

# SEKAI WA HITOTSU

English

2011

Spring

No.  
118



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# Language Assistant Course for Times of Disaster

## Refuge Shelter Experience for Foreigners Living in Earthquake Prone Japan

If a large disaster such as an earthquake struck tomorrow, what would you do?

In particular foreigners do not get emergency information and have problems in refuge shelters due to language barriers and differences in culture and customs.

With this in mind the Gifu International Center, with joint sponsorship from the Seki International Association and Kakamigahara International Association, conducted the "Language Support for Times of Disaster Course" on the 27th of February. This was aimed at persons who speak conversation level Japanese and one other language so they can give language assistance to foreigners in times of disaster through interpreting, translating and responding to inquiries.

Additionally, the "Refuge Shelter Experience" also took place where foreigners took part in a disaster drill and experienced the atmosphere of a refuge shelter.

### Language Assistant Course for Times of Disaster

Participants: 33 (19 Brazilians, 16 Japanese, 3 Filipinos, 2 Chinese)

It is predicted that a large earthquake will strike Gifu Prefecture. At this course participants practiced setting up and operating a multilingual disaster support center.

While looking at maps and confirming the locations of refuge shelters, the participants in groups talked about how to interview foreigners in refuge shelters. The participants also practiced translating Japanese language information published by the disaster response headquarters so it is conveyed to a variety of nationalities. The participants experienced how they would assist in a time of disaster through talking with people and seeing if they had problems and passing on translated information to the refuge shelter experience participants.



### Refuge Shelter Experience for Foreigners Living in Earthquake Prone Japan

Participants: 50 (37 Brazilians, 8 Chinese, 3 Peruvians, 1 Filipino, 1 Vietnamese)

A member of the Chuno Fire Department Association instructed participants on how to use an AED, a fire extinguisher as well as how to give CPR. The participants listened intently and asked many questions. Participants also learned of the seriousness of disasters through eating emergency rations and watching disaster DVDs.



**[Lecturers]** Director Nobuyuki Takahashi and Deputy Representative Director Kazuhiko Takagi of the Multicultural National Conference

# Center Project Report

## Japanese Language Class for Nurses - Let's Learn Nursing Terms and Kanji Study Methods -

Even amongst the worsening employment situation, there are many foreign residents who want to live in Gifu Prefecture. There are also many people who wish to work in welfare and medical fields. However, as nursing terminology is difficult and there are many kanji and katakana, this presents a barrier for foreigners to work in these fields.

With this, the center invited care workers and Japanese language teachers to lecture at the Japanese Language Class for Nurses, where the participants studied how to learn nursing term kanji, the various nursing licenses, what it is to be a nurse and more. The course took place at the Mino Kamo Multicultural Center with the help of the "Friends of Brazil" association.

The center handed out 3 volumes of the workbook "Kaigo no Kotoba to Kanji" which contains 800 kanji and 3000 words related to nursing. The course was a great success and not just amongst nurses, 46 foreign residents with an interest in kanji and the Japanese language took part.



March 13<sup>th</sup> (Sun), participants: 46 (42 Brazilians, 1 Peruvians, 2 Colombian, 1 Chinese)

**Target languages:** Portuguese and Spanish

### ●Nursing

Lecturer: Nahoko Itou, Avance Life Support care school manager and care worker  
Nahoko talked about what it is to be a nurse, the different types of nursing licenses, the nursing workplace and more.

### ●Japanese Language Guidance

Lecturer: Mieko Uchiyama "Nihongo Shido Group "Y"  
The participants practiced writing their names and addresses and using the freely distributed "Kaigo no Kotoba to Kanji" workbook and handbooks.



## Volunteer Japanese Language Teacher Course

On March 5th, the Gifu International Center hosted a workshop with the theme of "Japanese Language Proficiency Test Preparation", for volunteers of Japanese language groups within Gifu Prefecture. 35 participants took part.

