



NICHIDAI SG TIMES

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The new global worker

What comes to your mind when you hear the word “super”? Supermarket? Super Mario? Superman? There are many different answers.

One of them is Nihon University High School’s Super Global class (SG).

Nichidai offers the Super Global Program, an exciting course that prepares students to compete in an increasingly global society. Some classes are taught in English, in contrast with other traditional advanced classes taught solely in Japanese.

Every year, SG students’ English skills are put to the test as the pupils travel to various countries across the globe and complete several projects. This year, Super Global students traveled to Hawaii in October for a 12-day

trip. There they participated in several projects: English speaking lessons, visiting a nursing home, and cleaning a beach. In addition, they stayed with Hawaiian host families. Next year, this class’s students will go to Canada or New Zealand for three weeks.

The excursions give students an opportunity to develop problem-solving skills that will give them an advantage when applying to global companies and universities in foreign countries.

They will also give individual presentations in the second grade. The students took an AIR NEW ZEALAND quest lesson from April to May. As they are going to New Zealand next year, they sought to answer various questions. For example, “Why do Japanese people want to

travel to New Zealand?” “What do Japanese people know about New Zealand?”

SG students also take all-English lessons with English native speakers. They have three conversation classes a week. Every Wednesday, students also have a Skype lesson with a Filipino teacher. SG students learn English through many different methods covering daily conversation.

One of the major projects of the SG Program was to produce a newspaper in English. Twice a week, SG students wrote articles and conducted interviews and surveys by distributing questionnaires to gather data.

Interview with class teacher

How did you feel when you became our homeroom teacher?
—I was excited and nervous.



Nihon University High School / Junior High School

What do you think about the SG class’s students?
—I think they are bright and well-behaved.

By Kou Shimamura, Kyle Yoshida, Reika Anno, and Suzu Sasaki

Understanding what globalization means to us

Where will you go if you want to eat a hamburger? Of course, there are lots of hamburger shops. However, even among them, McDonald’s would be the top choice. The main reason is that McDonald’s can be found everywhere and their hamburgers are very affordable.

Why is that? Globalization is the main reason. Often, we hear the word “globalization,” but do we really understand what it means? Let’s take a closer look at the word to understand its meaning and its effect on the present world.

The term globalization became popular in the mid-1990s and refers to communication, business, and travel across international

boundaries. This allows foreign companies such as Apple, The Coca-Cola Company and McDonald’s to be widely active all over the world and have a great impact globally. The following are some advantages and disadvantages of globalization.

Advantages

One advantage of globalization is that it provides new markets and optimization.

Another great advantage of globalization is that consumers can now buy things at low prices. This allows residents of Japan to keep personal expenses low.

This also potentially creates a more competitive market, which means more jobs, as

companies need a greater number of workers to make more products and expand production.

In addition, people can have access to many foreign products and services.

New markets are more easily found in a global system. New businesses can spread across the globe and provide jobs.

More jobs countervail larger businesses and these companies end up with a larger scale of production. This enhanced production results in more competition in the markets, in turn lowering the cost of products, a prime example of optimization. Goods are now at a lower price than they were previously, making them

easier to obtain. An example of this is how much easier it is to buy a smartphone in developing countries.

Disadvantages

Despite the many advantages and opportunities globalization can provide, there is a considerable downside to the system: its effect on local businesses, the national economy, and the middle class. A large global company can dominate a market with its low prices and high production volume. Meanwhile, a small family-owned business might not be able to compete because it cannot lower its prices or keep a large amount of stock, which might lead to it going

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‘Sound Princess’ travels the world for the future

What can play music, clean your body, and take things away? A toilet! Yes, it sounds like something from a science fiction novel, something only achievable in the far future. For years, Japan has been at the forefront of revolutionizing toilets and the way we use them.

