

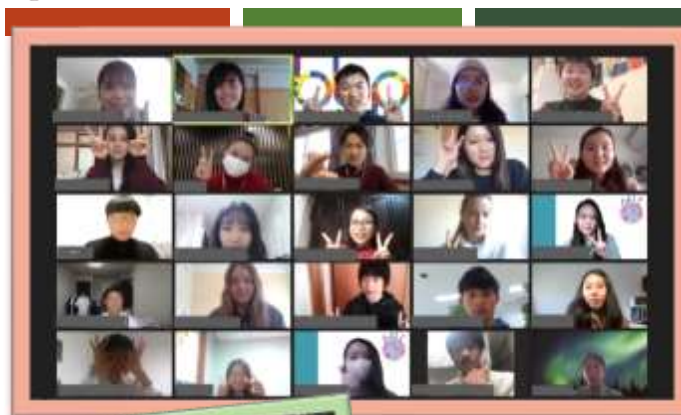
# The first-ever ! International Peer Support Organizations Collaboration Event **RITS MEET UP!**

We held RITS MEET UP on Zoom during the lunch break on December 16th, 17th, and 18th. This event was offered by 6 groups; KIC- BBP, BKC-BBP, TISA, SKP, Mairu, and SUP! based on the initiatives to collaborate together.

Ritsumeikan University has many international organizations. However, we think that many people do not understand the difference between each group. Therefore, we introduced the purposes and activities of each organization to address such questions. KIC-BBP, TISA, SKP were featured on the 16th, BKC-BBP, Mairu, SUP! on the 17th, and all groups on the 18th.

We also designed and offered a chat session in a way that participants' interests and language levels are met. We divided the participants into breakout rooms according to the talk themes and language levels. They could share their own worries in college life and hobbies. They enjoyed chatting with people they met for the first time and expanded their circle of friends! One student was connected from South Korea because she hasn't been able to come to Japan yet due to COVID-19. We heard that it snowed in Korea as well. It is the advantage that we can talk and exchange real-time information via online events. Although..., online conversation is good, we still want to meet and talk with friends in person! It was also a time when such feelings became stronger.

Thank you to everyone who participated! Please find the SNS of each organization in the right column. We are making various efforts to bring a fun and supportive environment for you! Please check and follow us!



< SNS of Global International  
Peer Support Organizations >

○ TISA (Support for degree-seeking international students)

<https://www.instagram.com/kic.tisa>

○ SKP (Support for SKP students)

[https://www.instagram.com/skp\\_buddy](https://www.instagram.com/skp_buddy)

○ Mairu (Study abroad support)

[https://instagram.com/mairuritsumeikan?r=name\\_tag](https://instagram.com/mairuritsumeikan?r=name_tag)

○ SUP! (Language exchange partner program)

<https://instagram.com/supritsume>

○ BBP (Language learning and international exchange events and resources)



## BBP Newspaper

2020 Fall Semester KIC  
Special Issue  
(Published on December 25, 2020)



~Editor's comments

産業社会学部・4 回生  
ゴールキーパー

- ①精神的に苦しいこともあったが、  
**人とのつながりを実感**できた年
- ②大学を通しての多くの出会いを胸に  
**社会人克服**するぞ

共に頑張りましょう！

I think so, too.

Economics  
Graduate Student・lisa

- ①a lot of uncertainties
- ②**back to normal**

法学部・たこ

- ①友人もたくさんきて生活に慣れてきた矢先、**留学中断強制帰国で絶望**。
- ②現地で知り合った友人らをもう一度訪れて、思い出話をする。

聞いただけで  
こちら悔しく  
なります…  
願いが叶いま  
すように。

国際関係学部・院 2 回生・みさき

- ①**趣味の機会**。パッションとともにストレスを乗り越えた
- ②**外の美しさを発見したい**！あと、海外も行きたい！

どんな趣味が気になります☺

International Relations  
Graduate Student・Apra Jain

- ①This year gave me **many new perspectives** about the world in a pandemic.
- ②I hope to meet many people and study abroad!

I have new values, too.

