

House of Meeting & Exchange

ISHIKAWA National College of Technology

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Hello everyone. We are from Ishikawa National College of Technology, and are very glad to be here today.

I'm Seika Kimura, majoring in Architecture.

I'm Naomi Mae. I'm also studying Architecture.

And I'm Akari Yonekawa, majoring in Information Technology.

Today, we're going to tell you about a project we're working on: "HOME."

H · O · M · E, "HOME" stands for "House of Meeting and Exchange ." For engineering students like us, it is important to learn English, and to engage in international exchange to broaden our horizons. Have you ever wished it was easier to engage in international exchange?

We have two purposes for this project; the first is to design a place where Japanese people and people from other countries can gather and learn about each other's cultures, and the second is to provide opportunities for people to get information about HOME on the Internet.

These days, a number of people from other countries are coming to Japan to study Japanese language or culture. Unfortunately, our chances of meeting with these foreigners are restricted. While communities may occasionally hold exchange events, they are not always held at convenient times or places, and are therefore sometimes difficult for us to attend. On the occasions that we can attend these events, we sometimes find it difficult to get knowledge which we really want to know, and it is sometimes a little hard to make friends due to lack of common interests.

In making this presentation, we examined foreigners living in Ishikawa prefecture. Please look at this graph published by the Ishikawa government. It shows the response of foreigners living in Ishikawa to the question, "How do you want to learn Japanese?" Although over 20% wanted to learn the language from Japanese friends and 20% were not sure of how to go about learning Japanese. That's why we think almost 40% of them, that is the red and orange parts in this pie graph, will surely enjoy our project, "HOME".

From opinions like these, we have found 4 aspects that traditional exchange events don't have. They don't have a place that allows foreigners and Japanese to "meet freely

at their convenience,” “find international friends who have the same interests,” “learn about each others cultures,” or “provide a casual atmosphere.” So, we have designed a place that cultivates these 4 aspects.

Ms.Kimura is going to show an architectural design of our project “HOME.”

First of all, we would like to propose a new style café which based on these 4 aspects traditional exchange events lack. There are two special features of this café, first is the “people” and second is the ”food.” The 1st point is “people.” This place would provide more jobs for foreigners and also allow them to meet more people. In 2008, there were 1424 foreign exchange students in Ishikawa. Most of these students wanted to have a part-time job. Employing people from other countries will create an atmosphere which attracts foreigners. As for the second, “food.” Many foreign foods and drinks will be served in this cafe. For foreigners, these foods remind them of their home countries. Moreover, we think that it will be a good opportunity for Japanese to become interested in foreign cultures.

Please take a look at this drawing we designed. This is our original design! This is an architectural floor plan for the café. There are games such as billiards and darts on the second floor. We made a scale model as well. People can interact on the first and second floors. We can create a friendly atmosphere by doing so.

Next, Ms.Yomekawa and Ms.Mae are going to talk about the internet communication.

Now, we would like to talk about SNS. SNS stands for ‘social networking service.’ We want to make use of this service in our own way. We are making our web site for this project. Take a look at this web page. These days, these kinds of web pages have become commonplace. Social networking services are the social communities of people that consist on the internet. By using this SNS and making profiles or communities, we can easily find friends who have the same interests or want to exchange languages. And we can also notify people of special events by posting information on a web site or sending email. Thus we can gather more people, and make more chances to meet new friends.

Then why do we need SNS? We will show you a chart which describes how people come to use this facility after locating it. Look at this please. First, they discover this place, then they become interested, then they investigate what it is, and finally they use it. Not all people can find this place by chance. If they find it but don’t understand what it is, they may simply forget about it. SNS can assist in every step of this procedure by providing a means to advertise, gather information, and make friends. And SNS can also encourage people to revisit, and to invite others.

And what’s more, most visitors to Japan eventually return to their home countries, and cannot come back to this place so easily. However, by using SNS, they can continue to stay connected with their friends here.

We have talked about the project, "HOME." Now, we're going to show a summary of the project. These days, it is important for everyone especially engineering students like us to expand our boundaries internationally. Unfortunately, it's hard to maintain friendships with foreigners in a traditional sense. So we suggest the international exchange in this place cooperate with SNS, to allow four things; the ability to "meet freely at one's convenience," "find international friends who have the same interests," "learn about each others' cultures," or "provide a casual atmosphere." We can communicate through working in this place together, chilling out at the café, or playing darts and billiards. SNS helps to expand chances to meet, to become language exchange partners, or to find friends who have the same interests. That's all for our project, "HOME".

How do you like our project?

I am student of information technology and interested in web system. So, I myself would like to develop SNS.

I am majoring in architecture. In the future, I hope to become a city planner and design a city that could nurture a place like "HOME."

I am also studying architecture. I would like to go abroad and study architecture there after I graduate.

Through this project, hopefully we can change the style of international exchange, and it'll become more casual. Finally, we hope that more people will develop an international view and of course continue to grow in the future.

Thank you for listening.