

E:VISION

Spring 2009 - The Magazine of the English Engineering Education program



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"Thank you for all of your hard work"
Jintana Wongta - Editor in-chief

ON COVER



Photocontest winner- Mr. Piti Rotwannasin
Internship Trainee, Laboratory of Transpor-
tation Intelligent, Hokkaido University.



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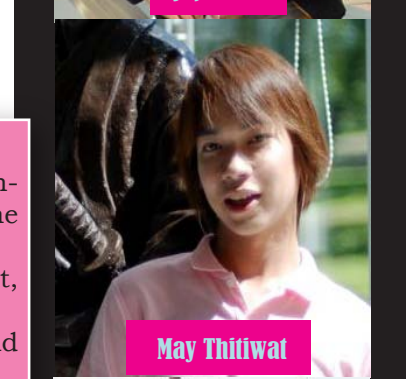
Upaka Sanjeewa Rathnayake



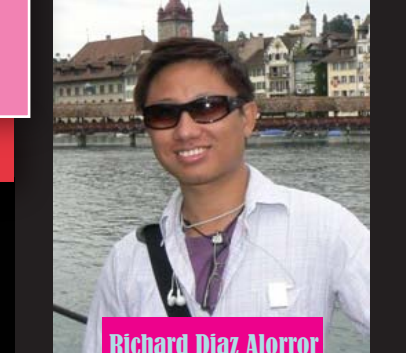
Tomoo Tsuyuhara



Jaja Gaid



May Thitiwat



Richard Diaz Alorror



Nikol Kochmanova

WHAT DOES THE FUTURE HOLD FOR ECO?

by Nikol

The year 2009 brought about several big changes in our student organization, including the restructuring of the student committee (eco); the distribution of tasks among the students; and a refocus on some of our goals.

In the past, eco has consisted of a president overseeing the work of other officers, such as the treasurer, secretary, and academic officer to name a few. This year, rather than having one person assume the leadership role, we've decided to distribute the responsibilities equally among all the officers. Hence the creation of only 4 chair (officers) positions were adopted: vice-chair



(VC) finance - Alex, in charge of finances; VC Social – Tidarut/Lek, in charge of all non-task group related activities; VC Academic - Sayem, in charge of all academic matters; and the chair (wo)man - Nikol, overseer of the VCs and task groups. The creation of the VC titles is meant to provide each officer with equal input and decision powers with regards to the various events, initiatives, and tasks undertaken by the organization.

This year, to further delineate responsibilities, there has been the creation of task groups. In this manner, annual events, such as welcome and graduation parties, elympics, and field trips, are organized by everyone, providing each member and/or volunteer with a sense of pride and well being from a task well done. Different ideas from different people creates diversity in the events, and also allows the chairs to concentrate on higher level priorities, rather than dealing with the smaller day to day intricacies associated with planned events.

The goal for our tenure is to create a more family-like feeling within e3, and to be seen not only as a committee that organizes parties and 'fun' events, but also as a committee that represents the students in all matters, social and academic. We want the students to know that if they have a problem, they can come to us, and we will try to help them find a solution; like a family. Socially, we want to shift our focus from events aimed at young single students, to social events that are suitable for families, and enjoyed by all ages. This means that instead of planning more parties, we want to try new types of events, events that everyone would enjoy partaking in.

On the academic front, we would like to strengthen our role by establishing a course evaluation that will benefit not only the students, but also the senseis, thereby helping us to improve the academic standard of our program. With the aid of the annual survey we would like to gradually make our laboratories and university safer, and more foreigner-friendly. Some issues cannot be changed instantly, but if we lay the framework for change this year, then the next committee can build on that framework, and eventually we will reach our goal. Also, looking forward, we would like to organize special lectures, seminars and field trips that would benefit all the students.

In essence, we would like to improve our program not only for us, but also for future students! So, if you have any ideas or suggestions, or don't like something we're doing, don't hesitate to let us know; your comments are appreciated and will always be kept confidential.

Template

by Dr. Werawan

Last night I attended a farewell party for a retiring professor. The party was organized by his laboratory staff and attended by people who knew the retiring professor. During the past few years, I have attended such parties besides the official one hosted by the Dean for all the retiring faculty and senior staff. Attendees of the latter are limited to members of the faculty and senior staff and the subsidized fee is 3,000 yen. Fees for parties organized by laboratories ranges between 5,000-10,000 yen.

All the laboratory-organized parties I have attended so far used the same template, with someone, normally the retiring professor's Division chairman, reading out the professor's profile and achievements. This is followed by a "kampai" and speeches are made one after another from colleagues at the university, outside the university, former students, former supervisor (if he could come) and the retiring professor himself, as well as some slide shows of his life chronologically. I have found the same template when I attended the farewell party for a professor at a university in Tokyo a few years ago.

The atmosphere was also similar to all other parties. When the speech was interesting, people would listen, otherwise they would continue with their conversation and pay no attention. I felt strange each time a speaker expressed gratitude to the retiring professor for having devoted his whole life at the university – as undergraduate student, graduate student, research associate, assistant professor and finally full professor. Having jumped from one place to another for better pay as well as for work satisfaction, it was at first hard for me to believe that someone could spend his entire career at a single place. Later I found that, like farewell parties where you can predict what would come next, here in Japan wherever you work, the system is the same – designed to foster consensus, a common denominator and hierarchy. Why then should one struggle to go somewhere else?

