

Latin American in Niigata

Carlos Alberto Alvarado Galvez



My name is Carlos Alvarado. I am a 30 years old dentist who came from Panama a Central American country. Since April, 2005 I am

a student at the Niigata University in a program granted by the Japanese government. During my first 6 months I was just studying Japanese language. On October became formal PhD student in the Dental Faculty. Originally I came to the Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Department but before coming here I had a big interest on doing my research in oral cancer. That's why I am working in the Oral Pathology Department.

The main reason for selecting Japan to course my graduate studies was because while studying my undergraduate degree, the most important places where research in dentistry is done were: USA, Europe and Japan. So it is a great opportunity for me to be here.

It is fact that my country and Japan have a different culture and costumes. But my country is a mix of all kind of cultures and ethnics, and it is not rare for me to be in contact with

Asian people. That's because during the construction of the Panama Canal a lot of people move there to work. Most of them stayed there and even now a lot of people from every places of the world are still immigrating. So it was not new for me at all trying Japanese food or going to a Buddhist temple. Of course what I had in Panama was just a little of what Japan really is. Although the impression of Japan in the world is that this is technological country. For me the most important resource of a country is the people. Japan have an ancient culture but the most important fact is how they are proud of their heritage and how they conserve it and transmit it to the younger generations. For me it was a surprise how they celebrate the flowering of the cherry blossom, but now I realize that it is a way to celebrate the relation between man and nature. This is my first time to live in a place in which they have the four seasons. And just now I am beginning to understand how they feel and how to appreciate each season. Another interesting fact is how Japanese people have this sense of working in group, which is something I would like other countries to copy. Of course there are a lot of things that I still

have to learn about this society. Trying to get learning from the good things and become a better person.

To conclude I will like to thanks all the people who have been helping me since I came here, including my professors, the members of my depart-

ment, Japanese friends and others foreigners. With their help my adaptation to Japan became easier. And of course thanks to God for giving me this opportunity to grow not just in the professional field but also in my personal life.



MAGIC

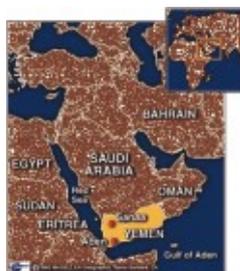
Dr. Kamal Al-Eryani



Let's make a magic ; bring a pot, and put a lot of Sushi and Cherry Blossom (Sa-kura) in it, mix them very well by Earth-quake (Jishin) and at the end add a lot of Snow (Yuki). What you will see inside this pot will diverse from person to person, so please send to me what you will see ; my E - mail address is kaleryani@yahoo.co.jp.

By the way I am not Harry Potter, my name is Kamal. I am a dental magician ; I can make your teeth beautiful and your mouth healthy, obviously not in all cases. I came from Yemen to study Oral pathology in Niigata University Graduate School for Medical and Dental Sciences.

 Yemen is a country of southwest Asia at the southern tip of the Arabian Peninsula. It was ruled by various people, such as the Sabaeans, Himyarites, Romans, Ethiopians, and Persians, in ancient times. It was conquered in the 7th century A.D. by Muslim Arabs and became part of the Ottoman Empire in the 16th century. The northern part, known as Yemen or North Yemen, was established as an independent

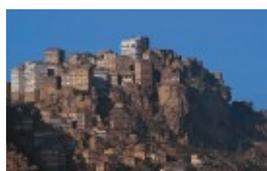


kingdom in 1918 and made a republic in 1962. The southern part consisted of several British protectorates in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Britain withdrew from the area in 1967 and Southern Yemen became independent soon after. The two united in May 1990. Sana'a is the capital and the largest city of Yemen. Our population is about 20,000,000.

Yemen has a narrow, coastal plain, stretching more than 700miles (1,130 km), along the southern edge of the Arabian Peninsula.



It also has interior highlands and an eastern desert. The highlands, which are actually a section of the upturned Arabian plateau, are the highest part (rising to more than 12,000ft/3,660 m) of the Arabian Peninsula. They receive an annual average rainfall of c.20 in. (50cm), making them also the wettest part of the peninsula; most of the precipitation occurs during the summer rainy season. The remainder of Yemen is hot and virtually rainless in the coastal regions. Numerous vallies radiate



from the highlands, but Yemen has no permanent streams; oases and springs provide local water needs.

Yemen is the most populous country on the Arabian Peninsula. The great majority of the population is Arab (90%); some are Afro-Arab. Minorities include Indians, Somalis, and Eur-



opeans. Islam is the main religion. The north of Yemen is nearly 100% Muslim, both Sunni and Shiite; the south is predominantly Muslim, but also has Christians and Hindus. Between 1948 and 1950 about 50,000 Yemeni Jews immigrated to Israel. Arabic is the nation's principal language. The tribal social structure is still prevalent in the country, although its importance diminishes along the coast, due to more foreign contact. In addition to Sana and Aden, other important cities are Hodaida, Mukalla, Taiz, Ibb, and Abyan. Administratively, the country is

divided into 17 governments.

I studied my undergraduate collage in Syria at Damascus University Faculty of Dentistry. Syria is also one of the Arab countries; it is located in the Middle East. In 2001 I hold a bachelor's degree. Since then, I am working as a teacher assistant in Department of Surgery, Sana'a University Faculty of Dentistry in Yemen.

During my work in the Dental collage, I realized the importance of being qualified, and just getting a good opportunity to study under a highly qualified and respected scientist, Prof. Takashi Saku, I came to Japan.

I arrived here in April 2005. I went to Japanese classes in Ikarashi campus. Then I start studying in my laboratory from October 2005.

I am very happy to be in Japan, and to live in her magic, which could never have been in any other place of the world. In Japan everyday I live the magic of the east.