

# OCEAN BREEZE

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No. 200 2022 Winter

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## CAPE BROLGA, a 210,000 DWT Capesize Bulk Carrier for JFE Steel Corporation, Completed

Coal & Iron Ore Carrier Ore Team No.1, Coal & Iron Ore Carrier Business Group

On September 29, 2021, CAPE BROLGA was delivered to us after completion. The 210,000 DWT, capesize bulk carrier had been under construction at Japan Marine United Corporation's Tsu Shipyard.

The ship will engage in the transportation of iron ore and coal to JFE Steel Corporation based on the long-term consecutive voyage charter signed with the client.

With the introduction of an energy-saving device and the square corner cut accommodation\*1 for reducing wind resistance independently developed by Japan Marine United Corporation, the fuel costs of the ship are significantly reduced when compared with conventional ships. The ship also has a greater deadweight capacity. The state-of-the-art ship brings together the world's top technologies that surpasses those applied to other latest capsize bulk carriers.

JFE-SIP®-CC coal cargo hold corrosion-resistant steel\*2 developed by JFE Steel Corporation, is also used to make the ship's cargo hold more resistant to corrosion.

The ship is named after the brolga, the official bird emblem of the State of Queensland, Australia.

The maiden voyage of the ship was the transportation of coal from the port of Gladstone in East Australia to Japan. The BROLGA will continue to be important part of our safe transportation of iron ore and coal from many different ports of the world to Japan.



Outline of Vessel	
Dimension:	LOA 299.99 meters x Breadth 50.00 meters x Depth 25.00 meters x Draft 18.40 meters
D/W:	211,982 T
G/T:	108,605
Main engine:	Hitz MAN-B&W 7S65ME-C-8.5-HPSCR
Service speed	14.3 knots
Classification society	NK
Flag	Japan
Builder	Tsu Shipyard, Japan Marine United Corporation

\*1 Super Stream Duct®, SURF-BULB® and ALV-Fin® are placed near the propeller to enable the reduction of fuel costs beyond the capabilities of conventional equipment used for the same purposes. The LEADGE-BOW® shape reduces resistance due to waves.  
Energy saving devices | Hydrodynamic engineering | Japan Marine United Corporation (jmuc.co.jp)  
<https://www.jmuc.co.jp/rd/development/hydrodynamics/energy-saving/>

\*2 JFE-SIP®-CC coal cargo hold corrosion-resistant steel  
The steel plate inhibits the corrosion of the cargo hold induced by sulfuric acid from coal sulfur during the transportation of coal.  
JFE Steel | Product Information | Thick Steel Plate | Products | Corrosion-resistant Steel Plate for Shipbuilding (jfe-steel.co.jp)  
<https://www.jfe-steel.co.jp/products/atuita/b03.html>

## LIN MIARAK, Bulk Coal Carrier for Kobe Steel, Ltd., Completed

Coal & Iron Ore Carrier Team 2, Coal & Iron Ore Carrier Business Group

The Imabari Shipbuilding Group's Tadotsu Shipyard Co., Ltd. completed the construction of LIN MIARAK, a 90,000 DWT bulk carrier, on November 18, 2021.

Prior to completion, a naming ceremony was held on November 8 attended by Mr. Yamaguchi, the president of Kobe Steel, Ltd. and his wife, Mr. Higaki, the president of Imabari Shipbuilding Co., Ltd. and his wife, Mr. Kurokawa, the Executive Vice President of Imabari Shipbuilding, "K" Line President & CEO Yukikazu Myochin and his wife and many other people involved in the project. Mr. Yamaguchi powerfully named the ship and his spouse brilliantly cut the rope. The naming of the ship ended without problems.

On a warm autumn day and with a hearty send-off by involved shipyard workers, the ship embarked on its maiden voyage to the Australian coal port of Newcastle. The name of the ship, LIN MIARAK, means "a ship that sails across the world to carry happiness" in Nepalese. It will transport coal for Kobe Steel, Ltd. based on a long-term consecutive voyage charter with Kobe Steel.

The LIN MIARAK is a six-hold shallow draught boat capable of securing a larger deadweight with a shallower draft than specified in the Panamax standard. This is "K" Line's first ship compliant with NOx tertiary regulations and is also expected to greatly contribute to the conservation of the global environment as it is a state-of-the-art, eco-friendly ship equipped with SCR (selective catalytic reduction) and EGR (exhaust gas recirculation). As an expert in marine transportation, we will continue to serve clients by maximizing the value of the experience and technologies we have accumulated over many years.

We would like to take this opportunity to express our heartfelt gratitude to everyone who has helped us complete the construction of the LIN MIARAK.



## "K" Line Group Opened a Booth for the First Time at WIND EXPO

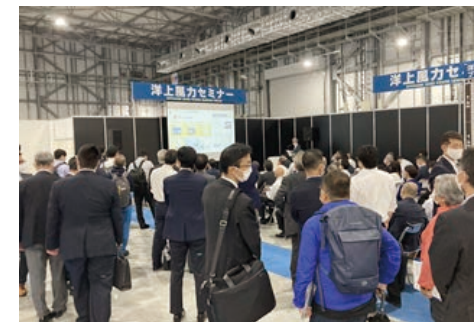
Renewable Green Business Team, Carbon Neutral Promotion Group

"K" Line participated Wind Expo held at Tokyo Big Site from September 29th to October 1st, 2021 jointly with KAWASAKI KINKAI KISEN KAISHA, LTD., "K" Line Wind Service, LTD., "K" LINE LOGISTICS, LTD and Daito Corporation. We presented "K" Line Group's strategy on offshore wind-related businesses at the booth.

