



**Fall deeply
in color**

- Looking back the "day" of nine and a half years ago
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Looking back the “day” of nine and a half years ago

Writer & Designer: Yuki

Translator : Toshiki



Do you remember March, 11 of 2011?

It's the day the “Great East Japan Earthquake” happened. By September, 11, 9 and a half years had passed since the “day”. I contributed this article in order not to let the memory of the “day” be weathered, in days where almost 10 years have passed since it. There are residents from various parts of Japan in WISH and there of course are many from the Tohoku area. For that reason, there were lots of opportunities to hear their experiences from them whom I met in WISH and every time I listen to them, it makes me think about the “day” again and again. My wish is that this article would trigger you to look back on the “day” and I hope this article will make you think about it.

(*Please enjoy other articles for people who have suffered and are painful to recall the “day”.)

It is a repetition but 9 and a half years have passed since the “Great East Japan Earthquake”.

How do you feel about this nine and a half years?

I am keenly aware that time flies and I can remember the moment of the “day” as if it is an event of a few years ago. At that time, I was in my hometown, Nagoya so I did not suffer actual damage. However, how the disaster area looked like that I saw on TV was really shocking to me and the images are stuck to my mind yet today. In addition to that, TV told us the fact that there are people of the same age as me suffering and in really painful states. I felt some kind of pain that something heavy and muddy which I could not say in words well flowing into my heart after knowing the fact at that time. Also, I felt a sense of guilt about living a life which is almost the same as before even knowing the facts about the disaster area. Although I realized those feelings, I at the age of an elementary school student, felt the Tohoku area was a far place and I only could just watch what the area looked like in front of TV.

Two years after the earthquake, my teacher in junior highschool asked me if I would be involved in the activities related to the “Great East Japan Earthquake” that are conducted by Nagoya city. My reply was clear. I thought that finally I also could do something and I immediately told the teacher that I wanted to join it. At the same time, I determined that I faced the things that were stuck to my heart but looked away from them. Then, I visited Rikuzen-takada city of Iwate prefecture as a representative member of Nagoya city public junior highschool. I was involved in meeting with junior highschool students of the area, visiting the disaster area and volunteer activity at temporary housing.



Three years after the event, my highschool classmate who had the same ambition as mine invited me to a tour for knowing the facts about the disaster area at that time. The reply at the time was also yes and I visited Minami-sanriku town of Miyagi prefecture. There, I did visiting the disaster area, investigation of reconstruction activities and industrial work experience of forestry and aquaculture. Also, we had a talk to the whole school with the members we went with in order to tell these experiences to other students.

What I had done is not something that can be actual help or reconstruction but it was really a valuable experience that was not in front of the TV but I could feel the reality of the disaster area through my body and catch voices from people in the disaster area with my heart.

**From here, after looking back on my experiences again,
these are what I want to tell you to those who are reading this article.**

I had chances to talk with people from local administration and many suffered people through two disaster area visitings. Through them, I heard various things about real experiences, actions to a reconstruction and disaster prevention. There is one message which was in common to all the talks we heard. The message was that please not to forget about the “day”. The fact that there were many people to be sacrificed in the disaster, the everyday life that was natural to most people was derived from the “day” and the fact that many people are trying to overcome the ”day”. Forgetting these things is the saddest thing, this is what many people were saying. In addition to that, they said that we were happy if the experiences of the ”day” would make the damages smaller when the next big earthquake happened. That was why we were told that we should not let the memory be weathered. I am writing this article in order to keep and tell this thought to next people. I am thinking that this is my duty as one of the members of the disaster area visiting and learning many things to keep the thought alive. This is what I said in the first but I want you to look back on the ”day” again through this article. With effort of numerous people, the reconstructions that can be shown in statistics are almost done. However, not all the problems can be solved. We who were elementary school students at that time, became university students. There should be many things that we can do now.

Please once again, look back on the “Great East Japan Earthquake”.

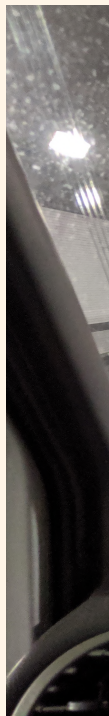
Adding to that, visiting the disaster area on my own with my body, I learnt definite things that are not gone through filters like the media. For that reason, I am hoping to visit and look at the disaster area where 10 years have passed since the “day” again through my eyes. If there are people in WISH who have the same ambition as mine and are hoping to visit the area, I am happy hearing from you.

