

# Nagoya Next Door

## An International Communication Project

Patrice Pendell

Synergy is a great concept and an even greater feeling when one participates. Like minds! Get on board! Join in! Stereotypic idioms to be sure, but it does not diminish the power when one plus one equals more than two. This was the circumstances through which a number of contributions and coincidences led to the endeavor called Nagoya Next Door: An International Communication Project. Inspiration came from my familiarity with friendship dolls and their power, a special Nagoya City promotional event set for 2010, and the positive interest and application of internet communications in English as a Foreign Language (EFL) learning (Belcher, 2006; Hawisher, et al, 2006; Savignon & Sysoyev, 2002; Yashima, 2002). This paper will discuss the Nagoya Next Door (NND) project and the associated EFL classroom activities as well as my experience and inspirations in creating an international friendship project.

Developed for EFL communication classes, NND project goals were to incorporate culture and international communications in an imaginative way and provide a compelling class in EFL for university students. From my experiences, I have participated for many years in friendship doll exchanges; I knew the power of a friendly doll face. Additionally one of the most impressive features of friendship dolls is the personal nature of the communication. In the context of a Japanese university EFL class, I wanted to include an internet communication strategy. All one need do is ponder the popularity of cell phones, Facebook™ and blogs. There is a virtual explosion of internet and international communications. And yet in the world of instant communications, the internet can be a paradoxically anonymous interaction. Cyber-identities and virtual worlds being contrived realities.

Combining EFL, friendship dolls and the internet was my challenge. I knew there were many internet options but was there a doll that fit this context. Coincidentally during the planning, I discovered that Nagoya was having a birthday party, and about to launch a mayor year-long promotion: the 400-anniversary of Nagoya City in 2010. There was going to be a huge campaign to promote the city domestically and around the world, and there was a charming mascot doll called Hachimaru. It was not



difficult to see the potential: a partnership with Nagoya City; an enchanting mascot doll; manage communications and replies on the internet; and provide Kinjo students a novel EFL learning opportunity. Additionally the EFL learning would be a means to an end i.e., fun and real international communications. I was motivated and ready to get everyone on board! The basic program (see Appendix 1) design was to use the Nagoya mascot doll, Hachimaru, as our communication courier with each doll accompanied by welcome letters, and replies sent on the internet. Hachimaru would only stay at a given location for four-weeks then move on. Recipients would keep the souvenir key-chain charm included, but add a new one iconic from their city before sending Hachimaru on to a new location. In this way each participant would remain connected.

To better understand my motivations, a more detailed explanation of how this project came to be is warranted. It is a story woven through themes of friendship and coincidence. It is a story of ‘like-minds’.

### Friendships and Coincidences



Genga, Pendell, Takaoka and Miss Tokushima in the back at MFWI

Through my tenure at the Japanese Cultural Center (JCC) and Museum at Mukogawa Fort Wight Institute (MFWI) in Spokane, Washington in the USA, I participated directly in their Friendship Doll Program in which Japanese dolls and educational materials were sent throughout the United States to over 650 recipients in all 50 states representing an estimated 1,500 Japanese dolls. It is a story that begins with friendship between two cities. Spokane and Nishinomiya in Hyogo, Japan have maintained a strong Sister-City bond since in 1961. The relationship is exemplary to all international Sister-City friendships as evident in that Spokane hosted the International Sister City Association Convention in 2005. Due to this long friendship, Mukogawa Women's University (MWU) in Nishinomiya created a branch campus at the former Holy Names Fort Wright College naming the campus Mukogawa Fort Wright Institute (MFWI). In the fall of 1990 MWU students began coming to Spokane to study English and American culture. At the same time the Japanese Cultural Center (JCC) and Museum was created with the mission to provide information and resources about Japanese traditional and modern culture, and promote international friendships.

Friendship Doll Program at MFWI is another story of coincidence. Four months after establishing MFWI, there was an article in the Yomuri *Shimbum* about 1927 ‘The Doll Plan’ founded by Gulick in the U.S. and Shibusawa in Japan. This alerted Michiko Takaoka, JCC director, that there was a special Japanese doll in Spokane: an original 1927 Japanese Doll Ambassador called Miss Tokushima housed at the Northwest Museum of Arts & Culture (Takaoka, 2004). Coincidentally this doll’s mission was

to promote international friendship just like the JCC. Inspired by the Miss Tokushima doll, Gulick and Shibusawa, in 1993 the JCC, MFWI and MWU began the Friendship Doll Program. Japanese dolls, cultural artifacts (donated from the people of Japan) and educational materials would be sent annually to the children across America following a *Hina Matsuri*, Doll Festival, celebration at MFWI on March 3<sup>rd</sup>. The dolls were sent as messengers of friendship. In a personal way, this gesture provided a fun way in which American children could learn about Japan and how one person contributes to global peace and friendships.

