



15th Global Session Manga Day!

The 15th Global Session Manga Day! Held on July 4th in the Main Library. The concierge members along with Assistant Professor Olga Kopylova from Tohoku University Faculty of Arts and Letters presented about comics from their countries as well as their favorite Japanese comic titles.

First, Marina from the Innovative Japanese Studies presented about “Monica and Friends”, a popular Brazilian comic book for children that has been translated in more than 20 different languages, even in Indonesian and in Japanese. Monica’s writer, Mauricio de Sousa, was a personal friend of Osamu Tezuka, so his drawings were influenced by Japanese comics and sometimes Tezuka’s characters appear on Monica’s stories. She also talked about her favorite Japanese comic called “Fruits Basket” based on the legend of the 12 Chinese zodiac signs. She showed the participants the new animation preview video of the manga that is being aired on TV this year, and shared her impressions of the story when she read it in high school.



Then, Andi from Religious Studies presented about the history of Indonesian comics, focusing on how they changed from the colonial influence of the Dutch to encompass Indonesian

culture as well as import comics from around the world, including Japan. Indonesia has a long history of storytelling traditions that continue to inspire the nation’s arts, cultures, and social practices. Along with the development of literate culture, some of the archipelagoes have diverse story-telling cultures from pre-literate to literate. Media change from temple relief, which tells stories about Ramayana story to the shadow puppet show and dance performance practices is proof that storytelling traditions have developed to the other level. Moreover, traditional Indonesian storytelling is more than entertainment, as stories often convey information about the spiritual and nature that we can see in Song poem, which tells about Tsunami sign warning from the ancient ancestors.



The last presenter was Assistant Professor Kopylova, who introduced to the participants the academic manga research field, focusing on Seika University research program from where she graduated. Assistant Professor Kopylova also brought her favorite titles to the students to read along with drawing materials such as papers, pens and ink. She explained the process of drawing a comic and how the artists’ own drawings change along with the years as their technic improves.



After the presentation the participants were asked to draw their own 4-koma manga. Marina drew a sample comic about her experience riding a bus in Japan and forgetting to wait for the door to open before getting up from the seat. The participants then drew about funny things that happened to them while in Japan and how they reacted. Each comic was then exhibited in the Global Learning Room.



As reported by **Marina Nascimento**
& **Andi Holik Ramdani**

Let's learn about university libraries in the world

Introduction to Beijing Normal University (BNU / 北京師範大學)

Beijing Normal University is a public university located in Beijing, China, close to Tiananmen Square. It is one of the oldest and most prestigious universities in China. It is a renowned institution in education, and the arts and sciences. In 1902 the Normal College of the Imperial University of Peking was founded. Then in 1923 the school name was changed to Beijing Normal University, making it the first Normal University in Chinese history. In the 20th century the term "normal school" indicated an institution which focused in training school teachers. Nowadays such institutions have gained university status, but still keep the terminology in the name. BNU has been described as a progressive institution since many of its students have been known to participate in political and social movements. In 2002 BNU had its centennial celebration.

Throughout the years BNU has produced a number of notable scholars and intellectuals such as Guan Moye, better known as Mo Yan, who was awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature in 2012 or Yuan Guiren the former Minister of Education of China.

Main building

<https://english.bnu.edu.cn/phtoslide/photo/001.jpg>

History of the library

The library was initially built in 1923 and it merged the library of Peiping Women's College of Education and the library of Fu Jen

Catholic University. In 1959, a second library in the northern part of campus was built. The current main library was completed in 2011 covering an area of over 35,000 square meters.

The libraries at BNU consist of the Main Library (North and South building), three branch libraries (Education library, Law library, and Continuing Education Library), and five subject reference rooms (math, folklore, history, art, and biology).

The BNU library has a collection of over 4.9 million print items. The library has a large collection of books that focus on education and humanities. Material includes regulations, training textbooks, and reports from all over the country since the end of the Qing Dynasty. Additionally, there is a special collection of ancient thread-bound books that have been handwritten or block printed from Song, Yuan, Ming, and Qing Dynasties.

One interesting feature of the library is the seating arrangement system. This system manages the seats throughout the library. For those who are interested in using one of the seats, he or she can choose a seat on the library's seat arrangement machine or on the Seat Arrangement System app.

Main Library

The Main Library at BNU has an extensive collection of materials. The 2nd floor has the Ancient Books area, the 4th floor houses Chinese books, and on the 8th floor there are foreign language books. Journals, newspapers, and references books can be found at southern building of the library.

Library Building

<http://www.lib.bnu.edu.cn/content/guan-she-feng-mao>

BNU Campus

There are also student dormitories on campus. The dormitories are housed in a traditional Chinese house and have a courtyard. In this dormitory one room may be shared between 4 or 6 people. Fortunately the rent is extremely cheap, the total rent for one year is about ¥10,000.

Between the mathematics and physics building, there is a small garden. This garden provides the perfect respite to any student. If you happen to come to this garden in the morning, you will come across students reading out loud in various languages. As a student at the Foreign Language Academy, I often came to this garden to practice my Japanese.

Treasures of BNU

While I was at university, the older students taught me that BNU had three treasures: Mu Duo, crows, and women.

Mu Duo

On the southern part of campus there is a 12 meter sculpture of a bell. This sculpture is known as Mu Duo and was donated to the university during the Centennial Festival in 2002. In ancient China Mu Duo was used to announce new laws and regulations to the population – Mu Duo can also refer to a person who educates the world. Due to its symbolism Mu Duo is found in the university's badge.

