



# NICHIDAI SG TIMES

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## Celebrating Culture and History at Nihon University



*Nichidai Hiyoshi is known for its global academic programs.*

Photo by: Jaimee Bruce

Nihon University is a well-known educational system and it has many affiliated schools all over Japan. How did Nihon University, or Nichidai, become this big? The reason is its long and rich history.

Japan Law School, which was established in 1889, preceded Nihon University. In 1903, it

was renamed Nihon University, and in 1920, it became a University. The mission of Nichidai is to read the needs of society and provide the education necessary for the era. From 1901, new faculties were established one after another. There are now 20 faculties and 89 departments.

Nichidai Hiyoshi is an affiliated school of Nihon University. It opened in 1930 as an exclusive boy's school. In 1999, the Junior High School accepted female students. Nichidai Hiyoshi is also popular for another reason: three years ago, the Super Global program was launched in Senior High School. This year, the first batch of students who joined the program will graduate prepared for opportunities abroad.

For the junior high school, there is also the Global Leaders

course. These classes specialize in English and the students in this class also go to other countries to expose them to international cultures and languages.

But Nichidai doesn't just focus on academics. The Nichidai Culture Festival, held last September 14th and 15th, deepens students' friendships and also promotes a sense of belonging. The Nichidai community is open to families and local residents who want to understand the school better.

This year's theme is to meet challenges repeatedly without giving up. The hard work of the students and the staff made the culture festival very successful. Every class has a different type of program. For example, a haunted house, a cafe, even a casino for the Senior High School 1st Year Super Global

students. Some class members took on different roles such as game masters and card dealers. Everyone is committed to making visitors, including students from other schools and the visiting families, enjoy different activities.

In this way, Nichidai Hiyoshi continues to be active through the introduction of new educational systems as well as exciting events like the Nichidai Culture Festival. Over the next few years, it will continue to meet the new challenges of the era and meet the needs of society.

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## The Beauty of Japanese Kimono

Have you ever been to Kyoto? Kyoto is famous for its castles, temples, matcha flavored food, and another well-known Japanese cultural symbol: the kimono. When you walk around Kyoto station, you will probably see many women wearing kimonos.

The kimono is considered the most famous among traditional Japanese clothing and it has a long history. Originally, kimono was the Japanese word for clothing. The kimono was originally influenced by traditional Chinese clothes.

Before the Meiji era, all Japanese people wore kimonos. During the Kamakura and Muromachi eras, kimonos worn on the battlefield were based on the personality of each general. Kimonos also used to be worn

on a daily basis, but these days it is mostly worn during formal events. It was during the Heian era that kimonos were made in the style currently familiar to Japanese society.

Nowadays, more modern designs and inexpensive kimonos are being made available to attract younger generations. It is also becoming more and more casual. Another Japanese clothing, the yukata, is less formal and is quite similar to the kimono. Both women and men can wear kimonos but it's reserved for special occasions like weddings or funerals.

Kimono designs are very beautiful and have a lot of patterns and shapes. It can even be considered a form of art. It could be very expensive to purchase a kimono, especially

the special or vintage ones. Some people even find it fun to search for antique kimonos.

People usually wear kimonos during annual Japanese festivals to celebrate different occasions, festivals, and even when they attend tea ceremonies.



*Kimono designs have many patterns and are considered works of art.*

Photo by: Ayuri Ota

Japanese culture emphasizes the concept of wa (和), meaning harmony and peace. The kimono represents the wa spirit because it shows elegance and expresses what it means to be part of a rich and harmonious culture.

More than just an article of clothing, the kimono can also be a way to prove one's identity and social position. It remains a distinct symbol of Japanese culture and society. With its long history in Japan, the kimono remains the most interesting and symbolic article of clothing in the country.

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By: Hina Deguchi, Saki Ishikawa, Negai Nakazawa, Ayuri Ota, Momoko Kono  
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# The Many Colors of Harajuku



*Harajuku is best known as the capital of Japan's kawaii culture.*

Photo by: Runa Nishimura

Harajuku is known as the teen city of Japan because of the many colorful things to wear, eat, and post on social media. But these days, not only Japanese teens go to this popular spot. Many foreigners go to Harajuku in search of the Japanese experience of kawaii.

