



Do you know "Rakugo" ?



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It is said that Japanese people are workaholics and that we treat shorter working weeks and increasing holidays as if they were duties to be borne, rather than things to be enjoyed. On the other hand, Japanese people can't escape from the long economic depression, so that sometimes we are obliged to take endless holidays. Whichever, Japanese people seem to be poor at spending holidays. I'm an old-fashioned man and I also can't enjoy holidays. I feel at peace when I work even during the holidays in order to get over the mountains of work I have. This is my life. It is said, "busiest men find the most time", and really efficient men can find the time for their hobbies or sports even with a terribly busy schedule, and they enjoy their lives. I don't know why, but I, myself, can't help but see the situation as the opposite: "busiest men lose the most time". In vain, I really think if I should be much busier and busier, I might find my free time. Even when I go traveling on holiday, I usually check and "study" my itinerary (transportation and accommodation) carefully using the guidebook. Then, I identify the original as that in the guidebook! I'm lashed - I have to go here and there, I have to see this or that and I have to eat such and such, so I have no more time. I find it too hard to enjoy myself and I am usually exhausted at last. Oh, this behavior (that is my life) is just like "Rakugo"!

Do you know Rakugo? Rakugo, which is a three hundred-years-old art, is an amusing story told by a masterful storyteller. And this storyteller is Rakugoka. More than fifteen years ago, I had the chance to listen to Rakugo performed in English by the late Shijaku-Katsura. I think he was the first Rakugoka to have performed in English. The Rakugoka has to play various roles by the direction of his look, with facial expressions, gestures, and the tone of his voice. During the performance, he sits on a cushion, wearing a kimono with only a towel and a fan for props. I was wondering whether foreigners could understand Rakugo, but foreign audience was laughing, of course, Japanese one was laughing, too. They felt the same human emotions as the characters in his story. It was wonderful that traditional Japanese "laugh" was performed in a different language. That was a culture shock for me. Remember, we can share "laugh" even we have different cultures, and we can feel the same human emotions even we have different religions. I really hope 2003 will be filled with "laugh". In Rakugo, the mixture of drama and comedy always has an amusing ending.

Here, let me introduce the Rakugo story of "Compliments (Japanese title is Kohome)". As the space is limited, only part of the story is represented here. You have to use and stretch your imagination as much as possible, because you can't watch and listen to the Rakugoka's real performance.

A : I heard you have "Tada no Sake". You have free sake, really?

B : No. You made a mistake. I don't have "Tada no Sake". I have "Nada no Sake". If you would like to drink sake, you should pay a compliment.

A : What is a compliment?

B : A compliment is a phrase that makes people very happy.

A : Is it difficult?

B : No, it isn't. It is very easy. Listen. For example, you ask someone his age, "How old are you? And he answers, "I am 50 years old." Then you say, "Oh, you look much younger. I think you are 47 years old." Then he is very happy and he says, "Let's go to drink sake. I'll treat ou." "You are successful.

A : How nice! This is a good idea. But I have one question. All of the men are not 50 years old. How about 60 years old?

B : It is very easy. In case of 60 years old you should say "57 years old."

A : I see. How about 70 years old?

B : You say 67.

A : Thank you for your kind suggestion. By the way, is this your baby?

B : Yes, he was just born yesterday!

A : How old is he?

B : What do you mean? I said he was just born. So, he is of course 0 year old.

A : Oh, he looks much younger. I think he is minus 3 years old.

(Partly excerpted from "English Rakugo Script" by HOE International)

I would like to be a professor like a "Rakugoka". When I give a lecture in the classroom, it is so important to catch the heart of the audience, so they can understand the meaning of my talk. I must keep the concentration of the audience by my "act of storytelling". Sometimes in the class, I use some props for the performance of experiments and the students' eyes glow with interest. In this way, the audience can understand my talk without sleeping (and without using mobile-phones) and they can learn a lot from my lecture. As a result, they are happy, and I become happy. This is my wonderful life.

Well, you can finally ask me the question, "How old are you?" I answer, "I am 50". You say, "You look so much younger! I think you are 47 years old." ----- Let's go to drink "Tada no Oolong Tea" (I am a "Geko").

