

# REAL REPORTER

No. 42

Japan, Peru, and United States

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## 1-Week Discussion Class Breaks Down Walls

## Culture Shock in the United States



Photo by Mariko Eguchi

By Miyo Arakaki  
University of Shimane

Participants in a one-week intensive online English discussion class made new connections among Canada, Japan and the United States. The Summer Discussion Session of TOEFL Study Abroad Program was held virtually from August 17 to August 22, 2020 by Professor Mariko Eguchi of the University of Shimane. Eight Japanese students, including one high school student, six American students and two Canadian students joined the discussion via Zoom. The Japanese students take TOEFL Study Abroad Program, which is a preparation course for study abroad in English speaking countries. According to Professor Eguchi, who offered the course, she decided to offer this summer intensive course to compensate for the lost study abroad opportunity due to COVID-19; all study abroad programs were cancelled and students

were not able to travel abroad. The American students are from East Carolina University, and the Canadian students are from Langara College, and they all study Japanese. So they were interested in learning Japanese culture.

The lesson started at 9:00 in the morning in Japan, but in the evening in the United States and Canada, and ended at 10:30. The participants shared their ideas about topics such as Diet & Health, Movies, Cultural Artifacts, and Marriage and Relationships. The topics were relevant and easy for the students to talk about.

### I don't need to be perfect.

I am a senior student at the University of Shimane. I joined this program because I would like to go to school in America after graduation. That is why I needed to improve my English skills by talking with native speakers. This program broadened my horizons, *(continued on page 2)*

## Cars, Farm Animals, and Apartments: Surprising, Expensive Gifts at Huayanco Weddings

By Luis Llallico  
ESAN University

In Peru, there is a traditional Huancayo wedding custom known as the palpa, where the families of the bride and groom compete by offering expensive gifts to the newlywed couple. One of the most generous guests at a palpa wedding is usually the godfather, who is the financial "sponsor" of the wedding. He is also the guest who is most honored by the bride and groom. This part of the wedding, right after the ceremony, marks the beginning of the celebration in a banquet hall adorned with decorations. This

time is called the "fulfillment": the couple's thanks to the person who accepts this important position. The godfather receives exquisite food and drinks, such as baked suckling pig, chickens, guinea pigs, or goats.

The dance begins immediately after the fulfillment, and the godfather is the first to advance to the rhythm of the best music in the place to deliver his gifts to the newlyweds. These gifts are usually very generous! The godfather gives the wedding couple up to \$ 10,000 and other expensive gifts, and he may apologize that his financial situation was not at its best. After him, family and friends continue in a

By Kazuki Mizuno, University of Shimane

Have you ever experienced "culture shock" before? Culture shock is a stress experienced by people who move to another country. I was an exchange student until March 2020 and experienced a lot of culture shock. But one incident made a strong impression in my heart.

It was one December day, and one of my Japanese friends was very upset. According to him, he had a casual conversation with a female American student at the lobby of the dormitory. The dormitory housed around 30 students who were interested in international exchanges. Based on the nature of the international dormitory, you may expect the residents are open-minded. However, according to my

friend, the American student said the word which she should have not said to Japanese. You know what I mean. He did not understand why she said that but he felt deeply hurt.

He was so shocked that he talked about it to me, and I shared his experience with my American friends, who apologized for her wrong behavior and then they talked to her to address the problem.

That was the only incident I felt not right in the United States. Other than that things were good. The dormitory was a good place and no problem occurred. Even one discriminatory experience is painful. I hope discrimination will disappear for people to live peacefully.



Photo by Kazuki Mizuno

line. Each of them will come up to the newlyweds, dancing and carrying (if possible) their increasingly more elaborate gifts to deliver to the newlyweds.

Among the gifts that are most common are boxes of beer, household appliances, sets of furniture, farm animals, the deeds to parcels of land, tickets for airline travel, the hiring of well-known local singers and musical groups, brand-new cars or trucks, cargo trucks, apartments, and money in cash, which could exceed 5 digits, in the most ostentatious cases.

After the gifts are given, they are arranged to be inspected after the bride throws her bouquet and shortly before the end of the event. The godfather and the guests are the main witnesses, and they are the ones who, together with the bride and groom, evaluate which of the two families was more generous: the bride's family or the groom's family.

Most Peruvian weddings are not like this: only the Andean region around Huancayo has palpa marriages. However, palpa marriages in Huancayo are a dream come true for many couples who are about to get

married. It is a space in which many families continue to respect this tradition and the most ostentatious generosity of family and friends.

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# ONLINE EXCHANGE

## Language Partners Give New Look into Own Culture

By Miyu Arakaki, University of Shimane

Hi, my name is Miyu Arakaki and I am a senior student in the University of Shimane. Last year, I took a break for one year and went to United States to work as a babysitter. After I came back to Japan, I was looking for some opportunities to improve my English skills. Then, I found a language partner exchange program offered by the Office of International Affairs of the University of Shimane. It was a fantastic program, so I would like to tell you what the program was like and what I learned from this experience.

The program was called "Language Partner Exchange." Language Partner Exchange was designed to help students improve their foreign language skills by matching Japanese students who want

to learn English with American students who want to learn Japanese. Eight students who were learning Japanese at Central Washington University (CWU), United States were paired with 10 Japanese students of the University of Shimane.

The participants contacted each other to find good times and met online once or twice a week. They were free to decide how often and how long they talk, and which online services to use for conversation.

My partner used to live in Japan for a while because she previously worked as an ALT, assistant language teacher. So she could understand some Japanese words and knew a lot about Japan. My

partner and I had a casual conversation and mostly shared our experiences such as her experiences in Japan and my experiences in the United States. I learned current events in the United States such as the demonstration called "Black Lives Matter" as well as the COVID-19 situation in the United States.

To my surprise, she was familiar with Japanese historical events. I was very impressed with her knowledge and I felt I should learn more about Japanese history so I can talk about it in English. I realized I should know my own culture very well because it's important to have good knowledge to have a meaningful conversation.

