

100 Next-Era CEOs IN ASIA 2010

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Office Kitaoka Inc. CEO Taiten Kitaoka

Year of birth 1956

Birthplace Wakayama/Japan

Message to young people

So long as you know what you really want to do, the only thing that can interrupt you from achieving your goal is the idea that "it is impossible for me." The key to succeeding in life is to have optimistic confidence that makes you believe it is possible for you? whatever anyone says? and the commitment in which you are determined to sacrifice anything to realize what you really want.

Have the spirit of "leaping before seeing" and find what you really want to do. Go out of Japan and lift the status of Japan internationally and make Japan more active and lively.



I suffered from cerebral palsy when I was 4 months old and became partially paralyzed. I went through many traumatic incidents when I was young and had difficulty adjusting myself to society, suffering with PTSD (post-traumatic stress disorder) and borderline personality disorder.

So I was a troublemaker in junior high and got involved in left-wing student activism in high school. The counterculture, hippie culture and rock culture of America's West Coast influenced me when I was in high school and they shaped how I live.

It took me two years after graduating high school to enter a university and I repeated a year at university. I wrote my graduation thesis in French about Marcel Proust's novel "In Search of Lost Time." I think university days were the most barren time in my life.

Upon graduation, I went to the Sahara Desert and worked as a French language interpreter for three years. Then I became a disciple of an Indian guru and lived on the West Coast of the U.S. I moved to London when I got married.

I lived in London for about 20 years, working as a cross-culture communication consultant, coach, interpreter and translator. My clients during that time included relatives of Winston Churchill, Princess Anne, top management of F1, the Church of England. Meanwhile, I learned NLP (Neuro-Linguistic Programming), which is an approach of communication psychology, directly from its founders and gained qualifications. In that process, I overcame my own traumas completely. I came back to Japan in 2002 after getting divorced.