



Words from the President

President  
**Teruko Honjo**

Allow me to extend my warmest greetings to all those, past and present, who have received scholarships from the Honjo International Scholarship Foundation. Winter has arrived in full force here in Japan and the days are growing steadily colder. I am curious as to how all of you, studying and working all over the world, are getting on these days.

The Honjo International Scholarship Foundation, a public interest incorporated foundation, was founded on December 25th, 1996, and with the arrival of 2014, will celebrate its eighteenth anniversary. This foundation, dedicated to furthering the cause of world peace, was created in hopes of offering support to those students who possess the potential to grow and become leaders in their respective nations. Anyone, regardless of their individual areas of research, is permitted to apply to this foundation. From its inception until 2013, this foundation has offered scholarships to a total of 421 individuals from sixty-four different countries. Once graduated, these scholars have returned to their countries, where they continue to lead active lives.

The Honjo International Scholarship Foundation not only offers scholarships but supports scholars in various ways

throughout the year by holding a number of social events geared at introducing Japanese culture, listening to speeches by previous students, as well as creating opportunities for previous students who are now active in society to meet and talk with one another. It is my sincere hope that members of the Honjo International Scholarship Foundation from all over the world will participate actively in these profoundly meaningful events. Personal connections made through participation in this foundation will no doubt prove to be invaluable assets in today's international society. The board of directors and I greatly value our connections with all of you. Your graduation in no way diminishes this connection, and I look forward to hearing of your future activities once you have returned to your native countries. I often think how elated and proud my late husband would have been to witness these developments.

Our foundation shall continue its yearly efforts to further international relations and provide scholarships to more and more young, ambitious students. We continue to encourage scholars to set their eyes upon the loftiest goals that they may all become bridges between their own countries and Japan.

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Timeline

2012-2013

**2012**

**September 9**  
● Study Tour in Kyoto (9/15-17)

**November 11**  
● The 7th Alumni Party - HISF Workshop Vol.4 - (11/4)

**December 12**  
● The Year-End Party (12/27)

**2013**

**February 2**  
● Sports Day (2/13)

**March 3**  
● Alumni Party in Bangkok (3/10)  
● Alumni Party in Phnom Penh (3/15)  
● Welcome & Farewell Party (3/27)

**April 4**  
● Volunteer Work in Tohoku\* -1 (4/28)  
● BBQ Day (4/29)

**May 5**  
● Volunteer Work in Tohoku\* -2  
● Doctor and Master Thesis Presentation (5/18)

**June 6**  
● Volunteer Work in Tohoku\* -3 (6/8)  
● Shizuoka Field Trip (6/21-22)

**July 7**  
● The 8th Alumni Party - HISF Workshop Vol.5 - (7/7)  
● Volunteer Work in Tohoku\* -4 (7/27)

**August 8**  
● Volunteer Work in Tohoku\* -5&6 (8/3 & 17)

**September 9**  
● The 9th Alumni Party in Sendai (9/5)  
● Volunteer Work in Tohoku\* -7 (9/7)  
● Tohoku Field Trip (9/27-29)

**October 10**  
● Sports Day (10/18)  
● Volunteer Work in Tohoku\* -8 (10/19)  
● The 10th Alumni Party in Kyoto (10/24)

\* Volunteer Work in Tohoku... HISF supports the volunteer work of Iwate Prefecture University, which is to deliver bottled waters to the residents in the temporary houses for the victims of East Japan Earthquake hit in March 11, 2011.



2012-2013 Activities

Alumni Parties Around the World

Bangkok, Thailand (March 2013)

Thirty alumni currently living in Asia joined the dinner cruise party along the Chao Phraya River.



Phnom Penh, Cambodia (March 2013)

We visited a high school in Phnom Penh and Anchor Watt, and had a dinner with alumni.



Sendai, Japan (September 2013)

We enjoyed seafood with students and alumni in Tohoku University.



Kyoto, Japan (October 2013)

Ten students and alumni discussed cosmology at an old-fashioned house in Kyoto.



Mizu-Volunteer Work in Tohoku

We support the volunteer work of Iwate Prefecture University, which is to deliver bottled water to residents staying in temporary houses for the victims of the East Japan Earthquake, which hit in March 11, 2011.



Study Tour in Tohoku

September 2013

We visited Chusonji temple and worked as Mizu-Volunteers with the students in Iwate Prefecture University.



SENPAL! Interview vol.2



Gorokgodage Miyuru Dilshan Dayarathna, Ph.D.  
(The 15th Class / Sri Lanka)

Gorokgodage Miyuru Dilshan Dayarathna, Ph.D. (The 15th Class/Sri Lanka)  
Born in Colombo, Sri Lanka, 2003- University of Moratuwa (B.Sc (Hons) in IT), 2008- Keio University (Master of Media Design), 2010-Tokyo Institute of Technology (Computer Science, Ph.D.), 2013-Research Fellow, School of Computer Engineering, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore.

"Hirundo" is the pet name of the computer program for stream processing optimization that he developed, that is originally the name of a bird genus. He gave such name to his computer program to bestow his respect upon Tokyo Institute of Technology whose school mark and also supercomputer that TIT is developing is called "TSUBAME" or swallow.

**"We just support behind the scene to lead them success."**

**He always says, "Our aim is to support other researchers working in any other fields to process or analyze large scale data, in the field of medicine, physics, astronomy, meteorology, bioscience and so forth. We just support behind the scene to lead them success."**

**He was running through five-year long life in Japan with the fastest speed like advanced computer.**

**Why did you select Japan for your research?**

"Japan is one of the few countries in the world with advanced technological capabilities in computer science and information technology. Japanese people are well-known around the world for their high quality products, cutting edge research which motivated me to start my graduate studies in a Japanese university. Japan as an Asian country has a unique culture that I always thought I should learn more about. These factors made me motivated to start my graduate studies in Japan."

"I was little bit hesitating whether I will be successful in studying in Japan as a foreign graduate student without much Japanese language skills. My picture of Japanese universities got completely changed once I joined Keio University. I was amazed to see the large amount of English research literature, books available in Japanese universities such as Keio University and Tokyo Institute of Technology."

