

# OCEAN BREEZE



## Contents

No. 205 2023 Spring

### News Roundup

The Signing Ceremony of Long-Term Contracts for Two Liquefied CO<sub>2</sub> Carriers between "K" Line and Northern Lights JV DA ~World's First Full Scale CCS Project~ ..... P1

President's Video Message Released to Mark the Company's Certification as CDP 2022 A-List Company ..... P3

Awarded the Prize of Excellence for the Fifth Year in a Row in the Internet IR Awards 2022..... P4

Cooperation with the KUDAN Secondary School's Career Education Programs..... P5

### Eco to the Future

Miho's Dream Journey Goes Across the Wilderness of the Sea  
Carbon border adjustment mechanism (CBAM, carbon border tax) ..... P6

### Letter from Overseas

The Community Where I Live ~Richmond~ ..... P10

### Letter from Overseas Spin-Off Edition

An Arabian Story: Episode 2 ..... P14

Letter from the South American Andes, Part 9  
A Japanese Festival I Encountered in the Foreign Land of Peru ..... P18

## The Signing Ceremony of Long-Term Contracts for Two Liquefied CO<sub>2</sub> Carriers between "K" Line and Northern Lights JV DA ~World's First Full Scale CCS Project~

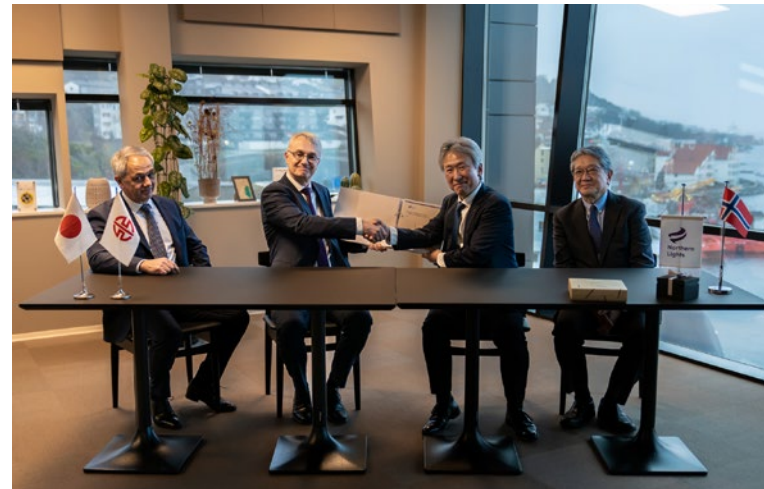
Contributed by Mr. Kristoffer Wold, "K" Line (Europe) Ltd.

On February 10th, 2023, amidst a cold and rainy day in Stavanger (Norway), "K" Line achieved a momentous feat in its pursuit of sustainability and environmental development. The company officially signed a historic agreement with Northern Lights, a contract that would prove to be a remarkable milestone in our journey towards environmental responsibility.

As I reflect on the memorable signing ceremony for the contract between "K" Line and Northern Lights, I can't help but feel grateful and honoured to have been a part of such a momentous occasion. It was a fantastic experience to represent "K" Line in Stavanger, and I could feel the excitement and energy in the air as we signed the contract and celebrated our partnership with Northern Lights.

One of the things that struck me most about the event was how much Northern Lights appreciated "K" Line's senior management traveling all the way from Tokyo and London to attend the ceremony. It was clear that they recognized the importance of our partnership and were excited to work with us to create the world's first industrial scale CO<sub>2</sub> transportation value chain. I was proud to be a part of a team that is so highly regarded by our partners and that has the ability to make such a significant impact on the world.

The ceremony and dinner that followed were truly fantastic and memorable, and I want to express my appreciation to Northern Lights for all the arrangements they made to make the event a success. The specially designed cake that was made for the occasion was a perfect symbol of joy and celebration. In Norway, cake is quite significant as a means of communication. It conveys history, culture, and tradition and serves as a token of love, belonging, and social occasion. Some cakes have much in common with bread, and regardless of content, cake is about bringing people together and helping to create a sense of place and connection.



From left, Mr. Juan Charier, Operations & Logistics Director, Northern Lights, Mr. Børre Jacobsen, Managing Director, Northern Lights, Mr. Satoshi Kanamori, Executive Officer, "K" LINE, and Mr. Akira Misaki, Managing Director, "K" LINE Holding (Europe)  
(Photo provided by Northern Lights JV DA/ Vinterfilm)



(Photo provided by Northern Lights JV DA/ Vinterfilm)

But beyond the excitement and celebration of the event, I am most proud of the award that we received as a result of our effort with Northern Lights. I remember the first phone call with Baris Dolek, the Shipping Commercial Manager at Northern Lights, in January 2022, followed by the first official meeting on a windy day at Northern Lights offices by Saigusa san (GM for Carbon Neutral Development KEUR) and myself in March of the same year. The subsequent award announced before Christmas is therefore a testament to our past performance, existing and new customer engagement, and solid and lean project management and strategy by "K" Line across continents and countries. Our company's vision and values are not just words on a wall, they are the driving force behind our success story! It was a proud moment for us all and an achievement that I am truly honoured to be a part of.