**New Japanese Language Proficiency Test Guidance 10:00am – 12:00pm**

Lecturer: Isomura Mihoko Nagoya YWCA Japanese Language School

**New Japanese Language Proficiency Test Listening Comprehension Preparation 1:00pm – 3:00pm**

Lecturer: Kazuko Yokoi Nagoya YWCA Japanese Language School

With the diversification of levels and needs of students at local Japanese language classes, volunteer teachers are responding with a mix of trial and error. There has also recently been an increase in resident foreigners who want to take the Japanese language proficiency test.

At this course participants listened to the lecturer talk about areas of teaching methods such as skills and ideas.

Participants said they were able to understand the contents of the test and they wanted to keep Japanese classes active.

## Regional Japanese Language Education General Meeting

The meeting took place on the 9th of March and was aimed at international exchange associations, Japanese language volunteer groups, Japanese language schools and higher level Japanese language bodies.

Lecturer: Haruko Yonese (Tokai Japanese language network deputy representative)

44 participants from 30 groups took part.

A lecture and workshop took place with the theme of "thinking about how to help foreigners in their daily lives". The participants split into 6 groups and gave a self-introduction and talked about their opinions.

It was the first time international exchange groups, Japanese language teacher volunteers, Japanese language schools and international exchange students gathered together in one building. The groups were able to exchange various information.



