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HELLO, FRIENDS !!

Hello, everyone. Welcome to the world of HELLO, FRIENDS!!

Not only me but also everyone else must have thought, “Will the autumn come this year?” Although it is still unusually warm now, it has surely come, given the varieties of seasonal delicacies in the supermarket and some autumn flowers blooming finally. I just hope that the extremely hot summer won’t be the norm. Some scientists say that it wouldn’t have happened without the global warming. Let’s do what we can do to prevent the fierce heat from coming again next year.



\\ Let's meet today's guest!! //

Today's guests are **Zhang Yuchi-san** from China and **Khatun Mst. Mahmuda-san** from Bangladesh.



Zhang-san is in her 4th year of the Ph.D. program and belongs to the Department of Internal Medicine, Internal Medicine III Unit. Her first year in this program was badly affected like other students in the same year. Even so, she completed the necessary classes steadily, and is now working hard on experiments. During the interview, she laughed a lot, and her cheerful character made me happy!!



Khatun-san is in her 2nd year of the Master's program and belongs to the Department of Microbiology. Whenever I see her, her eyes seem to be glittering with curiosity. I wanted to know where the sparkle in the eyes is coming from, and asked her to become an interviewee this time.



1. First, may I ask why you became interested in Shimane University to study as a Ph.D. student?

Zhang-san:

I had spent all the time from my childhood to a grown-up in the same city, called Harbin, in China. So, I wanted to study abroad someday. One day, a friend of mine from my Master's let me know how nice studying and living in Izumo was shortly after she became a student of this university, which triggered my husband's interest. He started looking into Shimane University on the Internet, and found the contact to the Department of Microbiology, his research field. He sent an e-mail to Professor Yoshiyama, describing his enthusiasm to study in his lab. Luckily, he got a response the next day, and after a couple of correspondences, Yoshiyama-sensei agreed to take care of him as his future Ph.D. student. Before his entrance exam, we came to Japan to see the professor and his environment in person. I was just accompanying him, and in fact, it was my initial intention. I reunited with my friend on Izumo campus, and she suddenly asked me how I would think about studying here in Japan myself too. She went on to say that her professor in the Department of Neurology, or Internal Medicine III, was looking for a new Ph.D. student. The setting was instantly created, and I found myself meeting with Professor Nagai in his room. I was so nervous then that I cannot remember well what we talked about, Anyway, in the end, he offered me an opportunity to study under his supervision. Who could refuse such a fascinating proposal?

Khatun-san:



When I was an undergraduate, I had a dream of studying abroad someday. I was especially interested in Japan because some friends had told me that Japan has its own unique culture and people there are very kind. Also, Japan is famous for being safe, maybe the safest in the world. So, I searched on the Internet for researchers in Japan with the same field as mine, "Microbiology". I came across several scholars and e-mailed them. Luckily, I got offers from some of them to allow me to study under their supervision as a graduate student. The reason why I chose Shimane University in the end was that Professor Yoshiyama was very kind and helpful through e-mail exchanges, and I learned that Shimane has a similar environment to my hometown, with abundant nature, Sirajganj.

2. What's your favorite Japanese food and sightseeing spot in Japan?

Zhang-san:

I love all kinds of Japanese food, including natto. The combination of natto, raw egg, and fresh cooked rice, is something people are hooked on once they get used to it. My baby, who is 13 months old, also seems to like everything she is fed with.

I have been to sightseeing spots only a few times due to COVID-19. The ones that inspired me are Izumo Taisha (Izumo Grand Shrine) and Kiyomizu Temple in Kyoto. We went to Kiyomizu Temple when the border control was still put in place. So, overseas travelers were few, and we were able to enjoy the traditional buildings and tranquil atmosphere to the fullest.



Khatun-san:

My favorite Japanese foods are mochi, rice cakes, and Momiji manjyu, a maple-figured bun with a bean jam filling, originated in Miyajima, Hiroshima prefecture. I also love Inari-zushi, fried bean curd stuffed with vinegared rice.

My professor, Yoshiyama-sensei, recommended me to try one when the department had a party. It was my first encounter with Inari-zushi. The salty-sweet taste is something I feel familiar with.

I want to say “Thanks Izumo for being home to the grand shrine”. I went to the shrine with my two fellow students by bike for the 20 km to go and come back. The premises are so vast, the grand Torii gate is majestic, and the rabbit sculptures are adorable. There were many tourists from overseas and inside Japan. I asked one Japanese visitor what brought him there, because I really wanted to know why people were so attracted by the shrine. He said, “Izumo Grand Shrine is the place where the gods from all over Japan gather once a year, and I was very curious to see it with my own eyes.” I was happily surprised to learn that the shrine is loved in this way by the Japanese public.

