



Information comes from many sources

# MEDIA INTERNATIONALISM

**February 22, 2013**

José Cruz: How can you be international in a country in Japan, growing up as a Japanese student when (mm-hmm) at least it seems to me, and probably seems to you, it seems to most of our expatriate friends that news media in Japan itself doesn't really have an international mind.

Alex Bodnar: Mm, right. Can you think of examples? Uh...

José: I'll just give you a really quick couple of examples. One right now, um Syria. (yeah) What's going on with the Syrian government and their attempts to stop the the rebel army that's trying to overthrow the government because the rebel army was created when they were just completely dissatisfied uh with their government; accused it of torture and and non-democratic action. Uh, this came out of the Arab Spring. Now Syria is a really important country if it actually turns over from what was a stable but dictatorial regime to something that's democratic but potentially more religiously oriented, and cannot be easily controlled by the major powers. That was not at all well reported in Japan. Now "well reported", (yeah) let me define that, (yeah) means that, it's timely, i.e. that when it begins to happen it's reported immediately. (Mm-hmm) It's reported with depth. (Yes) So you know who the actors are, you know what the motivations for the groups are. And (mm-hmm) and it's reported consistently. It's not just once in a

while. You know, you don't- you don't get like just 30 seconds once in a while because a great big bomb blew up and killed the ambassador of whatever country in Syria. And unfortunately that's the way I see how uh Japanese media does something like that. And one more example is the Haitian earthquake. Do you remember that (Yes) a couple of years ago? (Yes) my students didn't know anything about it. (Really?) For-yeah, for the first three days had no idea it happened. (Really?) Yeah, really sad.

Alex: Wow, when the tsunami hit Japan in March, 2011 the whole world knew about it. (Exactly) Of course it's a bigger disaster, but... well but actually

José: Well that's that's that's **pretty tough to to you know, swallow** when you're a Haitian mother visiting the graves of her son and daughter every week uh, about what was the nature of a bigger disaster or not, you know.

Alex: Yeah, I think you're right. (Right?) I think you're right.

José: Numbers? Yeah okay, if you're **going to** be a raw statistician, it was a bigger disaster. But, in terms of tragedy and what we're supposed to be doing with internationalization...

Alex: Yeah that's- it's uh. So I was guilty of it there myself, right? Uh, looking at the numbers for a moment.

José: And that's an interesting point. (mm-hmm)  
Um we find it very easy to point fingers,  
(mm-hmm, yes) But to what degree do you  
think, we ourselves don't do enough to think  
internationally? (Oh, good question) Do you  
think do you think you're a fairly international  
guy?

Alex: Oh, it depends on what you mean by  
"international". But...

José: Use your definition.

Alex: But uh, I- in general I don't know I don't know  
what I would say means internationally  
minded, but I suppose I'm internationally  
minded uh, How is that? Hmm (Mm) Having  
a knowledge of various countries, not just  
your own country, but uh, countries around  
the world. Can you identify every country in

the world on the map? Well, I don't think I  
can.

José: No, I couldn't either. I couldn't either.

Alex: That's- so, I have trouble identifying all the  
countries in Africa still.

José: Oh no, I would lose. I would lose on that.

Word count	Time	Words/Min.
678	3:51	176.10

Pointers:

**Pretty tough to swallow:** a certain result or outcome is unbearable, saddening, or disappointing. (2:18)

**going to:** pronounced quickly sounds like "GUNNA". (2:35)

Discussion:

How often do you watch the news?

Do you ever read International news sources?

Does the international media report on Japanese issues well?

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