"All the laboratory-organized parties I have attended so far used the same template, with someone, normally the retiring professor's Division chairman, reading out the professor's profile and achievements."

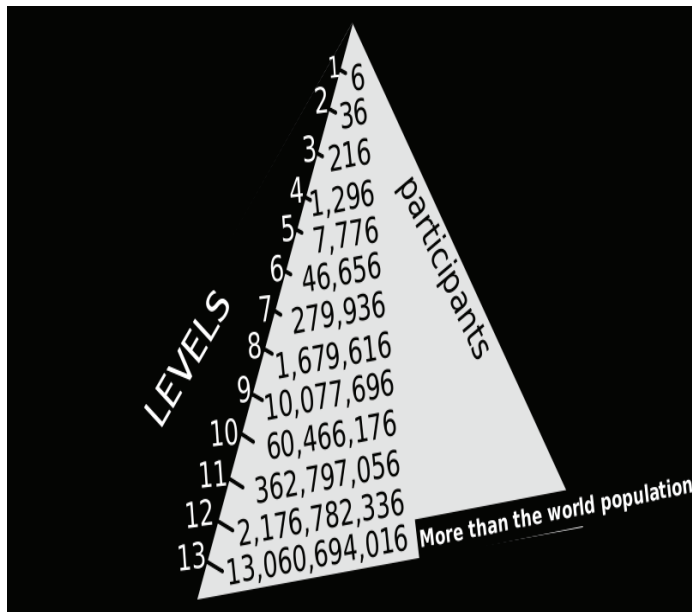
When I created the website for the then EGPSEE program in 1999, I was surprised to see that almost everyone in most laboratories, from full professors to research associates, graduated from Hokkaido University. I am sure everyone knew that faculty inbreeding is unhealthy. This was precisely summed up by Vijay K Stokes, a former professor at IIT Kanpur, in his article "Academic inbreeding and lack of faculty mobility converts such institutions into degree-awarding factories." Fortunately things have started to change during the past few years. We have seen new professors who graduated and/or worked somewhere else before coming to work here.

While the situation concerning faculty members is changing, that of the graduate students remains unchanged. The majority of graduate students here, as well as at other national universities come from their own undergraduate students. For innovation and creativity to be nurtured, one must have different mentors from different institutions. Unless MEXT sets a policy on the admission ratio between internal and external students, both students and universities will continue using this "template" for years to come.

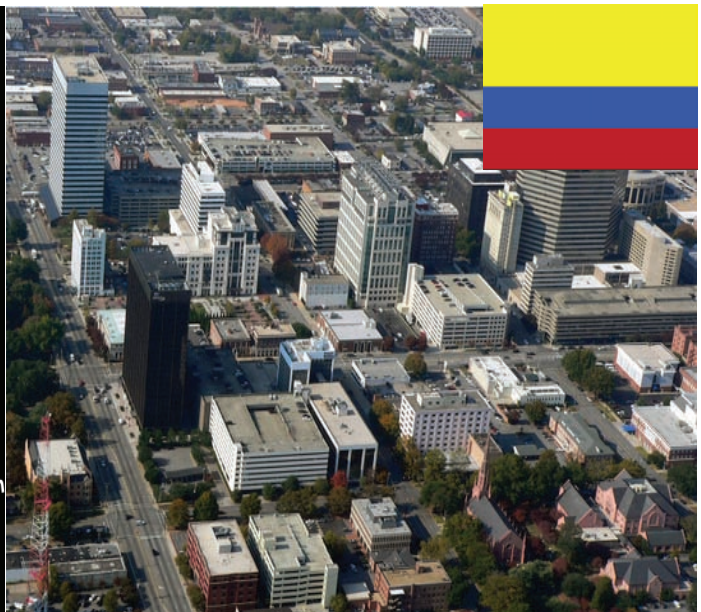


Easy Scam, Easy Goes

by David



Pyramid scheme



Aerial of central business district of Columbia, South Carolina, USA

On November 18th 2008, the news emerged that the Colombian Government forced the closure of the operations of a local firm owned by 28 year-old David Murcia Guzmán for involvement in a financial pyramid.

A “financial pyramid” refers to a monetary scheme that uses point cards and other merchandising strategies to increase an organization's capital as long as new investors continue to join.

In David Murcia Guzmán's company, DMG, the total cost to investors totaled over 48 billion yen, creating a national economic emergency. Why was this an emergency? As it turns out, unlike the recent Lehman Brother's failure, DMG's investors were made up of hundreds of thousands of villagers from towns across the countryside.

For these people, DMG was often seen as their only hope for a better life; many even putting money from their mortgages, life savings, and even taking out loans. When the pyramid collapsed, the gross monthly product for one province dropped by 4.1%.

Pyramid schemes and other schemes like this are not new and can be dated back to similar cases found in 19th century Europe and North America. The most notable case being the one performed by the Italian immigrant Carlo Ponzi in the US around 1920. This case was particularly notorious because his power grew so large that he was able to bail himself out of jail several times with the money he earned. Eventually, when he was deported back to Italy, it was met with the roar and clamor of many people that believed he was a hero unjustly persecuted by the system.

The scheme is simple: the con man at the top of the pyramid asks an investor for a certain amount of money. The con man promises to repay double that amount in a few months' time as long as the investor brings in more recruits to do the same. The first couple of investors receive their payment on schedule, giving social proof to the scheme. However, the number of investors required as the pyramid gets deeper grows exponentially, so a critical point is reached fairly quickly. At this point, the scheme is a social time bomb, with the investors at the bottom of the pyramid accounting for most of the capital, but without any chance of getting their money back.