(Photo provided by Northern Lights JV DA/ Vinterfilm)

Our major long-term business for Norway began in the early 2000s when we delivered two LNG carriers for the Snohvit project, the vessels "Arctic Discoverer" and "Arctic Voyager," in 2006 under the great support of the Norwegian oil and gas and maritime industry. These vessels are managed by KLNG, a ship management company originally established for the Snohvit project to safely operate the fleet in a similar time zone. Through KLNG, we have gained a lot of experience here in the North Atlantic. And almost two decades later, we are now in the same formation, in the same new Norwegian national initiative for a new CCS cluster. It's a great journey, an honour, and an unforgettable experience for our business history.

In conclusion, the signing ceremony for the contract between "K" Line and Northern Lights was a truly unforgettable experience. It was an honour to be a part of such an exciting partnership and to be recognized for our achievements. I'm proud to be a part of a team that has the ability to make a positive impact on the world, and I look forward to building on our partnership with Northern Lights to create the world's first industrial scale CO<sub>2</sub> transportation value chain. And, of course, I'll never forget the cake – a symbol of joy and celebration that helped to bring us all together in a sense of connection and belonging.

"Introducing Kristoffer Wold, a commercial professional of "K" Line since 2010, starting with K Line Offshore in Norway and continuing with "K" Line (Europe) Ltd. For the past 1.5 years, Kristoffer has worked closely with the Carbon Neutral teams to successfully scale "K" Line's European presence in CO<sub>2</sub> transportation, offshore wind and renewable energy, contributing to the company's achievements and overall progress."



## President's Video Message Released to Mark the Company's Certification as CDP 2022 A-List Company

Corporate Sustainability, Environment Management, IR and Communication Group

"K" LINE YouTube Channel  
<https://youtu.be/-5aIRu7MQ6A>

"K" LINE corporate website  
<https://www.kline.co.jp/en/index.html>  
 \* Click on the banner to access the video.



President & CEO Yukikazu Myochin has posted a video message to mark the Company's certification as a CDP 2022 A-List company.

The video has been posted on the Company's YouTube channel.

"K" LINE was selected as an "A List" company, the top rating, in climate change by CDP, a non-profit global organization engaging in activities for realizing a sustainable economy, on December 13, 2022. This is the seventh consecutive year that "K" LINE has been selected as an "A List" company, after first being selected in 2016, in recognition of its leadership in transparency and performance in corporate sustainability in the face of climate change. This year, 297 companies were certified as A-List companies for CDP climate change, among which are 75 Japanese companies, including "K" LINE. (As of April 24, 2023)

As a globally trusted logistics company rooted in the shipping industry, "K" LINE Group will continue to work to reduce its environmental impact in order to realize a sustainable society and increase its corporate value, based on its corporate principle of "contributing to the enrichment of people's lives."



<Reference Links>

Announced on December 14, 2022:

"K" LINE Selected for the "A List," the highest rating in the CDP "Climate Change," for the Seventh Consecutive Year

<https://www.kline.co.jp/en/news/csr/csr4387686973587805703/main/0/link/221214EN.pdf>

The "K" LINE Environmental Vision 2050:

<https://www.kline.co.jp/en/sustainability/environment/management.html>

## Awarded the Prize of Excellence for the Fifth Year in a Row in the Internet IR Awards 2022

IR and ESG Promotion Team, Corporate Sustainability, Environment Management, IR and Communication Group

We were awarded the Prize of Excellence by Daiwa Investor Relations Co. Ltd. in the Internet IR Awards 2022.

For this award, 3,996 public listed companies' investor relations web-pages, both in English and in Japanese, were evaluated and out of those, 155 companies were selected for the excellent structure and effective disclosure of information and communication on their investor relations webpages. "K" Line has been selected for this award for five consecutive years.

At the award ceremony held in January, Mr. Tetsuo Kitagawa, Professor Emeritus of Aoyama Gakuin University and Specially Appointed Professor at Tokyo Metropolitan University, who supervised the screening and selection process, lectured on the importance of the narrative approach and the shift from the "quantity" to the "quality" of facts.

As a bridge between the Company and its internal and external stakeholders, including shareholders and investors, we, the IR and ESG Promotion Team, are working on two-way communications on a daily basis with various stakeholders i.e. we ensure appropriate information disclosure and provide information on the Company's performance and management and, at the same time, engage in giving feedback we have obtained through dialogues with stakeholders, so that we can reflect the opinions and suggestions in internal discussions.

