

THE ASIAN JOURNAL

A SCHOOL OF TOMORROW ASIA® PUBLICATION



*Land of the Rising Sun
Nihon-koku*



Introducing Japan's Consultant - Mrs. Miho Ito

A.C.E. in Japan was established in 2006. With the opening of the first school in Japan in 2004, Rev. Kazuko Abe, a Japanese missionary sent to Mexico and already running a school using the A.C.E. curriculum in the mission field, was appointed as the Consultant for Japan. Abe Sensei returned to Japan twice a year to hold trainings and seminars, and to visit schools on those occasions. Beginning year 2017, I, Miho Ito, took over as a Consultant, and there are currently 14 schools operating in Japan.



Japan is an archipelagic country surrounded by the sea and rich in nature. While some of the characteristics of Japanese culture are derived from the four seasons and from being in harmony with nature, there are also things that were born by accepting foreign cultures, fusing them with our own and improving them independently. Some examples include kanji characters and Buddhism. While being influenced by foreign cultures, the Japanese culture was developed by skillfully integrating the culture of its own country without losing it. The two main religions are Shintoism and Buddhism, but rather than just strongly believing in religious thought, the existence of religion is naturally integrated into the lives of Japanese people. In the present day, the Constitution of Japan stipulates that "freedom of religion is guaranteed to all persons." Also, there is no official religion in Japan and most Japanese do not believe in any particular religion.

Education in Japan is based on the premise that everyone aims for the same level of education. For example, Japanese education is characterized by assigning tests many times until students are able to pass, and by aiming to improve grades in all subjects evenly, no matter how hard or how long it takes. It is believed that through this educational method, students will acquire the attitude of repeatedly working without giving up, and that they will be able to develop their abilities through effort. Despite the advancement of technology and globalization around the world, the educational system in Japan has not changed for over 150 years. In Japan, passive learning, which is an instructor-centered method of learning, is the main feature of education. Of course, there are times when tests are used to check what students have learned. However, the reality is that there are still many classes where little or no discussion, talking or questioning take place. This Japanese educational style has basically a lot of "memorization learning," and most of the classes are not for discussing one's thoughts or questions. There are many problems with this learning method, such as the lack of ability to present problems. It is currently said that there is a need for learning methods that further develop individual talents and abilities. For this reason, the number of schools that focus on global education and active learning is increasing.

The advantage of studying in a school using the A.C.E. program in Japan is that students can proceed with their studies according to their individual abilities. Meanwhile, in a regular classroom, it is difficult to match the learning speed of each student. PACEs do not require much or intensive guidance from a Supervisor. If students encounter challenges, they will first try to comprehend from the teaching strips by themselves, or ask for the Supervisor's assistance if further help is needed. This fosters a spontaneous learning process rather than a passive one. With A.C.E. the habit of advancing is cultivated. Furthermore, there are questions that require students to express their own opinions on a single theme, and projects that, if done in cooperation with parents, will help students acquire the ability to present and solve problems. This is something which has been found to be lacking in Japanese education.

Being an island country, Japan is made up of only its own culture and language. Though it is globalized, there is a strong awareness that people are generally not adept in English, and therefore there is no need to speak the language. Under such circumstances, students who use the A.C.E. curriculum naturally have higher-than-normal English proficiency, and are therefore, leading the way in global education and active learning. The high evaluation of the learning ability and character of graduates from universities and society are exceptional. The greatest advantage of the A.C.E. program is that both students and Supervisors are able to gain wisdom and have their faith cultivated through daily exposure to the Bible, which in turn gives them strength to live righteously in this present world. In Japan, where Protestantism has a history of only 160 years, Christians are said to make up less than 1% of the population. The number of churches is about 5,800, and the number of Christians is said to be only 950,000. Hence, it takes a lot of faith and courage to live as a Christian in Japan, but it takes even more faith and courage to use the A.C.E. curriculum. Most of such schools in Japan have less than 15 students. Please pray that pastors, church staff, and parents will be encouraged to spread the greatness of A.C.E. across the country, and that every student with big visions and hopes will grow to become the light of the world and the salt of the earth.

