

*Voice of the International Students*

# VIS

医学研究科  
国際連携室だより

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The International Relations Office 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 exchanges.

VIS 発行の目的は、留学生の生の声を外に出すことと、異文化間の情報交換を促進することにあります。VIS が異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。



**Muhammed Ali**

PhD student of Hokkaido University  
Graduate School of Engineering (Pakistan)

## International Hour インターナショナルアワー

Living in Japan is a golden era of my life. I find my studies at Hokkaido University to be very difficult, however, I have found time to attend International Hour with my family. It is a unique experience to learn about the culture and traditions of different countries, many about which I know only the name. I have had memorable interactions with Japanese and international students while enjoying delicious international food at parties following the presentations. I was inspired to make a presentation about my own homeland of Pakistan.

The International Relations Office provided me with the opportunity to present "Pakistan: the Land of Pure". It was a wonderful experience to share the diverse, versatile culture and traditions of Pakistan. At the post-presentation party many participants seemed pleased to learn about my country.

日本に住むことは素晴らしいことだと感じています。インターナショナルアワーに家族とともに参加して、名前だけしか知らなかった国のことを知り、その後の交流パーティーでは日本人や他の国からきた留学生と話し合うことができました。自分の国パキスタンのことも発表したいと思い、その願いは叶えられました。





**Conscilliah Rhombohl Menda**

MSc. Student of Hokkaido University  
Graduate School of Medicine  
(Papua New Guinea)

## Autumn Entrance 秋入学

I am privileged to be among the first intake of students accepted this autumn for Autumn Entrance at Hokkaido University Graduate School of Medicine. The faculty handled everything flawlessly. Staff of the International Relations Office attended to every student query with ease. Even during registration for lectures, the support received was extremely helpful. I cannot speak Japanese, but found no trouble at all with communication; all procedures were clearly explained, making registration stress free.

I have not yet encountered, and do not anticipate encountering, any major problems during my stay. If there are any problems, they would be related to living adjustments like finding food products or adapting to the local cuisine. If that happens, I can approach other groups on campus that are set up for assisting with what I hope are minor issues. I have enjoyed every experience so far, and I am settling in comfortably to laboratory work, lectures and life.

私は2013年から医学研究科で始まった秋入学の最初の留学生です。私は日本語が話せませんが、国際連携室のスタッフから英語で十分な説明をうけて、無事に履修届けを出し終わりました。私には、なにか困ったことが起きてもすぐに助けてくれる人たちがいます。順調に研究も開始しました。



**Michal Mazur**

PhD student of Hokkaido University  
Graduate School of Info. Sci. & Tech.  
(Poland)

## The Land of Opportunities 出会いがある国

Japan is an amazing place to learn new skills and grow as a person. When I came to Sapporo four years ago, I could not speak much Japanese, so communication was an issue. I am now working as a teacher at a university in Sapporo and can teach my class entirely in Japanese. Apparently nothing is impossible in the Land of the Rising Sun!

Hokkaido University is a very international place and being here has allowed me to socialize and get to know people from all over the world. Since coming to Japan, I have had a chance to try a real Persian food, learn Indonesian dance and wear traditional Mongolian clothes. I have also had many opportunities to attend Japanese cultural events including meeting kindergarten kids, participating in karate training, learning Japanese calligraphy, taking part in world peace fieldwork and much more. Everyday in Japan brings something new and I look forward to them all!

4年前札幌に来たときにはあまり日本語ができなかった私が、いま札幌の大学で日本語のみで授業をしています。日本では不可能なことはないのです。北大で世界中から来ている留学生と知り合い、さまざまな国の文化を体験しました。日本の文化である空手や書道なども体験しました。日本では、毎日新しいものとの出会いがあります。これからもその出会いが楽しみです。



### John Steve Kabore

Ph.D student of Hokkaido University  
Graduate School of Engineering  
(Burkina Faso)

## My Japan Encounter 私と日本の出会い

I have found Japan to be a very interesting country. For me, a fan of Aikido and manga, the opportunity to study in Japan is a once in a lifetime adventure. However, I think I will never forget my first day. A friend of mine told me once, "making mistakes is the best way to learn."

I arrived at Chitose Airport, and bought a train ticket to Sapporo. I got on the train, tore the ticket into pieces and threw it away, as I always do in my home country. I arrived at Sapporo station and was stopped at the automatic gate. In order to get out of the station, I needed that ticket! I had to buy another ticket. It was my first encounter with the country of rising sun.

日本は本当に面白い国です。私の国では、電車の切符は乗るときにだけ必要です。千歳空港に到着し、札幌駅行き電車に乗ると、私はすぐに切符を破り捨てました。ところが、札幌駅を出ようとしたら、自動改札機が閉まりました。外に出る時も切符が必要だったのです！また切符を買いはめになりました。



### Keiko Asano

President of Furubira International  
Exchange Association  
(Japan)

## To Seek the True International Exchange 国際交流のより良い姿を求めて

The Furubira International Exchange has welcomed over 1000 international students from 90 countries. Four important things have emerged from our experiences:

1. We treat students as our family and invite them to enjoy home-cooking, as well as Japanese customs and culture.
2. We ask students to introduce their countries and culture to us to enhance mutual understanding.
3. We try to build life-long friendships. We take pride in having many repeat visitors, who motivate us to work even harder!
4. These experiences help in building trust with each other.

古平国際交流協会で26年間、会長として活動を続けてこられた浅野恵子さんは、国際交流の仕事をするにあたって、つぎの4つのことが大事だと考えています。

1. 留学生を家族として迎えること、
2. 古平の子供たちが異文化に触れうる機会にすること、
3. 長くお付き合いをつづけること、
4. 信頼関係を築くこと。



Sameh El Morsy

PhD student of Hokkaido University  
Graduate School of Medicine  
(Egypt)

## The 2013 Year-end Party 2013年末の会

In December, the International Relations Office of the Graduate School of Medicine continued its custom of an annual year end party. As a member of the team, we did our best to make the day comfortable and joyful, while as an international student I was looking forward to attending the party as I consider it a nice opportunity to broaden my knowledge and connections by spending time with people from different countries in a relaxing and casual atmosphere.

The party was gorgeous. It started with the everlasting tradition of group photo and ended with the bingo game when those lucky people got their presents. Throughout the party we had a generous buffet of dishes from Indonesia, Japan, Jamaica, India and Egypt. For kids it was also charming as they could play in their dedicated corner and they received their New Year gifts as well. Finally, as expected, we enjoyed the party and had a great time.

12月に国際連携室の「年末の会」が開かれました。私は支援スタッフの一員として楽しい会になるように尽くす一方、一留学生として会に参加することを楽しみにしていました。くつろいだ雰囲気の中で、いろいろな国の人たちと知り合い、話ができるからです。会は恒例となった参加者の集合写真の撮影で始まり、ビンゴゲームで幕を閉じました。子供たちは特別に用意されたコーナーで遊び、プレゼントももらいました。参加者は各国の料理を楽しみました。



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