

Encountering people who live their lives "+Japanese"

Stories of four people who live on borders and cross borders

Do you know anyone who only speaks a language other than Japanese, or speaks Japanese and another language?

What kinds of people come to mind when you think about people who live using multiple languages?

These days it's normal to see non-Japanese language on street-side advertisements or hear a passer-by speaking a language other than Japanese. Foreign tourists and permanent residents are increasing.

In this program, we ask four people about the lives they have lived and where they see themselves going.

They use multiple languages including Japanese, and move freely between multiple cultures to live their life to the fullest.

You might gain insight on how to live in times to come.

MC: Makiko Matsuda (Kanazawa University), Saeri Yamamoto (Yamaguchi University)
(The committee for research promotion, Society for Teaching Japanese as a Foreign Language)



Seira Ryu, Voice Actor and Manga Artist, Aoni Production

SPEAKERS

"Different points of view seen from work as a bilingual voice actor"

Grew up in Beijing, China. Into anime and manga from kindergarten, and got into drawing. Encountered "Fullmetal Alchemist" when she was in high school, motivating her to become a voice actor. Graduated from the Department of Japanese, Beijing Foreign Studies University before coming to Japan. Studied at a vocational school and signed a contract with Aoni Production. Did voice-overs in both Japanese and Chinese for NHK's Terebi de Chuugokugo. Portrayed Shingo Tsukino, the protagonist's younger brother, in *Sailor Moon Crystal*. In 2018, Oshiete! Ryu Roshi, a serial essay/comic about her life was published in Funwari Jump. Active in China and Japan as a manga artist and as a Chinese/Japanese voice actor. Twitter: @kkryu_k



LEITNER Katrin Jumiko, Associate Professor, Rikkyo University

"Judo and Japanese opened up my path"

Grew up in Austria. Teaches sport management at the Department of Sport and Wellness, College of Community and Human Services, Rikkyo University. Started studying Japanese from age 19 majoring in Japanology at the Department of East Asian Studies, University of Vienna. Spent a year at Meiji University for language study and two years at Tsukuba University for research. Took part in Judo training run through Japanese universities and company teams as a judo athlete representing Austria. Born in Austria between Japanese and Austrian parents and grew up in Austria. Found Japan comfortable "somehow" from her experience in Japan for study and judo. Currently active in the discipline of sport management.



Rene Hoshino, Manga artist and entertainer

"Words are born from pictures and pictures are born from words"

Born 1984, Cameroon. Came to Japan at age 4 when his mother married. Grew up in Himeji, Hyogo. Got a job in Hyogo after finishing high school. Discovered people were interested in and sympathized with his background, before coming to Tokyo at age 25. Worked as an entertainer, and wrote essays in manga form on Twitter that attracted attention and lead to the book *Manga Africa Shonen ga Nihon de Sodatta Kekka*, Mainichi Books. Has serials *Africa shounen! Mainichi ga bouken* on *Mainichi Shogakusei Shinbun* and *African Japanese Business Shuyuki* on *FINDERS*. Twitter: @RENEhoshino



TRAN Ngoc Phuc (Kazufuku NITTA)

Chairman of Metran Co., Ltd. (develops medical ventilators), Chairman of Vietnamese Association in Japan

"My "countries", borders and work: What I wish to tell the young"

Born in Hue, Vietnam. Came to Japan in 1968. Graduated from the School of Engineering, Tokai University. Worked for a medical device manufacturer. Could not return to Vietnam due to the fall of Saigon. In 1984 established Metran Co., Ltd. to develop, manufacture and sell ventilators for newborns, which were avoided as risky by Japanese manufacturers. Metran products pushed up survival rate of premature babies, and changed care for premature babies worldwide. Metran ventilators are used in 90% of pediatrics centers in Japan, and are also patented in North American countries. Earned the Order of the Rising Sun with Silver Rays in Autumn 2018. Currently collaborating with Tsukuba University to research and develop small ventilators to use for sleep apnea syndrome. Makes contributions to enrich, expand, dilute and eliminate "borders" as the chairman of Metran Co., Ltd., the president of Metran group companies, and the chairman of the Vietnamese Association in Japan.

Share with us
your story of
"+Japanese"

Capacity: 1000 people (first come, first served). **Application not required.**

Inquiry: The Society for Teaching Japanese as a Foreign Language
2F, Tohogakkai Shinkan, 2-4-1 Nishi-Kanda, Chiyoda, Tokyo 101-0065
TEL 03-3262-4291 Email: office@nkg.or.jp <http://www.nkg.or.jp>

Ask your questions to the speakers !