3. What do you picture in your mind as a career path after graduation?

Zhang-san:



My husband and I really love Izumo. Getting a Ph.D. is our ultimate goal. Japan's child-friendly environment is superb. Ideally, we can find jobs and keep staying somewhere in Japan not far from Izumo. Of course, it will be another option to go back to China and start working as a researcher, lecturer, or hospital worker. Our parents are really open-minded, and don't mind us living in another country, which makes us less pressured.

Khatun-san:



My master's education, the fact that I studied and achieved a certain outcome in this country, will be a great asset to me. Actually, this two-year period is the maximum I can spend apart from my husband. I would like to continue my research in a Ph.D. course somewhere else while living together with him. My ultimate goal is to become a faculty member of a university in Bangladesh and dedicate myself to improving the welfare of human beings in the country.

Thank you both for giving me happy memorable times.

Zhang-san showed me photos of her baby and mother at the end of the interview. The girl is so cute, and her mom, of almost the same age as me, looked really young and energetic. I wish I could see her some time in person and enjoy the girl(?)'s talk (◡‿◡).

Khatun-san impressed me with her beautiful English pronunciation. She said that she had just practiced speaking, speaking, and speaking, without fear of making mistakes. That's really convincing. Maybe I should try!!



This corner, "Let's meet today's guest!!" is now recruiting volunteer interviewees. Please contact me, Yuko Okada, at <gakumh04@jn.shimane-u.ac.jp> or come to my office if you can take time for the interview. If we have no volunteers, we will ask someone to be the next interviewee.

\\ My Recommended Sightseeing Spot //

Mount
Inasayama

稲佐山

Today's information provider is Professor *Urano Takeshi* of the Department of Biochemistry.

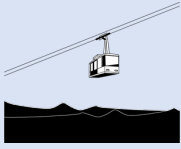
First, have a look at this!



How beautiful!! Do you know where this is?

The answer is ...ta-da, **Mount Inasayama** in **Nagasaki** prefecture, where he is from.

This photo, he says, was taken by his friend recently.



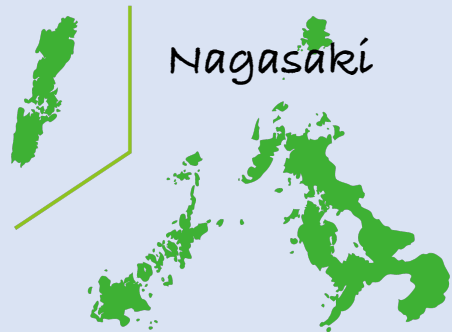
The beauty of the night view was endorsed at “World Night View Summit in Nagasaki” in 2021, when it was selected as one of the world’s three new best night views together with Monaco and Shanghai.

You can take a ropeway or monorail called “Sulōp Car (スロープカー)” to the summit.

The two take different routes. So, why don’t you take one to go and the other to come back to enjoy the scenery to the fullest?

The mountain is famous for its night view, but its charm isn’t limited to the night hours. If it’s in the daytime, you can see the panoramic view of Nagasaki city, and as far as Gotō Islands (五島列島 Gotō-rettō) if the weather permits. The sunset time is another recommendation. The magical view of the orange-dyed sky and sea is beyond description.

Urano-sensei says that Nagasaki offers various kinds of local delicacies different from those in Shimane, and that it is definitely worth a visit. Nagasaki has a unique culture in that it prospered through trades with Portugal after it opened a port in the mid 1500s. Unlike Kyoto, Osaka, or Hokkaido, it is one of a kind. Thank you, Urano-sensei, for the interesting information!!



Travel information

Take “Nagasaki Bus” whether you take the ropeway or monorail. It leaves JR Nagasaki station. The track number is No.3 or 4 for the ropeway, and No.5 for the monorail. Get off at “Ropeway Mae” stop for the ropeway, and at the terminal, “Inasa Yama Koen” stop for the monorail.

“HELLO,FRIENDS!!” is created by
The English Project Team.

If you have any comments or questions,
please contact us:
gakumh04@jn.shimane-u.ac.jp
(addressed to Yuko Okada)

The English used on “HELLO,FRIENDS!!” is supervised
by our English teacher, *Ms. Murphy, Lynne.*

