



Fomenting sustainable development and a peaceful world

On December 14th last year, UNESCO was the topic of discussion at the multipurpose room of Kawauchi's Main Library. The afternoon was marked by 2 presentations with the intention of clarifying the role of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the aim of its members towards a "greener" and self-sustained society. With an audience consisting of professors and students of Tohoku University among other members, the spotlight was centered on the guests of honor; Professor Toshiya Ueki and Associate professor Ryuzo Furukawa.



The speakers and the organisers pose for a picture

Professor Ueki began by summarizing the events that led to the creation of UNESCO on November 4th 1946 whose vision, nevertheless, embodies the ideals of the already disbanded International Bureau of Education (IBE) which was founded in 1925. A vision that was blurred by the horrors of World War II until it was reinstated under the current acronym was supported by 20 members of the UN in a conference for the establishment of an educational and cultural organization. During the presentation, the main topics focused on the organization's 15 articles in the constitution, highlighting its mission. It can be summarized as: collaborating towards the mutual

knowledge and understanding among people, spread culture and as well as to maintain, increase and diffuse knowledge. In addition, he presented its organigram; formed by 22 formal associates but can be extended up to 322 global non-governmental organizations. The presenter also mentioned that, due to the nature of the organization, UNESCO took no official position regarding armed conflicts.



Dr. Furukawa explaining about ESD

To call curtains on the lecture, Associate professor Furukawa's presentation focused on ESD and the implementation of its doctrine in Akita Prefecture. ESD (Education for Sustainable Development) fomenting lifelong learning, environmental and social integration while maintaining economic viability. By following its moto "...achieves its purpose by transforming society", the presenter went to a remote village in Toyooka.

Dr. Furukawa in Hyogo organized a series of workshops regarding vegetable cultivation, coordinated with the guidelines developed through village elders' hearings. After cultivating enough tubers and vegetables for the winter, and achieving an overall improvement on the village social structure, the professor's prolific plans were acclaimed by the inhabitants. Dr. Furukawa's inspiration locates in Kampung Naga (Indonesia); this hamlet of the village of Neglasari, in the West Java province of Indonesia, is regarded throughout the nation for their tradition for treasuring their remainder

ancestors and the wisdom they have attained which has led them to self-sufficiency, traditional simplicity and environmental wisdom.



Dr. Ueki talking about UNESCO

And so, it concluded. The lecture about an organization aiming towards a better tomorrow by building it today - UNESCO



The audience from SENDAI UNESCO asking a question

*As reported by **Manuel Campos***

Reader's Choice: What to Read Next?

This section introduces a-book-a-month to feed your grey matter with intellect and emotion from the selection available at Tohoku University Main Library. Sit back and let's read!

The story revolves around a family of five comprising parents and three children namely Roberta (also known as Bobbie), Peter and Phyllis who lived in a red-brick-fronted villa in London. They lived a very happy life and had everything that they wanted until father had to leave for some business work as said by their mother but no one knew the facts.

They had to leave their London home and move to the countryside and settle in a much smaller house which was quite messy. Their mother made a living by writing stories, articles, poems, etc.

One day in search of a garden they land up behind their house only to find a railway track where they met Perks the porter. They always waved at the 9.15 train since that train went to London and assuming their father was in London, they wanted to convey their good wishes. This continued every day.

Once when their mother fell ill, they wrote to Dr. Forrest (the doctor who was treating their mother) that he will be paid either by their father or by Peter when he grows up and confirms through an IOU. They thanked the doctor later after their mother got well. Though they lived a humble life but their mother always celebrated the children's birthdays. By virtue of their close proximity to the railways they also befriended the Station Master and learned about the Railway Engine.

They happened to meet a Russian writer, and was surprised to know that unlike England people were sent to prison in Russia for saying anything which is not in the interest of the rich and aristocrat Tsars, for a book which only tells us how to help poor people this Russian gentleman was sent to behind the bars for 3-years.

Once they averted a train accident when they saw that the tracks were being covered with

stones near the tunnel, and so they used a red flannel petticoat to wave it as a flag and stop the train, and thus averted the accident. For this they were awarded by Mr. Jabez Inglewood – Secretary, Great Northern & Southern Railway Co. Their heroics also included when they prevented a house from catching fire. Once they also found a young boy Jim who was lying unconscious in the tunnel with a fractured leg. They treated Jim at their house till his grandfather took him away.

Once they saw three people coming out of the 11.54 train. Roberta quickly identified that the third man was their father. Roberta or Bobbie calls her dad in and the family is happily reunited.

The story ends where the author says “Neither we nor anyone else is wanted now”

A simple story about the lives of 3 children living near the railway tracks cannot be told in a better way than this. It has the power to move even the hardest heart. Edith Nesbit has surely brought the liveliness through his words as if it were a real story. The best thing about the story is that no one is the bad-bad-guy. No one is a miscreant. I think very few stories have it. A must-read book for people of all ages...