<http://governanceblog.worldbank.org/ponzi-schemes-russiacolombia-and-us-mavrodi-murcia-madoff-mmm>

In DMG's case, the resulting scandal was huge in scope. The angry crowds, unable to act until it was too late, ultimately raided DMG's regional offices in an attempt to recoup losses. Songs, graffiti, and emails mocking the situation began to circulate, adding further insult to injury. What is truly interesting, however, is how the social environment in Columbia allowed these events to occur.

In Columbia, as in most of Latin America, the American Dream is pervasive. The thought of being successful and rich has misled many young people into lifestyles that are unsustainable, while at the same time devaluing the concept of hard work as a means to get ahead. With an uncertain future, and no link to a traditional culture, these young people are quickly enticed by easy money.

For these people, there are two major options: get involved in illegal business, or leave the country in hopes of a better life (generally the US or Spain). This leaves a dearth of hard-working Colombians, and is devastating to the development of the society. When DMG came along, they were in the position to provide many people with better dividends than working could provide.

What does this say for Columbia? The devaluation of work as a concept in Colombian society seriously contributed to the DMG fiasco. With a large portion of the population thinking only for themselves, the society as a whole suffers, and the culture becomes toxic. We Colombians, and indeed those of us from all developing societ-

ies, must think very hard about what it means to be a member of our society, and how we as individuals can contribute to the whole. Only together can we bring up the standard of living and distinguish ourselves as a society.

Perhaps, though, David Murcia Guzmán taught us something important with the final words found on a plastic chair (the chair being the only thing left behind) inside one regional office similar to DMG's and which was found by the police:

"Hello, here we have left for you the most expensive plastic chair in the world. Remember that the only pyramids that do not run away are the ones in Egypt!"



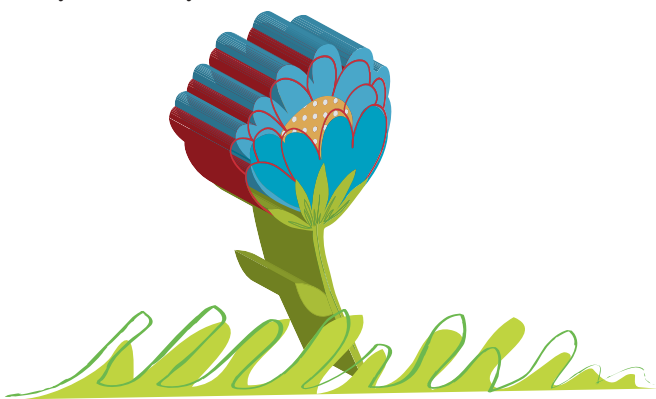
David Blanco, M2. Division of Human Environmental System, Architectural and design, Environmental Systems Research Laboratory.

Switzerland: The YES 2008 Experience

by Richard

What else do you know about Switzerland aside from Lindt and Cailler chocolates, Swiss watches, Roger Federer, the Swiss Alps, the red with the white plus flag, and neutrality?

The Confoederatio Helvetica (CH), Switzerland's Latin name, is famous for many things, including sustainability. Switzerland is a small but sustainable country which lacks natural resources, yet it's among the world's greatest and most prosperous countries. Being such, Switzerland hosts the bi-annual Youth Encounter on Sustainability (YES) International Workshop, which attracts a highly diverse group of students around the world to discuss global challenges and opportunities for sustainable development. The YES course aims to develop the leadership capability necessary for a viable future.



The main modules of the YES program looked into natural and human systems, energy and materials, water, health and nutrition, economics, psychosocial needs and policy. The 17 day-workshop was filled with interactive lectures, group discussions, guided art sessions, games, poster sessions, case studies, debates, presentations, excursions, company visits, film viewing, and cultural activities. The participants were able to visit different locations in the Valley of Glarus and learned about direct democracy and the history of industry in this province. After the workshop, some of us went on a three-day field trip to the picturesque Rheinau, next to the Rheine Island Monastery and close to the world famous Rheine Falls and experienced Switzerland's largest organic farm.

I applied and fortunately got selected to participate in the YES August 2008 workshop held in Branwauld, Switzerland last August 8-27, 2008. The workshop was attended by 35 participants from 30 countries with very diverse fields of studies: from engineering to art design, international studies, medicine, forestry, world literature, business management, education and sustainable development. A pool of experts from scientific institutions (MIT, ETH Zurich, Technical University of Vienna, University of Tokyo, International Water Center and others), industry, non-governmental organizations (Union Bank of Switzerland, Holcim, Ministry of Environment of Costa Rica and others), and YES alumni served as lecturers and resource speakers for the four modules tackled during the workshop.



The YES workshop was not only about lectures and discussions, but also held several other activities. During our free days, we were able to visit different places in Switzerland. A trip to the beautiful city of Lucerne and its famous Chapel Bridge and Lion Monument, the historic and old municipality of Altdorf where the statue of the legendary Willhelm Tell stands, Einsiedlen which is the home of the magnificent Abbey Church of Einsiedlen, and to Switzerland's largest city and the main cultural and commercial center, Zurich was an experience like no other. In Zurich we visited the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (ETH Zurich) and the University of Zurich, and other famous landmarks, such as the Grossmünster and Fraumünster.



