

Dear friends,

Since I sent you the second issue of SAKURA, I have been busy settling down in my new environment-- means the new place we moved into and also the new position I took at Nihon University. I'd like to tell you a lot of things to catch up with these changes in almost five-year. In this issue, I will give a brief account of my family's doings.

New Place

We've moved from Inage, Chiba to Hongo, Tokyo. There are many advantages to living in Hongo-5-chome. For example, (1) everybody is familiar with the name because Tokyo University is there; (2) we can see a lot of trees on the university campus from our 14th-floor balcony; (3) there are nice restaurants, bars, cafes and well-known soba-noodle places; (4) it's convenient to go anywhere, a 3-minute walk to two subway stations and a 7-minute subway ride to Tokyo Station; (5) people are bustling around here, for there are universities, publishers, and offices specializing in medical matters; (6) Takeshi enjoys this place most, because he is a student of Tokyo University. The downside is (1) it's downtown and hotter than suburbs in summer; (2) we can't find supermarkets around here; (3) there are several hospitals attached to medical schools and we often hear the ambulance sirens. I will write about this place in the following issue.

My Position

In 2000, I applied for a full-time position at Nihon University, and started to work for the College of the Industrial Technology, Nihon University as an assistant professor to teach English courses using computers and to do some research in April 2001. Now I am an associate professor.

Nihon University is the largest private university in Japan, consisting of about 100,000 students and 7,600 full-time teachers and staff, who belong to 14 colleges and 23 attached senior high schools, 15 junior high schools, and 8 hospitals.

I am in the fifth year of working for this university. My research is going very well and I am busy making presentations in conferences and writing articles for journals at home and abroad.

Takeshi's Campus Life

Takeshi is a junior at Tokyo University. He really enjoys studying biotechnology and also biking all over Japan. His commute takes only ten minutes from door to door and

he often comes home to have lunch. I'll ask Takeshi to write about the college education he is getting there, which is supposed to be the best one in the nation, and also about his biking club and its club members, who are wonderful and amazing boys traveling around the nation and overseas. He writes about his journeys in travelogues at his blog (in Japanese) at <http://blog.livedoor.jp/jitenshaotoko/>.

Yoshi's Good Life

Yoshi has been continuing his work in the Finance Department of Kobe Steel, as a general manager. His office is in Shinagawa and his commuting time is only thirty minutes. He goes to a fitness club on Wednesday evenings and Saturday afternoons, and takes golf lessons on Sunday mornings. He goes to a golf course twice a month on average, has business dinners three times a week on average. He is working hard to maintain and improve the life in our condo as head of the administrative committee. He is really capable in that position and the residents appreciate what he has done for them.

Unfortunately our dog, Chako, ran away when a delivery man opened the door to deliver the Beaujolais nouveau wine in 2000 before we moved to Hongo. We can't see a Shiba dog without thinking of Chako.