

Subject: Re: Letters from Asia 2020 -- more
From: "Meyer Knapp, Helena" <Helena.Meyer_Knapp@evergreen.edu>
Date: 5/7/20, 8:40 AM
To: "Knapp, Robert" <knapp8@evergreen.edu>
CC: Helena Meyer Knapp <knappmeyerknapp@gmail.com>

Dear All
The subject line for this is too long for the letterhead:
Korea's different, Japan's different, the numbers are different and I am different as well. Pictures more than words for once.

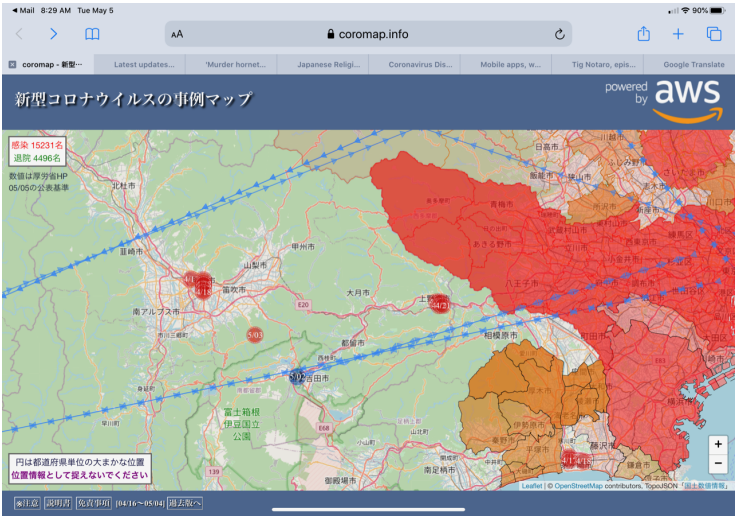
KOREA IS DIFFERENT — fitness
Elderly Koreans are often really really fit. The country is covered in mountains. Retired people climb mountains day after day. Many literally keep a climbing practice, the way others do Buddhism. Once a day, twice a week etc. The Seoul subway is full of small groups in carefully chosen gear heading off for a day in the hills. And these hills are steep.
Mountains inside the city — downtown Seoul on one of the main streets. Seoul continues on out beyond that small mountain, backdrop to the Blue House, Korea's equivalent of our White House.



and mountains surrounding the city — Busan the second largest city in Korea, from a temple inside the town.



JAPAN IS DIFFERENT — track and trace
Japan, like my island homeland, is full of people who watch and comment on what others do. Brits are tremendously conscious these days about who "left for their second home." about who is watching to ensure that they are conforming to the do not travel rules. Japanese people even write to their friends about total strangers breaking the rules. The other day I got an anguished letter from a Japanese friend:
"About coronavirus affair, a terrible thing has happened in the neighboring town of Fujiyoshida where our favorite shopping places are.
A young woman from Tokyo, visited and stayed with her parents here for 3 days, spread virus around, and returned for Tokyo by BUS.
There has been no infection in this area, as the community has been very very careful. But now there is a very bad case.
Apr 26 : In Tokyo, she lost "TASTE", a sign of Corona.
Apr 28 : Till this day, she worked.
Apr 29 : Holidays started. She came here to stay at her parents home.
Apr 30 : Received PCR test at the Health Center here.
BIQ at her Friends Home
May 1 : Health Center told her POSITIVE and asked her to stay home.
May 2 : She neglected the advice and returned to Tokyo by Express Bus.
Her boyfriend already found POSITIVE. People are so mad at her, but the police is asking to calm down. Her name is not told, but by now people should know. She must have infected hundreds of people here, in the bus, and in Tokyo.
So Yoshie and I, will do shopping only in the Yamanaka-ko area.
A few weeks ago I commented that Japan was publishing a map with track and trace data of all the cases. The map is more densely filled than it was, but still there. The letter's details are almost all spelled out on the map. The case in question is the blue dot in the middle of the map:



Google translation of the map's annotation on the case. Google's English isn't great but you can see that my friend knew the map report by heart.

coromap - 新型...Latest updates...'Murder hornet...'Japanese Reli...Coronavirus Dis...Mobile apps, w...Tig Notaro, epis...Google Translate

TextDocuments

JAPANESE - DETECTEDENGLISHSPANISHFRENCHENGLISHSPANISHARABIC

山梨県55例目
・ 5/02
山梨県発表 / 東京都居住
※追記
味覚・嗅覚異常 / 発症日4/26 / 会社員 / 4/28まで東京の勤務先
に出勤 / 4/29に高速バスで県内の実家に帰省 / 4/30に県内の友
人宅でバーベキュー / 5/02に陽性判明の連絡を受けてから一時
間後に、高速バスで東京都に帰宅 (報道) / 山梨県内での滞在は
富士吉田市、鳴沢村、富士河口湖町 / 現在は症状なし

Yamanashi ken 55 reime 5/ 02 Yamanashi ken happyō/ Tōkyōto kyojū* tsuiki
mikaku kyūkaku ijō/ hasshō-bi 4/ 26/ kaishain/ 4/ 28 made Tōkyō no kinmusaki ni
shukkin/ 4/ 29 ni Kōsokubasu de ken'nai no jikka ni kisei/ 4/ 30 ni ken'nai no tomo

Yamanashi prefecture 55th case
・ 5/02
Yamanashi prefecture / Tokyo
* Addition
Taste / olfaction / Onset date 4/26 / Company employee / Go
to work in Tokyo until 4/28 / Return to home in the prefecture by
express bus on 4/29 / BBQ at a friend's home on 4/30 / One
hour after receiving a positive confirmation on 5/02, return to
Tokyo by express bus (report) / Stay in Yamanashi prefecture is
Fujiyoshida City, Narusawa Village, Fujikawaguchiko Town /
Currently there are no symptoms

PERSONAL HABITS — We are different, a little
I keep being struck by the challenges that confront me as I try to adopt the more rigorous practices this virus seems to demand. I am good at the monitoring of my own health data — temp., blood pressure, and oxygen levels. Yes we began that after NY Times coverage of people seemingly functional with absurdly low oxygen levels. Now of course, buying such a meter is hard, but we got one, just I assume.
Rob and I differ about hand cleanliness after outings. He is really good about remembering to wash if he comes back onto the property. I am not so good so I reliably wear disposable gloves. He might do the latter as well if our gloves fit his hands better.
We are both very good at doing the wiping on things that come into the house from shops.
Our grandchildren now come to visit and they are excellent about taking their shoes off and about heading straight for the sink when they get here. Will this continue? If I can make it so. Perhaps if I clearly care they will want to do it.



THE NUMBERS ARE DIFFERENT TOO — Modeling in the tallies of COVID 19 and Influenza cases

In my email on statistics I didn't comment on the debate about whether this is just a magnified flu though that issue is a big one in political gamesmanship at the moment. I did comment on my general resistance to "modeled" as opposed to descriptive numbers. Turns out the CDC uses modeling when it identifies the number of flu related deaths we have each year. The COVID numbers are tallies of actual death certs. That is they are descriptive.

The article below, from Scientific American by an ER doc takes on this contrast and adds qualitative experience to it. This is NOT flu. Not even H1N1. For those who want to take the numbers issues more fully, I can send along a discussion between my physicist husband and another of his ilk which ties more directly into how the CDC works. In brief, if we use their ways of modeling flu it will be two years before we have a comparison.

Out here in Berkeley, the sun shines. The tomato plants are growing — a full month ahead of their Olympia counterparts in my gardening life, and the cranky neighbor who is hassling our son about his building project gets crazier.

Best wishes to all

Helena

→ Attachments

comparing flu and covid death counts.pdf132 KB