

# Voices of Youth from around the globe

Vol. 17, No. 55



**Crossing Borders**

creating space for dialogue and peace building

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Join us!



**Kelsey Wanska**

## Editor's Note

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This issue of Crossing Borders includes diverse perspectives and stories from students and youth living in a globalized world. These "Glocal Perspectives" give readers a chance to hear voices from around the world about present issues of global concern that individuals encounter. These voices need to be heard to help us understand the challenges and opportunities young people are confronted with across the globe (With these stories we hope to contribute to an environment of mutual understanding, respect and cooperation will find fertile ground).

This Crossing Borders issue also includes photos from, the Crossing Borders sustainable living study tour around Denmark and various events. Finally, there is a section on question and answers from youth perspectives. With this final "food for thought section" we leave you inspired to take action. I would like to give a special thanks to both Garba Diallo and Simon Ntwari for always being available to give a helping hand with the creation of this issue.

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## Crossing Borders

**creating space for dialogue and peace building**

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Fear, sorrow and anxiety grabbed me when I discovered I was to study with people from more than five countries in a course that is so important to my career, work and self development. Many sleepless nights I kept thinking how to cope with the situation, thinking how difficult it would be to study in such an environment, the diversity and complexity that would be involved. Some of the questions I kept reflecting on were: can I do it?; Am I ready for this challenge?; Can I handle the situation?; What if I cannot do it, what should I do?; and so on. But one thing that came to mind that gave me hope and courage was that, one gets more experience through the challenges and difficulties one goes through in life and how one deals with such situations. I put my fears behind me and gathered courage, ready to face the reality.

To my surprise, everything turned out to be completely different from what I thought it would be. In the course, the people I long had negative thoughts of turned out to be some of the most amazing people I have ever met.

The course was one of the best courses I ever attended. It opened doors to learn many things I always wanted to learn. It also gave me the opportunity to interact, make friendships and learn about others' home countries. From language to culture, politics to social life, and socio-economic activities, to growth and development. Now I can do basic number counting in Danish and also say basic things like:

**Jeg hedder Ibrahim: My name is Ibrahim**  
**Jeg kommer fra Ghana: I come from Ghana**  
**Hvad er dit navn?: What is your name**  
**Hvor kommer du fra?: Where do you come from?**

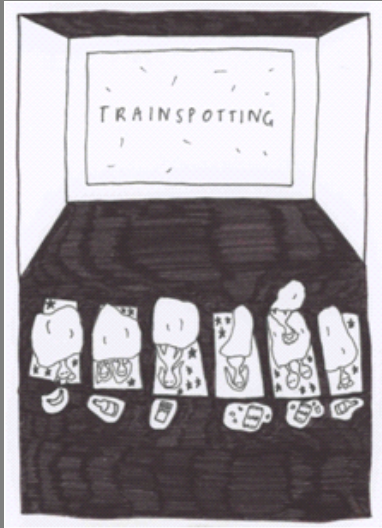
I learned different educational and learning styles from other countries, which were completely different from my own. I got to understand how education and learning is in different countries and continents. Unlike in my country where learning is based on the teacher being the instructor and one who passes knowledge to the students, in certain places learning is cooperative and created by both the teacher and students.

I had the opportunity to learn many cultures, get to understand life in different contexts, completely different from my own and also share my culture, traditions and experiences with them.

Though it was a challenging moment for me at the beginning, getting to understand these cultural differences and phenomena, how to relate with them and to have healthy learning and relationships with them, I had fun by the end and came out with the best parts of it.

# Life is magnified at Krogerup

By Tess Wallis



My journey at Krogerup began in 2012; I was studying in Copenhagen, and my stepmother proposed a trip north to Louisiana, with a quick stop off at her former højskole so that I could see the hallowed halls of her tales. We walked up the dark drive, peeked in the library, and observed the young students eating dinner for a few awkward moments. Fast forward to 2015—I'm back in Australia, discontented, and seeking a path away from my job and city and life. I fretted some and then decided on a whim that I should move to Denmark. For reasons I can't quite explain, inexorably, I am pulled here, week after week, month after month, year after year. After some late night Googling and desperate emails pleading for advice, I rediscovered Krogerup, forgetting for a moment that I had actually been there. How fortuitous it was—an international program taught in English! I was in. Many months of scrimping and dreaming passed, and I arrived

again.

That first night I simmered with anxiety. What have I gotten myself into? That first week, I boiled with anxiety. How do I human? And then life settled, with its ups and downs amplified by isolation not from other people—intense social interaction is unavoidable—but from stimuli outside the walls of the højskole.

At Krogerup, the outside world does not exist. People you have heretofore loved and sweated about shrink to the faraway stars of the night sky. You stop writing and calling and missing them. You don't stop loving or needing or wanting them, but the reality of their lives diminishes and becomes hazy. Can it be true that their world continues to spin without you? In contrast, your own life is suddenly in technicolour with the volume on full ball. Without outside influences, small moments become large. This place doesn't change what or how much you feel; it puts your life in focus and gives you pause to reflect and feel. The small lives we lead—going to class, walking in the forest—are

meaningful because each moment is lived through the Krogerup filter

## Lessons I have Learned:

- 1) If you are feeling down or homesick or altogether not good, you have to talk with the people around you
- 2) How to be energised rather than exhausted by 24/7 human contact
- 3) Physical contact is central to højskole closeness (cuddle puddles, movie nights, brunch)
- 4) Learning is not about 'knowledge at all costs' or 'knowledge as a means to an end'; it's about opening your mind, wanting to learn, and learning that may not be measurable as facts or answers on a test
- 5) There is only a big difference between being 20 and 23 if that's what you think of when making friends
- 6) Say yes
- 7) Take time for yourself
- 8) It's okay to forget your other life for a while, provided you tell the people in it that you are doing so



When I express

# Crossing Borders

in other words..