Thank you for reading till the end.

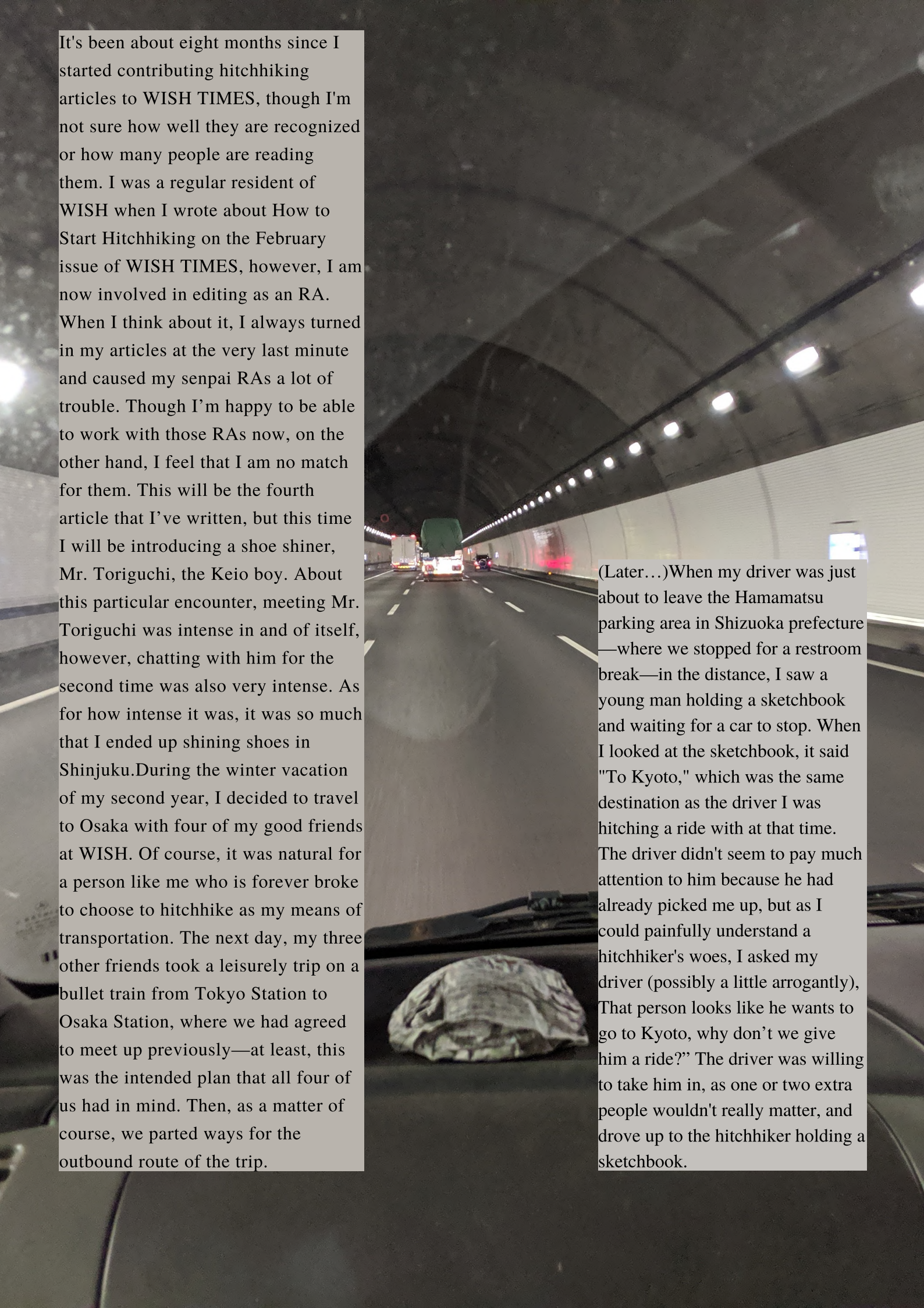


Encounters on My Hitch Hiking Trips, Part 3

Writer: Satoshi
Translator: Sarah
Design: Yukie



It's been about eight months since I started contributing hitchhiking articles to WISH TIMES, though I'm not sure how well they are recognized or how many people are reading them. I was a regular resident of WISH when I wrote about How to Start Hitchhiking on the February issue of WISH TIMES, however, I am now involved in editing as an RA. When I think about it, I always turned in my articles at the very last minute and caused my senpai RAs a lot of trouble. Though I'm happy to be able to work with those RAs now, on the other hand, I feel that I am no match for them. This will be the fourth article that I've written, but this time I will be introducing a shoe shiner, Mr. Toriguchi, the Keio boy. About this particular encounter, meeting Mr. Toriguchi was intense in and of itself, however, chatting with him for the second time was also very intense. As for how intense it was, it was so much that I ended up shining shoes in Shinjuku. During the winter vacation of my second year, I decided to travel to Osaka with four of my good friends at WISH. Of course, it was natural for a person like me who is forever broke to choose to hitchhike as my means of transportation. The next day, my three other friends took a leisurely trip on a bullet train from Tokyo Station to Osaka Station, where we had agreed to meet up previously—at least, this was the intended plan that all four of us had in mind. Then, as a matter of course, we parted ways for the outbound route of the trip.

A photograph of a highway tunnel. The perspective is from inside a car, looking forward through the windshield. The tunnel has a curved, ribbed ceiling and is illuminated by a series of bright lights along the right side. Several vehicles are visible ahead on the road, including a large green truck and a white car. The overall atmosphere is dim and enclosed.

(Later...) When my driver was just about to leave the Hamamatsu parking area in Shizuoka prefecture—where we stopped for a restroom break—in the distance, I saw a young man holding a sketchbook and waiting for a car to stop. When I looked at the sketchbook, it said "To Kyoto," which was the same destination as the driver I was hitching a ride with at that time. The driver didn't seem to pay much attention to him because he had already picked me up, but as I could painfully understand a hitchhiker's woes, I asked my driver (possibly a little arrogantly), "That person looks like he wants to go to Kyoto, why don't we give him a ride?" The driver was willing to take him in, as one or two extra people wouldn't really matter, and drove up to the hitchhiker holding a sketchbook.