I was able to improve my English

## Kids Have Fun with Overseas Students

By Taichi Urabe  
University of Shimane

Shimane International Center (SIC) hosted an online cross-cultural exchanges between Japanese children and students of the University of Shimane on July 19, 2020. Six children and five parents participated the online event conducted by Zoom, and they spoke with two Chinese international students and one Japanese student. I played a role as the MC.

At the beginning, everyone sang a song with gestures as an icebreaker, which successfully made everyone smile. Then Ms. Xia Yanan and Ms. Chen Qirou introduced Chinese culture by showing a video of pandas. No one can deny the cuteness of pandas. Then the two international students gave quizzes about Chinese characters which had different meanings in China and Japan. The children were very positive toward the questions and answered enthusiastically. For example, the Chinese character of a "letter" in Japan means "toilet tissue" in China. The children were very surprised

(continued from page 1) but my biggest learning was that I realized that I don't need to be perfect when I speak English. Whenever I talked with native English speakers, I used to feel a lot of pressure and thought that I must speak perfectly and fluently. But this program made me feel it was okay to make mistakes. During the discussion, I had trouble communicating my ideas in English, so I was using gestures and tried to express myself. Then other participants patiently waited for me to say things and they suggested words for me. I felt really comfortable with them because they communicated their desire to listen to my ideas. I felt their kindness and I felt they cheered me up. I thought that the most important things for me is to have courage and make effort to say when I communicate with non-Japanese. I am so glad to be able to have these great experiences.

I made friends with the participants by sharing Instagram accounts. So I would like to tell you what other participants say about this program.

to find out the different meanings of Chinese characters. Time passed so quickly, and some stayed online even after the meeting was to keep chatting. It seems everyone had a great time, so I believe the event was very successful.

SIC organizes events to promote cultural diversity of Shimane prefecture by connecting Japanese with Shimane residents from foreign countries. This event is part of its mission to help Japanese children and parents get interested in cultures of non-Japanese residents in Shimane prefecture.

I agree with the mission of SIC and I would like to host more meetings like this. I think children in Shimane do not have enough opportunities to meet people who have different cultural backgrounds, so I believe giving a chance like this to communicate with diverse people while they are small is very important for Japanese to become more open to other cultural values. I want to keep being involved with this type of activity so I can contribute to building a better society.

### Student's message from East Carolina University

"I loved the program! I love being able to meet new people from different countries and this program made it easier. Japanese students are good at speaking English and it inspires me to want to learn Japanese. It was nice to hear about the things I have heard about Japan either confirmed or exposed. Prof. Eguchi's lectures were nice too. I learned so much and it was nice to see how similar or different we are. Overall, I am grateful for the experience and I had lots of fun."

### Student's message from Langara College

"I decided to join this program because I wanted to learn different cultures and be busy during this Covid-19 quarantine. I have learned some cultural differences and similarities between three of our countries from participating in the English discussion. Some new perspectives that I have attained after attending this course was that due to the internet age, a lot of culture is shared globally. Pop culture is particularly influential

## New Opportunity for English Learners!

By Himaka Fuchi  
University of Shimane

ESS, English Speaking Society, of the University of Shimane successfully turned the COVID-19 adversary into an opportunity to learn English by connecting English learners via Zoom.

ESS organized online English discussion sessions on Sundays, July 5, 12, and 19, inviting high school students who want to study English. The notice was distributed through the official LINE group of the Admission Office of the University of Shimane, and four high school students applied.

The purpose of ESS is improving English skills, especially speaking skills. Recently, however, the club members are not able to do any face-to-face activities due to the coronavirus epidemic and club activities are banned in campus. One of the ESS activities is holding an English event inviting local high school students. So this time the ESS members decided to hold an event using Zoom.

The event was meaningful for both high school students and college students. The high school students said conversation with college students was fun and they learned what college life was like from college students. They said they got motivated to enter university.

The college students said the conversation with high school students gave

conversation skills by talking with her twice a week. Also I was able to broaden my horizon because I could get new ideas from my partner. I would love to join this program again! If you are looking for some experiences to make international friends, I really recommend the Language Partner Exchange Program.

CWU is one of the oldest partner universities of the University of Shimane and every year Japanese students go to CWU to study, but this year as you know the COVID-19 epidemic cancelled all the study abroad programs of the University of Shimane.

then new perspectives, and they learned how to organize online meetings.

They got together to make plans. The theme of the discussion was what high school students should do after graduating from high school: getting a job or going to university. The ESS members thought this question was relevant to both high school students and college students, because going to college is a risky investment.

Good points of getting job is earning money earlier and becoming independent. However, working after high school would limit their employment opportunities and the life time income would be lower than college graduates.

Good points of going to university would be learning new skills and ideas, meeting many friends around the world. However, going to college costs a lot and only high school students whose parents can pay can go to college. In addition, some college students waste the tuition during the four years of college education by working part-time and not learning anything.

The participants came to a conclusion that going to college is better only if a student is willing to study hard.

The event was successful and the ESS members want to hold such an event again. ESS is looking for new members. If you are interested in joining ESS, please contact the author.

in affecting lifestyles, particularly of younger people. I really enjoyed the lectures of Professor Eguchi. They were short but to the point and informative. The most impressive part was listening to the Japanese students speak English. I was so impressed with how well they spoke English as their second language. Overall, my experience participating in this program was good and I had so much fun getting to know the fellow students."

### Student's message from the University of Shimane

"I participated this program since I learned about it in the TOEFL class of Professor Eguchi and thought it would be a great opportunity for me to improve English skills. The most impression topic for me was the theme of mar-

riage ceremony in each country because we could share own values and I was surprised that Japanese style wedding was held often in Colorado, United States. After this program ended, I got a lot of motivation for learning English more than before. I would like to start learning more vocabulary and reading English books since I got some advice from American and Canadian students. I am so grateful that I have this wonderful opportunity."

As you can see from their feedback, students had so much fun and got a lot of learning. Moreover, all participants said that this program was a great opportunity and we could have new connections and new Instagram followers. At last, I would like to thank Professor Eguchi for this amazing program.