As a student engaged in materials processing and resources engineering, which is an important aspect of sustainable development, and as an advocate of sustainability science, the YES experience was a very extraordinary opportunity to enhance my understanding of sustainability and appreciate more my chosen profession. The unique gathering of brilliant students of different fields from across the globe allowed us to learn sustainability in a most diverse way, to experience cross-cultural understanding and to create networks of friendship and collaboration. Somehow the workshop has influenced my interests and the direction for my future career. Truly, my YES 2008 experience is priceless.



Richard Diaz Alorro,
D2 (Laboratory of
Mineral Processing and
Resources Recycling)

Note: I would like to extend my sincerest gratitude and appreciation to my sensei, Prof. Masami Tsunekawa and the Laboratory of Mineral Processing and Resources Recycling for the financial support afforded to me in this workshop. For more information about the YES Program.

please visit <http://web.sustainability.ethz.ch/en/activities/yesprograms.cfm>.

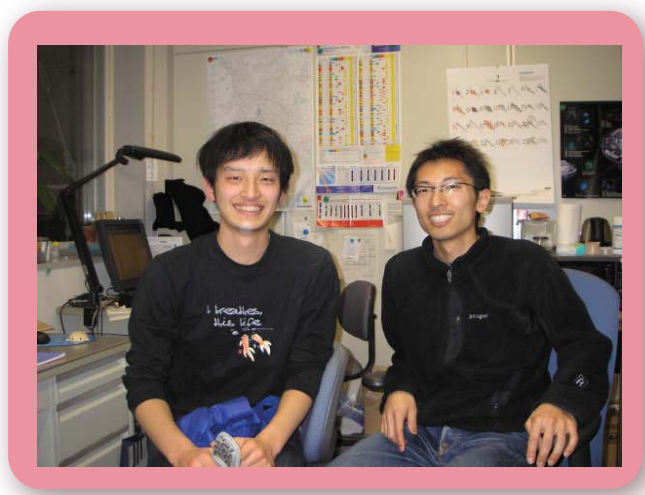


Interview

by Tomoo

Dr. Akinobu Ito (picture right) has just finished his doctoral course and will now be working for a pharmaceutical company.

What follows is an interview about his research career, campus life, and future targets.



1. What is your best memory during your stay in Hokkaido University?

Most of my memories are about my research especially when I gave an oral presentation in Germany. It was the first time I presented either in Japanese or in English. It was very tough.

2. What did you learn from that presentation?

I found that I could change myself if I worked hard enough. I didn't like presentations. I was not good at it; but after that experience in Germany, I think I improved. I had the courage to present, but I could neither discuss nor defend what I presented. I realized I needed to work harder and harder. It was a good opportunity to discover the need to improve my research skills, such as experimental design, presentation, and discussion.

3. Why did you decide to get a Ph.D.?

After earning my masters, I decided to continue because I wanted to be a researcher. To be a researcher, it is important to get a Ph.D. Research is very important in life. Everything was and is developed by research. New technologies and theories are conceived and developed through research. With research, we can make something new to make life better. Moreover, the work itself is very exciting. We can change our own life. We can be among the very few who know about something. We can help understanding the world. When ever I would find something new, I would always get excited. When the experimental results would show that my hypothesis was true, I would always get excited. Even

when I would find that my hypothesis was not true, I would always think of different methods or solutions. When I would come up with new ideas, I would get excited. Because I found I got excited with the research, I decided to proceed with the doctoral course. At that time, I actually didn't think about other choices except entering doctoral course.

4. How was your study?

It was very tough, but I enjoyed my research.

5. Ambitions?

I would like to be a good researcher.

6. What do you want to do as a researcher?

I want to develop something new, which will have a big impact on improving our life. I also want to collaborate with other researchers. I only had a few colleagues then so I couldn't discuss so much in the laboratory. I want a workplace where I can discuss often. What I can do by myself is limited; but what I can do with other researchers and what we can do together has no limits.

7. What kind of a researcher do you want to be?

I want to be a researcher who can lead and manage research projects. To be a project leader, I need to gain full knowledge about my own field and broaden by studying related fields. Knowledge-sharing fosters creativity and helps one understand related research and think of new ideas as well. I want to propose new ideas and develop new products. To do this, I must deeply understand my own research, and wid-

ening my learning scope helps me achieve just that.

8. Why did you decide to take the English course?

I thought that it's important for my career, and it is good to communicate in English. Moreover, presenting and discussing entirely in English are important abilities for a researcher. It is good to train myself.

9. What do you think about English education in Japan?

It is poor. We studied a lot on reading and writing, but we didn't work on listening and speaking. So, the system must be changed.

10. How should English education be changed. Do you have any suggestions?

I met several students who are very good at English. Some of them had never been abroad, but studied with an English course on a radio program. English class at schools might want to follow these programs.

11. Hobbies?

I like skiing.

12. Tell us more about skiing. What part of it is attractive for you? How do you enjoy it every winter?

Skiing is thrilling especially because it tests my speed and stability. It is difficult to control my own body at high speed, in the air or in deep snow. So when I make it, I get excited.

E-vision would like to thank Dr. Ito for his cooperation.

Social activity

by Tidarut

“As I am a member of the family, I intend to make e³ closer and stronger”

The responsibilities of the Vice-Chairman for Social Works have been changed to involve organizing interesting events and activities other than the main activities. For me, the major reason for choosing Hokkaido University was the desire for a challenging academic experience and an opportunity to have new friendships as well. For these reasons, numerous social activities have been provided throughout this year and I hope we will enjoy the activities together and have a great time while studying here. As I am a member of the family, I intend to make e³ closer and stronger.

