

Voice of the International Students

VIS

医学研究科
国際連携室だより

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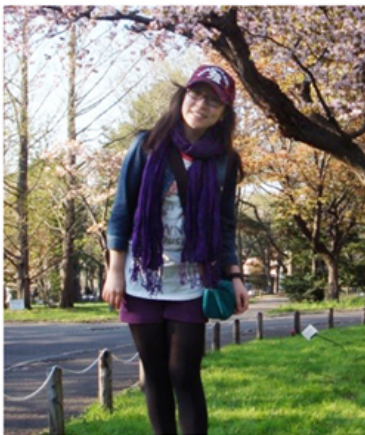
What is VIS ?

The International Relations Office of the Faculty of Medicine issues a newsletter "VIS" to send out a live message from our international students and to promote the exchange of cultural information from different countries. We hope this letter helps to cultivate intercultural communications and put international exchanges into action. (quoted from VIS Vol. 1)

このニュースレターの発行の目的は、留学生の生の声を外に出すことと、異なる国の文化の情報交換を促進することにあります。このニュースレターが異なる文化間のコミュニケーションを養い、国際交流を実行していく上で役に立つことを望んでいます。(VIS Vol.1 より転載)

Sweet life of Sapporo

札幌での恵まれた学生生活



Shanshan LIANG

Ph D student, Hokkaido University
Graduate School of Medicine (China)

Time flies so fast that I can't believe I have already been in Sapporo for two years. Everything is going very well; I enjoy the quiet and peaceful life of Sapporo. I have met many new friends, from whom I get to know other parts of the world. We share exciting moments, scenery and happiness. I am lucky to be studying in a good department, where everybody helps each other. They help me with my research, as well as my daily life. Life Sciences is difficult, but with them I can solve any problem. I want to thank people who have helped me in the past two years, and I will pass it on

the future to others who need help.

札幌にきてから2年たちました。ここで新しい友達に会い、世界のほかの国のことも知りました。お互いに助け合う研究室で学ぶことができたのは幸運でした。これまでお世話になったことに感謝し、将来ほかの人を助けることで、この精神をつなげていきたいと思います。



My misunderstanding at the supermarket

日本の食料品店での思い違い



Roshan MAHABIR

Ph D student, Hokkaido University
Graduate School of Medicine
(Trinidad and Tobago)

When I first came to Japan, I was completely clueless about everything and anything. On my first trip to the supermarket, I was amazed at the amount of peanut butter in this country; an entire shelf, all different colours and textures. I went home to enjoy my first 'Japanese peanut butter'. It was the worst I've ever had. There was not even a hint of peanuts or their taste.

I had also selected the 'special cheese' sealed in water. Tasting this; the bland, wet and loosely textured, I began to wonder what I was going to eat for breakfast, because I would not be able to tolerate this.

My other great find was vinegar. I proceeded to make soup, adding it at the end. Tasting the soup, I remember thinking, 'this is not sour, and why is my head feeling light?'

Later, I asked everyone I knew about the ingredients. My 'peanut butter' was actually 'miso', the cheese was 'tofu', and the 'vinegar' was 'mirin'.

In new places, these accidents happen, but once you can see the comical, lighter side, they will become stories to remember in your old age.

日本に来たばかりの時に、味噌をピーナツ・バター、豆腐をチーズ、味醂を酢と買って失敗した。しかし、これも時間がたてば、面白い話に思えるのだろう。

Storm BBQ party

台風バーベキュー・パーティー



Izumi KASUYA

Volunteer supporter of the International
Relations Office (Brazil)

The weather was good before we began the barbecue party. But right after that a storm came. The strong wind blew down the tent we were trying to put up. All our plans became a total mess. There were many people gathered and we hoped that no storm could ruin our holiday. I really want to express my sincere gratitude to everyone who stayed and enjoyed our storm barbecue. I think it's a good opportunity to find something good and fun, even when your initial plans are ruined. It's very important to adapt to any changing environment. A bad weather was not enough to stop the people to enjoy BBQ together and share various cultures

and respecting their differences in Japan.