The investor relations page on our website is one of our communication tools. Using this tool, we strive to disclose information for shareholders and investors in a timely manner while enriching its contents, which covers our Management Policy, various disclosed materials, financial and performance information, and information for individual investors.

In September 2022, we completely revamped our website with the aim of making it more user-friendly and easier to understand for all of our stakeholders. We will continue listening to your feedback and working to improve.

Your feedback is extremely valuable for us to promote better IR activities. Please take a look at the IR site (investor information page) on our website and we would appreciate your comments and feedback on anything you notice on the site.

(Contact the IR and ESG Promotion Team in the Corporate Sustainability, Environment Management, IR and Communication Group at the following email address)

The IR site (investor information page) on our website:  
<https://www.kline.co.jp/en/ir.html>  
IR and ESG Promotion Team, Corporate Sustainability, Environment Management, IR and Communication Group:  
<mailto:kljtyoire@jp.kline.com>



Mr. Kitamura, General Manager of IR and Communication Group, receiving the commendation certificate

## Cooperation with the KUDAN Secondary School's Career Education Programs

Corporate Sustainability Team, Corporate Sustainability, Environment Management, IR and Communication Group

"K" Line announces that in cooperation with the ongoing career education programs of KUDAN Secondary School in Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo ("the School"), it has accepted a visit by a group of five seventh graders of the school.

Since its founding in 2006, the School has continued a program to visit companies, organizations, etc. in Chiyoda-ku and neighboring regions to provide career education and encourage social awareness of its students. "K" Line, whose head office is located in that area, has decided to cooperate with the School to support the objective.

This company visit was conducted on two occasions, in October 2022 and January 2023. During the first visit, the students went to the Ohi Container Terminal by the courtesy of Daito Corporation, "K" Line's affiliated company who operates the terminal. Taking that opportunity, they observed a large containership that was berthed alongside the terminal. At the second visit, the students gave a presentation regarding "What We Should Do to Let People of Our Generation Know About the Attractiveness of and Issues surrounding the Shipping Industry," which is an assignment that we gave at their first visit. Their presentation provided us with new proposals such as the communication of information via social media from the unique perspective of junior high school students.

We suppose the students, before visiting us, might have not had an opportunity to learn about social missions of the shipping industry and issues surrounding it such as reduction of environmental burden. We hope they might have deepened their understandings and gained insights into the scale of shipping business through the tour.

Going forward, we will continue to contribute to the local community through education support like we provided this time.



Students of KUDAN Secondary School visiting the Ohi Container Terminal

## Miho's Dream Journey Goes Across the Wilderness of the Sea

Corporate Sustainability, Environment Management, IR and Communication Group

### This Issue's Theme

### Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM, carbon border tax)

Miho is watching people handling the cargo for a car carrier. Watching a car being loaded onto the ship, she seems to think about something.



I received a bonus and I am thinking of buying a new car. There are many different models of car. All of them look attractive. I wonder if I should buy a car that is made in Japan or an imported one, but the most important factor is the price.



Miho



Eco Captain

Do you know about the carbon border adjustment mechanism, CBAM, i.e, carbon border tax?  
It can affect selling prices of cars. I would advise you to learn about it if you are thinking about buying a car.

That is new to me. What is it?

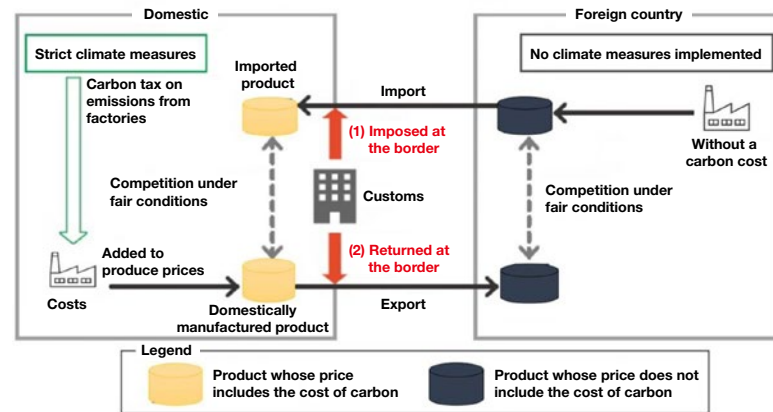




Around the world, actions towards carbon neutrality\*1 are gathering momentum. In view of this, different countries are working to create related policies. I suppose you already know about that. These efforts include carbon border taxes. In practice, a carbon border tax is a tariff levied on items imported from any country with looser environmental regulations. The goal of the tax is to establish an environment for fair competition between countries and prompting other countries to toughen their environmental measures.

### Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM, carbon border tax)

- A country taking climate action imposes carbon tariffs on goods imported from any country whose climate actions are insufficient.
- In addition, the country may subsidize exports by paying the carbon costs of exports from the country.
- The purposes are to achieve the uniformity of conditions in international competition, to prompt other countries to toughen their environmental measures and to prevent carbon leakage affecting other countries.