Raymond Academy

A LOOK AT JAPAN'S FIRST MODEL STATUS SCHOOL

Raymond Academy opened in April of 2004. It started after my husband, the church pastor, was given a vision by God in 2001. Nevertheless, God's plan for me began back in 1993, in Dallas, Texas. Working as a Supervisor at the school using A.C.E. which was operated by the Bible School I was attending, counted as a credit for my summer school, and since I did not want to return to Japan during the summer, I took the A.C.E Supervisors' Training and started working there as a teacher without any specific plan. However, I never thought that 10 years later, a school using A.C.E. run by a Japanese person, would one day emerge in Japan.

My husband decided to start a school at our church out of a sense of crisis that the children of our church would leave if they were not given a Christian education. More than 30 years ago, our denomination sent a missionary to Mexico where she started a school using A.C.E. My husband then was able to visit this school when he was young and he was so deeply impressed by it that one day, without hesitation, he said, "I want to open a school at church, and I want to use A.C.E. However, I can't speak English, but you can. So, I want you to be the person in charge." We eventually came to the realization that it was God's will for us to engage in pastoral work and education together. After many years now, we have also realized that God had led us to get married in order to use A.C.E. in our church to educate Christians.

This is the 18th year of Raymond Academy, and we have already held 9 graduation ceremonies. Our graduates have turned into pastors, entrepreneurs, businessmen, housewives, seminarians, university students, and even staff of our own school! Each one is walking with God as a believer.

The philosophy of Raymond Academy is to cultivate disciples of the Lord and develop character through the words of the Bible. The PACEs and the system of A.C.E. are very useful to carry out this aspiration of ours. This system of ACE and the well-thought-out, time-tested materials are jewel-encrusted with teachings of the character required of a servant of Christ, and the more I read PACEs with students, the more I am touched by the grace of God's presence. I am sure parents are enrolling their children while thinking, "I wish I had encountered this type of material before." Parents dedicate their children to God as they send them to our school and support them along the way.

In addition, our school's assets are its faithful teachers. Through A.C.E. training, CEC and daily school life, our teachers continue to grow and receive beneficial training from the Lord. Not only the students, but also the teachers are guided by the Word of God and the Holy Spirit every day. This is why this is a wonderful school where you can experience the living God.

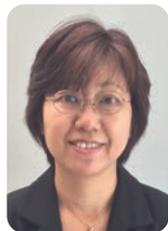
These are the words of one of our graduate students: "Adults and children who have spent their days at Raymond Academy will become useful people wherever they go because of the education provided by this system." Students will eventually graduate from school, but they will not graduate from church. My goal is for each and every one of my students and graduates to become Christians who are full of grace and who are useful to the Lord and others in the church and society.

These are two quotes that define our ministry as Supervisors of Raymond Academy:

"The greatest use of a life is to spend it on something that will outlast it." - William James

"Only what is done for Christ will last." - C.T Studd

If the work of Christ remains in the hearts and lives of our students, and if Christ is formed in them, then our lives will be well worth it.



- Mrs. Miho Ito -
Principal

I first heard about A.C.E. in 1990, when I was about to enter seminary. Our church denomination sent a missionary, Kazuko Abe, to Guadalajara, Mexico, where she started a school using the A.C.E. Curriculum. I had the opportunity to visit her school, and while I was there, I put myself in the classroom, picked up the PACEs, experienced the classes, and had an eye-opening experience. Since attending public school was common sense for me, it was an important discovery for me to know that there was a system in which all the subjects were based on the Bible.