It is breaking stereotypes



“Crossing Borders” when you hear these words, a lot of people think about globalization, international relations, and communication. Recently, these words are so close and popular to us. However, do we truly understand these words, and their meanings?

For me, I did not understand and know the term globalization. It’s a very good thing! We are trading a lot of things!”, came to my mind. “Communication? English is very important!” I was always told. When I came here, I knew only these things. But these words are not just linked with these meanings.

In class, we think about a lot of things, such as, social problems, our own beliefs, and the others problems, and we discuss them more and more. In these discussions, we can get many opinions from our international friends. Some of their opinions are so surprising! I, being Japanese, have communicated, but it has only been between other Japanese people.

In Crossing Borders, we are from a lot of countries. Of course, we have very different backgrounds, religions, knowledge, and so on. Taking part in a lot of communication and getting a lot of opinions, I realised that what I thought was normal and ordinary is strange to others.

These days, we have a lot of problems which we can’t find answers to. In order to form our own opinions and answers, this habit of thinking of others seems very important to me now.

By Iratu Manabe



**I want to thank Crossing Borders. Crossing Borders broke my stereotypes and gave me the ability to think about everything in new ways.**

“Dumpster Diving:

**It can be fun,**

**but it’s also a political act”**



**T**his weekend I was coming home to Denmark from Germany and I had a big Ikea plastic bag with me. Why? I knew there was going to be a grocery store just across the train station. It was Sunday, so I knew their container was full of treats, fruits and other healthy foods I love to eat. Most of the food can be eaten way after their expiration date. Some of them were not even expired, they were in the trash because of cosmetic reasons. I have become a freegan/dumpster diver. Not because I am poor. Because I see it as a political act. Why do we throw

so much food away while there are people starving? Why do we throw away vegetables and fruits that are not perfectly shaped? It is a known fact that ripe bananas are much better than the green ones.

The proportion of undernourished people in the developing regions has fallen by almost half since 1990. Globally, about 795 million people are estimated to be undernourished. More than 90 million children under age five are still undernourished and underweight, (UN millennium development goals, 2015).

Each year 1.3bn tonnes of food, about a third of all that is produced is wasted, including about 45% of all fruit and vegetables, 35% of fish and seafood, 30% of cereals, 20% of dairy products and 20% of meat (The Guardian, 2015). So what can we do about it? According to a new German report, the Danish people were the biggest waste producers within the European Union in 2013, producing 747 kg of waste each year (The Local Denmark, 2016). So let us stop wasting food, especially here in Denmark. Why do we buy so much food and produce so much food that we cannot possibly



By Ines Virag

consume it? The world produces enough food for everyone, so why are people starving? I was so shocked to see how much useful food is thrown away in Denmark when I first came here from Croatia.

We should think about our consumption because it has an impact on the environment and the world around us. How? The production and food-waste use many resources including land, water and energy. In this consumerist society where we are forced to buy things and keep the capitalist wheels turning without taking a second thought that everything is connected and we live in a globalised world I choose freeganism. I started going into the grocery shop knowing that their container is full of imperfect bananas and things just aren't the same for me. I walk into the H&M store or Gap store and I know that the cheap t-shirt I am wearing or buying is produced by a Bangladeshi worker living with one dollar a day. Somebody is paying for it, somewhere, with their health or life, in Bangladesh or some other country. I don't feel cool anymore with that. I am becoming an angry consumer.

Freeganism is the practice of eating and reclaiming food that has been discarded. It is a part of the anti-consumerism movement, but freeganism is not totally equal to dumpster diving. A lot of freegans

choose to grow their own food outside of the consumerist economy. Although there are countless ways to "freegan," a lot of sociologists say, the term is typically a shorthand for its most jarring and public articulation: dumpster diving. It can be a simple reminder that waste is bad and saving is good, and it can be a political statement, neglecting the capitalist system, its inequality, environmental damage and bad distribution of resources. Basically something that Guy Debord called the society of spectacle. "If everyone had a different mentality about food waste, we might be a little more understanding when a restaurant runs out of food at the end of the day, or when a grocery store wants to make use of a scarred tomato". (Dana Gunders, 2015). To be more optimistic, there are lots of movements that are addressing the food waste problem, like the food not bombs collective, or the Danish stop wasting food movement. As far as I am concerned, I would do it if I had all the money in the world; I wouldn't get grossed out by it like some people do. When you have more than you need, build a longer table, not a longer fence, or just don't put the padlock on the container, or fence around the supermarket.

By Ines Virag



# “ I love not to see wretchedness overcharged and duty in his service perished. ”

W. Shakespeare



By Ionut Manea

The cultures are gathering as the Europeans Union sinks to its knees. Never before has this territory been the scene of so few conflicts while we live in such a dense, concentrated way as today.

Never before had the people of France and the people of Germany enjoyed the common fruits of prosperity, opportunity and equal friendship as they do today. And never before has a Romanian commoner, had the chance of indulging himself in decent talk and spirit with international counterparts as occurs today. And yet, the EU's foundation seems to be crumbling to pieces.

I appeal for clemency.

In order to facilitate understanding of the plea in question, I wish to offer the honorable reader a glimpse history when concepts such as change, self-determination, home-rule-movement and even independence were common music to the ears of the main actors.