Despite of a typhoon hitting Tokyo on the final day of the expo, many customers and people from our partner companies and "K" Line Group companies visited our booth. The expo was adjacent to an exhibition on solar power generation and hydrogen and fuel cells. Overall, the exhibitions drew 25,000 visitors. Nine hundred people visited our booth in the three-day period and many of them also attended a seminar held by "K" Line Wind Service.

### Offshore Wind Power Generation

At the WIND EXPO, many companies opened their booths on topics such as renewable energy and strategy towards decarbonization. Among these, wind power drew the highest attention. Offshore wind power is expected to grow as one of the major power sources in Japan who has only limited land space for renewable energy and the Japanese government sets high targets of offshore wind power development at 10 GW by 2030 and at 30 to 45 GW by 2040. In Europe, bottom-fixed offshore wind power stations in giant scale were developed over the wide spread shallow water and such large scale energy production significantly reduced its costs. In comparison, the ocean depth around Japan is much deeper and only limited number of bottom-fixed turbines could be installed. Therefore, the expectations toward floating wind turbines in which a floating structure is moored and anchored on the seabed are rising in this country. Installation and maintenance of offshore wind turbines require offshore work and transportation of parts, materials and engineers working on those turbines. This means many different types of vessels will be required.



### About "K" Line Wind Service, LTD.

In June 2021, "K" Line Wind Service, LTD. was established to serve as the "K" Line Group's platform for addressing many different needs in Offshore Wind power industry.

The offshore support vessel business "K" Line Group had experienced in Norway and Japan contains common know-how for Offshore Wind requirements. Such knowledge and experience will take an important role in the floating offshore wind growth which will be the key sector for Japan towards de-carbonization by 2050. The "K" Line Group has a wide range of know-how to support the development of a supply chain for offshore wind in many different ways. Examples are, among many others, through logistics solution of wind turbines by "K" LINE LOGISTICS, wind turbine parts transportation by RORO vessels, near-shore transportation with tugboats operated by the "K" Line Group companies in Japan and crew transfer vessel operation reflecting the know-how in the operation of a tugboat. "K" Line Group provides a throughout logistics and vessel solution to support supply chain development of Offshore Wind Industry.

### Exhibits of WIND EXPO

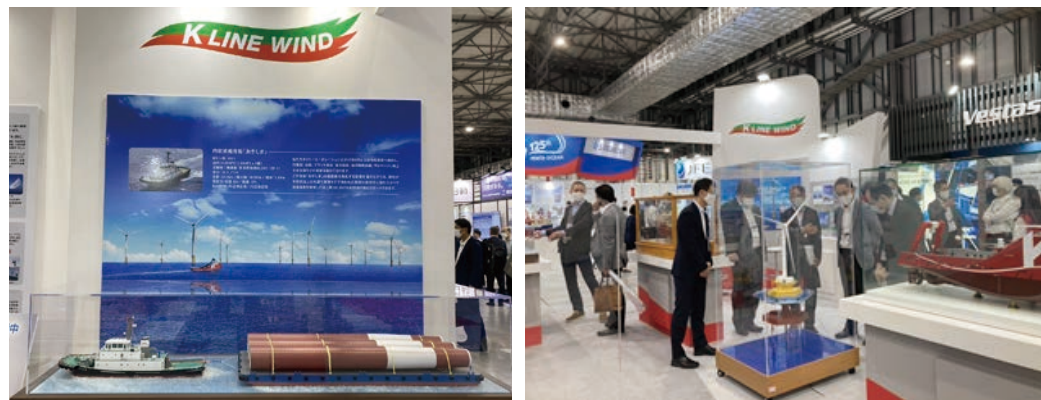
To give the pictorial image of how the vessels work during the business conversation with customers, we exhibited three model ships with a model of floating wind turbine.

Daito Corporation exhibited a model of tugboat "Okishima" transporting monopile. Offshore turbines and vessel of K Line Offshore AS beautifully matched each other in the background picture and effectively helped the visitors to imagine what the transportation would be like.

The "K" Line Group's anchor handling tug supply vessels, Akatsuki and KL Saltfjord, were exhibited along with Hamakaze, a floating wind turbine of Japan Marine United Corporation. Exhibiting them together successfully presented how an anchor handling tug supply vessel tows and moors floating wind turbines when they are installed or removed.

All of the "K" Line Group companies joined the Wind Expo shall try to build business relationships with those customers visited our booth and try to contribute to their business development.

The "K" Line Group will also join the WIND EXPO scheduled in March 2022. For the spring expo, we are preparing to represent our business strategy to contribute Japanese Offshore Wind development with more concrete idea and we will be waiting for you visiting our booth!!



## New Year Roundtable Talk — To make an otherwise boring world interesting —\*

Corporate Sustainability, IR and Communication Group

Happy New Year, everyone! 2022 has begun. While the COVID-19 pandemic continues to impose restrictions on face-to-face communications, on Thursday, October 21 of last year, OCEAN BREEZE had its first online round-table talk in a long while using the Microsoft Teams video chat feature. Four of our overseas expats share their experiences during the COVID-19 pandemic in the countries they currently live in. Let's find out what they have experienced. You will also see some photos from the lockdown period.

