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Welcome to the Crowder College Melting Pot Newsletter

Welcome to the second edition of the *Crowder College Melting Pot*, where advanced students from the English Language Institute share their culture! The theme of this issue is tourism, and each student has written an article highlighting only one or two of the many wonderful tourist attractions in his or her native country. These students have worked very hard over the course of this semester to bring you a description of the best things their countries have to offer, and I have been so pleased by how well this class has worked together to create this issue. Special thanks to Kaori Sawamoto, who spent many additional long hours editing

the newsletter, and working on the layout. She has done an outstanding job of being Editor-in-Chief. Close by her side was Lorena Cuellar, who also was meticulous in her work, and often spent extra time editing the articles. I also want to acknowledge the work our Graphic Designers, Manduul Gantur and Wanjou Kuo, did in carefully choosing and formatting all the pictures you see in this issue. Now please, sit back, relax, and start dreaming of your next vacation as you read about all the exciting things you can do and see abroad!

-Rose-Marie Speck

Newsletter Staff

Advisor: Rose-Marie Speck

Editor in Chief: Kaori Sawamoto

Editor: Lorena Cuellar

Graphic Designers: Manduul Gantur, Wanjou Kuo

Writers: Lorena Cuellar, Alien Dossou-Yovo, Yann Dossou-Yovo, Manduul Gantur, Wander Goda, Wanjou Kuo, Hugues Mutombo, Mwansa Mwape, Igor Pacca, Gianfranco Panto, Kaori Sawamoto

THE NEWSLETTER STAFF OF ELI 35.



Fabulous Mexican Beaches

By Lorena Cuellar Hernandez



If you are looking for an extraordinary place for your vacation, or simply an opportunity to rest and relax, go to Mexico. Mexico has the best beaches in the world. Puerto Vallarta is a beach famous for luxury hotels and exquisite

seafood. People visit this sea in the winter because the temperature is about 81 degrees, whereas in the summer, the 90 degree weather can be dangerously hot. Acapulco, another Mexican beach, is an excellent place for weddings. If you are engaged, consider having your wedding at this beach. This beach also has a lot of wonderful cottages, churches, and other incredible places to create wonderful memories. The population is 2 million, and you can enjoy this beautiful place either day or night since during the day, the beach is an excellent place to visit, and at night, the clubs are wonderful. This city never sleeps! I have saved the best beach for last: Cancun! This place is like heaven! The weather is good during any season of the year, and there is always a blue sky from November to April. During the spring, the temperature can reach be 110 degrees; Do not be surprised if you see an overcast sky and suddenly, after a minute, the sky is again really clear. It is truly awesome to see the sky change so quickly from overcast to sunny again! In Mexico, your vacations will be very memorable. What are you waiting for? I invite



It is very nice to go to the beach in Mexico and enjoy the warm summer wind.

you to visit Mexico and enjoy our fabulous Mexican beaches.

Venezuela: The Best Places to Visit!

By Gianfranco Pantó



If you wish to go to a country that has the most beautiful places to visit, do not waste your time thinking about where to go; instead choose the best option, my country, Venezuela. Each place has different characteristics that can meet all the needs of people who come to my country from all over the world. Here are some places you can visit:



This is the picture of Parque Nacional Sierra Nevada. You can see the beautiful snowfall and rainbow in the picture.

Parque Nacional Sierra Nevada (National Park Snowy Mountain): This unique place in my country has peaks that are completely covered by snow, and among them is the Pico Bolívar (Bolivar Peak), the highest mountain in my country.

La Gran Sabana (The Great Savanna): This is the largest National Park in Latin America. This park has the largest waterfall in the world, El Salto Ángel (Angel Falls). It also has the planet's oldest rocks, and is the home to the world's largest snakes, the anacondas.

Beaches: Venezuela has beautiful beaches all over the country, and I am sure that, when you are there, you will love and have a good time. The most important beaches in my country are Morrocoy (Turtle), Isla de Margarita (Margarita Island), and Los Roques (The Rocks).

Why Visit Brazil?



By Wander Goda

There are thousands of reasons to visit Brazil. Besides having very warm and friendly people, Brazil is a land lots of natural beauty, and diverse entertainment options. However, I especially recommend visiting the following three places.

Florianopolis is a city located in the south of the country. The city is beautiful and offers a wide variety of beaches from the quietest, to the most bustling. It is a big city, and has great historical and cultural tours.

Iguaçu Falls is a town famous for several water falls forming one of the ten natural wonders of the world. When former U.S. President Bill Clinton visited the falls in Iguaçu Falls in 2001, he compared the falls to Niagara Falls, and made the place famous by saying "Poor Niagara Falls."