Their responses were unarguably met with the needs and urges of a subjugated people whom, from the Kingdom of Hungary to the island of Ireland, and notwithstanding the Romanian Principalities, had suffered an array of pain and delusion at the hands of some foreign expression.

Naturally, human beings tend to reflect a general disposition

towards change and reform.

Any derailment from our current path, any change inflicted upon our comfort zone is met with suspicion and regarded as hostile. We seem to be deeply entrenched and undivided in our responses to the world around. However, this was not usually the case. From time immemorial, concepts such as reform or change have played a considerable role in the construction of our European institutions, living-standards and identity. "As one great furnace flamed, yet from those flames. No light, but rather darkness visible" (Milton, Paradise Lost)

Back in Italy, or what was then called the Italian States, Renaissance humanism preached respect for the greatness of the human being. Ideally, the measure of things was depicted as an universal figure, l'uomo universale.

Renaissance stretches and magnifies humanity diminishing in the process the role of God. "Renaissance humanism was the Middle Ages not Plus humanity, but Minus God" (Etienne Gilson).

Or in the words of Friedrich Nietzsche, "freedom of thought, mistrust of authority, the victory of intellectual education over the privilege of birth; in terms of quattrocento, the victory of humanitas over that of nobilitas; enthusiasm for science and the of the individual".

By Ionut Manea

# Where ...

With the Renaissance, life recovered its value and importance. No one any longer willingly aligned himself or herself with Augustine in claiming that: "we here below are travellers longing for death". At the same time, no one any longer believed that this life is rather death than life, a kind of hell. It was on earth that people had to build their kingdom and this new conviction coloured the emergence of all positive forces that helped to spring up our modern culture.

Thus, if Renaissance came about with the concept of *humanitas* or individual awareness, within the framework of this context, a powerful schism was tearing up the Western Church. On 31 October 1517, Martin Luther's 95 theses were displayed on the doors of the *Schlosskirche* in Wittenburg.

Tired and disillusioned with the Church's longstanding method of handling its pious congregation (e.g. the system of indulgencies), Luther advanced the notion of binding the Christian faith to the word of God alone, *Sola Scriptura*.

The Reformation, unlike Renaissance humanism, quickly became a mass-movement and thousands of men and women, to

defend their faith, had to face Civil War and violent repressions (e.g. The Revocation of the Edict of Nantes in 1685 by Ludovic XIV).

The alternative was exile, either to the New World, or to a country which tended to be more flexible towards their faith. France decayed when the Revocation of the Edict threw the Protestants out (French, huguenots), while England prospered when William of Orange invited them in.

All this violence died down during the 18th century. Protestantism survived it and today it colours a large part of the Western world.

Moreover, there was the impact of the Industrial Revolution. There were four successive waves: that of the steam, of electricity, of the internal combustion,

and the wind and water mills which had been spread throughout Europe. Pre-industry consisted of: derisory agricultural productivity, primitive transportation and inadequate markets. Only labour was super-abundant.

The advent of Industrialization meant that humans were more prepared and equipped to dealing with life issues. Not only they were better fed, housed and clothed, but their surviving rate was gradually improving.

As we could see, history was not losing its momentum. On the contrary, it never ceased to advance itself on new territories infiltrating thus the premises of our future understanding as modern human beings.



In Europe, the transition from a declining human age to that of a reasonable, satisfactory status quo was not an easy one. In an age of violent contrasts and impressive forms (implying here two world wars which ravaged the 20th century and almost brought our existence to a halt), there was a tone of passion in everyday life which helped produce an ambitious treaty with immediate effects to our lifetime.

engine and that of nuclear energy. The very first Industrial Revolution may be said to have occurred in the 12th century with

In the end, I wish to conclude with a poem attributed to St. Francis of Assisi:

**"Where there is discord, may we bring harmony.  
Where there is error, may we bring truth.  
Where there is doubt, may we bring faith.  
And where there is despair, may we bring hope".**

By Ionut Manea

# Europe's solutions to integration comes from within

At no other time in the recent past has Europe's struggle with the influx of immigrants into its borders dominated media coverage and the political agenda more than it does now. In fact, local authorities and many political parties – especially right-wing ones – have in panick already laid down tougher asylum and integration rules. But as this fracas continues, we seem to lose sight of how Europe is really constituted, and that aspects of inclusion and or integration are not necessarily based on tightened entry laws, but rather inward self-evaluation and openness to diversity.

Luckily, civil society actors continue to rollout sustainable possibilities to the question of immigrant inclusion for a diverse EU. This is the case for the Crossing Borders and Partners' two-year "From Expats to Experts - FETE" project that now enters its final phase. The project, whose aim is to contribute to an easier young immigrant EU job labour market inclusion strategy, preliminarily concludes that sustainable inclusion will more than anything, involve facilitating

Europe's people to be comfortable with their societies and the changes these societies are going through. Moreover, there is a need to emphasize that there are



within Europe, whose efforts should form a basis for a more balanced debate on diversity.

Indeed, between the 6th and 12th of March 2016, twenty-two spirited ambassadors on diversity gathered in Elsinore (Helsingør), for the FETE project's final training session. Representing Twenty-six countries from across the globe, including Denmark, Malta, Italy, France, Benin, the Ivory Coast, Iraq, Peru, Brazil, Palestine, Lebanon, Libya, Bangladesh, Gambia, Tunisia, Algeria, Romania, Spain, Croatia, Pakistan, Poland, Nigeria and Uganda, these young people redefined the terms diversity, inclusion and integration.