After the hitchhiker politely greeted my driver through the driver's window, he entered the car through the rear door. When he greeted us, he introduced himself briefly, and that was when I discovered that he was a hated Keio boy. And right at the moment a Waseda-Keio hitchhiking match was about to explode to a start in that small car, he handed both the driver and I yogurt-flavored hard candies. "Oh, I guess he was a good person after all," I thought as I withheld some particularly sharp words that were about to spring out of my mouth. To put it a little better, the hostility I had towards him melted—along with the yogurt candy—in an instant. Now when I think about it, the first polite greeting, the delicate and considerate demeanor about him in giving us candies, and by the way he could liven up conversations in the car, I could tell that Mr. Toriguchi had almost all the skills required to be a hitchhiker and was completely better than me, at that. I was in a good mood, so for the time being, I rolled the yogurt-flavored hard candy in my mouth while listening to Mr. Toriguchi's lighthearted chatter.



The more that I listened, the more apparent it was that Mr. Toriguchi had a strange background. First of all, he said that his purpose of going to Kyoto was "to meet his master."



After graduating from university, Mr. Toriguchi aims to become a financial planner, and the place where his famous FP master lives is Kyoto. When he meets his master, he always first gets asked "How did you get here?" So if Mr. Toriguchi hitchhikes, he believes that he will leave an impression on his master based on how interesting his mode of transportation is that day. In short, he wanted to generate material for conversation. What surprised me even more was that he also shined shoes on the street. In order to gain a professional mindset and the experience of making money, he talks about his dreams while polishing shoes, and depending on how sympathetic people are, he receives a tip of 1 yen (or more). I'm not sure if this too was so that he could become a financial planner,

but it was nevertheless a task given to him by his master. As I was impressed by his interesting story, Mr. Toriguchi suddenly asked me, "Why don't you try it with me?" I was quite confused and said "that sounds interesting, I'd like to try it out"—unfortunately making a promise to him—so I exchanged my LINE contact with Mr. Toriguchi for the time being. I had the driver drop me off at the parking area in Kyoto, thanked the both of them, and said goodbye. As I was hitchhiking the last leg to Osaka, the notification bell on my cell phone went off. When I took it out and opened LINE, I saw that Mr. Toriguchi had invited me to a LINE group called "Tokyo Shoe Shine." With this, I had jumped into the interesting world of shoe shining.

