



Tuna Onigiri and other survival stories

On October 18th, the 8th Global Session event "Vivi Sendai – Let's enjoy your life in Sendai!" was held in the Global Learning Room, Tohoku University Main Library. Four speakers from the International Concierge team spoke about their life experiences in Sendai and gave many tips to newcomers on how to adapt to their new lives in Tohoku.

Trishit Banerjee from India spoke about the cheapest grocery shopping tips and the importance of being beware of suspicious old ladies from sects. "Visiting Seiyu after 9 p.m can get you your weekly groceries at a throwaway price," he said. "Also, take care of cult activities hidden as a club activity on and outside the campus. These secret societies can force you to isolate yourself socially and spend a lot of money. If you see any of them, you must report it to the university," he added.



Audience engrossed in finding out ways to ease their lives in Sendai

Ernei Ribeiro from Brazil talked about his love to Tuna Onigiri and explained at length about shopping at convenience stores. "Tuna Onigiri at 7/11 is by far one of the tastiest ones ! I enjoy eating Zaru Soba and Chahan too. Also, Sendai being a cold place, you may

probably need a heater," he said. Ernei also talked about safety in Sendai city and the easy in commuting due to extremely efficient public transport and easily accessible places on foot.



Ernei talking about his love for Tuna Onigiri

Davide Bitti from Italy shared all the secrets of eating and drinking in downtown. "Kokubuncho is definitely a place to explore for interesting drinking spots and Sendai nightlife," he highlighted. Davide made the session interactive with his on-spot writing on computer so that everyone can get well-versed with the commonly used terms for partying in Sendai.



Davide talking about his favourite places to drink. Ever heard of 'Nomikai'?

Kiya Okhlopko from Russia showed ways of how to stay busy in Sendai by participating in various events as a part of different organizations and also gave an opinion of where to

find best part-time job. She also told her “survival story” and revealed a secret of her colored hair.



Kiya talking about her hair colour secrets

We had guests from Colombia, France, Israel, Egypt, China, Japan and etc. and a little ice-breaking game in the beginning of the event helped them to get familiar with each other and warm up the atmosphere. Each speaker received many questions at Q&A sessions, students turned out to be very curious and active listeners.

In a summary, the 8th Global Session event “Vivi Sendai!” gave a new perspective of living in Sendai both to new comers and also to those who have been in Tohoku University for a while. We hope that our guests had as much fun as we did and that our tips and advices were useful.



Post-session group picture with the attendees

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!

On October 31st, the main library held the 9th Global Session mini-talk on “Kazuo Ishiguro’s Works and the Relevancy of Japan” at the Seattle’s Best Coffee in Main Library. The speaker, a member of international Concierge team, spoke about the characterization of Kazuo Ishiguro’s works and the relevancy of Japan.

Kazuo Ishiguro in the Stockholm Stock Exchange during the Swedish Academy's press conference on December 6, 2017. ©Frankie Fouganthin 2017

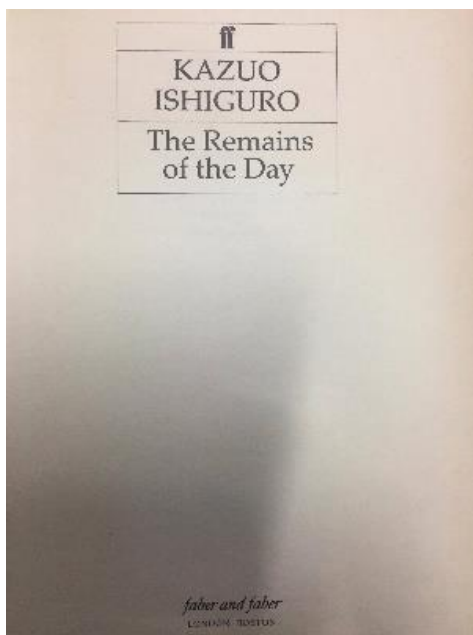
As a Japan-born British novelist, Kazuo Ishiguro has said that Japanese films, especially those of Yasujiro Ozu and Mikio Naruse, have been a significant influence for him. For that reason, the speaker contemporized the characters both in Kazuo Ishiguro’s works (*A Pale View of Hills* and *An Artist of the Floating World*) and Yasujiro Ozu’s works (*Tokyo Story* and *An Autumn Afternoon*).

Winning the Nobel Prize was a laurel that was expected sooner or later. Yet one book which surely stands out in his body of work is *The Remains of the Day*.

