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Monday, July 22, 2002

Japan Today's Takanori Kobayashi dropped into Shinjuku to ask:

## Do you think more Japanese companies should have foreign CEOs?



"Japanese corporations have a unique management style which isn't suitable for foreign CEOs in most cases. I don't think simply replacing Japanese CEOs with foreigners will improve a company's business performance."





"CEOs cannot improve a company's business performance drastically. It's up to the employees. Their efforts are more important than who serves as CEO. I don't know if foreign CEOs are better than Japanese ones. However, I'm sure that the current CEOs of big Japanese companies lack understanding of their employees and customers."

- Akiroh Shimazaki, 74



"I agree with the idea because foreign CEOs may value employees based on their abilities rather than how long they have been with the company."

- Takuma Sato, 23



"It's an interesting idea, I think. Foreign CEOs can bring a lot of positive ideas to Japanese companies."

- Yuichiro Nagasaki, 22



"The nationality of CEOs doesn't matter, but rather whether the person in charge is able to manage a company well. It's the same as athletes. Who cares what the nationality of a great player is?"

- Kohki Matsuura. 24



"Foreign CEOs will do a better job than Japanese ones. It's just my feeling, but I have had enough of seeing Japanese company presidents frequently apologizing on TV for mistakes and scandals."

- Yohsuke Ichinose, 21



"If foreigners become CEOs of Japanese companies, communication problems will definitely emerge due to language differences. So it shouldn't be rushed into. However, adding foreigners to the board of management will be good because they'll bring a different perspective on the business."

- Jun Nishimura, 20



"Japanese companies should be managed by Japanese CEOs. Certainly, after seeing the success of Nissan's CEO Carlos Ghosn with my own eyes, I admit that foreign CEOs seem better than Japanese ones. Japan's corporate bosses had better wake themselves up."

- Kohnosuke Uchida, 21

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