Our string of activities started with the Bounenkai Party last year. The ECO officers (Nikol, Alex and Sayem) helped me so much that the Bounenkai Party went well at last. After that, Thursday “Tea Time” was arranged to allow for relaxation after a day’s hard work and at the same time encourage bonding among all members. We also celebrate our members’ birthdays in “Birthday Tea Time” every month. Last time, Nikol made a cake and it was so delicious that it made me realize that, I really love Birthday Tea Time. There are also tons of fun at “Game Night”. “Movie Night” is also my next plan beginning in March. Towards Easter, we will have “Treasure Hunt” during which treasures will be hidden around our faculty. We will form teams and hunt for as many treasures possible, using a map. (It sounds fun, doesn’t it?)



When new students come, current students will treat the new comers to in a game called “Buddies” (But keep it secret); and then give small candies or chocolates with hint cards so that the new students can guess whom are their buddies are. During the welcome party we will reveal their buddies and ask new members to give back a cute gift.

As winter comes to an end, we will be celebrating the traditional “Hanami” by enjoying the beauty of cherry blossoms and have barbecue at Susukino. In the summer, our members’ families will be invited to join the “Family Picnic,” enabling us to become better acquainted with our friends’ families. Moreover, we will also have a great opportunity to wear traditional dresses and perform traditional dances and songs during the “Cultural Day”. We also ask everyone to support “E-Cube Charity,” during which we will be visiting “Homes for Senior People” and teach them English.

“It is a challenge for me to achieve my goal of fastening our members’ relationships but I also realize that I cannot fulfill my role without our members’ cooperation.”

Throughout this year, we will have the opportunity to participate in various activities. It is a challenge for me to achieve my goal of fastening our members’ relationships but I also realize that I cannot fulfill my hope without our members’ cooperation. Lastly, I will be glad if comments and suggestions from our members are given to improve activities in the future.

Welcome Party



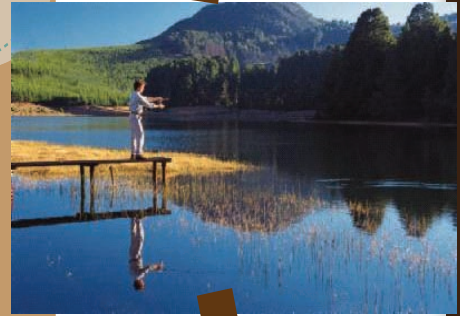
Let's safari in Zimbabwe!

by Masline

Let's take a tour through the savanna lands of Zimbabwe. "Zimbabwe" is a name derived from one of the local languages meaning "houses of stone". These houses of stone were especially built to be the residences of the ancient rulers. The largest of these stone houses, is known as the Great Zimbabwe. So this would be our first stop on the adventure into Zimbabwe.



The Great Zimbabwe is built of a mixture of natural granite boulders like man made walls. The interesting fact is that no mortar was used in the construction of these walls. This is still a subject of awe and wonders for many scientists as the walls have managed to stand over a decade.



The Eastern Highlands, a range of mountains close to the eastern border of Zimbabwe with Mozambique, offers a unique experience of mountain hiking, horse riding and trout fishing. This area is ideal for all year round visiting as it offers a quiet and peaceful environment in the thick evergreen forests. This area also has some natural hot springs, which are richness in minerals. The natural landscape hosts for a variety of wildlife species, including the black rhinoceros, hartebeest and the cheetah, which are endangered species.



Therefore, a drive through the national wildlife parks will be a ticket to experiencing the spectacular view of wildlife in the largely savanna scenery. The adventure through Zimbabwe would be incomplete without experiencing the beauty of one of the Seven Wonders of the World, that is, the magnificent Victoria Falls.





Trip to Korea

nations both close geographically and distant politically
by Tomoo Tsuyuhara



Japan and Korea are said to be nations both close geographically but distant politically. Historical aggression exists between Japan and Korea, which contributed to the political gap between the two countries. However, on the brighter side, cultural interaction is bridging the two countries closer. Few years ago we witnessed the birth of the “Korean Boom” in Japan, which helped accelerate the assimilation. Middle-aged women became fanatic and enthusiastic for Korean actors. Many Korean dramas and movies have become available in Japan. Moreover, there are more similarities between the Japanese and Koreans aside from their appearance that can bring them closer. If you visit Seoul, you may feel you are in Tokyo. The Korean language is also similar to Japanese. Owing to the cultural interaction, we can share similar sense. That’s why I was interested in Korea.



In order to deeply understand our neighbor, I decided to visit Korea. When I arrived at Seoul, I felt I was in Tokyo as I had expected. One highlight of this trip was the visit to the militarized border. Korean Peninsula has a history of ethnic division in the 50’s and is still not in peace until now. The Koreans have different views about the division. Some said they hate North Korea and don’t want re-unification, but some are still hoping for re-unification because they are of the same ethnic group originally. To decide which way is better seems to be not very easy and simple. Around the militarized border, I could find soldiers of both nations facing across the fence. At the exact moment, I felt that they’re still in war. I also visited the observatory where we can take a look at a village of North

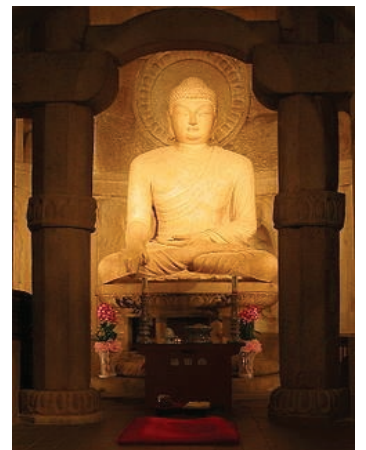
Korea across a river that flows along the militarized border. According to what the guide said, that village was constructed by the North Korean government for the purpose of sightseeing. Through a telescope, I found people in the village engaging in agriculture using cow instead of agricultural machines.

