



日本英語交流連盟  
The English-Speaking Union of Japan

【English-Speaking Union: International Public Speaking Competition 2018】 (English will follow.)

### IPSC スピーチについて

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グローバル文化学環 2年 上江洲<sup>うえず</sup> まりの

今回私は International Public Speaking Competition 2018 へ日本代表として出場した。この大会には世界 50 カ国、52 名がそれぞれの国を代表して出場することができる。大会期間 1 週間のうち、はじめ 2 日間はワークショップやツアーが行われ、3 日目から本格的に大会が始まる。Prepared Speech と呼ばれる、予めテーマが与えられそれぞれで用意してきたスピーチと、impromptu speech というその場でテーマが与えられ 15 分間で即興でスピーチを仕上げる形式の 2 種類がある。参加者はどちらにも出場し、上位 7 名が決勝へと進出する。

今回の prepared speech のテーマは“Great artists have no country”だった。このテーマを目にしたとき、ひとりの日本人オペラ歌手が思い浮かんだ。母が you tube にあがっている彼女の動画を見せてくれたことを思い出したのだ。彼女の名前はマリア・セレンといい、性同一性障がいを抱えて生きている。彼女には天性の美声があり、ソプラノとテノールのどちらも操る、いわゆる両声類と呼ばれる歌手のひとりで世界的に活躍している。私の周りには以前から LGBT に属する人々が多く、彼らの存在が当たり前になっていた。しかしこの動画をきっかけに母の親友でゲイでもある男性は仕事に支障を来すという理由で職場でカミングアウトできずにいたり、母の教え子で性転換をした男性は生命保険が得られないという現状を知った。そんな彼らのためにも私が伝えられることがあるのではないかと思いこのスピーチを書き始めた。77 歳になる祖母にもし彼女の息子、私の叔父が LGBT だったとしたらどう思うか、という質問を投げかけてみた。沖縄の小さな島の中で生きてきた彼女の持つ価値観や文化を考慮したうえで、彼女から返ってきた、「きっと彼を受け入れられない」という答えはある意味で想像ができていた。しかし、彼女にマリア・セレンの動画を見せるとその歌声の美しさに心から感動していた。マリア・セレンのように性別や国籍を越えて人々の心に訴えかけられるアーティストの存在が LGBT などへの理解につながると思い、スピーチを発表した。スピーチを終えたあとには、実際に LGBT だという出場者が「このテーマを話してくれてありがとう。感動した。」と声をかけてくれたり、スリランカからの出場者からは「アジア人のあなたがこのテーマを扱うことにすごく意味があると思う。ありがとう。」と言葉をもらい反響も大きかった。

Impromptu speech では、“Happiness is the function of accepting what it is.”というテーマを与えられた。限られた時間のなかでスピーチを仕上げることは決して容易なことではないが、自分自身の経験に置き換えて考えることを心掛けた。今回私はこのスピーチの中心に祖母を据えた。というのも、私の祖父はアメリカ人で、軍人だった。沖縄の基地内で祖父と祖母は出会い、二人の子どもを授かったが、結婚し一緒に住むことは当時のアメリカ人に対する偏見や差別から叶わなかった。しかし祖母はその現状に対しても希望を捨てず、女手一つで子どもを育て上げた。アメリカと日本のハーフの子どもに対する偏見もあったが、そのことに誇りを持つように教えた。母が 20 歳になったとき、自分の力で祖父をアメリカで見つけ出しそこから私たち家族の交流は再開した。祖母がああとき、希望を捨て努力していなかったら今の私はいないだろう。



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英語を学びたいと思ったのも、祖父やアメリカの家族と会話がしたいと思ったからだ。きっと目の前の現状に挫けそうになることは誰にでもあると思う。そんなときもすべてのことに意味があると信じ、それを受け入れたときに幸せはやってくると思う。これが私の **impromptu speech** だった。

結果はあとからついてくるものだ、というのがその通りに私の2つのスピーチはどちらもトップ5に入っていた。残念ながら、決勝に進むことは叶わなかったが納得のいく結果だった。決勝7名のスピーチは圧巻だった。まるでTEDスピーチを見ているかのように、彼らのスピーチに引き込まれた。世界にはまだまだ上がいることを知ったいま、日本代表として出場できたことに感謝と誇りを持ち、今回得た学びを努力に移したい。

アン王女に宮殿へ  
招かれた際の様子



決勝にいらしてくれた  
外務省の方と



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【English-Speaking Union: International Public Speaking Competition 2018】

【IPSC2018 Report】 Marino Uezu, Ochanomizu University

Sharing ideas with people is always great opportunity for me to get better and to broaden my horizon. I have been competing in English speech competitions since I was 7 years old, and all these experiences have become such valuable parts of my life. This time, I was able to participate in an International Public Speaking Competition 2018 (IPSC) as a Japanese delegate.