夏の BBQ パーティーの日は、始まる前は晴れていたのに、パーティーが始まると台風がやってきて、テントは吹き飛ばされました。しかし、工夫してつづけて、集まった大勢の参加者たちは国際交流 BBQ パーティーを最後まで楽しみました。悪い天気は私たちから楽しみを奪うことはできませんでした。



Welcome winter 2011!

2011年の冬よ、ようこそ！



Afona CHERNET

Msc student, Hokkaido University
Graduate School of Medicine
(Eritrea)

Some friends might have an objection towards the Word "Welcome." I am sure the argument is, at least winter is not something that deserves "Welcome!" Last year I was told directly or indirectly, that winter is not as such of "Fun Time."

As for me, honestly, winter is one of the enormous life time experiences I have been graced to acquire from Sapporo. Coming from a Sahel region of Africa, Eritrea (on the horn of the continent), snow has ONLY been a unique Adventure and Fantasy in the Holly Wood movies and New Year post cards ever since our child hood.

Though it's been a year, still I have that breath taking first glance of snow with

friends on one of the beautiful streets of Sapporo on November 28, 2010. To be very specific, it was at 10:33pm.

I wish you all a Happy and Joyful winter 2011, especially newcomers to Sapporo both from inside and outside of Japan.

冬を嫌いな友達もいますが、私は冬を歓迎します。1年前にアフリカのエリトリアからきました。来てまもなく11月の夜に札幌の街に雪が降るのを生まれて初めてみた私は、そのあまりの美しさに息を飲みました。それまでは、雪はハリウッド映画と新年の絵ハガキでしか見たことがありませんでした。よそから札幌に来たばかりの人たちはどうぞこの冬を楽しんでください。

Impression on my last activity

COOP 留学生委員会委員としての最後の仕事



Megumi MURATA

Nutritionist
International Students Committee of COOP
until October, 2011 (Japan)

On October 30th, 2011 we finished free bicycle distribution among the newcomers of the international students of Hokkaido University. This time, 93 students got bicycle. As all bicycles were with carrier, surely it would be very useful for them. It took around 3 hours to complete our bicycle distribution event. Although there was no rain outside, chilly wind had blown incessantly. We used disposable pocket warmer to keep us warm. All the committee members really worked hard to distribute bikes efficiently. Newcomers looked very happy to return home with new bicycle. This was my last activity as the International Students Committee of COOP.

北大生協の留学生委員会委員として留学生のために尽くしてこられた室田恵さんは10月31日をもってこの職から下りられました。これは最後の活動となった自転車無料譲渡会の印象記です。室田さん、これまでどうもありがとうございました。



Cultural diversity 文化の多様性



Muhammad BAGHDADI

Ph D student, Hokkaido University
Graduate School of Medicine
(Syria)

Our world is diverse, and has many customs, traditions, and various ways of thinking which differ from country to country. For example, it is not polite to touch someone's head in the countries of South East Asia like Brunei, while the same action can express love and friendship in other countries such as Japan or even in Arab countries.

I heard from a friend about a professor who was complaining about the behavior of a foreign student in his lab. The professor was trying to explain some materials to his student, but the student was quiet, saying nothing. It is important in Japan to respond when listening to others' explanations. This can be a serious problem which might arise from a lack of knowledge about culture differences.

In America, it is very important to maintain eye

contact when speaking with others; while avoiding eye contact gives the impression of doubt and suspicion. This is a problem; which seems to be frequently experienced by Japanese students studying abroad. In Japan, maintaining eye contact while listening, without showing any other response, give a strong impression of disagreement.

I think it is very important to know more about different cultures around the world, to avoid such misunderstandings and have good relations with friends and people around us. It is equally important for foreign students in Japan to study and learn more about Japanese culture, traditions, and ways of thinking.

ひとつの振る舞いのもつ意味が国によって違うことから生じる人間関係のトラブルは悲しいことです。世界の国の文化の多様性を知り、これを認めることから実のある国際交流は始まります。



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