経済学部・3 回生

BKC の門を南草津駅の方に動かすハム太郎

- ①今年は大変な年でした、つまりは大変だったと言うことです。
- ②私は 30 文字で来年への抱負を語る天才で

切れてるやん！笑

文学部・1 回生・田代優都

- ①コロナで失ったものも多かったけど、得られたものも多かった。
- ②来年こそは **BBP イベントを対面で**やりたい！

In moderation…  
Good luck on that…  
Let's use Shiru Cafe correctly. Of course BBP, too!

産業社会学部・4 回生・〇△□

- ①自分自身とたくさん向き合った 1 年
- ②たくさん人と会って、**人の輪を広げたい！**

友達増やしたい！  
そんな方多いのでは？

Economics・3<sup>rd</sup>  
MAIKERUHA, NEKOKAITAI  
①I have two more weeks left in year. Isn't it a little early to look back?  
②Make a cute girlfriend and flirt at Shiru Cafe.

bbp

Tell us your thoughts on  
2020 with BBP newspaper!

Here are the voices  
we received!

Thank you for your contributions.  
We wish you a good year 2021!

- ①Looking back on year 2020
- ②Hope for next year



# Voice of BBP Staff

★Literature・1<sup>st</sup>・Yuto Tashiro★

I have been in the BBP project team since this semester. During the spring semester, when I could not make friends in the web class, I participated in many BBP events. Every time I thought, "It's fun to be able to connect with a lot of people, to have conversations, and to do the same activities. But it's not a matter of course: it's a very blessed thing." I learned this from BBP that I would have not noticed if I had lived a "normal" life without the coronavirus.

Now that I have become a member of BBP Project Team, I'm thinking about how to make event participants to feel, "I'm glad I participated," and "I want to come back to BBP." I am working while remembering spring semester's events that I participated in and the feelings at that time. I feel it is difficult to plan and manage an event, but through BBP's activities and events, I can interact with many people and share "Good time", so the painful feelings will be blown away!

This year's BBP is exclusively online, so it's a pity that I haven't been able to experience the original atmosphere (face-to-face) of BBP. I will do my best on the web while looking forward to what kind of fun I can do in-person/on-site.

## ~Special Message~ Voice of BBP Staff OB

★Language Education and Information Science  
GS・2<sup>nd</sup>・YUEN CHAN HANG (Kenny)★

I'm Kenny from Macau. I worked at BBP as a management staff and a member of the Project Team in the spring semester of 2019. When asked what kind of place BBP is, I think it is a place where you can "connect people." Some users and staff are from all over the world. In that environment, you can study not only language skills but also various different cultures and values through communication, which is very meaningful in this era of internationalization. The BBP staff is very interesting and has many events to study. When I was a staff member, I held events such as a study abroad consultation fair and a Chinese tea ceremony. It's great to work with team members to make the event a success.

If you are reading the message, please come to BBP!

### Every Voice Matters

The event "Every Voice Matters" with a guest speaker, Yoshikawa Priyanka-san, was held on Monday, November 30, 2020. With a total of 30 participants (including staff), the event started with an introduction from the MC, Kobayashi Harumi-san, and was continued by a presentation by Yoshikawa Priyanka-san with regards to her journey of finding her "voice." It was a wholesome presentation with a story-telling style, starting from her story of her childhood in India, then moving to the United States, and lastly staying in Japan.

Yoshikawa-san told her experiences of being bullied because of her identity being born as an Indian-Japanese in Japan. She was often made fun of by others around her, to the point that it was hurtful. Whenever kids would accidentally touch her, they would wipe their hands on the nearest surface. Growing up, she felt like she wanted to have her own

## Every Voice Matters



## Thank you!

"voice." She felt that if she could stand on her own two feet, she could help others who were scared like her. Thus, she joined modelling, and she became Miss World Japan in 2016. Currently, she is developing a cosmetic line with the name of "MUKOOMI", in which it promotes the idea and awareness of diversity. For her, this is her way of finding her "voice" in society.