What does kawaii mean? Translated, it means pretty.

Japanese kawaii culture has been spreading all over the world. Harajuku is said to be the origin of this global trend.

WEGO is a popular clothing store on Takeshita Street in Harajuku that does collaborations with Korean idol groups. You can buy clothes, accessories, and even pen cases of different designs there. One of the advantages of going to Harajuku is buying all these kawaii things for cheap prices.

Harajuku also has many colorful things. Surprisingly, some of these rainbow-colored items are edible. They are really kawaii. For example, rainbow cheese sandwiches, rainbow cotton candy and rainbow cakes could be found there. The rainbow cotton candy can be very large and customers can choose their favorite colors.

Foreigners and even Japanese people are surprised by all the colorful food, thinking that they might not be delicious because of the flashy colors. But many people actually say the rainbow food is really tasty. Rainbow food is a symbol of Harajuku. Many people take pictures of them, post these on Instagram, and get a lot of likes.

Most foreigners who come to Japan also visit Harajuku. Why do they come? There are quite a few reasons for this. First, there are many kinds of food from other countries in Harajuku. But they are different because they were modified to fit Japanese tastebuds. Second, Harajuku always has the most cutting edge style in Japan. It has the lively atmosphere with different styles like Lolita, Gyarū, and Decora fashion of kawaii.

Anyone who comes for a visit can probably find their own kawaii style. Kawaii is an admirable part of Japanese culture and Harajuku is definitely the style and kawaii capital of Japan.

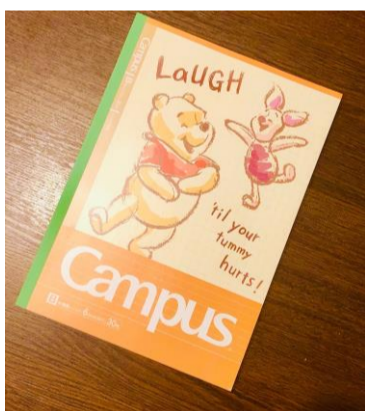


*You can see lots of fashionable and kawaii shops in Harajuku*

Photo by: Nana Aikawa

By: Runa Nishimura, Nana Aikawa, Saya Takeuchi, Nagomi Tanaka

## The Charm of Stationery



*Used by many university students in Tokyo, Campus Note is very popular.*

Photo by: Asuka Enomoto

Just about everyone uses stationery. Students are probably the biggest users of stationery: mechanical pencils, erasers, rulers, markers, scissors, and every kind of paper available! Whether you are studying or not, the good kind of stationery is often expensive. That is, unless you get them from Japan.

There are many reasons people say Japanese stationery is really useful. People around the world want stationery that's both easy to use and designed well too. That's exactly what Japanese stationery is!

Of course, Japanese stationery is considered to be popular around the world. Having pens that can erase characters and mechanical pencils with cores that stay sharp are functions that both students and adults find very convenient. Japanese stationery also have simple designs and are easy to use. Lastly, Japanese stationery is quite compact. These days, smaller sizes of Japanese stationery are available, making it easy to carry and use.

Japanese stationery is definitely both interesting and useful. It's one of the best purchases Japanese people and tourists alike can make. There is something for everyone so more people should try and use the many kinds of Japanese stationery.

By: Miyu Michimata, Tsuki Yamashita, Asuka Enomoto

## King Of Drinks: Milk Tea



*Tapioca is a very popular drink in many countries.*

Photo by: Karin Yakuwa

These days, the most popular drink in Japan is pearl milk tea. Many teenagers and young adults drink pearl milk tea almost everyday. They even line up for an hour just to buy pearl milk tea, or tapioca as its known to Japanese people. What is the charm of pearl milk tea?

Tapioca is made of cassava, a plant that is native to South America. The main component is carbohydrates, a good source of energy for the body. However,

the dried tapioca is about 350kcal for every 100g and it's high in calories. Boiling lowers calories, but pearl milk tea is still a high calorie drink often served with sweetened milk and tea as well as other sweet toppings. Despite all this, why is it so popular?

In 1983, tapioca became a popular drink in Taiwan. The milk tea boom came to Japan in 1990. It has become popular again in 2008. Tapioca's most popular flavor is milk tea. Japan has many different toppings and flavors like green tea and apple tea as well as seasonal ones such as sakura cherry.