Therefore, at that time I instinctively thought, "I want my children to learn like this." However, at the same time I also felt that having such a school would only be possible in the United States or in Mexico, and that it would not be needed in Japan, where the educational system is already well established. I thought it would be difficult. After returning to Japan and entering seminary, I still had the thought of using A.C.E. to teach my children; however, I thought that running a school using A.C.E. would just be impossible as long as I lived in Japan. I entrusted everything to the Lord and graduated seminary in 1994, and while working at churches in Japan, I gradually forgot about starting a school using the A.C.E. program. However, one day in the spring of 2000, I heard that an organization which supported church schools and home schools in Japan was established, and my thoughts on A.C.E. returned. I thought, "Church schools can be run in Japan. There are people with ambitions. I want to do it, too." After making that thought public, I had a period of three years to pray and prepare, since pastors should not proceed without the understanding and cooperation of the church. I first thought about starting a home school because I wanted people to actually see my children learning with the A.C.E. system first. However, a family showed interest in joining us, so in the spring of 2004 we started as a church school.

That is how Raymond Academy started from a vision given to me personally, but it would have never been possible without the existence of my family. The first obstacle was my wife, Miho Ito. She was opposed to my idea since we were already too busy with our ministry to start a school. However, after many conversations, I learned that she had taken the Supervisor's Training at a Bible college in America. Therefore, among the many teaching materials, it was natural for us to choose A.C.E. to teach our children. I did not plan any of this when I got married, so hats off to God's plan.

The second obstacle was my parents, who were also pastors in our church. "I think sending children to the local public school will serve as a testimony," they said. Since they are close relatives, I think they gave us this advice because they seriously cared for our best. However, they have now become our family's strongest supporters. I am grateful for both of my parents, who, as church pastors, helped fill our absence in church and allowed us to engage in the work of this school.

I also think Raymond Academy wouldn't exist without my three children. It was very difficult for them to learn all subjects in English. When I saw them crying while studying, I thought, "Oh, maybe I could have chosen an easier way for them to study." I guess there may have been other ways. However, I am glad I continued with this education because I can now dream of these children eventually surpassing me, doing what I cannot do and going to places I cannot go.

Finally, the cooperation of the church is also essential to carry out school work in the church. It is a blessing, but it also comes at a great cost. Many churches in Japan will find it difficult to prepare a space in the church building to set up a learning center. Also, it is a big issue whether or not there are available staff who can use the English teaching materials. And since many churches are struggling financially, it is also difficult to support school operations. However, we need to understand that this work is not only for our own churches, but for the church of God as a whole. Preparing the children that have been entrusted to us and sending them back as disciples of the Lord is a very difficult and serious work. Just because you have the right environment, the ability to teach, or the financial resources does not mean you should do this work. Biblical education should be done by listening to the Lord's voice and carefully following His instruction.

I am grateful that Raymond Academy, which has just celebrated its 18th anniversary, has already been able to produce several servants for the Lord. However, the fact that children become people who are used for missions in the future, or that succeed in making disciples is, so to speak, a by-product. I believe that we will be able to see the real fruit when we faithfully follow the will of God and raise children to become like Him. The church can fulfill its mission only when it realizes the importance of Biblical education and puts it into practice, and I believe that A.C.E. is a useful tool for this purpose.



- Pastor Kenji Ito -
Pastor of Higashitotsuka Christ Church and
Chaplain of Raymond Academy

Raymond Academy

A LOOK AT JAPAN'S FIRST MODEL STATUS SCHOOL

Every school has that one or even a handful of students who just want things their way, but God's grace and love can cause them to take a U-turn. This is a testimony from a graduate of RA who is now on the teaching faculty - Mr. Miguel Egremy



"When are you going to change!? When!?" asked my mother with tears rolling down her cheeks as she picked me up from school and found out that I had gotten another detention. This scene will be forever engraved in my mind—desperation and sorrow unfolded from my mother's sobbing face as she asked me once again with a broken voice, "When are you going to change, son? When!?" I remember sitting there, in front of her, incapable of uttering anything in response. I remember searching inside of me for an answer to her question and having a sense of disappointment as I could not find any answers within me. I myself also wondered when I would change. Perhaps, more than that, I wondered just how I would be able to bring such a dramatic change to my life. The truth is that I had no idea. I was in a real crisis.

