

A Comedian and a Philosopher ... Closing Address at the Party for Overseas Students

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---Closing Address at the Party for Overseas Students---

Dec. 20, 2016

M. Shibata

As introduced now, I'm a vice president in charge of education and strengthening of Law School at Kanazawa University.

Good evening, every international student!

My name is Masayoshi Shibata and my field of study is philosophy.

Tonight we had a very exciting and pleasant party. Right ?

I hope you, our international students will make the most of your stay at our university and in Japan.

By the way, we had a special lecture meeting for Development of Super Global Human Resources of SGU at Kakuma Campus about 2 weeks ago, on 7th of December.

Is there anyone who joined that event? Ok.

We invited "Atsugiri Jason" as a lecturer, who is a very famous comedian appearing on many TV shows, although I didn't know even his name until that time.

When I met Mr. Jason in person, oh, his real name is "Jason David Danielson", I've realized that he is a very adventurous and clever man.

He had a chance of coming to Japan in his college days, and entered a big company in the US, General Electronic Company, GE you know, after finishing Graduate School of Illinois University.

But he left the company as soon as he knew that he couldn't immediately work at a Japan branch of the company, GE.

He always says: "Why Japanese?" on TV, so "Why Jason" quitted the job so quickly?

Because he wished to come back to Japan so much.

The most impressive thing I've got by a personal conversation with him is what

we should think of the concept of Diversity.

He asked “why Japanese” understand Diversity only as a matter of the difference of gender, as men and women.

And he added it is nonsense.

But “why Jason” said such a thing?

Actually, what is the authentic diversity?

Variety of skin colors, faces, foods, languages, nationalities, religions, or social positions?

The answer is “no”, I think.

The most significant element of Diversity is the difference of values, the difference of what you respect in your life.

And Jason and I completely agreed with each other at this point.

“Why Jason” became that cool Jason successfully?

The answer is “his endless curiosity”.

So like Jason, all of you (!) , why not move around the intellectual world more actively?

Why not get to know each other’s values more deeply, to make the one peaceful and brilliant world?

This is a common message from a comedian and a philosopher.

And this is the end of my closing address.

Thank you.