

A Journal by Apprentice Kiyomi Ran

As an ethnic Chinese with dual Japanese and American citizenships, it was almost expected of me to seek more about internationalism. Combined with my interest in history and global affairs as well as my ability to speak four languages, I moved to London on September 2015 to pursue a degree in International Relations from the War Studies Department of King's College London.

I knew that both the university and the department were prestigious and offered opportunities that I would not have received anywhere else, just like the Apprenticeship program for the Worshipful Company of Security Professionals. In attending the information session and researching more about the program, I applied, because not only does it help me connect with the history of the city I am living in right now, it also creates opportunities for me to engage with people from the security field - something that is crucial in today's internationalism.

In my application, I stressed not only what I can gain from the Company, but how I can hopefully contribute.



In developing my knowledge in “internationalism” and “security,” I was fortunate to have interned at the Embassy of Pakistan in Japan in the summer of 2016, right after I was accepted as an

Apprentice by the Company. Pakistan may seem a strange choice, but it was actually where my father first worked back when he was a young Foreign Service Officer for China in the 1980s, although he left diplomacy after his first posting to go into the business world. During my internship, I was required to write reports on current world and Pakistani affairs, as well as attend various meetings. I am pleased to say that all seven papers I wrote were sent by the Ambassador to his colleagues all over the world. The meetings I attended varied - from going to a party hosted by the Ambassador's alma mater to celebrating the end of Ramadan with other diplomats - I quickly learned how important personal relationships were in diplomacy.

One of the most interesting experiences I had at the Embassy was when I was called in by the Deputy Chief of Mission to look at a demonstration outside the Indian Embassy on Kashmir. He wanted me to go see how big the protest is, how many people were there, and what they were doing because as a tenured diplomat, he was not allowed to become involved. Because of my ethnicity, I could observe in the back without anything happening. I was nervous, but this was my first practical taste at diplomacy, as this was a security issue that transcended borders and even borders beyond that. I hurried to the Indian Embassy to find around 30 people who seemed are of Pakistani ethnicity, with some holding megaphones and all demanding justice for those killed in the conflict. This was all done in Japanese. Not surprisingly, there were also few policemen and Japanese journalists who witnessed this event.

On my return to London to continue my studies at King's, I was invited by Honorary Court Assistant Roy Penrose to an Apprentice Event at the Old Bailey. The history was mesmerizing, but some of the stories were quite frightening. When we went down to the cells, they seemed too real. However, I was appreciative because it was an experience not everyone can get, which I have noticed is a recurring theme in Apprentice Events.

I was inroled in November 2016 at the Salters' Hall, and officially registered my indentures at the Guildhall on December 15th, 2016. To do this, an Apprentice must take his or her inrolement certificate and birth certificate to the Chamberlain's Court. However, in Japan where I was born, there is a very different system called the *koseki* or the Family Registry, as they place less of an emphasis on where you were born, but more on where your family roots are. Not surprisingly, the documentation is in Japanese, which might have caused me a problem. Fortunately, Laura Miller, the Deputy Clerk of the Chamberlain's Court, who had lived and worked in Japan, was familiar with the system and spoke Japanese. I obtained a copy of the Register from home and emailed it to Laura who smoothed the process.



At the end of the year, I went back to my family home in Japan, where I had spent half of my childhood. Every year, there is a national holiday celebrating all those who turned 20 the previous year on the second Monday of January called the “National Coming-of-Age Day.” I was one of the 1.2 million young people who officially became an adult on January 2017. It was a time to reflect with gratitude on what I have done and what I hope to do in the future. I am grateful to the Company for accepting me into its Apprenticeship program. I believe that Company will be a significant part of my life.

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