I will also never forget the words of one of my junior high school teachers when I met her years later after graduating from school. She said, "I was told to choose between one of two students to expel from our school, and you were one of them." I knew I never was the best student, but I never imagined I was that bad! I was shocked that I never knew about that until years later; however, I was not that surprised that I found a way to put myself in that situation. I was really a bad student, so much so that the school board was considering kicking me out. Detentions were a daily thing for me. I got so many demerits every single day that it became fun to collect those little correction notes and handle them as packs of money in front of my friends. The question was not, "Did you get detention today?" but rather, "How long will you stay after school tomorrow?" This was our routine as I boarded the car every day after school. It is amazing to think of the perseverance and endurance that my mother had for not giving up on me after so many years of not seeing a change in me. I could easily tell that my parents were desperate to see any kind of change in me. I remember my father saying, "Just a privilege, if you just get one privilege, I'll buy you anything you want. And if you get the Honor Roll, I'll buy you so many things that you'll have to say, 'Dad, please stop!'" That sounded so good! I remember thinking that I could get whatever I dreamed of if I just became a good student. However, that also sounded impossible to do. I just had no idea how I could find a way to behave in school and bring that change everyone was expecting in me.

It took over eight long and difficult years for my parents and teachers to finally start seeing some kind of change in my life. And so, thanks to the endless mercy of God and the love, dedication, faith, and endurance of my parents and teachers, I was able to graduate from school in 2009. Not only did I graduate, but in my last year I was able to earn a place on each of the four Honor Rolls of the year. Can you believe that?! Four Honor Rolls! I was also selected as a model student and I was even invited to serve as an Educational Assistant at Raymond Academy in Japan, my current home. I have just started my eighth year of service in Japan, and every time I look back on my school years, it is always amazing and almost hard to believe the drastic change that I went through. However, that change was not instantaneous, nor automatic. It took over ten years, countless tears, and many hours of constant teaching of my parents and teachers. They are the ones who, using PACEs, devotions, scriptures, and daily lessons, helped mold Christ's character in me. I did not know how I could change, nor do I know to this day how exactly I changed, because it all was made by God, to whom all credit is due. He is the One who strengthened my parents daily and helped them not to give up. He is the One who filled my teachers with wisdom and creativity so they could control me and teach me the right ways. He is the One who made the change in me and all credit is His.

After realizing the effectiveness of the A.C.E. system and the transformation that it can produce in the life of a child like me, I decided to become a Christian educator. Nevertheless, it was first out of a naive and selfish thought that my country was the most needed of this kind of Christian education. I thought that the only way to change my country was to start at the bottom of the problem and engrave God's Law in children's hearts so that they would grow up and become the change that we needed. Even though I still believe this is what my country needs, I have now come to the realization that every country in the world has exactly the same need for Christian education. Just like Isaiah 53:6 reads, "All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way..." The entire world is in need of Christ and without Him there is no hope for the future. He is our foundation and our path for the future. Therefore, it is our responsibility as servants of Christ to "train up [our children] in the way [they] should go," so that they will become the very change that this world needs. This is such a high calling and by no means an easy task; however, the system of ACE provides the necessary tools needed to do just that—form the character of Christ in the lives of our children.

