

Sekai wa Hitotsu



Introducing Our New CIR

Hello everyone! My name is Laura Mackley, and I've just started working at the Gifu International Center as the new Co-ordinator for International Relations (CIR).

I come from Reading, which is a large town in the south of the UK. I have been to Japan once before as an exchange student, but this is my first time coming to Gifu Prefecture. I'm very excited to have the opportunity to come and work in a place that is filled with history and beautiful scenery. In particular, there aren't really any tall mountains in the UK, so I'm enjoying waking up to the mountain scenery every day. I'm really looking forward to exploring all of Gifu and getting to know the area better, but I also hope that through culture salons, language classes, and my work as a CIR in general, the people of Gifu can learn more about my own country too. If you're interested in British culture or learning English, please come along to our events at the GIC!

I also want to give my full support to other foreigners living in the Gifu area. If you have anything worrying you or want someone to talk to, please come to our free consultation service for support and advice about life in Gifu and consultations in English.

During my time here, I hope to help pave the gap between Japan and the UK, and between Gifu and my hometown Reading, and contribute actively to international relations in Gifu Prefecture. I look forward to meeting you all at the GIC!



About the UK

Official name : The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.
Official language : English.
Capital : London.

Currency : Pound sterling (GBP).
Population : 63,181,775.
GDP : \$2.4337 trillion.



Close up

Introducing groups and individuals active in the Gifu area

NPO Citizen Support Collaboration Organization(CISCO)

Established : 2010

Representative: Tadao Saka

Address : Ogaki-shi Kuruwa-machi

1-Chome 57 (Inside Platinum Plaza)

Tel : 0584-74-5403

Fax : 0584-74-5406

E-mail : vanvavan@van-arch.jp

Website: <http://cisco-pp.com/>



Last year's community event.

● What is CISCO?

CISCO is a non-profit organisation that has taken root in Ogaki and the surrounding area. It aims to contribute to the construction and promotion of community activism and a co-operative society. Alongside managing Platinum Plaza, a multi-purpose community reception, they are carrying out projects in community-building, human resources development, and multicultural symbiosis.

● Activities

The organisation supports foreign residents living in Gifu Prefecture in a variety of ways, so that they can enjoy living in Gifu with peace of mind. One of the ways in which CISCO helps foreign residents is through Community Support Project 2014, a collaborative project with Gifu International Center.

■ Japanese/Study Support School

CISCO carries out a range of study support services meeting the needs of students, including but not limited to Japanese teaching, subject teaching, conversation/pronunciation practise and strategies for the JLPT. The classes help the students to have confidence and participate socially in their schools and places of work.

Date/time : Every Thursday from 3:30pm to 5:30pm.

Target audience : Students (junior high and above) and adults who live in the Ogaki area and who have foreign roots.

Location : Platinum Plaza multi-purpose community reception (Ogaki-shi Kuruwa-machi 1-Chome 57)

■ Home Consultations

Home consultations are generally aimed towards families with roots in other countries and who have children who are having problems at school (elementary to junior high). CISCO provides support through home visits so that their daily lives at school go smoothly. Through repeated visits, they make sure that the child is heading in a good direction for solving their problems. For those who wish them to do so, CISCO is also able to accompany parents at parent-teacher meetings.

■ Community Events

Working alongside foreign residents, CISCO staff carry out events several times a year introducing Japanese and other cultures, as well as world cuisines.

● A message from CISCO

We are proud to announce that two Chinese high school students from our Japanese/Study Support School collaboration with GIC have been accepted into university (Gifu Shotoku Gakuen University and Nagoya University of Foreign Studies), and are blending in with Japanese society. They are also participating in CISCO activities. Please come and try out one of our lessons, and have fun getting to know people from Brazil and China living in Gifu.

Careers Education Support Service Project for Foreign Youth “Behind the scenes of F.C. Gifu”

The Liaison Conference for Supporters of Foreign Youth in Gifu was established in order to ensure that young foreigners living in Gifu can develop the skills they need to become independent socially and professionally. The conference examines the various ways in which different organisations are supporting foreign youth in Gifu Prefecture. As part of the Liaison Conference’s activities, a project to support the careers education of foreign students in Gifu has been carried out with the co-operation of F.C. Gifu, three prefectural high schools, and the Gifu Prefectural Office Environment and Citizen Support Policy Division.