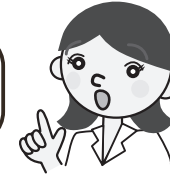
Now I see that the price of an imported car may be high depending on the environmental regulations of the importing country.



With its proactive environmental policies, the European Union (EU) is set to introduce the CBAM after a trial period that begins in 2023. It will require businesses in the EU dealing in goods in the five sectors of iron and steel, cement, aluminum, fertilizers and electricity imported from outside the EU to pay an amount equivalent to the price of carbon in the EU when the same items are manufactured within the EU. It is believed that it will have a significant impact, particularly on industry.



You mean that taxes may be imposed on the raw materials used in car manufacturing. The goal of the program is to control carbon leakage. What is that?



Carbon leakage is a concept looking at two concerns. One is the decline of domestic production in an importing country when its market is threatened by imported goods with poor carbon efficiency. The other is the failure to decrease the CO<sub>2</sub> emissions of the planet as a whole due to relocation of plants to overseas countries with looser carbon regulations.

The purpose of this program is to prevent industry in importing countries from being damaged by low-cost products exported from countries with lax environmental regulations. Therefore, developing countries and others are unhappy about it.

I didn't know that. It seems quite difficult to coordinate the interests of different countries.



The EU's policy introducing carbon border tax is viewed as somewhat lacking in a spirit of international cooperation. However, it triggered more countries to impose carbon taxes and other forms of carbon pricing.\*2 The policy could eventually become important if it develops into an international carbon border tax system.

Businesses in countries that are working hard to reduce their CO<sub>2</sub> emissions bear heavy burdens and they are adversely impacted in international competition. In other words, good guys finish last. A future key issue is countries' harmonization of taxation and other conditions to avoid that situation.

Ah, the key is to make sure that all countries have the same institutional conditions. By the way, what about non-EU countries? Is Japan thinking of introducing a similar system?



So far, the global warming tax is the only carbon tax introduced in Japan. Its tax rate is lower than rates of similar taxes in other countries. It is said that this alone will not help reduce greenhouse gas significantly. To break through the current situation, discussions are underway regarding the introduction of a carbon tax with a higher rate.

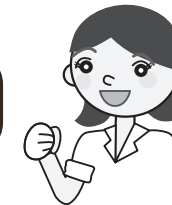
I see! It will be difficult to introduce a higher tax.



Debates over environmental taxes highlight both advantages and disadvantages of their introduction. It is believed that a tax equivalent to Europe's would not guarantee a decrease in Japan's greenhouse gas emissions.

In addition, the increased cost of energy will severely impact the Japanese economy. It is necessary to carefully discuss the steps for securing the public's understanding.

I see! Various regulations are being implemented and discussions are underway for the realization of carbon neutrality.



That's right. Governments, businesses and also consumers need to think seriously about environmental problems. Now you see that matters in your own life like car purchase are linked to environmental issues. It is important that you stay aware of the environmental policies that are being discussed.

To be continued in the next issue.

**\*1 Carbon neutrality**

The state in which greenhouse gas emissions and absorption are balanced. In October 2020, the Japanese government declared that the country would achieve net zero greenhouse gas emissions, or carbon neutrality, by 2050. Net zero emissions mean that emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases are effectively offset by absorption through afforestation and forest management.

The achievement of carbon neutrality requires the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and an increase in absorption.

**\*2 Carbon pricing**

A mechanism for setting a price for emitting carbon, which is a main cause of climate change. This paves the way for the placement of a monetary burden on carbon-emitting businesses that is appropriate for their emissions. We have adopted this concept as a benchmark for the determination of what projects we should invest in. It is called internal carbon pricing (ICP).

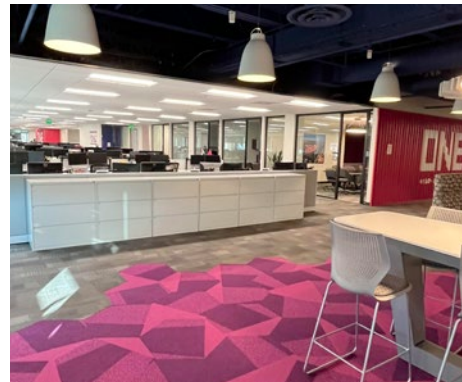
## The Community Where I Live ~Richmond~

Contributed by Mr. Yamada Yasunori, Ocean Network Express (North America) Inc.

In January, someone from PR asked me to write something for the spring issue, saying, "a global report is essential, as this is the first issue new employees seeking to work in an overseas workplace will receive!" I wrote this thinking that the person in PR, who will remain unnamed, had made a mistake picking me and my city as many new employees, including myself, imagine an international workplace as young people wearing suits, briskly walking to work with coffee in hand among many skyscrapers.