By Andrew Julius Bende

thousands of legally settled migrants that are making wonderfully positive contributions in their local communities



Maja Navntoft, Carol Krogstrup & Bwalya Sørensen

## Crossing Borders

# Symposium 2016



From Expats to Experts Symposium was held in Copenhagen on June 3, 2016. The aim of the event was to have Crossing Borders and its project partners from France, Italy and Malta present the results of the two-year project work on best practices for the inclusion of young immigrants in the EU labour market. The project's main goal has been to enable young immigrants to consider themselves and be perceived by the local community as experts in their

domain rather than expats. Toward this end, the project activities included research on the inclusion of young immigrants in the labour market, training, mentorship and placement at relevant civil society organizations, the business and public sectors. The symposium was the climax of the project where the partners shared the results and recommendations for more effective young immigrant inclusion in the job market. The event was well attended with

participants from many countries and professional backgrounds. The highlight of the event was the panel debate with human rights workers and immigrant experts from Egypt, Uganda and Zambia.

# Forced Sterilizations

Alberto Fujimori's government (Ex Peruvian president, currently in prison) sterilized approximately 346,219 women and 24,535 men in the last seven years of his presidency between 1990 and

The first case is about Aurelia Paccohuanca. It was 1998 and she lived in a poor and a rural area in Cuzco. As she had four children, the doctors told her that she should not have more children. But she didn't want to be sterilized. After two weeks trying to

discrimination. In some cases it has even violated the right to life. Justice has been slow and ineffective, but there is hope, because a few months ago, cases were reopened and the Public Ministry is investigating forced sterilizations. President Ollanta Humala



2000 without their consent. It was part of an attempt to lower the birth rate in Peru. The idea was to reduce the number of mouths to feed and it would help parents to get their families out of poverty.

Nowadays, many people do not remember these serious incidents, which violated the human rights of these women, especially indigenous and Quechua-speaking women, who did not speak Spanish. Some women were voluntarily sterilized, but they also say that they were duped. There was a policy of contempt towards the poorest people, and we cannot say that it was medical negligence.

I would like to tell two stories about two women, who were sterilized against their will.

avoid them, finally one of the nurses took her to a hospital and asked her to undress. She was too nervous and afraid, finally they did what they had to do. She will always remember these words: "You give birth as a guinea pig".

The other case is about Sabina Huilca Condor. She lived in Anta, Cuzco and was also a victim of forced sterilization. After giving birth to her third child, the doctor told her that she had to stay one day more in the hospital to clean her uterus. She didn't want this, but the doctor threatened her saying he would not give her the daughter's birth certificate. So she stayed there and when she woke up after the operation, she realized that she was sterilized without her permission.

In these cases they have violated the rights to integrity, health, privacy, family life and non-

expressed his commitment to compensate victims of forced sterilizations.

As a Peruvian, I have a duty to tell young people, who do not know about this abuse of power in Fujimori government, especially because in April there will be the presidential elections and one of the favorite candidates for president is the daughter (Keiko Fujimori), of the Ex-President Alberto Fujimori. We do not want more forced sterilizations, people have to pay for what they did. No more Fujimori and no more abuse of power and violation of human rights.

By Betsy Carrasco



“

## We exist and we are not going to stay in the closet.”

The crowd you see in this photo are all gathered to assault, attack and beat a small group located in the yellow shuttle. You might wonder who those people are in the mini bus and why the rest of the people outside hate them. They are people who are hated just because of their gender and identity. This is anti-homophobic rally in Tbilisi on May 17 in 2013. The small group of LGBTQ activists were met by thousands of protesters who were throwing stones, hitting and breaking the bus windows and later activists were taken.

Protestors were led by priests of Georgian Orthodox Church. Those occupying the street held posters reading "We don't need Sodom and Gomorrah!" and "Democracy does not equal immorality!". They attacked the activists and many of them got injured. Police, however, failed to prevent scuffles and as a result twenty eight people including two journalists and three policemen, were injured. Media inaugurated this day as gay pride parade although it was the international day against homophobia. A year

after the church announced the same day to be celebrated as the day of traditional family strength. A day against homophobia which is only once in a year now was replaced by traditional family day. I felt like I was invisible, a person who was not heard or seen.

It is not easy to live in a place where you are not accepted for who you are. However I know there are people out there who work hard to change this situation. One year after May 17, there was an installation of invisible shoes in the city centre. These shoes were for those humans who one year ago, stood up against the invisibility of LGBTQ community. I was abroad at that time. As soon as I came back joined one wonderful LBTQA organization and got involved in activism. I noticed slow changes that gave me hope and motivation to fight for my rights in Georgia. I hope one day I can walk in my city without fear. I hope that I will be heard and seen, because we exist and we are not going to stay in the closet.

By Iako Tkeshelashvili

# In Bolivar, Columbia going to school is a real fight

“  
Choose a leader who will invest in building bridges, not walls. Books, not weapons. Morality, not corruption. Intellectualism and wisdom, not ignorance. Stability, not fear and terror.”

-Suzy Kassem

Liliana- at age 27 with two children- lives a daily struggle, crossing an inhospitable rural village by foot in southern Bolivar state, before navigating part of the Caribbean coast, to arrive in a settlement where there is an entrepreneurship training institute. 7 kilometres crossed alongside the Magdalena River under the heatwave-sun and enduring the desert climate of the area, she finally arrived to class.

