



MIA news

Miyakonojo International Association

Miyakonojo International Association
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Interviews Around The World, Round 2!

We're back again with round 2 of our interviews! Our 3 questions for today:

- 1) What personally interests you about Japan?
- 2) What is your country's image of Japan?
- 3) Given that you have been to Japan before, where did you go? And did it live up to your expectations? Did it match the image you had before going?

This time, as you likely can tell, we have some responses from those who have made the trip to Japan!

Name: Emmanuel Ferrar
Country of Origin: America
Profession: Network Engineer



1) The two big things that stand out for me personally are Japan's History and Culture. As much as America's knowledge of Japan is limited, their depth of history and culture is well known.

2) The general image is that of an advanced culture rooted in tradition, and one that is extremely respectful of their fellow man. Americans also tend to lump in 'technologically advanced' as well, but in terms of image, things such as bowing to everyone and their general customs is what builds that image.

3) I'd say that my trip to Japan met the image I held going in, but this is probably because I was so invested in their culture by the time I made the trip. I felt that Japan was culturally advanced compared to the USA, and generally more respectful on all fronts, whether it be general transport or the way they handle business. It was an amazing experience that I truly enjoyed, but next time, I want to dive a bit deeper into the cultural side of things.

Name: Hann Ong
Country of Origin: Australia
Profession: Mechanical engineer



1) Many things in Japan interest me. I hold Japanese technology, food, architecture, art and culture in high regard as they have produced so many original and unique works that continue to inspire me today. Some of my favourite Japanese works include Final Fantasy, Initial D, various Anime and the engineering masterpiece that is the Nissan Skyline R34 GTR. These mas-

terpieces must be inspired by the high tech cities such as Tokyo and the beautiful natural forests, mountains and lakes which can be found spread throughout Japan.

2) I think Australia considers Japan as a friendly country which is high-tech, clean, safe and beautiful. Many schools in Australia teach Japanese as a second language. My particular high school had a sister school in Japan. In my eyes, Australia and Japan have always had good relations.

3) I have been to Hiroshima, Kyoto, Kobe, Osaka, Tokyo, Yokohama, Hakone and Himeji. Japan lives up to my expectations every time I visit. The first time I went was on a school exchange program and had done no prior research so I had no image of Japan, just a feeling of awe. Every subsequent visit to Japan has matched the image I had before going.

Name: Lydia Wong
Country of Origin: Brunei Darussalam
Profession: Mechanical Engineer



1) Everything I have learned about Japan has interested me. I love the food, the culture; everything they do is so ingrained with tradition, and it is still so prevalent compared to other countries that I have been to. Japan has a rich history, and a lot of the architecture (castles and temples) still exists, coupled with a landscape that varies across the span of the country. I love hiking and I've always been interested in the natural landscape of Japan, though I haven't been to the coastal areas or Hokkaido. That is a must see for me the next time I go.

2) In general, people always talk about the iconic Japanese food (sushi, ramen, takoyaki), beautiful Sakura blossoms in spring, gorgeous kimonos, anime, and J-POP.

3) My trip took me to Tokyo, Hiroshima, Osaka, Kyoto, Kobe, and Hakone.

I was overwhelmed. I had heard and seen so much about Japan before finally arriving, and it far exceeded my expectations. A few things still caught me off guard though. Even in the busiest parts of Tokyo, the streets are utterly CLEAN and yet it is near impossible to find a bin. I also find that I am very conscious about trying to not offend people because everyone is so polite!

Interviews Around The World, Round 2!

Name: Gaya Ooms
Country of Origin: Sri Lanka
Profession: Digital Marketing Manager



1) That's a hard question, because literally everything about Japan fascinates me! A country known for its cutting-edge technology, but one evolved from centuries of history that still casts a shadow. Add to this the amazing food and beautiful landscapes, and it's a repeated travel destination for me.

2) Aspirational. For a traveller, it's *the* destination, like a crowning achievement. Everyone I know wants to go to Japan, but the idea of travelling there is a bit daunting for them. They know very little about where to go or what to see & do, so it's a country that keeps being postponed as a travel option.

3) My spouse (who is half-Japanese) planned a wonderful trip for us. We visited Osaka, Kyoto, Arashiyama and Tsuyama. From the big cities, to forest walks, to visiting small, serene temples; Each moment of the trip was remarkable. As for my expectations, for me Japan was of a world not of our world, and it lived up to it. Countries you visit as a tourist today feel homogeneous; they all have a Starbucks, or a tacky tourist outlet or local food made for visitors with no local flavour. Japan is one of the rare few countries where that is not the case. Its people, food and culture are so incredibly uniquely its own. Japan offers that impossible to find travel opportunity these days - a chance to be an explorer, not just a tourist.

Name: Matthew Samuel Haire
Country of Origin: United Kingdom (Northern Ireland)
Profession: Robotics & Electrical Engineering Lecturer / PhD Student



1) I have been interested in Japa-

nese pop culture since I was a child. When I became a teenager, I gained a bigger interest in gaming & anime, and wanted to learn more about the country that created them. Each year I learned a little more about Japanese cuisine, work ethic, music, art, and of course their scientific and technological advances. My fiancé and I both have an admiration of Japan, and we're looking forward to visiting for our honeymoon.

2) The United Kingdom holds Japan in very high esteem. If you mention Japan to any member of the public and ask them what comes to mind, you're likely to hear some of the following:

- Sushi – The most well recognised Japanese cuisine in the west.
- Video Games – Nintendo and PlayStation consoles are known in the UK and around the world.
- Zen Buddhism – Many western self-help books are heavily influenced by the practices of Zen.
- Anime – The Japanese style of animation is very recognisable and admired in many parts of the western world. In the UK, conventions celebrating gaming and anime are frequently held in parts of the country around the year.
- Advanced Technology – Japanese technology and electronics are known for their high quality and sophistication, particularly in the fields of automobiles and robotics.

3) I visited Japan when I had just finished studying for my HND in Electrical/Electronic Engineering. The college I attended, South Eastern Regional College, had an exchange program with the National Institute of Technology, Toyama College. My class and I visited both Tokyo and Toyama. The visit exceeded my expectations of Japan. Both the Capital and Toyama were fun to travel around with a lot of beautiful and interesting attractions. During the day the locals were polite but reserved. We found that people were more willing to interact with us at night once people had finished with work for the day - the Japanese certainly know how to party! My visit to Japan only made me want to visit again, and I intend to do so.

MIA Information

◇World Festa in Miyakonojo

MIA is looking for organizations, individuals, and volunteers living in Miyakonojo or Mimata to participate in the 11th Annual World Festa in Miyakonojo.

- Date: Sun, 19th January 2020
- Time: 12:00 P.M. - 5:00 P.M.

●Venue: MJ Hall (Booths will be on the 2nd Floor)

●Event content: World Festa aims to promote international exchange, international cooperation and multiculturalism through interaction with local foreigners.



Movies info

C-Plaza Cine-port (Tel: 0986-24-2571)

17-9 Nakamachi, Miyakonojo, Miyazaki Map-Code (GPS): 117 488 540*55



- Maleficent 2 (Japanese Dub)
- Hood: The Beginning (Japanese Sub)
- Immortal Hero (Japanese)
- Joker (Japanese Sub)
- Way to Find the Best Life (Japanese)
- Ad Astra (Japanese Sub)
- Weathering With You (Japanese)

*The 1st of every month is ¥1,100 for everyone.

*Every Wednesday is 'Ladies' Day', all ladies ¥1,100.

*The cinema is closed every Tuesday.

*For session times visit: <http://movie.walkerplus.com/th286/schedule.html> (Japanese)