

Introducing Liu Chun-lan, our new CIR from China!



Hello! My name is Liu Chun-lan, and I am from Nanchang, which is in Jiangxi Province, China.

This is my second time in Japan; two years ago, I stayed in Kobe for about a month. I got to know all kinds of different people, and I made a lot of wonderful memories. The passion and kindness of Japanese people left a strong impression on me, and I decided that, if I had the opportunity, I'd like to try living in Japan for a while. I am really happy that I have been given the opportunity to come back to Japan as a Coordinator for International Relations (CIR), as I love meeting new people and making friends. This is my first time in Gifu, but the climate is pretty similar to Nanchang's, and I'm sure I'll quickly get used to living here. I'm really looking forward to having the opportunity to talk about China and Japan with everyone here, through GIC's Chinese language classes and culture salons, and I can't wait to meet everyone in Gifu.

I'm also always around to ask for advice in Chinese, so if any Chinese people living in Gifu need help with something in their personal lives or with their studies, please don't hesitate to get in touch!

What is it like in Jiujiang City, Jiangxi Province?

Jiujiang is a city in the northern region of Jiangxi Province, China, and is commonly known as the "Northern Gateway to Jiangxi". It has a total area of 18,800km², and a population of 4,770,000. It often rains in Jiujiang, and

warmer regions of the city have a forest coverage of as much as 54.92%.

Jiujiang is also called "the home of fish and rice", and is blessed with a bountiful natural environment. Its main industry is agriculture, and produces 20 species of rice, tea, cotton and fish. It is known as one of the top four rice-producing cities in China, and is also one of the top three cities in China for tea. Yongxiu, Xiushui, Duchang and De'an are counties of Juijiang City that produce cereals that are sold throughout China, Pengze County is a national producer of cotton, and Hukou County is known throughout the province as a producer of rapeseed blossoms.

Jiujiang has flourished as a political, cultural and financial centre in northern Jiangxi Province for a very long time, and has a history of around 2,200 years. It was during the Tang and Song dynasties that Jiujiang first became known as the "home of fish and rice".

Jiujiang is also home to the famous world heritage site, Mount Lushan, as well as Poyang Lake, the largest freshwater lake in China. The birthplace of Pure Land Buddhism, Donglin Temple, is located 16km from Jiujiang City, and has a history of 1,600 years.

Mount Lushan is located at the basin of Poyang Lake, in northern Jiangxi Province. It is one of the most famous mountains in China, situated close to the southern bank of the Yangtze River, in Lushang Province, Jiujiang City. The mountains are oval-shaped, with a typical horst structure surrounded by geological faults. The mountain range is about 25km long and 10km wide, including around 90 individual peaks. The shape of the long row of mountains is almost like that of a many-layered folding screen, and the mountain range is often thought of as an enormous gate that shields Jiangxi Province from view. Lushan National Park is renowned for the rarity, grandeur, steepness and beauty of its mountain views, and is a popular summer tourist spot.



Mount Lushan



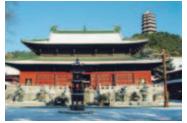
Poyang Lake

Poyang Lake is the number one freshwater lake in China, and the second-best lake overall (the first being Qinghai Lake). The lake has a surface area of 4,124m², and is home to over 100 species of fish. In the winter, many rare birds gather at the lake, including the Siberian white crane.

Donglin Temple has a long history, and was founded during the Jin Dynasty in 384 AD. It is the birthplace of Pure Land Buddhism (as well as the White Lotus sect), and is often described as the forefather of Japanese Jōdo Buddhism and Shin Buddhism.

Jiujiang is an important port city on the banks of the Yangtze River. With the Yangtze River to the north and Mount Lushan to the south, the city welcomes

Birds gathering at Poyang Lake



Donglin Temple

tourists with its beautiful scenery, regional culture, and bountiful industry.

The city also has a very good public transport system, including rail, air, and ferry services. The railway network includes the Beijing-Kowloon, Wuhan-Jiujiang, Hefei-Jiujiang, Tongling-Jiujiang, and Nanchang-Jiujiang railway lines. There are also direct flights from Jiujiang to Beijing, Shanghai, Xi'an, Guangzhou, Xiamen and Chengdu. Jiujiang City has been trading internationally since 1858, as the only treaty port in Jiangxi Province at the time, connecting it with the rest of the world. It is still the number one port town in Jiangxi Province to this day.