Inside the observatory there was a resource center displaying various dairy products from North Korea. I found and bought an alcohol made in North Korea. On the way back, one picture attracted my attention. It was a picture of the Inter-Korean Summit held in 2000. Temporal South Korean President Kim Dae-jung won the Nobel Peace Prize on his work and achievement on peace for both nations. Unfortunately, relations got worst after 9.11. I left the place praying for peace for both nations.



North Korea across the river Kim jong-il and Kim Dae-jung at the Inter Korean Summit

Other impressive and very significant places I visited were the remains of Japanese occupation. Many of them remain standing as proofs of Japan’s invasion. Rulers have invaded and committed destructions many times in history. Seeing the fact with my bare eyes, I couldn’t help but to apologize in my mind as a Japanese. I also visited Gyeongju (located counter side of Seoul in Korean Peninsula). Gyeongju is the old capital for around 1000 years from 7th century. The city itself is said to be like a museum and dotted with temples and the relics of colonization. Gyeongju is home to two World Heritages, the “Seokguram Grotto and Bulguksa Temple”. I was attracted by its smooth sculpture. Gyeongju is famous for school trips and sometimes compared to Kyoto and Nara in Japan.



Seokguram Grotto

Through this trip, I learned some historical facts of Japan and Korea. However, what I knew is just the tip of the iceberg and there are more unknown things about our neighbor. Aside from Korea, I also want to visit other countries and learn about history.

WHAT A UNIQUE WINTER

by Masline

A lot has been said about this year's winter, some claim it's too cold, while others say the snow was too little compared to previous years.

I asked some students about their views on this year's winter and the general opinion was that it was rather too warm, a clear indicator that global warming might already be in effect! But to others, experiencing Sapporo winter for the first time, it was VERY COLD nonetheless! : Here are some of the views shared by some of the students in e3.

"Nice winter, but not as cold as the previous two winters I have experienced here in Sapporo. All the same it's colder than my home country (Zimbabwe), and I really love the winter. It has brought such an adventurous change to my life."- Azania , D1



"Too little snow this year. But I think, in general, the level of precipitation world-wide is the same. I feel this is just a case of the precipitation being diverted to other parts of the world." -Upaka, M2.



"Wonderful, but not snowy enough. I bought snow boots but I rarely use them!"-Surya, D1.

"Warm winter this year!"-Jaja, M2.

A DIVERSITY OF WINTER (WINTER IN DIFFERENT LANGUAGES)

by Indra

We usually describe Winter with cold, strong wind and snow. As we have experienced in Sapporo, this word becomes a popular word for us. How about Winter in other languages? As we are a big family in e3 so we have a diversity in languages. Therefore, we observed what are “Winter” in other languages among e3 members, and how they are pronounced in each native sound. Here are some of them. Enjoy!

LANGUAGE (COUNTRY)	ALPHABET	PRONUNCIATION
ENGLISH	WINTER	WIN-TER
SPANISH	INVIERNO	IN-VIER-NO
FRENCH	HIVER	HI-VER
GERMAN	WINTER (YES IT'S THE SAME BUT YOU HAVE TO CAPITALIZE THE W)	WIN-TER
BAHASA INDONESIA (INDONESIA)	MUSIM DINGIN	MU-SIM-DIN-GIN
FILIPINO (THE PHILIPPINES)	TAG-LAMIG	TAG-LA-MIG
NEPALI (NEPAL)	HIUND	HEE-UN-THE
CZECH	ZIMA	ZI-MA
SLOVAK	ZIMA (SAME AS CZECH, SINCE THE TWO LANGUAGES ARE VERY SIMILAR!)	ZI-MA
SINHALA (SRI LANKA)	SHEETA IRTHUWA	SHEE-TA- IR-THU-WA
KHMER LANGUAGE (CAMBODIA)	RODOV RONGEAR	RO-DOV -RON-GEAR
THAI (THAILAND)	ฤดูหนาว	RUE-DU-NHOW
FARSI (PERSIAN)	زاتس مز	ZE-MES-TAN
BANGLA (BANGLADESH)	শীত	SITH
ZIMBABWE	CHANDO	CHAN-DO

(Thanks to Nikol, Farukh, Upaka, Pich, Jintana, Aileen, Alex, Yadab, Saeed Masline and Juan, for providing WINTER in their own languages)

e³ outlook

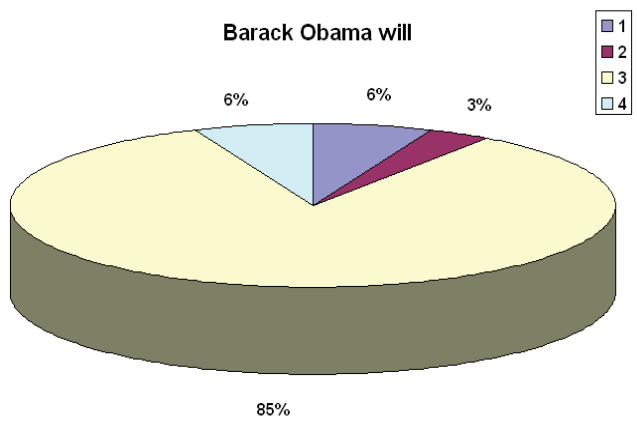
by Upaka

e3 members were given five poll questions and their opinions were collected. The outcome of the ballot is as follows. These are some of the results of e3 family Poll; 31 e3 students participated online between February 23 and 26, 2009.