スウェーデン王立工科大学滞在記



八木 知己
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スウェーデン王立工科大学は、スウェーデンの首都ストックホルムにある王立の工科大学です。スウェーデン語で名前が、Kungliga Tekniska Högskolanであり、通称KTHと呼ばれています。筆者は、当大学の大学院に1992年から1997年まで在籍しており、少し古い話にはなりますが、当大学の滞在記を紹介させていただきます。

本大学は、1827年に創立されたスウェーデンで最も大きな工科大学であり、学生数は、学部生が約11,000人、大学院生が約1,500人在籍しており、教職員数は約3,100人で、その内教授が200名程度です。さらに、学生の25～30%は女性で、博士号を取得した学生の4人に1人が女性です。この数字は京大の工学部・工学研究科と比べれば、極めて多数のようにも思われますが、男女平等の進んだスウェーデンでは、まだまだ女性の割合が少ないと思われるようです。キャンパスはストックホルムの中心街近くにあります。写真のような美しい建物が並んでいます。また塀で囲まれているのではなく、キャンパスの裏は自然の公園となっており、リスやウサギ等の野生動物もよくキャンパス内で見られます。写真に写っている噴水やその周辺に見られる彫刻はスウェーデンを代表する彫刻家カール・ミレスのものです。

私は当初、京大とKTH間の交換留学生制度を利用して、Department of Mechanicsに1年半程、博士課程の学生として所属しました。この交換留学生制度は当時、井上達夫教授（エネルギー変換科学専攻）が世話役となって毎年1名、主に博士課程の学生を積極的にKTHに送り込んでおられました。私の他には、田中和人助手（機械工学専攻）、岩前敦助手（機械物理工学専攻）もこの交換留学生制度で学生中に留学されておられます。その後、私はDepartment of Structural Engineeringに移り、1997年の春までKTHに滞在しておりました。KTHをはじめスウェーデンの大学は私学であっても学費は無料です。学部の学生は、高校を卒業すると親元を離れて奨学金で生活する人がほとんどです。一方、大学院生は学校から給料をもらって生活します。従って、自費で研究している大学院生は全くいません。その代わり、TA（Teaching Assistant）等の仕事があります。主な内容としては、演習・実験の講義、講義レポートの添削、

試験監督等ですが、年間勤務時間の約30%はTA等の研究以外の雑務をこなす必要があります。（そういう契約になっています。）私はスウェーデン語が出来ない外国人留学生ということで、数式ばかりのレポートの添削をよくやっておりました。大学院の授業では、数多くの単位数をとる必要がありますが、かなり柔軟なシステムとなっており、必要に応じてゼミのような授業を適宜開講し単位認定することが可能だったりします。単位認定は、一般にレポートの場合が多いですが、試験の場合には4～5時間の長丁場となり、飲み物・食べ物を持参して試験に臨みます。研究面では、採用の時にプロジェクト絡みでテーマが最初から決まっている場合と、採用が決まってから本人と指導教官の相談で決める場合等がありますが、私のいた土木系の学科では前者の場合が多いようです。専攻にもよりますが、途中で辞めて企業に行く者、一度企業に勤めてから大学院で研究を始める者、企業と大学院の二股でがんばる者等で、日本の大学に比べて出入りが激しいように思えます。

学部の教育についてですが、入学当初は日本の大学と比べて非常に簡単なことから教えているような気がします。ただし、基礎科目の教育にはかなり力を入れており、物理系や土木系の学生は、毎年力学や数学等の基礎的な科目の授業を受けていたように記憶しています。またプログラム演習等の授業も数多く受講しているようです。従って、大学院生になったときには、基礎ができているため、多少の分野の違いも気にせず、かつ研究のためのツールも修得していることから、方向性が決まればすぐにでも研究に取り組み、結果が出せるような学生が多いような気がします。私自身も留学での経験から基礎学力の大切さを身にしみて感じました。スウェーデンは御存知の通り、携帯電話、自動車、飛行機を始め、種々の良質な工業製品を生み出していますが、人口が僅か890万人ということを考えると非常に驚きです。今に至るには、工学教育が極めて重要であったに違いないと考えます。有名なスウェーデンの福祉についてのみならず、まだまだスウェーデンの大学からも学ぶべきことは多いのかもしれない。



Trip to Hiroshima



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It is already one month, since we, foreign students of the Faculty of Engineering, Kyoto University, went for a school trip to Hiroshima and Miyajima. Not only sightseeing, but also excursions to a research institute and factory were planned.

