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## Supporting children with Filipino heritage as they prepare for school entry



There are around 44,000 non-Japanese nationals in Gifu Prefecture (as of December 2015), and more and more people are settling down as permanent and long-term residents. As a result, there has also been an increase in the number of non-Japanese primary and middle school pupils in Gifu Prefecture, and the majority require support with learning Japanese. At GIC, we believe that it is important to make sure that no child faces these problems in the future, so that they can be independent and successful in their lives in Japan.

It is important to provide children with Japanese language education, as well as the background knowledge that they need in day-to-day school life, before they enter primary school. At the same time, the children's parents and guardians also need to be provided with accurate information on the Japanese education system, the paperwork needed when starting school, and the role of parents and guardians in the school community.

In response to this, GIC has carried out the following projects this year in Gifu and Mizuho, where there are rapidly increasing populations of Filipino residents, to help support children with Filipino heritage and their guardians as they prepare for school entry.



### 1. School Entry Preparation Class (for children who are not in kindergarten)

This project aims to help support children with Filipino roots who are not in kindergarten to prepare for elementary school life by providing Japanese instruction and explaining social rules.

- When: Weekdays from April to September, 2016.
- Where: Gifu City

### 2. School Entry Preparation (for children in daycare)

This project helps support children with Filipino roots who are already attending daycare.

- When: Once a week from April to September 2016.
- Where: Mizuho City Public Health Center

We also provide information in Tagalog for parents and guardians explaining their child's progress and how to prepare for elementary school.

If you are interested in registering your child for a school entry preparation class, or to find out more details, please contact GIC.

\*This project is carried out with the co-operation of Gifu International Association.

## Notices from Gifu International Center

### Hello Gifu, Hello World 2016

Are you interested in getting to know more about world cultures?

Every year, GIC works together with Gifu International Association (GIA) to hold an annual international exchange day. This year, the main event will be Latin music and dance performances! There'll be songs and dances from around the world, including Brazilian samba, at the Waku Waku Hiroba (in front of Takashimaya Department Store), as well as cultural displays, stalls selling traditional crafts, and the chance to try on folk costumes at stalls in Cinex Hall, organised by international associations from around Gifu Prefecture. Please come along and invite your friends!

When : 10:00 – 15:00, Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> July

Where : Cinex Hall, Waku Waku Stage

(in front of Takashimaya Department Store)  
(20-2 Hinode-machi, Gifu-shi (Inside Yanagase Market))

Who : Japanese & Non-Japanese residents (around 3000 people every year!)

Contact : Gifu International Association Office 058-214-7703

The GIC CIRs will also have their own stall.  
We look forward to seeing you there!

**Ais Kacang:**  
A Malaysian Dessert



# Messages from the GIC CIRs

## Goodbye from Laura Mackley

Hello! I'm Laura, the British CIR. Although I can't quite believe that it's already been nearly two whole years since I came to GIC in the summer of 2014, the time has come for me to leave Gifu this August.

Looking back to when I first arrived in Gifu, there were many things that I didn't yet understand. There was also so much that I felt uncertain about – my first real job, life in Japan, being so far away from my friends and family. However, thanks to the support of the other CIRs, I was able to get used to things bit by bit and really enjoy my everyday life here, and I feel as though I've learned a lot since coming to Gifu. My time as a CIR has been filled with exciting new challenges and opportunities to develop as a person. I am so grateful to everyone who came to my English classes and to English Circle for showing me around Gifu, taking me hiking, and introducing me to some absolutely delicious restaurants. Through your kindness, I was able to make some wonderful memories. Thank you so much for everything!

Although the UK is a very distant country, and there isn't much that connects the UK and Gifu in particular, I hope that my work here at GIC has helped raise interest in the UK and led people to want to find out more about my country.

Finally, if I get the chance, I would love to come back and visit Gifu again. When I do, let's meet up!

Goodbye everyone! Thanks for all the memories!

皆様、さよなら!素敵な思い出をありがとう!