A week later, I was waiting for Mr. Toriguchi at Shinjuku station in the middle of winter. He came out of the ticket gate at the exact time of the meeting and walked towards me with a mysterious little bag in his hand. Then, he suddenly pressed the little bag against my chest and said, "This has all your shoe shine tools in it, so let's try it right away." I was told that I was going to merely observe his shoe-shining that day, so I wasn't mentally ready and tried to figure out how I could find a way out of this place.

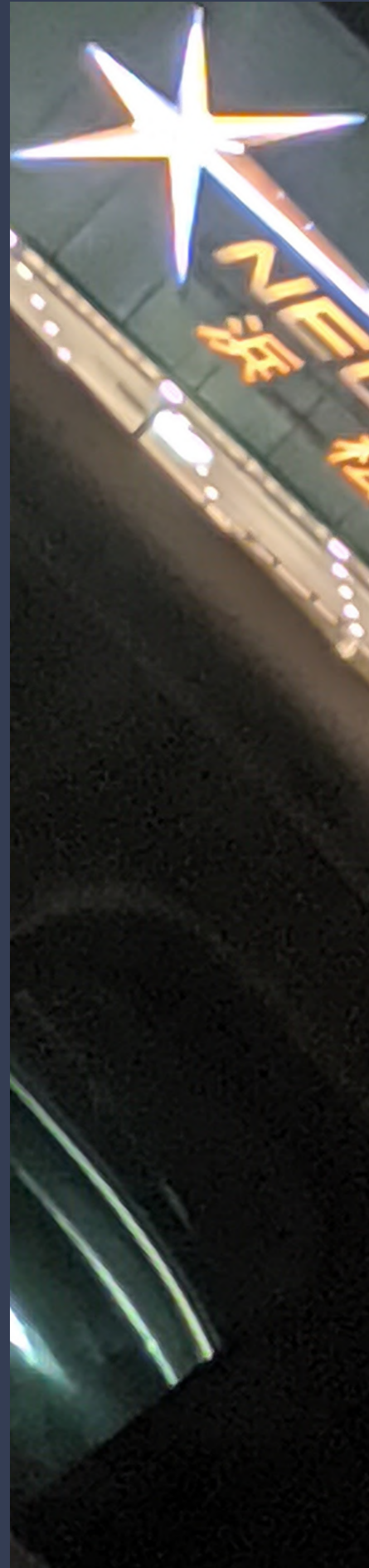
However, it seemed that he had foreseen such a situation, and I was eased by some skillful coaxing (probably learned in his shoe-shining experiences). This is how I was to polish shoes for the first time in my life.

Of course, there was no way my first experience could go so smoothly, and it took me two hours to realize that I couldn't polish anyone's shoes, let alone make money from it. I decided to make up some kind of believable reason to go home and returned to Mr. Toriguchi without any results. When I tried to open my mouth, Mr. Toriguchi said, "Then, let's buy chocolate at the supermarket." This time, I really didn't understand what he was saying. I reluctantly bought chocolate at a nearby convenience store and returned to him again. "Then, try selling this chocolate for 1 yen." I was definitely the person who wanted to eat this chocolate the most in Shinjuku Ward because of how cold and fatigued I was, but I had been failing Mr. Toriguchi's expectations many times. Seeing that I was looking incredibly dejected, Mr. Toriguchi gave me one piece of advice. The reason why my shoe shine offers were getting rejected was because I looked so apologetic.

Certainly, if someone looking so apologetic and boring approached me, I wouldn't give my time to them. On the other hand, if you speak out to them in an engaging way, they may feel that they want to listen to what you have to say, or feel that you are an interesting person. The same is true for job interviews and everyday life. I managed to squeeze the last of my energy out and resumed approaching people. About half an hour later, I called out to a middle-aged salaryman. I remembered my mistakes and talked to him about my dreams in as much of a fun and friendly way as I could manage. The man replied, "I'm glad I heard such a good story. I'll have the chocolate later," and dropped a coin into my almost numb palm.

