

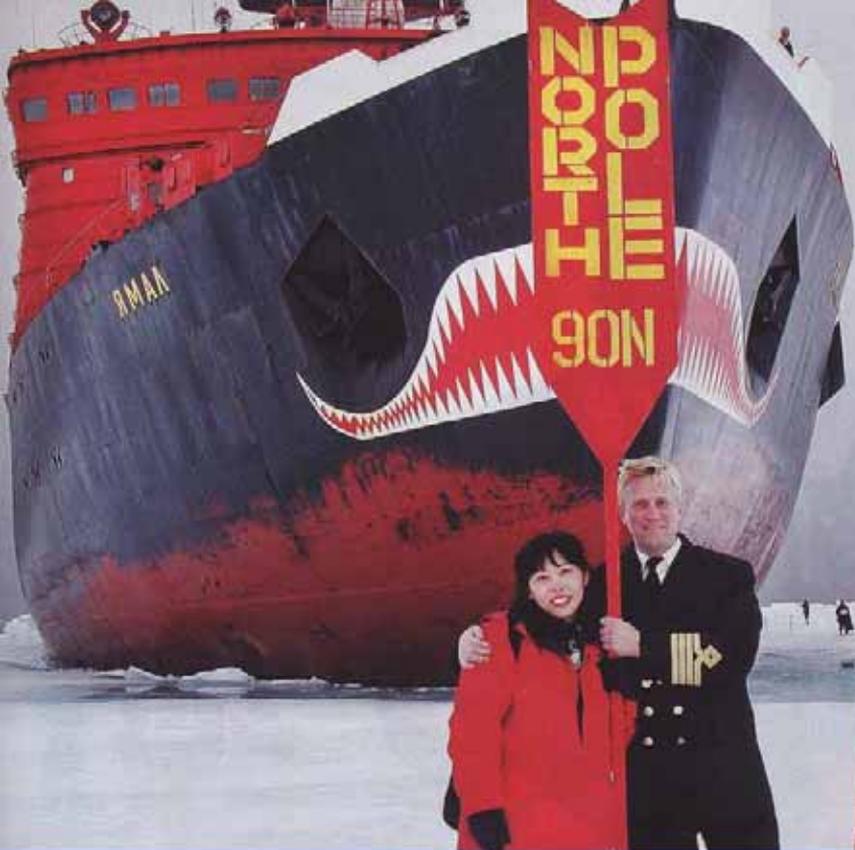
My World  
Journey  
Masayo Goto,  
International  
Political  
Analyst

The Sahara Desert, Galapagos Islands, North Korea, and Afghanistan are common destinations for her. She has been to top of the earth, the North Pole, and the bottom of the earth, the South Pole. This is a story of her solitary world journey... sometimes dressed in a traditional costume.

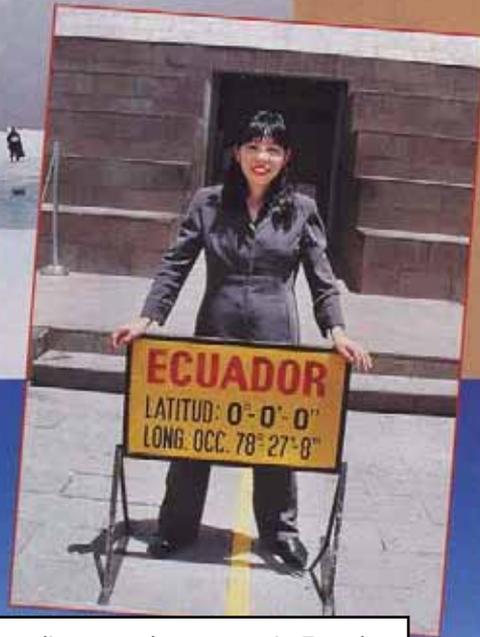
国際政治アナリスト・後藤昌代

# 私の地球紀行

She transformed into a Bedouin woman. She enjoys her trip in a local costume.



