



EGYPT Embassy Interview

By Madoka Nishina
Kurumi Onishi
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the way Egyptians treat their family and the elders. However, at the same time, he stated that being attached to traditions could act as a barrier to the flow of new ideas and culture. "Sometimes, tradition is an obstacle to the things that change," he commented.

H.E. Mr. Khairat expressed that globalization is an important process that we cannot prevent from happening. "It is very good when learning about different countries." He explained that we must take advantage of what globalization offers and lessen its negative effects.

H.E. Mr. Khairat explained to us that world peace is achievable "when all nations want in to achieve peace".



As the Ambassador, H.E. Mr. Khairat hopes to establish good relations with Japan and to increase student exchanges between Egyptian and Japanese students. In addition to this, he will continue promoting his country in the economic, business, and cultural fields.

H.E. Mr. Khairat expressed two strong messages he has for students. Firstly, he wishes for students to "read a lot". H.E. Mr. Khairat explained to us that reading is the best way to know the world. Reading allows us to view things from different perspectives and it introduces us to new thoughts and cultural beliefs. This, he believes, will prepare us to face new challenges and will help us become better people. The second message he taught us was the importance of engaging in community work. He explained that providing services to the community is a chance for students to apply their academic knowledge to satisfy real needs. Students not only will be able to contribute to the betterment of society, but also will receive a chance to learn from communicating with different people.



On October 9th, 2015, the International School Network visited the Residence of the Egyptian Ambassador to Japan to interview the Ambassador, His Excellency Mr. Ismail Khairat.

"Once you step into Egypt, you will see a monument," H.E. Mr. Khairat described his country. Egypt has been known for its extensive, rich history and the exotic atmosphere that the sites bring is almost enticing to tourists and non-visitors. Luxor, situated in the south of Egypt, is a city famous for owning one third of all ancient monuments on Earth. It is known today as the "World's greatest open museum."

H.E. Mr. Khairat served us a very delicious plate of Egyptian cuisine. We were able to enjoy a falafel sandwich. Falafel is a fried patty made of minced beans, herbs, and other greenery, and it was served with lafa, a flat pita bread. We also tasted pastries made of Syrian dates, and a very sweet Arabic dessert, balahasham.

H.E. Mr. Khairat mentioned that tradition is well-preserved in Egypt and this is evident in



He believes that at this stage, if we accept others, respect all religions and human beings, and stop pushing them to change, peace can be achieved. He says that humans are able to ask for peace in the same way they have asked for war.

H.E. Mr. Khairat described Japanese people as 'good-mannered' and 'disciplined'. This, he believes, derives from the advanced education system in Japan. H.E. Mr. Khairat commented, "continue to be the best", wishing that this culture of Japanese people will be passed on to the next generation.



Dr. Sadako Ogata reading our newspaper with Ms. Oriie Nishina at the Egyptian National Day Reception held on July 1, 2016 at the Residence of the Ambassador of Egypt (photo above) Thank you very much for inviting us to this wonderful reception.

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CUBA Embassy Interview

By Madoka Nishina



On February 19, 2016, the International School Network visited the Embassy of Cuba in Tokyo to interview the Ambassador, His Excellency Mr. Marcos Rodríguez.

Since the 1959 revolution of Cuba, the educational and health care system has been nationalized to become a large priority of the country. H.E. Mr. Rodríguez stated, "The most important resource of Cuba is its people." The nationalized Cuban education is very well-established along with the spectacular healthcare system and high-level medical training. H.E. Mr. Rodríguez mentioned that out of the Cuban population of 11 million people, there are approximately 75 thousand medical doctors. H.E. Mr. Rodríguez believes that the first step towards world peace is the elimination of poverty, which can be achieved through the improvement of

education and recognition of social and human rights. "Peace belongs to the people," he commented.