What is Multiculturalism? Interviews with Foreign Residents

What is multiculturalism?

In recent years, the number of foreign residents in Japan is increasing, and many towns and villages are facing challenges with cross-cultural understanding and community integration. Multiculturalism is all about encouraging cultural diversity within society, so that people can live and work together regardless of their background.

We asked foreign residents living in Gifu about their thoughts on multiculturalism.



Name: Mike LyonsNationality: CanadianOccupation: Teacher

What does multiculturalism mean to you?

The ability to move rapidly from one cultural environment to another

How does your own culture differ from Japanese culture?

Japan is a homogenous society. Canada is heterogeneous. My son was in school here from age 3 to 12, and he was the only mixed-race child in the school for all nine years. He then moved to Canada and entered school there, and found on the first day that the majority of the kids are mixed race.

Have you ever experienced culture shock?

Yes. I have experienced it many times, most notably returning to Canada for elsewhere.

Have you had any difficulties with participating in your community?

Not recently. My neighbors are wonderful.

Do you think that Japan is becoming more multicultural?

Yes. When I first came here there were far fewer foreigners and far fewer imported goods on sale.

What could be done to help foreign residents feel like part of the community?

Individual relationships are important. I would encourage Japanese and foreign residents to find common ground on which to forge relationships, build those, and form wider networks. For example, if you're Japanese and there's a foreigner in your karate class or pottery club, try and talk to him/her. Go out somewhere. Invite him/her over for a meal. Make friends!



- Name: Jasmine Bernhardt
 Nationality: American
- Occupation: ALT

Would you describe your own country as multicultural?

For better or for worse, I would. I am from the Washington, DC metro area in the US and we were always taught from a young age that our country is a "melting pot of culture," and in my experience growing up, I believed it. My mother was from the Philippines, my father's coworkers were all teachers from across the globe and I went to a Spanish-immersion elementary school. My local culture

had hints and dashes of cultures from around the world and now I am very thankful I was able to grow up in that environment. But that's not the case across the board. The US is huge. The opposite of multicultural is monocultural. But a monocultural community in the Scandinavian-influenced Minnesota plains isn't going to have the same culture as a Hispanic-influenced Texan village, same with California and New York, or anywhere in between. Wouldn't that make it multicultural?

Have you ever experienced culture shock?

Of course, not only in Japan, but also in my own country. Culture shock isn't so much a shock, it's more like a slow boil. You think you're doing fine for a long time, when all of a sudden you've realized these past few months you've been irritated at everything you see, you've been complaining about things that didn't bother you in the past and wishing that the people and things around you would change to comfort you. Dealing with it isn't easy, but it's a part of the growing process. Coming to Japan, I was more prepared for it and readily combated it by going out and doing things instead of sitting and boiling. But in the US, however, the possibility had never even crossed my mind. My university was a 2 hour plane ride from home, so it didn't feel very far but it was a completely different world and culture. I wasn't aware and regrettably spent much of my time at school irritated and frustrated.

How does your own culture differ from Japanese culture?

In so many ways that could be its own book. The first and most prominent thing that comes to mind is how we express ourselves. There is the concept of honne and tatemae that doesn't really exist in American culture, whereas we tend to have the thought process of "Honesty is the best policy." So from an American point of view, Japanese people seem very serious and reserved, but from a Japanese point of view, Americans are loud and over-the-top expressive. Though it may seem bad from one perspective or another, neither of these qualities are inherently so - they just show different underlying cultural values. I think understanding this, along with the many, many more differences between cultures - not just American and Japanese! - can create better acceptance for each other.

Have you ever been treated differently to others because of your race or culture?

Yes. I could write a book about this too. I'm mixed race and grew up in a Filipino-American household. I've been told my eyes are too squinty when I laugh, and my nose is too big, and have had people say "No you're not" when I tell them my heritage. Some people seem to be uncomfortable or unsure how to treat me at first since they can't tell what race I am - this has happened in both the US and Japan. In Japan, what I get the most is a sort of anticipation of how I should act because I'm from the US. The problem is, while my nationality is a part of my identity, it doesn't determine my personality. When I don't fit the image of tall, blonde, loud, and boisterous, I usually get the odd compliment (?) of "Wow, you're so Japanese!" No, I'm just shy and quiet!