As there are many cases of foreign students settling down into part-time jobs and temporary work without realising their full potential, the aim of the project this time was to use football, a subject which is easy for students to relate to, as a gateway to teaching students about the wide variety of work that is available for them in their lives, and to broaden their views about their future careers so that they can hold a stronger desire to contribute to society.

Morning : Observation of the F.C. Gifu Players

In the morning, the students observed the F.C. Gifu players’ practise at Kakamigahara Sports Hiroba. The students studied the players’ techniques and methods of training with great interest. Amongst the participants, there was even one student whose dream for the future is to become a professional football player; this opportunity must have provided him with a great incentive to pursue his dreams.



[Afternoon : Behind the scenes at F.C. Gifu]

In the afternoon, the students attended a lecture held at the Nagaragawa Sports Plaza about work supporting F.C. Gifu, and listened to messages from the club.



The students listening keenly to Mr. Hayashi’s lecture.

● Lecture: ‘About work supporting F.C. Gifu’



Mr. Motohiro Hayashi, Strategic Planning and Public Relations Division Head

The students listened to a speech about how it is the wide range of people working behind the scenes to support the club, and not just the participating players, who make a fantastic match of football possible. They also heard an explanation of how Mr. Hayashi himself decided upon the course of his career, and were given advice on building a rich and meaningful future. It has surely given them some solid goals for them to consider in their future lives.

● Messages from the Club staff and players



Physical Trainer Coach Altair



Coach Altair gave a talk about the kinds of work that his job entails. The students asked many questions about the future, including one student who asked about how to end up working as a coach.



Midfielder Alessandro Santos



Alessandro Santos spoke about how he came to become a footballer, told stories of the life he has walked alongside football in Japan, and talked about his own experiences. He also spoke about the students’ dreams for the future, and gave advice on how to make them a reality.



Mr. Masayuki Yoshikawa of the Management Division:About F.C. Gifu



Mr. Yoshikawa gave a speech about the work carried out by the Management Division, and about F.C. Gifu’s vision of bringing new energy to Gifu and providing children with dreams. He talked about how in every field of work, each person is working towards some sort of goal or vision, and contributes something to society.

Schedule of the Day

10am –Observing the F.C. Gifu players’ practise
1:30pm–Lecture “About work supporting F.C. Gifu”
(Strategic Planning and Public Relations Division Head Motohiro Hayashi)
2pm –Working as a physical trainer(Coach Altair)
2:40pm–A message to the students from Alessandro Santos
4:10pm–“About F.C. Gifu”(Mr. Masayuki Yoshikawa of the Management Division)
4:30pm–Finish

Date/time : Wednesday 27th August 2014 10am to 4:30pm
Location : Kakamigahara Sports Hiroba, Nagaragawa Sports Plaza 2F Conference Room
Participants: Students of Ogaki Technical High School, Kamo Senior High School, and Tono Senior High School.

Information for Foreign Residents

If you are in need of any assistance, please use our triophone!

At GIC, we have installed a triophone in order to help foreign residents who have trouble speaking Japanese, and we use this to provide an interpreting service for speaking to public offices.

A triophone is a specialised phone that enables three-way interpreting, so that a resident in need of advice, an interpreter, and a public official can all hold a conversation at the same time.

However, we are not able to provide interpreting for all of the problems that residents may face, and **can only use the triophone to contact public organisations** (e.g. schools, the Prefectural Taxation Office, the Housing Supply Public Corp., the Women's Advice Centre, the city office, etc).

How to use the triophone

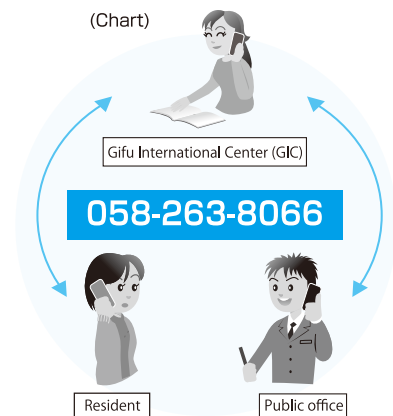
- ① Call the number for the triophone.
- ② When the advisor answers the phone, explain what you want to talk about, and wait for them to call the public office you wish to speak to.
- ③ The advisor will then call the relevant public office. After this, the three of you can hold a conversation.
※You will not be charged for this phone call.
However, please note that you will be charged for the two-way phone call made between you and the advisor before the three-way conversation starts.