"The goal that I had before coming to Japan was to do a Ph.D. degree in Computer Science area that will enable me to do a great amount of research in a very interesting area for me. I had several interesting subtopics circulating around my mind such as Software Engineering, Software Architecture, Database Systems, Computer Graphics, Computer networks in which I wanted to choose as my Ph.D. study area. I think I have achieved the goal that I had in my mind before coming to Japan 100% since I was able to obtain my Ph.D. degree in Computer Science from TIT which is among the top universities in the world for high performance computing research. However, I want to study more in the area of large scale data analytics and I want to do more research on systems that will be beneficial for human beings. Giant Internet-related service companies such as Google, Yahoo, Facebook and innovative services such as Twitter, LinkedIn, etc. maintain huge systems to store and process large amounts of data. The ever growing nature of the data handled by such organizations and the requirement for extracting timely, high quality, important information from such data sets have made it very important for us to study more about the operation, system architectures and performance characteristics of such systems."



At Buenos Aires in September, 2013

**"Scalability of such large scale systems is very important aspect that affects our daily life."**

**What is the most interesting thing in your research?**

"Data produced by various sources are growing rapidly that we are at a point that we might not be able to gain the entire set of information that we expect to extract from the data. This is an interesting phenomenon that as computer scientists we need to address. In my research I study about performance characteristics of large scale data analysis systems such as stream processing systems and graph processing systems. In my Ph.D. research I proposed a new code generation based automatic tuning technique for optimization of data stream programs."

"Scalability of such large scale systems is very important aspect that affects our daily life. We need our email systems such as Yahoo, Gmail, Hotmail, social networking services such as Facebook, MySpace, LinkedIn, Mixi, etc. to operate with very low latencies and we want those services to provide us high quality services. As computer scientists we need to be aware of various performance aspects and we need to develop new performance models and performance analysis techniques for these systems. For example, we need to plan for unexpected surges that occur in such large scale systems."

**Do you have any belief that you must keep in your research or daily life?**

"I always try to maintain good research ethics. As many other researchers, I want to see the general society get benefited significantly from the research I conduct."

**"I try to release my work as open source software so that general public could get benefit from the research we conduct."**

**What are you going to do?**

"I am continuing my research on large scale data analytics systems. In particular I try to implement the research that I do in real world systems and try to release my work as open source software so that general public could get benefit from the research we conduct. In order to keep myself up-to-date with the latest technologies I read various recent articles written about such large scale systems and their performance aspects and try to learn as much as possible. I want to engage more and more on large scale data analysis system research in future. I want to establish a human being who is highly valued by the society. This is one of the challenges that I face other than the research that I engage in my day today life."

He implies us that e-mail or SNS that we usually use requires advanced and elaborate research. I cannot forget his smile like a child talking about his meeting with a famous researcher who is a writer of a text book for computer science that he had repeatedly read during his younger days. We expect his great success in future.



SENPAI / Interview vol.2



Zahra Ariyafar (The 12th Class / Iran)

Ms. Zahra Ariyafar started to study at Kagoshima National College of Technology as a Japanese government scholarship student in 2003. In 2006, she transferred to the University of Electro-Communications and earned Master's degree by her research of wireless communication. She has worked at Cisco Systems G.K. as a Pre-sales Systems Engineer since 2010. Her role was to propose IT infrastructure solutions to her global enterprise customers. In September 2013, she resigned her job to pursue Master of Advance Studies degree in Management, Technology and Economics in ETH Zurich, Switzerland.

In July 2013, Ms. Zahra showed up to an alumni party after a long time. She had a gentle smile as always that immediately brightens the surroundings. It has been 3 years since she started working. She has been spent fulfilling also busy, but she decided to go abroad again in order to achieve further capacity as an engineer to give knowledge of the business.

**"Because I love Japan, I will be back"**

**She has received high praise as a sales engineer with her vitality and brightness. Have you ever felt that you are puzzled human relations and Japanese unique society, on the other hand?**

"I was surprised that my Japanese colleagues worked until late and also used to go to the after-work drinks often. The time that Japanese people spend at office is too long compared with other countries even though my former company was an American company, and their culture of work-life balance was supposed to be advanced than a traditional Japanese company. If the after-work drinks are held really often, I cannot follow. I think that once or twice a month is enough. The interesting thing is whether you attend or not affects the intimacy of company internal communication. It is not an exaggeration to say that it may consequently affect your future promotion opportunities too."

**She has done what she was expected at work even if she sometimes felt uncomfortable about work-life balance and female employment. What does come to your first priority on your life and work?**

"Keep promises. Because I have a strong sense of responsibility, once I say 'I will', I must carry it out to the end. As a result, it is easy to make a good relationship, but I sometimes feel too much responsibility and overtake myself. I know this is not good."

**"Speak out more and challenge more!!"**

**What do you think of female employment in Japan?**

"Japanese women are mentally really strong and well educated, but they need to speak out and need determination to take on a challenge; and men in the same

way. Moreover, Japanese men should encourage women. For example, when Japanese women's soccer team won the gold medal at the World Cup, I was surprised that many men around me were behaving ignorant about this great news. Japanese men should be more proud of Japanese women, otherwise it will be difficult to change the perception of the whole society towards women."

**If there is anything that we could learn from Iran or other countries, what could it be?**

"In Iran and Europe, there are jobs designed for working 40~60% a week as a permanent job. This option gives flexibility to women who can work only 3-4days a week after childbirth. I hope variety of these job options will increase in Japan too."

**Aiming the global leader**

**What is your plan after getting MBA?**

"It is the beginning of my study and future job is not clear yet but I would like to join a global project between Asia and Europe. I am building up my project management and leadership skills and would like to become a global leader in long-term."

**What do you like to challenge besides work?**

"I would like to try skydiving, and since I am in Switzerland, I want to improve in skiing"

One year later, we will definitely meet her again here in Japan, who will have more experienced and sophisticated.



At the Lake Zurich. This was my favorite walking route after finishing intense apartment search in Zurich.

HISF Alumni in Action ①

Report on Activity of the Sambor Prei Kuk Conservation Work

Honorarium Head of Department of Architecture, Norton University, Cambodia, Lecturer at Cambodian Mekong University, Executive Director of Sambor Prei Kuk Conservation Project 2000- Waseda University (Architecture, Ph.D.)



So Sokuntheary, Ph.D. (The 9th Class / Cambodia)

Sambor Prei Kuk Conservation Project

Sambor Prei Kuk Archaeological Group has been identified as Isanapura, the capital city of the Chenla polity in the beginning of the 7th century, as described in Chinese historical records and stone inscription located in the site itself. Since 1998, Laboratory of Architectural History of Waseda University lead by Prof. Takeshi Nakagawa (Project Director) had been conducting the survey activities on Sambor Prei Kuk Archaeological Group after long neglect through the civil wars. The present conservation of this



Archaeological Group has been started from 2001 under collaborating between Waseda University and Ministry of Culture and Fine Arts of Cambodia (MCFA). We are conducting the weeding work, reconstruction and re-arrangement inside the temples.