Coincidences continue connected by people and place. The Doll Plan visionaries, Gulick and Shibusawa, both have connections in the Northwest in America. Dr. Gulick traveled through the Northwest and is buried in the two places he loved: Kobe, Japan and Boise, Idaho, U.S. which just south of Spokane. Viscount Shibusawa was no stranger to Spokane either having visited in 1909 as he led the 'Million Dollar Train' and its mission to promote international friendships. The mission began in Seattle on September 1, 1909. They traveled from Seattle in Washington State to Spokane, my hometown and the future home of MFWI. They stayed four days in Spokane visiting with local dignitaries and inspected lumber operations north of the city. Then they continued on to the east coast and over the course of three months, traveled to 53 cities proposing trade and friendship with Japan. Finally Takaoka, former director of the JCC at MFWI, is now living in Kobe which is her hometown and the same city where Gulick was buried. She remains very active promoting the homecomings of the 1927 Japanese friendship dolls. And I am now living in Japan, still on occasion helping Takaoka *sensei* with friendship dolls celebrations.

One might think these events as separate endeavors. It is apparent whether an ambassador doll, or a business envoy, in the past or the future, or even a mascot doll courier for an EFL class, these events tie together. We all share the desire for peace. One person can make a difference: not a coincidence.

The foundation and validity of the NND project is derivative from other friendship doll endeavors both historic and contemporary. There were three specific programs which were important in creating the NND project. A brief description of these programs follows.

### **Friendship Dolls: The 1927 Doll Plan**

Dr. Sidney L. Gulick had a simple idea: use doll messengers to make friends with children in a far away foreign land he knew and loved. He called it the *Doll Plan*. In his 1929 book *Dolls of Friendship*, Gulick said, 'The spirit of childhood shall show us the way to friendship that lasts and to peace that shall stay.' Gulick believed the friendly face of a doll would sow seeds of peace in the minds of children. An estimate 2.7 million Americans from church groups, girl scouts, boy scouts, and entire communities agreed. 12,739 American dolls were sent to Japan accompanied with friendship letters in February 1927. The dolls arrival coincided



Dr. Sidney L. Gulick



Viscount Eiichi Shibusawa

with a Japanese festival called *Hina Matsuri*, the Doll Festival. In Japan, another remarkable person was put in charge of the response. Viscount Eiichi Shibusawa was an advocate of international relations his entire life. When the American friendship dolls arrived in Japan, it was Shibusawa who was called to lead the response including the thousands of welcome parties for the little American dolls. He also wanted to show the gratitude of the Japanese people, and he wanted common people to be invested. So each Japanese child was asked to donate one-yen to pay for some very special 'Thank-you Dolls' or *Torei Ningyo*. The best doll makers in Japan were commissioned to make fifty-eight, one-meter tall dolls. They were made to look like a real five-year-old Japanese girl. The dolls were made over-sized to compensate for being fewer in number. Each doll had a unique *kimono* and represented Japan's prefectures and seven major cities. The Japanese dolls, *Torei Ningyo*, arrived in the U.S. in late November coinciding with the Christmas celebrations in 1927. The dolls participated in many celebrations and were placed in children's museum across the country. All the dolls, American and Japanese, arrived in their new countries with passports and many letters from their senders.

The 1927 friendship dolls made many friends. But the history of relations between the U.S. and Japan was not always friendly. During WWII America and Japan were enemies. Many friendship dolls were lost or destroyed. To-date 45 out of 58 of the *Torei* dolls remain, and of the American dolls only about 530 of 12,739 dolls have been found.

This history of dolls and people was paramount to my perspectives on international communications. I have been a witness to thousands of smiles on the faces of children and adults as they meet and see a foreign face or even a strange doll. This model provides a message friendship in a personal and powerful way. This intent inspired the NND project.

### Friendship Dolls: Flat Versions and Mascots



Flat Stanley with penguins in Antarctica.

There are many kinds of friendship programs and networks. Two other programs were important in the development the NND project: 'The Flat Stanley Project' (FSP) in the U.S. and the 'Ocha-Ken Project' in Shizuoka, Japan. The FSP is a relatively common elementary curriculum in the U.S. My daughter had participated in a FSP as a fourth-grader. It is a simple and fun way for elementary kids to learn about the world. Students make a flat doll of themselves and send to friends and/or relatives around the country or world. Recipients are asked to send back a postcard/picture of their city. Then they send 'Flat Stanley', or in my case 'Flat Paige' on to another destination. The students make a map from the responses and learn geography and culture from the



Ocha-ken™, Tea Puppy

postcards/pictures sent. The other doll project which motivated the development of NND was the 'Ocha-ken Project' which was part of a larger curriculum called 'My World Neighborhood Project.' I heard about the Ocha-ken Project at a Nagoya Chapter of Japanese Association of Language Teachers (JALT) presentation. In this case, a mascot doll was sent from Japanese students with student letters to U.S. educators for exchanges. The doll called 'Ocha-ken' or 'Tea Dog' was chosen because Shizuoka is famous for growing tea. The students wrote about the attractions of the prefecture, so the mascot dolls were donated. Additionally, the cute dolls as Dujmovich (2008) said, '...serve as simulated home stay friends and foster friendship and international correspondence' (p. 21). A win-win: students benefited from the prompt and structure to write about their home, the theme promoted the prefecture to foreigners as a great destination, and a cute (donated) mascot served as an international communication courier to help generate replies.