Normal University and is managed by the students of the Arts and Media Academy.

As reported by **Lu Hailan**(鲁海兰)

My hometown: Yangon

In this column, we introduce the hometowns of our members, giving you glimpse into the culture and the best things to do!

Whosoever is not excited by the idea of introducing his or her hometown to others from different places? Hello! I am Thiri, studying master course in Language Science Program of the Graduate School of International Cultural Studies, Tohoku University.

Mu Duo

https://www.wikiwand.com/en/Beijing_Normal_University

Crows

Apart from gardens, many birds can be seen around the university. BNU is notoriously famous for crows. The autumn and winter seasons bring many crows to and around campus. The east gate road, where the majority of the crows are concentrated, is informally referred to as the “road of angels.”

The road of angels

<https://www.bnu.edu.cn/xysh/xyfg/86735.htm>

Women

The student population at Beijing Normal University is overwhelmingly comprised of women. The Art Department, which again has a huge presence of women, is highly ranked among Chinese universities. Additionally, the “Chinese University Film Festival,” a widely known event in China, is sponsored by Beijing

The Map of Myanmar

<https://www.worldatlas.com/as/mm/06/where-is-yangon.html>

I come from Myanmar, one of South East Asia’s Countries, sharing borders with China, Laos, and Thailand in the east and Bangladesh and India in the north. Myanmar is an extremely ethnically diverse nation, comprising 14 provinces and 7 states. My hometown Yangon is the biggest city in the country, locating at the lower part of the country. It was formally called *Rangoon* and it was the capital city of Myanmar until 2005. Being the biggest and once the capital city of the country, it can be considered as the most developed place of the country with many private businesses, foreign embassies, religious buildings, several colleges and universities, market centers, and parks offering so many places and activities to be explored.

Not only being the important commercial city, Yangon is the first place that international tourists arrive by air. Many tour programs offered for travelling starts and ends in Yangon because it is the center of all domestic flights and other modes of transportation that commutes throughout the country. This is the advantage of the city in terms of transportation.

Yangon's Landmark, over 2600 years old Shwedagon Pagoda
http://www.dtac.jp/asia/myanmar/entry_6.php

With its crowded population, the city is alive day and night like all other major cities around the world. Heavy traffic congestion is a good reason for a traveler, instead of spending time waiting in the car, to walk around in the city center with amazingly delicious and cheap local street food, meet people, and enjoy shopping in downtown area with the mixture of modern buildings, British colonial architecture and several gilded pagodas. The story of Myanmar being called Golden Land is for its gold gilded pagodas more than you can ever imagine. One of the breathtaking places you will never want to miss in Yangon is the 326-foot-tall Shwedagon Pagoda, the most sacred Buddhist Pagoda in Myanmar. During the late night and early morning visits, the sounds of the bronze bells coming from the top of the pagoda, the floral scent of jasmine and roses offered to the pagoda, and some few pilgrims meditating- all these things will let you experience the coolest and the most peaceful moment of the day.

View of Karaweik Hall at Kandawgyi Lake in Yangon
http://www.dtac.jp/asia/myanmar/entry_6.php

Boggoke Aung San Market, formerly called Scott's Market, is a major bazaar where a shopper will be attracted by its variety of stalls selling all Myanmar's cultural handicrafts. A day time and your plan to visit around other places for the day will be distracted in that amazing maze of bazaar.

Yangon' Popular Street Food, Mont-Lin-Ma-Ya
<https://www.gomyanmartours.com/myanmar-paradise-street-food/>

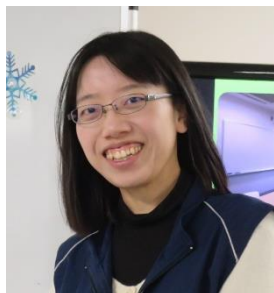
People' Favourite,
King of the dessert, Faluda
<https://ja.wikipedia.org/wiki/ファールーダ>

Another Must-try Food, Shan Noodle
<https://www.ab-road.net/asia/myanmar/yangon/guide/08011.html>

*As expressed by **Thiri Soe***

Editors

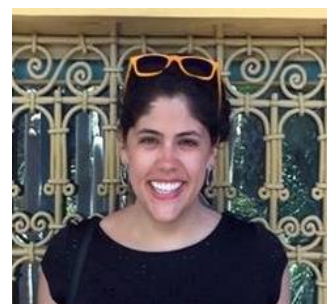
Lin, I-Chia (林宜佳)



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.

Cristy Garciamendez

She is a graduate student of law and philosophy from Mexico. She loves to travel, dance, and read. Her personal motto is: "The more you explore, the more you learn and grow."



Thiri Soe



A language science student from the Graduate School of International Cultural Studies. She is from Myanmar, a land of Golden Pagodas, in South East Asia. Thiri is studying applied linguistics, seeking knowledge to benefit in her teaching profession. Her hobby is cooking and writing. She believes in that things happen for a reason and the reason is to be good.

Andi Holik Ramdani [Editor-in-Chief]

Salam Kenal! A student of religious study and come from Indonesia, a country with thousands island and rich with diversity, Andi love to watch a movie, traveling, and art-design. Active in Tohoku tsunami disaster reconstruction social and mutual activities between Indonesia and Japan, also supporting mutual co-existence program (Tabunka Kyosei) in Sendai through interreligious dialogue.



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