Conservation and Restoration Work



Modern day research and conservation of the site began when SPK was introduced to the European community at the end of the 19th century by Leclère and subsequent French explorers.



Before and after clearing vegetation on temple



The activities of re-arrange inside of temple

During Waseda University investigation from 1998 to 2000, they found there were so many temples damaged and mounded. Started from the conservation work, we have been clear the grass and cut the dangerous trees; and installed the support to the dangerous parts.

Moreover, in order to provide the space for villagers who come to these temples for prayer because even now, temples are sacred place for them who are still sincere Buddhist, re-arrangement inside pedestal and installing replica of god is very important for communities as well as for development culture tourism.

Since 2008, we started again the clearance work at N1 tower with cooperated with villagers who live around the monuments area to join the work. We paid them for their labor and promoted them to join the conservation work as well, because these heritages are belong to them.



New installation of replicas

We also conduct the training program for young Cambodian of Architecture and Archaeology to encourage them to engage the conservation and restoration work as well as to work for preservation and research of monuments.



The clearance work on the terrace, cooperated with villager and local worker of SCP (SCP)

Since 2003, Waseda University and SCP have been conducting the culture exchange program. The cultural exchange events are joined by students from Waseda and local high school students and villagers. Students make surveys and investigate or interview with villager to find the ways sustaining villager through heritage tourism development. Every time after the investigation survey finish, we make the presentation to share ideas with villager, and also we hold the cultural exchange to perform each country's traditional dance.



The clearance work on the terrace: explanation before restoration work and after reconstructed

New World Heritage Nomination

Sambor Prei Kuk is one of the most important monuments which must be listed in World Heritage. Cambodian Government (MCFA) is preparing the document to submit to UNESCO.

SCP has been cooperating and sharing the documents, we are a core team to prepare the nomination. We usually hold the meeting once or twice every month, some time we have it at Phnom Penh, and some time at SPK site.



UNESCO team had been paid a visit to SPK and admired the quality of art and architecture



HISF Alumni  
in Action ②

## A Brief History of Honjo-Universe, or How to Breed a Ph.D. in Literature

Associate Professor, Faculty of Global and Regional Studies,  
Doshisha University, Ph.D. (English Literature)

**Yoshiaki Mihara, Ph.D.** (The 6th Class / Japan)



*Shortly after the Big Bang, Honjo-Universe was still a small fireball, a very "hot" universe in which particles such as protons, neutrons, and itsukons were bustling around. Meanwhile, in dead-cold Ithaca, NY, a literary young man, with a taint of melancholy in his eyes, was studying English literature at Cornell University. Then an international phone call from Honjo International Scholarship Foundation --- "You have passed our first screening. Will you be able to come to the interview?" "Well, I'm afraid I can't." "In that case . . . you got it!" Such was the beginning*

Thanks to the recommendation by my friend Ryo Kosaka (2001 grantee), I started receiving Honjo Scholarship in 2002. Graduate students in the U.S. universities normally have to work as a TA to earn their living while working on their dissertations in spare time. But in my case, Honjo Scholarship made it possible for me to spend the entire time on studying, so that I was able to finish my coursework and pass the qualifying exam a bit earlier than my classmates. I was, however, called back to Japan before I started writing my dissertation, only to start teaching at a Japanese university.

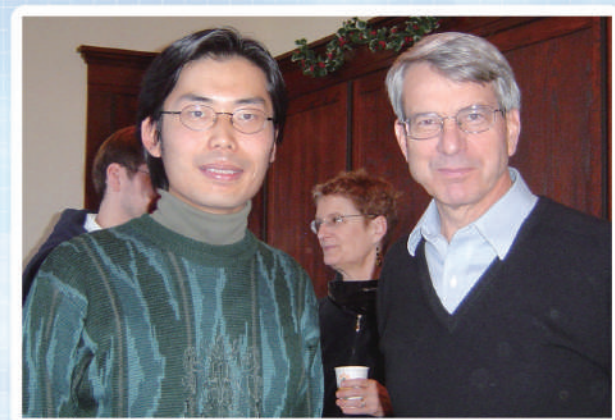
It may be a bit difficult for science majors to understand this, but a literature major can go away once s/he has passed the qualifying exam (ABD: All But Dissertation), because s/he does not need experiments or co-workers for dissertation writing. Where and when to write is all up to her/him, as long as they get the work done. And yet, such freedom sometimes proves fatal. In my case, teaching and the whole bunch of other obligations had delayed writing for many years, until I finally made up my mind a couple of years ago to concentrate on dissertation. Towards the end of the writing process, I would get up at 3AM every morning to write before going to work, and one day around that time I received a huge package from HISF --- a box full of Itoen vegetable juice! Since then, I would drink a pack first thing every morning, telling myself to finish writing before getting the box empty. Thus I finished my Ph.D. dissertation and successfully defended it in summer 2012, so I finally paid back my old debt, long overdue, thanks to Honjo Scholarship and Itoen veggie-juice!

*Honjo-Universe expanded at an exponential rate, and though it has reached its stable phase, it is still expanding steadily (according to Hubble's law). Honjo-Universe is now filled with a myriad of bright stars, which form constellations here and there, lighting up the winter night sky.*

P.S. If you wonder why this literary scholar's composition is full of astrophysical terminology, please come to our Kansai reunion party, held in an old-fashioned Kyoto townhouse, where we often talk about the expanding universe, dancing proteins, and so on, while enjoying yummy Kyoto dishes and sake, and, naturally, Itoen teas.



Picnic with colleagues of Cornell University



With Dr. Jonathan Culler at the faculty party of Cornell University

### Author's profile

2000 University of Tokyo (M.A. English), Research Associate  
2001~ Cornell University (Ph.D. English)  
Major: English Literature, Critical Theory

HISF Alumni  
in Action ③

## Promoting the Understanding of Foreign Cultures in Japanese Schools

Keio University, Faculty of Business and Commerce  
(Coursework completed)

**Fabio Aschero** (The 10th Class / Italy)



### Same Schools, Different Schools

At the beginning, what struck me most in Japanese schools was that they all look somehow alike, in their perfectly designed pedagogical structure, as they are all provided with a sport ground, an entrance where to take off one's shoes, the principal's room with his desk and a low sofa where guests receive a cup of hot tea, the corridors and the stairs, where the pupils' works are on display along with some enlightening moral precepts. Similarly, Japanese schoolchildren are difficult to be distinguished from each other; differently from Italian boys and girls of the same age, for instance, they wear the same correct uniform, without any indulgence to signs of individual taste, they tend to be collaborative but are not too keen to stand out and to ask questions, and, even more surprisingly, they appear to share the same kind of knowledge about the world outside, and consequently about Italy.

