



African Homestay

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Arriving in Nairobi, Kenya on June 23rd, 1993 I was feeling exhilarated but tired after a flight that had taken me from London via Moscow, Larnaca and Aden. It was quite an adventure already! We were met at the airport by the son-in-law of our homestay family. He took us for our first experience of Kenyan cuisine – at a restaurant called Carnivore. There we ate "nyama choma" – game meat! In Kenya this means crocodile, impala, zebra and wildebeest – to name just a few. The flavours were wonderful, and did well to prepare us for our first meal with our host family – goats' feet! This dish takes 48 hours to prepare and has a very strange texture, but has a reasonable taste. It was certainly different to anything I had experienced before.

We were based in Nanyuki. It is an old market town, very near to Mount Kenya and the equator. The town has a lot of residents of Indian origin – just like our host parents. In the home the mother tongue was Hindi, but our host parents also spoke Kiswahili, Kikuyu and a little English. Our host mother was a



fantastic cook and we ate all kinds of roti, parata, samosas and, of course, a wide variety of curries. I returned from Kenya five kilograms heavier than when I went.

Although Nanyuki was our base, we travelled far and wide across Kenya. We visited Nairobi on many occasions, as it was a simple matatu (shared taxi) ride away. We went there for a Sikh wedding which lasted three days and was held in Nairobi Cricket club. We also went to watch the Kenya Athletics trials for the World Athletics championships. It was incredible to watch these world-class athletes, some of whom could not afford shoes or even a proper running vest.

Another event we attended was the "Heart of Africa Food Festival". This was held at a college in Nairobi, and was the end of year graduation event. There were foods from all over Africa prepared by the college students and dance performances by guests from many different countries. The Ethiopian performers were amazing. I had the chance to eat many new and strange foods – even mopane worms fried in peanut oil!

Of course, a trip to Kenya would not be complete without a safari, and we went to one of the world's most famous wildlife areas – Masai Mara. It was incredible to see the variety of animals there – lions, elephants, leopards, hippos, zebra, wildebeest and even rhinos. We were so lucky to see them all. Staying in a tent hearing all of these animals through the night is an experience not to be missed!



I was so lucky to have this chance to see a different culture first-hand. A homestay is such a valuable experience. All the students at Nagoya International Junior and Senior High School are so lucky that the opportunity is provided for them during their school life. I know it will inspire them to become truly compassionate citizens of the world. ☑



PEACE BOAT-105-Day Journey around the World

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Three years ago I took the opportunity to travel around the world with Peace Boat, a Japan-based international non-governmental and non-profit organisation that works to promote peace, human rights, equal and sustainable development, and respect for the environment.

I was chosen as one of 15 volunteer teachers to teach English to Japanese passengers while travelling around the world. Peace Boat's onboard English language programme is known as GET (Global English Training). GET is a communication-based programme that aims to improve students' communicative ability and confidence by using English through a mix of onboard classroom study, language-based events and activities, and exchange programmes in ports of call.

On Peace Boat, we travelled to 18 countries. Before I hopped onboard the boat, I expected the countries we visited to be the highlight of the voyage. Whilst the



▲Rapu Nui

countries we visited were amazing, the real highlight of the journey was life on the boat. It was the busiest three months of my life! There were many events all day and all night listed in the daily newspaper, and it was often hard to go to all the ones that you wanted to go to because so many interesting events and lectures were scheduled at the same time.

Passengers and staff members also had the freedom to organise as many events as they liked. I held many poi (New Zealand Maori dance using balls and string) workshops, a Global Village event, a Halloween party, and a charity auction, and joined in many events such as salsa, djembe (African drum) and Swahili lessons.

There were also many guest speakers from around the world on Peace Boat. Before you travel to the country you can learn about the language, history, culture and current issues of that country. I attended many lectures concerning Japan from guest speakers on topics such as fair trade, Global Article 9, and 'Zainichi', as well as attending many from speakers from the countries we went to such as about the Moai (statues) on Rapu Nui (Easter Island), the slums in Peru and the political history of Kenya.

Every voyage on Peace Boat has at least one main village or charity to give support to. On the voyage I went on, the GET teachers organised a charity auction for the devastating cyclones in Sri Lanka and the United States of America. We also raised enough money to build a playground for children living near a slum in Lima, Peru. In addition, 100 boxes and large bags of goods were donated to various groups in Cuba.