Sao Paulo is located in the southeast part of the country. The city is known for both its business tourism and its

bustling nightlife. In Sao Paulo, there are all different kinds of entertainment options such as theaters, nightclubs, restaurants, parks, and malls. Sao Paulo is "the city that does not stop." If you like to hang out with friends, meet new people, and listen to good music, this city can offer you all this from Sunday to Sunday. Want to know more about places to visit in Brazil? Then make sure you read the article in this edition about Rio, the "Postcard of Brazil."



One of Brazil's many beautiful beaches.

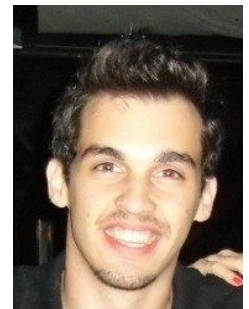


The famous statue called "Cristo Redentor"
(Christ the Redeemer).

Rio De Janeiro:

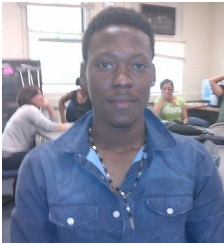
"The Marvelous City"

By Igor Pacca



There are several reasons to go to Rio de Janeiro. Rio is considered one of the most beautiful cities on the planet. The Brazilian city is also the most famous in South America, and is also the city that has the most

number of tourists in the continent of South America. What people like most about going to Rio is how such a big city has so many natural beauties. If you go there, you will have many places to visit. You can see the famous statue called "Cristo Redentor," which means Christ the Redeemer. You can go there in February during Carnival, or go to Copacabana Beach for the New Year, which is one of the biggest New Year celebrations in the world with more than two million people attending. One more amazing thing about Rio is that the city does not have a cold winter, so you can go to the beaches every single day even during the winter. If you go to Rio, you will also meet really friendly people. So, if you are planning a trip, I guarantee that Rio is a great choice for your vacation!



A City on Stilts

By Yann Dossou-Yovo

The Republic of Benin is a special and nice place. Especially Ganvie, a town that is built on a lake. We observe in that place an

average population that leads a life very adapted to its location. It is written in its history that people who live in Ganvie are descendants from people who, during the time of slavery, refused to be slaves, so they were obliged to create a new life somewhere they could be safe. They sacrificed much because it was not easy to build houses on the lake, and many people died while they were building this city. Nowadays, it is very nice to live there, even if there are some social and economic problems. There you can find everything that you see in a normal city such as markets, hotels, schools, etc. However, the only transportation available is canoes or ships. Everyone there knows how to swim from birth.



Ganvie is a special place built on a lake.

They are also great fishermen. Ganvie has more than 30,000 people who live there and the traditional people are called Toffin. The nickname of this city is "Africa's Venice." It is a good and fun place to visit .



Agriculture in Benin

By Alien Dossou-Yovo

Benin is a West African country and is 114,763 square kilometers. Benin is bordered on the north by Niger, on the northwest by Burkina-Faso, on the west by Togo, and to the south by the Atlantic Ocean. Benin has a major asset: agriculture. Benin has perfect weather conditions and, compared to other countries, has very rich soil and is very suitable for growing crops. Benin is part of the tropics and the weather is influenced by the West African monsoon season and the flow of the North East trade winds.



Benin is known for its production of palm oil and cotton. The palm oil industry is an industry that creates lots of jobs and generates income in rural areas in southern Benin. SNV Benin (a non-profit international organization) wants to support the ambitions of the Benin government to increase production of palm oil from 107,169 pounds a year in 2000 to over 1,071,691 pounds a year with the modernization of palm oil village plantations. Cotton is the most popular and profitable crop that Benin grows, and it drives economic and social development, particularly in rural areas. Cotton production involves more than 325,000 farms, representing 3 million people, which is nearly 50% of the population. Cotton makes up 80% of export earnings. SNV Benin is part of a system that encourages and also has a very sustainable improvements in the income and living conditions of cotton farmers. The organization works by helping union members more efficiently produce cotton, better manage operations, and better defend the interests of their members, including women and small producers.

The fresh land and a nice plantation in Benin.





Tourism in the DRC

By Hugues Mutombo

The Democratic Republic of the Congo, or DRC, is located in the center of Africa. The DRC is known for its Equatorial Forest and the Congo River, which is the third largest river in the world and the second most powerful after the Amazon River. In the DRC, there are multiple touristic attractions. The DRC has rich fauna and flora, and you can enjoy nature's gifts by seeing some rare animals like the okapi or the bonobo. A bonobo is an ape which looks like a chimpanzee, and is found only in DRC. You can also visit one of the nine national parks and some other natural places like the Botanic Garden of Kisantu, located in the southwest part of the capital city Kinshasa. Here you can also find other protected species of plants, trees, and flowers. You can also contemplate visiting Zongo Falls, and Lola Ya Bonobo, which means "the paradise of bonobos" in Lingala, and is also located in Kinshasa.