This background was the foundation from which the NND program was developed. It might have been a coincidence, but clearly there was a window of opportunity through which we jumped through. Still there were a just few more things which needed to be set including the internet site for replies.

### **The Internet and the Nagoya Next Door Program**

In the modern era, the internet is a constant source of information and exchanges that span oceans and time zones every day. Facebook, Blogs, Wikis, Moodle are just a few of the community, public and private, special interest and educational internet sites which are used by families, business, teachers, and students. In our internet world, the goal was to have real interactions with people becoming friends- just like next door.

Since our goal was worldwide communications and one of the destinations was China, we needed to make sure our site would be accessible. Having begun with a Google application blog (<http://nagoyanextdoor.blogspot.com>), this had to be relegated to a secondary site as Google and all Google related programs were not available in China. After several attempts and some kind colleagues in Shanghai, we choose the Windows Live™ and Hotmail as the destination for replies. All thirty-two Hachimaru dolls, each with a different flower sur-name so we could track the locations of the different dolls, had name tags attached on their back. Here is a sample:



Thirty-two Hachimaru dolls were sent initially to ten countries on four continents in white, custom-made, sturdy, plastic boxes. In each box was a 20-cm Hachimaru doll, letters from the Mayor of Nagoya (see Appendix 3) and Kinjo University students (see Appendix 4, 5), materials about Nagoya, a key-chain charm souvenir, guest book, directions (see Appendix 6, 7), and a magazine written in Japanese about Nagoya with Hachimaru on the cover. We did get support and were endorsed by the City of Nagoya, and the city donated the key-chain charms with a small Hachimaru. Centrair or the Nagoya International Airport supported the project as well. The majority of the funding came from Kinjo Gakuin University. The project total costs were 136,840 Yen, excluding a special excursion to Shanghai and was under the forecasted budget by 13,910 Yen.

### The Recipients

Recipients were a key consideration for the success of the project. The recipients needed to be motivated and willing to participate in the endeavor, and we wanted to select destinations which were relevant to our context, i.e., Kinjo University, Nagoya City and doll exchanges. There was a great deal of interest in this project. Here is some of the feedback we received:

*I am a middle school guidance counselor in Amherst Massachusetts. I coordinate a cultural exchange program with our sister city in Kanegasaki, Japan. I would love to be a part of this project! I have students interested in Asian culture , and I am involved in the Kanegasaki Sister Committee in Amherst. Please let me know what I will need to do to be considered for this project. Thanks and best to you, Denise in Amherst, Massachusetts*  
and

*I recently read a short article about the Hachimaru dolls that you are considering mailing out this summer. The article was published in the newsletter by the Five College Center for East Asian Studies located at Smith College. I currently teach Global Perspectives, Global Economy and computers and will teach East Asia Literature next fall. I am interested in joining in the project that you have outlined. We are a small boarding school in Hardwick, MA but we have students from all the globe and mostly the United States. I have a few students who would really love this project! If it is not too late, please include us. Thank you in advance for any consideration of this request. Diana in Hardwick, MA*  
and

*Good to hear from you. I am anxious to get my Hachimaru doll. I plan to take her to a Rotary meeting and introduce her (or is it a he?) Yvonne in Spokane, WA*

The recipients in the program were chosen from the international connections at Kinjo University, contacts from the 1927 Friendship Doll Plan and participants in Mukogawa's Friendship Doll Program, and international conference contacts.

Kinjo Gakuin University has twenty-one overseas partner universities managed through Kinjo's Center for International Exchange Programs (CIEP) and was the first source tapped for recipients. Because of the pre-existing relationships, there were contacts to initiate our requests and there were other benefits as well. Exchanges with partner universities could result in more Japanese students going abroad or foreign students attending Kinjo University, and at the very least, it would help build stronger relationships and friendships between Kinjo University and her overseas partner universities. Twelve universities responded with in the time-line including: Hannam University in Daejeon, South Korea; John Moores University in Liverpool, England; Medicine Hat College in Medicine Hat, Canada; Payap University in Chiang Mai, Thailand; University of Tasmania in Hobart, Australia; and from the United States: Gonzaga University (two departments) in Spokane, Washington; Highline Community College, Seattle, Washington; Lindsey Wilson College in Columbia, Kentucky.

Kinjo University students participating in international exchanges accounted for five Hachimaru doll destinations. This included two students at the CIEP who sent dolls to Pontrioux, France and Tampere, Finland. Additionally six International Communications Department students majoring in Chinese presented three dolls to Chinese students at the Shanghai World Expo.

The descendants of 1927 Friendship Doll Plan founders were also enthusiastic supporters. Dr. Sidney Gulick III and his wife Frances, both doctors of mathematics and professors at the University of Maryland, were happy to join. After receiving Hachimaru and showing him around the University of Maryland, they sent Hachimaru to their daughter who teaches at an elementary school in Alabama. In Missouri, Yoshiaki Shibusawa, 4th generation grandson of Eiichi Shibusawa, is active in international relations. He is the past chair of the Japan-America Society of St. Louis and serves on the advisory board of numerous international programs. Also enthusiastic to participate, Hachimaru was given the full tour of the university, given introductions at the Japan American Society in St. Louis, and then sent to students in the International Relations Department at the University of Missouri St. Louis.