She went to the North Pole with a Russian Icebreaker. On her way back, she came across a Kursk Russian submarine

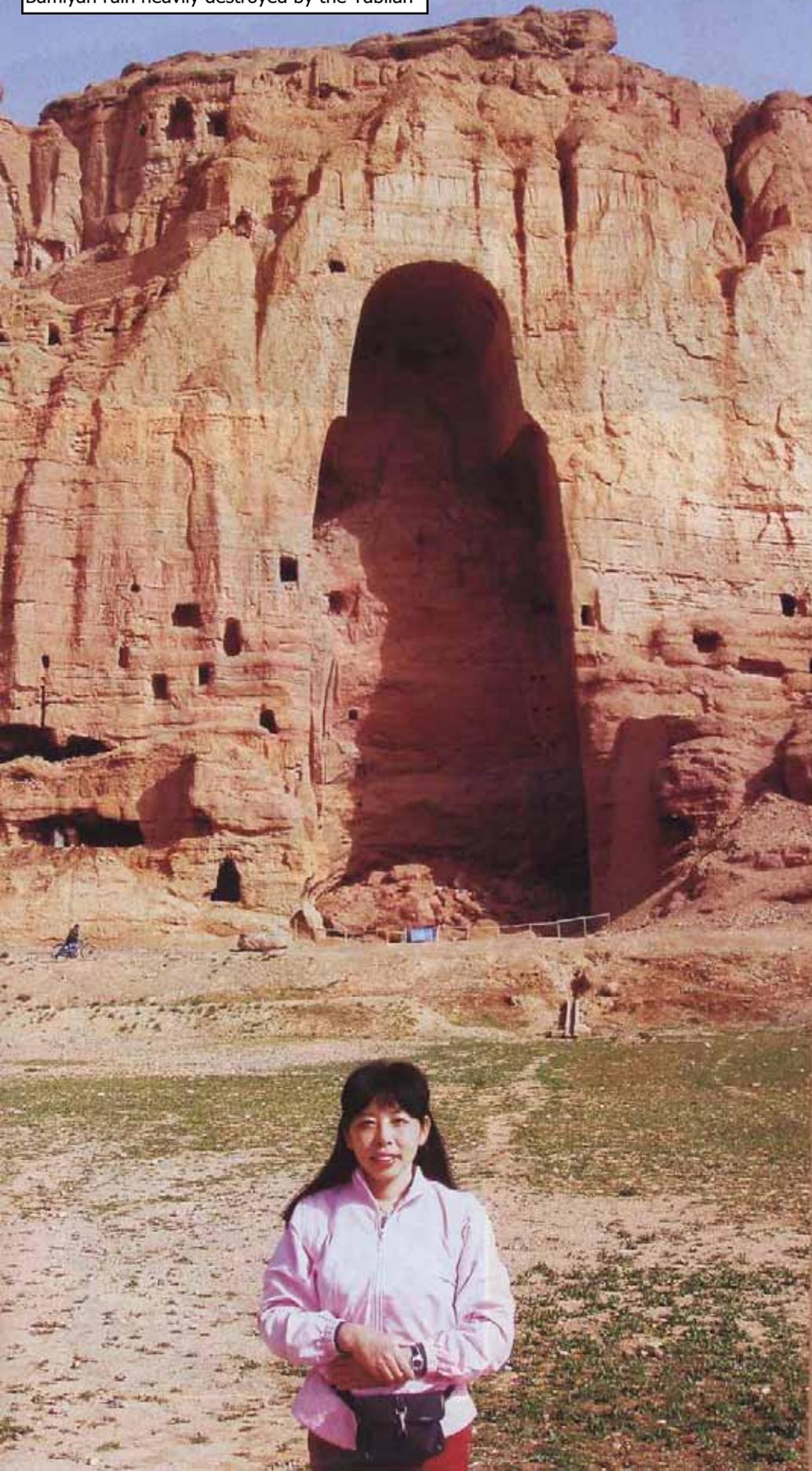


Standing over the equator in Ecuador



In 2003, she finally reached the South Pole

Bamiyan ruin heavily destroyed by the Taliban



Nowadays, we can go anywhere in the world if we have money and time. But, how many Japanese people have ever been to North Korea, conflict zones in the Middle East and all the way to the North and South Poles? Masayo Goto is one of such a few Japanese people. She was awarded a Ph.D degree in International Relations and International Politics at university in Sydney, and works for a foreign mission in Japan. She determined to become 'an international person' at the age of 12 and 13, and went to the US for study. After she came back to Japan, she worked for a foreign company in Japan and then she studied International Relations and International Politics in Australia while working as interpreter. Australia is a multicultural society and people love traveling, so when she was in Australia, she realized that there are so many nations, races and cultures in the world.

In 1993 she traveled to India and had a private audience with Mother Teresa and Saibaba. This is the beginning of her world journey and traveled more than 90 countries in the past ten years. Her stories and encounters are as many as the number of trips she has made. For instance, in 1996, she reached the North Pole for the first time. 'I paid approximately 2 million yen (US\$18,000) for the trip to the North Pole in Sydney, using all my savings. But, the airfare from Sydney to Alaska was not included in the cost. I did not know what to do, but the managing director of the travel agency said 'I pay for your airfare. It is important for a person like you who is pursuing studies to see the world from top of the earth.' He then supported my trip.'