Especially since the revolution of Cuba, relations between Cuba and Japan have been greatly flourishing. The sharing of culture has prospered since the 1970s, as Cuban sports, music, and dance (such as the salsa) have spread vastly in Japan. Furthermore, there has been recent cooperation in energy conservation and medical equipment.



H.E. Mr. Rodríguez expressed his respect towards Japanese people. He explained that he admires the Japanese disciplined and tenacious attitude, and that he was astonished by the Japanese people's ability to reconstruct the nation after the second world war. He expressed that he feels honored to work for the development of the relationship between Cuba and Japan, and that he hopes for "more dialogue" and a "greater understanding"



between the two nations. "I have big hopes for the relationship in the future," he stated. H.E. Mr. Rodríguez shared that he has two main goals to achieve as an ambassador. Firstly, he stated that he is working to "develop relations to a higher state in all fields, particularly in the economic field". Moreover, he wishes to reduce misunderstandings and reject "false images" of Cuba that may be dissipating through media. He hopes that people can understand better about Cuba's real situation and effort in building better and stronger relationships with other countries.



SENEGAL Embassy Interview

By Kate Shimizu



On January 7, 2016, the International School Network visited the Embassy of Senegal to interview the Ambassador, His Excellency Mr. Cheikh Niang and the Minister Counselor, Mr. Ngor Ndiaye.

The cultural values of Senegalese people are expressed through their national flag. The color green on the left represents the agriculture industry in Senegal. It also is a symbol of hope that the citizens of Senegal have. The color yellow on the middle is a representation of the natural resources of Senegal and their national wealth. The red color on the right is the trace of people with courage and their blood that fought for independence. Finally, the green star in the middle shows the leadership of the government and the responsibility of their people.

His Excellency Mr. Niang commented that the relationship between Senegal and Japan are excellent. Senegal is among the first countries in Africa where Japan came to establish a strong cooperation. Senegal already has a great quality relation with official institutions in Japan and the Japanese nation itself. His Excellency Mr. Niang believes that his role as a current ambassador is to maintain the great relationship Japan and Senegal currently have throughout its history and to help boost private investments in his country.



As a child, His Excellency Mr. Niang's dream was to be a traveler. He wanted to know more about the world and cultures outside of Senegal, his home country. As he wished, His Excellency Mr. Niang currently works as a diplomat, meeting new people around the world every day. He stated, "I am very lucky to be a diplomat. There is nothing more enriching for a human being than to be a traveler." Describing how his dream has been fulfilled.



SWITZERLAND Embassy Interview

By Kurumi Onishi



On February 19, 2016, the International School Network was invited to the residence of the Swiss Ambassador, His Excellency Mr. Urs Bucher, for an interview about his country. Having been built in 1980, the Ambassador's residence was described by H.E. Mr. Bucher as a "functional space reflecting modern architecture and art of both the Japanese and Swiss". Modern, simplistic Swiss paintings hang on the walls, and two lamps that show tribute to the Japanese culture are displayed. He says that architecture and interior design are a "source of mutual inspiration" between Switzerland and Japan. H.E. Mr. Bucher explained that in Switzerland, one can witness a "mini-version of what Europe is about".

There are four defined seasons in Switzerland: a cold winter, a beautiful and merry spring, a warm summer, and a dry and colorful autumn. With a diversified set of sceneries of natural features, tourists are able to experience and visualize the joy of visiting Europe at all seasons. Diversity in Switzerland could also be seen in its people. About 25% of the people living in Switzerland are not Swiss, as people in Switzerland are from "all over the planet". Switzerland is a very open-minded country; a country that warmly welcomes foreigners. H.E. Mr. Bucher relates the openness of Switzerland to the country's education and their willingness to integrate.