I currently am on loan in Richmond to Ocean Network Express Inc. (North America) and work on vessel operations in my 31st year in the marine industry. I was assigned to this location five years ago, and when I was first sent here in 2018, it was right at the start of the ONE service, and the time passed quickly amidst the chaos, as it was a transitional time for the systems and people from three companies in North America. Later, in 2020, there was a sharp drop in cargo due to the COVID-19 pandemic, followed by explosive growth in cargo through demand from staying at home. North America then saw logistical chaos and now there is yet another issue with a rapid decline in volume. Amidst all this, when I see a coworker wearing a tie in the office, I wonder if that was the day that the president from Singapore was coming to visit. I walk a short distance from my garage to that sort of an environment in the office.

Anyway, Richmond is the state capital of Virginia on the east Coast of the US, and it is located along the James River. As you already know, Richmond is home to the headquarters of "K" Line America, Inc. (KAM), and many of you were stationed here or came on a visit and might have been featured here once or twice before. KAM's Richmond office is also along the James River, but is about 10 miles away from downtown in a suburb with beautiful cherry blossoms in spring. The reason I'm talking about KAM is that ONE North America is using KAM's old offices after taking them over. After taking the offices over, they were remodeled from the American style, with many private offices, to an open office style with heavy use of the color pink. (KAM moved to the suburb of Innsbrook at the end of 2017)



ONE office



Back to Richmond, compared to New York and other famous northeast coastal cities, there is less traffic, and, to put it bluntly, Richmond is more quiet and less lively. I think there are many reasons but the main one is the car-oriented nature of downtown. There are several skyscrapers in the central district, and it seems that there are many well-known companies with offices here, but there is no subway in the city, though there is Amtrak, however, this is for long-distance demand and is not commuter-oriented. There are not many restaurants near the station, the station building looks like a museum, and it doesn't feel like a place that is used every day. This is why almost all people commute by car. Parking at street level is difficult, even if you are just trying to purchase a coffee on the go. I think that there are few bars and restaurants as you can't drink alcohol on the way home at night, and there are few shops because people don't walk around here. This is just my personal opinion. But recently, redevelopment has been progressing and it appears that they are making progress on remodeling and rebuilding old buildings. In the morning on my days off, I sometimes encounter people walking their dog from a warehouse district and I wonder why they came from there. The city may transform into a vibrant one in the future.

At the same time, the surrounding suburbs are well-populated and vibrant. Actually, resident ONE employees live not in Richmond but in neighboring Henrico. This area can be simply described as a residential area with offices, malls, large supermarkets, and other commercial facilities with modest houses spreading out in rows nearby. No matter where you go or what you do, you go by car. While convenient, parents must drive their children to school, to extracurricular activities, and to meet their friends. This is an area where only the local school has a yellow school bus to transport children, which is a help.

Resident employees from Japan choose their housing (apartment, townhouse, single-family home) based on their family structure and preferences, and households with school-aged children choose a home while considering the school district. When searching for your own home, it is difficult to find a home you like that is in the area you want to live, and when you hear of a good house, you have to set aside work and take on the important task of negotiating. Rental market value has widely increased compared to before the pandemic, as well.

There are four in my family, three of us men, so we lived in a single-family home. There are many 2x4 houses as they are called in Japan nearby, though they are not the same size, and they are all built with similar exteriors with added accents to the exterior wall colors. For my family, which moved here from a Japanese condo, we were grateful for the space, but since I have been living here alone since the end of last year, it is a bit of a pain. Single-family homes have large yards, and there are many large trees in our backyard. The endless lawn mowing in summer and



Richmond view



Richmond downtown

picking up fallen leaves in winter is unbearable for one person. The best thing I have purchased in America has been my bright red motorized lawn mower, which I also use in winter to pick up fallen leaves.

As I am all alone now, meals are quite difficult. While there are many restaurants nearby, there is tipping culture in America, so I can't eat out every meal as the tipping makes it more expensive than Japan. It also isn't good for my health. As a result, I try to eat at home as much as possible, but I will lose my motivation if I make food, eat it, and then clean up over and over every day, so I mix it up with takeout and eating out as it suits me. I buy most of my ingredients at the neighborhood grocery store. Recently, because of Americans being health-conscious, I can buy dashi, miso, and the usual seasonings when going to large grocery stores, and for things that are a bit difficult, like Japanese green tea, natto, and Japanese vegetables, I go to Asian and Korean grocery stores. I purchase anything I can't find there at small Japanese stores. For takeout and eating out, I go to many Asian places, but perhaps as a result of living here in this environment, I am handling things fine even in this area without many Japanese restaurants, growing to like steaks, hamburgers, hotdogs, pizza, and sushi rolls. If I were to learn to like buffalo wings and BBQ flavor, something Americans love, then I would have even more takeout options, but that hasn't yet happened.