However, now I have come to the conclusion that, as in Japanese society as a whole, in schools too, the standardization of places and people is skin deep and deceiving: in the end, each one responds in a different way and gives me something new and precious to be kept in my memory.

### The Association and its Activity

I have taken active part in the activities of the Association for International and Visual Education for quite a few years already, and this has given me the opportunity to visit approximately a hundred educational institutions in the Tokyo metropolitan area, and to meet more than thousand Japanese scholars. The core of this institution is a program called "Foreign Students are Teachers!", in which a small number of -mostly- graduate students from different nations around the world are called to introduce their country or region of origin, to explain their field of study and reasons for choosing Japan, and to stress their perceived differences -and consequent surprise- between here and their native place, all in one single 50-minute period.

Personally, I have been to a great range of schools: Elementary (mostly 6th year students), Junior High and High School (mostly in their 1st year), and of places in Tokyo, but also in Makuhari, Kawaguchi, Abiko, and even to remote schools in the mountains of Hinohara and on the island of Hachijo. Students are from very wealthy households like in Shoto near Shibuya, and Mihara High, or rather from public housing complexes as in Hikarigaoka. I usually speak in Japanese but in some schools, I am asked to speak in English, sometimes with very satisfactory results, such as in Tokyo International HS in Komaba.

### From an Acritical Positive Image to a Genuine Interest

Yet, as I mentioned above, there are some characteristics and reactions that are homogeneous despite the generational, geographical, social and linguistic variety.

First of all, Japanese students notably agree in perceiving Italy as "nice and beautiful" and Italians as "kind and cheerful" with an almost irrational one hundred percent positive image. Furthermore, everybody seems to know that Italy is a boot shaped peninsula, that soccer is the most popular sport and that Mozzarella is the right cheese to use on a Pizza Margherita. Knowledge on Italian cuisine is the kind of information that is most widely spread. Thus, gross stereotypes and mistakes are equally diffused. The image of Italy generally corresponds to the southern part of this country (Naples in particular): sea, warm weather, music, olive and tomato based dishes. On the other hand, Italy overlaps with France (Paris and "bonjour" are most commonly mistaken by younger scholars as Italian). In sum, if right or wrong, a predominant number of schoolchildren assent to a certain standardized picture of my country.



The class at Kasai Daisan Junior high school (Edogawa-ku)

Nevertheless, this assent is not equivalent to a passive and dull acceptance. In the time span of 50 minutes, I realize that their interest has been awakened, my performance is not just the exoticism of an entr'acte play, but it is rather the bridge to something new and unexpected.

Those very students who, a while ago, swore not to be interested in studying abroad, because they were not interested, or because it is too difficult to study a foreign language, or even because it is scary, at the end of the lesson, or in their compositions (which are sent to me together with the teacher's feedback), declare their new enthusiasm, and their desire to know more. In this way, I get what the true meaning of understanding different cultures is: what in the beginning was just a vague positive image of Italy gradually becomes a genuine interest and a critical comparative attitude.

### Author's profile

Born in Savona, Italy. First came to Japan in 1996 as an ICCJ scholarship student, and again in 1999 after graduation at Bocconi University, Milan, through a grant of the Japanese Ministry of Education. Studied at Keio University, Faculty of Business and Commerce. Major in Socio-Economic History.



# A Letter from New York

The essays from the recipients of Overseas Scholarship Program.



~JMSA(Japanese Medical Society of America)~  JMSA

## Miyuki Tanino

I was born in New York and was raised in New York, Japan, and Singapore. I moved from Japan to New York in high school, and studied biology and animal science at Cornell University. I am currently a medical student at Weill Cornell Medical College.

Homelessness affects tens of thousands of people everyday in New York City. As part of my project for the Honjo Foundation Scholarship, I examined the Japanese homeless population in New York City. I focused on the life of a Japanese gentleman living in the streets of New York City, with a very unique life story. Born in 1942, he is a former "Nikkei" Brazilian. He immigrated to Brazil from Japan at the age of 19, as part of a government program promoting immigration to South America. Despite what was advertised by the Japanese government about these programs, the working conditions and wages in Brazil were very poor. Life was a struggle, especially in the first several years. He worked at various farms in Brazil and also as a tour guide for a couple years, and eventually decided to move to New York in the 1970's. In New York City, he worked his way up at various Japanese restaurants. He became jobless in his mid-50's, around 1995. He was initially able to keep his apartment while his family in Japan provided some financial aid. However, he eventually lost his apartment in 1999. During the initial years of his homelessness, he lived in subway stations, which proved to be very unsafe. He was robbed numerous times, including his passport. He later moved to a much safer location. He has now adapted well to life on the streets, and has various ways of avoiding rain, keeping warm, and getting food. His possessions consist of three shopping carts filled mainly with clothes, blankets, food, and tools. He obtained many of his belongings from the flea market or as donations from others. A bag of spare wheels for the shopping carts hangs from a cart at all times, and he has a large tool set for fixing the carts. In addition to receiving food from passers-by, he prepares some food using a small stove. I have told him about a Japanese social worker that might be able to help him and other Japanese social services. However, he insists, "I'm not that desperate yet." The homeless service agency from New York City also comes by to offer help, yet the language barrier makes communication difficult. He has lost contact with his family, and people he used to know in the city have all left to go back to Japan. When asked about his future, he says that he wishes to go back to South America, since that is where he feels most at home. However, this is difficult, as he no longer has any contacts there. For now, he goes about his daily routine of walking around town, going to grocery



stores, using the coin laundry, and selling items in the flea market.

I believe the situation of this gentleman is quite different from the majority of homeless people in New York City. Unlike many homeless people, he does not appear to suffer from a severe mental illness, although subtle mental conditions are difficult to evaluate through my limited encounters. The major factors contributing to his homelessness appear to be lack of socialites, language barrier, and reluctance in receiving help, though some degree of mental illness may also be contributing. A study examining homeless immigrants have found that homeless people who immigrated recently are less likely to suffer from chronic conditions, mental illness, and substance abuse problems compared to other homeless individuals, and that their service needs are different from the general homeless population. I believe that similar to what this study has found, this Japanese individual does not fit the typical picture of a homeless person, and has different service needs.