H.E. Mr. Bucher stated that despite the "incredible distance", he was taken aback by the "tensed cultural exchange" that have been taking place between Switzerland and Japan. Apart from cultural exchanges, the two nations have been closely tied in terms of provision of aid



when in need. Switzerland had donated the largest amount of money to Japan after the devastating Great Tohoku earthquake on March 11, 2011. H.E. Mr. Bucher commented that he was amazed by the discipline and braveness Japan had shown during and after the earthquake. "I have the deepest respect towards Japan," he added. He explained that he would like to raise awareness among Swiss people of "how Japanese people live to their values". As for a message towards students, H.E. Mr. Bucher mentioned "to learn two or three foreign languages" and that it is important that one "speak[s] the languages and use[s] them when traveling the world".



SLOVAKIA Embassy Interview

By Kurumi Onishi



On September 11th, the International School Network visited the Embassy of Slovakia to Japan in Tokyo for an interview with the Ambassador, His Excellency Mr. Michal Kottman. Prior to the interview, H.E. Mr. Kottman welcomed us with a brief video about his country. Slovakia became an independent country on January 1st, 1993, and since then, the process of transformation and change towards the betterment of the nation continued. As a result, Slovakia is doing well in the economic aspect and is thriving towards reaching the power, efficiency, and stability of neighboring EU member-states.

H.E. Mr. Kottman believes that their history and development, whilst being a compact and relatively small country, is a very encouraging and admirable factor.

H.E. Mr. Kottman stated that as an act of preserving culture, there have been numerous national state folk ensembles that still continue to perform. "I believe it's important to have that feeling, even in Japan, that I belong to something, some community, and circle of people. I think it's important to keep this feeling of belonging to your own traditional regions," he commented.



H.E. Mr. Kottman's ultimate goal is to not only promote his country to the best extent, but also to promote cooperation and relations between countries. "I would also like to meet different people and [directly] talk about my country and explain what we are looking for and what we are trying to do," he spoke.



As an advice to Japanese students, H.E. Mr. Kottman mentioned, "I would like them to use every opportunity to experience the world, to travel, to participate in student exchanges, and to study abroad; because that is the future of mankind. We are going to be closer and closer [globally]. That is the reason why we need to be able to understand different people, cultures, languages, and nations to prevent misunderstandings and conflicts."



PAKISTAN Embassy Interview

By Kurumi Onishi



On March 18, 2016, the International School Network visited the Embassy of Pakistan to interview the Ambassador, H.E. Mr. Farukh Amil. We were also joined by the Press Counsellor, Dr. Rafique Ahmad Soomro, who kindly invited us for dinner at his residence after the interview, the Third Secretary Mr. Gul Qaiser, and the photographer, Mr. Khalid Waseem. During the interview, we were served samosa and chai tea. H.E. Mr. Amil commented that Pakistani food is very diverse in correlation to geographical influences. "Identity is reflected in cuisine", he explained to us.

Pakistan is a multicultural, multiethnic nation and this could be seen through the language. The official language, Urdu, is a language that incorporates elements of Arabic, Turkish, and Persian influence. Despite the diversity, H.E. Mr. Amil considers that their source of unity comes from the fact that Pakistan "implements great effort for democracy". He also stated that the Pakistani people cherish modesty, which could be shown through the Islamic idea of sharm-o-haya. "Pakistan was born as a democratic country," he spoke,

"it is important to have this heritage. The flag of Pakistan reflects the rights of the minority, who are non-Muslim. The rules and cultural guarantees are evident in the system, which is enshrined in democracy." H.E. Mr. Amil commented, "Because of the corresponding effect of the rise in media, it is important for our people to express themselves and feel that they are stakeholders [in society]," Sharm-o-haya is a word in the Urdu language that combines the meaning of modesty and bashfulness.



"We know that it is not good to offend one another. We cherish the Asian way," H.E. Mr. Amil explained. In addition to this, he described Pakistan as a "community-based, interconnected society".

