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Executive Director of Human Resources, and the cocktail “Chairperson” — at the d’Angleterre Hotel Copenhagen

“In January 2025, I was effectively dismissed from a full-time hospital position in the Tokyo metropolitan area, where I had worked continuously for ten years. Fortunately, in April, I was able to secure a new full-time position at another hospital. It was a pleasure meeting the Executive Director of Human Resources in Copenhagen. I appreciate being addressed as ‘Dr. Shida’ during my stay at the d’Angleterre Hotel on May 17 and 18, 2025. In Japan as well, at first-class hotels, I am respectfully addressed as ‘Dr. Shida’ rather than ‘Mr. Shida.’ ” [Reference: “Paper on March 31, 2025 (Japan)” on the academic homepage “chairperson.jp”]

May 18, 2025

Mr. Lucas Johansson
General Manager
d’Angleterre Hotel
Copenhagen, Denmark

Dear Mr. Lucas Johansson,

I stayed at the d’Angleterre Hotel Copenhagen on May 17 and 18, 2025. I appreciate your kindness in allowing me to stay at the d’Angleterre Hotel Copenhagen and to give a comment to you, as I did at Osaka University, on May 18, 2025.

Mr. Lucas Johansson : General Manager of the d'Angleterre Hotel Copenhagen (May 18, 2025)

Dr. Shida provides an explanation to Mr. Lucas Johansson

This is my first time to Copenhagen. When it comes to Copenhagen, the Little Mermaid statue is by far the most famous. However, as you may know, it is often referred to as one of the “world’s three most disappointing tourist attractions,” along with the Merlion in Singapore and the Manneken Pis in Brussels.

Explanation by ChatGPT 4o in 2025

The “Three Major Letdowns of the World” is not an official designation, but commonly refers to tourist spots that visitors often find underwhelming — being smaller or less impressive than expected. The three most frequently mentioned are as follows:

1) Merlion Statue (Singapore)

A symbol of Singapore, often criticized as “smaller than expected” or “obscured by tall buildings.” However, since its relocation to Merlion Park in 2002, the surrounding area has been enhanced with fountains, lighting, and better photo opportunities. The statue now receives more favorable reviews, with many saying it was “better than expected,” and there are increasing voices to remove it from the list of letdowns.

2) Manneken Pis (Brussels)

This globally known statue stands only about 55 cm tall, leading many to comment that it was underwhelming in person.

3) The Little Mermaid Statue (Copenhagen)

Based on the famous fairy tale by Hans Christian Andersen, the statue is about 1.25 meters tall and quietly placed at the edge of the harbor, which can make it feel unimpressive to some.

Despite being labeled as letdowns, these sites still attract many visitors and remain popular tourist destinations due to their unique charm and cultural significance.

Forklaring af ChatGPT 4o i 2025 (Danish)

“Verdens tre store skuffelser” er ikke en officiel betegnelse, men bruges ofte om turistattraktioner, som besøgende finder mindre imponerende end forventet – enten fordi de er små eller virker uanselige. De tre mest nævnte steder er:

1) Merlion-statuen (Singapore)

Et symbol på Singapore, ofte kritiseret for at være “mindre end forventet” eller “skjult bag høje bygninger.” Men siden flytningen til Merlion Park i 2002 er området blevet forbedret med springvand, belysning og gode fotomuligheder. I dag får statuen flere positive anmeldelser, og mange mener, at den bør fjernes fra listen over skuffelser.

2) Manneken Pis (Bruxelles)

Denne verdensberømte statue er kun ca. 55 cm høj, hvilket får mange til at finde den skuffende i virkeligheden.

3) Den lille Havfrue (København)

Inspireret af H.C. Andersens eventyr, er statuen kun omkring 1,25 meter høj og står stille ved havnens kant, hvilket kan virke lidt uanseligt for nogle.

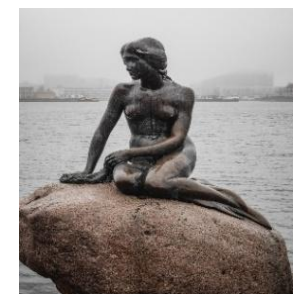
På trods af deres ry som “skuffelser” tiltrækker disse steder fortsat mange turister og er fortsat populære på grund af deres særlige charme og kulturelle betydning.