We would like to thank everyone who joined the round-table talk.



Facilitator: Mr. Masao Nakayama, Corporate Sustainability, IR and Communication Group

Attendees: [Singapore] Ms. Kumiko Iwasa, "K" Line Pte Ltd (transferred on April 1, 2020)  
Ms. Iwasa joined the Corporate Planning Group on January 1, 2022.

[Melbourne] Mr. Nobuyuki Yokoyama, Kawasaki (Australia) Pty. Ltd. (transferred on April 1, 2020)

[Hamburg] Mr. Yosuke Yokoyama, "K" Line (Deutschland) GmbH (transferred on April 1, 2018)

[Hong Kong] Mr. Atsushi Ono, Ocean Network Express (East Asia) Ltd. (transferred on July 18, 2018)

Mr. Ono was transferred to Hong Kong on April 1, 2018 before ONE-EA started in full scale.

\*To make an otherwise boring world interesting

This is the last poem written by Takasugi Shinsaku, a hero in the last days of the Tokugawa shogunate, in his lifetime.  
The world can be either interesting or boring depending on your mindset.

**Nakayama (Facilitator):** Everyone, thank you very much for taking the time to join this round-table talk.

As the subheading of the round-table talk says, let's make this a positive one to the extent possible. It is a suitable way to celebrate the New Year.

Now let's begin. Is freedom granted or are restrictions imposed on people's activities to any extent in the country you live in? I hope you will share your experiences and feelings in detail, as these matters may not be receiving media coverage in Japan.

Let's start with Mr. Yokoyama from Melbourne.

**Yokoyama (Melbourne):** Yes. Let me kick it off.

Here, the sixth lockdown started on August 5, 2021 and it ends today. The lockdown will be lifted tomorrow. The sixth lockdown lasted 78 days, from August 5 to October 21. Lockdowns are greatly different from the self-imposed prohibitions which were encouraged in Japan. It is obligatory and makes people feel oppressed. Basically, we were banned from going out with five exceptions: (1) going to buy food and other daily necessities, (2) Exercising outdoors for two hours a day at the longest, (3) going to the hospital, (4) essential workers who are officially authorized by the state government and (5) vaccination. The first and second exceptions, going to buy food and exercising for two hours or less, must be within five kilometers of your home. In addition, the Melbourne Metropolitan area has been placed under a nightly curfew. You cannot leave your home from 9:00pm to 5:00am.

**Facilitator:** Oh, it's very strict...

**Yokoyama (Melbourne):** Yes it is. Around the time the COVID-19 pandemic broke out, German Chancellor Merkel said she knew how grave a national government's restricting people's activities could be. I could relate to that very much. Having your activities restricted induces a lot of stress even if it does not mean you have to do anything. Honestly, this is a different type of stress from what I had when I stayed at home under the self-imposed restrictions in Japan before coming here. Melbourne has had six lockdowns in the last one and a half years from March 31, 2020 for a total of 263 days. Two hundred and sixty-three days is the world's longest lockdown. This is reported by many media organizations. Buenos Aires in Argentina had the world's second longest lockdown. Melbourne was No.1 in the world's best places to live ranking. As far as the last one and a half years is concerned, in one sense, it has been the world's worst place to live in (chuckles).

**Facilitator:** This is one of the least happy things to be the world's number one in (chuckles). I guess this episode is already encouraging our colleagues from other regions (chuckles). Next. How about Singapore, Ms. Iwasa?



Mr. Nakayama

**Iwasa:** Yes. Two days ago, Singapore had the largest-ever number of infections per day. Yesterday, the Ministry of Health issued a press release to announce a one-month postponement of the relaxation of restrictions. When I received the invitation to this round-table talk, the e-mail said it would be about a happy New Year message. It is unfortunate that we are still in this situation. But I think we are under much looser restrictions than in Melbourne. I'm sorry (chuckles).

**Yokoyama (Melbourne):** We are getting out of the lockdown today (chuckles).

**Iwasa:** Oh, we just heard that (chuckles). Singapore began rapidly relaxing restrictions when the vaccination rate exceeded 85%. We felt relieved about the figure and shifted to coexisting with COVID. Even though the restrictions were relaxed, some of them still remained. For example, the largest number of people that could eat together in a group in a restaurant was five. Up to 50% of employees may have commuted to the office. Despite these restrictions, the relaxation had made us feel much happier. However, the rapid relaxation had caused the number of infections to skyrocket and put a strain on healthcare. So we had the largest-ever number of infections per day (as of October 19, 2021) two days ago — nearly 4,000. Converting this number to Japan would mean more than 80,000 infections per day.

**Facilitator:** It's a devastating figure.

**Iwasa:** Even under the tighter regulations, there are no restrictions on your activities as long as you are vaccinated, wear a mask and properly social-distance. You can eat out until 10:30 p.m., either alone or in a group of two persons irrespective of whether you drink alcohol. If you have not been vaccinated, you are not allowed to eat out or enter a shopping mall. Offices also impose tight regulations. Basically, we have to telecommute. If you need to come to the office to get your job done, you must obtain the approval of your safety management officer and take an ART test at home before coming to the office. Basically, our goal has been to create a new normal to enable our coexistence with COVID. But it ended up straining the healthcare system. After the record-high figure two days ago, restrictions have been extended one month.