After the interview, the members of the International School Network were welcomed to the Third Secretary Mr. Qaiser's residence for a traditional Pakistani dinner. We were served dishes including Biryani, Samosa, and Peshwari Naan. H.E. Mr. Amil mentioned that his ultimate goal is to increase trade and contact between Pakistan and Japan. He commented that although diplomatic ties continue to strengthen, many Pakistani people do not know Japan very well, with just a recognition of Japan's high quality technology. He mentioned that about 90% of the machinery used in Pakistan are made in Japan.



H.E. Mr. Amil wishes that NHK will be available in Pakistan's regular television cable package because he wishes Pakistani people to see the "beautiful views of Japan" without "dramatic news". He also wishes for more Japanese films to be dubbed for Pakistanis, as well as visa free travels between the nations, increased business communities, and more exchanges of think tanks and university agreements (specifically the exchange of professors and graduate student researchers). As for a message to the Japanese people, H.E. Mr. Amil desires for them to "see Pakistan with Japanese eyes and see the beauty of the city and the people." Moreover, he expressed the significance of "not judging Pakistan by what you see on the news". Lastly, he commented that Pakistan is a "fascinating country" and that although the current generation tends to be very much immersed into the world of the Internet, it is important to "see Pakistan yourself".



CHILE Concert hosted by Chile Embassy

By Karen Nishina



On Wednesday, November 11th, 2015, the international school network visited the classic guitar and piano concert by Mr Alexis Vallejos (guitar), Ms Yoko Takaki (piano), and the guitar ensemble.

We were invited by the ambassador of Chile,



His Excellency Mr. Patricio Torres and his spouse Mrs. Cecilia Diez. The concert was held in Sogetsu Hall in Tokyo. The concert was brilliant and it was very lovely. After the concert I became even more interested in Chile.



GERMANY Embassy Interview

By Madoka Nishina



On March 22, 2016, the International School Network visited the Embassy of Germany to interview the Ambassador, His Excellency Dr. Hans Carl von Werthern. We were also joined by the Second Secretary, Ms. Andrea Finken, and the Attaché, Mr. Djamel Touré. When we expressed our thanks towards the amicable relations between Germany and Japan, H.E. Dr. von Werthern commented that he “thank[s] Japan equally”. H.E. Dr. von Werthern mentioned that Germany and Japan have very amicable relations, not only in the aspect of culture but also in the science and technology fields. He expressed his gladness for the two countries to be willing to understand and learn from each other as friends.

H.E. Dr. von Werthern wishes that more German students visit Japan, and vice versa. He mentioned that German and Japanese students are similar in a sense that both are eager to “produce good results”, and are “focused” on their studies. His message towards Japanese students is to spend more time abroad. “Every person must find their own way”, he explained, “Learn foreign languages. See other countries. Know other people [and] mentalities.”



According to H.E. Dr. von Werthern, the first step to world peace is to make friends, especially between young people. He mentioned Germany and France as an example. “We were arch enemies before, but now, we are the closest friends,” he stated, “Once you’re friends, you can never hate on them.” H.E. Dr. von Werthern described globalization as being a phenomenon that cannot be stopped. He believes that it is important to understand both the advantages and disadvantages of globalization, and to find strategies to cope with the consequences.



H.E. Dr. von Werthern commented that as “democratic and wealthy” developed nations, both Germany and Japan have “a special responsibility” in contributing to solve global issues. He explained that countries must make joint efforts to solve conflicts in a peaceful way and “strive for economic prosperity all over the world”. H.E. Dr. von Werthern stated his hope for Germany, together with other nations, in contributing to such a goal.



ALGERIA Embassy Interview

By Kurumi Onishi



On April 15, 2016, the International School Network visited the Embassy of Algeria in Tokyo for an interview with the Ambassador, His Excellency Mr. Mohamed El Amine Bencherif. When Algeria was a part of the Greek Empire and the Roman Empire, Berber was the “understood language” and the ethnicity of the Algerian people was “Amazigh”, which we now call “Berber”. Afrikaans was spoken in parts of Algeria and Tunisia. After Algeria attained independence, developing the Arab language was a “fundamental process”, H.E. Mr. Bencherif spoke. During occupation, foreign languages were brought to Algerian soil; however, for the purpose of maintaining its cultural and linguistic heritage, Berber currently still remains as the second language.