8.6m



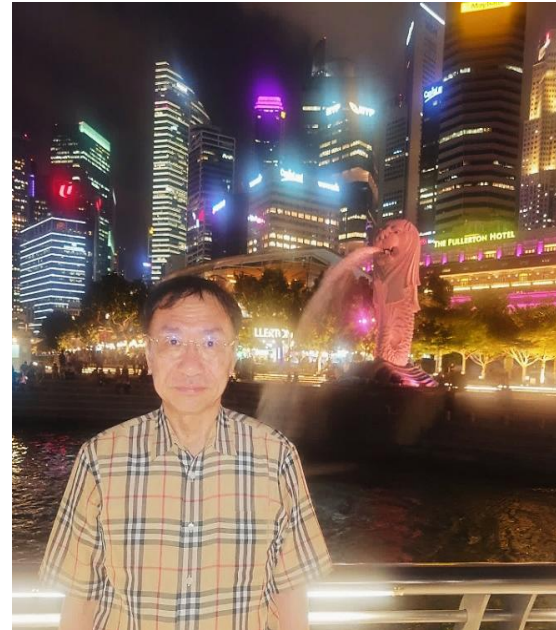
55cm



1.25m



In Brussels around March 1985 (23y.o.)



In Singapore on October 22, 2024 (62y.o.)



**In Copenhagen on May 17, 2025
(63y.o.)**

General Manager Johansson, last month (April 2025), I expressed my interest in joining the Ark Hills Club (Tokyo) — one of Japan’s premier members-only clubs, known as a “modern, international, and business-oriented social club.” Among the top-tier clubs, including the Tokyo Club, often referred to as “the pinnacle of social clubs,” and the Kasumigaseki Hill Club, known as “a hidden retreat for intellectual elites,” it was the Ark Hills Club that I wished to join. Accordingly, I mailed the following letter of recommendation request, dated April 8, 2025, to Mr. Haruo Mori, Executive Vice President of Mori Building Co., Ltd. However, on April 10, 2025, I received a reply from Executive Vice President Mori stating, “I must respectfully decline to recommend you.” Regrettably, I (Dr. Shida) was therefore unable to gain admission. That said, was I “disappointed”? In fact, I was not disappointed at all. [Reference: “Paper on April 8, 2025 (Ark Hills Club, Japan) and Paper on April 14, 2025 (Ark Hills Club, Japan)” on the academic homepage “chairperson.jp”]

The statue of the Little Mermaid in Copenhagen is often imagined to be quite large, owing to the fame of Hans Christian Andersen. However, when people see it in person, many feel let down by the stark contrast between their expectations and reality. Similarly, on March 24, 2025, when I had a brief five-minute conversation with Ms. Yuki KIGORO, General Manager of the Roppongi Hills Club, to express my intention to request a recommendation from Executive Vice President Mori, I noticed that her expression clouded over almost instantly in the corridor of the club. Witnessing her reaction, I realized that I had already formed an impression of Mr. Mori as someone “not particularly big-hearted,” even before making the actual request. As such, I have been fortunate not to experience any sense of disappointment to this day. Mr. Mori is a brilliant graduate of the Faculty of Economics at the University of Tokyo, Japan’s top national institution. Unfortunately, the disgraceful manner of suddenly dropping one’s head in front of others—and the character traits that accompany such behavior—has long been widely recognized in Tokyo.



The statue of the Little Mermaid in Copenhagen is often imagined to be quite large, owing to the name value of Hans Christian Andersen. However, when people see it in person, many feel let down by the gap between expectation and reality. In a similar vein, on March 24, 2025, at the Roppongi Hills Club, I spoke briefly—about five minutes—with Ms. Yuki KIGORO, General Manager of both the Roppongi Hills Club and the Ark Hills Club, to express my intention to request a recommendation for Executive Vice President Mori. During our brief exchange in the corridor of the Club, I saw her facial expression cloud over almost immediately. Witnessing this, I was reminded that I had already formed an impression of Mr. Mori—as someone “**small-hearted**”—even before making the actual request. As a result, I have fortunately never felt any disappointment. Mr. Mori is a brilliant graduate of the Faculty of Economics at the University of Tokyo, Japan’s top national institution. Unfortunately, the vulgar and disgraceful manner of suddenly dropping one’s head in the presence of others—and the “**character**” that accompanies such conduct—has long been widely recognized in Tokyo as emblematic of many among that university’s students, alumni, and faculty members.

