

## Mind the Gap! Cross-cultural communication

大島 希巳江

### スホーヅツツの在り方

最近はずんずんが熱いです。日本出身の選手が活躍していることで、アメリカでも大きな話題を呼んでいます。アメリカにも注目ですが、選手のちょっとした「エスパー」や「スーパー」にも注目があつて面白いのです。実は我が家は、大の「スホーヅツ」ファンで、毎日のように「スホーヅツ」を観戦して、隣のstate tournamentに出場するほど「スホーヅツ」が大好きです。また、「スホーヅツ」や「クロスカット」や「空手」など、スホーヅツならなんでもやる体育会系。そんなわけで、今回はアメリカの「スホーヅツ」についてお話ししたいと思います。

The first things I noticed at junior tennis tournaments in Oregon were the good manners and genuine sportsmanship of the children. When a player shoots an ace, the other player generally acknowledges it with praise, saying, "Nice shot!" and clapping a small show of applause with the racket. When a shot takes a bounce over the net (falling into the opponent's side) it's considered a lucky shot, and the player whose stroke goes in usually says "sorry," or shows some gesture of apology. It feels good to see both players showing that kind of respect and appreciation for each other. Parents on both sides, as well as the gallery, cheer for everyone, not only for their own child or team-mate. Good shots are praised by players on both sides.

アメリカでの「スホーヅツ」は、アメリカの「スホーヅツ」の良き、真摯なスホーヅツです。試合の相手が「エス」を打てば、やられた方の選手は「チアス」を叫び、「エス」がネットに当たって相手側のコートに落ちます。

## Ideal to discover Japan

In this column, participants and former participants of the JET Programme will share their experiences and insights into foreign language education and cultural exchange in Japan.

I'm Imogen Malpas, a first-year Assistant Language Teacher in Nagasaki Prefecture. Originally from England, I'm now working for Nagasaki Prefecture at Naru High School, the only high school in Narushima, Goto islands.

I often wonder how many other JET participants, before leaving for Japan, sat through a large number of conversations that went like this: No, I've never been to Japan before. No, I don't speak a word of Japanese. Yes, I'll be living in the middle of nowhere. Yes, I'm sure everything will be fine. I also wonder how many of us started to get indignant after the third or fourth repetition. After all, I was selling myself short; I knew over 10 Japanese words, all to do with food. I figured that would get me by just fine.

My questioners had a point, though: Naru Island might well be the spiritual home of the phrase "the middle of nowhere." Nestled in the middle of the Goto Islands, it's home to 2,000 people, a somewhat famous church, and a significant cat population. Even for Japanese people, it's the opposite of well-known. When trying to explain where I lived to the owner of a Kyoto hostel, she had to pull her phone out to find it — on her wall map of Japan, Goto remained unprinted, lying somewhere off the edge of the corkboard. "Off the edge" is another appropriate descriptor — patchy phone signal, convoluted transport links and zero convenience stores



The Japan Exchange and Teaching (JET) Programme is administered through the collaboration of Japan's local and national government authorities and promotes grass-roots internationalisation at the local level. Learn more: <http://www.jetprogramme.org>



My white-haired neighbour, who I often see intently playing solitaire on an ancient PC as I go to school in the mornings, brings me fresh vegetables from his garden when he sees me coming home. Even the cats sometimes let me pet them. Every single sunset, without exception, is glorious. It's a world away — many worlds away — from London, and I thank my lucky stars to have been allowed in.

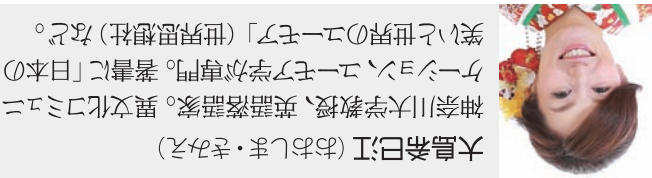
次回は3月14日に掲載予定です



Dusk falls over coastal road in southern Naru  
Courtesy of Imogen Malpas

## MUSINGS

編集手帳



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トをやりました、1ヶ月前のことやりました。試合中もお互いの出身地や年齢などについておしゃべりしたりして友達になります。試合の後に勝っても負けても「いい試合だったね、ありがとう」とお互いをたたえ合います。勝った選手は戦ってくれた相手に対して「いいプレイだったよ」と声をかけます。

日本のテニス選手たちも、多くの場合は試合後にきちんと挨拶をします。勝っても負けても、一生懸命プレイしてくれたことには、お互いに感謝です。負けても、相手選手に敬意を払って感謝する姿勢が見られます。スホーヅツを重視する姿勢が見られます。

Players are taught to play fair. If, for some reason, they happen not to agree with a line judgment or a score, players may talk about it among themselves. They might replay the point in question or even end up replaying a whole game. Between games, players can casually talk with one another about where they are from, or how old they are — sometimes even laugh, and become friends. At the end of each match, they politely tell each other, "It was a good match, thank you." The victor might praise the challenger his opponent presented with kind words, such as, "You played well!"

選手たちはとにかくフェアに試合することを教えられていきます。ラインの判断が気に入らなければ、もう一度手動で話し合います。結果としてもう一度そのライン手動で話し合います。

Illustration by Masahito Yano

Good players are usually players with good manners and sportsmanship. Players who cheat or are rude might win sometimes, but there are few who can progress far in the game. Competition and playing sports is not all about defeating an enemy. It's about improving each other's skill, appreciating having good players to play with, learning from each other, and setting and achieving goals. Practice hard, and then go have fun at tournaments.

うまい選手は、たいしていいプレイヤーも良くスホーヅツをプレイのこつたプレイヤーをします。うそをついたり態度が悪かったりする選手は、しばらくはその方法で勝てますが長続きはしないでしょう。スホーヅツをするということは、敵をやっつけるということではないと思います。お互いの技術を向上させ、試合してつくれる相手がいるといふことに感謝し、お互いから学び、自分のゴールを達成することが大事です。練習は一生懸命に、試合は楽しく、が一番です。

楽しいと世界のユーモア」(世界思想社)など。

## VOCABULARY

(2018年X月X日付 読者新聞)