The history of the use of toilets in Japan goes as far back as the Jomon period about 1 million years ago. Human waste from toilets was used as manure, while crude things, such as bark and animal skin, were used for wiping. The toilet itself could not flush. As time passed and with advances in plumbing, the infamous “bottom toilet” (a ceramic rectangular toilet that can still be seen in some bathrooms in Japan) spread in this country until the introduction of the Western-style toilet in 1914.

Today’s Japanese toilets

and their functions are awesome. One example is “Sound Princess”. With the press of a button, a loud waterfall sound emits from the toilet, playing over embarrassing body noises that other people might hear. In addition, many toilets have a heated seat for cold winter days, automated flushing to avoid the spread of bacteria, automated cleaning, and even an automated function that lifts the toilets seat. Surprisingly, these functions are not the extreme, but rather the norm. In many schools, toilets have a washlet function and a bidet where the water pressure can be adjusted for those with sensitive bottoms.

Toilets and their functions vary just like people. Japanese companies are looking for new and innovative ways to meet the needs of people who intend to use or currently use a Japanese toilet. The most



Kei Ikeda

Modern Japanese-Western toilet at Nichidai

important element of a toilet that everyone wants in Japan is cleanliness.

While not always applicable, toilets are meant to stay clean, with dirtiness properly contained. Oftentimes, you even have to take off your shoes and put on “uwabaki” (slippers) before using the restroom to keep dirt from being tracked in. This is Japanese culture.



Kokoro Nakazawa

The control panel for TOTO's OTOHIME



Asuka Naka

Toilet buttons

Perhaps in the not-so-distant future, Japanese toilets will dispense a pair of uwabaki for you.

Who knows what Japanese toilets will be like 20 years from now.

By Asuka Naka, Kei Ikeda, and Kokoro Nakazawa

LNG for a Sustainable Society

To achieve a sustainable society, humans have to generate renewable energy. Renewable energy such as wind power, geothermal power, and solar power are great energy sources because they don't discharge carbon dioxide. However, they cannot make a lot of energy all at once. For the most part, such energy sources are also affected by the weather. The goal of the world now is to reduce the use of fossil fuels and increase the use of renewable energy.

People from around the world have developed technology that makes our lives more comfortable. It started with the steam engine. Now, technology is vital for people's everyday lives. However, the world today is suffering from a problem: global warming.

Nowadays, we use fossil fuels to produce electricity. They



Relying on fossil fuels could harm the environment.

release a lot of carbon dioxide. To produce electricity through renewable energy is the optimal path, but it is difficult to make such a change in a short period of time. One company, Tokyo Gas, is leading the way, by introducing liquefied natural gas (LNG), a cogeneration system, and a thermal power generator.

Tokyo Gas imports liquefied natural gas.

The company cools natural



Renewable energy needs to be developed further.

gas to -162 degrees C and liquefies it to make city gas. It built a cooling generation warehouse in Negishi to utilize the coldness of the LNG effectively. Negishi is situated along the Kanagawa shoreline. Many ships come to this area to import many kinds of food. Tokyo Gas facilities use the cold energy to keep the food fresh, then facilitate returning the cool LNG to normal

temperatures. This is an example of a cogeneration system that can save a significant amount of energy.

Not only does LNG generate gas, but it also utilizes the energy of the cogeneration system. It uses clean city gas and makes use of electricity efficiently in air conditioning, heating, refueling, and steaming. Using the natural gas and a cogeneration system reduces energy consumption. Renewable energy can be used now and in the future to protect the environment. We have to think about the way we use resources. By doing so, the environment will become naturally clean. It is necessary for all people to have the consciousness and desire to change the world for the better.

By Kota Yamazaki, Motonari Nishioka, and Rion Higure

Japanese Hospitality

What is hospitality? The origin of the word is “hospitalitas”, which means “entertainment of guests” in Latin. One might confuse hospitality with service, because they seem like similar terms. However, hospitality and service are not exactly the same. Service is the act of fulfilling demands or responding to requests of customers. Hospitality, on the other hand, is the friendly, generous treatment of guests that can lead to making emotional connections. Japan is well known for its hospitality, and people are welcomed everywhere with kindness and politeness. This article will shed light on the Japanese spirit of hospitality, or “Omotenashi”.