The drama that Liliana faces is the same for many students in this area of Bolivar. Breakfast is a fantasy and class attention is in demand. Behind faces smothered by the insufferable summer, hidden stories and common patterns are found: displacement, domestic violence, malnutrition, poverty, teenage pregnancy, crime, drug addiction, lack of access to basic sanitation and health infrastructure. When night falls, the village is a desert of intermittent darkness. The theft of hydroelectric and power generators by guerrillas and ongoing cycle of corruption, have robbed people of access to basic

needs, but above all else they have been plunged into misery. The saddest of which is illiteracy. The cruelest misery is depriving people of the development of knowledge.

The misery of slavery.

Working for others is the most laudable and spirit- ennobling work someone can ever aspire to and in particular when it aims to generate knowledge to others. The truest form of teaching does not discriminate on the basis of background or available working conditions. The vocation of education is a job for heroes who face the daily battle of transmitting

Rosario- biotechnology and entrepreneurship instructor-reaches the classroom with the heavy weight of her backpack and her shoes full of dust from the entrance. She has not seen her family since one month ago and she is living 10 hours away from the nearest big town. She has slept a few hours the night before preparing today class, trying to find some disruption in her pedagogy, trying to get attention levels beyond the lamentable average. Last week she had a motorcycle accident on her way to school due to driver recklessness. Today, when she gets to the class, half of the students are absent. At this point, the everyday marathon task starts: contacting the



not only facts but to transform lives which need a boost. How to maintain at a maximum the emotional vigor of each teacher when facing a sloppy and hungry classroom that lacks empathy? How to find the energy to stand in front of young people whose universe is becoming more distant? In Bolivar, going to school is a real fight.

pupils one by one on the phone, otherwise she would go straight to their homes to inspect the reason for their absence.

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According to the bi-monthly newsletter "Teaching in Focus" by OECD(2015) that explores the levels of satisfaction and sense of appreciation that teachers perceive in their work; more than two thirds of teachers believe that their profession is not sufficiently valued by society. A cruel statistic that reflects a struggling reality:in giving their service, teachers often sacrifice things in their life, in order to help others grow. They teach others that having a voice is a sign of courage, and not to stay silent to make people feel comfortable.

The greatest heroes in life are those that never give up on someone. Rosario has never given up even when home feels so distant that motivation seems to disappear. However, with her persistence students have developed a final project to engage the community in the construction of a self-sustained farm. By the end of this period, Liliana will have concluded her technology degree and she and other classmates will have started their cooperative producing and selling dairy products on a local scale.

"This is a once in a lifetime opportunity. Education is hard, sometimes I don't understand many things but Seño Rosario is always here supporting us. I hope to one day start my own enterprise and she has given us the tools. Now we have started with the cooperatives. The future is more promising for me and my kids now. We appreciate that".

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“

**The vocation of education is a job for heroes who face the daily battle of transmitting not only facts but to transform lives which need a boost. How to maintain at a maximum the emotional vigor of each teacher when facing a sloppy and hungry classroom that lacks empathy?**

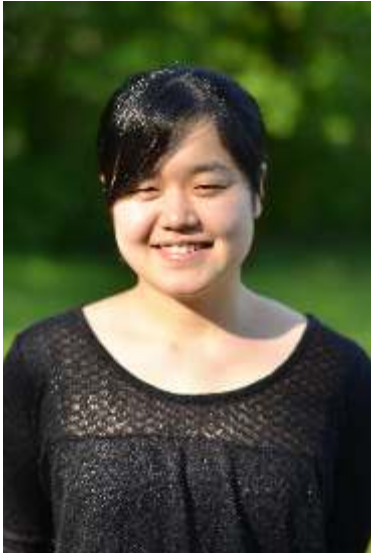
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By Rosaura Serrano Rodríguez



# Nuclear power generation in Japan

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Sayaka Takeda

Earthquakes occur everyday in Japan. Most of them are so small that we do not feel them but sometimes big earthquakes occur. A big earthquake measuring 9.0 on the Richter scale struck eastern Japan on March 11, 2011, that generated a tsunami and resulted in severe damage. Because of the earthquake and tsunami, Fukushima Nuclear Power Plant got out of control and a nuclear accident happened there. The accident caused spread of radioactive substances around eastern Japan, especially Fukushima Prefecture.

Radioactive substances are dangerous. We can not see, smell or touch radioactivity but it has a terrible effect on the human body. Although we can move radioactive substances, radioactivity keeps its quality longer than human life. So once a nuclear accident happens and radioactive substances are spread throughout an area, it takes a long time to get the area back to normal and safe conditions.

Japan is still struggling with the nuclear crisis. Fukushima Prefecture is separated into 4 zones. First, it is Normal (safe) zone. Second, there is the Evacuation Order Cancellation Preparation zone. The government is trying to make this zone safe for living in as soon as possible. Third, it is Restricted Residence Zone. The government plans to systematically make

this zone safe for living someday. Fourth, is the Difficult-to-return zone. This area has high radiation doses, so the government set up barricades to avoid people being in this zone. Many people who used to live in these zones are forced to get out and live in other places. Moreover, people that lived nearby this zone have moved to places farther from Fukushima Nuclear Power Plant. Because of the earthquake and the nuclear accident, 43,139 people who used to live in Fukushima Prefecture live in other prefectures as of 12 February 2016.

There are 17 nuclear power plants in Japan. After the earthquake, the rate of nuclear power generation was reduced but, 1% electricity generated is still through nuclear power. Although earthquakes occur frequently in Japan, some of the plants are still working. If an earthquake occurs and a nuclear accident happens, areas around the nuclear plant would suffer from radioactivity. Electricity is important for us and nuclear power generation does not emit carbon dioxide but nuclear power generation is also dangerous for us. From those reasons, we have to consider whether we continue using it or not. This is one of the major social issues in Japan.