As a side note, as widely reported across the globe, on March 9, 2025, in connection with the situation in Ukraine, Polish Foreign Minister Radosław Sikorski stated, “If SpaceX’s Starlink proves to be an unreliable provider, we will be forced to look for other suppliers.” It remains fresh in our memory that Mr. Elon Musk, in response, was compelled to refer to the foreign minister—who has made notable contributions to his country from a political standpoint—as a “Little guy.”



Mr. Hiroo MORI



Mr. Elon Musk



Mr. Radosław Sikorski

In addition, the following is the comment I submitted through the ANA (All Nippon Airways) customer feedback survey on April 22, 2025.

On April 20, 2025, while using ANA Flight 026 from Osaka Itami Airport to Tokyo Haneda Airport, I experienced an unfortunate situation upon arrival at Haneda and while disembarking from the aircraft. The female cabin crew member who had been in charge of my seat sharply and forcefully bowed her head like a chicken, directly in front of me in the aisle. Although I assume she did not intend any offense, regrettably, her manner of bowing strongly resembled the vulgar and distasteful behavior often observed among the majority of students, graduates, and faculty members of the University of Tokyo, a national institution. As a result, I was left with a similar unfavorable impression that day.



ANA, Japan's largest airline, has unfortunately allowed its "Inspiration of Japan" brand to degenerate into the vulgar and disgraceful manners—both verbal and non-verbal—exhibited by Japan's most brilliant national university, the University of Tokyo. During routine interactions with customers on ANA international flights, cabin attendants also frequently ask, "Is it okay? (*Daijoubu desu ka?*)" or simply "Okay? (*Daijoubu?*)" instead of using the more formal "Would it be all right? (*Yoroshii desu ka?*)" Elegance is absent from such ways of thinking. [Reference: "Paper on January 6, 2021 (Roppongi Hills Club, Japan)" on the academic homepage "chairperson.jp"]

Sincerely,

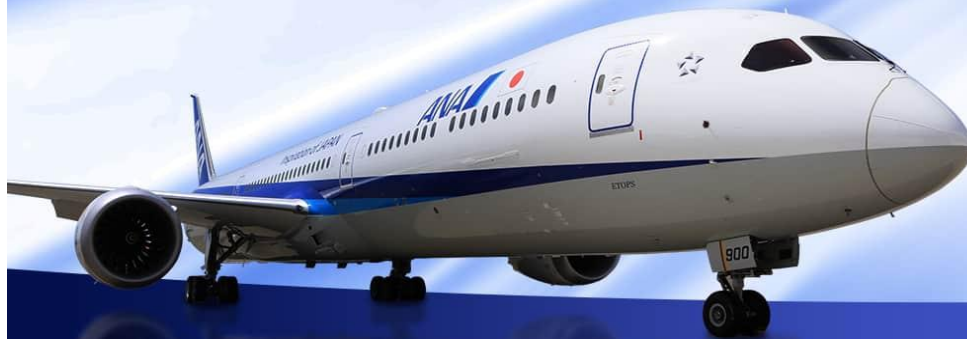
Yukihisa SHIDA, M.D., Ph.D.

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Team Doctor of the Japan Table Tennis Team (1990-1994)

Chairperson of the International Table Tennis Federation Sports Science Congress (1991)

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(Source: ANA’s Official Website)

Japanese Translation 日本語訳

コペンハーゲンといえば、人魚姫の像が圧倒的に有名ですが、ご存じの通り、シンガポールのマーライオン像、ブリュッセルの小便小僧と共に「世界三大がっかり」と言われています。

ChatGPT 4o による解説、2025 年 (Japanese)

「世界三大がっかり」は正式な定義ではありませんが、多くの観光客が「期待よりも小さい」「地味だった」と感じた経験に基づいて、以下の3つの名所が挙げられることが一般的です。

1) マーライオン像 (シンガポール)