Diplomatic relations between Algeria and Japan commenced in 1962 when Japan officially recognized Algeria as an independent nation only a day after Algeria’s proclamation on July 5th, 1962. H.E. Mr. Bencherif revealed that the Algerian people are “generous and spontaneous” and that they regard “integrity” to be an element of importance. During the Great Hanshin earthquake in 1995 and more recently during the Great Tōhoku earthquake in 2011, the Algerian people provided support to the Japanese people to express their appreciation for Japanese aid during the Boumerdès earthquake in 2003. At the time, the Japanese government willingly introduced earthquake prevention education to Algerian schools.



As an Ambassador, H.E. Mr. Bencherif’s main goal is to “cooperate closely [with Japan]”. He hopes that the Japanese representatives would provide the Algerians with “huge knowledge” and that he can “develop exchanges between the people”. He suggested that Japan translate some of Algeria’s finest books to Japanese to gain knowledge of “the feeling and thinking of your counterpart”. Through enrichment, he is hoping that Algerian people and Japanese people could “know each other” and be brought “closer”. As a message to our readers, H.E. Mr. Bencherif hopes for Japanese people to “discover the Islamic world, as we share many values”.



ISRAEL Embassy Interview

By Kate Shimizu



On March 25, 2016, the International School Network interviewed the Israeli Ambassador to Japan, Her Excellency Ms. Ruth Kahanoff, at her residence.

H.E. Ms. Kahanoff talked about her impression when she first came to Japan. Firstly, she explained that she was impressed by how polite and considerate Japanese people are to each other. H.E. Ms. Kahanoff was also surprised by the clean city and commented that the Japanese should be proud of their local environment. She also mentioned her admiration for how Japanese people are friendly and kind to foreigners.

H.E. Ms. Kahanoff shared her goals as an ambassador. She stated that one of her

goals is to “promote understanding of my country to the Japanese people.” H.E. Ms. Kahanoff expressed that she would like to have more people visit each other’s nations, especially to have more Japanese tourists go to Israel. She also aims to find more fields where Japan and Israel can cooperate and work together for the benefits of both nations. In order to make this happen, H.E. Ms. Kahanoff believes that it is important to create more cooperate projects, involving more businesses.



The major goal H.E. Ms. Kahanoff has is to promote peace and its importance. As Israel is a holy land for numerous world religions, she commented that she would like people to preach religion to share the importance of love, peace and acceptance for one another.

H.E. Ms. Kahanoff shared her feelings about how she was impressed by hardworking



and self-disciplined Japanese students. Her message to Japanese students is to be more open to new ideas, stay confident, and to share more opinions. She suggests students to look out to the outside world and be more assertive, take risks and ask questions. H.E. Ms. Kahanoff believes that it is essential for students not to be afraid of failure as she states that when you make a mistake, you learn from it. She aspires for Japanese students to develop their own individual ways of thinking. H.E. Ms. Kahanoff constantly reminded us to “believe in yourself.”



BURKINA FASO Embassy Interview

By Madoka Nishina



On April 1, 2016, the International School Network visited the Embassy of Burkina Faso to Japan to interview the Ambassador, His Excellency Mr. François Oubida, and the Second Secretary, Mr. Phocan Vivien Pare. H.E. Mr. Oubida introduced to us the important values of Burkina Faso. For world peace and stability to come true, H.E. Mr. Oubida believes that there must be unity, justice, and physical contact between people. “Unity is key for any society.” H.E. Mr. Oubida commented that unity is engraved strongly in the hearts of Burkinabe people especially because of the ethnic diversity of the nation. He believes that the encounters between people of different backgrounds, including international conferences, can help breach misunderstandings.