The result was one 5-yen coin. It may seem extremely common, but that 5-yen coin felt heavy and valuable to me

Thank you for reading until the end. Actually, Mr. Toriguchi's financial planner's office is in Takadanobaba, and before the Corona pandemic, I visited his office many times after my classes. As I was writing this article, it made me want to see Mr. Toriguchi for the first time in a while! Please look forward to my articles next time!!



A fascination for European football

Writer:Kento Translator:Nao Designer:Tina

A wide variety of students from both Japan and abroad gather at WISH, and one of the things that connects us is soccer. Enthusiastic fans of the local team, residents who have devoted themselves to soccer until they participated in the Inter-High School Championships in high school, residents who constantly check the broadcasts of soccer teams around the world. We go to the park with a ball, cheer for the club team's victory in front of the TV, adding color to the lives of WISH residents.

Here's a question: Do you know where in the world, has its hottest site in terms of football? It's Europe. France winning the World Cup would be fresh in our memory. However, I assume many people do not know much about European football.

In this article I would like to tell you about the myriad club teams in Europe. A club team is a club organization run by volunteers from a local background.(Wikipedia) There are club teams such as Urawa Reds and Kawasaki Frontale in Japan. And similarly, there are many club teams in Europe. Here, I would like to introduce the European club teams while interviewing the residents.

Before getting into the main subject, I would like to address the reason why I recommend European football. Firstly, European football allows you to see the best plays in the whole world. Europe is a dream destination for soccer players, and naturally, many world-class players gather. Even those who watch soccer for the first time will be able to feel its awesomeness and excitement. Secondly, it is simply because I love European football and want more people to experience the same. I have many friends who watch the J-League, yet not many people watch European football. My wish is to involve as many friends as possible into the world of European football and go crazy about it together!



Liverpool FC

Liverpool FC is a historical club headquartered in northwestern Merseyside, England. Currently, Takumi Minamino, the player from Japan's national team, is assigned here, making Liverpool FL a team closely related to Japan. Musashi Tokuhisa, a genuine Liverpool fan of the WISH 3rd floor RA, was interviewed to discuss the greatness of this team.

Please tell me the amazingness of Liverpool.

- First of all, the fans are crazy about this team. Liverpool fans are famous worldwide for their passion, and it's impressive that they cheer hard whether they're winning or losing. It is simply overwhelming when the fans sing the team song "You'll Never Walk Alone" together. In addition, the team is close to the local area, and even those who come to see it for the first time will be warmly welcomed by the local people. Therefore, it is a friendly place for those who go to watch soccer for the first time.

What made you start liking Liverpool FC ?

- It was the game I watched with my parents when I was in 1st grade. I still vividly remember that then-captain Steven Gerrard played great and scored a cool goal. Also, I started playing soccer in the wake of that match .

How is your team doing ?

- won the last Club World Cup, became both in name and reality in the world. It is no exaggeration to say that it is the hottest team on the planet right now. There are world-class players, and there are also handsome Takumi Minamino players, so this team is also recommended for women .

Please give us a final word.

If you support the team, your grades may or may not improve...??!

The above is a hot interview with Mr. Tokuhisa, a longtime Liverpool fan. Mr. Tokuhisa likes Liverpool so much that he went to the site to watch the game. Japan and Europe are far apart, but since soccer is currently being broadcast on many distribution sites, anyone can easily watch European games. I would be very happy if as many people as possible could become interested in European football as a result of this story. We would also like to take this opportunity to thank Mr. Tokuhisa for answering the interview while he was busy.



Well, how did you feel?

I personally like soccer very much, so I wrote an article like this this time. If you are a WISH resident who wants to talk or talk about soccer, or if you are interested in soccer after reading this article, I would be grateful if you could speak to me.



What brought you to WISH?

Writer: Akari, Translator: Moeka, Designer: Rebecca

Students selected WISH from various choices of student dormitories. WISH is an extremely attractive dormitory, but what attracted the students and what brought them here? So this time I have interviewed 3 students to unravel the questions. I believe that you would be able to discover the new attractiveness of WISH that you haven't noticed before!

- Where were you born?

I was born in Sendai, Japan.

- When did you know about WISH?