Triophone number: 058-263-8066

Languages available: Portuguese, Tagalog, English, Chinese.
Service hours: Monday-Friday 9:30am to 4:30pm

■ There is also a triophone installed in the following organisations

	Phone number	Language	Days of the week	Times
Seino Regional Promotion Bureau (Ogaki City)	0584-73-3520	Portuguese	Mon-Fri	9am to 4pm
Chuno Regional Promotion Bureau (Minokamo City)	0574-25-1858	Portuguese, Tagalog	Mon-Fri	9am to 4pm



Be fully prepared for natural disasters!

In recent years, there have been many cases of the atmosphere destabilising due to unusual weather phenomena. During a cloudburst, the area of rainfall can be even more localised than is generally expected, and although the rain may only last for a short period of time, the volume of rain falling per hour can be extremely high. There have been many occurrences of these 'localised torrential downpours', or 'Guerrilla rainstorms', and these have caused serious damage, such as the flooding of residential areas and landslide disasters.

General warning signs for Guerrilla rainstorms

Please take precautionary measures against torrential rainfall and Guerrilla rainstorms in the following situations

- ①When the weather forecast predicts "sudden downpours in localised areas" or "uncertain atmospheric conditions".
- ②When the JMA (Japan Meteorological Agency) releases a severe weather warning stating "heavy rainfall/flooding alert" or "heavy rainfall special alert".
- ③When the water levels of rivers and canals rise suddenly, or the water becomes murky and large amounts of twigs, leaves and rubbish get swept down the river.
- ④When the sky suddenly turns dark with black clouds.
- ⑤When you hear thunder or see flashes of lightning.
- ⑥When hail or unusually large drops of rain fall down from the sky.

What to do when you find yourself in a Guerrilla rainstorm

·If you are in a river-bed or beck

A Guerrilla rainstorm will cause the water level of the river to rise dramatically in a short amount of time. Even if the sky appears to be clear where you are, the water level may rise dramatically if a Guerrilla rainstorm occurs upstream of the river, so please evacuate the area immediately if a flooding warning is issued.

·If you are in town

When violent rainfall occurs over a short period of time, the city drains are unable to keep up with the falling rain, causing localised flooding. If you are in an underground area, such as a subway station or underground car park, please return to ground level immediately.

Further, heavy rainfall can cause manhole covers to come loose from roads and paths, so if flooding prevents you from seeing where you are walking, avoid walking upon the pavement until the water drains away. Please also avoid driving for the same reasons.

·If you are in a park or other wide, open area

It is common for Guerrilla rainstorms to be accompanied by thunder and lightning, and occasionally even hail. An effective way of protecting yourself from being struck by lightning is to take shelter in a building with a lightning rod (conductor), but in areas where there are no nearby buildings, it is important to keep yourself lower to the ground than your surrounding environment.

Cars are safe even when struck by lightning, as the electrical current is dissipated through the body of the car. They are also able to protect you from hail. If there are no nearby buildings with lightning conductors, please wait inside your car until the Guerrilla rainstorm has ended.

As Guerrilla rainstorms strike suddenly and you may find yourself unable to travel freely until the rain has stopped, it is advised to make a habit of checking the JMA website on a daily basis so that you can plan ahead.

Message board

In this corner, we list information about events and classes held by groups promoting international relations and multicultural living in Gifu Prefecture. If you would like to have your event listed here, please contact GIC.

Information about international relations and multicultural living

Fureai Japanese Class

Based upon the principle of one-to-one learning and small classes, our Japanese teaching is catered towards the students' needs. Please come and try out one of our classes.

Date/time: Every Sunday 10am to 11:40am
(Closed during the New Year period, Golden Week, and Obon)
Place: Gifu International Center*Paid parking is available nearby
Cost: 200 yen per class
Contact: Fureai Japanese Class TEL: 090-9023-3541 (Moriya)

Japanese Conversation Class

We have started up a conversation class that aims to provide foreign residents with the opportunity to speak in Japanese with Japanese people and practise daily conversation.