# EDUCATION

## The Use of Honorifics with Non-Japanese

By Keilyn Henneberry  
Gotsu Senior High School

Japanese children are taught from a young age to respect others by using honorifics. However, non-Japanese who live in Japan, such as ALTs (Assistant Language Teachers) and international students, are not taught the same rules. This could lead to serious problems for Japan's society and international relations. The honorific 'san' is the most common honorific to be used in Japan, for teachers, it is 'Sensei'. However, while ALTs are taught to use these, they are not taught to expect them to be used with them.

I noticed the ALT at my school was not being treated like other teachers. She is spoken to by only her first name, without an honorific, by both teachers and students. Teachers use honorifics to other teachers even when they are not around. However, when they mention the ALT's name, they don't use honorifics. From that behavior students learn not to use honorifics for ALTs.

One classmate, an international student from Taiwan, was called on by the teacher without honorifics even though the teachers always used honorifics with Japanese students. In classes, all students are called on with honorifics such as 'Suzuki-san'. However, international students are referred to by first name without honorifics by both teachers and students. Teachers always use honorifics with their students, so why not with international students? In addition, my own brother who is a Japanese American was called on by his teacher without the honorific 'san'. This is not only a problem towards international students but also non-Japanese and mixed-race children growing up in Japan.

Additionally, my own father, who is a professor at a university, deals with this on a regular basis. His students often call him 'Henneberry' instead of 'Henneberry Sensei' or 'Mr. Henneberry'. This illustrates many university students continue this behavior which they learned in primary and secondary school.

In most cases, when Japanese people don't use honorifics, it is with family members and close friends. This is a form of intimacy referred to as 'Yobisute' in Japanese. However, can we call it intimacy when Japanese teachers speak with non-Japanese colleagues without honorifics?

I had an opportunity to talk about this topic online with a group of English teachers and ALTs working all over Japan. Every single one of them had experienced this at least once in

their lives in this country, and most of them experience it on a regular basis. One ALT shared her experience at her school, where there were two ALTs. While the other ALT was referred to as Sensei, she was not. She was told that the Japanese teachers assumed it would be too difficult for students to pronounce her last name, so the Japanese teachers did not offer the students the opportunity to use honorifics with her. Therefore, students were instructed to use her first name only. However, she eventually succeeded and convinced the teachers that they were taking a learning opportunity away from the students. The students now use her family name with the 'Sensei' honorific.

Each of us can stand up to this issue. For example, when my brother's teacher called him 'Henneberry' and not 'Henneberry-san', he ignored the teacher until the teacher said 'Henneberry-san'. Just like the ALT above, my brother stood up for himself to be referred to with the correct honorific. However, this is not enough to resolve this national problem.

To solve this issue, first, people must acknowledge that this is happening in our society. A lot of people are not even aware of this issue. When I spoke about this to my friends, they were surprised that this was even a problem. This problem has been hard to recognize because of a lack of cross-cultural understanding. It was easier for me to recognize this issue because I have two cultural backgrounds; my mother is Japanese, and my father is from the USA. I see American culture through Japanese eyes and I also see Japanese culture through American eyes. Therefore, this lack of honorifics with non-Japanese stands out clearly for me.

However, ALTs are not fully aware of the honorifics culture in Japan. They are taught to use honorifics when speaking with Japanese people, but not taught to expect honorifics to be used for them. Therefore, they do not realize that they are being spoken to in such an intimate or disrespectful manner. They must be taught to expect the honorifics 'san' or 'Sensei' to be used with them as well.

This issue will have negative effects on Japan's society and following generations. By not addressing this issue, Japanese people will continue this cycle of "accidentally" disrespecting non-Japanese. As such, MEXT (Ministry of Education, culture, sports, science and Technology) must change the educational system on how to teach Japanese honorifics to ALTs and people coming from different countries. They must be taught to speak

to Japanese people with respect and to expect the same in return. In addition, teachers and students must be taught to use honorifics with ALTs and non-Japanese. Why do non-Japanese people have to fight for such respect, when Japanese people do

## School Uniforms: A Sense of Belonging

By Chio Yamamoto, Univ. of Shimane

The school uniform is adopted by most Japanese schools. Students wear it in junior high school, high school, and even elementary school and kindergarten. I think school uniform gives a sense of belonging to their schools. The school uniform has a different design depending on the school. So, wearing that school uniform represents you as a student of the school. Also, the school will be a memorable item for students. By looking at their uniforms after graduation, uniforms become a reminder of their student life. Thus, the school uniform is plays important functions for high school students.



Photo by Chio Yamamoto

## School Uniforms: Maintaining Discipline

By Ryosuke Tanaka, Univ. of Shimane

What kind of clothes did you wear when you were high school students? In Japan most students wear uniforms. A typical high school uniform for a boy looks like this. A male student wears a white shirt and a tie, trousers and a blazer. Wearing school uniforms is a Japanese school tradition. When we go to school, we can't go in any clothes. We need to wear uniforms that is decided by each school. Basically, we wear uniforms from elementary school to high school. By wearing the same uniform, the school's discipline is maintained. There are a lot of rules regarding the dress codes. Students always need to wear uniforms properly, especially, on special occasions such as graduation and entrance ceremonies. I think it is a good idea for students to wear school uniform, because the school is a

place to study. Wearing proper clothes helps students focus on study. If students wear anything they want to wear, they will wear inappropriate clothes and that will be distracting.



Photo by Ryosuke Tanaka

## Dangers of the Internet on the Mind

By Misa Kakuhara  
University of Shimane

Modern people rely too much on the computer technologies. I think it is a serious problem affecting the Japanese. The first reason is people forget how to write. When they write, they use smartphones and computers. Smartphones can convert hiragana to kanji. So, the opportunity to write by hand is decreasing, and Japanese are forgetting how to write properly. I feel embarrassed if I cannot write kanji.

The second reason is that people tend not to think things by themselves. They search for answers on the Internet immediately whenever they have questions. They can find answers immediately by using the internet. It is convenient. However, it has a problem. People are becoming unable to think by themselves. What would happen when a question occurs when it was impossible to use the Internet. It would be a disaster.

