

Weekly Column
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Melvin University
and Me

It's a big pond, so a big fish

The other day, I wrote, "It is inconvenient to have large fish in a small pond." That's when our Institute was small, and when the University of Melvin was small, because it was just starting and settling down. It was true that they didn't want to come in. When they come in, they might say, "The pond I'm going to stay is too small! so better to leave."

But now that Melvin University is slowly established and the four-year B.A. course begins, so many big people are coming in. They can ask me to put their name up, or how much we pay them! It's something like that. It is thought of as phenomena that occur in growing and developing. I try to take it as a natural process.

But it doesn't matter if big people try to come in. The problem is in our preparation that they do not meet what they want. In a way, the pond has grown (Hardware), but there is still no internal (Software) to accept such large people.

First of all, those who want to come in offer us three requests: airplane tickets, salaries, and accommodation. It usually comes from the United States, the United Kingdom, and Korea, but the request for a round-trip plane ticket makes sense. Since it's a university, I guess they are thinking that we can do that. But the salary is quite a

different and problem. Professors coming from the UK are usually from Oxford University (those introduced by our honorary chancellor) and seem to be demanding in British pounds. The British pound is much more expensive than the U.S. dollar, which is a considerable burden. What they're asking for seems to be thinking of 10 times the salary of the locals here. The third is the accommodation, which is easy for male professors, but when female professors come, the preparation for accommodation is also very burdensome.

Another consideration is for our students, which may be directly related to the above problem. This is a university in poor Africa, and furthermore, a school in a very rural area. The students here also know that they are referred to as "black continents" from the outside. It means that Africa is the place where it is difficult to live.

So when I introduce our school to people outside, I always [in Africa] University emphasizes, because most people think that Melvin University is in the United States, Korea, or another country, and imagine it as rich as American universities.

Developing schools and, on the other hand, financial burdens are our main concerns now. So I think we need a little more time. The local professors and school staff here have never been to any country other than Africa, so they are satisfied with a small salary and work with gratitude. This is because they enter the competition of 20 to 1 even if they select one professor or employee. The reality here is that it is difficult to find a job.

When is the time to expect a big fish to come in, but now it seems that another worry is beginning. However, this is a grateful concern because it is possible that the school has developed that much.