* Information for Foreign Residents *

A Guide to Seiryū-no-kuni Gifukko Vouchers

Gifu Prefecture is issuing 'Seiryū-no-kuni Gifukko' discount vouchers to households with children born in the prefecture from 1st April to 31st December 2015. All those who meet the following conditions can apply for the vouchers, which can be used when shopping.

Application conditions: The vouchers are aimed at families with children born (not including miscarriages) between 1st April and 31st December 2015, and applies only to families with children who are registered as residents within Gifu Prefecture. Applicants must be listed as the mother or the father of the child on their certificate of residence.

<How to Apply>

Application forms are available at the birth report counters in municipal offices, and can also be downloaded from the Gifu Prefecture homepage. Once you have filled in the necessary information on the form, please send it with the required documents to the address displayed on the next page (under "Contact Address").

Application Deadline: Friday 15th January 2016 (Applications with postmarks for this date are counted within the deadline)

<Supplementary Documents>

The certificates of residence of all family members (written in full): Please receive the certificates from your local municipal office and attach them to your application. The certificates must collectively display the relations of family members to each other, nationalities, the name of the head of the household and their relation to the family, as well as the region you are living in.

*Depending upon the contents of the application, it may be necessary to submit additional documents, so please check the Gifu Prefecture Homepage before applying. (Leaflets with more information will be published on the website in English, Chinese, Portuguese and Tagalog from July onwards.)

Gifu Prefecture Homepage: http://www.pref.gifu.lg.jp/kurashi/kosodate/ kosodate-shien/seiryu-ouenken/

Or search for「ぎふっこ応援券」: ぎふっこ応援券 Search





<Contact Address>

Gifukko Voucher Desk (Gifukko Voucher Project Trustee)

₹500-8570 2-1-1 Yabuta-minami, Gifu-shi. Promotion of Female Activity Division

Gifu Prefectural Office

TEL: 058-274-0526 (9:00 - 17:00)

*Closed on weekends and the New Year holiday (29th Dec to 3rd Jan)

What are Seiryū-no-kuni Gifukko vouchers?

• Value available: First child - ¥50,000

Second child - ¥70,000

For each subsequent child - ¥100,000

- How to use the vouchers: When you spend money on products or services registered by the prefecture, you can use a ¥1,000 Gifukko voucher for every ¥2,000 you spend.
- Period of validity: The vouchers are valid until Monday 15th February,

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

All adverts that don't include prices can be listed here for free

Oyunaa Mini-Concert

Come and experience the beautiful singing voice of Mongolian singer-songwriter Oyunaa, whilst enjoying a delicious dinner.

When:

Sunday 26th July 2015 Gifu Grand Hotel (648 Nagara, Gifu-shi) Where: Virice: An admission fee is charged.

Contact: Gifu-Mongolia Culture Association
TEL: 058-231-3218 (Ask for Kawai)

*Please contact the GMCA for more information about Contact:

times and prices.

Afghanistan Photography Exhibition Introducing Afghanistan through a collection of

photographs that reflect its history, culture, children, and way of life.

9:00 - 21:30, Mon 10th to Sun 16th August,

2015

Kenmin Fureai Gallery, Gifu Fureai Plaza (5-14-53 Yabuta-minami, Gifu-shi) NPO ASCA TEL: 058-245-1902

Mongolian Cultural Experience & Exchange

Ever felt like spending a night in a Mongolian nomadic yurt? Come and learn more about other cultures by

getting to know people from Mongolia.

When: Sat 22nd – Sun 23rd August, 2015

Where: Fukuju-no-Sato Mongolian Village
(3587-1 Kinomi, Kamiyahagicho, Ena-shi) An admission fee is charged. Gifu-Mongolia Culture Association Contact:

TEL: 058-231-3218 (Ask for Kawai)
*Please contact the GMCA for more information about times and prices

Voci di Fiori Concert Vol.4

Come and learn more about Italy through canzone. This concert features soprano singers based in the Gifu area as well as up-and-coming dancers, and there will also be an Italian culture showcase.