The third reason is the time taken away by the Internet. If I have free time, I use the Internet. For example, I watch Youtube, Instagram, Twitter. Time passes quickly and I lose a lot of time. If I do not use those, I would be able to get many things done. For example, I could study, sleep and do something better than browsing the web.



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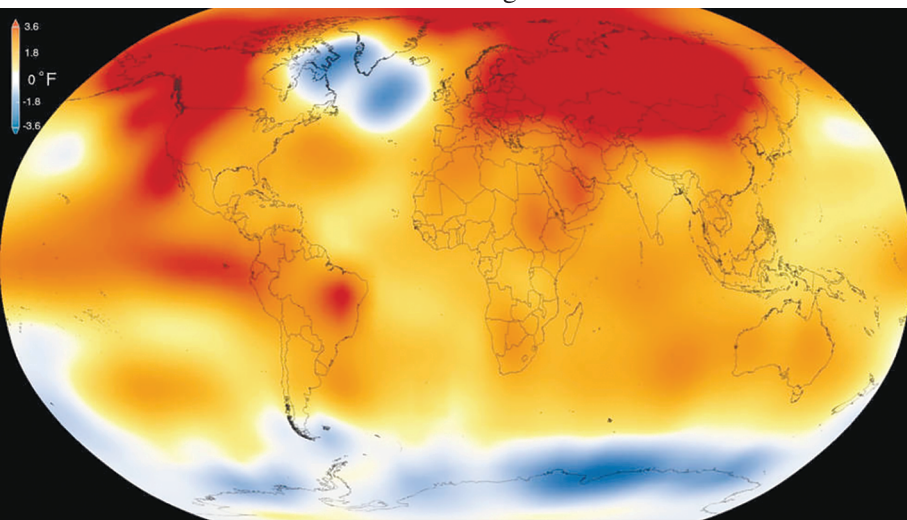
# ENVIRONMENT

## Global Warming

By Mizuya Tanaka  
University of Shimane

Global warming has been a problem for many years and is a priority in the world. However, the situation is getting worse and worse. It's quite a problem that there is no change to the better one. First of all, stop using plastic shopping bags. By doing so, you can reduce the use of oil even a little and it will be good for the environment. Bring your own bag

to reduce consumption. Equally important is eco-consciousness. If you target 3R (Reuse, Reduce, Recycle), you can see the goal. It is important to focus on reuse and recycle without producing extra trash. By reducing the amount of garbage, the amount of carbon dioxide emissions can also be reduced. It's always necessary to change your mindset. I think that if everyone is conscious, there is a high possibility of solving for global warming.



“Analyses Reveal Record-Shattering Global Warm Temperatures in 2015” by NASA Goddard Photo and Video is licensed under CC BY 2.0

## The Dangerous Trend of Science Denial

By Tyler Thomas  
Central Washington University

The 21st century is a time of unprecedented access to the collective knowledge of humanity. Information that was once difficult or impossible to find is now just an internet search away. This is especially true for scientific and environmental information, and yet, many people are choosing to ignore scientific evidence and instead spread misinformation and ignorance because it makes them more comfortable.

The most ridiculous and amusing example is, of course, the “Flat Earth” movement, a group of people who insist that the world is flat, not round, and that it has edges that people can fall off of. Of course, this is a ridiculous idea. The Earth was first widely proposed to be round in the 5th century BCE. In the 3rd century BCE, a Greek philosopher and scientist named Eratosthenes was able to make a surprisingly close estimate of the circumference of the Earth. During the 16th and 17th centuries, many explorers were able to circumnavigate the globe, and international trade relies on this ability to sail around the world. In the 20th century, pictures of the Earth were taken from space. Children now learn in school that the world is round. And yet, in the 21st century, there are people arguing that the world is flat. They believe that there is a worldwide conspiracy hiding the fact that the world is really flat. They have become a joke for most people, but while their beliefs are not likely to become popular, they represent a more problematic movement in modern society: They are

extreme examples of science deniers, and other types of science denial are affecting the world in dangerous ways.

Perhaps the most obvious and dangerous example of science denial is the denial of global warming. There are many people and politicians, particularly in the United States, who claim that climate change is not real. Even though the vast majority of scientific research confirms that it is happening, they deny it. They often find or fund ridiculous studies that confirm their preexisting beliefs, and they refuse to accept anything that doesn't fit with what they want to believe. But why?

Part of the problem is a fear of science. Many people distrust scientists, often because these people do not understand science, due in large part to poor education. Religion is also a factor. Some believe that only God can affect the world, so thinking that humans can affect the climate is an example of extreme hubris. Others see science as a whole as evil; these tend to be members of extreme religious groups who believe that science is leading people away from a proper life.

Others, however, instead have financial reasons for denying science. In order to fight global warming, changes need to be made in both industry and daily life, but many people refuse to make these changes because it's expensive or difficult. So, rather than doing what they must, they take a shortsighted approach to life and deny that global warming is a serious problem, even when they know better. They are helped in this endeavor by the people who fear science because it gives them an existing group of supporters. They spend money on fake studies,



Photo by Mariko Eguchi

## Problem of Ocean Pollution

By Masato Kusakari  
University of Shimane

In modern society, ocean pollution is a serious problem. Despite the fact that ocean provides us with food and energy, the ocean is seriously polluted by people. Because of ocean pollution, not only people who live near the sea, but also various creatures are affected. For example, a lot of seabirds die due to eating fish and shellfish which are poisoned by poisonous substance. I believe there are three major reasons why the ocean is polluted.

First of all, sometimes oil is spilled into the ocean when a tanker carrying oil cause oil leak. Oil is said to be one of the main poisonous substances. In the fact, if oil is spilled

into the ocean, a lot of creatures like fish, seabirds and so on will die.

Second, a large amount of sewage is dumped into the ocean. According to a study, sewage contains many types of bacteria and viruses which are dangerous to sea creatures.

Finally, and in my view this is the crucial factor, garbage is thrown away into the ocean. Plastic waste, for example, kills many seabirds, fish and turtles. Plastic bottles and containers are thrown away and plastic pieces are carried into the ocean in the end from rivers.

To sum up, most of the ocean pollution is caused by humans. If we want to solve the problem, we must do something to stop dumping poisonous substances and plastic garbage.