Polling questions and opinions

A) Barack Obama will

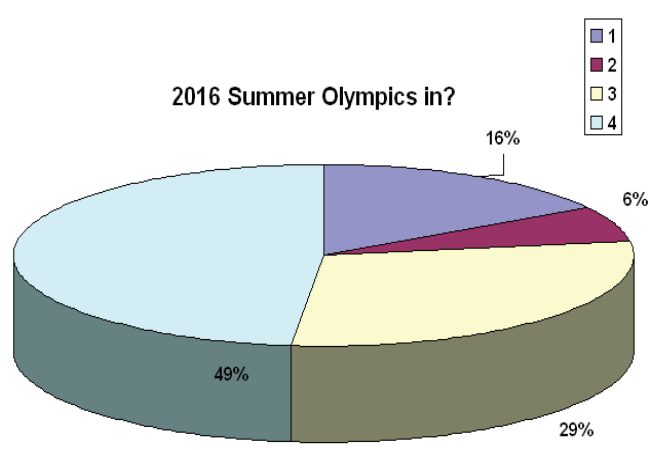
1. Continue the war against the terrorism (6%)
2. Negotiate with the terrorists (3%)
3. Work more on the American economy (85%)



It seems e3 members are expecting the US president to bring about economical stabilization and correct economical disparities.

B) 2016 Summer Olympics in?

1. Chicago, USA (16%)
2. Madrid, Spain (6%)
3. Rio de Janeiro, Brazil (29%)
4. Tokyo, Japan (49%)

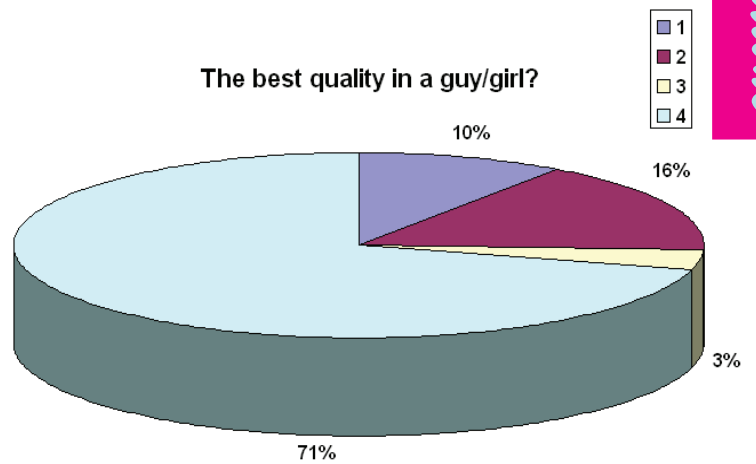


About half of all voters said Tokyo will be the first candidate of the 2016 Olympics. We will be excited if it really happens!!



C) The best quality in a guy/ girl?

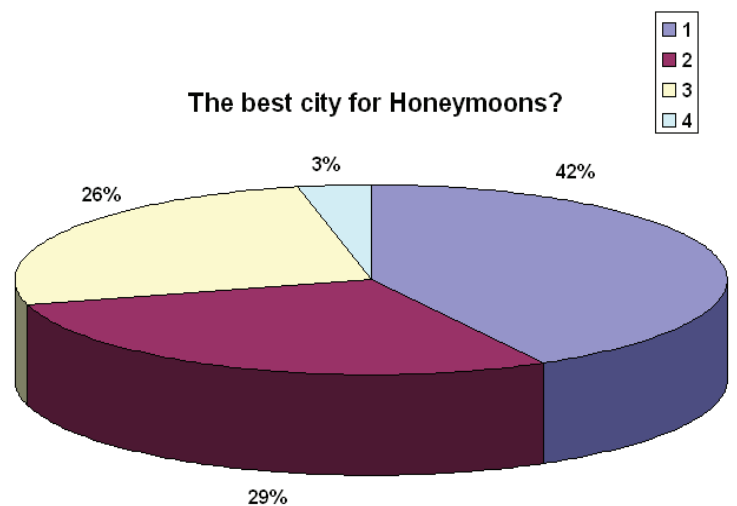
1. Hot, Sexy (10%)
2. Smart (16%)
3. Funny (3%)
4. Great personality (71%)



Most of members required guy/ girl to have a great personality. Are they speaking the truth? I hope so....

D) The best city for Honeymoons?