**Facilitator:** It's a sad situation.

**Iwasa:** I live here alone and I could go out for a cup of tea if I wanted to. But if you have a four-person family, you would face extremely difficult situation since eating out in a group of three or more people is still banned. So we are feeling somewhat oppressed, though it may not be as serious as in Melbourne. Being unable to commute to the office is.... depressing. I think we'll talk about it later.



Ms. Iwasa



**Facilitator:** I see. Singapore is also experiencing a resurgence of infection. You must be feeling a repeated anxiety. Thank you very much.

Next, we'll hear from Mr. Ono from Hong Kong.

**Ono:** Yes. In terms of COVID, Hong Kong is in a fairly stable condition. There were four infections yesterday and six today. Most of these people were infected overseas before coming here. As long as you are in Hong Kong, you are safe. So you may expect a significant relaxation of restrictions on people's activities, but they have been relaxed very little. You are not allowed to be in public places in a group of four or more people. In fact, it's quite complicated. A group of four or more people may gather and do something together as long as they social-distance from one another to some extent. Personally, the happiest thing was the relaxation of restaurant-related restrictions on the condition that some vaccination requirements are satisfied. As a rule, you must scan a QR code using an app on your mobile phone to make sure you are always traceable in case you are infected with COVID later. We are supposed to use it. But you are now allowed to eat out together with a limited number of people until 10 p.m. Bars may be open until 2 a.m. Restrictions are being relaxed in a phased manner. The government uses the relaxation of restrictions as an incentive to encourage vaccination.



Mr. Ono (left)

**Facilitator:** Well, this is a unique approach to getting more people to get vaccinated. Now, it's time to hear from Mr. Yokoyama from Germany. Thank you for waiting.

**Yokoyama (Hamburg):** You are welcome.

To date, the number of infections has begun to rise in this fall in Germany. As of late, about 10,000 people test positive every day. This would be equivalent to about 15,000 infections per day in Japan since Germany's population is about two-thirds of Japan's. The largest number of daily infections was recorded at the end of last year. The current figure is about 40% of that.

As for restrictions, Germany has the 3G rules (Germany introduced the 2G and 3G rules to partially relax restrictions on the activities of people who are vaccinated, have recovered from COVID-19 or have a certificate indicating they have tested negative for COVID-19. These people are categorized as 2G or 3G with "G" being the letter corresponding to a German word). In Germany, "ge-" means "-ed." If you satisfy any of the three criteria, being vaccinated, recovered from COVID or tested negative, you are allowed to eat at a restaurant, get on a plane, stay at a hotel and do other regular activities. I have already been vaccinated, so I am not experiencing any particular inconveniences. But if you have a child who has yet to be approved for vaccination or vaccinated and if the child has not contracted COVID-19, they unavoidably need to take a test.

They must have a COVID test every time they enter a restaurant, check in at a hotel or get on a plane. This is a bit troublesome. To go to school, they must also have two or three tests every week as required by the ordinance.

And wear a mask. People in this country did not have the custom of wearing masks in daily life, so it was necessary to make it obligation. Currently, all retailers and transportation facilities require people to wear masks. The requirement to wear a mask will continue for a while. Stores were mostly closed last year and I couldn't have my hair cut. It's another inconvenience. I bought hair clippers in spring last year. Since then, I have pretty much been shaven bald (chuckles). Now we can go to a hair salon. But I have gotten used to cutting my hair myself.

**Facilitator:** You got a new lifestyle (chuckles). Thank you very much. Now I've got answers from all of you to the first question. Thank you. We are finally seeing a bit of light at the end of the tunnel, but there is still a long way to go until we reach our goal. Maybe this is where we are.

Next, could you share the least pleasant experience you've had in terms of your life or work? Let's start with Mr. Yokoyama from Melbourne.

**Yokoyama (Melbourne):** In my personal life, well... We had the fifth lockdown from mid-July. During that time, I went to a nearby supermarket with my wife to buy food on the weekend. One of the people in the same supermarket at the same time got infected.

**Facilitator:** Oh my goodness!

**Yokoyama (Melbourne):** Exactly. Like what was said earlier about Hong Kong, we are required to scan a QR code using a government app whenever we enter a supermarket or any other store. Immediately after leaving the supermarket that day, I got a call from the health authority and was told to isolate at home for 14 days because I might have been in close contact with the infected person. This means you cannot even step one foot outside your house. Of course, I could no longer exercise outdoors for two hours or less a day, which I mentioned earlier. The only way to get food was to use online delivery services. We were really confined to our home. This is "isolation" in the true sense of the term, and it was the most stressful experience. As for work, telecommuting and restrictions on activities also pose limitations in meeting other people. Living in a foreign country comes with the unique experience of establishing close relationships with the people you get to know and also making good friends with their family members, whether you are at work or in your private time. We have been kept away from these experiences. It has been unfortunate and a bit boring.

**Facilitator:** Thank you very much. I understand that. I guess our expats all over the world share the same feelings. Ms. Iwasa, you moved to Singapore in April last year, so you have been living with the pandemic since you arrived. I would guess it has been a repeated unpleasant experience. What has your experience been?

**Iwasa:** Well. Basically my experience has been similar to all of your experiences. I came here in mid-April, and after I arrived I was confined to a hotel room for two weeks. I arrived at the airport, cleared immigration, was guided to a bus and went to a hotel without knowing where I was going. I had to stay there for two weeks. Every day, three meals were placed on a chair outside my hotel room. I opened the door and there it

was. This continued for two weeks. It was so stressful as you know.

