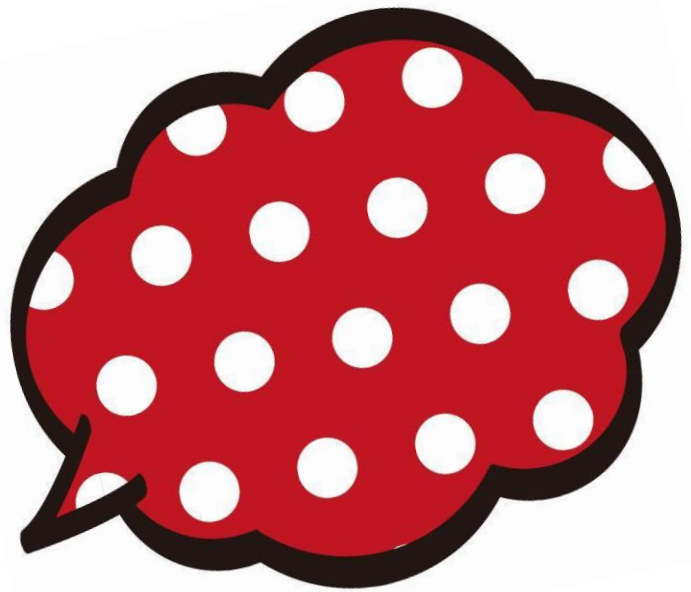


ESL Speech Contest 2014



October 29, 2014



YOKKAICHI UNIVERSITY

English Support Lounge

SPEAKERS

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★**First Prize**.....**Ryota Niwa / Nepal Satis**

★★★**Third Prize**.....**Himala Kumari Tamang**

★★★★**Fourth Prize**.....**Junpei Tachi**

Chathura Madushan

Kazunari Ito

★★★★★**Encouragement Prize****Yumi Katoh**

Mie Prefecture

Ryota Niwa

Hello, everyone! My name is Ryota Niwa.

I'm a fourth year student in the Faculty of Environment and Information in Yokkaichi University.

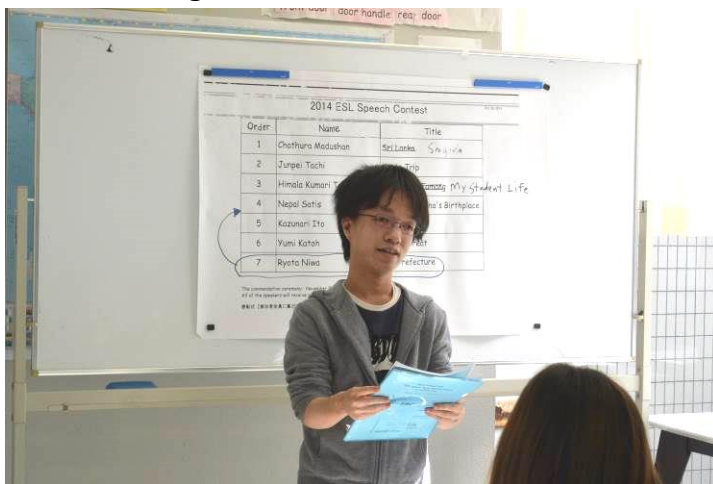
Today, I would like to introduce some interesting facts about Mie Prefecture.

First, do you know Biwako - Lake Biwa - in Shiga? Actually, this lake was born in Iga city in Mie four million years ago. After that, it moved up north with movements in the earth's crust to reach its current location around four hundred thousand years ago.

Speaking of Iga city, it is well known as the site of a Ninja village.

To commemorate this, on April 12, 2001, all the city council members attended a council meeting wearing NINJA costumes. This is the photo.

They have done the same sort of thing several times. Many people like it, and it has had a good effect on tourism.



Mie prefecture as a whole has many special district commodities including, for example, green tea, spiny lobsters (Ise Ebi), pearls, candles, and even vending machines.

Yes, there is a fascinating vending machine in Kuwana city. What do you think it sells? The answer is

NATTO. It sells twenty kinds of NATTO. Why not try some of them someday.

Why don't you try looking out for interesting points about your residential area? You can find good topics to entertain your friends.

Thank you very much.

My Student Life

Himala Kumari Tamang

Today I am going to talk about my student life in Japan. I choose this topic because I want to share my experiences with you, as well as some of the things I have learned.