Even though my students might not quite yet understand how helpful PACEs, rules and procedures are for their lives, I am a living testimony of the effectiveness of this system and how God can change lives forever. Just as my life was transformed, I now want to be used for the glory of God and help my students become like Jesus. I want to form Christ's character in them. I want to help them become the best version of themselves. I want to prepare them for the future and help them become servants of God whose only goal is to work for God's glory and the advancement of His kingdom. I hope my life and this short testimony can now serve as a reminder and encouragement for parents and teachers, too. Change is not instantaneous, nor is it solely dependent on the work of our hands. No matter how hard or for how long we teach, guide or try to make a difference in the lives of our children, we should never forget that it is actually God who gives the increase (1 Cor. 3:6-7). He has also provided his Holy Spirit capable of transforming the lives of our children. Therefore, we should remain steadfast and unmovable, directing our children in the right way and remembering that the battle is and has always been the Lord's. We can remain confident knowing that He is on our side and that we have, at arm's reach, just the right tools needed to form the next generation of servants. May none of us give up on our calling as parents and educators, but may we all continue with our eyes set on the goal, faithfully working together to make a difference in this world—one child at a time.

Learning can be tough, but it does not mean giving up. Being shaped throughout the 13 years in Raymond Academy, this is Miki Caponpon's testimony of God's training in her early years.

Through PACEs and the special activities and events at Raymond Academy, the most important thing that I learned was to face everything with patience. For me, a student who spent 13 years in Raymond Academy, this has been the most difficult lesson that I have been able to learn. I was a stubborn student who was impatient, obsessive, and who put off things I didn't like.

Now that I am married and out in the world, people around me recognize that I have grown a lot as a person. There are still many areas where I need to grow. However, if I was a caterpillar when I was a student, I have now reached the chrysalis stage, and if I get to be transformed into a butterfly in the image of God, then I will be immensely grateful. The leaves I ate as a caterpillar were probably the things I learned at Raymond Academy. Those leaves were full of the nourishment of the Word, containing hard fibers, sweet and bitter, as the training I received in school.

A bitter leaf for me was learning PACEs in English, because I couldn't work as I wanted, and I just failed my tests. While taking regular style classes at university, I realized the individual style of A.C.E. didn't suit me. If you look only at my academic achievement, I don't think you can say that I was a good student. However, today's society provides many opportunities to practice loyalty, to respect superiors and colleagues, to be a kind and generous person, and to work with perseverance and responsibility. I was taught that all of these are part of the character of Jesus. I am currently training to become a pastor, and I am still in the chrysalis state, believing that God will turn me into a butterfly in the future. I still don't know what kind of work I will be entrusted with and what kind of butterfly I will become. However, God blessed my precious teenage years through my parents' prayers and through the wonderful environment of Raymond Academy. I will keep moving forward day by day, putting into practice to the fullest what I learned.



Raymond Academy

A LOOK AT JAPAN'S FIRST MODEL STATUS SCHOOL
REMINISCING 18 YEARS OF SWEET MEMORIES FROM 2004-2022



Why Does A.C.E. Work in Japan?

Parents, Staff of Schools, Current Students, & Graduates Share Their Stories

Tokyo Daniel International School (hereinafter referred as TDIS) is located in Tokyo, Japan. TDIS is a school that was started in 2019 when the Tokyo Nippori International Church accepted the A.C.E. Christian Education System. There are not many churches in Japan, so there are fewer schools where the church starts them. TDIS teaches students based on the Bible's truth in Japan's educational environment.

Our school is characterized by students of Japanese, Chinese, and Korean nationality. All the curriculum is conducted in English, but at the same time, students are learning Japanese, Chinese, and Korean. Through this, TDIS teaches students to become people who serve the Global world with the leadership of Northeast Asia.

Education within the A.C.E. education system gave us confidence in biblical values education. We help students grow up to be disciples of Jesus every day. Also, the A.C.E. education system helps teachers become good disciples of Jesus. Thank you, and praise the name of the Lord. It's an honor and a blessing to work with A.C.E.