Richmond is located inland, so there aren't many seafood restaurants, but if I go to the coast, I can eat oysters and crabs, and I love that. Blue crab is particularly famous on the east coast. Here, small boiled crabs are served with a generous dusting of spicy powder. One of my family members doesn't like seafood, so the other three can enjoy a dozen crabs just fine, but the same number of locals will order around two dozen, and it is something to see them piled high on the plate.

Since I am alone here now, I don't see my kids off or pick them up, so I have a little more time on the weekends. As I am liable to sleeping late in the mornings, I have made a routine of waking up early once during the weekend, visiting a variety of nearby places, and returning home in the afternoon. Even though things have gotten expensive in America, gas is cheap. The price today was \$3.36 per gallon or ¥116.5 per liter. With this routine, I sometimes drive for around two hours one way, and I can drive around 130 miles (210 kilometers) around the area. If it were Japan, that would be about from Tokyo to Shizuoka, but as many highways are free and there is little traffic, it is more like a morning stroll. There are a variety of destinations and combining the drive with exercise, I head to one of the many trails in Virginia and walk there for two or three hours. The Blue Ridge Mountains on the western side of Richmond are easy to get to, but by November, the wind passing through the valley is already cold, and you don't pass anyone even when walking for two hours in the off-season as the drops of the bubbling spring water



Crab



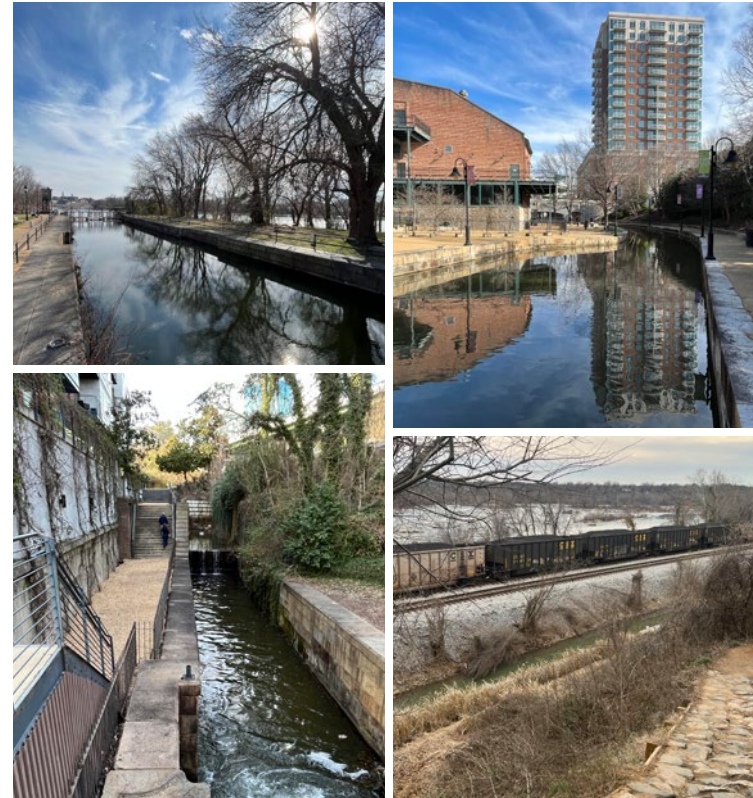
Author (far right)

also freeze. There are also frequently places where there is no cell phone signal, and thinking it might be lethally dangerous in an emergency, nowadays I go to places with low elevation.

My current craze is the trail along the canal. In the US today, railroads reign supreme in inland transport, and many ONE containers are transported by trains, but before trains spread in the early 19th century, water transport using rivers and connected canals were vital forms of transport. Rivers in the northeastern US are characteristically wide and slow-flowing, and they continue deep inland. But each of these rivers has something called a “fall line” along its course. This is where the passage of ships is blocked upstream and downstream by large rocks as the water suddenly flows faster. For the James River, this fall line is Richmond, and for the Rappahannock River just north, the fall line is Fredericksburg. Further north, the fall line for the Potomac River is just upstream of Washington, D.C. All of these points blocked ship passage. Canals were enthusiastically constructed here in the 18th and 19th centuries, and though they have obviously lost their function today, many canal remnants and stone masonry still remain today. Trails have been built along the many remaining canals, offering nice walking paths. At the time, Richmond developed as a transshipment hub for the transport of tobacco upstream and downstream, and a canal was later built. This canal is the most well persevered even today, but it has been a bit over-renovated and is unfortunately a bit tasteless. Changing the topic a little, but I recently learned that the nondescript pond and creek that pass under the road I take on my way to and from work each day used to be a canal that connected coal with the James River. I would like to follow the canal once to see if any stone masonry remains, but as it is part of someone’s backyard, I fear I will be shot if I enter their yard without permission, so I have not yet tried.