IPSC is one of the largest public speaking competitions in the world, which is held in London every year. It involves 600,000 students from over 50 countries. Each of the participants delivered two types of speeches; a prepared speech and an impromptu speech. In the prepared speech part, I spoke about LGBT in Japan. It was the most topical and noteworthy issue for me, and I wanted to share this topic with people by speaking out and sharing my experiences and ideas. We had a question answer session after delivering our prepared speeches. I had so many questions from both the audiences and the judges, which was so tough but it meant so much to me because I thought by talking about this topic I could make other people become interested or think about this issue. In the other part, which was the impromptu speeches, I felt that it was sort of challenging for me, since I had not had so many opportunities to speak out in English especially on something I only wrote in 15 minutes beforehand. However, it became my favorite part of the public speaking competition. I ranked 2<sup>nd</sup> in the impromptu round.

However, over the course of the week, I had a unique opportunity to engage in many cultural exchanges with my fellow participants from over 50 countries, whilst exploring the sights and sounds of London. Each of the participants also had a roommate and shared meaningful, precious, and cultural-exchange times together. There was no borders between us, it was like a small world in one hotel. Not only did we shared our time together, but we also built our own international relationships all over the world. My roommate, Afra is Bangladeshi and was one of the most influential persons to me through the week. It was the first time for me to live with someone who is Muslim, nevertheless we became close friends right away. I also made so many other friends from all around the world. I'm sure every one of them will be my motivators. I deeply appreciate such an amazing and life-changing experience.





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This was my speech for the prepared round, which was titled “*Genderless Voice Penetrates Our Hearts*”.

I am watching a video that my mother has given me. A statuesque lady is singing my favorite song “Time to Say Goodbye”. Her soprano reminds me of Sarah Brightman. Then I hear a beautiful tenor, but there is no Andrea Bocelli in sight. The voice then goes on to switch between soprano and tenor in quick succession. It is Sarah Brightman and Andrea Bocelli rolled into one singer.

The singer’s name is Maria Serein. She is apparently Japanese, born as a male, but grew up psychologically as a female. She is determined to pursue a career as a transsexual opera singer, because she wants to be a beacon of hope for those suffering from gender problems. Her message reaches the



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hearts of many transsexuals everywhere. It also gives you a chance to consider how you approach them, and your attitudes may change.

In my family, we often talk about people like Maria Serein. My mother is a schoolteacher, and one of her former female students became a man and just got married. One of her male best friends is gay. A friend of mine has confided to me that she is bisexual. There have been a number of people of different sexual orientations around me, so that I can feel at ease and empathize with them.

In fact, there may be in Japan many more people who belong to sexual minorities but don't come out. In the entertainment world, there are a number of gay, lesbian and trans-sexual personalities. However, prejudices and discriminations persist. My mother's former student cannot get life insurance because he has undergone sex change. My mother's best friend cannot tell his colleagues that he is gay for fear of being stigmatized. My bisexual friend wouldn't come out to her other friends.

Can all this possibly change? Take the case of my 77-year old grandmother, who has followed Japanese tradition and customs all her life. I showed her Maria Seiren's video and asked her what she felt about her. She said that if her only son, namely my uncle, suddenly told her that he was gay, she was not sure if she could accept him. But she listened to the music, muttering "what a beautiful voice ...", deeply lost in thought. The power of music was visibly affecting her, reaching her heart. I felt that her attitude was changing slowly but surely.

Can we just let those minorities feel unwanted and struggle in vain to pursue their own happiness? No. They have as much right as we do to walk freely about town, holding hands and showing affection just as normal couples do.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let us go back to what Martin Luther King said in his address in 1964, "It may be true that you cannot legislate integration, but you can legislate de-segregation." Similarly, it may be true that you cannot legislate non-prejudice, but you can legislate acceptance of diversity. And when acceptance of diversity becomes a habit, pretty soon the hearts of people will begin to change and the attitudes will begin to change.

So I hope that Maria Serein's genderless voice will reach the hearts of people around the world and begin to bring about changes of attitudes.