-Soomin Park (Administrator of Tokyo Daniel International School)



How did PACE studies help in my life? I acquired through my PACE studies is the ability to take action to achieve the goal. Every day, I set the goal for the next day and tried to finish the goal. When I set a goal, I needed to think of how many pages for which subject. Looking back to my college life, that skill or ability was needed, and in fact it helped me a lot. I made plans for the tests and studied for them in advance throughout the year. Now I own a business in Taiwan, and the same skill or ability is my treasure as I have to make a business plan for the next day. When I do this, I succeed in business. I do not need to write down on an A.C.E. goal card now, but I do use my notebook and set a goal just like I did in my school office. I know my capacity and schedule, so I try to stretch my ability little by little by changing the goal just like I did in my PACE study. My business goes well in this way. I am so thankful that I made setting a goal my habit. I thank A.C.E. for providing this amazing system.

-Saisen Kou (Graduate of Hakata International School)

My son, Enoch is currently in the 4th grade. He entered TDIS in January 2020, at the end of the second half of the first grade of primary school. Not long after the school started, because of the COVID-19, the students started to study at home by online learning. Enoch didn't adapt to such a learning style and environment at the beginning. He was also a free and unrestrained child, so it was difficult to concentrate and be casual in learning. He often lost his temper, didn't learn, even lay in bed and didn't talk to the teacher. We are also very worried and sad. But the headmaster has always encouraged us to pray for Enoch with us. Although Enoch did not change quickly, our expectations and confidence in hope have not decreased.

Later, after the school returned to normal classes, Enoch remained in a bad state for a long time. At school, he often loses his temper, can't obey the instructions, and even runs home when he is angry. His bad temper gives us a headache. Because Enoch was born in a Chinese family in Japan and raised in Japan, Japanese has become his mother tongue instinctively, but we also speak Chinese with him at home, resulting in his language expression ability being somewhat less than that of Japanese children of the same age. After he came to TDIS, he had to start learning English, so he was very resistant and self-confident for a long time. But the monitors and supervisors persevered in encouraging him and praying for him. Although it took some time and energy, Enoch began to see a change from the second year he entered Daniel School, and going to school became a great joy for him. Although he still didn't love learning, he began to work hard according to his own ability. And he learns and recites God's words every day in school. Enoch has begun to believe that God really exists and expects God's plan for his life.

Although Enoch still has many shortcomings that need to be corrected, we firmly believe that God will lead his life, and there are good plans and arrangements that are suitable for him. As parents, we are also willing to accept God's guidance, and pray for him unremittingly, and accompany his growth with God's words.

-Dezhou Wang (Parent of a student at Tokyo Daniel International School)

Why Does A.C.E. Work in Japan?

Parents, Staff of Schools, Current Students, & Graduates Share Their Stories



It's been almost sixteen years since I joined the ministry of Christian education. All I can say now is "God is good and righteous." As I had been a public-school teacher before, I can always compare Christian education and public school. I know we cannot raise any child without the Word of God and I am so grateful to be a part of this great ministry. Looking back on my 16 years of ministry life, I would like to share three main thoughts I have.

First of all, the curriculum suits any child as it's very individual. Being in a big class, most children are having a difficult time as it's too easy or too difficult. When I was teaching at a public high school, I was trained to teach the class content, targeting the average level in class. We usually have 40 students in class. There must be a diversity of students among them. The teacher can't meet all students' needs academically. PACEs are great. Each student studies a PACE of a different level. God uniquely creates each child. They are all different. So the level they study should be different. I thank God for this wonderful curriculum.

The second thought I have in my mind is that how we guide in school is based on the Word of God. Whenever we come across any trouble or misunderstanding among students, both teachers and students pray and ask the Holy Spirit to guide us. I have the confidence to say that "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are called according to his purpose." (Romans 8:28) I have been witnessing how students have been changed and grown so well spiritually through their challenges or problems in school. Forgiveness and repentance have been the key to bringing students a solution to each problem. This does not happen in public schools. I am so thankful for God's presence in our school.

Finally, I would like to share how students have been encouraging school staff these days. Back in March 2022, we had a Graduation Ceremony. One student's speech touched my heart. He said, "let me share what our school DOES have but other public schools around me DO NOT have. That's LOVE." In his speech, he continued how much God cared for him through us in school.