The Friendship Doll Program at Mukogawa Gakuin provided more recipients including two schools and Rotary International in Spokane Washington. Additionally, the Five College Five College Center for East Asian Studies (a consortium of colleges including Amherst, Hampshire, Mount Holyoke, Smith Colleges, and University of Massachusetts Amherst) had participated in the MFWI Friendship Doll Program. They placed a half-page notice (see Appendix 2) in their internet newsletter about our program. Nine schools responded from the east coast of the U.S. These including elementary, middle and high schools, representing regular curriculums, gifted programs, special education programs, child studies, counselors, international relations, world geography, and district-wide social studies programs.

At the Asian Conference for Arts and Humanities (ACAH) in Osaka, I presented the paper 'Japanese *Kamishibai*: Using Traditional Storytelling for Cross-Cultural Narratives and Learning'. I also took



Hachimaru and introduced him to several people including the conference chair, Rev. Stuart Picken, Ph.D. and the feature speaker, Lord Charles Bruce whose forefather signed the very first treaty between Japan and the United Kingdom signaling the beginning of the Meji Era in Japan. Two Hachimaru dolls were sent to Hawaii and South Africa from contacts made at the conference. More were requested but we were limited to thirty-two dolls and several interested parties were not able to be included.

### **The Box**

There is probably no other place in the world which does more with wrapping and packaging than Japan. Bags and boxes are designed for the seasons to fold and spiral around even the smallest items. This is also a country if you have bought a few too many things on your trip within Japan, one can go to any handy convenience store or the hotel where you are staying and simply send it home- even as an open shopping bag with perhaps some tape over the top. It will arrive safe and sound on the day and time you stipulate. So in this culture famous for wrapping and packaging one would think finding a box suitable for this project would be easy. It was not.

A seemingly small detail, in this project which requested Hachimaru being shipped many times, the box was very important. We needed a clean, re-usable box for international shipping, and it needed to be the right size. ‘Lieutenant-proof’, it needed to accommodate all items without packing materials so future shipping would be easy. The box needed to be good quality to hold up, and reflect well on Kinjo University and Nagoya. We began early but it was over three-months before we found a suitable shipping box. The box cost double what was budgeted but we procured an excellent white, plastic custom box. As it turned out, we came in well under our forecasted budget, no thanks to the boxes. This was just one of the many surprises in the project.

The materials assembled in the box included a Hachimaru doll, a Hachimaru key-chain charm, welcome letters for the Mayor of Nagoya and Kinjo University students, a laminate card with directions and information on Nagoya including cool links, a Kinjo journal used as a guest book, and a magazine about Nagoya in Japanese with Hachimaru on the cover.

### **In the Classroom**



Kinjo Gakuin University students with Hachimaru

In the classroom the NND project provided a wide range of activities from writing, speaking and international travel. Participants in this international communication exchange were: a second-year writing class; a third-year English communication class; Chinese language majors from the International Communication Department; and two students from CIEP with international student contacts. In the classroom the first task was to write the letters which would



accompany the Hachimaru dolls. Format and content taken into consideration, the students wrote about tourist attractions of Nagoya and special foods unique to Nagoya. The students were asked to consider the purpose of the letters and write in some detail so foreign readers would not only understand the explanations, but get a real sense of how the students felt. The letters were format to a B-5 size and put into plastic sleeve protectors with the same letter translated into Japanese on the flip side. Additionally, students were asked to embellish the letters with drawings, origami or small pictures. Since these letters would be the first international communication in the program, students were asked to think about making the letters fun to read and visually appealing. Make the recipients smile. The boxes were sent the end of August to coincide with beginning of the academic year for American schools. There was one exchange which preceded the Hachimaru dolls departures.



At the Shanghai World Expo 8-8-10

During the summer break a delegation of nine Kinjo students (six Chinese language majors and three students from English writing class) with two professors traveled to Shanghai, China. There at the World Expo during the time-frame dedicated to Nagoya City and on *hachi-hachi* or August 8<sup>th</sup>, students performed a skit in English and Chinese which explained the NND project at the Japanese Pavilion. Using posters, gestures and a minimum of language the international audience could understand the program by our actions. Students criss-crossed the stage with Hachimaru dolls simulating destinations, and at each stop, a poster was revealed. The posters were from Japan Airlines and had large clear iconic images of Canada and the Rocky Mountains, London and Big Ben, Paris and the Eiffel Tower, and the U.S. and the Statue of Liberty. At each 'destination poster' students acted as if they were making friends, taking pictures, and smiling. Crossing the stage happened four times and then posters of China and Shanghai were shown and all nine students came on stage and said, 'Making Friends from Nagoya, Just Like Next Door!' Then three Hachimaru dolls were presented to Chinese students. A large Hachimaru mascot also joined us on stage. An international audience of about 150 people appreciated and understood our friendship mission and message. The excursion also included an exchange dinner with the Chinese students and sightseeing in Shanghai.

