

Inside the Television Set

同志社国際高等学校1年 齐藤萌荣

As a child of an international correspondent of a television station, I have, from a young age, watched my father fly all over the world and report from various locations. One day, he would have a big suitcase, and would tell me to be good and that he would bring home presents. Since I was only four years old at that time, I did not understand where or why he was going away. A few days later, I would marvel at the sight of my father talking inside the television set.

More than 10 years later, I found myself wondering about my future. What do I want to become? What choices should I make? I knew, definitely, that I wanted an occupation where I could 'feel' the world in some way. I also knew that I wished to work across the world and connect the different countries and cultures to each other. I wandered through many career options but the majority of those choices, I felt, were lacking a certain something. After much deliberation, I realized that there was a perfect career choice for me. A job where I would be able to be at the actual scene of what the world is interested in at the moment, a job where I would be able to see myself as a Japanese citizen from an objective point of view, and a job where I could become a small part of the bridge connecting the international community; an international reporter, just like my father.

The first reason I found the position as an international

reporter attractive is the ability to be at the actual scene of what the world is interested in at the moment. Now that my father has moved to a different position within the television station, I do not see him giving reports any more. However, I still continue to marvel at my father's stories of how he met with 'this person', or how he actually went to 'that place'. For example, during his term, my father was blessed with the opportunity of meeting with various renowned people, such as Koizumi Junichiro, Al Gore, Tony Blair, and Ogata Sadako, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. My father was there at the Pakistan coup in 99' and the Zimbabwe general election at the year 2000. He also repeatedly visited the Kosovo refugee camp from the fall of 98' to the summer of 2001. He also introduced the best selling novel series, Harry Potter to Japan by an exclusive interview with J. K. Rowling, the author of the novel. I was intrigued by my father's experience, and gradually, started to think how wonderful it would be to be on the other side of the television. I realized that I wanted to be there and have something to do with the actual place and the actual events that the world was interested in at the moment.

Secondly, I wished to become an international reporter because I wanted to gain an objective perspective towards myself as a Japanese citizen, by getting to know the different cultures around the world. Being an international reporter, it is expected for me to fly across the world and meet new people with different life styles, religions, perspectives, and ideas; all of them different to what I am accustomed to, in this small country. By experiencing and gaining knowledge about these different cultures around the globe, the

positive points and the negative points of being Japanese are expected to come into view. For example, it is a widely acknowledged fact that the Japanese tend to follow, rather than to lead, compared to the western countries. However, at the same time, the Japanese are acknowledged for their skillfulness in producing some of the finest, safest electrical products in the world, reflecting the nation's perseverance and craftsmanship, compared to the western countries. This is just one example of how the positive points and the negative points of the Japanese might come into light by comparing with the different countries. Discovering the different life styles, cultures, religions, perspectives, and ideas existing in the different countries, and comparing it with the corresponding Japanese versions of those elements, I believe, would make me able to break away from the restricting perspective that I possess-a perspective that comes from being born and raised in a single country for most of my life- and be able to see myself from an objective point of view.

The third reason why I wanted to become an international reporter is because I wanted to connect the world in some way. For many people in our world today, the connection between the various countries plays a major role in life. For example, Japan's economy relies heavily on the sales within the international market. A company that a family member works for may have an international partner, and because of the revolutionary inventions such as the telephone and the internet, we are able to acquire new friends around the globe and make contact with them everyday. So much information is exchanged across the world daily, and that vast amount of information helps us become aware of the diverse people,

cultures, and perspectives around the world. The more the information we obtain, the more we are able to grow as human beings, rich with the understanding of different life styles, cultures, religions, perspectives, and ideas. I realized that becoming an international reporter was one of the ways I could become a part of the bridge connecting and supporting the exchange of the vast amount of information. I would be able to become one of the pillars supporting the international world, and would be able to change many people's lives around the globe.

Becoming an international reporter is not an easy task, to say the least. Even so, I would have a certain passion for this job, for I would be able to connect the world and become a bridge to the international community, gain knowledge about the diverse cultures around the world and rediscover who I am and what traits I have as a Japanese citizen, and actually be at the scene or meet with the actual people and feel, with my own skin, what the world is interested in at the moment. These are some of the things that a person may acquire by choosing to become an international reporter. However, as mentioned earlier, it is not a job that everyone can obtain. A great number of people around the world crave to win the position as an international reporter, but the only few who are skilled enough to report the truth of the situation articulately, with integrity are chosen. I am aware of how much I will have to sacrifice to obtain this position; I have already begun my long journey towards my dream. In another ten years, *I* may be the one with the big suit case, telling my kids to be good and that I would bring home presents. How wonderful that would be.