## Ways to Improve Traffic Jams

By Misa Kakuhara  
University of Shimane

Traffic congestion in the city is a social problem in Japan. Traffic jams bring various problems such as traffic accidents, wasting time, and environmental pollution. This dilemma can be addressed in three ways.

First of all, use bicycles. When people use bicycles, it will be less environmental pollution. It is sometimes faster to travel by bike.

Second, streamline logistics by carrying things in various ways such as by train and boat. Streamlining will enable us to carry things efficiently.

Third, use car sharing. Recent years, car sharing has become a hot topic. Car sharing means registered drivers can share a car. If we use car sharing, the number of cars will decrease and those problems will be solved.

on propaganda, and on political donations to turn clear scientific findings into “debates,” which allows them to delay making changes and to keep doing things the way they already do them. With so many people loudly claiming that global warming is a myth, or that it's not as bad as scientists say it is, or that it's a natural process that humans aren't causing, average people begin to question science. Many people want to be reasonable and fair by listening to both sides before making a decision, but on topics like climate change, the resulting confusion is dangerous to everyone.

As average global temperatures rise,

as extreme weather patterns become more and more common, as ice melts and oceans rise, the consequences of global warming are becoming easier for common people to see with their own eyes. These problems will continue to get worse if humanity does not take action. But there are still too many people, including people in important positions of power and influence, who refuse to acknowledge reality. This round Earth may not have dangerous edges to fall from, but scientific ignorance is a different kind of cliff, and humanity is standing on the brink. How can we stop people from pushing the rest of us over the edge?

# ECONOMY



Photo by Mariko Eguchi

## Part-Time Jobs for College Students

The Japanese government announced it would distribute 200,000 yen to a student whose financial situation worsened due to the recent corona virus outbreak.

Many college students depend on their part-time jobs to pay for their rent and bills, but a lot of their jobs were slashed because there are not many customers at shopping malls, hotels and bars, where students tend to work.

Part-time jobs occupy an impor-

## Enlarging Perspectives

A good thing about working part-time to get to know what jobs are. You can try a job and see if the job is suitable to your needs and personality. If you find out the job does not satisfy your need, you can quit the job and move on to another part-time job. Thus you will know various worlds.

I am interested in working for a hotel, so I decided to work part-time at a hotel. I found it so attractive to me and I enjoy helping guests with checking in and checking out. I feel like wanting to get a real job in the future.

## Bad Part-Time Jobs

By Tatsuya Hironaka  
University of Shimane

Working for a bar is not very good for students. First, unlike other jobs, working at bars means working at night. Bars are open until late at night. Students will go home around two o'clock at night. If they have an early morning class on the next day, they may miss or be absent from the lecture, since they are very tired.

Second, most of the customers at bars are drunk. Drunken people get angry easily. If a student makes a mistake when he serves such drunken customers, he will be shouted at.

Thus, working for a bar is tough, both physically and mentally.

tant part of college life in Japan. A lot of college students says income from part-time job is necessary to sustain life. Yutaro, senior of the University of Shimane, says, it is difficult for him to live on scholarship and allowance sent by their parents.

Shunji, working for a convenience store, said he was able to reduce the living cost by receiving left-over foods from the store. If students work for restaurants, meals are included so they can save and enjoy good meals.

## Learning Manners

By Kohei Nozaka  
University of Shimane

My part-time job at a hotel is educational. My jobs are serving guests and cleaning, and my hourly wage is about 1,000 yen. In addition to earning money, I am able to acquire good manners as a member of society. I learn elegant behavior and polite language. The good language and behavior will be required as I become a member of society after graduating from college.

## Reducing Study Time

By Chio Yamamoto  
University of Shimane

Many students work during the night, because part-time jobs in the middle of the night are more expensive than those in the daytime. However, working at night cuts sleep, which makes it harder to get up in the morning and they will fall asleep during lectures. Overworking has a negative effect on study.

## Improving Japanese Education: Key to Prosperity

By Yoshihiro Hara  
University of Shimane

The academic ability of Japanese children has been declining in recent years. Especially poor reading ability is a serious issue. Japanese children should improve their academic ability in various ways.

First of all, they should have more time to study at home. They can do what-

## Can Japan Regain Its Economic Powers?

By Mariko Eguchi  
University of Shimane

Lack of digitalization of society, shrinking number of working people, and fierce competition with foreign countries cast doubt over Japan's en-

## Introducing Electronic Money

By Chio Yamamoto  
University of Shimane

Many people are still reluctant to use electronic money. However, in my opinion, electronic money can promote business because it is more convenient and profitable than cash. People should actively use electronic money for several reasons.

First of all, electronic money is more profitable than paying in cash. Most electronic money has a return system. It means that some of the money you paid will be returned. So even if you pay the same amount, you still have the money to come back later.

Furthermore, if you put money in the

## Pay a Decent Salary to Workers

By Reina Yamane  
University of Shimane

At present, a lot of companies are having trouble with lack of workforce in Japan. Especially, businesses such as restaurants and construction cannot hire enough workers. More and more people quit jobs and those industries are constantly looking for workers. I think there are three reasons why there is shortage of workers.

First, it is a matter of dwindling population. The number of working people is shrinking every year and they do not choose working for low paying jobs such

## Measures to Boost Japan's Online Presence

By Hayato Yasui  
University of Shimane

It is clear that Japan has been left behind other countries today. The corona-virus epidemic forced Japanese to work online, but what we saw was Japan's inability to cope with the new situation; many Japanese struggle in the new online environment. The students and teachers are dissatisfied with this new mode of education. The workers and companies are faced with low productivity. This lack of online environment in Japan can be addressed in two ways.

First of all, online learning should be

ever they want when they go home after school. They should be able to learn their favorite subjects. So the teachers and parents should encourage children to learn spontaneously at home.