Back in the classroom the next phase of NND was to respond to the internet replies. There have been two requests for email-pals or exchanges and students have written letters to American middle school and elementary students. In the writing class a draft and proof was done before being sent to the American recipients. However in the third year class students were directed to write without being proofed by the teacher. In this case the academic goal was international communications and keeping it fun. Making a few grammar mistakes was an acceptable risk for the opportunity to feel real communications; perhaps provide the very motivation for more active EFL learning in other classes.

The NND offered opportunities for verbal discussion. From the various Hachimaru destinations students were asked to find the locations of Hachimaru and tell something about the region. In another lesson the students were asked to present and explain photos from the web site and have a question ready for the class. This provided some interesting discussions and perspectives not only on the international nature of Hachimaru's realities, but the students' realities as they contextualized the content into their own meanings. To my surprise and delight in this lesson all the students were engaged and did all the talking; the teacher was just a witness.

Additional exchanges are expected. One American class has requested a New Year post-card exchange. A *nengajo* post card lesson was posted on the internet site. We will approach this activity in the latter part of the year.

### **Discussion**

The 400-anniversary celebrations in Nagoya offered a chance for omit like-minded people to join an endeavor that was personal: *Let make friends- just like next door!* This is an American culture idiom- but many people agreed. A synergy of energy came from Kinjo University, university students, Nagoya City, Centrair, and recipients worldwide. Our captivating courier, Hachimaru, opened doors and made friends just like next door.

The NND project is an ongoing event. To date project has included welcome letters written by the Mayor of Nagoya and Kinjo University students, an excursion to Shanghai and a presentation at the World Expo. In the EFL classroom there have been exchange emails, oral presentations about world geography and discussions about the images of Hachimaru and his international destinations. We are looking forward to more exchanges including a New Year postcard exchange. The forthcoming communications in the NND project are unknown. A Hachimaru doll may generate replies from only one destination, while others will have many travels and many responses will be sent. Like friendships, NND also has no end date. The connections made in the NND project or with Hachimaru, or the future of any friendships is not for me to say. As the Japanese say, *ichi e ichi* go one meeting one moment.

Learning English in the classroom can include learning about cultures, places, and foreigners; it is possible make these topics relevant to students through communicative approach. However, the context remains in the classroom and is by definition artificial and arbitrary. What if EFL communications was the means to an end, not the other way around? What if students were given the chance to see and send their thoughts to a real international audience? What if students felt personally invested? The NND project was just such an opportunity. And to my surprise, the charming face of Hachimaru was amazingly disarming. Young or old, at a World Expo in China, or chillin' with students on the steps in Liverpool England, or hugging a Tasmanian devil down-under, Hachimaru has an amazing ability to opened people's hearts. To simply make people smile together. In the NND project we are all witnesses

the power and synergism of 'like minds' and a friendly face. Hachimaru in hand, strangers become friends- just like next door. Not such a coincidence.

## Appendix 1:

### Overview

#### Nagoya Next Door: An International Communication Project

#### Project Included

Mayor Takashi Kawamura welcome letter	Hachimaru & souvenir keychain charms
Kinjo University students welcome letter	Nagoya City info & Hachimaru magazine
Kinjo University notebook as guestbook	Email for replies; internet sites; links
Directions with intros and internet links	Re-usable mailing box

#### Participants

Kinjo Gakuin University	Centrair
City of Nagoya	

#### Kinjo Gakuin University Student Participants

Center for Int'l Exchange Programs (CIEP)	Reading and Writing- 2 <sup>nd</sup> Year Kinjo U. Students
CIEP Student Members	Kinjo U. Int'l Communications Students-Chinese
Advanced English- 3 <sup>rd</sup> Year Students	Language Students

#### Budget Materials and Shipping\*

TOTAL (Yen)	Estimated Expenses → 150,750.	Actual Expenses → 136,840.
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\*Does not include Shanghai Expo, China presentation

#### Timeline

##### August 8 Shanghai World Expo Presentation with the City of Nagoya

Kinjo U. Professors Asai and Pendell escorted nine Kinjo University students to Shanghai, China on August 6-9, 2010. On hachi-hachi at Japanese Pavilion, Kinjo students performed a Hachimaru Skit and presented three Hachimaru dolls to three Chinese University students to promote international friendship with Japan.

##### August 31 Hachimaru (32 dolls) Sent to 10 Countries on Four Continents

# DOLLS Relationship & Destinations

##### (10) Kinjo Friendship & Exchange Universities at CIEP

University of Tasmania, Australia; Medicine Hat College, Canada; Hannam University, Korea; Payap University, Thailand; John Moores University England; Lindsey Wilson College, USA; Highline College, USA; (2) Gonzaga University, USA; West Virginia University, USA.