I came over from Nepal on October 5th, 2011. Usually, visiting another

country in order to study can change our life in many ways. When I become an international student, many things changed in my life, or in fact had to change. I am no longer living with my parents so



I had to learn to be independent. Being in another country helps me learn a lot of things.

At the beginning, I had many difficult situations. The biggest problem of all was with the Japanese language. During my first week in Japan, I decided that I didn't like the food here and I couldn't speak the language. It seemed to me that I couldn't live in Japan. I just missed my parents all the time, and every day I felt lonely. I had many problems here, too. I have had all kinds of struggles here. It can't be compared to any other experience in my life. But now I find that I have gotten to meet new people. And I have had to learn to speak in a different language. At the same time, I learn about a different culture.

In this way, I have had many valuable experiences that make me see that it has done me good to come here. That thought makes me happy. I think my struggles here are helping me become a better person.

Sigiriya

K.M. Chatura Madushan

Today my topic is the Sri Lanka world heritage site of Sigiriya. I'm from Sri Lanka and I want to share this beautiful place with you!

Sigiriya is an ancient palace located in the central province in Sri Lanka. The name of the rock it is built on, Sigiriya, refers to a lion because the entrance of the palace has huge stone lions' feet on two sides. If someone climbs through the lion's feet, it feels like you are in lion's mouth. The rock is nearly two hundred meters high. King Kasyapa selected this site for his palace after his father's death for better protection against his brother who was



trying to kill him.

The huge palace is a masterpiece of enormous historical and archeological value. King Kasyapa was a great artist who had creative ideas. That's why Sigiriya offers so many frescoes of ancient urban life. The mirror wall gardens

are the best example of this.

There is no doubt that the frescoes are the most famous features of Sigiriya. People come to Sri Lanka from all round the world for this, and they are also an attraction for students of the arts, history and archeology. The female frescoes represent princesses and maidservants of King. The fair ladies are princesses and the dark ones are servants.

The other outstanding feature is the so-called mirror wall. It was so highly polished that the king could see himself reflected in it. Later it became inscribed with poems. There are lots of gardens, too, such as water gardens, rock gardens, and terraced gardens.

All of these features combine to make Sigiriya a great masterpiece. As a Sri Lankan, I'm so happy to tell you about this creation of our forefathers.

Sigiriya today is a UNESCO listed world heritage site. It is the most visited

historic site in Sri Lanka. In fact, it is a mainstay of Sri Lankan tourism. I really hope you will come to Sigiriya someday.



Kyoto Trip

Jumpei Tachi

Hello. My name is Jumpei Tachi. Today I will talk about a trip I took to Kyoto in January this year with three friends. This was important to me because it was my first experience of traveling with friends like this and we got to know each other better on the trip.

We went by car, and spent two nights away. We stayed at the Hotel Honnoji because I had stayed at that hotel on my elementary school trip to Kyoto. The first night, we went up the Kyoto Tower. There were hundreds of people there. The next day we went to Kinkaku-ji where we had the Monja-Yaki for lunch. It was delicious. After that, we went to Kiyomizu-Dera, but we were not able to see it because it was being restored.

One major problem on this second day of the trip was that all four of us caught colds. We had stayed up all night, and maybe this was our punishment. I learned that looking after your health is important on a trip.

We went to the zoo on the last day, but we were only able to see a little of it because it had construction work going on, too. It's a good idea to check

places you want to visit on the internet or at the hotel, to see if there is work going on at the time you plan your visit.

It was a very enjoyable trip, but I wanted to go to more places. That is why I mean to go to Kyoto again one

more time. We are planning to go back again next year. I learned a lot of things on the first trip, and I'm looking forward very much to the next one. Thank you for listening.



Whisky

Kazunari Ito

My favorite alcoholic drink is whisky. Whisky is a fantastic product. I will tell you about two of its outstanding points.

First, every sort of whisky has a different taste depending on the distillery. You can enjoy a unique taste every time.

Second, whisky has a high alcoholic content, which means it is high in calories. Yet it is not fattening, and it even makes your blood flow more smoothly because it is a cask-matured spirit. I think you might not be familiar with whisky, but why don't you give it a try?!

By the way, my recommended whisky is Ballantine's 12 year scotch. This whisky is clear with a smooth taste, but it also has an intense smoky and honey flavor.

Go easy on the alcohol, though.