Then, school needs to make better use of computers, smartphones and the internet. For example, I think they can enjoy studying like a game by competing in a battle format rather than listening to lectures and copying correct answers on

deavor to rise above the sunset again. Would it be possible for Japan to ever regain its economic power? Students of the University of Shimane came up with ideas to help Japan boost its economy.

card before, you can use it at any time. Also, you can pay first and transfer money later. When you pay at the cash register, you do not have to count a money, so you can save time. Above all, it is easy because you only have to take out one card. It is absolutely important for today's people who are busy.

Finally, electronic money can be easily managed by linking it with a smartphone application. Even if you do not keep a household account book, you can check "when, where and how much you shop" by looking at the payment history in the application. This function is so convenient. For all these reasons, Japan should encourage people to use electronic money.

as food services and construction sites because the pay is low and the work is hard. People cannot live on the minimum wage, because the living cost of Japan is high.

There are bad companies that force their workers work hard without paying enough. For example, they do not pay for overtime. Due to such rogue companies, workers quit jobs and they are not motivated to work hard.

If we want to change the current situation, the working conditions for workers should be improved and workers should be able to earn decent salary.

introduced into the compulsory education. Learning online earlier while being children should help Japanese meet the growing demand for online skills in the future.

Secondly, various government services should be available online. For example, people should be able to obtain official documents from city halls online. If various official documents become available online, people will get used to using the online services. The more knowledge you have about the Internet, the richer and more convenient the future life will be.

their notebooks.

Finally, children should make a habit of read books. Taking Japanese language classes at school is not enough for them to raise their academic level, but they should read more to gain reading fluency and knowledge. If children read many books, they will naturally acquire reading ability. These ways can help improve academic ability of Japanese children.

# HEALTH

## COVID-19 Debate: Online or In-Person?

By Victoria Thomas  
University of Shimane

Universities and schools around the world continue to face the challenge of COVID-19, balancing the health risks of a pandemic with concerns about students' mental health and the quality of online education. Although decisions about classes are made by authority figures, university students have strong opinions about their learning environment as well. And students' perspectives are important to improve their education and well-being, especially concerning stress and mental health.

### In-Person is Best

By Mae Oda  
University of Shimane

University should return to face-to-face classes in the fall semester. Most students have had to bear a heavy burden with tasks from online classes, suffered severe influence on their economic conditions and isolation from others. Online classes have these bad aspects for students.

First, most students bear a heavier burden of tasks from online classes compared to face-to-face-classes. I often heard from other students that online classes bother them in that they must do a large amount of heavy assignments and report one after another. In addition, this will injure student's health as a lot of students are sleep-deprived because of this heavy burden.

Second, online classes have severe influence on students' economic conditions. The online classes make it more difficult for most students to work part-time jobs than face-to-face classes, so

### Online is Best

By Mizuki Ozasa  
University of Shimane

I think that the university should continue with Online and On Demand courses, because the university needs to prevent spreading of coronavirus. So, we took almost all lessons with Online and On Demand during spring semester.

First, I only need my PC or smartphone to take classes, so I can take them anywhere. Therefore, if I go back to my hometown, I can join my classes as per normal. It was very convenient and utilized time usefully.

Second, I am good at focusing while studying at home. Actually, I enjoy studying at home, so I study harder than before. When I study with my friends or classmates, I cannot focus on studying. So, this style with Online and On Demand lessons suited me.

Third, I have no stress about human relations. This lifestyle makes me comfortable. I do not meet people unless necessary, so I do not need to hear gossip



Photo by Mariko Eguchi

Below is a debate featuring the opinions of two students at the University of Shimane.

this causes decrease in income for them because of a lot of make-up classes online. Especially, for example, students who are independent of their parents completely must face a severe problem of their tuition, living expenses and so on.

Third, online classes cause student isolation. Face-to-face classes enable students to communicate with each other and have enjoyable conversations not only with friends but also teachers or other fellow students. However, in online classes, they cannot enjoy talking with as many people as in face-to-face classes. Moreover, this makes students sad and nervous because they cannot meet their friends in person.

I think that the university should return to face to face classes in the Fall semester. The online classes cause a lot more difficulties for students than face-to-face classes. Online classes not only effect students' studying style, but also change their university experience completely in a negative way.

and meet someone who keeps badmouthing. I feel better thanks to not going to the university this semester.

Therefore, I would like to continue taking classes with Online and On Demand courses. I am sorry to say that I think coronavirus's effect will continue for the time being. I am worried about coronavirus spreading if we return to normal again to take face-to-face class.



"Online education" by Helgi Halldórsson/Freddi is licensed under CC BY-SA 2.0

## COVID-19: Effective Responses

By Yuki Aomatsu  
University of Shimane

Hirofumi Yoshimura is a politician, lawyer, and tax counselor. Also, he is a Governor of Osaka at present. Osaka prefecture's rapid and accurate countermeasure for COVID-19 has been successful. His original index, "Osaka Model", and his appeal to the people for cooperation have prevented many cases of COVID-19. His wise decision has been praised by Japanese people. Some people have said, "The Japanese government should learn from Osaka's acts!". Political muscle is not his only great point. The trust he has from Osaka prefecture's people is deep, and he is popular with them. He has appeared on many TV programs recently. He continues to be successful as a beneficial person in Japan.



"Hirofumi Yoshimura Cropped.jpg" by Mr. ちゅらさん is licensed under CC BY-SA 4.0

## Measures to Decrease Coronavirus

By Masato Kusakari  
University of Shimane

In Japan, although once the number of people who are infected coronavirus has decreased, recently the number of patients has increased again. Many people avoid going out unless absolutely necessary, while some people go out despite necessity and urgency. This unfortunate situation can be addressed in several ways. First, we need to become a disciplined person. If we have self-control, we can put up with going out when we want to have entertainment, such as, going to karaoke, going out for a drink and so on. By controlling our behavior, I think

that people who don't go out and stay at home will increase. Second, we also need to reduce stress. If the number of people who don't go out increase, people will get more and more stressed. It is important to refrain from going out to prevent the spread of infection but receiving a lot of stress is bad for people. I often stretch in my room to reduce some stress. In addition, my friend say I do strength training every day in order to get rid of stress. According to the researcher, stress can lead to major illnesses and stress make us it is easy to get sick. There are many ways to get over coronavirus, if we cooperate and do these measures, we can get over coronavirus.