I found WISH when I was in eleventh grade. Actually, my mom introduced WISH to me. Since then I visited here during the open house, and I also learned about the SI Program. It was a good chance for me to choose Waseda as my preferred university.

- Why did you select WISH as your home?

The main reason is that I can learn a lot from the SI Program. Besides, I think WISH is also pretty attractive because you will be able to interact with many international students, and not to mention the low rent.

- What appeals to you by living in WISH?

There are different kinds of encounters. Before I came to Tokyo, I couldn't realize that meeting new people was such a wonderful experience when I was just living alone in my hometown. I would love to appreciate this once-in-a-lifetime meeting with my precious friends, although it may be too soon after we met each other.

- What are your future plans in WISH?

Since I love to eat, I do like to hold an event to learn how to cook both Japanese and international food when the pandemic is over. I am looking forward to participating in a face-to-face SI Program too!

- Where were you born?
I came from Aomori, Japan.
- When did you know about WISH?
When I was in the second grade at senior high school. Previously, I hadn't decided my career path yet, but I already knew WISH when I was looking at the university brochure.
- Why did you select WISH as your home?
I feel that I probably won't be so lonely as there are many friends here. Other than that, WISH provides a highly cosmopolitan environment is also one of the reasons I entered WISH.
- What appeals to you living in WISH?
I made a lot of friends in a short period as I had expected. I feel like I'm always on some kind of school trip, having fun with my friends. Before moving into the dormitory, I was a little hesitant about each living room having a glass window that you can see through from the corridor. However, I realized it is a good thing that you can greet from the corridor when you pass by or even a sudden gathering is allowed too.
- What are your future plans in WISH?
I would like to participate in the SI Award and travel abroad. I truly want to make friends with international students as well.

What brought you to WISH?

- Where were you born?
I was born and raised in Gunma, Japan.
- When did you know about WISH?
I learned about WISH when I was in the second year of high school. I originally attended the high school attached to Waseda University, so I had already decided to live in Tokyo at that time, and that's why I found WISH.
- Why did you select WISH as your home?
Students came from all corners of the world, having diverse cultural and language backgrounds. I was also attracted to the SI program. Besides, I thought it would be a good challenge to cook for myself.
- What appeals to you living in WISH?
After all, the best thing is that you can make many friends. You are able to talk with people naturally when you are in the kitchen. By the way, the sports gym and music room are well equipped too. The location of Nakano is very convenient for us to go to college, it only takes about 10 minutes walk to the station which is near WISH. There is a FamilyMart (convenience store) under the dormitory, so you can buy anything just by going out easily.
- What are your future plans in WISH?
Right now, we are only allowed to join official events online because of Covid-19, but I hope we can hold one huge gathering someday! Editor's comment: Dormitory students came to WISH with their own aspirations and hopes from all over the world. However, two years of dormitory life is not very long, time is limited for us to stay in WISH.
- How do you like to spend this invaluable moment in WISH?
I hope that every student is able to have a blast living in WISH!

Contributions

Writers



Yuki



Kento



Akari

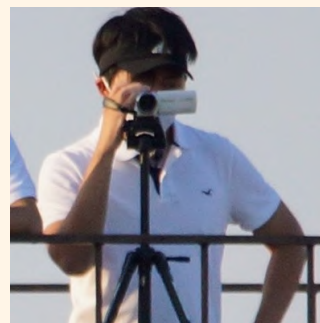


Haruka

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Yuki



Tina



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RA Supporters



Satoshi



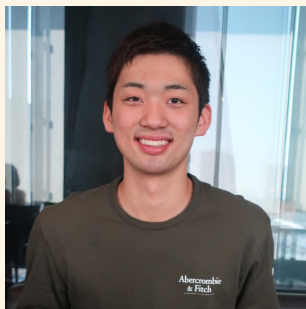
Yukie



Moeka



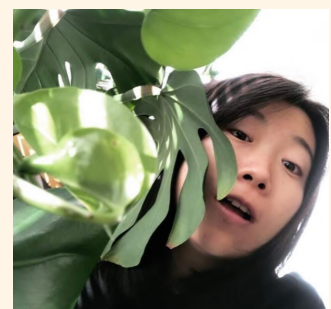
Miyumi



Yuma



Renuka



Nao