In an attempt to find more Japanese homeless individuals, I spoke with a Japanese social worker and individuals in Japanese organizations regarding Japanese homeless people in New York City. Some of them knew of a couple individuals who were previously homeless or were on the brink of becoming homeless. These people were assisted on an individual basis. For instance, one person from a Japanese organization provided a homeless man with housing. However, no one knew of anyone who is currently homeless.




Through this project, I found that homelessness exists on rare occasions in the Japanese population in New York City. I believe that social services, mental healthcare, and language assistance are crucial in assisting the unique population of homeless Japanese individuals in New York City. People are often not aware of the various services available, thus making information on these services more available to the general Japanese population will facilitate access to these much needed services.

I thank the Honjo Foundation for granting me the opportunity to pursue this project.

Reference:  
Chiu S, Redelmeier DA, Tolomiczenko G, Kiss A, Hwang SW. The health of homeless immigrants J Epidemiol Community Health. 2009;63(11):943-8.



~JAA(Japanese American Association of New York)~ 

## Kristopher Reeves (from Canada)

Mr. Reeves started his career in Kumamoto Prefecture, Japan, as an Assistant Language Teacher with the JET Program in 2003. He earned two Master's degrees in Japanese Literature from Kyoto University (2009) and the University of Alberta (2013). He currently studies Japanese literature as a Ph.D. candidate at Columbia University. He is proficient in both Japanese and Mandarin, classic as well as modern.

## Copying Epitaphs by Night

October 18th, 2013, New York

Let me share with you a little story. Perchance, as a means of compensating for those scattered lacunae that encroach upon the memory, I have added a few things here or there. Even so, surely there is no harm in taking what I have to say—for the most part—a true account of one episode in my life.

When first asked to write something for this magazine, it was under the agreement that I provide both a Japanese as well as an English version. You, of course, are now reading the latter. Writing in Japanese requires one sort of thought process, while writing in English calls up a subtly different sort of intellectual mode. The way one thinks is inexorably bound up with the language in which one writes. As regards this essay, having first written the thing in Japanese, I later wrote up this English version. Those who read both will surely notice the difference. As far as I am concerned, the Japanese version is more germane to the sentiments and the world I wish to express. Enough of that, though—on to my story.

It was a moonlit spring night so silent that even the willow's dangling tendrils brushing the tops of the tombstones did not stir in the slightest. These same tombstones that in the afternoon, bathed in shadows of somber visitors, seem like nothing more than mute chunks of stone, now, enlivened by this pale white moonlight, seem to be whispering among themselves. This particular graveyard happens to lie behind a temple called Myōonji (temple of sublime light), where sheaves of tender wild grass loll and sway about the waists of aged cherry trees. Beside the temple there crouches a solitary bell tower. Beside this, you might notice a single figure sitting cross-legged behind one of the gravestones, diligently reading the epitaph engraved thereon. With nothing but the moonlight, he traces each moss-laden character with his finger before copying it down into his notebook. This suspicious figure is none other than yours truly. Not at all eager to be seen by the many visitors who come to pay respects to their ancestors during the daytime, I willingly join the legions of nocturnal creatures who dare to invade these sacred precincts. Granted, being seen hunched behind a grave in the dead of night, staring intently at who knows what, is not conducive to fostering a favorable reputation in a small town. Nevertheless, I persist.

When I first arrived in Japan, though I was unable to speak the language of its people, I was fortunate enough to have previously gained a substantial knowledge of Mandarin, and therefore of Chinese characters (which the Japanese adopted into their own language long ago). Spurred on by an incessant, oft times incorrigible curiosity regarding all things old, I figured that while I could not yet read the books I found around me, surely I could try my hand at epitaphs, seeing as how they are generally written purely in Chinese characters. Once seized by this far-fetched idea, I began visiting the tranquil graveyard behind Myōonji about two or three nights a week, meticulously copying down the names, religious titles, as well as the dates of birth and death of many a departed soul. Among the graves I visited, there were a number of exceptionally old ones whereon could be found reign titles from before the Meiji period (that is, before 1868). Sooner or later, I began to feel a sense of giddy enjoyment, as though I were working towards solving some mysterious

riddle. In particular, I noted two characters, 皇紀 kōki, "imperial age," appearing on several venerable tombstones. I recall—though vaguely now—that each stroke of these characters had been deeply engraved and filled in with some sort of brilliant crimson pigment. It was only after some time when I finally learned that kōki was a term once used (but no longer in fashion nowadays) to refer to the beginning of the Japanese calendar, beginning with the ascension of Emperor Jinmu (which purportedly corresponds to the year 660 BC). I admit this is not much a discovery. Still, for me, it seemed like a great one.

Years later, venturing to share this story with my friends in Osaka and Kyoto, I was met unanimously with looks of surprise. What in the world? Here you are—and in the dead of night, mind you—crouched behind someone's grave, silently copying down characters! They'd think you were a nutcase for sure. You are a weird one. These are the sort of things they would say, doubting my sanity. Try as I might to convince them of the impetus behind such acts, namely, a sincere thirst for knowledge, it was all in vain. They would not deign to see things my way. When I was making my rounds of the tombstones, the thought never occurred to me that what I was doing might be construed (at least by those who knew me) as anything but normal. However, having met again and again with such shocked reactions, I began to feel as though what I had done was indeed somehow abnormal. This newfound feeling in itself, interesting as it was, inspired me to proudly tell the story. If abnormal I am to be, let me be abnormal. Now, there is something more I have not yet told my friends. There were nights (more than a handful) when, utterly exhausted from copying epitaphs into my notebook, I would creep into a tiny, dilapidated temple—no bigger than a kitchen—hidden even further behind the graveyard, and pass the night. I felt not a jot of the dreariness often attributed to graveyards and abandoned temples. Quite the contrary—I had a fine sleep. I saw neither spook nor ghoul. All was serene.

For one reason or another, this experience (which might be summed up with the two riddle-like characters kōki) has left a lasting impression upon my heart, forming, it seems, a central part of that complex image of Japan I have been constructing ever since. My Japan is, for better or for worse, intimately connected with old epitaphs. Try as I might to root this idea out (not that I would ever wish to do so), it remains as before. Mine are not dreary, ghastly, lonely epitaphs, but fascinating inscriptions rife with riddles. Moreover, these epitaphs still resound with the careless abandon of my years as a bachelor. These epitaphs will not easily be forgotten.