Let me share another student's comment. Back in November 2020, many graduates came to visit our school as our school was moved to a different location. They wanted to see the old church and school building before it was torn down. One of them flew from a different city all the way to say goodbye to the building. She said, "whenever I feel down, I always remember my school days here. I even wear the school PE shirt to cheer me up. When I think of my school life, I can feel God closer and can live another day." That encouraged me a lot. A school using A.C.E. is often a place for healing students as there is God's presence. She smiled at us and went back home after she ordered another new PE shirt.

It's such a beautiful picture of students' growing in my memories. What a great privilege our school staff has!! We can join God's plan for each child. The presence of God makes a difference in their lives. We can be a part of it. I am so thankful for this ministry.

Matthew 19:14

"But Jesus said, suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me: for of such is the kingdom of heaven."

-Takako Nanri (Supervisor of Hakata International School)



As a mother of three children, I experienced a lot of hardness in raising children in an ungodly country. At first, my husband and I decided to send them to the public elementary school, and eventually we found they were very confused and unconfident about their identity as a Christian. Even though we had tried our best to train up our children in the way they should go, the enemy tried hard to mislead them away from God's way.

When we knew a Christian school will be founded in our church, we were so inspired and decided to send them to TDIS. Now, four years have passed; we see with our eyes how our children have changed in their mind and behavior. They are still searching and struggling with life's issues when seeing what happened every day in this world, but now they have learned to think things in a biblical way, asking for help and wisdom from God. The school equipped them with a biblical worldview that places God at the priority of all things. This matters the most.

The school provides a climate in which my children can explore concepts in every subject through a Christian lens to develop their worldview in a safe environment. They don't need to be confused any more. We thank God for what He did to lead our children in the way they should go, and we are looking forward to the plan God prepared for them.

-Jing Li (Parent of a student Tokyo Daniel International School)



I like the A.C.E. system because it gives students the opportunity to study at their level and abilities. I especially enjoy the self-study aspect. I believe it will help me in my college work as a major percentage of college work is, in fact, self-study. I've also learned a lot from setting goals each day. This is a good skill. I know I will continue to use it. Writing things down helps me to relax and focus on a few things instead of getting anxious about all that I have ahead of me. These two skills I am very thankful to acquire by doing PACEs. I enjoy the balance of group activities and self-study at school. Through our school system, I am given the opportunity to study individually and to work together with others well. I am grateful that I am learning skills that will be essential in my college and work life.

- Sara Broaddus (Graduate of Hakata International School)

The Importance of Having a Biblical Worldview

Giving Up Free Education in Japan

Building on the Foundation of Christ

A testimony by Mr. & Mrs. Rolando Roque, Jr.

(Parents of Students at Raymond Academy)

My wife and I have five children. We prayed and sought to raise them with an education in the Lord, and we are happy to have found and enrolled in Raymond Academy, which offers the A.C.E. program.

We live in Japan, a wonderful country rich in natural blessings. The human rights of each individual are respected, the country is safe, and the freedom of religion is recognized. In addition, the period of legally compulsory education is 9 years from elementary school (age 7) to junior high school (age 15), and the Constitution of Japan guarantees free tuition, textbooks, and other fees at national and public schools. Even though Japan is said to be one of the most expensive countries in the world, all children are guaranteed the privilege of education by the government. In addition, financial support and assistance are provided to all children, no matter what their circumstances, to receive an education.

Although the government provides generous support for education, these privileges are not available to children who attend schools other than public schools or schools that are not accredited by the government. You will not be forced to leave, but you will be viewed as condoning your parents' policy of sending you to an unaccredited school.

There are reasons why we are willing to give up these privileges to send our children to Raymond Academy. First, the school is Japanese and English-language school. We are an international married couple from the Philippines (husband) and Japan (wife). We wanted our children to learn English, our common language, and to be able to communicate in English with our family in the Philippines.