When: 15:00 – 16:00, Wednesday 23rd September,

Salamanca Hall, Gifu Fureai Plaza

(5-14-53 Yabuta-minami, Gifu-shi, Gifu Prefecture)

Adult: ¥2.000 Child ¥1.000 (All seats are unreserved) Contact: Gifu-Italy Culture Association TEL: 090-2925-6503

Film Screening: 'Bōkyō no Kane: - Manmō Kaitakudan no Rakujitsu' ('The Bells that Call me Home: The Sun Sets on Manchurian and Mongolian Immigra

For 21 years, the Bifū-no-Kai group has been carrying out diplomatic visits and providing scholarship funding in China's Three Northeastern Provinces (Liaoning, Jilin and Heilongjiang). The group is holding a screening of a film based upon Jishō Yamato, who is known as the father of zanrvu koji (abandoned war orphans).

13:30 – 16:30, Sunday 13th September, 2015 Daikenshushitsu (2F), Heartful Square G (Adjacent to JR Gifu Station, 1-10-23 Hashimotocho, Gifu-shi)

Bifū-no-Kai Office TEL: 058-246-2380 To make a (free) reservation to the screening, please contact the office.

Pan Li Erhu Concert

A sorrowful timbre is not the only sound that can be got from an erhu; come and enjoy the powerful tones

of Pan Li's erhu performance.

When: 12:30 – 13:30 (Doors open from 12:00), Thursday 1st October 2015 Kakamigahara Shiminkaikan Foyer

(2-1-8 Soharachuo-cho, Kakamigahara-shi) General public

(Pre-school-aged children will not be

admitted)

No. places: 100 Adult ¥300 Free entry for chūgakusei and Price:

younger.

Kakamigahara Shiminkaikan Contact:

TEL: 058-389-1818

* Please call the Shiminkaikan to make a reservation.

Musical: 'Sükhe and the Morin Khuur

The Gifu Children's Choir will be performing a musical about a legend based upon the traditional Mongolian

instrument, the Morin Khuur.

When: Sat 11th and Sun 12th October, 2015

Where: Sky Hall, Hashima Culture Center

(6-7 Marunouchi, Takehana-cho, Hashima-

An admission fee is charged. Gifu-Mongolia Culture Association TEL: 058-231-3218 (Ask for Kawai)

*Please contact the GMCA for more information about

times and prices.

Gifu Rakugo Cosmos Tei 2015

A collaborative performance will be held by rakugo performers from France and Japan (including students and working adults). Why not come along and have

some fun with *rakugo*?
When: Saturday 17th October, 2015

14:00 – onwards (doors open at 13:30) Minna-no-Mori Gifu Media Cosmos Tickets are ¥1,000 in advance and ¥1,500 on

the door.

The Japan-France Association of Gifu

TEL/FAX: 058-235-7253 E-mail: i-grec@mub.biglobe.ne.jp

*Please contact the Japan-France Association of Gifu to book tickets in advance, or if you are interested in attending the post-performance social gathering.

Developing sustainable *furusato* – From Gifu, Land of Clear Waters, to the children of the future

In celebration of the 40th anniversary of OISCA's Gifu branch, there will be a commemorative talk by Tsuneyasu Takeda, as seen on TV. There will also be an exchange session with international interns, exchange students, and children.

13:00 – 18:30, Saturday 24th October, 2015 (Part 1: 13:00 – 16:00, Part 2: 16:30 – 18:30)

Hotel Grand Vert Gizan (6-14, Yanagase-dori, Gifu-shi)

300 (First-come, first-served) Part 1 (commemorative talk) only: ¥2,000

Parts 1 & 2 (including exchange session):

¥5.000

OISCA Gifu Branch Office TEL: 058-216-2463 (Ask for Ōhashi) E-mail: oisca-gifu@bz03.plala.or.jp

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GIC helps to subsidise a range of international exchange projects organized by private organisations. In this edition, we're introducing event information and Japanese language classes subsidised by GIC. Please take a look and get involved!