Everyone who was transferred to a different country during the COVID-19 pandemic has been through this kind. Some of them spent three weeks being isolated. So maybe I shouldn't complain.

**Facilitator:** I don't think so. You deserve to complain.

**Iwasa:** I was told the two-week isolation period was over and I could leave the hotel. Then I stayed at another hotel until I could move to where to live. In that hotel, I still telecommuted. Eating out was totally prohibited at that time so I didn't go out much time (chuckles).

At work, the only way to talk with our colleagues at the Singapore office was using video chat. The only opportunity to go out was going to get some food for dinner. Greeting the hotel staff and shopping at stores were the only opportunities for face-to-face conversation.

Later, I could finally move from the hotel to my house. But I still couldn't commute to the office. The caretaker of my apartment was the only person I talked with face to face. After that, zero infections continued from around April to May this year and the restrictions on activities were gradually loosened. I met some people outside the company and finally started building a network. Recently, however, infections began rising explosively again and we have gone back to tighter restrictions. It's very disappointing.

I have yet to meet many of the people in the office. Without talking face to face, you cannot build a true network that is deep and extensive. Being unable to do this is a cause of stress both at work and in my personal life.

**Facilitator:** I agree. I really think so. Thank you very much.

Next, let's hear from Mr. Ono.

**Ono:** Yes. In Hong Kong, you can come to the office almost every day. Since the wave of infections happened early on, telecommuting was also introduced at an early point. We had to stay at home all day and were not allowed to go anywhere else. Of course, we could talk with each other using computers. But it doesn't matter where we are if we only talk on computer screens. I came all the way to Hong Kong alone and had to work via the computer screen only. It was frustrating. Today, technologies are far more advanced than they had been previously. We have no problems getting our jobs done. But I want more from the valuable opportunity of living and working in Hong Kong.

**Facilitator:** You feel like it's a bit absurd.

**Ono:** Right. I don't have any problems with my life in Hong Kong. But it's a shame that we cannot travel to or from Japan. Hong Kong is relatively near to Japan and it would take only three or four hours on a plane to return if it were not for the COVID-19 pandemic. I used to be able to repeatedly return to Japan for weekends. Now this is hard to do.

**Facilitator:** Thank you very much. Restrictions on activities have caused a lot of problems in business and in personal lives. Next, Mr. Yosuke Yokoyama. How about you?

**Yokoyama (Hamburg):** I have the impression that German people do not go out to eat and drink after working as much frequent as Japanese people do. They take a walk. Jog more, go for a bike ride and they keep good tradition, so I guess they do not feel there have been major changes in their lifestyles since the COVID-19 pandemic began.

All stores were closed for more than a half year from the fall of 2020 to April the following year. Of course restaurants were also closed. We didn't have Christmas markets which are a precious event in the dark and cold of winter. This was unfortunate both nationally and personally.

During that time, there were restrictions on meeting others. We were not allowed to meet more than five people from two households at one time. Germans like to invite relatives and friends to their home to eat and talk. So the restrictions may have put a considerable amount of stress on them. Schools continued by holding classes online only. But schools are not just places for studying. I would guess you agree. They couldn't have athletic meets, field trips or PE classes. I thought this was a pity. My children go to a Japanese school. People in the school try to be more ingenious in their organization of events than other schools. I think they have tried very hard. Despite the restrictions placed on schools in general, they have tried to do everything they could.



Mr. Yokoyama (Hamburg)

**Facilitator:** I see. Thank you very much. All of you and your families have experienced the sadness of being unable to meet people or establish true friendships. I understand how hard it has been for you.

Now, let's move on to a more uplifting topic. During the COVID-19 pandemic, what have you been doing to enjoy life? I would guess that you all have been experimenting for that purpose. Let's start with Mr. Yokoyama from Melbourne.

**Yokoyama (Melbourne):** I'm sorry. None of my answers will live up to your expectations (chuckles).

**Facilitator:** I can easily associate Mr. Yokoyama with the amazing cooking skills you developed when you were in Russia. How about that?

**Yokoyama (Melbourne):** No. My cooking is nothing more than a hobby (chuckles). As I said earlier, we had a long lockdown and I have had to telecommute and refrain from eating out whether or not we are in a lockdown. Basically I eat all three meals at home every day and drink alcohol at night. That's all. It is not an exaggeration to say that eating and drinking are the greatest enjoyment. Inevitably we are driven to this kind of lifestyle. Having said that, it is my wife who cooks for me. I must be thankful to her. If you are asking whether or not I have been able to ingeniously add something extra to my humdrum life, my honest answer is no.

**Facilitator:** Is your wife enjoying her life in Melbourne?

**Yokoyama (Melbourne):** It's been a half year since my wife came here in April. My wife (and I) were locked down for almost half of that half-year period, which has been stifling to her life. She goes and buys good food and cooks. Here, we are blessed with many fresh and tasty foods. She is also learning how to make sweets. She enjoys her life here although under restricted circumstances. Meanwhile all I do is eat (chuckles).

**Facilitator:** I see. You and your wife have been trying to enjoy your time at home more.

How about Ms. Iwasa?

**Iwasa:** Well. In terms of land area, Singapore is only as large as the 23 wards of Tokyo. In the first days after I came here, I couldn't go out and felt like I was confined on a small island. I hear the best way to enjoy this country is to travel many places in countries around Singapore. But we couldn't do that at all. Everyone has had a hard time.