I am currently living in New York. When I look at these hands of mine—these hands that, though now in America, oft times traced the epitaphs of graves laying in some corner of a graveyard behind Myōonji—I think in amazement on the gap between the man I was then and the man I am now. At the same time, however, I am astonished to find certain things that continue to cling to me, from past to present. Like frogs clinging to a piece of driftwood bobbing up and down in a turbulent current, so do certain memories—what curious creatures—cling to the back of my soul. Without these living things, there would be no Japan for me. What curious creatures indeed!



# MESSAGE

## How are you?

~Messages from Honjo Alumni~  
We are sending messages to all the Honjo family.



**From Myanmar**  
The 11th Class  
**Minh Khine Maw, Ph.D.**  
(Gifu University, 2008)  
New Castle University (Malaysia)

Last week I went to see the MUSASHI Theatre show in Singapore. It is really remembrance of my scholar days in Japan with Honjo Family. I miss you all. Also, my abstract paper (Medical Education) is accepted in APMEC Conference in NUS Singapore and I will be presenting in January 2014. If I have an opportunity to come to Japan, I would like to join the Honjo Alumni seminar to present my paper in 2014.

Photo: Left is CEO Reg Jordan / Right is Colleague from Yemen



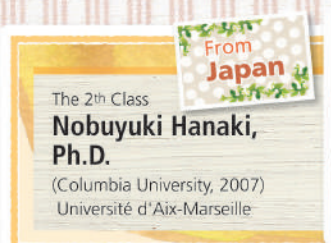
**From India**  
The 13th Class  
**Bidisha Chanda, Ph.D.**  
(The University of Tokyo, 2012)  
Tokai University

I am a MBBS graduate from India. During my internship in pediatrics department I faced a big challenge of thalassemia which encouraged me to research in hematology. In our hospital in an average we were treating 20 thalassemia patients per day. After my marriage I moved to Tokyo in 2007 and did my PhD from Tokyo University. At present I am working as a Post doctoral fellow at Tokai University, Department of Regenerative Medicine. My research is focusing in role of miRNA in B cell development and lymphoma. In future I want to do the translational research.



**From India**  
The 14th Class  
**Nishant Saxena, Ph.D.**  
(Tsukuba University, 2012)  
The Medical University of South Carolina

"A smiling face" is what I remember whenever I think about Japan, where I spent five wonderful years of my life. One can correlate the smiling face with the map of Japan. Positive thinking, patience, hard work, persistence, perseverance, punctuality and dedication are the traits that I have learnt from the people of this country and these are the attributes that are going to guide me throughout my life. I am working on the potential combination therapy of sub-optimal doses of two drugs for the treatment of multiple sclerosis, which is a neurodegenerative disease of central nervous system (CNS). I hope I can make the mission statement of MUSC true, which reads "I'm Changing What's Possible".



**From Japan**  
The 2th Class  
**Nobuyuki Hanaki, Ph.D.**  
(Columbia University, 2007)  
Université d'Aix-Marseille

This is an update from Nobuyuki Hanaki, a 2nd cohort of HISF scholars. I am currently teaching Economics at a university in south of France. I once returned to Japan after my HISF scholarship and taught at a university in Japan. I felt, however, I needed more experience abroad to be a better researcher and a teacher, so decided to move to France four years ago. Transition into France was very hard for my family, and myself but now I am happy that I made this decision. Since last year, I have had many opportunities to meet researchers in Europe as well as in Australia. There are so many interesting people in the world, and it is so stimulating to discuss with them. I wish you many opportunities to meet wonderful people. If you come nearby, please drop me a note. So that we can meet up!



**From South Korea**  
The 8th Class  
**Lee Hwa-Jeong**  
(Waseda University, 2005)  
Rikkyo University

I have classes to teach Korean Language, Korean Society, Educational Psychology and Clinical Psychology as a full-time lecturer (as also a part-time lecturer for some classes) at Rikkyo University. Five years ago, I started to organize a Hangul Study Meeting once a month as a volunteer, whose students are sixty-five years old in average. I am always encouraged by them. I cannot forget the touching moment that Honjo Families reunited under the twinkling night view in Bangkok in last March. I have made many good memories since ten years ago when I first met with Honjo Foundation which has given me a lot of love during the years. I will never forget sincere thanks for being given opportunity to make friendship with Honjo families and would like to requite my favor by means of working hard as an educationalist as much as possible.



**From Nepal**  
The 4th Class  
**Nabin Aryar, Ph.D.**  
(Hitotsubashi University, 2007)  
Rukmini Foundation, Program Manager

Hello current and former Honjo Scholarship recipients, this is Nabin from Nepal. I am sure we are doing whatever small or bigger roles to make this world a better place. As we are the Honjo Fellows, it is our duty to do so. In my opinion, one major difference between developed and underdeveloped world is having fundamental things: education, employment, healthcare, and so on. People do not have access to these fundamental rights, and it is especially true for women. I am working on giving education to underprivileged girls of rural Nepal. I know it is a small step but I am sure we all need to do small things, which is the beginning of a major change!



**From Germany**  
The 12th Class  
**Sven Forstmann, Ph.D.**  
(Waseda University, 2013)  
Explosion Research Institute, Inc.

When thinking about Japan, Tokyo comes into my mind first. I have lived there nine years, and am still living here. It is a very vibrant and energetic city that never sleeps. People here are always busy but yet polite, helpful, friendly and calm. During my stay, I have also experienced the earthquake and nuclear accident in Fukushima. I was aware of that risk before after reading about the Hamaoka power plants sitting right above the next expected Tokai earthquake center. Now even Fukushima was a serious accident, I believe it will help to change the Japanese way of thinking about nuclear energy and more green energy will be used in the future. My name is Sven F. from Germany. I pursued my Ph.D. from Waseda University Tokyo in the field of Global Information and Telecommunication Studies in 2013. Currently, I'm working as an engineer at the Explosion Research Institute Incorporated in Tokyo, Japan. I am working in particular in the field of explosion safety, which means preventing explosions by running complex computational fluid dynamics simulations for companies dealing with easily flammable liquids or gases. I hope that my work will have a significant benefit on the safety conditions in workplaces in Japan.