[International Exchange & Multiculturalism] * All information that doesn't include pricing can be listed here for free *

Japanese Cooking Class for Foreign Residents: WA-SHOKU ~ Let's make Kazari-zushi!
Let's learn how to make beautiful kazari-zushi!
When: 10:00 – 13:00, Sunday 5th July 2015.
Where: Kitchen (1F), Minokamo City Lifelong Learning
Centre (3425-1 Ota-chō, Minokamo-shi)

Who Foreign residents are prioritised

No. places: 20

¥500 per person Minokamo International Exchange Contact: Association (NPO) TEL: 0574-24-7771 E-mail: office@miea-jp.com

Osaka-Kobe Philippine Consulate General Outreach Mission in Gifu City Will render services normally done at the Consulate, such

as passport renewal, report of birth, report of marriage,

LCCM, SPA, NBI, overseas absentee voting, etc.

When:

Where:

Uly 18, 2015, Saturday, 9:00 am ~

Heartful Square G, 2F, Daikenkyushitsu

(10-23, 1 cho-me, Hashimoto-cho, Gifu City; building adjacent to JR Gifu Station) For Filipinos living in Gifu Prefecture and

surrounding areas
*For details and instructions, please visit the Consulate's website: http://www.osakapcg.dfa.gov.ph For inquiries, contact the Consulate: 06-6910-7881(after 4pm) or ASFIL GIFU: 090-3935-6004 (Ohno)

Get in Shape with Brazilian Samba!
Have fun dancing to the rhythm of upbeat samba music! All welcome, from absolute beginners to samba fanatics.

19:00 - 20:30, Saturday 25th July, 2015 Practise Studio 1 (2F), Minokamo City Culture Hall (2-5-27 Shima-chō, Minokamo-shi) Where

No. places 30 (approx.)

Minokamo International Exchange Association (NPO) TEL: 0574-24-7771 E-mail: office@miea-jp.com

Try on a Yukata and take part in the Suito Matsuri!

Why not try on a Japanese yukata, and take part in a festival? Yukata are a traditional part of the Japanese summer. If you are from a country with a traditional folk costume (e.g. a Chinese cheongsam dress), feel free to wear that instead! Let's enjoy a midsummer night together at the festival.

Sat 1st August, 2015

17:30 Meeting Time Platinum Plaza (2-2-2 Kuruwa-machi, Ogaki-shi) Where:

Price:

¥500 (Price includes yukata dressing & a photograph)

VAN Architectural Office TEL: 0584-74-5403

(Ask for Ban, of CISCO (NPO))

F-mail:vanvavan@van-arch.ip

*Please bring your own yukata/traditional costume.

Kids' International Understanding Summer School

Let's meet people from all around the world to learn more about different countries and cultures!
When: 13:30 – 16:00, Sunday 30th August, 2015

Room 201, Minokamo City Lifelong Learning Centre (3425-1 Ota-cho, Minokamo-shi) Who: Shogakusei & chugakusei students

No. places

Minokamo International Exchange Association (NPO) TEL: 0574-24-7771 E-mail: office@miea-jp.com

Japan-China Friendship: A Meeting of Cultures We will be staging the Noh play, 'Yang Guifei', as well as holding a performance by the Chinese biwa group Tu Shanxiang. Noh is a traditional Sino-Japanese

Saturday 5th September 2015 14:00 - 16:00 (Doors open at 13:00)

Where Nagaragawa Convention Center (2695-2 Nagara Fukumitsu, Gifu-shi) Japan-China Friendship Meeting of Cultures Committee (Part of the Gifu Prefecture

Japan-China Friendship Association) TEL: 058-240-0621

Yanagase Samba Carnival
Brazilian Samba is coming to the Yanagase shopping district! There will also be a food festival with stalls from around the world, and a live music performance by a Brazilian artist

10:00 - 18:00, Sunday 6th September 2015 Kogane Park, Yanagase Shopping District (5-chome, Kogane-machi, Yanagase

Shotengai)
Yanagase Samba Carnival Organising Contact: Committee TEL: 058-277-3898

Free Tax Advice

As well as tax consultations, advice will be available from public notaries, social insurance and labour consultants, and educational advisors. Please feel free to come along!

10:00 – 16:00 , Saturday 7th November,

Chukenkyushitsu, Heartful Square G Where: (Adjacent to JR Gifu Station, 1-10-23

Hashimoto-cho, Gifu-shi) Afghanistani residents, English-speaking Who:

foreign residents ASCA (NPO) TEL: 058-245-1902

*No reservation necessary

*As the times/venue are subject to change, please call to confirm event details.