大家好。  
让我们一起用“沟通”，架起心与心的桥梁  
皆さん、こんにちは。  
コミュニケーションを通し、心と心の橋をかけていこう



Hello everyone. My name is Wu Shuang, and I come from Jiangxi Province, China. I studied Japanese for 4 years at a university in China, and for 3 years as a graduate student in Japan. Since graduating, I have been teaching Japanese to Chinese university students for 7 years. Although I have been involved with the Japanese language for over ten years, this is my first experience of living in Japan. I am really happy to have the opportunity to live and work as a Coordinator for International Relations in Gifu Prefecture, which is twinned with Jiangxi Province. Jiangxi is a mainland province located on the southern bank of the Yangtze River, and like Gifu Prefecture, it is a very mountainous region. It is home to Mount Lushan, which is a designated UNESCO World Heritage site that has been famous for the grandeur, rarity, steepness and beauty of its landscapes throughout the ages. This has even led to the Chinese saying *kuāng lú qí xiù jiǎ tiān xià* (the magnificence of Mount Lushan is unrivalled throughout the world). Jingdezhen City, in north-east Jiangxi Province, has been renowned throughout history for its porcelain. The English word for China was named after china porcelain, and the historical name for Jingdezhen City was once itself synonymous with pottery. Coming from not only the country China, but also the birthplace of china porcelain, I aim to do my best to strengthen the friendship that links Gifu Prefecture and Jiangxi Province. It is my sincere wish that through introducing Chinese culture and current affairs to everyone here in Gifu, and by meeting and getting to know many different people, we can develop our mutual understanding and build an even closer relationship between our two countries. One of my favourite Japanese phrases is *ishindenshin* (understanding each other tacitly, lit. heart-to-heart communication). I will do my best to put love and kindness into my work through Chinese culture salons, language teaching, and cooking classes, and to engage in communication with all of my heart. I look forward to meeting you all.

## Hello from Wu Shuang

## Hello from Tiemi Silvia Ywamoto

Hello everyone. My name is Tiemi Silvia Ywamoto, and I have been working at Gifu International Center as a Coordinator for International Relations from April onwards. I come from Goiânia, which is in the Brazilian State of Goiás. Goiás is located in Brazil's central region, and is also known as 'the heart of Brazil'. It is rich with nature, and is hot throughout the year. I haven't adjusted to Gifu's cold weather yet, but I'll try my best to adapt.

As you might guess from my name, I am a third-generation Japanese Brazilian. This is also my fourth time in Japan. As my parents came to Japan to work when I was young, I was able to experience Japan's fantastic compulsory education system from the fifth year of elementary school until the third year of junior high school. After graduating from junior high school, I worked at a company that manufactures automobile parts for one year. After returning to Brazil, I worked as a Japanese teacher at Goiás Japanese Model School (located inside Goiás City's Japan-Brazil Association) from 2002 until March this year. In 2008, I had the opportunity to attend a 4-month Japanese teacher training course at JICA Yokohama International Center, and in January 2010, I returned to Japan again as an instructor to lead JICA training sessions for students learning Japanese.

After graduating from high school whilst continuing my involvement with the Japanese language, I studied international relations at university, hoping to have a Japan-related career. Although this is my fourth time in Japan, it is my first time coming to Gifu Prefecture, so I am very excited to be here. I'm looking forward to learning a lot from everyone in Gifu, and hope that I can contribute my own experiences here too.

Vamos aproveitar o Rio2016 e aprimorar conhecimentos sobre o Brasil!

リオ五輪を機にブラジルについての理解を深めよう!





# Interviews with People from Around the World

There are around 44,000 non-Japanese nationals living in Gifu Prefecture, including people from China, Brazil and the Philippines. We carried out interviews to find out about the lives of people who have come to live in Gifu, and hear what they have to say!

Name: **Zhang Yi**

Country: **The Republic of China**



Q) Please introduce yourself.

A) Hello! My name is Zhang Yi, and I work for an IT company in Gifu City. I come from China, and have been living in Japan for 8 years.

Q) What is your home country like?

A) Well, it's Japan's next-door-neighbour! (laughs). China is the home of one of the Four Great Civilisations, and has been known for its culture throughout the ages. There are 56 ethnic groups and 13.7 hundred million people living in China. There are also a diverse range of cuisines, and many tourist locations. Climate, dialects, food culture and ways of life vary from region to region. Where I'm from, Hubei Province, the four seasons are very distinct from each other, just like Gifu, but Hubei has a more humid climate (maybe it's because of the difference between island and land-locked climates?).

Q) What kind of work are you doing in Japan?

A) I develop business software that is produced and sold by my company. At the moment, my work mainly involves software design.

Q) Why did you decide to come to Japan?

A) Because of Sailor Moon! When I was a middle school student I loved Sailor Moon, and hoping to visit Japan one day, I decided to study Japanese as my minor subject during my second year at university. After graduating, I was recruited by a Japanese company and came to Japan. The main headquarters of the company that recruited me are in Gifu City, which is how I came to live in Gifu.

Q) What do you think about life in Gifu?