I have to say, I had been looking forward to this trip since applying for it soon after coming to Japan in October. When you come to a foreign country, you want to travel and get familiar with it, but you cannot at first travel a lot. You cannot use the trains effectively, you do not know which places are nice, you do not have time, and, not least, you are also short of money. So I was quite happy I could use this opportunity and go so far with guidance and for free. Later, as I will explain, I realized that these were not the only or the biggest advantages of the trip.

We met on Wednesday, Dec. 4 at Kyoto Station. I already knew somebody from my dormitory, but the teachers and most of the other foreign students I met for the first time.

We were eager to get on the Shinkansen. For me, and I suppose for most of the other foreign students, it was the first chance to use this bullet express. Even in my far away home, the name of Shinkansen is well known and often compared to the plane. But it is better than the plane, I think, as you have plenty of space for your legs. However, the biggest distinction between it and a normal train is its speed. Soon, we were in Himeji. We transferred to a bus and headed for SPring 8.

The SPring 8 is the largest third-generation synchrotron radiation facility in the world and currently provides the most powerful synchrotron radiation that is available. This is used for studying the structure of matter at the atomic and electronic level. What I appreciated most is the fact that anybody from anywhere with some research aim can use this device for free, the only requirement being to publish and share the results. This helps progress not only in Japan, but also everywhere in the world.

From the SPring 8 we went to a hotel near Seto Big Bridge just in time to see the seashore at sunset. The Japanese style hotel rooms and Japanese style dinner was already prepared for us. I know that for some foreigners simply the thought of raw fish is terrifying, but most of us enjoyed the dinner very much. The variety of Japanese food is amazing. After the dinner, thanks to our teachers, a little party took place in their room. It was a great opportunity to get to know each other.

The next day we made for Hiroshima. There we visited the Hiroshima Peace Memorial. Everybody was moved and it was difficult to speak lightly again. Luckily, Hiroshima is not only a city of atomic disaster, but also an industrial center of western Japan and the hometown of the Mazda Company. The Mazda automotive factory was our next excursion. This was especially interesting for me because I am a student of mechanical engineering and I could compare this factory with my homeland car producer.

Though we were quite tired, when we reached our next hotel in Miyajima, another delicious Japanese dinner (including kaki, or oysters, the famous Miyajima food) refreshed us again for visiting an onsen (the hot spring bath) and another party.

The last day was only for sightseeing. Using a ferryboat we went to Miyajima, the beautiful island with the famous Shinto shrine, Itsukushima Jinja. Thanks to it being late autumn, the shrine was not crowded and we could slowly enjoy the landscape and the architecture. But not only the shrine is nice there. The whole island is full of temples nestled in the mountains. It is easy to understand why Miyajima is considered to be one of the most beautiful Japanese landscapes.

On the way home, rather than enjoying the ride on the Shinkansen, we were regretting that the trip was coming to an end. We parted at the same place in Kyoto Station, but we richer because of the beautiful travel experiences, the new knowledge gained from the excursions and the new friends we made. And I think, the friends are the biggest contribution. With friends from all over the world, you can learn new things and only friends can make you feel at home even when you are thousands of kilometers away from your home.

When I was asked to write this article, I saw it as just more work. But now I am very happy to write it because this is a great opportunity to express our thanks to the teachers who accompanied us, to the staff of the student center and the other organizers, thanks to whom we could enjoy such a beautiful trip. I thank them all very much and I hope they will continue to do this for the sake of other foreign students, who will come after us. Such events really could help us get to know Japan, make friends and start a new life in a far away country.



