**Connecting the dots of creativity in yourself**

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K: For us humans, one of the most important abilities is creativity. We are constantly coming up with new ideas and trying to put meaning and value to each one of them. This effort to produce something new and make sense out of it is called creativity. In our society, there are countless places where we are expected to use our creativity including schools and work places.

M: In particular, Kosen students are required to have rich sense of creativity. For Robot contests, programming contests, and even for this English presentation, we are always trying to deliver the finest and most original ideas that we can propose.

T: At this moment, there are already tons of incredible ideas out there around the world. How have they been discovered? And who are the ones who stand behind those bright ideas?

M: Through this presentation, we hope to forward the message that anyone is capable of expressing their creativity. Actually, creativity is really tying the knots.

K: Let’s imagine that these knots are dots. By drawing lines and connecting these dots, we are able to create something that perhaps may have the power to change the world. And this is always possible. Then what kind of dots can we find? Moreover, how can we connect these dots? Let us find out the real aspect of creativity.

T: In order to do that, we will show examples of two types of creativity. One is the large scale creativity that has the power to change the world. Another is the small scale creativity such as personal episodes.

M: First, let’s think about the large scale creativity that has dramatically changed the world. For example, it’s the Internet. Please take a look at this figure. As you can see, Internet users have increased since 1993. Nowadays, the number has reached over 3 hundred and 40 million people.

K: Looking at these numbers, it is obvious that the Internet has heavily affected the world. Incidentally, how had the Internet invented? The Internet originated from a computer network called ARPANET which was developed by its inventors from several universities in 1969. ARPANET had connected computers by applying communication technology like a telephone system. And it became the origin of computer networking technology and services.

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T: Facebook created by Mark Zuckerberg, and Twitter created by Jack Dorsey are widely known for ones of the largest Internet services. Over the years, the Internet has clearly become one of the biggest aggregate of creativity.

M: Next, let’s look at the examples of small scale creativity of personal episodes. At first, Shusei would like to show his graduation research.

K: Okay, so for my research, I developed the Web application MelOn that helps self-composition in elementary school music education. MelOn could foster creativity in 6 to 12 years old. I had accomplished MelOn with programming skill acquired in KOSEN, and also leader experience in Computer Music Composition Club. Well then, secondly, Toko would like to tell us her childhood episodic memory.

T: Sure. I have great weaving experience when I was little. As you can see, there is a textile which was made of three different color patterns of threads. My mother taught me similar color weaving patterns. I had picked my favorite colors, and weaved a hand-made textile. At last, I found that my textile looked so beautiful! Moreover, praise to the textile by my teacher made me so happy! So, thirdly, Manaka will talk about her future plan.

M: Yes, I’m planning to go on to a university of arts where has a department which is available to mix the technology I learned in KOSEN. At the first sight, technology doesn’t get along with art. However, I hope to create something new for human life to combine the knowledge of technology and art in the future.

K: Now, let’s move on and talk about what these two types of creativity that we have mentioned have in common. Toko, what do you think about it?

T: Well, it’s the fact that both types of creativity are formed by a combination of several ideas. For instance, the Internet is formed by a fusion of computer technology and communication technology. Similarly, my textile was a combination of weaving knowledge and my sense of design.

M: Right! My future plan is also based on a combination of technical knowledge and art! I think we can call these ideas “dots”. By drawing lines and connecting these dots, we are able to create something incredible!

K: Then, what do these dots actually look like? Moreover, how and where can we find these dots? ...Well, the dots can be found within ourselves. Now, we will examine three different types of dots that exist.

T: The first dot is knowledge. This includes the things that we learn at school and information that we gain from being curious and conducting our daily research.

K: The second dot is experience. Everything that we have seen, felt, done and endured in life becomes a “dot”. In my case, the experience of being a leader of the music composition club became one of my “dots” to create MelOn software. So, challenging something new is important to get this dot.

M: The third dot is talent. Think of this as something that you truly love to do. So, we believe that everybody has some sorts of talent. Toko and I are truly interested in art and designing. That’s why we are able to work hard for our imagination to be a reality.

T: Knowledge, experience, and talent. These are the three dots that structure creation. In other words, everyone in this world has the key tools needed for creativity.

K: If so, how do we connect them in order to form creativity? To begin with, we have to realize a problem. You see, there is a proverb, “necessity is the mother of invention”. It means that the need to solve a problem often leads you to a new idea. And this is exactly the moment in which we need to focus more carefully on our “dots”.

M: Also, we need to take a rest and be relaxed. For example, James Watt found out how to create a new steam engine while walking in a pasture. His idea was needed for the industrial revolution and changed the world remarkably.

T: And above all, we need to believe that these “dots” are going to connect in the end. There is always a way to break the limit of our boundaries and go beyond what we think we are capable of creating. Steve Jobs once said in his commencement speech: “You have to trust that the dots will somehow connect in your future.”

K: Every individual has planted their own creativity. Because everyone has a different life and different problems to face, we all have a potential to transform this creativity into something beyond our imagination.

M: So here is our conclusion. Creativity is really connecting the “dots” that we face in life. By connecting these “dots”, we are able to enhance our creativity having the power to change the future.

T: All we need to do is to dig deep within us and search for that creativity which has always been there but not yet discovered.

K: And ask yourself what your “dots” are, how to connect them, and believe that everything you do in life always has a meaning.

ALL: Connect your dots. And believe in yourself.