

# My impression of Japan

文・バル・ベルゲス

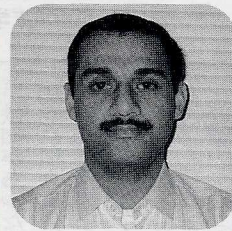
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プロフィール

(バル・ベルゲス)  
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インド共和国コチン理工  
科大学卒業  
以後インドウスタン造船  
所において船舶技術者と  
して勤務

一九九二年四月  
一九九三年四月  
一九九五年四月  
広島大学研究留学生  
広島大学大学院工学研究  
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在に至る。



It is more than four years since I came to Japan. It is high time to form a concrete impression about the place, people and custom where I live.

The thing which has impressed me most is the four distinct seasons of Japan. This has been a very pleasant change for me, who come from the southern part of India, where it is warm and the surroundings are monotonously the same all the year round. Here the activities, eating habits, dress and even the mood of the people change as the season changes.

All the seasons are remarkable in their own way – summer with its bright and sunny weather and flowers all around you, autumn with its mild cool climate and multi coloured mountains, winter with the cold weather and snow clad trees and spring with its mild warm climate and every where fully blossomed sakuras giving a treat to your eyes. It is so wonderful to watch your surroundings gradually change as the time passes by.

My impression about this society is that this is a very well organized society or in other words it is a group oriented society. Japanese society gives much importance to team work and individual performance doesn't call much attention. People try to think and act as a group. So given a particular situation, I think, almost every body would react the same way.

My impression before coming to Japan was that Japanese are 'workaholics'. Still my impression is not changed-Japanese do love to work. But all over Japan there is a tendency to remove the label of 'workaholics' from them.

In Japan, even though all the activities of a house are managed by women, their role in the society is not very significant. This is basically a male dominated society and even with the advent of time the attitude of men towards women has not been much changed. I am really surprised to see that in an advanced country like Japan, only a very few women occupy important positions in the

society. I think the family values and ties are still strong in Japanese society, especially among the old generation. But with the drastic modernization and fastness in life and a blind tendency among the youngsters to follow anything American or Western these values are getting weaker day by day.

When I think of Japanese food, the first thing which comes to my mind is *soyu*. *Soyu* is an inevitable ingredient in almost all Japanese preparations.

Japanese pay much attention to the arrangement and it is here in Japan that I learned to say 'It is beautiful' rather than saying 'it is delicious' looking at the food. Eating raw fish and octopus was some thing which I thought I would never attempt in my life and now I can eat these things as deliciously as any other Japanese.

Japan is a safe country where people live in peace and harmony. I really enjoy my stay in this beautiful country.

要約

私が最も印象深かったのは日本の四季です。気候の変化の少ない国インドからきた私にとって、四季の変化は人々の服装、食習慣、活動の変化を伴ってとても楽しい。また、四季はそれぞれ美しくすばらしいと思った。  
次に、日本の社会についての印象は人々があまり強い個性を持たず、皆が同じように行動すること、「仕事中毒」気味であるということです。それから日本は先進国なのに家庭を切り盛りするのは女性の仕事であり、社会での女性の地位はまだまだ高くないことに驚いた。  
最後に日本の料理は醤油が必須であること、味もさることながら料理の美しさを楽しむものであることなどを知りました。今では刺身も日本人と同じように味わうことが出来ます。このように美しい日本での生活を十分楽しんでる私です。