Personal journey



Effrosyni Savvidou, Greece

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My coming to Japan was the result of a series of mere coincidences, generated by fate; it just happened. It was as if someone beyond me was leading my footsteps through a sequence of small, everyday events and, at first glance, insignificant decisions. Having lived all my life in Greece, there was nothing in my everyday reality that could foresee my coming to Japan. Japan was always a far away, oriental and rather exotic destination, not a common place to be. It was to me, the land of the myths, the haiku poems and the samurais, the animations of my youth and the high-tech products of my everyday life. It was the movies of N. Oshima and Kurosawa, the novels of Mishima, Yasunari Kawabata and Tanizaki's "In praise of shadow", and later, in my mature university years, the country of exquisite avant-garde design and the great masters of contemporary architecture. Japan was all these things, embodied with the feeling of surprise and magic. It was poetry coming from a different world; unexpectedly simple, astonishing obvious. As a Greek poet said after visiting Japan:

"It wasn't, after all, an endless enchantment
this pilgrimage to Japan? /

What did the greedy, voracious heart desire more?
(.....) / Japan (.....)

Country un-known; everything will appear virgin to me and
the shake is going to be strong.
[Nicos Kazantzakis, traveling]

They say that each nation puts a stamp upon the character of its people, shaping ways of thought and behavior. I couldn't agree more. In Japan I got to know myself better, discovering a part of me that in Greece was either asleep or hidden. I felt more Greek than before; I came to realize the depth of my roots and the significant stamp of my cultural identity. If Greece is a land of blue, bright light and clarity, then Japan is a land of shadows and hidden meanings. Facing the challenges of a new environment, where what used to be obvious was not anymore, I came to face my preconceptions and ideas of how life should be.

They say, "knowledge comes through understanding". In my attempt to understand a different culture, I got to know myself better, re-defining my limits, weighting my strengths and measuring my values.

Studying at Kyoto University has been unique for me; it gave me the opportunity to experience an international environment amongst scholars, get to know and communicate with people from different countries and different cultures. And this multi-cultural experience is what I consider to be important. It is like the opening of a window to the world that broadens our horizons, making us more tolerant and appreciative of differences and variations.

As I wonder now where my footsteps might lead me next, I have to acknowledge one thing; that in Japan, I learnt more about myself. There is an ancient Greek saying, "GNOTHEI S'AYTON", or "Know thy Self", meaning that we have to know ourselves in order to understand the world around us. Each journey is a challenge we take towards the unknown; it does not matter if we will finally reach our destination or not. It is the wandering that matters the most, and the promises of all the discoveries that it might yield.

As a poet said:

When you set out on your journey to Ithaca,
pray that the road is long,
full of adventure, full of knowledge.
(.....)

Always keep Ithaca in your mind.
To arrive there is your ultimate goal.
But do not hurry the voyage at all.
It is better to let it last for many years;
and to anchor at the island when you are old,
rich with all you have gained on the way,
not expecting that Ithaca will offer you riches.
Ithaca has given you the beautiful voyage.
(.....)

And if you find her poor, Ithaca has not deceived you.
Wise as you have become, with so much experience,
you must already have understood what Ithaca means.
[Constantine P. Cavafy, 1911]

FOOTNOTES:

ITHACA: island of western Greece, home-country of Odysseus, one of the main heroes in Homer's Epics.





岩井 裕
機械工学専攻 講師

2002年度も日本国際教育協会(AIEJ)の企画による「日本留学フェア」がインドネシア、マレーシア、台湾、韓国、タイ、ベトナム、中国で開催されました。このフェアは開催国の日本留学希望者および進学指導者等を対象として、日本への留学に有用な様々な情報や、日本からの参加大学の教育上・研究上の特色などの情報を提供することを目的として行われているものです。本年度、京都大学からは上記のうちタイとベトナムのフェアに、留学生センター・大東祥孝先生、研究協力部・二瀬勝康課長と筆者が参加し、京都大学の紹介を行って参りました。以下では両国でのフェアの様子などを報告します。

〔タイ〕 10月26, 27日にバンコクで開催されたフェアには、日本から43大学1機関が参加しました。多くの大学がそれぞれ2～3名を派遣していましたので、日本側からの参加者は約100名といったところでしょうか。初日のオープニングセレモニーから立ち見が出て、また報道関係と思われる人達も来場しているなど、フェア自体がかなり注目されているようでした。実際、フェアが週末に行われたことも手伝ってか両日とも大盛況で、2日間で2500名を越える来場者があつたそうです。会場では各大学に写真のようなブースが与えられ、ブースを訪れる留学希望者に対して個別に留学相談や情報提供を行います。隣の芝生はあおく見えますと言いますが、他大学がポスター・旗・うちわ・Tシャツなどなど趣向を凝らしてブースを飾る中、京都大学ブースのシンプルさはむしろ寂しげでもありました。それでも留学希望者が途切れることはほとんどなく、2日間で約120名が京都大学ブースを訪れました。学部入学を希望する人は少なく、訪れた人の8割が大学院入学希望者でかつその多くは修士課程への入学希望でした。その一方で博士後期課程への希望も少なからずあり17名を数えました。

