

Crossroads

CROSSROADS Language Studio's Newsletter, March 2009



THE JAPANESE SALARY-MAN: IN SEARCH OF AN IDENTITY

Japan's workforce, lead by the loyal "salary-man", the pillar of Japan's business culture, is changing its identity, according to Kenji from AI. Here are his thoughts on this subject, and he invites you to debate his ideas in class:

It's important to tell you the background of Japanese companies. Japanese workers used to think of their companies like families. In short, the workers live in the same house, with the president, seemingly, acting like the father. Of course our society has been changing little by little, but most big companies are still very conservative. That's why they still insist on lifetime employment, seniority-based wages, and mandatory retirement. Generally speaking, it is said that it is very easy to control Japanese workers with rules. I think it must sound very strange to foreigners that Japanese workers are willing to accept unspoken rules; i.e., dress codes, time clocks, drinking with co-workers after work, and being transferred to a new post alone, without family. In addition, the Japanese salary-man shouldn't leave the office before the boss does.

But, let me tell you about the recently changing conditions for workers in Japan. After the "bubble economy" burst, circumstances, especially the relationship between employers and employees (i.e. "fathers" and "children"), have been changing in accordance with the changing social background. Examples of this include the shrinking population, the aging society, the baby-boomer generation's retirement and labor force shortages. Now-a-days, many companies are focusing on profit and not on their employees and workers. This increases the likelihood of employee job-hopping. Should we call this "Westernization"? If so, I'm not sure which is better: the profit loving Western model, or the traditional Japanese business model?

I recommend that you observe Japanese workers from this point of view. The reality is that Japanese workers, the so called "salary-men", are now standing at a crossroads!



Net News

NET LESSONS: Are you too busy to come to CROSSROADS?... Try our *lessons on the Internet!* It's CROSSROADS in your home or office! You get CROSSROADS' great teachers, teaching programs, even classmates, *on-line!* Call for details: **089 9217595**

NET SITE OF THE MONTH:

Read about a day in the life of a Japanese salary-man here: <http://www.culture-at-work.com/jworklife.html>

NET NOTEBOOK: Don't forget to take a look at the Internet activity notebook in our open-house. You'll find games, news and English learning sites.



Some Thoughts for the Month



Joshua Says: This month we welcome our new teacher, Alessio, to our teaching staff. Alessio will be taking over Owen's teaching duties and we are looking forward to his presence here. Alessio has something somewhat unique to offer us as he is our first Italian-English teacher – oh, yes, he will be teaching Italian, also – welcome, Alessio. We, students and staff alike, are all looking forward to an interesting time with you.

Junko Says: In keeping with the “international” flavor at Crossroads we are planning to try some “karaoke” at our end-of-term party latter this month – karaoke in English... and in French, Italian and even, Spanish! So if you have any requests in these languages, or any other language, please let me know and I will down-load the music for you. For more information, just check in with me in the office. You will also see some info about this on posters around the school. “International Songs”, let's give it a try!!



Alessio Says: CIAOOOOOOOOOOO!!! Here I am!!! New school, new people, new food, new country, new...everything! I want to thank everybody at Crossroads for their very warm welcome. The atmosphere at school is simply amazing. It's a very good example of a global village. My first week in Matsuyama has been really good. I like the city, people are friendly and I'm sure I'll have a great time here. And spring is coming. I can't wait to see the cherry blossom trees... Anyway, are you ready for some pasta???

Greg Says: What is happening to today's youth? Most students I ask, "What's your hobby?", answer, "sleep"!! When I ask, "What's your dream?" the answer is "I don't know"!! If you don't have a set destination how do you know if you have got there yet?? Are the answers people gave me set answers that people are expected to give in Japan? Why aren't people creative and think outside the box? Don't be a sheep and follow the crowd. Be an eagle and soar to your dreams. Be unique. When was the last time you saw an eagle following another eagle????



Emilie Dit: Owen était un collègue en or. Il m'a beaucoup aidée quand je suis arrivée à Crossroads et nous avons eu beaucoup d'échanges intéressants. A présent, j'ai un nouveau collègue, Alessio, de culture latine tout comme moi. Nous travaillons ensemble depuis une semaine, il est donc difficile de donner une opinion sur cette nouvelle combinaison. Une chose est certaine, il règne une ambiance différente, un vent frais souffle au sein de notre école. Je trouve ça très positif d'apposer une marque différente à Crossroads et de faire balancer le centre de gravité vers le sud de l'Europe.



NOTICE BOARD

ABOUT MY VISIT TO HOKKAIDO, FROM B1 STUDENT SATOMI: "I went to Hokkaido with my mother recently. It was very cold there, and it was snowing. We visited many places in only 4 days. Here are some pictures."

• This is Asahiya Zoo. It's proud of holding the record of most visitors in Japan. This is probably because the animals can roam freely in their enclosures. We could see penguins, polar bears, seals and wolfs. The penguins' way of walking was very funny to watch.

• This is a scene from the Sapporo Ice Festival. It was the 60th anniversary. There were 287 ice sculptures on displayed. Disney's area was very big and very beautiful! A lot of people come to the festival every year.

• This is the main street of Sapporo. I enjoyed the illuminations and the night view. Sapporo is a very big city.

• This is the national costume of the Ainu people. It was colourful, and I liked it. The Ainu are Hokkaido's aborigines.

"I am Making costumes! When I am working, I am very excited and happy! I want to make as many costumes, for as many people, as possible in the future".



Don't forget the End-of-Term Party this month!

Drinks, Italian Cuisine and...
Karaoke, Music Recitals,
Performances!

DATE: Saturday, 28-03-'09
TIME: 7:30pm
PLACE: here at Crossroads

Invite your friends and family to join us.

You can get an early food n' drinks ticket from the office!!



クロスローズの好きなコースで英語を学ぶ。

"GENERAL (ジェネラル) コース

英語+実践練習

60分 x 2回/週:

1学期-4ヶ月毎にレベルが上がる
クロスローズのメインプログラム

90分 x 1回/週:

忙しい方のための週1レッスン

プライベート(個人)

月2回からレッスン回数自由選択

セミプライベート(セミ個人):

月3回からレッスン回数自由選択

クロスローズで学べるその他の外国語

フランス語 - スペイン語 - ドイツ語 - イタリア語 - ロシア語 - 中国語 - 韓国語



COSMOPOLITAN (コスモポリタン) コース

英語+実技を通した実用練習、だから誰でも分かる、自然に上達する。

英語でギターを習う

英語で歌う

英語で料理

英語でマジック

ピアノ

英語劇

ヨガ

レッスン料 ¥4,725/月~
詳細はお問合せ下さい

NET(ネット) レッスン

グループOR プライベート



KIDS' (キッズ) クラス

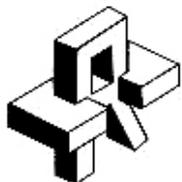
グループOR プライベート



MOTHER & CHILD

(マザー&チャイルド)

グループOR プライベート



CROSSROADS

ランゲージスタジオ
英会話スクール

〒790-0004 松山市大街道
2丁目1-3 2F, 3F

Phone: 0120-21-7594

Tel: (089) 921-7595

Fax: (089) 921-7319

E-mail: info@crossroadsco.com

Web Site: www.crossroadsco.com

