Singapore Spotlight

| **Tom Benner**

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シンガポールは、伝統的な家族のあり方を良しとする、保守的な国だ。だが2009年からは、「LGBT（性的少数者）が生きやすい社会を」と願う参加者がピンク色のものを身に着けて集うイベント「ピンクドット」が開催され、多様な愛の形を支持する人も増えてきている。

会場では、ピンクの他、LGBTの象徴である虹色も目立つ
© Pink Dot SG

10) Summers of love

性的少数者が生きやすい社会へ

■ 「愛の自由」を支持するイベント

Every summer for the last eight years, a group of Singaporeans has gathered in a park for a one-day event called "Pink Dot."

Playing on the country's nickname of the Little Red Dot — because of how small the island appears on world maps — Pink Dot is an open-air event where thousands of people eat, drink and be merry.

It's a fun time. Everyone wears something pink — the color often associated with LGBT pride. The atmosphere is festive, and there are balloons everywhere. People smile and talk and listen to live music and various speakers. At the end of the day, they all stand together to form a giant pink dot to support "the freedom to love."

"It's such a great party," my wife said to me after this year's event.

Each year, the event has gotten bigger and bigger. The first Pink Dot event in 2009 drew around 2,500 people. In 2015, a record 28,000 came to Hong Lim Park,

the site of Speakers' Corner. And it's inspired similar events in other cities around the world.

Corporate sponsorship of the event is growing as well. The expanding list includes big name companies like Apple, Google, Microsoft, JP Morgan, Goldman Sachs and Twitter.

Corporate sponsorship is a " show of recognition among leading businesses here of the intertwined relationship between embracing a diverse, non-discriminatory working environment, and sound business approach," organizers said in a media statement.

Pink Dot is careful not to call itself a pro-gay rights demonstration. Instead, it calls itself "a rally in support of the freedom to love regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity." The sponsors don't want to offend sensibilities.

■ 伝統的な価値観を乗り越えて

Some Singaporeans — particularly older ones — hang on to their socially conservative views about same-sex relation-

ships. Singapore is a former British colony that retains a 19th century Commonwealth penal code criminalizing homosexuality — with sexual contact between men punishable by up to two years in jail.

But Singapore's enforcement of the penal code is profoundly ambivalent. As a result, gay culture is slowly emerging in this otherwise modern city-state in ways that seemed unimaginable just a decade ago.

Still, not everyone is accepting. In past years, opponents openly denounced Pink Dot in newspapers and on television. Some waged a "Wear White" counter demonstration to express their disapproval.

This year, on a beautiful June day, Pink Dot gatherers assembled as always by the thousands, but the event came and went without much controversy. The negative comments and counter demonstrations of past years were

▼ 参加者たちはピンク色の紙に「愛の自由」にまつわるメッセージを書く（筆者提供）

barely noticeable.

My theory is that it's only a matter of time before gay rights are accepted everywhere around the world. While many members of the elderly generation may still have their reservations, younger people have grown up with cultural awareness and general acceptance of gay culture.

Today, most of us have a personal relation — a sibling, cousin or co-worker — who is gay. And we don't love them any less.

Paerin Choa, Pink Dot spokesperson, said: "We have seen that a little understanding, a little compassion and a little love can make all the difference in someone else's life."

Tom Benner is a freelance journalist who moved to Singapore from Boston, U.S., in fall 2012. His recent journalism has appeared in Al Jazeera English, Global Post and Nikkei Asian Review.

🔆 KEYWORDS

summer 盛り、最盛期（夏と掛けている）
play on~ 〜に（言葉を）掛ける
eat, ... merry 結婚式などでよく使われる慣用句。聖書から
きている（(be)merryは楽しむ）
festive 陽気な
Speakers' Corner 市民が各種集会を開ける場所（シンガポールでは言論の自由が厳しく規制されている）
intertwined 絡み合った
embrace 取り入れる
non-discriminatory 差別のない
sound 健全な、手堅い
rally （気楽な）集まり
sexual orientation 性的指向
gender identity 性的自認
offend 傷つける
sensibilities 感情
hang on to~ 〜にしがみつく
colony 植民地
retain 保つ
Commonwealth 英連邦（英国及びかつて大英帝国に属してい
た国で構成する連合体）（の）
penal code 刑法
criminalize 犯罪行為とする
punishable 処罰に値する
enforcement 執行、施行
profoundly 大いに
ambivalent 浮動的な、曖昧な
city-state 都市国家
denounce 非難する
wage 行う
theory 私見、推測
reservation 懸念
sibling 兄弟姉妹
compassion 思いやり

多読チャレンジ　ピンクドットに反対する人たちは何色のものを身に着ける？　　　[本文 - 520 words]

MACHIGAI! © Tim Young

毎週掲載　　　　　　**by Tim Young**

米アイオワ州出身。イリノイ州オーガスタナ大学で英文学学士号取得。1989年から日本在住。現在はスカイプでマンツーマンの英語レッスンをするほか、高校でのALT（外国人英語指導助手）やポッドキャストの製作など幅広く活躍。Twitter（@machigai）でもつぶやき中。

ここの営業時間は何時から何時までですか？

❌ **What time is the opening time here?**

It sounds strange to say "time" twice here; "what time is the time?" Besides that, this English sentence sounds as if it's only asking what time the store **opens**, but「営業時間」also includes the time the shop **closes**! So you need to ask for the "business hours" (American English) or "opening hours" (British English).

Also, while the Japanese phrase begins "from what time to what time ...", in English we can just say "what are ..."!

⭕ **What are your business hours?**

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MACHIGAI Meter

How many of Tim's students made this mistake?

ALL / MOST / MANY / SOME / A FEW

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