##### (5) Kinjo Students - International Exchange Contacts

(2) CIEP: Finland; France; (3) Int'l Communication Department Chinese Language: China

##### (15) Shibusawa/Gulick 1927 Japanese-U.S. Friendship Doll Program

Rotary Int'l and USA schools- elementary to high school classes: geography, int'l relations,

global issues; world history; child development; special needs; gifted/ talented programs; counselors.

## **(2) International Conference Contacts**

Asian Conference on Arts & Humanities (ACAH)

University of Pretoria, South Africa; Hawaii, USA

## **Feedback/ Activities**

### **Omit Replies & Photos & NagoyaNextDoor@hotmail.com**

All recipients have account access at Hachimaru.flower@hotmail.com *password*→ flower2010

Secondary site: Hachimaru Blog→ <http://nagoyanextdoor.blogspot.com>

Each Hachimaru has unique flower name to track locations; every 4 weeks→ new location

Primary locations: 29 reports; Secondary locations: 16 reports

### **Email Exchanges**

Portsmouth Middle School, Portsmouth Rhode Island→ 9<sup>th</sup> grade Geography Class- 35 letters

Doolittle Elementary School Cheshire Connecticut→ 5<sup>th</sup> grade- 28 letters

### **Contextualizing Nagoya Next Door & Hachimaru into Verbal Activities**


Student presentations on locations: geography and other highlights of region/country

Student presentations from photos & prompts: what they are Hachimaru & friends doing/ thinking and posing question to class.

### **Other Exchanges**

Request for exchange with Environmental Design Department / University of Pretoria, South Africa

Postcard exchange, *nengajo*, for January & February exchange activities



## EAST ASIA FOR TEACHERS

WORKSHOPS & LECTURES

**Primary Source, Watertown, MA** conducts an online course: *The Enduring Legacy of Ancient China*, Jun 16 through Aug 17 suitable for educators K-12. Also offered is *East Asian Stories and Places: China, Japan, Korea, and Vietnam*, a course for educators in grades K-7, Aug 2-6. Contact Abby Detweiler at [abby@primarysource.org](mailto:abby@primarysource.org).

**Framingham State College, Framingham, MA** holds a summer institute, *Teaching the Geography of Southeast Asia and Oceania: A Content Institute for the Middle School*, Jun 28 until Jul 2. To register, visit [www.framingham.edu/graduate-and-continuing-education/programs-for-educators/center-for-global-education.html](http://www.framingham.edu/graduate-and-continuing-education/programs-for-educators/center-for-global-education.html).

**University of Washington, Seattle, WA** offers *Perspectives on East Asia for Teachers: Modern China- A Summer Course for K-12 Educators* is a month-long intensive course in China studies and in curricular strategies, Jul 22 through Aug 20 offered by the East Asia Resource Center at UW. Rolling admissions. Visit <http://jsis.washington.edu/eare/programs/institutes.shtml>.

**OF SPECIAL INTEREST**

In honor of the 400-year anniversary of Nagoya City in Aichi Japan, an international communication project called *Nagoya Next Door* has been launched by Patrice Pendell, guest lecturer at Kinjo Gakuin University, Nagoya, Aichi Japan, and formerly of Spokane, WA. Here is a description of the project and her message:

Hachimaru dolls are couriers creating a Global Friendship Network. It's fun and easy. We will send you a doll, Hachimaru, made in Nagoya especially for the anniversary, a souvenir keychain charm from Nagoya, a letter from my students, and some information about Nagoya.

Please keep the souvenir keychain charm and send a reply by email to us (and to who sent you the doll if different). Send a digital photo of Hachimaru with something in your city in the background, and you in the picture if you want to be. Then replace the keychain charm with something that represents your city, and send Hachimaru and everything which was included on to another friend anywhere in the world.

The Hachimaru couriers will begin departing in June, so we appreciate getting your information soon. Join our Friendship Network-watch our Global Friendship Network grow on the website. Please email your name with your organization's name, mailing address to me, Patrice Pendell: [pendell@kinjo-u.ac.jp](mailto:pendell@kinjo-u.ac.jp).

## Appendix 2: Newsletter Promotion



TAKASHI KAWAMURA  
MAYOR  
市長  
河村 たかし

## Appendix 3: Letter included from Nagoya Mayor

2010 is the 400th anniversary of the founding of Nagoya. In such memorable year, I am very happy to have the chance to participate in "Nagoya Next Door," an international communication project that is a collaborative effort among industry, academia, and government and an international exchange network created and promoted by students to introduce the allure of Nagoya to the world.

Nagoya, located in the center of Japan, is a city with a proud history and traditional culture which began 400 years ago in 1610 when Nagoya Castle was built. From about 200 to 300 years ago during the Edo period (1603-1867), Nagoya was a vibrant city which had a thriving samurai culture and was also known as a center of the arts, where performing arts such as Noh and Kyogen theater, the *koto* and *shamisen* musical instruments, and plays were enjoyed.

Almost 150 years ago at the beginning of the Meiji Era (1868-1912), manufacturing culture began to develop, and the foundations of Nagoya as a hub of manufacturing industries such as automobiles and aerospace were laid. And so Nagoya has developed into a large city which is currently called home by 2.25 million residents.