**From Bangladesh**  
The 14th Class  
**Syed Emdadul Haque, Ph.D.**  
(The University of Tokyo, 2012)  
United Nations University-International Institute for Global Health (UNU-IIGH)

My research interests focus on studying Non-Communicable Diseases, Environmental Exposure (Arsenic, Manganese etc.), Air Pollution (Biomass Exposure), School and Community-Based Health Promotion (hygiene and Sanitation), Violence against Women, Medical Waste Management, Chronic Diseases, and Climate Change and Health Effect, Globally. My expertise is on filed research data collection as well as in qualitative research. I published 16 articles in peer-reviewed journals. Two research projects were carried out by me as Principal Investigator. Now running one projects in Bangladesh. I would be happy to do any collaboration research worldwide.



**From Japan**  
The 16th Class  
**Satomi Kobayashi**  
The University of Tokyo

In July 2013, I went to Nigeria for 2 weeks to help field work. The purpose of the examination was to understand implementation of breast feeding and its inhibitory factors. In Nigeria, the rate of breast feeding is low compared to other African countries. Because they do not know the reason why, they cannot decide what to improve to make the situation better. I really hope that the results of the survey contribute to infants' health.



**From South Korea**  
The 16th Class  
**Kim Woo-Kyung**  
The University of Tokyo

I went to the symposium held in Singapore. It was pleased to meet good friends of various nationalities and to discuss a lot of researcher. In addition, some researcher who is work in Korean national institute give job information to me after my presentation. I think that it is good opportunities for me, maybe I go to there. I would like to thank Honjo International Scholarship for his support, encouragement and patience. Without their support, it would not have been possible.



**From Uganda**  
The 16th Class  
**David Odeke Otuya**  
Tohoku University

Today was another day that my research life got some beef-up. Being awarded the prize of best paper from the IEEE Sendai section comes as the first award in my research life. I intend to take this as a motivation to power through things that are yet to come. My thanks goes to God and the supportive community here at the Ultra-high speed communication lab. My immediate supervisor: Dr Kasai, shouldnt go without sincere appreciation. He has been very instrumental in guiding me through the murky waters that research is.  
IEEE=The Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineering, Inc.



**From Bangladesh**  
The 15th Class  
**Md. Masud Karim**  
Niigata University

Visited 1st time in Europe (Italy) to join an international symposium "Brassica 2012". It was good opportunity to meet renowned scientist in my research field. Also enjoyed roman food and culture, visited famous places like smallest county in the world (vatican city), birth place of Archimedes (Syracuse, Sicily), world largest amphitheater(Colosseum), mediterranean sea etc.



**From Sri Lanka**  
The 16th Class  
**Thelhawadigedara Lahiru Niroshan Jayakody**  
Kagoshima University

Music is my hobby and used to be a professional keyboard player, more than seven years in Sri Lankan music band. When I came to Japan, I thought I may not get any opportunity to continue my music. But fortunately, I found the Saga university Jazz circle. I joined with them and began to play guitar. Now I am a guitarist, vocalist and leading the Saga university International Student band. Our band brings you the great country—music from all round the world. I am thoroughly enjoying my music and life in Japan.



**From Laos**  
The 16th Class  
**Sithixay Douangchak**  
Tokyo University of Agriculture and Technology

In July 20, I acted as the chairman at the 8th ASEAN Festival 2013 which was held in Roppongi Hills, and I introduced about Laos's traditional dance. There were students from ASEAN countries, and they had traditional dance performance, traditional clothes fashion show, and exhibition of specialty products.

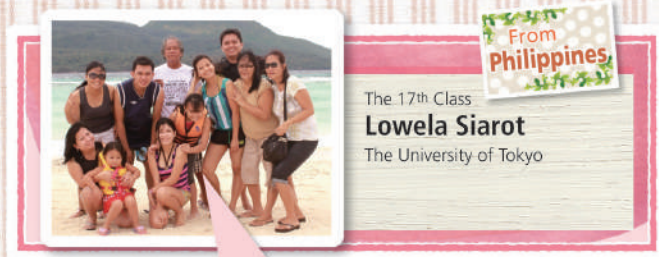


**From Japan**  
The 16th Class  
**Kenkoh Sugihara**  
Tohoku University

I research on problem of gecko's hair like fibers on hands at Technische Universität Darmstadt in Germany. Thanks to HISF, I can research independently and efficiently. Stay in Germany is very good experience for me, though I have a little difficulty for everyday life in German culture. The biggest difficulty is cold weather and I strongly need more fat in my body now.



## How are you? ~Messages from Honjo Alumni~



The 17th Class  
**Lowela Siarot**  
The University of Tokyo

Last summer vacation, my family and I went to Camiguin Island in the Philippines. It was our first time to travel together. The travel was quite long and was terrifying since the waves were quite big and weather wasn't good. Nevertheless, it was all worth it. One of the places we visited is the White Island, an uninhabited small island covered with white sandbars as its name suggest.



The 17th Class  
**Emtithal Ahmed Talha**  
Yokohama National University

This year graduated from master in March and get entrance in April to PhD in Yokohama national university faculty of engineering. I visited two cities, Hiroshima for sightseeing in August; I attended the 69th memorial Peace and Osaka in July to attend international conference "the IEEE Engineering in medicine and biology society" and present my paper on it and get in touch with a huge knowledge that was looking for it since graduated from Biomedical engineering. 2013 added to my life good memories that will stay forever. The things' remain now doing my best in the all days that yet to come.



The 17th Class  
**Aisulu Zhussupova**  
Keio University

Last year I attended several scientific meetings like Japanese Cancer Association in Sapporo, Japanese Breast Cancer Society Meeting in Hamamatsu, American Association of Cancer Research in Hawaii and American Society of Clinical Oncology in San-Francisco presenting my results of research work. It is great opportunity for me to learn from international professionals and have a part of discussions. For summer vacation I visited my home country and enjoyed staying there with family and friends.



The 17th Class  
**Park Sung-Won**  
The University of Tokyo

In October 2013, I went to emergency temporary housing estates in Iwate. People who evacuated the Great East Japan Earthquake live there. I propose an idea to think of more comfortable life for the residents. Also reconstruction of the housing will start earnestly, and I will cooperate with local government to make their new housing better.

## HISF WORKSHOP

In 2011, we started the series of an alumni meeting with a lecture spoken by an alumnus in order to strengthen friendship among HISF scholars. We will hold this meeting twice a year with an invited lecturer in various fields of research.



