

Looking Back on This Year, 2012

Now, there are a mere two weeks left of this year, 2012.

Indeed, I'm often surprised by how fast time passes, just like an arrow. As the proverb says, "Time and tide wait for no man." Besides, the more human beings get elderly, the faster they feel time passes, I guess.

This year, more than ever, there were many events around the world that will certainly influence the future. Let's take a look back at just some of them:

February: The Diamond Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II, marking the 60th anniversary of her accession to the Throne of England

July: The 30th Summer Olympic Games in London

October: Dr. Shinya Yamanaka's Nobel Prize win in the field of Physiology and Medicine, (the same field in which Dr. Susumu Tonegawa was awarded the prize in 1987)

November: Barack Obama's re-election for another four years as president of the US

I'm also sure something new has happened in your or your family's life this year—something that will probably stay in your mind for a long time.

Of course, this open-college workshop, "Conversations in English," was supported by the kind staff members of Fudooka High School—of course, Noguchi-sensei being one of them. Actually, I remember it exactly as if it were yesterday; I was quite excited and a bit nervous to attend the first meeting on May 29th.

At last, today, we've arrived at the final meeting. So, let's enjoy our last discussion more actively than ever before.

Questions:

1. Do you remember the plans or goals you set as your New Year's resolutions for 2012? Please tell us what they were. Were you able to achieve any of them successfully?
2. What are your resolutions for next year? What do you think is needed to stick to them?
3. If we had a Time Capsule to be opened twenty years from now, what would you choose to put in it? Why?
4. In my opinion, it would be wonderful if we could maintain our friendships and interactions we have made and cherished through this workshop. What do you think? If you agree, how do you think we could do that?

