countries, laughing, chatting, I didn't feel even a slight feeling of awkwardness. Since then, I have felt that communicating in a foreign language is fun. Even if we come from different ethnic backgrounds, and although the language we speak is different, I again realized that there is no such thing as borders in communication.

What I learned from the I-Chat Lounge staff is not only English conversation, but also, how to treat people and convey the proper attitude towards one's work and life. No matter how the I-Chat staff is feeling, when they face the students, they always show a friendly smile. I also noticed that even after I-Chat has closed they still do their best to offer ideas, or an ear to students to support them. I am touched by their dedication and the encouragement it gives me!

Japan-ASEAN Youth Leaders Summit Daichi Misaki (International Studies, 3rd year student)

The Japan-ASEAN Youth Leaders Summit is an annual international camp organized by the Cabinet Office of the Japanese government and the Center for International Youth. The mission is to strengthen ties between Japanese youth and their counterparts from other ASEAN countries. Over one hundred youth representatives, between the ages of 18 and 30, participate from Japan. We are pleased to share with you, selected candidate Daichi Misaki's experience during his attendance this year. It was definitely another valuable opportunity for Daichi, who spent a year as an exchange student at University of Mississippi, to make use of his study abroad experience and actively participate in the Summit, which was presented entirely in English.

It was an honor to participate in the Japan-ASEAN Youth Leaders Summit held at the National Olympics Memorial Youth Center in Tokyo at the end of October of this year. Youth leaders from the 10 ASEAN countries gathered in Japan and worked together in a

camp-style training, which featured various discussions and exhibitions. The participation of representatives from different embassies, the Cabinet Office and the Imperial family made this event even more spectacular.

As most people know, poverty exists in society. In poverty-stricken regions, infrastructure is under developed. Conflicts involving politics, religion and history continually occur. As a result of the conflict, there are neither schools nor access to books. There are no hospitals or medical supplies. Thus, there are many children who are unable to receive proper education and many suffering people who are unable to access proper medical treatment. Industrialized nations are the main players in dealing with the development of these kinds of developing countries, but the reality is things are not going so smoothly. Even Japan gives out a large amount of aid to developing countries every year and a part of it is used for military expenditures and for purposes that are not really known. This is a major global concern.

Isn't there anything that we, the youth, can do about this concern? Drawing inspiration from the theme of this year's Summit, "Youth Participation in Social Activities – Towards Better



Daichi at the Leadership Summit

Society," we held discussions in English about what we could do to help create that "better society." At the end of our discussions, we agreed on the following: 4 main things are needed for a better society: (1) easy access to high-quality education; (2) a sustainable environment; (3) a well-balanced economy; and (4) a society where there are strong links and free speech.

There are limits to what the youth can do but we are able to do things like charity work and tree-planting activities. However, more important than these is the cooperation between people. In order to cooperate, people must learn to respect each other's cultures and backgrounds.

During the course of the summit, I came to realize two things: First, I still have much to learn and for me to know about the world, English is an absolutely essential communication tool. Since I entered college, I've done traveling on my own and have also joined

the short-term study abroad and year-long exchange programs at OGU so I had been so far quite confident of my overseas experience. Yet, I now meet people who have had far more extensive overseas experience and are much more knowledgeable. It was enjoyable conversing with them and it was a real challenge for me. Regardless of whether those people were from Japan or from abroad, we may be of the same generation. I came to realize that there are many youth who are working hard for a good cause and this became a

motivating factor for me. In this summit, to stand in the same ring as these young people and to talk with them in English has given me a boost of confidence. As I face the future, as I brush up my English and pour my energy into my studies, I do hope to gain much more valuable knowledge.

At the Summit, I made a promise that if there would be a venue for me to do charity work in the future, I will take the initiative and volunteer. I believe our smallest actions can save people around the world who are in need. So

for the readers, just remember that even a small act will do, so let's work towards creating a better society!



With a participant from the Philippines

Tips for a Host Family—Part VII by: Yuko Teramura

What to do when complaints arise?

I have been hosting international students for many years, yet, I often hear other families ask the International Center staff to convey specific complaints or messages to the students and request they avoid using their family name. They hope that the problem can be addressed while they remain anonymous.

Although the International Center orientates all international students about the rules, students often think they are only general rules and don't pay close attention to them. When rules are reviewed with the students in a general forum; they do not specifically address any one individual. As a result, families can become even more frustrated think-

ing the issue remains unaddressed. On the other hand, a student would have no way of knowing he did anything incorrectly or should change his behavior in anyway. Consequently, the downfall of indirect communication.

When host families want their student to know something, they need to speak to them directly and state their concerns clearly to them. Even if language is an issue, there is always a way to find a translator. In all cases, the indirect approach is the least effective way to approach a problem. Unless and until the student is clearly informed of any problems concerning their behavior, living with them will be a challenge. Clear trust and communication is key.

"Tips for Host Family" by Ms. Yuko Teramura has been featured in the newsletter since September, 2009. Sadly, this will be her final featured article. This past school year, the International Exchange Program had 32 host families and 9 home visit families offer their homes to various international students. We hope that both new families and long time host families have found the articles useful. OGU will continue to hold meetings for training and sharing your own tips with other host families. We would like to thank all families for their understanding and cooperation throughout these past few months. Your continuous support is most appreciated.

KC News

2010-2011 Exchange Program: Spring Departure

Beginning this year students began departing abroad twice throughout the year. In the past, Junior students were often reluctant to study abroad due to the overlap of months with their job-hunting period. Fortunately, students can now leave Japan in spring and return before the job-hunting period begins. Our first candidates for spring departure are Ms. Shiori Fukuda and Ms. Maiko Oyama; both sophomores majoring in English. They will study at Providence University in Taiwan and Fontys University of Applied Sciences in the Netherlands beginning in Feb. OGU students' study abroad opportunities are increasing!



Maiko (Left), Shiori (Right)

Visiting Korean Partners

I visited four Korean partners last October: Sookmyung Women's University, Soonchunhyang University, Baekseok University, and Pai Chai University. My visit revealed the forward movement of all four universities to accept various degree-seeking international students from overseas, as well as their focus on English language education. As you may already know, recently, the governor of Osaka Prefecture, Mr. Hashimoto visited Korea to learn more about their advanced educational system. I also learned that Korean universities are more inclined to nurture students who can play a role in the global society more so than Japanese universities. Although the education systems vary a bit in each country; Japan stands to learn a lot from Korea.

Fundamentally, it seems that both countries' bilateral relationships have improved, as a result of the "Korean population boom" in Japan. However, regardless of their close geographical proximity, they remain politically distant due to their shared history. Essentially, it is important to learn and share one another's culture and customs in order to promote further cooperation and shared

understanding. Why don't you study in the closest study abroad destination? (M)



From left Kazutoshi, Keisuke, Shuhei, Yuya

"Coffee Break"

A "Coffee Break" networking event was held on November 15th between the faculty and the International Center staff. The goal of the event is to offer information regarding the activities of the International Center and "brainstorm" ways both parties can work together on common goals. The International Center presented, the inbound/outbound exchange programs, short-term study abroad programs, the International Chat Lounge, and the ISST to 21 attending members of the faculty. Lastly, Yujin Yamamoto (Economics, 4th year student) gave a presentation about his past study abroad experiences.