And now, we are currently holding the Nagoya 400th Anniversary festival to commemorate the quadricentennial of this bustling city. I want to enliven the city throughout the entire year of 2010 and make Nagoya an exciting city as we move toward the 500th anniversary.

Also, the Tenth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP10) is scheduled to be held in Nagoya in October. I would like to use this as an opportunity to promote city planning which coexists with nature, and aim to make Nagoya an environmental capital.

Today's young people will be tomorrow's leaders, and I am looking forward to the further advancement of their international exchanges as the world learns about Nagoya through this project.

*Takashi Kawamura*

Takashi Kawamura  
Mayor  
City of Nagoya



Dear Friends,

I am writing to you and sending this welcome package from Nagoya as part of international communication project. I hope you will enjoy this, and I hope we will be friends.

Let me introduce myself. My name is Yoko. I am twenty years old and a student at Kinjo Gakuin University in Nagoya, Japan. My major is English Communication and I am taking a teacher-training course. I hope to talk with people all over the world in English. It is my dream to be an English teacher. In my spare time I like to do Kendo, a Japanese traditional sport, it is like fencing. I have been doing it since I was twelve years old.

Nagoya is a great place to live and visit. There are many great places to see and wonderful food in Nagoya, and I will share two my favorites.

My first recommendation is to visit Nagoya Castle. It is old and huge. There are shiny pair of dolphin ornaments on the top of the castle. The ornaments are covered with gold, and are more than two meters long. They are called "Shachihoko". We can also see matchlocks, Japanese swords, armor and warrior's helmets which were made about 400 years ago. Nagoya Castle is a must when you visit here.

In Nagoya there are great treats, Japanese food and special dishes found only in Nagoya. One dish I recommend is a simmered strong meat with a soybean paste soup. It is a side dish, called "doteni". You can eat it at any Japanese style restaurant in Nagoya. Please try this and enjoy something found only in Nagoya.

Thank you for taking good care Hachimaru and showing him around. We look forward to leaning about you and your city. Take care.

Your Friend,  
Yoko



## Appendix 4: Nagoya Next Door Sample Student Letter Side a

## Appendix 5: Nagoya Next Door Sample Student Letter Side B

### 前略

国際交流プロジェクトの一環として、名古屋からこの人形入りの小包をお送りいたします。この企画をお楽しみいただき、今後、交流を深めることができたら嬉しいです。

まずは自己紹介をさせていただきます。わたしの名前は遥子です。日本の愛知県名古屋市にある金城学院大学に通う、20歳の学生です。わたしの専攻は、言語と文化や英語を学び、同時に教育者育成も学んでいます。英語を使って世界中の人と話すこと、英語の教員となることがわたしの夢です。時間がある時には、12歳のころから続けている日本の伝統的なスポーツである剣道をして楽しんでいます。

名古屋には住むのにも、訪れるのにも素晴らしい場所です。沢山の名所と美しい名物がありますが、その中から、わたしのお気に入りの名所と名物をご紹介します。


名古屋のお勧めスポットは、名古屋城です。古くて巨大な城の上には、光り輝く一対のシャチホコがいます。また、400年以上前に作られた甲冑、日本刀、籠かぶとも見る事ができます。名古屋に来た際は必ず行ってみてください。

また、名古屋には四季折々の菓子や和食があり、中には名古屋氏が見られない郷土料理があります。その中のひとつに、牛スジをじっくりと甘辛く味噌で煮込んだ土手煮があります。これは名古屋のどの居酒屋でも食べる事ができます。名古屋の郷土料理を是非お試しください。

はち丸をかわいがり、さまざまな人々に会せていただけると嬉しいです。あなたとあなたの街についてきかせていただけることを心待ちにしております。それではまた！

草々





**Nagoya Next Door**  
An International Communication Project

Hello in a few world languages:  
 Mandarin Chinese- *Ni hao*; Hindu- *Namaste*; Spanish- *Hola*;  
 Russian- *Privet*; French- *Bonjour*;  
 Arabic- *Al salaam aalaykum-n*; Portuguese- *Olá*;  
 Malay- *Selamat pagi*; Bengali- *Ei Je*;  
 Japanese- *Konnichiwa*; German- *GutenTag*;  
 Urdu- *Adaab*; Italian- *Ciao*; Korean- *Annyeong*;  
 English- Hello

HELLO!  
My name is Hachimaru


Please take care of me, Hachimaru, during my stay with you-  
show me the sites, send a message, and then send me to a friend  
so that I may meet many people!