By Sayaka Takeda



**Samsø Island**  
**Land: 114 square kilometers**  
**Population: Around 4,000 people**  
**Main resources of income:**  
**Agriculture and tourism**

# Samsø island takes the lead

Samsø Island is the first island with 100% renewable energy-powered in the world. Samsø's steps toward this status began in 1997 when the island won a Danish competition to become a "renewable energy island". After the competition, the promoters discussed the future of the island and plans with the inhabitants. They decided to focus on energy production. To achieve the goal, they invested in a couple of renewable energy systems such as solar panels, wind turbines, straw-fired boilers, and boilers fueled with wood chips from the island's forest. These systems are owned in many different ways like the local committee, foundations, and individual owners. At last, Samsø succeeded to be completely self-sufficient with renewable energy in 2005. They have recently generated 140% renewable electricity and sell 40% of it to other cities.

Samsø Energy Academy was established as a place to tell the experience of Samsø for visitors from all over the world and create a meeting place for local people during the transformation. According to "Samsø-a Renewable Energy Island 10 years of Development and Evaluation" published in 2007 by Samsø Energy Academy, the direct heating and the production of electricity have been completely successful, while the aimed conservation of the heat consumption and electricity has not succeeded well. That is what instead the islanders worked on in order to be 100% renewable energy-powered within 10 years.

As a next step, Samsø is now trying to be a fossil fuel free island by 2030. Although coal, oil, and

gas have been imported from outside for cars and tractors on the island, they might be completely replaced by renewable energy by 2030. In fact, there are charging stations for electric cars with solar panels in the parking areas of the kommune and library on Samsø. Moreover, the people on Samsø are trying to work for savings on the heating systems and the electricity consumption that were not evaluated well in 2007. Even though the current projects are still in progress, the people have challenged to make the Island of Samsø to be a fossil fuel free and better society.

What is the key of Samsø's success? I visited Samsø Energy Academy and talked with Jesper, who is one of its workers, during the study trip. It turned out that local people have currently took initiatives such as a solar-panel-selling team and isolation team, and the academy supported them. Ideas came from the bottom, not top-down. The CEO of Samsø Energy Academy, Soren Hermansen, was born and grew up on Samsø, and as a farmer, has contributed to persuade people for the transformations. There is the phrase that he said; "Think local- Act local". From the recent situation on Samsø and Soren's words, the initiative of local people in Samsø could be the essence of its incredible transformation. It would be impossible if the project was led by the government or municipality-It has to be led for the people.

By Misa Torii

# The role of women in Ghana

Recent studies of social and economic trends in Africa have suggested a rise in the proportion of households headed or principally maintained by women, along with an increase in poverty among women. To elaborate on this includes some of the following aspects;

## Disruption of marriages

When poverty levels are high among some families, the daughter is regarded as an economic burden, hence they may be given to rich men as a relief and source of income to the family. They are often kept in the house as housewives. From the field,

and roles. Some women who remained behind suffer strain and stress due to increased management responsibilities. Economic difficulties may also arise when husbands are away. Labor migration, when successful, is an economic benefit to families, but families can experience greater economic hardship if migrant men cannot secure good employment.

## Thirdly, is the rising cost of children

The cost of childcare (better education, health care, clothing and shelter etc.) is the biggest outlay cost for parents each year at \$4,094, representing a major slice of the annual household income in Ghana. This



responses indicate that infringes on the child's fundamental rights and affects her socialization process while growing up. The education of a girl comes to an end midway, and affects the girl's ability to contribute to her family financially and to the education of her kids when such marriages break up.

## Secondly, changes in household structure and composition

due to large scale of migration of men (husbands) to urban areas occurs. Greater autonomy for women is overall a beneficial outcome; there have also been several negative impacts of men's labor migration on the women who remain behind. In the absence of men, women are responsible for both their own and their husbands' tasks, duties,

really causes greater pain to be the shoes of woman in cases where greater burden is incurred on women in raising funds to cater for their children. This has countless influences including child labor, teenage pregnancies, prohibiting access to better education and health care.

Another factor is pre-marital child bearing. This is also another cause to look at since it is associated with a number of negative consequences for both mother and child and leads to substantial public expenditures for income support, health care and social services since most men responsible for this are not financially supportive.



Photo by Henrik Helweg-Larsen

**Last and not the least, we will look at discrimination against women in access to resources.**

Women's property rights includes the right to acquire and dispose of any movable or immovable property obtained by own labor or through inheritance. Hence, it is a broad notion that has a bearing on several legislative frameworks including marriage and inheritance laws.

Women's access to land is a major aspect of women's property rights particularly in Africa where the livelihood of the vast majority of the population depends on land, both as productive resource and for the related right to housing.

To conclude, the case of disruption of marriages, parents needs to be educated on the need not to force or push their children in marriages and also adequate fines should be measured and laid out in the cause of marriage break-ups. Again, the state must measure the worth and employment status of parents before registration or enforcing some marriages in order to prevent these frequent and numerous migrations of men and also the ability to raise or bring up a child.

Furthermore, good parental care, education and laws must be enforced to prevent and educate children on the effects and consequences in teenage pregnancy. Lastly, there should be strict laws to protect women with the right to own property. With this, I think the good name of Ghana as a mother land will be heightened and happiness will be given to women, children and family as whole.

By Desmond Okomeng Darfour



## A way of life in Japan

**“This isn't a happy life living like this”.**

A way of thinking gives a solution to our life in Japan.