The 4th Workshop – November 4, 2012  
Speaker:  
**Mitsugu Yamada, Ph.D.**

History of Protein Structure Investigation  
–Visualizing the invisible principal players of life phenomenon–



The 5th Workshop – July 7, 2013  
Speaker:  
**Hyunjong Choo, Ph.D.**

Diversity and Collective Creativity for Innovation  
~Shall we jump together?~



The 6th Workshop – November 24, 2013  
Speaker:  
**Masazumi Gotoda**

Japan's Mission  
~ A Pressing Issue for the Abe Government ~

## Find Us on Facebook!

We have a group page account on Facebook. Find our page, Honjo International Scholarship Foundation. We make event announcements, and current scholars and alumni exchange information regarding their study, work, countries, and their private events as well. Please send us your request.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/HISFhonjo/>

## Send Us Your Information!

We are making all the Honjo scholars contact list on our website. Go to "Alumni Data Update" from our webpage and send us the form. You will need an ID and password to enter the scholars list. Let us know if you do not know them, but only Honjo Scholars and alumni are available for them.

<https://hisf.or.jp/update/form.html>

## Guideline for Scholarship and Research Fellowship in 2014~2015

### Scholarship Program

- **Scholarship for Foreign Students (The 19th Class)**  
For Foreign students studying in Japanese graduate school
- **Scholarship for Japanese Domestic Students (The 10th Class)**  
For Japanese students studying in Japanese graduate school
- **Scholarship for Japanese International Students (The 18th Class)**  
For Japanese students studying in graduate school in overseas

### Overseas Scholarship Program

- Jack Lewis Scholarship Program (University of Southern California)
- Professor Misawa Scholarship Program (University of Hawaii)
- JMSA Scholarship Program (Japanese Medical Society in America)
- JAA Scholarship Program (Japan Association in America)
- CUSSW Scholarship Program (Columbia University School of Social Work)

### Research Fellowship Program

- **Food and Health Research Fellowship Program**  
This program is to support the research to clarify the efficiency of food or ingredient of food to maintain good health by means of assay targeting human beings or alternate assay without using animal.

※The detailed information about the application is announced on our website. Application forms are available there, too.  
※The application of Overseas Scholarship Program is operated by partnership bodies. Please visit their website for detailed information.

## Shoko Kawasaki held a piano recital in Italy

Ms. Shoko Kawasaki (The 16th Class/Japan), who studies at the University of Music and Performing Arts Munich, participated in the Viotti International Music Competition in Vercelli, Italy in October 2013, and her recital was held. An Italian local newspaper published an article on this event.

—Summary of the article—  
*In the "House of Music" The Inhabitants of Vercelli Township host the candidates of the Viotti competition.*

An ancient palace in the city centre, during the days of the Viotti competition, becomes a "House of music", as part of an initiative started two years ago by three families, members of the Quartet Society. At that time, they offered to host the candidates in their own homes, and so this year the pianist Shoko Kawasaki, who passed the preliminary round of the competition, was welcomed in the house of Reggio and Marengo. Furthermore, on the eve of the final round, the Dallera family organized a little concert and Shoko Kawasaki was offered to play in the family recital. She impeccably played Haydn, Brahms, and after a thunderous applause, two encores: Debussy and Bach.



## Mohamed Omer Abdin published a book

Mr. Mohamed Omer Abdin (The 11th Class/Sudan) is currently in doctoral course of International and Area study of Tokyo University of Foreign Studies, receiving research fund from JSPS. The Poplar Publishing Co. has published his first book "Waga Mousou" in May 2013.

When Abdin was in boyhood, he lost his eyesight slightly. Recently, he has written a humorous story about his fifteen-year long life that he passed in Japan. When I first met with him six years ago, I was surprised to see his rich Japanese skills as he can play "Oyaji-gag" or can joke using double meaning words. He has a wonderful ability to memorize and/or explain any events. I am highly admiring him, as he has written a book in Japanese. I have thought his extraordinary skills, ability and hard-working leads him to study in Japan successfully; even he described himself as an ordinary man or somewhat less in his book. Moreover, in my opinion, this is not just a boasting success story nor a piece of complements that only give you condescending advice, but it is a superior book that must encourage you or inspired by an ordinary man.



## About Us

[Name]  
Honjo International Scholarship Foundation  
[Year of Establishment]  
December 25, 1996  
[President]  
Ms. Teruko Honjo

[Purpose]  
Honjo International Scholarship Foundation has been established to support outstanding students and researchers. To help them learn advanced technologies and improve their good intentions will serve as a bridge connecting Japan with the rest of the world in culture and mutual friendships.

## Acknowledgements

I would like to offer my sincere gratitude to Kristopher Reeves, Ahmed Zahir, Fabio Aschero and Le Hieu Hanh, each of whom supplied English translations and revisions for this issue of our magazine. Furthermore, I must thank the members of our executive office, who so readily cooperated in sending us various messages and photographs, as well as those of you who, despite busy schedules, contributed such unique and interesting articles.



# 17年間の軌跡

## Journey of 17 years



**1997** 故小渕元首相と歓談  
With the deceased former Prime Minister, Mr. Keizo Obuchi at the annual party



**1998** 忘年会で理事・評議員の方々と  
Directors at the Year-End Party



**1999** 故本庄正則前理事長と懇親会で  
With the deceased former chairman, Mr. Masanori Honjo at the annual party



**2000** 1期生～4期生の記念写真  
A memorial photo of the 1st-the4th recipients



**2001** 理事会  
The directors' board meeting

1期生から17期生まで思い出の写真を集めました。懐かしい顔が見つかりますか？

Pictures from 1996-2013. Find someone looks familiar!!



**2002** 歓送迎会で新入生の挨拶  
Freshmen's speech at the Welcome Party



**2003** 照子理事長になって初めての歓送迎会  
At the Welcome & Farewell Party: the first one after Mrs. Honjo was appointed to the president



**2004** 韓国で同窓会を開催  
The reunion party in Seoul, Korea



**2005** 忘年会で  
At the Year-End Party



**2006** 歓送迎会で本庄八郎会長と歓談  
With Mr. Hachiro Honjo at the Welcome & Farewell Party



**2007** 静岡研修旅行  
Shizuoka trip



**2008** 京都で茶道を習う  
Training of tea ceremony at Kyoto



**2009** 忘年会のクイズ大会  
Question Game at Yea-End Party



**2010** 京都で書道を習う  
Training of Calligraphy at Kyoto



**2011** 気仙沼で東日本大震災復興ボランティア  
The volunteers for the work to help people devastated by 311 earthquakes in Kesenuma



**2012** 京都研修旅行で舞妓さんの日本舞踊を鑑賞  
Maiko-san's Japanese traditional dance in Kyoto



**2013** 歓送迎会  
The Welcome & Farewell Party in 2013