## Topic: Staying Healthy in Modern Times

By Ruura Fukunaga  
University of Shimane

In recent years, people's life become convenient and comfortable. For example, modern people can enjoy the comfort of driving a car, using a smartphone. However, this comfortable lifestyle creates diseases, too. The so-called "lifestyle diseases" are increasing every year due to three major causes.

First of all, most people have a bad diet. They eat what they want to eat and they do not have a healthy diet. What they want to eat is tastier than a healthy diet. Also people are too busy to cook proper meals. They want to stop at convenience stores and buy prepared foods.

Secondly, many people do not exer-

By Reina Yamane  
University of Shimane

Recently, to be out of shape become a social problem in the world. It is said that one third of the people are out of shape in Japan by WHO. I thought people should exercise or take a walk a long distance every day. But it is difficult and too much hassle to go out of the house. So, I think two ways to overcome lack of exercise without effort. First, it is important to walk in the daylight condition. Thus, if you want to buy something, you

cise well. Many people do not have free time to excise. Also, people who live in the country do not walk, because they use cars whenever they go out.

Finally, smoking and drinking cause cancer. People know smoking is bad for health, but this lifestyle is accepted in Japan. Vending machines selling cigarettes are everywhere in Japan and it is easy to buy a pack of cigarettes. Also, drinking alcohol is another cause of diseases. It is well known drinking is related to liver cancer and diabetes, but people do not stop drinking. Thus, the modern lifestyle is related to diseases. We should try to reconsider our lifestyle if we want to decrease the number of lifestyle related diseases.

should go shopping on foot to a shop. It is not hard and necessary to do every day. Even if it is just for a short distance, it is good for your muscle. Second, you can do calisthenics in your room if you don't want to go outside. Warming up is very easy. It is not hard and fast, so you can enjoy this work slowly. Moreover, most of exercise is considered to improve blood circulation, strength training, and prevention of distortion of body, and more. It is effective for human body to take a walk for a short distance and do calisthenics moderately.

# CULTURE

## Celebrations on October 31st in Peru

By Sebastián Egúsqiza  
ESAN University

Does the 31st of October mean something to you? Do people in your country celebrate it? Is it a national event?

Well, you will probably recall that Halloween is celebrated on this date, because American pop culture has influenced Halloween all over the world. However, since Peruvian President Manuel Prado established in 1944 a national day to pay homage to musicians of such an important genre as creole music is to Peruvian culture, in Peru on October 31st people split into two teams: #HalloweenTeam and #DiaDeLaCanciónCriollaTeam.

Halloween is commonly associated with the United States, even though there are different stories about its origin, but all of them are linked to the celebration of the union between the world of the living and the world of the dead. Kids wear costumes and roam the neighborhood to get candies while saying “trick or treat?” (or, in Peru, “Halloween, Halloween!”). Young people and even adults may find it a good reason to go to parties – wearing costumes, too!



“halloween” by Muffet is licensed under CC BY 2.0

On the other hand, Día de la Can-

## Creole Music Day: Peruvian History & Culture

By Alessandra Aroa Quispe Cisneros  
ESAN University

Creole music is a varied genre of music characteristic to the Peruvian coast that has musical and rhythmic influences and mixtures from the Spanish colonizers, the indigenous people of Peru and African slaves.

October 31st, Creole Music Day, coincides with the unfortunate death of singer Lucha Reyes, one of the greats of Creole Music. The former president of Peru, Manuel Prado y Ugarteche, was the one who instituted “Creole Music Day” on October 31, 1944. Now, Creole Music Day is important because it commemorates indigenous movements, the Mariat-

ción Criolla, or Creole Music Day, honors musicians and many genres considered traditional to the Peruvian coast. Among the most popular are the Peruvian waltz, Polka, Marinera and Festejo, the last of which is a form of Afro-Peruvian music, too. This day aims to spread popular art and encourage musical expression. As the picture shows, two main musical instruments are linked to this festivity: the guitar and the Peruvian cajón. People celebrate this day by going to see our favorite artists of this genre or to peñas, which are sort of like pubs, full of shows, music, singing, dancing and – why not – drinking our national drink, the Pisco sour and eating traditional Peruvian food!

At school, we are taught about national events through plays and performances, and Creole Music Day is not the exception. Schools employ an experiential approach to learning this part of our national culture. However, during our teen years and our college life, there are no more school activities, and we start feeling too old to trick or treat. So, Halloween seems a special opportunity to wear a costume and go to parties. However, there are people who manage to celebrate both October 31st holidays.

At the end of the day, Halloween is just a cool party with friends and costumes, but Creole Music Day will be always part of our culture and make us proud every time we listen to our traditional music, every time we dance to our traditional rhythms and sing our traditional lyrics, every time we eat some of our fantastic traditional dishes and drinks.

eguista loss and the displacement of Andean people to the Peruvian capital, Lima, which was occurring at the time. Likewise, Creole Music Day was established with the aim of promoting cultural manifestations in the country through nationalist awareness.

On this date, in every school and auditorium, dances are performed that represent the different genres of Creole music. Activities range from singing, imitation, dance, or playing a traditional instrument of this type of music.

Students play a typical percussion instrument, the cajón, that represents Creole music.



Photo from Wikimedia Commons

## Japanese Celebration of First Birthday

By Saki Suyama  
University of Shimane

The Japanese first birthday celebration is unique. It is called “ishshyo mochi.” On the first birthday, a baby is humped with a very big rice cake on her back and encouraged to stand.

The rice cake is made from an ishshyo of rice, which is about two liters of rice, so it is very heavy for a one-year old baby. Some babies can stand up, but others fall down by the weight of the rice cake.

Ishshyo has a double meaning: a volume of rice which is approximately two liters, and “as long as one lives.” Parents and grandparents make a wish so that their children will be able to eat rice as long as they live.

After the celebration, parents distribute the rice cake used in the event to their neighbors and relatives. Proud parents let many people know that they have a healthy child in their family. This event symbolizes the love of parents. I think we should continue to celebrate the festival in the future.