People always find ways to drink milk tea as often as they could. What do you think the next popular drink will be?

By: Yui Kawano, Karin Yakuwa, Rina Yokoyama

## K-Pop in Japan



*Shin-Okubo is one of the best places to shop if you want the K-Pop experience.*

Photo by: Miyuu Nozuki

These days, many Japanese people love K-pop. For example, music, food, fashion, and cosmetics. The K-pop boom isn't a recent trend in Japan but had actually started in the early 2000s.

In 2004, a Korean drama called "Winter Sonata" caused the first Korean boom in Japan. At that time, the center of the boom was the Korean drama industry and was made popular by TV. The second boom was in 2010 and was triggered by the Japanese debut of K-pop idols like TVXQ and KARA.

Korean celebrities are also quite famous in Japan. Many Japanese young people admire Korean idols such as TWICE and BTS as well as Korean athletes like Kim Yona. She is a

Korean skater who won a gold medal in the Vancouver Olympics. Because of this, her name became very well-known around the world, and especially in Japan.

K-Pop fashion looks simpler than many contemporary Japanese fashions like Lolita and Gyaruu styles and this may be one reason why it's very popular in Japan. Korean fashion is considered to be a different kind of cute from Japan's kawaii fashion so many Japanese people imitate K-Pop idols and wear Korean fashion.

K-Pop fashion, music, cosmetics, and foods are widespread in Japan and Korean culture will most likely continue to be popular for quite some time until another trend takes its place. What do you think will be the next big trend in Japan?

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By: Miyuu Nozuki, Miki Kojima,  
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## Popularity of Manga



*One Piece is considered one of the most popular mangas in Japan.*

Photo by: Sena Nakamura

Many countries have their own kind of manga, but many people agree that Japan has the best manga. "Manga" means comic in Japanese and is one of the most popular subcultures of Japan.

The first known manga in Japan was Tyozyu-Zinbutu-Giga, written about 800 years ago. It's difficult to identify who wrote it because it seemed to have been written by many people.

The first manga was called "Shonen club" and now, there are many kinds of manga published like "Korokoro comics" and "Weekly Shonen magazine". One Piece,

Doraemon, Death Note, and Naruto are some of the most popular manga made by Japanese. Recent manga style was made by Tetsuya Osamu, a popular manga writer.

In Japan, copyright infringement crime is a complaint. Japan has too many fanfiction mangas to even list. Fanfiction manga make original manga more popular. After that, some people make other fanfiction manga. Then it makes the original one popular and some people make other fanfiction manga. This cycle produces more mangas.

Japanese manga has also affected so many artists around the world. There are many foreign illustrators who say that the inspiration for their art is Japanese manga. Hayao Miyazaki, one of the most famous Japanese illustrators, is widely considered to be Japan's answer to Walt Disney.

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By: Sena Nakamura, Soua  
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## The Making of the Best Video Games

There are many video game companies, such as Nintendo and Sony with games that are now played all over the world. How did these companies become popular in Japan and spread worldwide?

Nintendo was founded as a playing card company by Fusajiro Yamauchi in 1889. The company began producing playing cards made of plastic for the first time in Japan. Though it was more expensive than the usual playing cards that were printed on paper, it eventually became a success. Negotiations with Disney's Roy Disney to acquire the copyright resulted in Nintendo releasing Disney Trump six years later.

This was perhaps Nintendo's first step towards becoming a game company since it introduced character and culture to "hardware" in the form of playing cards.

But how did a playing card company become a videogame giant? Gunpei Yokoi was so bored of his job maintaining electricity that he began creating toys using an engraving machine. One day, the president asked him to present a toy he made. He thought he was going to be scolded, but the president asked him to mass-produce his creation: Ultra Hand.

It was a big hit and Gunpei Yokoi was promoted to the

development division. He mentored Shigeru Miyamoto and they created Donkey Kong in 1981. After that, Miyamoto created many of the characters and games that represent Nintendo. Super Mario Bros, a franchise many people know and love, was one of the games he created. Registered in the Guinness World Records as the best selling game to ever exist, Super Mario Bros, with its iconic characters Mario, Princess Peach, and Luigi, has sold 40.24 million copies.