Richmond, or really all of Virginia, is a place full of green, and while it is an urban area, it is mostly expansive forests and farmland. You can see this if you climb up somewhere high. It may not be suited to city lovers or young people, but it is definitely a place to work for a time that you shouldn’t miss at some point in your life.

Ms. Akai, please include a story about a high rise office building in the next issue for the new employees!



Canal

## An Arabian Story: Episode 2

Contributed by Mr. Goichi Tsuruta, Middle East Representative Office

Dubai, a land of extreme heat and sand, has a midday temperature between 20°C and 25°C even now in winter. It sometimes drops below 15°C at night or in the morning, and can be a bit chilly, but there is no worry about rain. Winter is a very comfortable season and one in which many tourists visit. But in late January, there was a strange weather phenomenon where it rained continuously from Tuesday to Friday. Dubai's infrastructure was not built with rain in mind, so most roads do not have gutters, meaning even main roads flooded right away and the city was overflowing with water. Tourist surely did not bring umbrellas and the plastic umbrellas that help ordinary people are not sold here, so I'm sure they were in trouble.

Anyway, the Emirate of Dubai gained its independence as a member of the United Arab Emirates in 1972. Though oil fields had been developed in Dubai, the Emirate is not blessed with oil resources like the Emirate of Abu Dhabi, and since the early 1980s, Dubai has continued to move away

from an economy reliant on oil. This has led to investments in both infrastructure and service in finance, logistics, and tourism.

But how does a land of sand bring in tourists? I believe a major strategy in bringing in tourists to be the development of resort areas, the global standardization of service including allowing alcohol and not applying strict Islamic laws to foreign nationals, and the creation of many "world's best" attractions. In the 2023 edition of the Most Popular Travel Destinations in the World ranking recently released by TripAdvisor, Dubai earned the top spot for the second year in a row. In this issue, I will introduce several of Dubai's "world's best" attractions.

### Burj Khalifa - The World's Tallest Manmade Structure

Dominating downtown Dubai at 828 meters tall, the Burj Khalifa mega skyscraper was completed in 2010. It has held the world's tallest spot since then. The lower floors house the Armani Hotel, the middle floors are made up of residences and offices, and there is an outdoor observation deck on the 124th floor at 452 meters in height. There is a place to buy tickets for the observation deck at the neighboring Dubai Mall. But be aware that the price of the tickets is as expensive as the building is tall. The view from the observation deck was a bit scary and from a height I hadn't



experienced before, looking down on all the surrounding buildings.

Saudi Arabia recently announced a project to build a 2,000-meter tall building. Why would you build such a tall building in a country with plenty of dessert land, different from a country like Japan with little land? Or is it in their genes, as they also tried to build the Tower of Babel in the ancient past?



### **Dubai Mall - The World's Largest Shopping Mall**

#### **Dubai Fountain - The World's Largest Fountain**

The Dubai Mall, located next to the Burj Khalifa, is said to be the world's largest shopping mall. It has over 1 million square meters of floor space, equivalent to 200 soccer fields. It is spread out over four floors if you include the underground floor, and features major fashion brands, electronics stores, precious metal stores, bookstores (Kinokuniya), many restaurants, and more. First off, if you enter the main entrance and walk a bit, you will encounter a large, 10-meter tall aquarium. Regular shoppers can freely see the many fish, sharks, and rays leisurely swimming around the large Dubai Aquarium tank within the mall. The mall also features plenty of family-oriented entertainment, including an Olympic-sized ice skating rink and a movie theatre.

The Dubai Fountain is part of Dubai Mall. The water show is the sight to see, held every 30 minutes starting at 6 pm. The water shoots up to around 100 meters visually, making it a great spot for taking photos with the illuminated Burj Khalifa in the background. I thought this to be the world's best, but it seems this title was recently ceded to a mall fountain on the Palm islands, which I'll discuss next.



#### **The Palm Jumeirah - The World's Largest Manmade Island**

The only manmade island visible by satellite. It bears the name palm from its palm shape. Needless to say, it is a luxury resort. I often see photos taken from the sky, but there is no need to worry about whether or not you can tell the shape from ground level if visiting Palm Jumeirah. There is an observation deck called the View of the Palm where you can look down at the Palm islands from a high location. The outdoor observation deck is quite wide, and from it, you can enjoy 360-degree views. I personally recommend this more than the Burj Khalifa, as it is not as crowded or expensive.

#### **Dubai Frame - The World's Largest Photo Frame**

A building in the shape of the world's largest picture frame that opened in 2018. I have no idea why they decided to build such a building, but the bridge connecting the two 150-meter tall columns is yet another tourist facility. The view outside is interesting, but it is also both interesting and quite scary to look down from the glass floor of the central passageway on the bridge.