Date/time: Every Sunday at any time between 9:30am and 3pm
Place: Ogaki Suitopa Center Classroom(5-51 Muromachi, Ogaki)
Contact: Ogaki International Exchange Association TEL: 0584-82-2311
*To take part, you must register at the association (this applies to both foreign and Japanese residents)

The Frevia Café is now open!

Selling desserts and snacks from all around the world! Please come and have a taste.

We're always on the lookout for crafts and sweets to sell, as well as photos and paintings to put on display!

Date/time: Every 3rd Saturday of the month, 11am to 2pm
Place: Kani Multicultural Centre Frevia
(1185-7 Shimoedo, Kani, behind Meitetsu Kani Station)
Contact: Kani Multicultural Centre Frevia TEL: 0574-60-1122
<http://www.ckk.ne.jp/~frevia/por-top.html>

Multicultural Festival in Kani 2014

We have all sorts of stalls!! There'll also be dance performances and goods for sale. We're waiting for you to come and visit.

Date/time: Sunday 3rd November 2014, 10am to 3pm
Place: Kani Multicultural Centre Frevia
Contact: Kani Multicultural Centre Frevia (For contact details, see above)

The 4th Frevia Japanese Writing Composition Contest

Presentation of essays on the topic of 'My country', written by foreign residents from Kani and elsewhere in Gifu, and announcement of the winners.

Date/time: Sunday 7th December 2014, 1:30pm to 4pm
Place: Kani Multicultural Centre Frevia
Contact: Kani Multicultural Centre Frevia (For contact details, see above)

The 39th Mino City Industry Festival

The Mino City Industry Festival has booths from around 100 manufacturers, agricultural co-operatives and citizen groups within the city. There will be folk songs, tasting sessions and famous produce for sale from the Italian city of Amalfi, which is tied with Mino city through the 'Papermaking Cultural Exchange Agreement'. There will also be an Italian papermaking demonstration.

Date/time: Saturday 8th and Sunday 9th November 2014, 9:30am to 4pm (until 3:30pm on Sunday 9th)
Place: Mino Sports Park (over the whole area)(166-1 Sodai, Mino)
Contact: Mino City Office Industry Division TEL: 0575-33-1122 (ext. 263)
<http://www.city.mino.gifu.jp/>

The 13th Gifu Prefecture Japanese Speech Contest for Foreign Students (GIC Grant Projects)

Foreign students studying at universities and Japanese language schools in Gifu Prefecture will give speeches on the topics of "What I have learned through life as an exchange student" and "An introduction to my country". Please come along!

Date/time: Sunday 30th November 2014, 1:30pm to 5pm
Place: Gifu University Satellite Campus
(37 East Tower (4F), Gifu Sky Wing, 6-31 Yoshino-machi, Gifu-shi)
Contact: Secretariat, Gifu Regional Exchange Student Recommendation Association TEL: 058-293-3350
E-mail: kokusaik@gifu-u.ac.jp

Quiz - Which country does this flag belong to? (GIC Grant Projects)

Guess the name of the country for the flags of 20 different nations - a prize is given to those who score 80% and above!

Date/time: Sunday 2nd, Monday 3rd (public holiday), Saturday 15th and Sunday 16th November 2014, from 10am to 3pm
Place: Platinum Plaza multi-purpose community reception.
Admittance fee: None
Contact: NPO Citizen Support Collaboration Organization (CISCO) TEL: 0584-74-5403 Website: <http://cisco-pp.com/>

Let's learn about Japanese culture by making hanamochi and practising calligraphy! (GIC Grant Projects)

Getting to know Japanese New Year customs through making hanamochi and calligraphy.

Date/time: 27th December 2014, from 10am to 1pm
Place: Platinum Plaza multi-purpose community reception
Admittance fee: 300 yen
Contact: NPO Citizen Support Collaboration Organization (CISCO) (See above for contact details)

Gyoza Dumpling Party (GIC Grant Projects)

Strengthening relations between Japan and China by making home-cooked Chinese gyoza dumplings.

Date/time: 17th January 2015
Place: Platinum Plaza multi-purpose community reception
Admittance fee: 500 yen This year, CISCO are also planning to make Japanese bento lunches. *For more details about community events, please call 0584-74-5403.
Contact: NPO Citizen Support Collaboration Organization (CISCO) (See above for contact details)

We look forward to your visit!





VISA Application Assistance

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Closed: Saturday, Public Holidays, New Year Period