The Tokyo Olympics in 2020 will draw more attention to Japan and the number of foreign tourists is expected to increase further. Japan already attracts many tourists every



Nihon University High School

Above: A traditional Japanese room
Right: Japanese “Omotenashi”

year because of must-see places like Shibuya and breathtaking sights like Mt. Fuji. As more people visit Japan, visitors are surprised by the warm welcome that they receive from the people here. Hosts in Japan are able to anticipate



what their guests need, and their hospitality often exceeds expectations. Today, Japanese hospitality is recognized as

being among the best in the world.

When asked about Japanese hospitality, foreigners say they can get pamphlets with useful information at airports and government buildings. The pamphlets include English translations, which is a great help to foreigners. At the airport, employees can respond in many languages other than Japanese. Also, there are many helpful signs in English that show how to get to various places. The train announcements also have an English translation.

Japanese hospitality makes people feel safe in Japan and Japanese people have become well known for their considerate and helpful nature. This is why Japan continues to attract millions of tourists every year.

By Aiko Sasai, Saaya Kokuba, and Tomohisa Ueki

Enjoy a Day in Yokohama: Red Brick Warehouse and More

Have you heard of the Yokohama Red Brick Warehouse? Yokohama Port was used as a harbor in the mid-1800s. Now, it is a popular tourist spot and the warehouse will mark its 15th anniversary this year.

There is an increasing number of tourists year after year because of the many weekend events, such as performances by various artists and yukata festivals, that draw a lot of people.

Traditional Japanese art is also featured at the Yokohama Red Brick Warehouse. There are shops that sell brick goods, Yokohama Yaki pottery, and silk products. You can even join a workshop and try glass craft making!

This famous Yokohama tourist spot certainly supports local businesses in an exciting way. With a large shopping center, a fantastic variety of restaurants, and an excellent events hall, the Yokohama Red Brick Warehouse is a very popular destination for both Japanese people and foreigners.



Haruka Yagi

Nissan's company logo

Yokohama's Business Background

Nissan is a huge company that is very well known in the world. There are many automotive companies in Japan, but Nissan, which originated in Yokohama, claims to be among the best.

The first Nissan passenger vehicle was made at the Yokohama Plant in April 1935. The Datsun, Nissan's flagship car, made Japan famous as Japanese technology advanced.

During World War II, Nissan also made engines for Japanese



Rio Fujita

Electric vehicle charging equipment

military planes and torpedo boats. Even though the Yokohama Plant was safe from the air raids, Nissan suffered hardship because its partners changed to other companies.

After the war, Nissan's business vastly improved, as there was great demand for its technology and services. However, the company was hit with a fiscal crisis in 1990.

With the help of the automotive company Renault, and with Carlos Ghosn serving as Nissan's COO (Chief Operating Officer), Nissan's business

survived the damage caused by the fiscal crisis.

The future of Nissan now lies in its new technology: LEAF, or Leading, Environmentally Friendly, Affordable Family vehicle. An electronic car that can seat 5 adults comfortably, it is popular even among foreigners.

With the growing demand for green technology all over the world, Japan now has about 23,000 electric vehicle charging stations. They can be found at convenience stores, on freeways, and at Nissan dealerships. A fully charged LEAF can be driven an average of 280 kilometers for a lower cost than gas.

In addition to being cheaper to charge than paying for gas, LEAF does not discharge harmful exhaust fumes like regular cars. A unique feature of LEAF is the fact that its car parts can even be recycled. It is truly environmentally friendly!

By Haruka Yagi and Rio Fujita

New Zealand Bound

What do you know about New Zealand? Do the words “kiwi” or “Hakka” mean anything to you? New Zealand Airways came to the Nichidai Super Global class to give a quest lesson on New Zealand tourism. They gave us an assignment on how to increase the number of foreign visitors, and we presented our work in front of people at school orientation day. For the presentation, a survey was conducted with 50 Nichidai teachers as participants and they were asked the following questions: What do you imagine when you hear “New Zealand”? What do you know about New Zealand? Would you like to visit New Zealand?