A) When I first came here I saw the rice fields and thought that Gifu was pretty rural, and was surprised by how few people there were. However, I have come to appreciate the opportunity to experience the gentleness and nature of Gifu through my daily life here. There weren't any rice fields or vegetable patches around where I grew up, so when I came to Gifu and first saw the rice harvest with my own two eyes, I got my camera out and took a picture straight away. I was so excited! I also love seeing stalls of vegetables freshly picked first thing in the morning, lined up along the sides of the vegetable fields. The great thing about morning markets is that you can meet the people who made the crops!

Q) What are the differences and similarities between your home country and Japan?

A) Outdoor hot springs! When I first got here, I couldn't believe that people could get naked in public, especially at mixed-gender baths! (laughs) In China, people wear swimsuits when they go to hot springs. Also, everyone can swim! Japanese children learn how to swim at school, but when I was young, we didn't have any swimming lessons. Our physical education was mostly based around field and track. Many people learned how to swim outside of school. By the way, I can't swim even now (laughs).

When you think about it, there really are a lot of differences between our countries, even though they're both part of the Asian continent. It could be interesting to compare these little differences in day-to-day life.

Q) Do you have many opportunities to meet with and get to know Japanese people in your daily life? If you don't, would you like to have more opportunities to do so?

A) I have a lot of opportunities to get to know my work colleagues, but I don't really have those opportunities outside of work. I'd like to get to know more people in my day-to-day life.

Q) What do you think could be done to help promote multiculturalism in Japan?

A) I think the most important thing is to provide more opportunities for cultural exchange and experiences. Exchange is a mutual thing, and although the *teaching and listening* style of cultural exchange taught in schools is still important, I think that people need to *experience, speak and listen* as individuals in order to fully understand other cultures.

Q) Based on your experiences, do you have any advice for people learning foreign languages, or on integrating with unfamiliar cultures?

A) Personally, I think that the most important thing is to think in the foreign language you're learning. You gain a deeper understanding of the language by including the original nuances than you do from mentally translating everything back into your native language.

Q) Do you have a message that you'd like to send out to Japanese people?

A) Gifu is blessed with rich nature and kind people, and has a serenity about it that can't be found in more urban areas. I want more people to know about this kindness and experience it for themselves. Also, I sincerely hope that our countries can continue to exchange meaningfully and on a long-term basis, learning from each other's strengths and supporting each other's weaknesses. If you have the chance, please come and visit China!

Thank you very much!

## ◆ China Facts ◆

**Official Name** : The People's Republic of China (PRC)  
**Capital** : Beijing  
**Largest Cities** : Shanghai, Chongqing  
**Area** : 9,596,961 km<sup>2</sup> (about 26 times the size of Japan)  
**Official Language**: Standard Chinese  
**Population** : Around 1.3 billion

**Currency**: Renminbi (CNY)  
**GDP** : Around \$8.25 billion (2012)  
**Flag** : 5 yellow stars arranged in the top-left corner, with a red background. The flag is known in Chinese as *wǔxīng hóngqí*, or 'five-star red flag'. The yellow represents hope, and the red represents revolution.

\*Data taken from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan

### What is Hubei Province like?

Hubei Province is located along the middle course of the Yangtze River and borders Henan and Shaanxi Provinces to the north, Anhui Province to the east, Jiangxi and Hunan to the south, and Chongqing to the west. The province was named Hubei (lit. 'north of the lake') as it lies on the north shore of Dongting Lake. It has an area of 185,900 km<sup>2</sup>, and a population of around 5.81 million. There is a large plain in southern Hubei Province, whilst the northern and western regions are more mountainous. The Wudang Mountains are the home of a famous Taoist temple complex that is a designated UNESCO World Heritage site.

The capital of the province, Wuhan, is the location of one of the Four Great Towers of China, the Yellow Crane Tower, and is a popular tourist spot. Wuhan is also known for the Wuhan Yangtze River Bridge, the first combined rail and road bridge to be constructed across the Yangtze River.

\*Data taken from official statistics released by the Hubei Province government.

The Yellow Crane Tower at night. (Photo taken from hubei.gov.cn)



# Information for Foreign Residents



Every year, GIC uploads a list of organisations that provide multilingual consultation services to our homepage. Here are a few examples of the organisations available through our list, and the kinds of consultations that they often deal with. Please take a look and get in touch if you are interested!

To see the full list of consultation services, please access our website via the following link:  
<http://www.gic.or.jp/foreigner/foreignlang/>



## Gifu Prefectural Housing Corporation

You can apply for public housing (e.g. prefectural housing, Ogaki City housing etc) at Gifu Prefectural Housing Corporation. Public housing is mainly used by people who have trouble finding other accommodation. If you find yourself experiencing any of the problems listed in the box on the right, and are interested in public housing, then please contact the Gifu Prefectural Housing Corporation.

