

Implementing Your Own Ideas for Job Satisfaction

You *CAN* improve and develop your job for your town and for yourself.

- * What is your job like now?
- * What do you do at work?
- * What are other people in different places doing?
- * What do you want to do at work?

The Building Blocks for changing your job:

1. Attitude

- * Think positive, be outgoing and approachable (don't be shy)
- * Put yourself out there
- * Never give up!
- * Talk to everyone and be the one to reach out
- * Use your unique position to you say things others can't (both serious and joking)
 - Share your different viewpoint (appropriately)
 - Don't be afraid to stick to your guns when you know you're right
 - Be patient and keep perspective about your coworkers
 - Look for a balance between your way and 'the Japanese way.'

2. Networking

Make connections at work

- * get to know as many people from as many different sections as possible, incl. *erai hito*
- * Always attend office parties and trips
- * Talking after work sometimes for 15 minutes or so
- * Accept invitations (within reason)
- * Find someone at work you can connect with and learn from. They can advise you about the workplace and office politics.

Make connections in the community

- * Talk to the locals (kids, old people, everyone). Make yourself available.
- * Get to know other JETs and help each other out (socially and at work)
- * Community Organisations – e.g. International Centre and Volunteer groups.
- * Local businesses, also other non-JET foreign groups
- * Sporting and hobby groups, and the importance of local festivals

Strategies for overcoming refusals and getting things done

- * Negotiate and compromise. Understand and use *nemawashi*
- * Think of how and why you might be refused then write a proposal
- * Refer to precedent in other cities and/or prefectures.
- * Be willing to volunteer at first if necessary
- * Confide in the right people and get good advice
- * Calm down, cool off, and be persistent. Think long term and don't give up!