People who are living in a developed country might be rich on a financial side. A lot of people living in Japan want to have a good life. They work really hard in order to get more money because they think to become rich is a way of having good life. After World War 2, our country developed rapidly because we wanted to be a rich country like the United States. From then, being rich might be one of our ideologies, even after we have become one of the most developed countries in the world.

Living in Japan is a kind of competition to be rich or obtain a higher status. We have to graduate from a high level of university if we want to work at an excellent company. One's major is not important just that you graduate. In this way, most of us tend to focus on the name of the university.

That's why we don't have a concrete goal for our

life, just following a model that was made in the past. In addition, we don't know how to have a personal goal. No one teaches you about that, even though we have lots of chances and no barriers to achieve them.

It is better if there is a new model put forward but there is also an easy solution: just think. We have a good education system but what we need is spare more time to teach about the importance of thinking and have discussions. This can develop a way of thinking and forming our own opinions. An ability to think is not only useful to find our own opinions, but also to problem solve. This will be a great model to solve lots of problems we have in modern society. Sharing opinions and discussing issues—these things will be the big wave to find a solution for our problems. It is just a simple action, but also the most precious thing we can do for ourselves.

By Akihito Morita



“ It is far from paradise for locals. ”

## Trouble in Paradise

revolution in the air and the conviction and sentencing of the former president Mohamed Nasheed (the country's first democratically elected president) for 12 years in prison on bogus charges, using a draconian anti-terrorism act was the catalyst. His conviction was called 'a travesty of justice' by Amnesty International.

The Police violently cracked down on participants with tear gas, pepper spray, batons and flash grenades. Nearly 200 people, including innocent bystanders and onlookers, were arrested. Leaders of all opposition parties were unlawfully detained, under the anti-terrorism act specifically formulated to silence political dissenters, and denied rightful access to lawyers and due legal process.

All of this took place on a small Islamic island nation in the Indian Ocean called the Maldives. The Republic of the Maldives is a major tourist destination known for its clear waters, white sandy beaches, and 5-star resorts. The country is made up of around 1200 small coral islands. It has been deemed picture perfect and even 'Paradise' by visitors.

However, it is far from 'Paradise' for locals.

The Maldives has been plagued with a tyrannical dictatorship, which has time and time again. Hijacked the constitution,

the parliament and the judiciary at their every nepotistic whim.

This has been the case since President Maumoon Abdul Gayoom came into power in 1978.

In October 2003, Gayoom was elected by 90.3% of the popular vote. In his inaugural address, Gayoom promised various political reforms. Gayoom's first steps were to institute a Human Rights Commission. Within the same year, to investigate abuses and to establish a Constitutional Assembly in May 2004 to draft a democratic constitution.

The constitution was to guarantee separation of powers, a multi-party democracy and more fundamental freedoms to the people.

The Constitutional Assembly-the People's Special Majlis-consisted of 29 presidential appointees, along with 42 elected members of the regular Parliament and a further 29 elected members.

The drafting process was slow but the sixth constitution of the Maldives, ratified in August 2008, introduced a whole new set of democratic rights, enshrined the separation of powers and introduced mechanisms for accountability and transparency. It paved the way for Maldives' first multi-party elections in October 2008.

The elections were won by Mohamed Nasheed of the Maldivian Democratic Party. However, Mohamed Nasheed's government came to an abrupt end in 2012 in a coup led by the Police and Military in which Nasheed was forced to resign, allegedly at gunpoint.

By Kevalam

# Study Tour 2016

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Sayaka Takeda & Kevalam



Students meet a Samsø native



Students plant a heart nut tree



Competition to jump the highest

# Crossing Borders News

creating space for dialogue and peace building



Two new interns will join the CB office team shortly: Kasia Tarasiewicz, 26 year old woman from Poland will start her six-month internship in July of this year. Kasia has experience with environmental activism about issues such as pollution risks to our health and sustainable resource management. Kasia intends to share her experiences from educating youth and to learn from others. Kasia will primarily work with our international projects and school services. Andrea Pascual, 29 year old woman is a sociologist from Spain. She will start her six-month internship in August this year. Andrea's education and background is in International Cooperation, human rights and

volunteering. Andrea will mainly work with our international projects in Africa and the Middle East, as well as our school services. Having Kasia and Andrea will expand the international profile of the CB team with colleagues from Algeria, Burundi, Croatia, Denmark, Georgia, Romania, Russia, Spain, Uganda and Ukraine. This is the bright side of globalization, expanding our internationalism and teamwork.

## New projects:

We are happy to announce that two new CB projects have been approved by under the Erasmus + KA2 programme.

The Eco-entrepreneurship Knowledge Resource Hub is a two-year project with our SWideas and High school partners respectively from Sweden and Finland. The Knowledge Hub is a project focusing on cooperation and innovation for better practices. It is aimed at strengthening the capacities of youth and young

people for the development of a more sustainable and dynamic Eco-entrepreneurship sector that contributes to sustainable economic growth and youth employment.

Secondly is the Sustainable living Lab EVS project in partnership with the Ananda Marga and the ecological learning center in Holbæk. The project involves sending two volunteers one from France and the other from Italy to work at Ananda under the coordination of Crossing Borders.