Automatic rifles are the necessities in Yemen



In Lake Titicaca, she had a ride in a reed boat



Off course, she visited North Korea. She went to see a great event 'Arirang (Mass Gymnastic and Artistic Performance)' in 2002.

With truck drivers, in Islamabad



Dived into the sea, with beautiful corals in Saipan

In 2003, she became the 461<sup>st</sup> person to reach the South Pole counting from 1988 when the South Pole was opened to tourists. When I reached the South Pole, I was very surprised to see NHK crew standing with high vision cameras in front of my Cessna plane. It was also a big surprise for them to see a Japanese person in front of them. ' Quite a few people may have seen her reaching the South Pole on the NHK TV program.

In April this year, she visited Afghanistan crossing the boarder from Pakistan and then stood at the front of Bamiyan ruin. It is often said to be dangerous to travel to Afghanistan (by crossing the boarder from Pakistan by car), but I made inquiries a number of times to authorities of both countries, developed a plan very carefully and decided not to use a taxi when crossing the boarder and to have a soldier with me when crossing tribal areas. I have no intention to criticize a hostage crisis in Iraq, but it is a commonsense of the world to make every possible effort to avoid risks and dangers of our own. Her next destinations are to see the Titanic that sank to the bottom of the sea and to fly through the stratosphere (the sub-orbital flight) to see the earth.



She completely transformed into Jinghis Khan

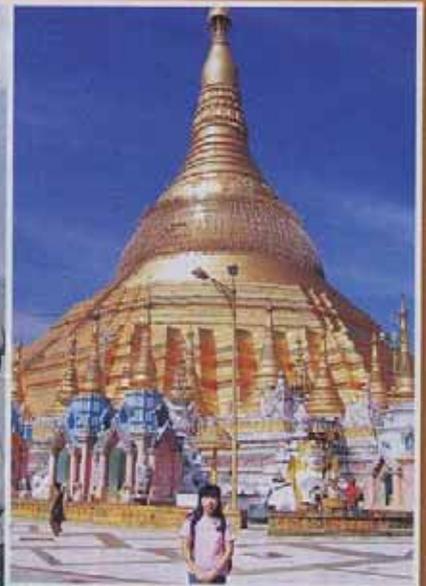


With a famous cactus, Galapagos Islands



Beautiful nomadic wedding dress

Private audience with Mother Teresa and Saibaba



In front of Shew Dagon Pagoda Yangon, Myanmar