

はしがき

アジアの重要性は明白です。21世紀はアジアの時代と言われることもあります。アジアは地球上のどの大陸よりも大きな面積を持ち、どの大陸よりも多くの人口を有しています。加えて、アジアの経済は現在、急速な発展を遂げています。アジアはほかの地域に大きな影響を及ぼすでしょう。

アジアは昔から多くの魅力ある民族や文化の十字路でした。私たちは、こうした多様性に富む歴史、言語、習慣や伝統を持つアジアの国々に焦点を当て、本書 *Asian Crossways* を執筆しました。若い新聞記者の齊藤雅人が上司の命を受け、アジアの14カ国・地域を自ら訪れ、取材をし、*Asian Crossways* というコラムで連載記事を書くという設定になっています。

英語はアジアにとって重要でしょうか。それは言うまでもありません。英語はすべてのアジアの国々にとって、コミュニケーション、ビジネス、観光業など多くの領域にわたっての *lingua franca* (共通語) となっています。

アジア諸国の重要性、共通語としての英語の重要性ということから、私たちは本書 *Asian Crossways* を著しました。*Asian Crossways* をとおして、すばらしいアジアの隣国についていろいろな角度から理解を深めるとともに、英語を総合的に理解し、英語によるコミュニケーション能力を高めてほしいと願っています。

ローマの哲学者 **St. Augustine** は、「世界は一冊の本である。世界を旅しない人は、わずかに1ページしか読まないことになる」と言っています。また、有名紀行作家の **James Michener** は、「もしあなたが食べ物を拒否し、習慣を無視し、宗教を恐れ、人々を避けるなら、家にじっとしている方がよい」と言っています。みなさんが本書を通してアジアのすばらしい隣国の旅することを願っています。

最後に本書の発行にあたって、金星堂編集部の皆さんには多大なご尽力をいただきました。ありがとうございました。

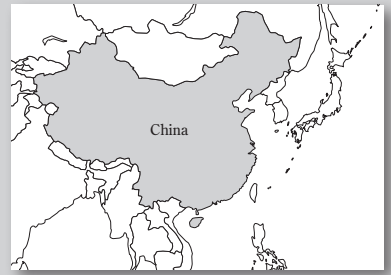
著 者

Asian Crossways CONTENTS

Unit 1	China	2
	—紫禁城を歩く	
Unit 2	Indonesia	8
	—トラジャの生と死	
Unit 3	Thailand	14
	—バンコクの病院事情	
Unit 4	Korea	20
	—韓国の代表食キムチ	
Unit 5	Hong Kong	26
	—買い物天国の香港	
Unit 6	Taiwan	32
	—台北の歴史的宝物	
Unit 7	The Philippines	38
	—余生をセブ島で暮らす	
Unit 8	Brunei	44
	—リッチな小国ブルネイ	
Unit 9	Malaysia	50
	—サバの豊かな自然	
Unit 10	Singapore	56
	—歴史の証人ラッフルズホテル	
Unit 11	Cambodia	62
	—アンコールワットを探る	
Unit 12	Vietnam	68
	—壮大な列車の旅	
Unit 13	Laos	74
	—スローライフの国ラオス	
Unit 14	Myanmar	80
	—古都バガンへの旅	

China

—紫禁城を歩く

*Getting Familiar*

CD1-02

英字新聞記者の Masato は、アメリカ人の友人 Britney Smith と東京・六本木のレストランで話をしています。何か大事な話があるようです。

B: So what's the big news you wanted to tell me, Masa? **You look like the cat that just ate the canary.**

M: I'm so excited I can't think straight. I'm leaving for Bangkok next week!

B: What? You've been fired from your new job at the newspaper already?

M: Very funny. I'm being sent **on assignment**. The editor-in-chief just talked to me this morning. He said the newspaper was looking for someone fresh out of college as well as someone who **has a good command of** English and lots of original ideas. He wants me to write a series of articles for the newspaper entitled: "Asian Crossways"

B: Masa, that's fantastic! Congratulations.

M: Thanks. I get to use Bangkok as a base and travel to different Asian countries. I can write about anything that I think younger Japanese readers would be interested in. It's **the chance of a lifetime**.

B: Well, they **couldn't have chosen a better person**. Let's drink to your success.

M&B: Cheers!

Notes

look like the cat that just ate the canary = very happy and satisfied / **on assignment** 仕事で / **have a good command of** = able to understand, speak, read and write / **the chance of a lifetime** 一生に一度のチャンス / **couldn't have chosen a better person** = chose the best person possible

◆ Content Matching

前ページの会話の内容を参考にして、1～6の文を完成させなさい。

1. When Masato gets his assignment, he feels (). a. finished college
2. At first, Britney thinks Masato (). b. new ideas
3. The newspaper wants someone who is (). c. Bangkok
4. Masato has just (). d. lost his job
5. Masato's newspaper articles must be full of (). e. good at English
6. Masato will be based in (). f. excited

Masa's Itinerary

人口	13 億人 (世界人口の 5 分の 1)
万里の長城の長さ	6,000 キロメートル以上
万里の長城の歴史	2,500 年以上
ジャイアントパンダ	1,600 匹以上生息
茶の栽培	2,500 年以上前から
発明	火薬、印刷

バンコクのアパートに到着するとすぐに中国に出かける準備をした。

中国は世界最大の人口を有し、急成長を遂げており、戦略上重要な位置を占めている。古代の文明と豊かな文化も併せ持ち、日本に多大な影響を及ぼしてきた。中国は 2008 年の北京オリンピックを成功裏に実現させたことでも人々の記憶に新しい。