In Burkina Faso tourists can appreciate not only the variety of natural features but also the historical and architectural sites of the nation and the cultural diversity of the people. H.E. Mr. Oubida mentioned his recommendation for visitors to take baths in waterfalls and ride on the backs of crocodiles.

When asked what H.E. Mr. Oubida would like to bring awareness of about his country, he commented that he would like more people to learn about his culture. He expressed his wish for the younger generations in Burkina Faso and Japan to get to know each other better. He believes that cooperation can “make our world a better place to live”.

H.E. Mr. Oubida commented that he very often “work[s] too hard”. “Sometimes they are blaming me,” he laughed,



“[but] unless you work, you will never get to develop.” H.E. Mr. Oubida explained that he is very passionate about his job because he values what he does. Being “result-oriented”, he wishes that at the end of the year he will be able to see clearly what he was able to accomplish to improve the lives of others. He aspires to catch any opportunity for his people and turn it into a “power” that strengthens cooperation between Burkina Faso and Japan.



IAEA

International Atomic Energy Agency

By Madoka Nishina



On March 11, 2016, the International School Network visited the Tokyo Regional Office of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to interview the Head, Mr. Davis Hurt. We were also joined by Ms. Yoshikawa. The day of the interview significantly marked the 5th year since the Great Tohoku Earthquake. This devastating earthquake has caused various nuclear accidents, namely the meltdowns and explosions of several power plant reactors in Fukushima. Mr. Hurt explained that we must all “learn from the tragic accident” to “improve preparations”. He described to us the importance of plans, especially for evacuation, and proper measurements of radioactivity.



As a part of the Safeguards Department, The Tokyo Regional Office of IAEA is responsible for verifying nuclear weapon production and honoring promises for peaceful purposes of nuclear use. Mr. Hurt explained that the office inspects various nuclear facilities in Japan, including nuclear power plants, universities, and laboratories, to make measurements and records.

Nuclear waste management is a problem that is recurrently discussed on media, and is often a large source of concern. However, Mr. Hurt commented that it is “more political than technological”. Mr. Hurt reassures that “dangers have been exaggerated”, as issues concerning the costs of accidents are much more expensive and significant than those concerning nuclear waste.

Mr. Hurt expressed his thanks towards Japanese people for their kindness to him. He expressed with certainty, “Tokyo is my favorite place.” Mr. Hurt had been the only engineer or chemist in his family,

and has worked and studied at various places including the US, Austria, and Japan. Mr. Hurt explained that his goal in life is to retire peacefully, without need to visit any more “dangerous places”. Although he noted that wars are inevitable, Mr. Hurt wishes that no more “large, long wars” will occur, and that people can “come to their senses” in such aspect.



Mr. Hurt encourages students to join the nuclear field of work. He explained that although he realizes that this section is no longer “new” or “fashionable”, this work is technical, interesting, and very important for the world.



ADB I

Asian Development Bank Institute

By Madoka Nishina & Kate Shimizu



On February 26, 2016, the International School Network visited the ADBI office in Tokyo to interview Dr. Naoyuki Yoshino, the Dean of the office and Keio University Professor Emeritus, Mr. Shinichi Nakabayashi, the Director of Administration, Management, and Coordination, and Dr. Matthias Helble, the Research Fellow from Germany. ADBI in Japan is an important think tank and research institute for the Asian Development Bank. ADBI undergoes various resident missions in developing countries of Asia and the Pacific, providing loans and grants to foster economic and social development. Dr. Yoshino introduced to us some of the recent research topics of ADBI, such as obesity, post offices and microfinance schemes for financial inclusion, infrastructure investment, and exchange rate systems.

Dr. Yoshino commented that the organization produces numerous books and papers, and that “implementing research in policies” is crucial for ADBI. ADBI’s research is very policy-oriented and demand-driven, which he noted was different from university research, where not much focus is held on how they will be used in the short term.