Thirty percent associated New Zealand with the sport rugby, sheep, and the kiwi bird. About ten percent said earthquake, the English language, and the clearest view of the stars in the world. The answers of the remaining sixty percent were not directly related to the country being surveyed. Based on these answers, it can be assumed that people still have a lot to discover about New Zealand.

When asked if they wanted to go to New Zealand, a surprising ninety-four percent of the



Courtesy of Air New Zealand

Rugby



Courtesy of Air New Zealand

Maori



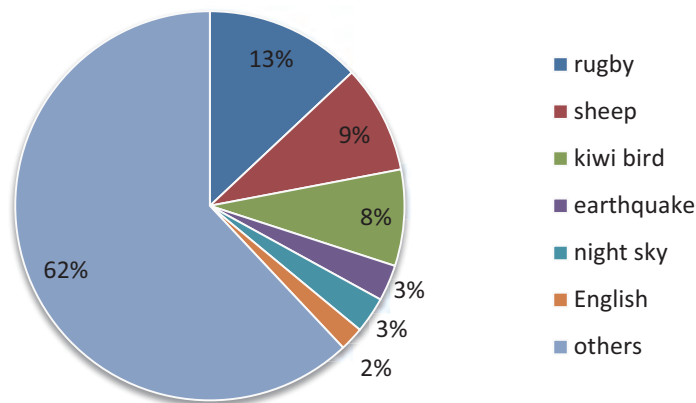
Courtesy of Air New Zealand

Fiordland



Courtesy of Air New Zealand

Kiwi



respondents said they would. However, when surveyed about

countries they wanted to visit, the most common answers were

the United States, France, and Australia. Japanese people tend to follow a lot of trends, such as those posted by celebrities on Instagram and Twitter, or broadcast on TV and in magazines. Hawaii, New York, Paris, and Sydney are famous destinations, even among celebrities. It's no wonder that people want to go there.

Lastly, when asked about their impression of New Zealand, most respondents answered that it is a country with beautiful mountains, national parks, and a safe environment. Specific answers included the fjords, Mt. Cook National Park, and activities like bungee jumping and bike riding. Regarding safety, New Zealand ranks third on the list of the world's safest countries. Japan is sixth on the list. Some respondents also recalled that New Zealand had an election regarding changing their flag.

Based on the results of this survey, it is apparent that people who knew about New Zealand actually wanted to go.

As the Kiwi say, “*Ka kite ano*” (See you) in New Zealand!

By Fumina Taguchi, Reina Koike, and Ririho Sugawara

Understanding what globalization means to us

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out of business. Such a situation would begin to have an effect on a country's national economy and would begin to widen the gap between wealthy and poor people. The middle class could begin to disappear, and less money could also mean a lower quality of education and health.

There are many other disadvantages to globalization. In Yokohama, for example, the cost of owning a business is much higher than in Beijing, China. Yearly expenses for rent, insurance, employee salaries, and product production cannot

compete with Beijing's super-low costs.

Also, consumption of Japanese-made products could decrease more and more, which in turn could cause a business to downsize staff and potentially close down.

Globalization can also quietly deteriorate a country's culture. Today in Japan, many Japanese shy away from traditional things such as yukatas and kimonos, opting for foreign clothing instead. Music like Enka is rarely heard and very few people learn and practice the traditional arts because of the flood of foreign goods that

have taken their place. Japanese traditional culture has started to decline.

Globalization is changing not only the way we do business, but also how we go about our daily lives.

In the end, the question of whether globalization is good for a country is an open-ended one. It is up to the residents of each country to be active in their respective communities to ensure that the best decisions are made for the nation and its future.

By Konoka Saito and Momone Kuwabara

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