Luckily, everything I see here is new to me. So I keep myself busy sightseeing on the island. I live alone so I can go anywhere I like. I look up on the Internet to find good cafes and restaurants serving laksa, chicken rice or other meals. I have had this kind of fun at least.

**Facilitator:** Today I am talking with colleagues from different countries and regions. Of these, Singapore is the smallest in area. I would imagine that not being able to set foot outside the country at all would be really stressful.

It looks like we are less talkative when we try to speak about fun things. How about Mr. Ono?

**Ono:** Food is a very large part of the enjoyment of living in Hong Kong. We have Cantonese, Southeast Asian, Western, and other ethnic cuisines,



Mr. Yokoyama (Melbourne)

including of course Japanese cuisine. They are available in many different styles and you can enjoy eating out in many different ways even if you live alone. The COVID-19 pandemic has taken away that pleasure. Especially early this year, restaurants and bars had to close by 6 p.m. You leave the office and go home without stopping by anywhere. It's already past 6 p.m., too late to get a seat in a restaurant. All the restaurants and bars are closed by that time. In the end, the only way to eat a meal is to make it yourself. I tried. The supermarkets were open. So I tried to keep myself motivated by imagining what I could cook and eat every day. We have YouTube, Cookpad and many other things to show us many recipes. Even I was able to be a decent cook because of them. I enjoyed it.

**Facilitator:** I see. Thank you very much. Speaking of videos, I watched a lot of Chinese music videos. Once I worked in China as an expat before temporarily returning to Japan. When I re-entered China, I was confined to a hotel for two weeks. During that time, I practiced very hard to add more Chinese songs to my repertoire (chuckles).

Well. How about Mr. Yokoyama?

**Yokoyama (Hamburg):** I also watched many videos on digital platforms. They are about exercise that you can do at home, healthcare, health and other topics. I also watched videos introducing books and other goods. I learned about health and I exercise.

Also I buy some of the books I saw on YouTube. As I have been watching videos introducing many different goods, I have started to want many of them. So I made some of purchases online over the last year and a half (chuckles).

**Facilitator:** Demand from people who are staying at home supports the current good performance of our containerhips (chuckles).

By the way, how is your family doing? How have they been doing during the COVID-19 pandemic?

**Yokoyama (Hamburg):** My wife does yoga once in a while. My children play computer games a lot of time.

**Facilitator:** Oh, you are all trying to be ingenious. Thank you very much.

In the third question, we learned how Ms. Iwasa has desperately tried to remain curious and enjoy what she is able to during her first overseas posting in the current conditions. Next is the last question.

It's pretty hard to foresee what the future holds. Let's talk about a suitable topic for the New Year issue. How will you enjoy 2022 to take back what you could have been able to get if it were not for the pandemic? Mr. Yokoyama from Melbourne, how about you?

**Yokoyama (Melbourne):** Excuse me if this sounds like a textbook answer, but I simply want an ordinary lifestyle: go out when I like to, meet anyone I want to meet and go to any place I want to go. And in relation to the second question, I am away from Japan and have opportunities to

get to know many different people. I want to deepen my relationships with the people I have gotten to know here, and I want to build a network of friends that will last even after I return to Japan. I want to live like that. This is impossible online. I want to meet and talk with people face to face and do things together outside.

In Melbourne, the lockdown will be over. I hope that it will never come back. I want to take back a regular lifestyle.

**Facilitator:** Thank you very much. How about you, Ms. Iwasa?

**Iwasa:** Well, I have the same wish. I hope the world can establish a new normal, or go back to what it was before. Then we will be able to meet many different people and visit many different places. And further, I will try to rebuild my network in business. Also, since I live in Singapore, I want to visit the neighboring Asian countries.

**Facilitator:** Do you have in mind any specific place you want to visit?

**Iwasa:** No, not at all.

**Yokoyama (Melbourne):** Come on. You've had plenty of time (chuckles).

**Iwasa:** Of course I've had a lot of time to think (chuckle). Honestly, I haven't gone so far as to imagine any specific place. I would like to visit resorts with beautiful seas, such as Thailand and Indonesia.

In Singapore you can get marine views. But the beaches are not as beautiful as those in resort areas.

**Facilitator:** Oh, that's good. Resorts. Thank you very much. How about Mr. Ono?

**Ono:** Right now I cannot imagine anything new to do in 2022. Also, I can't really imagine that the current situation will change dramatically. I would like to walk all over Hong Kong.

Hong Kong appears to be a big city. You might not be able to imagine it, but walking some distance from the center of the city leads you to many mountains. I would like to spend weekends climbing some of these mountains. I already have some friends to climb mountains with. I will join these people doing many activities and stay physically strong enough to not succumb to COVID. In this way, I will hopefully get through the COVID-19 pandemic.

When I came to Hong Kong in 2018, things were normal. I wish the world will go back to what it was around that time.

**Facilitator:** If I'm correct, Hong Kong has the Top 100 Hills. Right?

**Ono:** Yes. Hong Kong has the Top 100 Hills.

**Iwasa:** Really? That's surprising.

**Ono:** Hong Kong has four famous mountain trails. I have been to all of them. I think I may do it again. When climbing a mountain, you don't have to worry that much about being infected by COVID.

Some places in Hong Kong are more familiar to Japanese people than to locals. My interest in exploring the unexplored parts of Hong Kong is increasing.

**Facilitator:** Sounds good. Unexplored parts of Hong Kong (chuckles). Mr. Ono, thank you so much. Let's hear from Mr. Yosuke Yokoyama. How about you?