Usually on Peace Boat, you visit countries for a day or two. We were very lucky on this voyage as we visited Peru for three days. This was my favourite country as I had the chance to go to Machu Picchu, and I loved the indigenous cultures and food. Cuba was also



◀Leaving Yokohama port



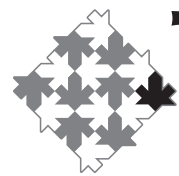
▲GET teachers making a pyramid at the pyramids

amazing, as was seeing the Moai on Rapu Nui. My two older brothers (who were living in Europe at the time) also surprised me by visiting the boat in Italy so I could meet my niece for the first time too!

Most of my memories of Peace Boat revolve around people. I met so many amazing people from around the world: in the countries we visited, guest speakers who came onboard, Japanese passengers, staff and other GET teachers.

Peace Boat gave me an opportunity to do three things I love – travelling, volunteering, and teaching English. Sailing on Peace Boat gave me the chance to follow and achieve a dream I had ever since I first arrived in Japan.

I feel so fortunate to have had this opportunity and it was one of the best experiences of my life. If you want an educational and unforgettable three months while seeing the world on a boat, I totally recommend it! ☑



▲「ジュースで乾杯」アルバート大学主催のパーティーにて

Takashi WAKAMIYA

〔国際理解の出発点〕

世界の国々で「国際理解 (International Understanding)」の必要性が叫ばれるようになってから久しくなります。日本における国際化の流れは、スミソニアン体制^[注]が崩壊し、円が固定相場制 (当時1ドル365円) から変動相場制に移る時期に始まったと言えます。円が世界の経済で勢力を強め、日本の経済が成長するにつれて、日本の利益や繁栄だけではなく、世界を視野に入れた相互依存の関係を意識するようになってきたのです。そして国際理解という言葉は、

国際理解の出発点は、まず多様なアイデンティティを知ることから始まります。多くの小さな国々が歴史的な併合や独立を何度も重ねることで、多文化的な近代国家を形成しており、人類の歩んできた歴史は私たちに一層大きな多文化社会への可能性を教えています。これは地球上で人類が共生するために残された、壮大な歴史的シナリオによって導き出された21世紀に向けてのマスタープランとも言えるでしょう。そして、異文化や異人種を受け入れながら共生していく多文化社会のルールは、個人や集団の多様なアイデンティティを互いに尊重することになります。多文化社会の実現は、経済、情報、

ながらも、自国の生活や文化を相対的に見つめなおす態度を育むことにあります。それは世界で通用する国際教養を培い、地球規模で物事を捉える思考力を身につけることに貢献します。

国際理解の出発点は、まず多様なアイデンティティを知ることから始まります。多くの小さな国々が歴史的な併合や独立を何度も重ねることで、多文化的な近代国家を形成しており、人類の歩んできた歴史は私たちに一層大きな多文化社会への可能性を教えています。これは地球上で人類が共生するために残された、壮大な歴史的シナリオによって導き出された21世紀に向けてのマスタープランとも言えるでしょう。そして、異文化や異人種を受け入れながら共生していく多文化社会のルールは、個人や集団の多様なアイデンティティを互いに尊重することになります。多文化社会の実現は、経済、情報、

人的資源、教育のグローバル化にともない、開かれた近代国家がかならず歩む道でもあり、人類の挑戦と言っても過言ではありません。その長い道のりでは、おそらく文化の違いによって葛藤や摩擦が生じますが、これらを自文化のアイデンティティの保護や防衛のためだけに否定的に捉えるのではなく、自文化を客観視し、異文化を理解するためのきっかけとして捉えることが大切です。

21世紀の国際理解の目的は、世界の多様なアイデンティティの存在を認識し、ともに生きるための国際教養を培い、かけがえのない地球に多文化社会を築き上げることにあります。国際生はすでに国際理解の出発点に立っています。多様なアイデンティティを自然に感じることができるこの御器所のキャンパスで、自文化と異文化への関心を高めてみてはどうでしょう。☑

[注]1971年に開催された10ヶ国蔵相会議で合意を見たドル救済を主な目的とする国際通貨体制