

Becoming a Glocal citizen by Learning about Citizenship in Canada

An essay by Kana Aridome

I wish I could have put pen to paper to write this essay about the role of English as a “glocal” language for you. Ever since primary school I have been studying calligraphy. I love to brush ink on paper. Thanks to my mother, I enjoy penmanship. It really is fun. I hope to follow in mom’s footsteps and teach others this delightful skill. I love the shape of English characters as well as Chinese characters. Perhaps Canadians would like to hear about Japanese culture and maybe learn calligraphy? So I intend to perfect my English writing skills and I hope to study citizenship in Canada.

The role of English as a global language in both the local and global communities can be examined from the viewpoint of immigrants. The local and global communities can be studied as a *glocal* community. There are three reasons why I want to learn English and hope to go to Canada. The first reason is that I’m interested in the diversity of cultures around the world. Canada appears to be a microcosm of people with cultures from around the world. Small communities seem well connected with the whole community of Canada, which in turn is connected to the world.

The second reason is that I like communicating with people. I have come to gradually like communication with a diverse range of people in Japan because I can learn many new things. It is enjoyable for me to get involved with people socially. Surely there would be many fascinating Canadians to exchange opinions with if I were to go. I don’t want to go to Canada empty-handed, I would like to offer something to people in return while I am in Canada. I am confident that I could teach penmanship to Canadians in exchange for learning from them.

Another good reason to go to Canada is that I want to look at the way immigrants have adjusted to a new world. I have lived in Japan since I was born. So I measure myself against a Japanese standard. But if I really want to be exposed to a diverse range of standards, that’s not good for me. I have to have wider view. The conventional Japanese way of thinking is that it is safer to stay home, yet I am restless to find out for myself if there is more to learn by living for a while outside of Japan. If I were to go abroad I think I might find new opportunities. English is an important language to connect local community to global communities. At first I want to begin my life as a global citizen by

going Canada.

The English language will become ever more important for me as it is for immigrants who go to Canada. It will be difficult for me to completely master English but I should persist in my efforts to learn English. I want to learn how immigrants study English and French. We assume English is a common language. It is good for developing relationships between countries to use English. I think this is the role of English as a global language in the local and global communities. It is estimated that 4 billion people use English. That's a majority of the 7 billion people in this world. However, the most are the people who do not assume English a native language. This result is the people that about 80% of people speaking English do not make English a native language. I was surprised at knowing it and I think that therefore world society think it is able to speak English naturally. In Japan, primary school children study English. Japanese education thinks English is important. An important upcoming event is the Tokyo Olympics and the Paralympics that are held in 2020. The Olympics and Paralympics are decided yet the overseas media worries about Japanese command of English. I think Japanese English education serious considers that grammar is most important so I think that there are fewer people who can speak English well in Japanese than the world. English is one of the global languages. English allay for communication with many people. Therefore Japanese education should change it into education of the conversation serious consideration from education of the grammar serious consideration. Then we can give "Hospitality" to the participants who come over to Japan from the foreign countries at Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics.

Canada maintains a friendly relationship with Japan. Canada and Japan cooperate to maintain development of the Pacific. They are partners of the Pacific. Canadians and Japanese are interested in each other. For example, music, movie, art, sports and so on. In particular, Japanese comics seem to be appreciated very much by many Canadian youths. In addition there are many programs helping Canadians and Japanese to interchange. Our local governing bodies concluded 76 sister city tie-ups. Since the East Japan great earthquake disaster happened on March 11, 2011, Canada supported many Japanese victims. Not only financial support, but also many activity programs for victims were donated. For example, the embassy invited to Canada 150 youths damaged by an earthquake disaster and founded a scholarship program to provide an opportunity to learn English as "a studying in Canada hope project". Thanks to such a program, we can work and make friends with Canada people. I hope that Canada's friendship with

Japan would bond closer. Then we have to respect history and culture and it is most important things understanding each other. Not only Canada but also many other countries should build the relations to develop global citizens. Perhaps if I were able to brush one word in ink for you with my brush would be "*doryoku*" meaning to try and to do my best for my purpose.