The Remains of the Day tells the story of a butler named Stevens set in the backdrop of memories of World War II in the year 1956. Working for a rich American now, he recounts his days and his unquestioned loyalty to Lord Darlington, his previous employer and his personal and professional relationship with Miss Kenton whom he met there. He questions himself 'What is a great butler' and complements it with lessons in dignity that his father passed onto him.

One day he receives a letter from Miss Kenton who is married for 20 years now. He begins to question himself, his loyalty to Lord Darlington and whether he was worthy of such unquestioned loyalty. This is a story of dignity, patience and commitment weaved beautifully through memories by Ishiguro.

The Remains of the Day is one of the most cherished books by Ishiguro who won a Man Booker Prize for the same.



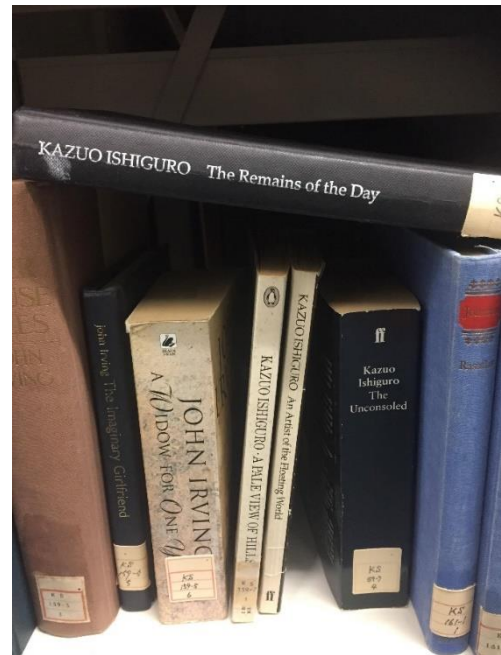
The title page of 'The Remains of the Day'

Stevens' realization of his mistake and his old age forms the prime plotline of this novel. As Stevens is forced to abandon the role of a butler and reconsider human values which he thought were the best to serve his master, the readers will embark on this journey with him through his nostalgia and reminiscence.

Stevens' mutual attraction for Kenton is obvious but to shape it as a romantic one is something that Ishiguro leaves for the reader to decide. This story also portrays the downfall of

British imperialism where Stevens lived his life while being tossed around by circumstances surrounding the war. This has been beautifully portrayed by Stevens' character.

This book was adapted as a film in 1993 by James Ivory and Stevens' role was essayed by Sir Anthony Hopkins. The film went on to be nominated for a total of 8 Academy Awards. It is a must-watch adaptation of this Ishiguro classic.



Selected collection of Kazuo Ishiguro's works at Tohoku University Main Library

Book: *The Remains of the Day*

Author : Kazuo Ishiguro

Publisher : Faber and Faber

Pages : 245

ISBN : 0571153100

Barcode No. : 00900078467

Call No. : KS159-7/3

Location : Stack Room(Main Lib)

My Hometown : Mumbai

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

Hello everyone! Well, you might have seen me as the concierge on Monday but did you know that I am from Mumbai? Some of you might know the old name of 'Bombay' but in any case, it is frequently called 'the financial capital of India'!

Mumbai is a very interesting city. It was actually 7 islands which were later joined during the British rule. It was under the Portuguese at first before being transferred to the British as a dowry for the wedding of Catherine of Braganza and Charles II.

Originally, Mumbai is a place where fishermen lived for generations. You can get some amazing fish in Mumbai caught by the local people who can sniff out the best from the good! There have been British and Portuguese influences which act as instruments in the symphony led by Marathi cuisine. It is also famous in India for its snack called as 'Vada Pav' which is technically fried potato ball inside a bread but, the bread is not the conventional one which you buy at the convenience stores. It is a Portuguese bread and the potatoes are fried in a certain manner. You can buy each Vada Pav for just 20 yen!

Mumbai is a city of contrasts. It houses some of the richest and poorest people of Asia together as neighbours. There is a national park located right within the city. Every year, during heavy rains of the monsoon season, the city comes to a stop. These are just some of the challenges that Mumbai needs to overcome.

The public transport system in Mumbai is efficient though not very diverse as in Tokyo. There are 3 subway lines which connect the suburban region with the main city and few inter-suburban subway lines. There is a public bus service, cheap but iconic yellow-black taxis and auto rickshaws in the suburban region.

If you visit Mumbai, I will definitely show you the CST(Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus) Rail-

way Station which is an UNESCO World Heritage Site and take you on a walk on the Marine Drive which is the road by the Arabian sea and the sunset looks extremely beautiful! So, what are you waiting for? Contact me and let's plan a trip together!