〔ベトナム〕 10月28日にバンコクからホーチミンへ移動し、1日空けた30、31日にベトナムでのフェアが開催されました。日本からの参加機関は45大学1機関でした。フェアの

形式も京都大学ブースのシンプルさもタイと同じでしたが、こちらは平日に行われたことを考慮して開催時間が2日間とも13時から20時に設定されていました。日中は来場者も少なく時間を持て余し気味でしたが、夕方になる仕事や学校帰りの人でそれなりに忙しくなります。京都大学ブースには2日間でタイよりもやや少なめの90名が訪れました。ベトナムでも大学院入学希望者の割合は高く、約8割を占めました。ただし博士後期課程の希望は少なく、ほとんどが修士課程を希望していました。

両国のフェアを通じてですが、会場に来ていた留学希望者には日常会話程度の日本語を既に習得している人も多く、主催者側が手配した通訳を介さずに我々が日本語で対応できるケースは珍しくありませんでした。時間をかけて留学準備をしているのでしょうか。具体的な質問・相談の内容は、京都の位置・気候から大学の特徴、講義科目、生活費まで多岐に渡りました。その中で比較的多かったのは、入学試験の科目も含めた入試制度に関すること、要求される日本語の能力、奨学金関連の3点です。また今回、大学院入学希望者が多かったことにも関連すると思いますが、本人が希望する分野の研究を行っている教官を紹介して欲しい、という要望が非常に多くありました。当然ながら、大学院入学希望者の場合には学びたい分野が具体的に決まっていることがほとんどで、京都大学のホームページ程度は調べている人もありましたが、なかなか絞きれない様です。関連して「(研究室によっては) 英語のホームページがない」、「メールアドレス・連絡先が載っていない」などの声も寄せられました。今回は、このような要望には京都大学のBulletinを用いてできる限りの情報を提供して対応しましたが、留学希望者に京都大学のあるいはより直接的には各研究室・各教官の魅力を伝え、優秀な留学生を今後も受入れていくためにも、彼らと我々の最初の接点となりうるホームページの充実は地味ではあるけれど重要な課題であると改めて感じました。



国際交流日誌 (平成14年10月1日～平成15年2月28日)

- 10月14日(月) 拠点大学学術交流事業 コーディネーター会議 (於マレーシア)
- 15日(火) 平成14年度特別コース研究留学生入学式
博士後期課程総合工学特別コースガイダンス
- 23日(水) 工学研究科・工学部国際交流委員会
- 31日(木) トレント大学国際交流部門副学長
Riccardo Zandonini 教授他3名 工学研究科長
表敬訪問
- 11月1日(金) 「電気系専攻・留学生パーティ」開催
- 6日(水) 「土木系(土木、土木システム、環境、環境地球)
専攻・留学生を囲む会」開催
- 25日(月) パナマ工科大学学長 Hector Manuel Montemayor
教授他1名 関係教官との懇談
北京大学 国際合作部事務官 Xin Xie 氏
関係教官と留学生受入体制等について懇談
- 12月4日(水)～6日(金)
特別コース留学生見学旅行(兵庫・広島方面)

- 13日(金) スーダン 科学技術省大臣
(ハルツーム大学前学長)
Elzubeir Beshir Taha 教授
他1名 工学研究科長表
敬訪問
「機械工学系留学生・外国
人研究者・専攻スタッフ
もちつきパーティ」開催
- 25日(水) 工学研究科・工学部国際交
流委員会



- 平成15年
- 1月28日(火) 拠点大学学術交流事業
コーディネーター会議(於 マレーシア)
- 29日(水) 工学研究科・工学部国際交流委員会
- 2月7日(金) 清華大学 Jiming Hao 教授他3名 拠点大学学術
交流事業 コーディネーター会議
- 28日(金) 工学研究科・工学部国際交流委員会

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