

**Letter to Becky from the Future**  
**(TBS Japanese program 'Hanamaru Market' live broadcast on 9 August 2004)**

Studio	Mrs. Okae	Both of you may have been overseas, but today's guest is a true super woman who has travelled all over the world.
VTR	Narration	In this generation, people can travel anywhere around the world. But it would be very rare to meet a person who has travelled overseas as much as this person. Today's guest is Masayo Goto, an international political analyst.
	Video of MG's arrival at the South Pole	This is the South Pole. I've finally arrived. I'm so happy!
	Narration	She is working at an embassy in Japan, and meanwhile she is travelling around the world alone as an analyst. And the total number of countries and regions she has travelled to mounts to ...
	Masayo G	Almost one hundred. My experiences from these travels are an irreplaceable treasure in my life.
	Narration	She is, as it were, an international woman. Starting from her study in the US at the age of 18, she began travelling around many countries. Then, at the age of 30, a landmark event occurred at the South Pole, which became a turning point in her life.
	Masayo G	A crew of the Russian ship gave me a present, saying "A long time ago, I was once saved by Japanese people, and so I'd like to give you this gift as you are Japanese".
	Narration	Of course, her response was...
	Masayo G	"It wasn't me who helped you", I replied, but he firmly replied, "You are still the same Japanese, so please allow me to express my appreciation with this in return".
	Narration	Hesitating, she started to realise one thing.
	Masayo G	When I am overseas, I am a representative of Japan. I started to seriously believe that I do not wish to be a person who is embarrassed about being Japanese.
Narration	Ever since, as a person who was born in Japan, she always aims to talk with people from various countries, and to absorb their <i>stories/thoughts</i> .	
Studio	Becky	Today's guest is Masayo Goto. Thank you for joining us.
	Masayo G	Thank you.
	Becky	Firstly, what do you do as an International Political analyst?
	Masayo G	I conduct surveys related to international relations, as part of

	research. My main job is to conduct surveys on Japanese politics and foreign relations at an embassy. On the side, I travel overseas to research different conditions in various countries and also go adventuring too.
Becky	So, this is a map of the world. The red area indicates the countries you have been to. (Looking at a world map made by the programme). This is amazing! The red area indicates the countries you have visited, haven't you?
Masayo G	Yes, that's right.
Becky	It seems like you've already travelled to most parts of the world. Wow! When did you start to think you'd like to travel around the world?
Masayo G	I first started becoming drawn to foreign countries when I was about 18 years old. Since I was in primary school I always thought I'd like to be an international person. I went to the US when I was 18 for study, then after that I travelled to Australia and went to university again there, and earned my PhD in International Relations.
Becky	Wow! That's great!
Masayo G	During that time, I also worked as an assistant professor and also as an interpreter, and I saved money and carried out research by travelling to various places around the world.
Becky	You have been doing many things!
Masayo G	Yes.
Becky	Regarding talking with many different people, is this important for international people?
Masayo G	Yes, I think to talk with people from different countries and absorb different cultures and ideologies are truly necessary to become an international person.
Becky	By the way, out of all the different people you have met, who has been the most memorable person?
Masayo G	Well, that would be Mother Theresa whom I met in 1993.
Becky	Mother Theresa. There is a photo on the screen. She's the person on the right, isn't she? What kind of person was she?
Masayo G	She was a kind of person who would give you a peace of mind, serenity, peace and the power of love. Upon meeting her, I was sincerely taught that peace is not something earned from competing in power, but rather from mutual discussions and helping out each other.
Becky	She seems like a very heart-warming person.
Masayo G	Peace is something ideological, but if it were a material object, I even felt it would be Mother Theresa herself.
Becky	Yes, it must have been a very valuable experience.
Masayo G	Yes, I was.
Becky	How did you meet her?

Masayo G	Actually, when I was in Sydney, I met an American scientist and he said “There is a tour to India to go and meet saints. Would you like to join?” On the pamphlet, the words “Mother Theresa” was written, but reading down towards the bottom it said “no guarantee that you will meet her”.
Becky	Even though this was a tour?
Masayo G	Yes. Although her name was on the broacher, it said there was no guarantee that you’ll meet her. I thought this was very intriguing so I joined, then I was actually able to meet Mother Theresa herself.
Becky	Are there any other memorable people you met on that tour?
Masayo G	Actually, I was also able to meet Sai Baba.
Becky	Sai Baba! I do have a Sai Baba ring!
Masayo G	Really?
Becky	I have a Sai Baba ring. (Looking at the photo), it is the man in the orange clothes, isn’t he?
Masayo G	Yes, that’s right.
Becky	Wow! What kind of matters did you talk about?
Masayo G	Sai Baba taught me to thank people, and to take care of materials preciously. He also performed his famous act of “materialization” from nothingness.
Becky	He has great powers, doesn’t he?
Masayo G	Yes, there is a place called Sai Baba’s palace, and we were specially invited inside, and he materialised a watch for us on the spot.
Becky	By ‘materialise’ do you mean he materialized something suddenly out of nothing?
Masayo G	Yes, materials start to appear gradually.
Becky	Wow!
Masayo G	I was sitting at this similar distance from him, and when Sai Baba started to chant, from nowhere parts of the bracelet of a watch began to appear, and that gradually became the shape of a watch. He took that abruptly and said, “This is a watch”, and he showed it to us.
Becky	Did you really see it?
Masayo G	Yes. It said ‘Seiko’.
Becky	A clock by Seiko. That is very Japanese.
Masayo G	Everyone agreed to not think of it as a trick and believe that what we saw is true, since we have come all the way and was able to meet Sai Baba.
Becky	Yes, let’s say so for now.
CM	