So far, all of these are listed in major tourist books, but I also have a few extra attractions to introduce.

### **The World's Largest Handmade Gold Chain**

It seems this exists, too. I am not sure if it is open to the public or not. The God Souk (a collection of small retailers selling gold and silver) in Dubai's Old Town is also a sight to see.

You will instantly feel very wealthy. There are many famous places for gold markets, including Singapore and Istanbul, but here, you can purchase 24K gold (there are 24 ranks of gold, and the highest is gold of more than 99.99% purity). I can't really tell the difference from looking.

People who can tell the difference should try and challenge themselves at Dubai International Airport, as 24K, 22K, and 18K gold is sold side by side. All gold is sold by the gram, even if it is made into accessories.

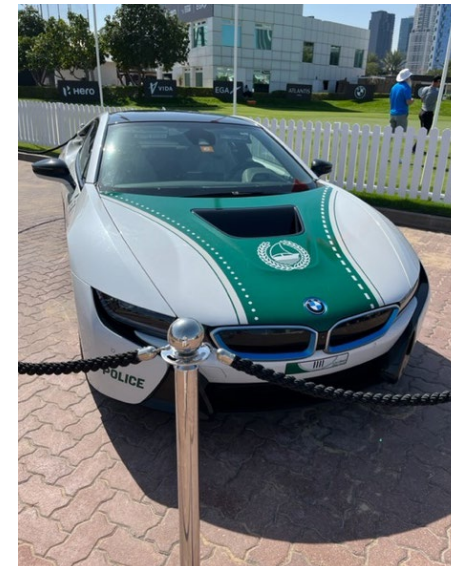


### **The World's Fastest Police Car in Actual Service**

This is a police car. Here in Dubai, it is common for police cars to be BMWs, and there are many Lamborghinis, Porsches, Bentleys, Toyota Supras, and other super cars.

As some rich people also drive super cars on the road, a normal police car wouldn't be able to catch up.

The fastest police car is the police car version of the Bugatti Veyron sports car, well-known but to the few. It has 16 cylinders, 100 horsepower, and a top speed of 407 kilometers per hour. I don't know how much it costs, but I wonder if it is really worth it. Dubai is also home to the world's first robotic cop, by the way. (The photo is of a BMW)



### **The World's Hottest Popular Tourist Site**

Summer temperatures are around 45°C and last year, it reached 50°C, though that wasn't as bad as in the past. If looking only at temperatures, Kuwait was over 50°C when I visited for work, but it is not a tourist city and you cannot drink alcohol there as it is a strictly Islamic country. After experiencing the summer of Dubai once, it may become a habit to drink chilled beer after the intense heat.



## Letter from the South American Andes, Part 9 A Japanese Festival I Encountered in the Foreign Land of Peru

Contributed by Mr. Atsushi Okuda, "K" Line Chile Ltda



The author (far left)

Hello!

My name is Atsushi Okuda and I took up my post in November last year. I appreciate your continued support. I would like to tell you about a Japanese festival called Matsuri AELU that I took part in during a business trip to Peru. Matsuri AELU is a festival held every November at Asociación Estadio LaUnión, which is a sports center run by an organization for people of Japanese descent. It's filled with Japanese food stalls, serving mainly Japanese-style bento, yakisoba, takoyaki, taiyaki, and Okinawa soba, and stores selling anime-related merchandise.

An interesting characteristic is that the stalls are named after Japanese places like "Kagoshima" and "Hiroshima" or Japanese words like "yume" and "tomo." The venue also has a mikoshi portable shrine and lion dance, creating the kind of atmosphere you would have at a festival in Japan. Moreover, the children do something like a sports day in the open space in front of the stage, so the whole venue was filled with yells like "wasshoi, wasshoi!" Although I sadly wasn't able to take part, there was a concert with Japanese artists and bon festival dance on the stage in the evening, with the festival's finale being a fireworks show. I was surprised that this kind of festival is held in Peru, but I also found out that there are many immigrants from Okinawa Prefecture in Peru.

This explained why there were so many Okinawa soba stalls in addition to the orthodox Japanese food stalls with things like bento, yakisoba, takoyaki, and taiyaki, and I quickly got myself some rice balls and Okinawa soba, both of which were exactly as delicious as what you get in Japan.

A Peruvian colleague accompanying me told me that a sushi roll is his favorite, and he was really surprised when I said I have never eaten it before. The sushi roll is well-known as a Japanese food created abroad, but I feel it was a very good experience to see directly how Japanese culture is changing in other countries.

Many were wearing yukata and happi coats as well, with not just Japanese and persons of Japanese descent but all kinds of people participating in large numbers and enjoying Japanese culture. Seeing that made me happy as a Japanese person.

It was as lively and energetic as any festival in Japan, so I recommend you to take part if you happen to visit Peru around this time of the year.