シンガポールの象徴ながら「思ったより小さい」「高層ビルに埋もれて目立たない」との声が多く、「がっかり名所」とされてきました。しかし、2002年にマーライオンパークへ移設され、噴水やライトアップ、記念撮影に適した環境が整備されたことで、「顔が見えるようになった」と好評を得るようになり、現在では「思ったより良かった」との評価も増え、「三大がっかり」から除外する声も多くなっています。

2) 小便小僧 (ブリュッセル)

世界的に有名な像ですが、高さは約55cmしかなく、「実際に見ると拍子抜けした」という感想を持つ人も少なくありません。

3) 人魚姫の像 (コペンハーゲン)

アンデルセン童話に基づいた像で人気がありますが、全高約1.25mと小さく、港の片隅にひっそりと置かれているため地味に感じられることがあります。

これらの名所は「がっかり」と言われつつも、独自の魅力と歴史的背景から観光地としての人気は依然として高いままです。

General Manager、私先月(2025年4月)、日本 Top Class の会員制 Club である「社交 Club の最高峰」東京 Club、「知的 Elite のための隠れ家」霞山会、そして「現代的・国際的・Business 志向の会員制社交 Club」である Ark Hills Club のうち、Ark Hills Club への入会を希望し、別記の推薦依頼状を、2025年4月8日付で森ビル株式会社の森治生副社長宛に郵送させていただきました。

しかしながら、2025 年 4 月 10 日、森副社長より「私をご推薦いただくのは、辞退させていただきます」とのご返答を頂戴し、残念ながら入会には至りませんでした。それで私が「がっかり」したかと申しますと、実のところ「がっかり」はいたしておりません。

Copenhagen の人魚姫の像は、Andersen の Name Value から大きな像を Image されがちですが、実際に対面するとその Gap により、「がっかり」される方が多いようです。同様に、2025 年 3 月 24 日、六本木 Hills Club にて、六本木 Hills Club ならびに Ark Hills Club の木頃由紀総支配人に、森副社長への推薦をご依頼申し上げるに際し、5 分間ほどお話を伺いましたところ、Club の通路にて木頃総支配人のお顔がみるみるうちに曇られました。そのご様子を拝見し、森副社長におきましては、推薦依頼前より私の中で「小さい方」との Image を抱いておりましたため、幸いにも「がっかり」することなく現在に至っております。また国立東京大学経済学部ご出身の秀才でいらっしゃるようですが、残念ながら、同大の学生、卒業生、教官は、他人の前でご自身の頭をガクッと落とすという下品で醜い Manner を身に付けておられる方が大多数であり、その様な「人となり（ご性格）」は、長年、東京で広く知られていますところではあります。

なお余談ですが、世界中で報道されました通り、2025 年 3 月 9 日 Ukraine 情勢に関連して、Poland の Radosław Sikorski 外相が「SpaceX 社の Starlink が信頼できない Provider である場合、他の Supplier を探さざるを得ない」と述べられ、Elon Musk 氏が政治面から国家に功績のおありになる外相について「Little Guy（小さなやつ）」と言わざるを得なかったことは、記憶に新しいところです。

また以下文書は、私が 2025 年 4 月 22 日に ANA お客様アンケートへ記載させていただいた内容です。

2025 年 4 月 20 日、大阪伊丹空港発 東京羽田空港行 ANA 026 便を利用しました際、羽田空港に到着し飛行機を降りる時に、私の席を担当していた女性客室乗務員が、通路私の目の前正面で、鶏の様に勢いよくご自身の頭を大きく下げられました。ご本人に悪気はなかったのでしょうが、残念ながらそのご様子は国立東京大学の学生、卒業生、教官の大多数にみられます下品で醜い Manner と酷似していらっしゃいまして、同日は同様の印象を受けることとなりました。

日本最大の航空会社 ANA の「Inspiration of Japan」は、日本最高の秀才大学、国立東京大学の「下品で醜い Manner」と同じになってしまわれました。国際線機内でも、乗客が、客室乗務員から丁寧な「よろしいですか？」ではなく、「大丈夫ですか？」「大丈夫？」と尋ねられることが珍しくなく、その考え方に、気品は存在しません。