And the most important reason of all is that A.C.E. provides all subjects with the Bible as the foundation. To the rest of the world, people may think of Shintoism and Buddhism as the religions of Japan. However, what we see in the majority of Japanese people is that they do not have a strong belief in those ideas, but rather the presence of religious events and rituals that seem to blend naturally into their daily lives. In public schools, Shinto and Buddhist teachings are often incorporated into education and school events, and participation and thought are often instilled in a natural way. Therefore, when I thought about our children having to spend a long time from Monday to Friday receiving a Shinto or Buddhist based education, and on Sundays studying the Bible in church, I thought that this would make it difficult to provide an education in the Lord. Of course, attending a Christian school does not guarantee salvation, but in Japan, many children tend to prioritize school and various events over church services from the time they enter junior high school, which makes it seem as if leaving the church is justified. We felt uncomfortable with this situation.

For us, it was not easy to get our children into Raymond Academy. First, we had to go to the district office and tell them that our children would not be attending the public school in our area, and we would have to give up all the financial support we would normally receive. However, we have accepted that there is more value in the A.C.E. curriculum than in mainstream education, and that it is the Lord's will for us.

We cannot help but thank the Lord that through attending this school, our children are encountering Christ, loving Him, and living a Bible-based life in this country of Japan. We are especially thankful that they are being trained as Christians through Godly Character Traits. As parents, we are also learning and growing as we are very much involved in our children's education.

I am impressed by the way that each child is learning at his/her own level in each subject and is facing not others but himself/herself as he/she works at his/her own PACES. We cannot help but be sincerely grateful for the privilege we have been given to allow our children to learn while experiencing God through all of their subjects. Our desire for our children is that they will be used as vessels for the Lord. If our children are not built up with Christ as their foundation, they will tumble over easily. For this reason, we are praying with all our hearts that they will be able to learn diligently now and be firmly rooted in His Word so that they can be used by the Lord whenever He needs them.

We give thanks to the Lord that when we asked the Lord for an education, He answered and brought us to Raymond Academy, which offers the A.C.E. program with Christ as its foundation.

We also give thanks to all those who are involved in the management of A.C.E. May the Lord continue to bless each of you abundantly.

Schools on Status



Model Status

1. Raymond Academy

Quality Status

1. Hakata International School
2. Tokyo Daniel International School

Statistics of Schools on Status in Other Areas:

Model Status

India	1
Japan	1
Korea	3
Thailand	1
Vietnam	1

Quality Status

India	4
Japan	2
Korea	10
Laos	2
Malaysia	27
Myanmar	3
Singapore	3
Thailand	15
United Arab Emirates	2
Vietnam	13

2023 SOTA Calendar of Events

Educators' Conventions

Country	City	Dates
India	Hyderabad	March 3
Japan	Yokohama	October 27
Korea	TBC	March 24
Malaysia	Penang	March 13-14
Myanmar	Yangon	April 27-28
Pakistan	Rawalpindi	March 10
Thailand	Bangkok	March 9-10
Vietnam	Ho Chi Minh City	March 6-7

Administrators' and Supervisors' Training

Country	City	Dates
India	Hyderabad Shillong	October 9-13 December 11-15
Japan	Yokohama	March 20-24
Korea	Asan-si, Chungcheongnam-do	February 6-10 May 22-26 July 17-21 August 21-25 November 27 - December 1
Laos	Vientianne	June 19-23
Malaysia	Penang	June 5-9 November 20-24
Myanmar	Yangon Pyin Oo Lwin	May 1-5 May 15-19
Pakistan	Rawalpindi	July 10-14
Thailand	Bangkok Chiang Mai	April 10-14 June 19-23 October 9-13 July 3-7
Vietnam	Ho Chi Minh City Hanoi	June 5-9 September 18-22 July 3-7

Interschool Competition/ Regional Student Convention

Country	City	Dates
Japan	TBC	TBC
Korea	TBC	November 7-10
Malaysia	TBC	TBC
Thailand	Chiang Mai	November 26 - December 1