充実ニッポンLife Living a Fulfilling Life in Japan

Presenting a Winning Essay from a Past Japanese Essay Contest

What is the World's Greatest Present?





日本語作文コンクール 過去の名作公開!

世界一すばらしいプレゼントって?

This issue's "Information on Technical Intern Training" has a call for entries to the 27th Japanese Essay Contest. In conjunction with this topic, "Living a Fulfilling Life in Japan," this issue also introduces a winning essay from a past contest.

今号の〈技能実習情報〉では、第27回外国人技能 とことがは、第27回外国人技能 とことがは、第27回外国人技能 とことがは、第27回外国人技能 とことがは、はんことには、これである。 さくひんぼしゅう 実習生・研修生日本語作文コンクールの作品募集をご 多人ない 案内していますので、今回の〈充実ニッポンLife〉で とうこんくーるが、これがい なりしたいますので、今回の〈充実ニッポンLife〉で は同コンクールの過去の優秀作品をご紹介します。

[Japanese Essay Contest – 2017 First Prize Essay]

The World's Greatest Present

Catalan Roland Gundran

What do you think is the world's greatest present? Perhaps a full course dinner at a high-end restaurant or a large gem stone accessory? Or how about a high-performance car or a high-rise condominium? Previously, I would have dreamed of such luxuries, too. However, these were not the world's greatest presents. I found the answer in Japan.

I came to Japan three years ago. Construction work is in no way an easy job. When I feel myself beginning to lose heart, I try to muster some energy by thinking about my family back in the Philippines.

Last year, the son of the president of my company had a baby-a very cute baby girl. My thoughts instantly drifted to my own child. The baby girl's name is Nanami-chan. Nanami means "seven seas," in reference to the seven seas of the world. I learned that the baby was so named with the hope that she will have the opportunity to see and experience as many things in the world as the seven seas and lead a happy life. This surprised me. In the Philippines, when we name our children, we do not give them names that are filled with such profound meaning. Children are commonly given a name that is a mix of their parents' names or the same name as their grandfather or father, or they are named after a celebrity or other famous person. The company president's son is named Masaki-san. "Masa" means "straight," and "ki" means "tree." He was given this name with the hope that he will grow up to be an honest person like a tree that grows straight toward the sky. His wife is Ayumi-san. Ayumi means to "walk" or "step forward." She was so named with the hope that she will live her life treasuring each step of her way. I learned that to the Japanese,

がいこくにんぎのうじつしゅうせい 旧んしゅうせいに ほんごさくがん こんく こる [外国人技能実習生・研修生日本語作文コンクール おんさいゅうしゅうしゅう 2017年最優秀賞]

世界で一番すばらしいプレゼント

カタラン ロランド グンドラン

みなさんは、世界で一番すばらしいプレゼントとは何だと思いますか。高級レストランでのフルコースディナーでしょうか。大きな宝石のついたアクセサリーでしょうか。高性能な自動車でしょうか。高層タワーのマンションでしょうか。以前なら、私もこのようなものを思い描いたと思います。でも、それは違いました。私は、その答えを日本で見つけました。

私は、三年前に日本に来ました。土木の仕事は決して楽なものではありません。くじけそうになったときは、フィリピンにいる家族のことを思い出して頑張っています。

日本には一億人以上の人が住んでいます。そして、その人の数だけ名前があって、そこに込められた親から子供への願い、愛がある

their names are the very first present they receive from their parents.

There are more than 100 million people living in Japan. This means there are also that many names filled with hopes and love from parents to their children. I was struck by how Japan is filled with so much love. The way the Japanese people name their children impressed me very much.

What a wonderful present a name is! No matter how fancy a dinner may be, it disappears once you eat it. Even an accessory or car will one day break. Even if they don't break, you cannot take them to heaven with you when you die. A name, however, belongs to each person for their entire life. Moreover, it remains as proof of their having existed, even long after they die. I will soon complete my training in Japan and return to the Philippines. If, or when, I have another child, I wish to give them my greatest present filled with hopes for their happiness.

ということです。日本は、なんて愛であふれた国なのだろうと思い ました。このような日本の名前の付け方に、私はとても感動しまし

^{なまえ} 名前とは、なんてすばらしいプレゼントでしょうか。どんなに ニラッカ゚ー レュペヒ 豪華な食事も、食べてしまえばなくなくなります。アクセサリーも ピロ゚ー。 車も、いつかは壊れてしまいますし、死んでしまったら天国まで ちって行くことはできません。でも、名前は一生その人のもので す。そしてその人が亡くなった後も生きた証として残ります。私 は、まもなく研修期間を終えてフィリピンに帰ります。もし今度 子供が生まれたらその子の幸せを願う最高のプレゼントを贈りたい と思います。

With regard to this essay, the chairman of the contest screening committee commented that the essay lured him into reading on to find out what the world's greatest present is and finally arrived at an answer found in Japan. That answer was the very first present that parents give their children with all their love—their name. He noted it was both unexpected and convincing that the answer was right in our immediate surroundings.

The essay spotlights an event that happened to a Japanese family with whom at his place of training the technical intern trainee interacts. Like him, the hint to writing an essay might perhaps be right near you. We invite you to look for those seeds of essays around you and challenge yourself to write an essay for the contest, too.

*The essay has been published precisely as written in Japanese by the technical intern trainee. The furigana has been added by the Editing Department.

Other winning essays from past contests and videos of awardees may be viewed in the website version of Technical Intern Trainees' Mate.

https://www.jitco.or.jp/webtomo/

Japanese language and culture > Japanese Essay Contest

この作品について、当コンクール審査委員長は 「世界一のプレゼントは何だろうとどんどん吸い込ま れるように読んでいくと、その答えが日本にあるとい う。それは両親が愛を込めて我が子にあげる最初の プレゼント『名前』だった。答えは大変身近なところ にあって意外な面と、納得の面とあった」と講評しま した。本作品では、技能実習先で交流している日本人 家族に起こったことについて着目しています。作文の きっかけは、こんなふうに案外自分の身近なところに あるのではないでしょうか。是非皆さんも、身のまわ りに作文の素を探して、このコンクールに挑戦してみ

※作文は技能実習生が書いた通りの日本語で掲載して います。振り仮名は編集部で付けました。

このコンクールの他の過去の作品や授賞者の動画等 できます。

https://www.jitco.or.jp/webtomo/ 日本語・日本文化 > 外国人技能 実習生・ 研修生 日本語作文コンクール