Book: *The Railway Children*

Author : *Edith Nesbit (Retold by Karen Holmes)*

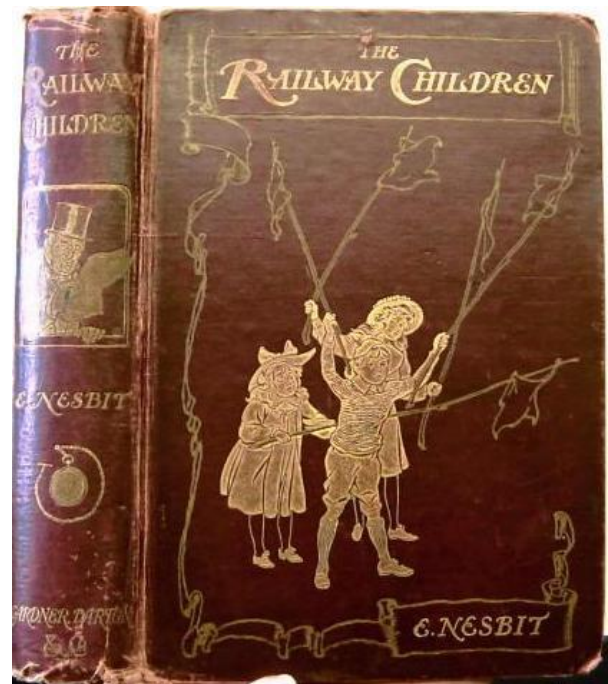
Publisher : *Pearson Education*

Barcode No. : *00090327162*

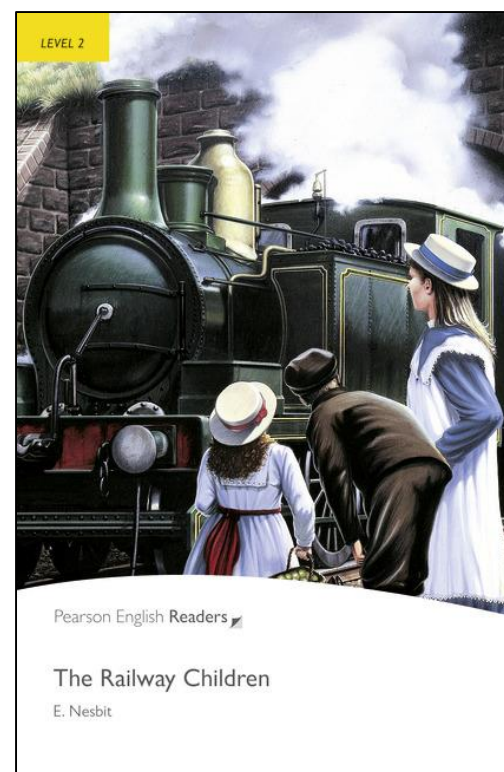
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Reviewd by Trishit Banerjee



Wikimedia Commons – The Railway Children



Pearson Education Copy – The Railway Children

My Hometown : Cheongju

In this column, we introduce our hometowns to make you familiar with the culture and the best things to do!

House of Woonbo

Hello everyone! I am Lee (李) from the International Students' Concierge of the Tohoku University Main Library. My hometown is Cheongju in South Korea. This city is located in the central region of the country and has a population of approximately 846,000 people. With the presence of large number of schools and therefore, the ratio of high school-to-inhabitants is high. Therefore, Cheongju is popularly known as "the city of education".

Chojeong (椒井藥水)

Also, my city has one of the world's 3 major mineral springs, the other two being in the US and England. It's called Chojeong (椒井藥水). During the Joseon (朝鮮) dynasty, the king who introduced the hangul syllabary in the Korean language, was suffering from a skin disease but, he is said to have been cured by the water of Chojeong. Since then, it has been well known across the country.

Munui Cultural Properties Site

In addition to this, there are many cultural relics and also the world first metal type printings. About the latter, we have CDs and books in our library. So, if you are curious about it, please have a look at them. For those who are interested in Cheongju, its website is available in Chinese, Japanese, and English. Please feel free to visit the URL below:

<http://tour.cheongju.go.kr/etour/index.do>

Korea

← cheongju

"Jikji" world first metal type printing

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As expressed by **Lee**

Yang's corner

"An evening in the library"

傍晚图书馆的故事

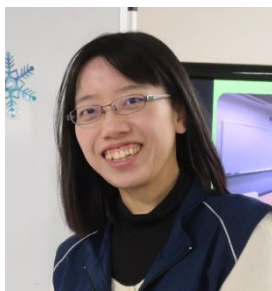
This is the story of what happens on a regular day in the life of the international students that work in the Main Counter of the Tohoku University Main Library.

As one may expect, there are sad and happy moments. Can you relate to this story?

About the author: Yang Yan is a third year PhD student at The Graduate School of International Cultural Studies. She has been drawing since a young age and wished to become a cartoonist in the future. As her first work, this marks the beginning of her career. Let's support her publication!



Editors



Lin, I-Chia (林宜佳)

A graduate student of International Cultural Studies from Taiwan, she loves listening to music and reading children's literature which full of illustrations. "Peace begins with a smile" is her favorite quote.

Manuel Campos



A graduate student of medicine from Venezuela, he loves to travel, write and cook. "Hard times forge steel smiles," is what he believes. Did we tell you that he speaks English, Japanese and Spanish?



Yang Yan (楊妍)

Yang, from China, loves to write comic strips! A graduate student of international cultural studies, she believes that none of us should ever forget our first resolution. Interested in her work? Check out the next issue for her manga!

**Trishit Banerjee
[Editor-in-Chief]**



From the land of Buddha - India, Trishit loves to read, write and travel. A student of chemistry, he can speak 5 languages! "Pick up a good book and open up your world," is what he believes in.

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