# Do You Want to Learn Japanese?

## Japanese Language Classes

Area	Group Name	Enquiries	Location	Class Details					Children Allowed?	Volunteer Applications?
				Terms	Day and Time	Fee	Enrollment	Class Type		
Gifu City	Japanese Language Course ●	Gifu International Exchange Association Tel/fax 058-263-1741 gifucty-iea@nifty.com	Gifu City Bunka Center 5-7-2 Kandamachi, Gifu City (Parking not available)	Two: 30 Classes Each ①Apr-Jul ②Sept-Feb	Mon, Thurs (18:30-20:30) Tues, Fri (18:30-20:30)	Course Fee: ¥15,000 per term Materials: ¥2300 per term	Feb-Mar, Aug-Sept	Classroom style (2 classes)	No	No. (The teachers are not volunteers)
	Fureai Japanese Class ☎	Yoshihiko Tagamori (private numbers) Tel 052-692-7849/ 090-3306-3152	Gifu Kenmin Fureai Plaza 6F 5-14-53 Yabuta-minami, Gifu (10 mins. by free bus from JR Nishi Gifu station) (Free parking)	Three: ①Jan-Mar ②May-Jul ③Sept-Nov	Sun (10:00-12:00)	Course fee: ¥200 per class for 10 classes (upfront payment of ¥2,000) Materials: ¥2,500 per book (When necessary)	Any time	Individual/Small groups	Yes	Yes. Observation allowed
	Heartful Japanese Class ☎	Gifu Japanese Volunteer Circle Hiromichi Koda (private numbers) Tel/fax 058-272-6320	Heartful Square-G (Gifu Lifelong Learning Centre) 1-10-23 Hashimoto Cho (East of JR Gifu Station), Gifu (Parking available)	—	Sat – Sun (14:30-17:00)	Course fee: (Beginners) , (Intermediate) ¥400 per class	Any time	Individual/ Small groups (1 group)	No	No. Observation allowed
	Japanese Volunteers: Ayu no Kai ☆	Izumi Fujita (private number) Tel 090-9935-8571	Heartful Square-G (Gifu Lifelong Learning Centre) 1-10-23 Hashimoto Cho (East of JR Gifu Station), Gifu (Parking available)	—	Tues,Thurs,Fri (10:00-16:00) Wed (10:00-21:00)	Course fee: ¥200 per class	Any time	Individual	No	Yes. Observation allowed
	Japanese Volunteers: Niji no Wa ☆	Mutou Misaki (residential) Tel. 090-6580-6176	Gifu Kita Seshounen Kaikan 3-19- 18 Fukumitsu-Higashi, Gifu (3 mins. walk from Fukumitsu 3 bus stop) (Free parking available)	—	Wed, Thurs (10:00-15:00) Saturday (10:00- 13:00)	Course fee: ¥150 per class	Any time	Individual/Small groups (2 groups) beginner level only	No	Yes. Observation allowed
Hashima City	Japanese Language Plaza Hashima	Hashima International Exchange Association Tel:058-392-1111 hiea@hashima-hiea.jp	Hashima Shimin Kaikan 3-25 Asahira, Fukuju-cho, Hashima (10 mins. walk from Mei- tetsu "Hashimashiyakusho- mae" station) Free parking available	—	1st and 3rd Sunday of every month (10:00am - 12:00pm)	Course fee: ¥100 per class	Any time	Individual	No	Yes. Observation Allowed
Kakamigahara City	Japanese For Foreign Residents ☆	Kakamigahara International Association Tel 058-383-1426 Fax 058-389-0765	Sangyou Bunka Center 2-186 Naka-Sakura Machi, Kakamigahara Kakamigahara Shiyakusho Mae Station (Parking free for 2 hours)	—	Wed (18:00-21:00)	Course fee ¥2000 for 10 classes	Sept. Enrollment possible midway through term	Individual	No	Yes. Observation allowed
	Saturday Japanese Course ●	Nova Etapa Brazilian school Tel: 058-383-1426 / 090-5453- 0392 (Portuguese line)	Nova Etapa Brazilian School Yamazaki-cho 7-186, Unuma, Kakamigahara (10mins. on foot from JR Unuma or Meitetsu Shin-unuma station) (Free parking available)	—	Sat (09:00-12:00)	Inquire directly to the school	—	Classroom style (1 class)	No	Yes (Must have appropriate Japanese language teaching qualification) Observation allowed
Kitagata Town	Kitagata Japanese Classroom ☆	Kitagata Japanese Language Volunteer Circle (private number) Tel 058-324-3945 Fax 058-324-4168	Kitagata Public Hall 1323-5 Motosugun Kitagata Cho, Kitagata tel 058-323-111 (Free parking available)	—	Every 1st, 2nd and 4th Sunday (10:00-11:30)	¥1,200 per year (Copy, postage expenses, etc.)	Any time	Small groups (3 classes)	Yes	Yes. Observation allowed
Mizuho City	Japanese Language Supporters ☆	Secretary and PR department, Mizuho City Hall Tel 058-327-4130 Fax 058-324-4103	Mizuho Shimin Center 1300-3 Beppu, Mizuho	—	Sat (1:30pm - 3:00pm)	Course fee: 2,000 yen for 3 months	Anytime	Individual	—	Yes. Observation Allowed
Ogaki City	"Individual Japanese Instruction (for Seino Area Foreign Resi- dents, excluding exchange students)"	Ogaki International Exchange Association Tel 0584-82-2311 Fax 0584-82-2314	Suitopia Center 5-51 Murohonmachi, Ogaki (15mins. walk from Ogaki station) (Parking available)	—	Every day, except association ho- lidays (Generally Tuesdays). 90 mins. periods from 08:30-17:15	Registration fee: ¥1000 for four months	Any time	Individual	No	Yes. Observation allowed
	Japanese for Brazilian Children (for children, and pupils of elemen- tary or junior high school)	—	—	—	Sun (10:00-12:00)	Free	Any time	Small group (1 group)	No	No. Observation allowed
Yoro Town	Yoro Japanese Class ☆	Yoro-cho International Exchange Association Tel: 0584-32-0216 Fax: 0584-33-0100	Yoro Kokusai Gakushu Kaikan 409-4 Takada Yoro (8mins. walk from Minotakada station (Free parking available)	—	Wed (19:00-20:30) Sat (14:00-16:00) Sun (10:00-17:00)	Free (Some costs may occur accord- ing to events)	Any time	Individual and group depend- ing on level	Yes	Yes. Observation allowed
Seki City	Japanese Lan- guage Class	Seki Japanese Language Volunteers Circle Tel 0575-23-6806 Fax 0575-23-7744	Wakakusa Plaza 2F Gakushu Jouhou Hall 2-1 Wakakusa Dori, 5mins. from Nagaragawa Railway: "Shiyakusho-mae" station or directly in front of "Wakakusa Plaza" city bus stop (Free parking available)	Three: ①May-Aug ②Sept-Dec ③Jan-Mar	Wed (19:30-21:00)	Course fee ¥1000 per term Textbooks vary depending on level. The store bought text are half subsidized.	Any time	Individual/Small groups (7-8 groups)	Yes	Yes. Observation allowed
Minokamo City	Minokamo Japanese Conversation Partners	Hasegawa (private numbers) Tel 090-2779-0733 Fax 0574-26-3828	Minokamo City Chuo Kouminkan Ota Cho, Minokamo JR Mino Ota Station (Free parking available)	—	Sat (19:30-21:00)	Course fee: ¥200 per class (10 classes at ¥2000)	Any time	Individual/Small groups (5 Groups)	Yes	Yes. Observation allowed