記事のトピックは興味深く、かつ、重要なものでなくてはならない。私の最初の記事は、歴史上中国の政治と文化のまさに中心であった北京の広大な紫禁城について述べることにする。

*Asian Crossways***Beijing's Forbidden City**

by MASATO SAITO



Come with me, and together
let's enter the huge and magnifi-
cent Forbidden City in Beijing.
For five hundred years, if we
5 had **dared to** do such a thing,
you and I would have instantly
been put to death. Luckily for
us, we can escape punishment
and **feast our eyes on** one of
10 mankind's greatest achieve-
ments. First of all, we must keep
in mind that the Forbidden City
is not really a city, but a palace
for Chinese Emperors. But be-
15 cause of its immense size and
the vast number of people who
were needed to serve the Em-
peror and the Royal Family, it
seemed to be a city within a city.
20 It is called the Forbidden City

because entrance to the city was
severely restricted.

The Forbidden City served as
home to the Emperors of both
the Ming and Qing Dynasties. 25
The palace was completed in
1420, and was the Royal Resi-
dence until the last Emperor of
the Qing Dynasty was forced out
in 1924. In all, 14 Ming Emper- 30
ors and 10 Qing Emperors ruled
from the Forbidden City.

When the Chinese were plan-
ning to construct a palace for
their Emperors in Beijing, they 35
decided to make it big. How big?
The Forbidden City is the largest
palace **compound** in the world.
They used a million workers who
labored for 14 years to complete 40

the palace. **Encircling** the palace is a wall that is 10 meters high and almost three-and-a-half kilometers long. And inside the walls, how many buildings are there? Surprisingly, there are more than 8,000 buildings and structures within the walls!

Now that it is possible to enter the city without **parting with** our lives, we will have a chance to look around at the many **wonders** that the City contains. Imagine the amount of stone it took to make the walls of the compound, the buildings, and so on. The Chinese, like the ancient Egyptians before them, were **ingenious** builders. **Wells** were dug **at intervals** on the way to the palace, and water was thrown on the road during winter and allowed to freeze over. Workers were thus able to slide huge **slabs** of stone to their necessary locations.

Hundreds of thousands of br-

icks were also needed. What do you think these bricks were made of? Would you believe **lime** and **glutinous rice**? What was the cement made of that holds the bricks together? Just **egg whites** and glutinous rice. These materials have lasted for 500 years and are still incredibly strong.

Wandering inside the Forbidden City, it is fascinating to learn the names of the various gates, palaces, halls and statues: The Hall of Supreme Harmony, the Palace of **Celestial** Purity, the Hall of Mental Cultivation, and the Hall of Joyful **Longevity**, to name just a few.

The Forbidden City is conveniently located just one kilometer from the famous Tiananmen Square. To enter this city, all we need today is a small amount of Chinese **currency**, a comfortable pair of shoes, and an eager **curiosity**.

Notes

dare to 敢えて~する / **feast one's eyes on** = enjoy looking at the beauty of / **compound** = enclosed area containing a group of buildings / **encircle** ~を囲む / **parting with** = losing / **wonder** 驚くべきもの / **ingenious** 巧妙な / **well** 井戸 / **at intervals** あちこちに / **slab** 厚い板状のもの / **lime** 石灰 / **glutinous rice** 餅米 / **egg whites** 卵の白身 / **celestial** = heavenly / **longevity** 長寿 / **currency** 通貨 / **curiosity** 好奇心

◆ Comprehension Questions

1～7の質問に対し、**a, b, c**のなかから最もふさわしい答を選びなさい。

1. What would have happened in the past if someone entered the Forbidden City without permission?
 - a. He would have had to pay a lot of money.
 - b. He would have been killed.
 - c. He would have been put in prison.
2. What was the purpose of the Forbidden City?
 - a. To be a home for Chinese Emperors.
 - b. To be a castle to protect Beijing from its enemies.
 - c. To be a trade center.
3. How old is the Forbidden City?
 - a. It's less than 300 years old.
 - b. It's between 300 and 500 years old.
 - c. It's over 500 years old.
4. What is said about the construction of the Forbidden City?
 - a. It took over 50 years to complete.
 - b. It required s a million people.
 - c. The wall was built before the palace was constructed.
5. How were the large pieces of stone brought in during winter?
 - a. They were slid over the winter ice.
 - b. They were carried on wagons.
 - c. They were dragged by horses.
6. What were the bricks made of?
 - a. Only lime.
 - b. Precious stones.
 - c. Lime and glutinous rice.
7. What other famous place is mentioned as being near the Forbidden City?
 - a. The Great Hall of the People.
 - b. Tiananmen Square.
 - c. The Great Wall of China.

◆ Word Guessing

ヒントを読んで、ふさわしい語を書きなさい。答となる語はすべて *Asian Crossways* (ときに *Getting Familiar* の会話文) の **Notes** から選んでいます。

1. These were dug here and there when the Forbidden City was constructed. People could get water from any of these deep holes in the ground.

2. This is in yuan in China, in yen in Japan, in dollars in America, and in euros in European countries. This is in the form of money.

3. The Great Wall of China is one and the Pyramids of Egypt are another. This is something that gives us a feeling of surprise and admiration.

4. In Japan, the crane and the turtle are symbols of this. In other words, they are symbols of a long life.

5. Young children ask many questions because they are filled with this. That is, they want to know many things about the world around them.

6. The ancient Chinese and Egyptians were this way because they came up with many very good ideas.

7. *Mochi*, or rice cake, is made from this. This is sticky white stuff that comes from a plant that is grown in a field flooded with water.

8. This is a thick, flat piece of meat, wood, stone, or other solid material.