The video game industry is one of the fastest growing in the world. Japan is at the forefront of this growth. It continues to inspire game developers to use

their imagination to create more games for players to enjoy.

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By: Hiroto Sato, Ryotaro Suzuki,  
Haruya Ishikawa, Shunta  
Nakamura  
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*Handheld game consoles are very popular among Japanese gamers.*

Photo by Ryotaro Suzuki

## SPORTS

# The Olympic Evolution of Japan



*MIRAITOWA is the mascot who will promote a future full of hope forever.*

Photo by: tokyo2020.org

When it was announced during the 2016 Summer Olympics in Rio de Janeiro, many people were excited to hear that the next venue was going to be Tokyo.

The Olympic Games have been held three times in Japan. It was first held in Sapporo in 1972 and the second time was held in Tokyo in 1964. The latest Olympic Games held in Japan was in Nagano in 1998.

Only six events were held in Sapporo, and even in the Olympics held in Nagano, there were only seven competitions. Holding the 1940 Olympic Games in Sapporo would have been the first time an Asian

country hosted the Olympics. However, it was canceled due to the influence of the Sino-Japanese War and became known as the Phantom Olympics.

Later, the 1960 Olympic Games were scheduled to be held in Tokyo during the summer but it did not push through because of the outbreak of World War II. The Tokyo Olympics, held in 1964 saw Japan's return as a peaceful and globally minded nation.

In the wake of the first Olympics, new roads and railways have been opened in Japan. The Shinkansen is one of them, opening the train service between Tokyo and Osaka ten days before the 1964 Tokyo Olympics. Since then, more technology such as the Internet, as well as the use of smartphones, has spread. This, along with the advent of various platforms of social media, has made information from around the world more accessible.

Recently, AI or artificial intelligence has been introduced

as part of the 2020 Olympics. According to some reports, AI will perform the scoring and commentary on some of the competitions.

By holding the Olympic Games in Japan, it is possible to deepen other countries' understanding of Japanese culture. Omotenashi or Japanese hospitality to wholeheartedly look after guests will make sure that anyone who comes to watch the 2020 Olympics will have a great experience. The Tokyo Olympics is providing a landscape that incorporates Japanese culture with the teamwork and sportsmanship.



*SOMEITY is inspired by the phrase "so mighty" and cherry blossom to represent the Paralympic athletes.*

Photo by: tokyo2020.org

Even though it has a long and complex history when it comes to hosting the Olympic Games, Japan's evolving technology as well as the spirit of *omotenashi* will draw many tourists as well as the attention of the whole world.

By: Risa Kusunoki, Jaehee Yang, Non Makabe

## Japan's Table Tennis Journey



*Young athletes like Tomokazu Harimoto bring pride to Japan through table tennis.*

Photo by: Tomokazu Harimoto

Table tennis is one of the most popular sports in Japan. Table tennis has an interesting history in Japan. Japan has a lot of skills and good players. Players are starting younger and getting stronger because of a better training program.

In 1902, table tennis came to and spread in Japan when Gennbou Tsuboi came back

from the U.K. with a 10-piece table tennis set. In 1938, the first International table tennis meeting was held in Japan. From the 1950s to the 1970s, Japanese table tennis players were considered top class in the world. A total of 13 men and women have been champions in the singles division.

In the next Olympic Games, Japan will continue to send great table tennis players. Worldclass athletes such as Tomokazu Harimoto, Jun Mizutani, Kouki Niwa, Kenta Matsudaira, and Kasumi Ishikawa will represent Japan in 2020. Harimoto is currently ranked 5th in the world and is known for his expression "Chorei!", which he says when he scores in a match.

Japan's world ranking in

table tennis is becoming stronger because of its many promising young players. Along with Harimoto in 5th place, Japan also has three players in the women's world rankings: Mima Ito in 7th, Kasumi Ishikawa in 8th, and Miu Hirano in 9th. Japan's performance in world rankings is not far from China, which currently holds the most places in world table tennis rankings.

Much is expected of Japan's athletes. Because of their strength in sports and the honor of Japan now that it is hosting the 2020 Olympics, it can be said that the future of table tennis in Japan is bright.

By: Daigo, Kamijiki, Sho Sakaki, Shogo Sasaki, Tomokazu Harimoto

### NICHIDAI SG TIMES

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