Bandra-Worli Sea Link

CST: Mumbai Railway Station

Gateway of India (Built for welcoming King George V and Queen Mary of Britain in 1911)

Yang's corner

"An evening in the library"

傍晚图书馆的故事

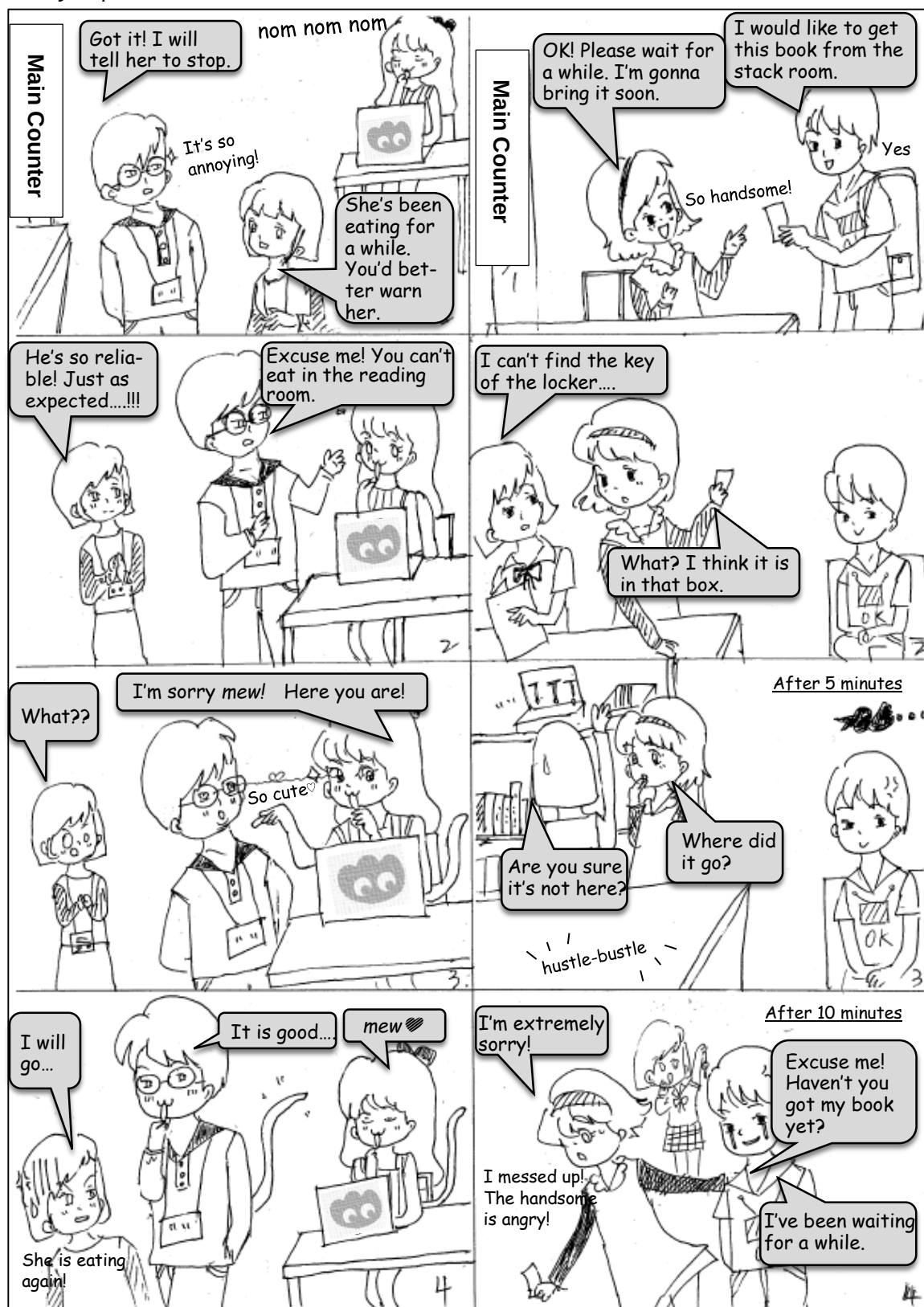
This is the story of what happens on a regular day in the life of the international students that work in the Main Counter of the Tohoku University Main Library.

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!



*The eating and drinking is permitted only in a lounge in the library.

Editors



Lee Sunhee (李璿熙)

A graduate student of educational informatics from South Korea, she loves listening to music and can speak English, Japanese and Korean! "It will soon be alright," is her motto of leading life.

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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