Photo by Saki Suyama



## Peruvian Christmas Celebration

By Geraldine Solano Espinoza  
ESAN University

For my family and for me, the Christmas celebration on the night of December 24 is very important. It is a date when we have a very gratifying family dinner, which is a very special and unforgettable moment for us.

Personally, the Christmas season makes me feel very sentimental. That is why I really appreciate spending time with my family, because there were 2 years when I spent Christmas with just my friends because I was living outside of the country, and I have to say that I felt a little strange not to be with my family for this important date.

During the month of December, my house is decorated with the Christmas tree; a Nativity scene, which shows the birth of Jesus; and many decorations on the stairs, tables and furniture. We also often listen to many Christmas carols.

My family and I usually buy gifts and we go shopping for Christmas dinner at least a week before the actual date because in our country in the month of December, many people usually go at the last minute to the

shopping centers and supermarkets, which makes for chaotic traffic.

Peruvian families have the tradition of eating a lot at Christmas dinner. In my family, my mom prepares baked suckling pig, white rice, Arabic rice, homemade applesauce, Hawaiian salad, and also spaghetti, because I love Italian food. (I love Peruvian food, too, of course.)

We usually wear new clothes on December 24, and, at midnight, we take Baby Jesus out of a small box as a simulation of his birth, and we put him into the Nativity scene. Then, we open gifts and finally have dinner. When we finish, we wash and clean everything, and we stay in the living room talking for many hours. The next day, December 25, we usually sleep in and have the same food for lunch as we ate the night before. We also usually drink hot chocolate and eat panetón, which is a very sweet Christmas cake with fruit in it.

Definitely, I can say that I really like the Christmas celebration because it is a very nice moment and because it is also different every year because my family is not all together every year, because sometimes my sisters or I am in another country.

Students of schools dance to Creole music while wearing traditional coastal clothes.



Photo from <https://fiorellanoquieresalir.blogspot.com/2013/04/la-actuacion.html>

Some people prepare purple mazamorra, a pudding that has a sweet flavor and is very pleasing to

Peruvians.



Purple mazamorra is considered a very traditional dessert in Peruvian gastronomy. It is made from purple corn which has been cultivated in Peru since pre-Hispanic times. It is also known as “Moro sara” or “kulli sara.”

# TOURISM: “HAMADA AT HOME” EDITION

## “Staycations”: Being a Tourist at Home

By Victoria Thomas  
University of Shimane

In the era of coronavirus, many people have been forced to delay or cancel vacations and other travel plans. This inability to travel has led to a massive increase in the trend of the stay-home vacation, or “staycation”.

A staycation is an at-home or local vacation that became popular during the 2008 global financial crisis. (In America, the term means that your vacation lodging is your residence; in Britain, the term can refer to all vacations with only domestic travel.)

## Discovering Hamada’s Nature

By Ryu Harada  
University of Shimane

I always enjoy walking in Hamada these days. We can see various things like beetles and flowers, inhabitants, even a beautiful view throughout the walk. Almost all of them are very characteristic because Hamada is located among the nature. There are few places where we can enjoy living among nature like Hamada in Japan.

I often run into cute creatures like beetles and reptiles. Finding them makes me happy because I can see many kinds of them four times a year.



Photo by Ryu Harada

Some people see a “staycation” as an excuse to clean their house and then relax at home, imagining that they are staying in a hotel or resort. Others go on short excursions locally, experiencing their town or region through the eyes of a tourist.

Here, Hamada students offer a glimpse into staycation possibilities. In the era of coronavirus, even staycations must be modified, since restaurants, public transport, and other local tourist attractions may be affected by coronavirus restrictions. However, these students’ stories show that there are still local tourist attractions and activities that are fun and safe.

Take butterflies for example. When we run into them, we think that the spring has come. In addition, I feel relaxed and lucky when I find stag beetles, too.

We can see not only beetles but also inhabitants. Recently, I have been talking often with an old man who has a big black dog as a pet. At first, our connection was just greeting. However, we are on good terms with each other by my praising his dog. We even talk about our family nowadays. You may be able to meet someone who will be on good terms with you.

What’s more, we can see even the beautiful view. There are many beautiful views in Hamada. In particular, I think that we can see the most beautiful view from Yuhi-Park-Hamada. The view that the sun set in the Sea of Japan is very attractive for all people. For the first time I see the view, I thought that it was beyond description.

Why don’t you enjoy walking in Hamada, too? If you begin this habit, you will be able to find various things that you haven’t ever noticed about Hamada.

## Pretty Little Town

By Norio Kawamura  
University of Shimane

Hamada City is a good city. First, it is a place where there is a lot of nature. As Hamada City has sea and mountains, you can enjoy marine sports in the summer and ski in the winter. I tried surfing last summer. It was fun. Also you can see wild boars and foxes if you are lucky. So, you can enjoy each season. Second you can create new communication in many places, as there are a lot of friendly people in this city. For example, at university, many students from outside the prefecture are com-

ing in, so you can make communication that you can’t normally do. Wherever you are, conversations will be born and you will find fun. Third there are many taverns in this city. You can drink a variety of liquor as there are many tavern. Also, in this city, you can eat fresh fish at the tavern because the sea is beautiful sea; in addition, this city has many households that own fields unique to the countryside, and there are many fresh vegetables many locally. So, you can eat and drink lots of delicious foods. For those reasons, I recommend you to visit Hamada City.



## Recommendations for Tourists

By Kyoka Wakabayashi  
University of Shimane

Hamada is rich in nature. I’m sure you will have a good time if you visit in Hamada. First of all, there are many beautiful scenes in Hamada. Especially, I like to see the sunset which is amazing from the view line in the University of Shimane. I recommend that you take a camera if you visit in Hamada. Second, Hamada is

facing the Sea of Japan. So Hamada has a lot of fish and you can eat fresh fish. I like *batou*, which is a famous fish in Hamada. Finally, there are some hot springs surrounded by nature in Hamada. For example, “Mimata Onsen” is a famous hot spring in Hamada. You can view a waterfall while taking an open-air bath. Therefore, Hamada is in the countryside but it is a very good place. I think you can enjoy yourself if you go to Hamada.

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