**Yokoyama (Hamburg):** Well, I haven't returned to Japan in more than three years. Simply, I want to soak in a hot spring and eat in Japan. This is still something you can't do easily outside the country, as you may imagine.

**Facilitator:** Is it now possible to travel within Europe?

**Yokoyama (Hamburg):** Yes. Yes, it is possible. But before you get on a plane, your child needs to have a test as I said earlier. It's a bit annoying. At least booking is possible. Driving cars is no problem. So I have been to places that I could reach by car.

**Facilitator:** I see. Thank you very much.

Well, it's time to close. It's been a good opportunity for us to listen to the many experiences of our colleagues. I think we were feeling a bit uplifted toward the end of the session. Through the computer screen, I strongly felt all of your desire to take back your normal lives.

Soak in a hot spring. Have fun on the beach. I hope we will be able to go back to normal life. Well, this is the end of the round-table talk. Keep looking for things to enjoy, even if you can only find one or two, and let's survive the rest of the pandemic. Thank you very much, everyone.

(The round-table talk has been edited based on the information available as of Thursday, October 21, 2021.)



## An Indonesian Story Volume 6

Contributed by Mr. Goichi Tsuruta, PT. "K" Line (Indonesia)

Happy New Year.

First of all, I sincerely hope that 2022 is a good year with the COVID-19 pandemic easing at an early stage. As of the time I am writing this in early November, the wave of new infections in Indonesia has largely calmed down after spiking in July and August, just as in Japan. On a weekly average, the number of new infections per day stays around 500.

### 1. The Wonder of Third Vaccine

In September, a decision was made to administer the third COVID vaccination started limited to medical personnel. A rumor that a high government official had received a third vaccination spread. The health authority of the Special Capital Region of Jakarta denied the rumor and said via the media that the third vaccination had only been given to persons connected with healthcare, including healthcare providers.

At the end of that week, I had a private Indonesian lesson. My teacher said she had received the AstraZeneca vaccine on Thursday of the same week and was still suffering from side effects. I said, "What? Didn't you have two vaccines from China around May?"

The teacher said yes. As her husband was going to get a third vaccine, his family members were also recommended to get it. Her husband is a national government official but is not connected with healthcare! She said she was afraid about getting it but also thought that the side effects might mean it is effective.

Amazing! . Even if you are not a high government official, you can get a third vaccine.

Having said that, most people do not believe the health authority's announcements.

### 2. The Amazing Stats

In late October, the vaccination rates in Jakarta were reported to be 130% and 105% for the first and second vaccinations, respectively. No other country has achieved 100% vaccination. Super! This is Indonesia! It is amazing to publish such stats without even questioning them.

### 3. Street Vendor on the Expressway

More people have been vaccinated, fewer people are infected and life is getting back to normal. Also coming back are heavy traffic jams, something that Jakarta is well-known for. In fact, they are worse than they were before COVID. Whenever a traffic jam forms, street vendors appear.

They approach drivers and sell snacks, water, a map, a big balloon, toys and many other goods.

This is a common sight in Southeast Asia. In Indonesia, however, I was surprised to see vendors sell goods even in enter an expressway, which I have never seen in other countries. When you are in a heavy traffic jam on an expressway, you have no way out. So you might be grateful to be able to buy water or snacks from such vendors, walking in expressway. At the same time, I wondered where these vendors came from. Recently, we talked about traffic jams in an Indonesian lesson. I mentioned the street vendors on the expressways.

My teacher said "Oh, I know about that." "One of my friends works at the expressway's tollbooth. I heard these vendors pay fee at the booth and enter the expressway by walking before entering."

Amazing! Really? I wonder if my teacher's friend was kidding her.



### 4. Squid Game

The Korean drama "Squid Game" is hugely popular on Netflix. The drama of a cutthroat survival game is also very popular in Indonesia.

One day, I saw a headline that says, "Squid Game introduced to the civil servant exam." I was amazed how fast it had adopted as questions of national conversation of examination. But the news was about examiners who wore a Squid Game costume in the basic skills exams for police station security guards and immigration officers. Reportedly, the examiners wore pink gear and a face mask with a circle or a square drawn on it. It is reported that their intention was to ease tensions.

### 5. Indonesian's Name

Now, it's time for "Indonesians' Names." Do you know a TV program titled Nipponjin no Onamae (Japanese' Names)? The program had a popular segment of delving into the origins of very unique family name of a viewer. Unfortunately, such a segment would be almost impossible in Indonesia. This is because most Indonesians have no family name. Only a few groups such as some tribes in Sumatra have family names. Javanese and Sundanese, who account for the majority of the national population, have no family name. Most people have given names only in Indonesia

The name of the current Indonesian president, Joko Widodo, consists of two words and sounds like a combination of a given name and a family name. But in fact, both "Joko" and "Widodo" comprise his given name. As a child he had a different name. Since he was physically fragile, his father renamed the son Widodo, which means "health" in Javanese. President Joko's children are named Gibran Rajabuming Raka and Kahiyang Ayu, the oldest son and daughter, respectively. There is no common words to both name, like a family name. An Indonesian's name may consist of two, three or even four words. This is quite common.

When I was transferred to Indonesia, I met a coworker named Andy. His email address was Andy Xxxx@id.kline.co. So I thought "Xxxx" was his family name. One day, I had a chance to see one of his certificates, in which his name was written as just "Andy." Yes. His name is Andy, only a single word.

