Some men swapping pants for dresses

By MAYA KANEKO  Kyodo News

Style-conscious Japanese males have brought the skirt, a garment synonymous with femininity, to the forefront of cutting-edge men’s fashion.

As the man, who declined to be identified, said he first bought a skirt by Comme des Garçons, a Japanese brand, 6 years above 10 years ago and noted that many skirts were introduced by fashion designers long before the recent boom among young men.

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The man, who declined to be identified, said he first bought a skirt by Comme des Garçons, a Japanese brand, more than 10 years ago and noted that many skirts were introduced by fashion designers long before the recent boom among young men.

Yuki Togashi, a 19-year-old college student from Chiba Prefecture, said he started wearing clothes imported from other parts of Asia, including Afghanistan, around his waist over his trousers to “kick out.”

“At the time I was looking for a style that my friends wouldn’t copy,” he said.

Daisuke Kumamoto, an 18-year-old high school student dressed in a pant skirt, confessed that nobody wanted to sit next to him and he drew cold stares from other passersby when he was on a train wearing a skirt in Kanagawa Prefecture.

But he said he likes the shape of the skirt and pant skirts and that their loose form make them comfortable. “It’s no fun if you look too much at the same,” Kumamoto said.

To the surprise of Yamamoto and Zooee President Koichiro Yoshida, the online shop aims to “promote men’s skirts that are also supported by women” and hopes the current popularity does not end up a mere fad.

PhD in human development, the garment. They blend easily into the crowd. One might not even notice that they coordinate knee-high socks with other styles, including aprons, as well as pant skirts and long skirts, which look like a pair of trousers, and ¥13,000, sending the business into the black in just one month.

The shop sells men’s and women’s skirts, including wraps, and the skirt is appealing as something new.” The online shop aims to promote “men’s skirts that are also supported by women” and hopes the current popularity does not end up a mere fad.

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Capitalizing on the growing interest in skirts among Japanese men, Naohiro Yamamoto, himself a skirt wearer, said the reasonably priced skirts sold at Zooee’s online shop Cross Gender were widely accepted by men mainly in their early 20s not only in Tokyo but also in regional cities, including Sendai, Fukuoka and Osaka.

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