Mr. Hirano (age 45) in Bangkok, Thailand
Thailand
This is me in my university days...
I love Thailand!
Then I looked for a job,
I want to go to Thailand!
That was the only reason I got a job at a travel agency.
The life of Thai freak
I was assigned to Bangkok as I wanted.
The contact person from the client company was to become my wife.
After 10 years of experience, I started my own agency.
Before too long, we got married.
If I look back...
This is a perfect example of the Thai Freak's life.
Hahaha
Thai language only
As a tour operator,
I work 7 days a week and I come home late often...
Then we had a son and a daughter which made our life full, but busy!
At first, we asked my wife's mother to come and help us.
But that was not enough. So, we asked my wife's sister to come and help us, too.
Finally, we had enough help for the children...
The life of our children is surrounded by the Thai language only.
Maybe, it's about time that they learn Japanese, too
Japanese Kindergarten
I know I should teach Japanese ...
But I am too busy working!
I can't afford the time!
Then we chose a ...
Japanese kindergarten. They teach three languages, Japanese, Thai and English.
Teachers are diligent. Long childcare hours.
And relativity cheap!
Apple
Everything is easier, if you have enough money...
It is a kind of like "outsourcing education"
Choosing elementary school
Next step is choosing the right elementary school.
I think I want to send them to an international school
A genuine American school can cost three million yen a year.
But Japanese school is a little cheaper
However...
It still costs a million yen for the first year!
So, you see, there are different kinds of international schools.
Some have many Thai students. Others are cheaper but ...
Sigh
Japanese exam
As much as I want to teach them Japanese, ... since I really don't have time...
I think I should send my kids to the Japanese school!
Then, there is the interview exam in Japanese to get in...
My boy is good at listening
but I worry he may be weak in speaking...
I am afraid your son's level of Japanese isn't enough now to ...
Well, I kind of knew that though ...
But can you make an exception?
Please give us another chance!
We finally manage to get another interview in a month!
Re-interview
Next month will decide everything!
First, I reduced my workload and prep my son...
Sorry, but I have to cancel it...
My son and I spend long hours learning Japanese.
OK. Why don't you read this menu here?
Japanese restaurant Menu
After a month.
Thanks to all your efforts, we can accept him now!
Thank you very much!
I am so proud of you, my son!
All of this is because I have my own business.
Japanese school
The Japanese school in Bangkok is one of the largest in the world!
School events are almost identical to ones in Japan.
Majority of students are children of expats.
But there are also children of Japanese-Thai couples.
And PTA (Parents and Teachers association) is very active...
Finally, my wife was assigned to be a board member of the PTA.
What? Board member?
Why do parents have to go to school?
She struggled a lot with cultural and language differences.
You know... I can't read Kanji (Chinese characters)...
Don't you worry
Thanks to a lot of help from other parents, we managed to get by.
Our concern now
Because he goes to Japanese school,
my son's Japanese won't be a problem!
He is also developing a Japanese identity.
At least I think so.
But at the end of the day when he gets out of school, he is surrounded by the Thai language.
So, naturally he will identify more as a Thai...
Well, but, English is obviously important...
Should we switch him to an international school from Junior high???
No end of worrying about the future...!
Future
When you look for a job in Thailand,
If you have JLPT* N2 level of Japanese proficiency...
*Japanese-Language Proficiency Test
The initial salary can be double or even triple!
It is a very beneficial thing to have
If he is treated as a Japanese expat, he can get an even better salary.
Though, children of Japanese-Thai couples are considered to be a Thai who speak very good Japanese.
But in case, they want to work in Japan, Thailand or an English speaking country,
We will educate them the best we can!