After the speech, participants were put into breakout rooms of 4 to 5 people. They discussed about their experiences and thoughts about racial discrimination in Japan. After a while, the participants were back into the main room. The main discussion session was active and engaging, in which several international students were sharing their experiences of being racially discriminated against in Japan. One told the story of how his distinct physical appearance made the police officers question him often on the street; one told the story of how her hijab makes people look at her weirdly; and another told about her experience not being allowed inside a store because she was a foreigner.

Yoshikawa-san and Harumi-san summarized the discussion in the conclusion. The issue of racial discrimination in Japan has most likely been kept under the rug all these times, but that does not undermine numerous positive and beautiful things Japan has to offer. It should be continuously addressed to create a change. As Yoshikawa-san said, "Change starts with you."



~Special Message~

## Prof. Misa Fudeuchi, BBP Intercultural Advisor



The biggest enemy is my own assumption and preconception. This is a phase you will find in the KIC BBP Intercultural Advising Desk flyer. I will share the message from that flyer in this column as a friendly reminder to those who have already read it as well as those who have not seen the flyer yet.

For those of you who are studying at Ritsumeikan as international students, some (or many!) things have probably surprised or confused you up to now. From the experience of studying with other students in-person or online, you may have learned that what you had taken for granted were not necessarily true and applicable. I always remind myself and also advise students: the more we are aware of our own assumptions and preconceptions, the more likely we will be able to explore and discover alternative interpretations, options, and infinite possibilities of life. I am 100% sure your life will be even more interesting and precious by breaking your assumptions and preconceptions consciously and purposefully through your student life at Ritsumeikan. Don't limit your challenges. Challenge your limits.

If you have not visited BBP (physically or virtually) yet, I hope you are now more willing to try and drop by. BBP is a space where students meet and expand their possibilities through various events and learning opportunities. You will find empathetic ears and helping hands at BBP, too. Explore and enjoy getting out of your comfort zone. A vibrant group of BBP student members are waiting for you!

### The Platform is "Beyond Borders" Yamazaki Station, Tokaido Line (JR Kyoto Line), West Japan Railway Company (JR WEST)

The Tokaido Line connects Kobe to Tokyo via Osaka, Kyoto, and Kusatsu, etc. It is the oldest railway line in Japan with a history of about 150 years.

Yamazaki Station is one of the Tokaido Line's stations located in Ōyamazaki Town, Kyoto Prefecture, about 15 minutes by local train from Kyoto Station. This station looks like a very ordinary station, but it has a very unique characteristic.

This station is a "station that straddles Kyoto and Osaka"! There are long platforms where 12-car trains can stop, and a part of the Osaka side extends to Shimamoto Town, Osaka Prefecture. Therefore, there is a prefectural border that crosses the station. There is a signboard on the platform so that you can identify the border. The scenery of trains carrying passengers and freight passing in front of and behind the signboard gives a glimpse of the railway's great mission of "connecting regions".

In addition, the curves in and around the station are very popular shooting spots, and you can take pictures as if they were in a picture book. The appearance of a train running while making a big turn like a dragon is a word of "masterpiece".

There may be new discoveries on the border of the prefectures between Kyoto and Osaka.



## ~Railway Journey~



This is a column  
written by BBP staff  
who is a train fan.

Yamazaki Station  
Tokaido Line  
(JR Kyoto Line)



What comes to your mind  
when you see Christmas colors...?

So-called Christmas colors include red, green, white, and gold. In fact, each of these colors has its own meanings.

**Red**→A symbol of the blood that Christ shed;  
love and generosity

**Green**→Colors of holly and fir trees for Christmas  
power; eternal life

**White**→A symbol of chastity; peace; the beginning

**Gold**→The color of the star of Bethlehem, which is  
said to have shined when Christ was born;  
noble; hope

You may have heard the above meanings for the first time. Every year at this time of year, the city is decorated with those colors. It's a bit of trivia, but it's interesting to know. I wish you all a happy Christmas and a good year!

### Editor's Note

It is nearing the end of the year. I feel a little lonely, but BBP is preparing a new project for January. Please look forward to it! (Y.N.)