Amazing! A passport is supposed to show both first name and last name. I asked how his name was written in his passport. Andy said it's just "Andy Andy." I imagine that I am not the only one who associates this with Candy Candy, a popular Japanese animation series from the 1970s.

In fact, a name consisting of only one word is not uncommon. The first president of Indonesia was just Sukarno. The second president also had a one-word name, Suharto.

One thing common among all countries in naming a baby is the parents' wish for their baby to enjoy healthy growth and a bright future. But here is Indonesia. A three-year-old boy in East Java became news when he was given a 114-character name by his parents. Reportedly, his parents gave the boy a 114-character name consisting of 19 words, based on the wish that the son would become a person of principle with the ability to think logically. According to a national rule, a person's name must not be greater than 55 characters, including spaces between words. For this reason, this child has yet to get a birth certificate.

Without one, he will not be allowed to even enter elementary school. His parents are looking for solutions other than changing his name. Incidentally, the leading character of the famous rakugo story Jugemu has a name consisting of 136 characters, consisting of hiragana and katakana.

In Sumatra, a 13-year-old boy named ABCDEF GHIJK Zuzu has become news. The boy usually goes by "Adef." He submitted his ID card to get vaccinated. After this, his real name became widely known. His father says the boy's real name is meant to convey the parents' wish for him to grow up being able to use languages well. "Zuzu" consists of one character from his father's name and another from his mother's. In Japan, "Iroha" may be a name like this.

Well, this has already one a bit long. Allow me to close this with my own story.

## 6. Ghost Story

Our office relocated on July 1, and we have already begun working there. Although it is a common practice in Indonesia to invite a priest for a ceremony when an office opens or is relocated. We did not do this, due to COVID-19 spread widely in July.

However.....

Four months later, one day an officer in charge of personnel and general affairs asked me, "Tsuruta-san, do you believe in ghosts?" I told her I did. She then lowered her voice and told me about some recent mysterious happenings in our office area.

In the morning, a female coworker was about to unlock the office's entrance door when she heard someone say, "Wait.... Wait....." She turned around but no one was there. A woman was in the restroom and heard footsteps from outside the partition. No one else was around. Multiple coworkers had similar restroom experiences, such as suddenly hearing someone in the adjacent partition flushing the toilet or reeling off the toilet roll when no one else was around. Some female colleagues in general affairs suddenly heard footsteps from the ceiling while they were working overtime. All are scared.

Wait a minute. This is a modern building in the city center and is only five years old. Also We are on the 41st floor. So, I thought that it couldn't be true. Several days later, however, she (the officer who asked me whether I believed in ghost) spoke of having seen a ghost in a pitch-dark meeting room when she was working overtime alone. She said it looked like a red-eyed woman with long hair.

Needless to say, this led us me to decide to arrange for a priest to conduct a ceremony just in case. We consulted the building's management company and got an amazing response. "That's pretty common. The Ghost appears some other floors, like 5th floor." He also said, "It's important for you to make friends with the ghost. Then she will never do you any harm."

AMAZING!

After that he came to our office of 41st floor, then said "Yes, SHE lives in women's toilet but now stays in the meeting room." He said he had a sixth sense and can could "see" ghosts. Even in this modern age, in the center of the capital, living with ghosts is an everyday occurrence. This is Indonesia. Since I came here five years ago, this country has continually amazed me.

What happened after the (purification) ceremony? I'll tell you in the next issue. So long. Wish you stay safe.



This photo shows a shopping mall's huge Christmas tree, one of the attractions in Jakarta. Even after Christmas is over, the tree stays there until around mid-January.

## Letter from the South American Andes, Part 4 -The trip to Chilean Patagonia-

Contributed by Mr. Koichiro Watabe, "K" Line Chile Ltda

Hello from Chile, South America. I am Koichiro Watabe from "K" Line Chile Ltda.

It's been about a year and a half since I started living in this country. What comes to your mind when you think of Chile? I bet many of you think of great nature right away. During the COVID-19 pandemic, we have hardly had much of an opportunity to travel. However, I was lucky enough to be able to go on a five-day trek in Torres del Paine National Park, the most famous tourist spot in the Chilean Patagonia region. So I would like to share my experience there with you.

Torres del Paine National Park, about 3,000 kilometers south of Santiago, the capital of Chile, is richly endowed with untamed nature. When you walk through the park, you can see mountains, lakes, forests, and even huge glaciers. My Chilean friends and I took a flight from Santiago to Puerto Natales, which is south of the park. We then took a bus about 120 kilometers north to the national park. Those familiar with backpacking must know that backpackers have to carry a lot of luggage, including food and tents. It can take three to six hours to get from one campsite to another; it is a quite hard activity. However, it was worth it as we were able to see all the beautiful scenery and interact with other travelers there. The park, which is usually full of tourists, was moderately crowded due to the COVID-19 restrictions, so we were able to relax and enjoy the park more. I was particularly impressed by the three rocky peaks called the Torres del Paine (Towers of Paine).

As you can see in the photo here, the combination of soaring peaks and huge lakes makes it a spectacular view. I was also happy to have the opportunity to meet and spend time and eat meals with many people from across Chile and around the world as we made our way through the mountains. It was a tough hike, but I feel that the experience was rewarding, and I will remember this valuable experience for the rest of my life. I highly recommend visiting Torres del Paine National Park if you are in Chile.