This is a picture of the okapi, found in the DRC.



Tourism in Zambia **By Mwansa Mwape**

Zambia is a land-locked country located in southern Africa, east of Angola. It has a population of over thirteen million people, and has 72 tribes.

Zambia has a lot of tourist attractions with people coming from all around the world to see the beautiful landscape and the rich culture. In addition, the people are very hospitable. The best time to visit Zambia is from August to November, when it is warm and not humid. In Zambia, there are 17 waterfalls, chimp sanctuaries where they keep chimpanzees, 19 national parks, and 34 amusement parks.



People from Zambia enjoying Zambian dance.

Among the waterfalls are Victoria Falls, the seventh wonder of the world and the deepest in the world, Kalambo falls, Lake Tanganyika, and the Zambezi River. national parks and amusement parks are beautiful places that attract tourists to Zambia. Some of the

parks are Luangwa Park, Kochinvar, Kasanka, Kafue, Blue Lagoon, and Mweru Wantipa.



Formosa **By Wanjou Kuo**

Taiwan is known as Formosa, a beautiful island. People are always excited about the cultural festivals such as the Moon Festival, the Dragon Boat Festival, Double Ten, and the Chinese New Year. The Moon Festival is a holiday where family and friends gather

around and eat delicious moon cakes. It is a peaceful holiday to enjoy happiness with family, and to watch the bright moon in the sky. During the Dragon Boat Festival, the boat crew will dress up and race their boats in a competition. It is also a traditional festival that includes eating rice dumplings and drinking *Realgar* wine. October 10th is Taiwan's national holiday called Double Ten. The celebration starts with the flag being raised in front of the Presidential Office Building. The design of the flag is a blue sky with a white sun. The president will lead thousands of people in singing the national anthem to begin the holiday. The biggest holiday



Dragon Boat Competition

in Taiwan is the Chinese New Year. It is a holiday for family reunions. We will gather around a circular table and have a big family dinner. These events are great opportunities to get to know more about Taiwanese culture.

Welcome to Asakusa!

By Kaori Sawamoto

There is a place that is like a wonderland in Japan. This place is called *Asakusa*, in Tokyo, and has both traditional and modern aspects of Japanese culture. Asakusa has an atmosphere of ancient Japanese traditions. There is a famous temple called *Sensou-ji* that was built in the year 628. There are a lot of shops around the temple that sell Japanese traditional things like chopsticks and a snack called *Senbei*. Moreover, many events related to Japanese history are often held around the temple. For example, you can see a performance of *Ninja*, *Samurai*, and watch many people who impersonate famous generals from Japanese history. On the other hand, you can also enjoy modern aspects of Japan. There is a tower called *Sky Tree*. It is the highest tower in the world now, and you can see a great view from the top of the tower. In addition, you can buy Japanese souvenirs inside the tower. Even a lot of locals look forward to visiting this tower, so it is definitely a hot spot not only for Japanese, but also for foreigners. I highly recommend it as the best place to visit in Japan.



The highest tower in the world: Sky Tree.

Morin Khuur the Mongolian Horse Head Fiddle

By Manduul Gantur



The Morin Khuur is one of the main traditional instruments in Mongolia, and the one most associated with Mongolian traditions and art. Morin Khuur means horse fiddle in English. It produces a very unique and melodious sound, which is often described as great and powerful, like a horse neighing, or like a breeze in the grasslands. The instrument is made completely out of wood, and the strings are made out of horse tail hairs. When a person plays the Morin Khuur, it is held upright with the sound box in between the musician's legs. Mongol people love the Morin Khuur in the same way they love their horse. When Mongolians were living as a nomadic nation, the horse was their only transportation, like a car, and functioned truly as man's best friend. Many songs and poems were written praising the horse. The horse head fiddle is even mentioned in historical documents created during the Mongol Empire. There are several stories of why and how the Morin Khuur was first created, but they all include some variation about the love between a man and a dead horse. Mongolian art, and even forms of blessings, are inseparable with the music of the Morin Khuur and the instrument has changed very little since its origin. Nowadays, the Morin Khuur is one of the greatest instruments of the world, and you can hear



The Mongolian instrument Morin Khuur.

this wonderful instrument generally in the capital of Mongolia. The Morin Khuur Ensemble plays new and traditional pieces using the Morin Khuur, and even though tickets can cost as much as fifty dollars, it is well worth spending to hear their concerts.