VTR	Narration	After having some experiences of studying in the US, she returned to Japan at the age of 24, and started to experience a peculiar problem.
	Masayo G	I had a reverse culture shock. I was no longer able to fit back into Japanese culture and customs.
	Narration	I realised myself being very much Americanised.
	Masayo G	I thought, if I remain like this, I could no longer be a true international person, and firmly decided to re-study Japanese culture.
	Narration	And so she...
	Masayo G	Learned tea ceremony, <i>sado</i> , and flower arrangement, <i>kado</i> .
	Narration	I realised that only after I truly understand my own country, I can become a true international person.
Studio	Becky	So, following the VTR, I'd like to talk about "understanding Japan". I often hear that when people return back to Japan after staying in the US for a long time, they experience a reverse culture shock.
	Masayo G	Yes, I think in Japan it is called "gyaku-karu". You can no longer fit back into the original environment and customs you lived with.
	Becky	So, did you have many troubles in Japan?
	Masayo G	Yes. Firstly, the US was a very friendly and equal society, and I had been in contact with people in that way. However, Japan is a very hierarchical society, divided into superiors and juniors, the boss and subordinate. It was hard to adjust myself to this environment.
	Becky	For example, I hear that some people, after going to America once, and returning to Japan, they forget to use the honorific form.
	Masayo G	Yes, after returning to Japan, I was mixing English in my Japanese language, and the honorific form did not come to me naturally. In worst cases, there was a time when I had been sitting on the table while chatting.
	Becky	But these things aren't accepted in Japanese society, are they?
	Masayo G	No. After returning to Japan, I realised for the first time, how old and traditional Japan and its customs are, and started to become particularly interested in tea ceremony and flower arrangement.
	Becky	I see. Is that why you started learning those traditional arts?
	Masayo G	Yes. That's right. Especially, when I was in the US, I was often asked about tea ceremony and flower arrangement. Because I was a Japanese woman, people thought naturally that I knew about these things, but I actually did not know anything.
	Becky	That is why you started to learn those things. Is there

	anything you gained from learning flower arrangement and tea ceremony?
Masayo G	To respect your teacher, to understand other people's feelings, and I also learned about Japanese culture, traditions, practice and mannerisms that are important for Japanese people. I also realised that these things are important to become an international person
Becky	Mrs. Okae, Mr. Yakumaru, do you have any questions?
Mrs. Okae	I see you have been to many countries, but are there any places in particular you want to travel to next?
Masayo G	Well, I myself have been looking at my past, present and future, and I went to many countries in the past so I am thinking of writing a travelogue or completing my own homepage. There are still some countries I haven't been to, so I would like to go to those places next, and as an adventure, I'd like to go in a submersible to see the Titanic wreck. There is also a suborbital flight tour that takes you 100km up from the Earth on a small shuttle and lets you view the Earth, so I am thinking of joining that tour as well.
Becky	Is there such a tour?
Mrs. Okae	It sounds expensive.
Masayo G	Yes, you cannot go now though.
Mr. Yakumaru	How much time of your life did you spend overseas?
Masayo G	Well, I have lived in the US and Australia for a long time, and I've been to various countries in-between, so after 18, I have spent about 80 percent of my life overseas.
Mrs. Okae	Around how many languages can you speak?
Masayo G	English is my main language, but I am also studying French and Spanish.
Becky	That's impressive. From your experience, how do foreign people think of Japanese people?
Masayo G	Well, Japanese are thought of as very intelligent and smart people. Our science and technology, especially, is impressive and many people overseas are hoping that Japanese people will make them happy with Japanese science and technology in a way that Japanese people are experiencing.
Becky	I see. That is how Japanese are thought by people overseas? Well, I'm afraid we are running out of time. This was a letter to Becky from the Future. Today's guest was international political analyst, Masayo Goto. Thank you very much.
Masayo G	Thank you for having me.
Mrs. Okae	Now, Masayo, please read your letter to Becky.
CM	

Studio	Becky	So, I have received a letter from Masayo Goto. This is what it says. "An international person is the one who converses with people around the world without boundaries and who can respect their own country". International political analyst, Masayo Goto.  Thank you very much. The number of countries she has been to is unbelievable!
	Mrs. Okae	Yes! A woman travelling by herself!
	Becky	The world map was virtually filled in red completely.
	Mr. Yakumaru	(Reading the letter) If this can really be achieved by everyone, there will be no more <i>wars and disputes</i> .
	Mrs. Okae	If people can become an international person.
	Becky	This was the letter from the future!

Deleted scenes due to time restriction		
VTR	Masayo G	Japanese people have the virtue of "fitting in with other people", but if you change yourself to fit with the other person overseas too much, you may cause misunderstandings.
	Narration	Naturally, people follow different cultures and customs overseas. Because of this, it is no good just making yourself fit with the other person. Rather, it is necessary to take an equal footing and communicate with each other.
		I think it is important to not only understand the other person, but also to convey your opinion clearly.
	Narration	The very first condition of becoming an international person is...
	Masayo G	To become a person who can express oneself well.
		Unless you open your heart and express what oneself is thinking clearly, the other person cannot understand you, and you also will not be able to understand the other person. When you face danger, someone will not necessarily come and help you. I believe understanding the other person or country is also linked to preventing danger.  In order to communicate with one another, of course it would be better if you could speak English, but I believe it is most important to have the will to express your feelings, even if it is in broken English.