- My rent is extremely high compared to my salary.
- It takes far too long for me to commute to work.
- My current home is not a safe, hygienic environment.
- I am experiencing housing problems for any other reason than those listed above.

### FAQs

- Q. I want to apply for public housing. What sort of documents do I need to prepare?**  
 A. It depends largely on your household's situation. To find out more, please visit the Gifu Prefectural Housing Corporation in person or call for more information.
- Q. How can I find out vacancy information for public housing?**  
 A. Check the homepage (<http://juko.gifu-djr.or.jp/>) or call directly for vacancy information.
- Q. Where is public housing available?**  
 A. Public housing is available in Gifu City, Kitagata, Ogaki, Tarui, Tajimi, Toki and Takayama.



Organisation Name	Languages	Opening Days	Opening Hours	Telephone
Gifu Prefectural Housing Corporation	Portuguese	Thursdays	10:00 -17:00	0584-81-8502

## Hello Work (a.k.a. the Public Employment Security Office)

Hello Work is a service run by the government that helps jobseekers find work, acts as an intermediary for technical training, and provides unemployment insurance benefits. Hello Work offers a wide range of services for jobseekers, and you can receive advice on interview techniques, CV writing, and take personality tests via their consultation service.

### FAQs

- Q. I want to find out more about unemployment benefits.** **Q. I'm currently unemployed, and want to get help finding a job.**  
 A. The following Hello Work offices provide multilingual consultations. Please get in touch with the relevant office for more information.



Organisation Name	Languages	Opening Days	Opening Times	Telephone
Hello Work Gifu Gaikokujin Corner	Portuguese	Mon - Fri	9:00 - 17:00	058-206-5063
	Chinese			
	English			
	Tagalog			
Hello Work Ogaki Gaikokujin Corner	Portuguese (Spanish)	Mon - Fri	9:00 - 16:00	0584-73-9294
	Chinese	Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri	9:00 - 17:00	
Hello Work Tajimi Gaikokujin Employment Service Corner	Portuguese	Mon - Fri	10:00 - 17:00	0572-22-3384
	Tagalog (English)			
Hello Work Seki Gaikokujin Employment Service Corner	Portuguese	Mon - Fri	10:00 - 16:30	0575-22-3223
Hello Work Minokamo Gaikokujin Employment Service Corner	Portuguese	Mon - Fri	9:00 - 16:00	0574-25-2178
	Tagalog			

## Labor Office

The Labor Office is a government organisation that oversees the Labor Standards Supervision Office and Hello Work, and provides consultation services for labour-related issues. Gifu Labor Office offers Portuguese and Spanish language support (see below).

### FAQs

- Q. My company isn't paying me for overtime work.** **Q. I was fired at no notice, and don't know what to do.**  
 A. Please contact the Labor Standards Supervision Office for advice on labour issues:



Organisation Name	Languages	Opening Days	Opening Hours	Telephone
Supervision Division, Labor Standards Department, Gifu Labor Office	Portuguese, Spanish	Tues, Wed, Thurs	9:00 - 16:00	058-245-8102

## Gifu Prefecture Women's Consultation Centre

Gifu Prefecture Women's Consultation Centre is a public organization that provides consultations for women facing a diverse range of concerns and problems in their lives. Advisors at the centre work together with women to help find solutions for their problems, and provide advice and helpful information.

### FAQs

- Q. My husband/boyfriend is abusive.** **Q. I have a bad relationship with my mother-in-law.**  
 A. GIC can dispatch an interpreter to go with you to the Women's Consultation Center, so please get in touch if you need any advice.



Organisation Name	Languages	Day	Time	Telephone
Gifu Prefecture Women's Consultation Centre	Tagalog, English	Mon - Fri	By appointment	058-274-7377

Issued by:

**Gifu International Center (GIC)**  
 Gifu Chunichi Building 2F,  
 1-12 Yanagase Dori, Gifu City, 500-8875  
 Tel: 058-214-7700 Fax: 058-263-8067  
 Triophone: 058-263-8066 (Three-way telephone service for civic interpreting)  
 E-mail: [gic@gic.or.jp](mailto:gic@gic.or.jp) URL: <http://www.gic.or.jp>  
 Opening hours: Sunday to Friday 9:30am - 6:00pm  
 Closed: Saturday, Public Holidays, New Year Period  
 Languages: English, Chinese, Tagalog, Portuguese