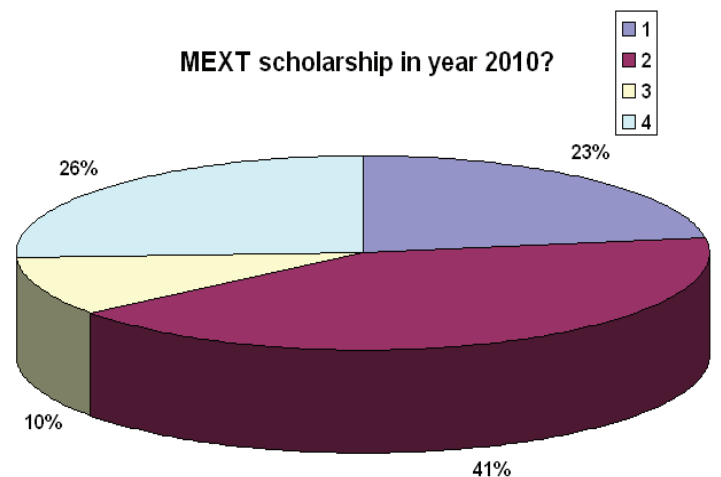
1. Hawaii (42%)
2. Caribbean (29%)
3. Maldives (26%)
4. Okinawa (3%)



Well, Hawaii is the most popular for honeymoons. How romantic to have a honeymoon in Southern countries!!

E) MEXT scholarship in year 2010?

1. Will be kept as it is (23%)
2. Will be further reduced (41%)
3. Will be increased (10%)
4. No idea at all (26%)



Please save your money .

Magical eye

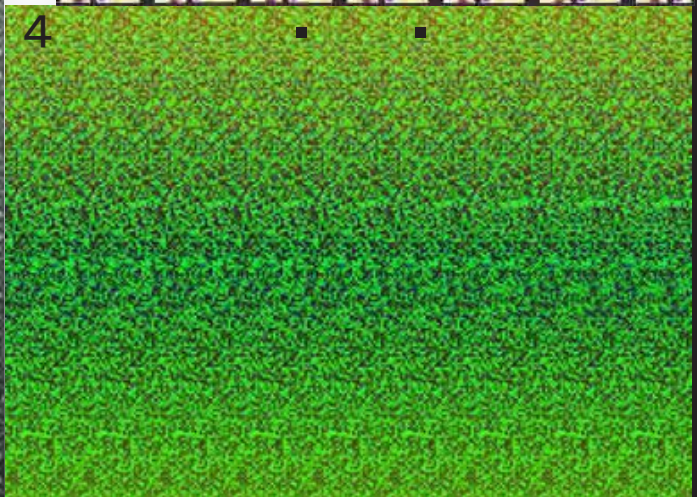
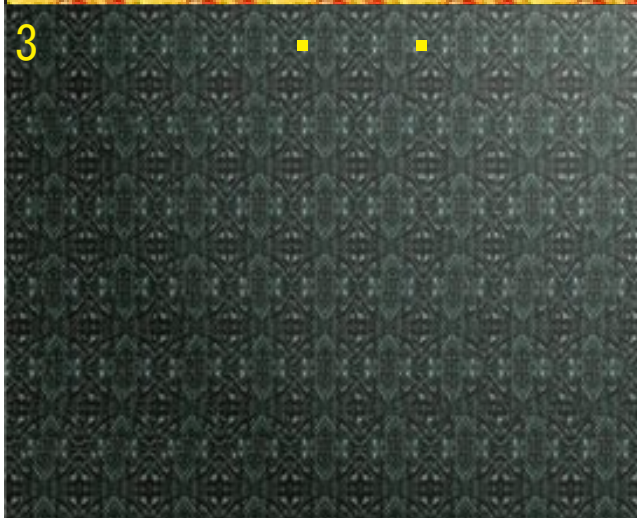
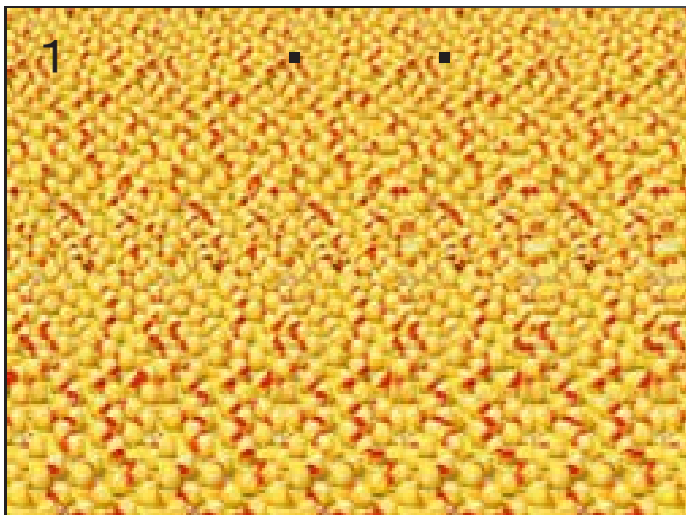
Can you see the hidden pictures?

by Upaka

Here are a few clues to see the hidden picture; so called 3D magical picture:

- Bring the image really close to your eyes (until you touch it with your nose).
- At this distance, your eyes cannot focus on the image and they look somewhere behind the image.
- Now, slowly push the image away from you, while trying to keep your eyes off focus.
- At some point you will see the hidden image.
- Another method is to take an object and put it behind the image (about half a meter behind it).
- Now, focus on the object behind the image while keeping your eyes on the image.
- Try to see something behind the picture keeping your eyes off focus, and if you're lucky, some shape will show up.
- If you couldn't, make the focus to turn two dots into three.

GOOD LUCK!!



Answers: 1 Duck, 2 E-mo, 3 Clovers, 4 Scissors

Sapporo Snow Festival 60th