# Samsø Nature school

↳ Misa Torii



↳ Sayaka Takeda



Ibrahim Abukari Zukpeni ↗

Ibrahim Abukari Zukpeni ↗

# A human rights nightmare is what some locals call it



While the 30 year regime of Maumoon Abdul Gayoom was defeated by an election in 2008, the last Presidential elections held in 2013, saw his half brother Yameen Abdul Gayoom ushered in as President. This was after 3 rounds of voting, the first 2 rounds were annulled by the Supreme Court, widely accepted as being controlled by the Gayoom family, on what is today well-known as bogus claims of vote rigging, when Mohamed Nasheed won a clear majority in each round.

With the Gayooms back in power, the Maldives finds itself backtracking on all aspects of development, freedom and human rights. The government has become more centralised and the general population outside the capital, more marginalised.

"A human rights nightmare" is what some locals call it. But unless the parliament, the security forces including the Police and army, media and judiciary are free, Maldives is facing another dark period in its history.

By Kevalam

# Join our new workshops and courses!!

**Deltagere søges**

fra den 25. til den 30. juni 2016

**Så her du skal være med!**

Vi vil gøre en forskel for miljøet og gøre noget for at bekæmpe klimaforandringerne? Har du lyst til at møde andre unge fra forskellige lande og i forskellige faser af livet? I kan være med til at støtte klimaforandringerne på følgende:

**Så her du skal være med!**

Crossing Borders og partnerskabsinitiativet CBSE (Holland), Leaders of Tomorrow (Jordan) og Green Line (Litauen) søger lige nu deltagere til træningsworkshop "Empowering Youth Climate Ambassadors: A training for Youth Workers" fra den 25. til den 30. juni 2016 i Danmark. I fire dage til 16 unge blive undervist på organisatorisk klimaforandrings, sociale bevægelser og politiske kompetencer af to professionelle udstyrt. Formålet med workshoppen er at give unge værktøjer til at gøre en forskel.

**Kriterierne for at deltage er:**

- Have gode engelsksprogsfærdigheder
- Være mellem 18-30 år
- Interesse for klimaforandringer og miljø
- Have mulighed for at deltage i en 4-dages træning fra den 25. til den 30. juni i Danmark.

For at læse den bedste træning med kost, logi, transportbilletter og de bedste undervisere, er der en deltagerbetaling på 300-400.

**Sidste deadline for at tilmelde dig er den 15. juni 2016**

*Lyder det som noget for dig?*

Så skriv os en mail til vores koordinatør, og fortæl lidt om du gerne vil deltage.

Book din tilmelding på [crossingborders.dk](http://crossingborders.dk)

Logos for: Ministry of Education, Science and Technology (Jordan), CBSE, Crossing Borders, and Erasmus+.

-Youth Climate Ambassadors with participants from Denmark, Italy, Jordan and Lebanon will take place from 27 June to 1 July in Helsingør. There still places available first come, first served!

<http://crossingborders.dk/climate-youth-ambassador-training-call-for-applicants/>

- We are All Digital Natives project workshop with partners from Denmark, Germany, Italy, Spain and UK. Crossing Borders will host the workshop on 26-27 August 2016 to present the result of the two-year project on how to take advantage of the relentlessly expanding digitalization of our time for educational purposes

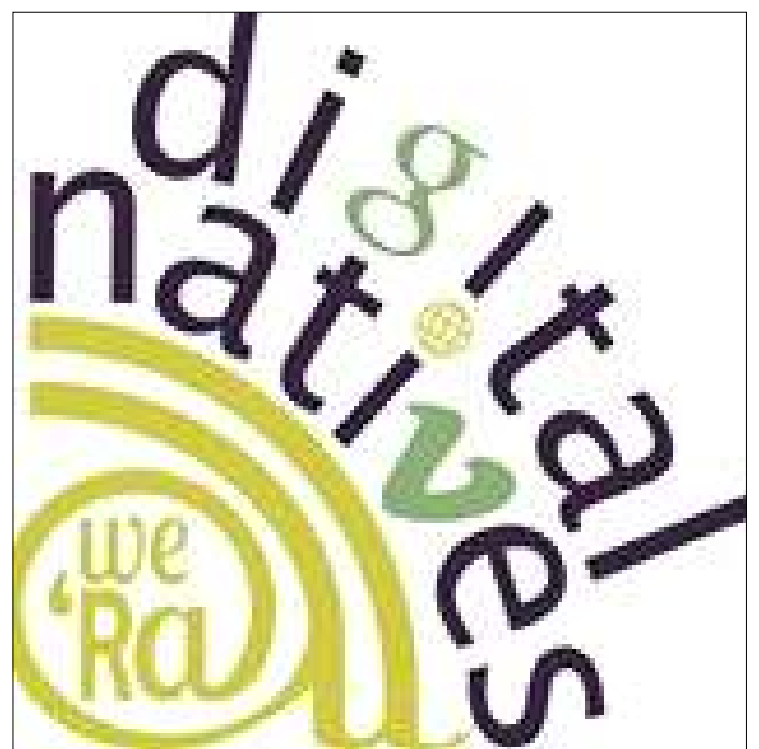
across borders and generations.

- Alternative B for Green Action planned to take place in Bulgaria in August with participants from Denmark, Bulgaria, Latvia and UK. For details, check:

<http://crossingborders.dk/call-for-participants-alternativeb-green-actions-forsocial-change/>

Get involved in Crossing Borders to help make the world better for all, gain experience and boost your employment chances through volunteering to become as active young world citizen. You can be youth facilitator, Online writer, intern and be sent to aboard:

<http://crossingborders.dk/join-us/>





# Crossing Borders

creating space for dialogue and peace building

## SCHOOL SERVICES



## INTERNATIONAL PROJECTS



## VOLUNTEER PROGRAMS



## GLOBAL STUDIES



Co-funded by the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union



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