Cross-Cultural Communication: Japanese Class (Introductory – Beginner Level)

We are carrying out Japanese classes for absolute beginners, as well as for those with a little knowledge of basic grammar and conversation.

Term 1: Every Monday from April – September, 2015.

Term 2: Every Monday from October 2015 –

March 2016.

(18 classes per term) *There are places available in Term 1

13:00 - 14:30 (Introductory) 14:45 - 16:15

(Beginner)

Where:

Meeting Room, Takayama City Office (2-18 Hanaoka-machi, Takayama-shi) Who: Foreign residents living in Takayama No. places: 20 per class

¥9,000 (As Term 1 has already begun, please contact us to discuss prices)

ontact: Hida Takayama International Association
(Takayama City Foreign Affairs Division)
TEL: 0577-35-3346
*Term 2 will be advertised in the Takayama magazine and

on the Takayama City website from August onwards.
*Even if you miss the deadline, you can still join the class if there are places available.

School Entrance Advice for Children with Roots in Other Countries

We help children to enter smoothly into public primary (shogakko) and middle schools (chugakko), by holding a 6-month course with Japanese language and curriculum support, as well as education in their own language.

Monday - Friday, April 2015 - March 2016 9:00 - 15:00

Where Gifu St. Paul's Church (4-27 Kogane-machi,

Who: Children aged 6 to chugakusei-age, who

have roots in other countries and are not attending school

About ¥10,000 per month (Fees are decided

Price: based upon household income)

Contact:

Kani Mission

TEL: 080-3285-8279 (Ask for JP Ramada)

Japanese Language & Curriculum Support Class

CISCO is carrying out a Japanese language course, as well as providing curriculum support where necessary. The classes are based on practical language skills that can be used in real-life school and work situations.

Every Saturday, April 2015 – February 2016 15:30 – 17:30

Platinum Plaza (2-2-2 Kuruwa-machi, Ogaki-shi) Foreign residents in the Ogaki area.

VAN Architectural Office TEL: 0584-74-5403
(Ask for Ban, of CISCO (NPO)) Contact:

E-mail:vanvavan@van-arch.jp

Japanese Classes for Foreign Residents (Introductory Course 2015)

The Ogaki International Exchange Association is holding introductory and beginner Japanese classes run by professional Japanese language teachers, with assistance from Japanese language education volunteers.

9:30 – 11:15, Every Sunday, 30th August – 1st November 2015. Classroom, Ogaki Suitopia Centre (5-51 Murohon-machi, Ogaki-shi) Foreign residents in the Seino Region

No. places: 20

Contact: Ogaki International Exchange Association

TEL: 0584-82-2311

*Classes will be advertised on the OIEA website from Saturday 1st August onwards. If you are interested in applying, please contact the OIEA office (located in the Suitopia Centre).

Japanese Classes for Foreign Residents

Gifu City International Exchange Association is holding classes teaching Japanese used in daily life and conversation.

October 2015 – February 2016

18:30 – 20:30 25 classes per course Every Tuesday and Thursday (Beginner I) Every Monday and Wednesday (Beginner II)

Atsumaru Studio, Minna-no-Mori Gifu Media Cosmos (40-5 Tsukasa-machi, Gifu-shi)

20 per class ¥13,000 (not including textbooks)

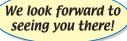
Applications: Please come directly to the interview room with your course fee ready.

Date: 18:00 - 19:30, Thursday 24th September

Interview Room: Wai Wai Circle, Minna-no-Mori Gifu Media Cosmos

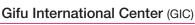
Gifu City International Exchange Association TEL: 058-263-1741

Classes will be advertised on the GCIEA website from September onwards.









Gifu Chunichi Building 2F, 1-12 Yanagase Dori, Gifu City, 500-8875

Tel: 058-214-7700 Fax: 058-263-8067

Three-way Call Civic Interpreter Service (Trio-phone): 058-263-8066 E-mail gic@gic.or.jp URL http://www.gic.or.jp

Opening hours: Sunday to Friday 9:30 am - 6:00 pm Closed: Saturday, Public Holidays, New Year Period