Dr. Yoshino explained to us about the brain drain of Japanese companies and how they have an effect on the financial services in Japan. He explained that with retired workers and diminishing children, many companies are moving away from Japan to open in different Asian countries. The Japanese asset price inflation bubble has gone significantly down after 1992 when banks were using land as collateral. After the financial crisis, the Japanese government established ways to keep the financial system safe and banks became increasingly conservative, no longer lending money to risky sectors or startup businesses. He explained that venture capital markets exist in Europe and in the US but not in Japan.



Therefore he believes that the Japanese economy needs to build other channels where startup businesses can earn their capital apart from bank loans, such as cloud funding which he called “furusato investment fund”. To increase peace in the world, Mr. Nakabayashi expressed the importance of making friends with different people and visiting other countries. Dr. Helble wishes for more interaction, understanding, and economic cooperation between people. Dr. Yoshino proposed having more international conferences so we can understand the problems and situations of other countries better.



UN WOMEN

By Kurumi Onishi



On March 25, 2016, the International School Network visited the UN Women's office to interview the Director, Ms. Kayoko Fukushima and intern Ms. Saya Matsumoto. The Japan Liaison Office for UN Women was founded very recently in April 2015, and is one of four offices in the world. Women's rights have been listed as one of seventeen Sustainable Development Goals set by the UN and has been a major focus of Prime Minister Abe's Abenomics. Ms. Fukushima stated that the role of the Japanese office is "to help endeavors of Japan" by strengthening cooperation between Japan and UN Women.

The office supports inter-governmental bodies to build partnerships and help implement gender-equal standards. At the interview, Ms. Fukushima mentioned that the outcomes that result from the various activities benefit not only women but also every member of society.



Through increased cooperation with various countries, the entity is working to introduce cases where men are primarily in charge of housework and child rearing. As a result, Ms. Fukushima has stated that "much progress has been made", yet more can be done. She mentioned that "children can raise awareness and interest in [these] issues" and only then can "females be confident and dream of what they want to be".



In addition to this, more female participation in the workforce allows economic empowerment.

When asked about her personal views on gender equality in Japan, Ms. Fukushima was optimistic about it, as she implied that Japan is heading towards a good path with improved 'Maternity Leave' and increased female participation in firms and organizations. Especially because the office is new, Ms. Fukushima expressed her wishes to make the best out of her time to accomplish what she can and to make her contributions worthwhile for the "promising future" of UN Women. She explained to us, "Young people are important for gender equality from now on."

OIE

World Organization for Animal Health

By Kate Shimizu



The OIE currently is recognized as a reference organization by the WTO with 180 member states. It is an organization responsible to "fight animal diseases at global level" founded on January 25th, 1924 since the international agreement was signed. It also helps to achieve food safety and food security along with its economic benefitst. OIE works upon the basis that by protecting animals, "we are actually preserving our future"

On April 22, 2016, the International School Network visited the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) Regional Representation for Asia and the Pacific (RRAP) at the University of Tokyo.

We were welcomed and joined by the Regional Representative of the OIE RRAP,

Dr. Hirofumi Kugita and veterinarians from around the world.

Through the interview, we were able to have a better understanding of the activities of OIE and their responsibility as the regional representative for Asia-pacific. We noticed the importance of international collaboration to trade information and scientific evidence to bring their decision-making to the next level.



Dr. Kugita continues to play an active role in managing risks involving animal, human and ecosystem interferences. He has taught us the importance of paying constant attention to the balance in the ecosystem, as our society exists upon this balance. Living in the 21st century, technology and its innovation develops very rapidly. This is an important evidence that shows the potential of animal health and



welfare to improve the future continuously. Dr. Kugita hopes for the development of countermeasures against animal diseases. He states that more attention must be given to the risks of vaccines and antibiotics used on animals as there are both risks and benefit for each.



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THE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL NETWORK

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