**DIRECTIONS → HOW IT WORKS → 1-2-3-FUN!**

- 1- **F**or you, keep the souvenir keychain charm!
- 2- **U**se the time we're with you (4 weeks) to have fun!  
There are 32 Hachimaru couriers, so always use my name on my name tag. For example, 'Hachimaru Rose' or 'Hachimaru Lily' and so on, then we can track communications. Answer by email → [NagoyaNextDoor@hotmail.com](mailto:NagoyaNextDoor@hotmail.com) with a digital photo of me with something in your city in the background, and you in the picture if you want to be (Also reply to the person who sent me to you if different). Tell us a little about you and your city. Go to Windows Live™ see pictures & stories from all my travels! Access Windows Live™ through your account or my email & password listed on my name tag.
- 3- **N**ow send me to a new friend!  
Please keep me only 4 weeks. Then replace the souvenir keychain charm with one that represents your city, sign the guest book, and send me, Hachimaru, with the new souvenir keychain charm and all the stuff in the box to a friend. With your help I will travel around the world and make many friends!


*Xie Xie; Shukriya; Gracias; Spasibo; Merci; Shukra; Origada; Terima kasih;  
Dhanyabad; Arigato; Danke; Shukriya; Grazie; Komapsumnida*

Thank you!

**Nagoya Next Door- Friends Worldwide!** 

## Appendix 6: Nagoya Next Door Directions Page 1

## Appendix 7: Nagoya Next Door Directions Page 2



**Nagoya Next Door**  
An International Communication Project

HELLO! I am Hachimaru, a special doll made in Nagoya in 2010 for the 400-year anniversary of Nagoya. *Hachi*, means 8- a very lucky number and *maru* means perfection or completeness- like Nagoya which has so much to offer lucky travelers who visit. I was born in 1610, the same year as Nagoya City. My hair is tied in a *mage- a samurai* style. My nap-sack is tied with a green cloth, *furoshiki*, and has the symbol for *hachi* or 8 on it. Inside there are wishes: like the star on my belt & they are ready to give to you!

**I am a courier of friendship**  
Your messages will make this mission a success, and with your help we can get it done!

SEND REPLIES (Please use Hachimaru's name) → [NagoyaNextDoor@hotmail.com](mailto:NagoyaNextDoor@hotmail.com)  
 Access MSN Live™ Via [Hachimaru.Flower@hotmail.com](mailto:Hachimaru.Flower@hotmail.com) *password* → flower-2010  
 Hachimaru Blog → <http://nagoyanextdoor.blogspot.com/> AND Hachimaru is on Facebook®

**WELCOME!**  
Nagoya has a wonderful history, great attractions, and the people make you feel like you're just next door! Nagoya is the 4<sup>th</sup> largest city in Japan and capital of Aichi Prefecture.  
Go to → <http://www.nic-nagoya.or.jp/en/inandaroundnagoya/index.htm>

**HERE ARE JUST A FEW ATTRACTIONS**


**Nagoya Castle** The castle is famous for its *shachi*, the golden dolphin roof decorations. There is a museum with many artifacts including paintings, *samurai* armor, and many other treasures.  
Go to → [http://www.nagoya.city.nagoya.jp/13\\_english/index.html](http://www.nagoya.city.nagoya.jp/13_english/index.html)

**Port of Nagoya & Public Aquarium**  
If aquatic life are of interest then definitely visit the Port of Nagoya / Public Aquarium and see animals from around the world. Go to → <http://www.nagoya.aqua.jp/aqua/other/eng/index.html>

**Arts & Industry** Nagoya has been producing ceramics since the 12<sup>th</sup> century: see Noritake and Seto. Nagoya is the capital of Aichi Prefecture & the automobile industry is a major business: Toyota's headquarters are in Aichi. Go to → [http://www.aichi-kanko.jp/pamph/kanka\\_e/kanka\\_e-6.pdf](http://www.aichi-kanko.jp/pamph/kanka_e/kanka_e-6.pdf)

**COOL LINKS**

Hachimaru Website (Japanese)	<a href="http://ameblo.jp/nagoya400/entry-10451800538.html">http://ameblo.jp/nagoya400/entry-10451800538.html</a>
Kinjo Gakuin University	<a href="http://www.kinjo-u.ac.jp/eng/">http://www.kinjo-u.ac.jp/eng/</a>
Nagoya City	<a href="http://www.city.nagoya.jp/global/en/">http://www.city.nagoya.jp/global/en/</a>
Nagoya Airport Central	<a href="http://www.centrair.jp/en/index.html">http://www.centrair.jp/en/index.html</a>
Nagoya Int'l Center	<a href="http://www.nic-nagoya.or.jp/en/">http://www.nic-nagoya.or.jp/en/</a>
Japan Guide	<a href="http://www.japan-guide.com/e/e2195.html">http://www.japan-guide.com/e/e2195.html</a>
Travel Japan	<a href="http://www.japantravelinfo.com/top/index.php">http://www.japantravelinfo.com/top/index.php</a>
Must Love Japan	<a href="http://www.mustlovejapan.com/prefecture/aichi/">http://www.mustlovejapan.com/prefecture/aichi/</a>
World Embassies	<a href="http://www.embassiesabroad.com/embassies-in/Japan">http://www.embassiesabroad.com/embassies-in/Japan</a>
Times, Dates, Distances	<a href="http://www.timeanddate.com/worldclock/distance.htm">http://www.timeanddate.com/worldclock/distance.htm</a>

**Nagoya Next Door- Friends Worldwide!** 



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