

Being Internationally Me

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Several decades ago the world was a smaller place. People took in pride for only their country, didn't appreciate different diversities and cultures, racism was always in our eyes. Now it feels as if the world has opened up its doors and learned to accept internationalism and many of the countries have built strong bonds with neighboring countries. Even countries that have been through some tough times these past few years are taking advantage of the "international boom" and learning new languages and opening up companies around the world. China, India, Philippines', and hundreds of places around the world are starting to open the doors to the real world and earning their place in society and so am I.

As small as I can remember myself being my mother has always wanted me and my siblings to live in different parts of the world and see what other countries were like. Traveling and moving about on a year to year basis wasn't unusual for us at all. We all loved to travel and my mother wanted me to be able to diverse with the world and experience places and people that most children couldn't. In my 14 years alive I have been to over 20 places around the world and on along the way I have learned 3 languages, English, Spanish, and Japanese. As many people that see me know I am what they call in Japan mixed. I am British, Irish, Korean, Maltese,

and Japanese.

For me being only 14 and still young I am deciding to keep my future goals broad but one thing I know for sure is that I would like to be part of an international job that requires being bilingual and traveling abroad often. Even if I did start out early as a kid compared to the average Japanese student I haven't seen enough of the world yet and hope to keep learning more. Occupations that I am very interested in for the future is a flight attendant, international lawyer/judge, translator, and international model. In any occupation for anyone in the world being bilingual and knowing how to communicate well with people will help.

Right now in the world people are eager to learn English, Chinese, and Spanish. In my opinion knowing these 3 languages could help you a lot and take you far along the way. In Asia, Chinese is a main language and used worldwide because recently China is accomplishing a lot in technology and economically. Don't forget that China is also the world's most populated country. As for Spanish it is the most spoken language in Europe South America, and Mexico. Even when you travel to America you will find that over 45 million people speak Spanish as their primary or as their first language. And as for English we all know how important that is.

English is an international language used worldwide and one can say the most important. As a business woman/man or in any

occupation, getting hired is learned to be a lot easier when you know a second language. Many people around the world have learned to speak English and maybe even a 3rd or 4th language but from living in Japan I think that there are not enough bilingual people. Japan is one of the world's leading countries in technology, science, and economics but many of them only know Japanese. Those who do know English usually know about 3 languages all together, making the difference between those educated bilingually and those who aren't, severe.

In many parts of Japan now, private and public schools are opening up their doors to students that wanted to study abroad. Even my school Doshisha International we have many children like us come and visit our school to learn about the Japanese culture and many of our students go abroad to study as well. This has started a while back in countries like America where bilingual people and people of mixed races were not rare but it has become popular in Japan recently and is still growing.

Although many of us in Japan are thinking about working in companies that work internationally most of us are not thinking about going to a university outside of Japan. Think about famous universities around the world... there is Harvard, Oxford, Yale, MIT, Cambridge; etc. Living in Japan I have learned that Tokyo University and Kyoto University are the two most famous and difficult colleges to get in but compared to recent scores of universities abroad they don't make the cut. Companies in Japan that are spreading and

deciding to open in places like India or China are numerous as well. From a while back you could look for the manufacturing country for a toy, garlic, make up or even electronics and you will usually find the words MADE IN CHINA and that isn't about to stop now.

When you compare today to 20 years ago you will realize many changes that were made to teach future adults about communication and international exchange. 20 years ago you would not have found Spanish, French, or English classes offered at a local public school. Seeing a white or black family in a subway in Japan would have sent eyes darting but now I can sit in a train and nobody would glance at me twice. If you decide to take a break and dine in at McDonalds you wouldn't be surprised to find high school teens studying out of English book either. When you look hard enough you will realize how much Japan has changed and how big the changes get every day.

By the time I am an adult I am hoping to be able to speak Chinese fluently like my brother. Being bilingual will not only broaden my options in life but I think that it will also bring countries and people of different races together. I hope that people we once discriminated and called immigrants will be called friends and welcomed to not only Japan but to any of the 195 countries that surround us. In my essay I didn't get into detail about my personal goal because a big goal for me in the future is to teach children about the world and encourage Japan to spread their culture and gain wisdom form others.

Now take a step out and be international.