Area	Group Name	Enquiries	Location	Class Details					Children Allowed?	Volunteer Applications?		
				Terms	Day and Time	Fee	Enrollment	Class Type				
Kani City	Sunday Japanese Classes ●	Kani International Exchange Association Tel 0574-60-1200 Fax 0574-60-1230	Multicultural Centre, Frevia, 5166-1 Shimoedo, Kani (3mins. walk from Shin-kani or JR Kani station ) (Free parking available)		Sun (13:00-15:00 15:30-17:30)	Free	Any time	Classroom style (5 classes)	No	Yes. Must have completed a Japanese instruction training course. Observation allowed		
	Japanese Language Exchange Classes ☆			—	Sat (19:00-21:30)	Free	Any time	Small groups (6-10 groups)	No	Yes. Observation allowed		
	Children's Japanese Exchange Space (For pupils of Isaac Newton school)					Tues (13:00-14:00) Thurs (13:00-14:00)	Free	For Brazilian school children only	Classroom style (1 class)	No	Yes. Volunteers with an interest in teaching children. Observation allowed with conditions. (Application must be made in advance and a survey must be filled out after)	
	Japanese Diversity Class (Conversation course)					Two: 10 classes (First and second semester)	Sat (16:00-18:00)	10 classes ¥1,000	April and September. Applications may be made during the semester	Classroom style (1 class)	No	No. Observation allowed with conditions (Application must be made in advance)
	Work Japanese ●					Two: Apr - Sep, Oct - Mar	Thurs (7:00pm - 9:00pm)	Free	April, September	Classroom style	No	Yes. Observation Allowed
	Nursing, Health and Welfare Japanese ●					Two: Apr - Sep, Oct - Mar	Fri (7:00pm - 9:00pm)	Free	April, September	Classroom style		Yes. Persons with experience in nursing or hospitals
Shirakawa Town	Shirakawa Cho Japanese Class ☆	Shirakawa Volunteer Japanese Language Circle Tel 0574-72-1311 Fax 0574-72-1317 keiei@town.shirakawa.lg.jp	Shirakawa Cho Chuo Kouminkan, Sohara, Kurokawa, Sami branch offices, Minoshirakawagakushu learning center (Free parking available)	—	Varies depending on class (Consultations and inquiries anytime)	Free	Any time	Individual	Yes	Yes (Motivated individuals) Observation allowed		
Tajimi City	Tajimi City Japanese Language Course	Tajimi International Exchange Association Tel 0572-22-1111 Fax 0572-23-6258	Tajimi Industry and Culture Center (Parking available)	—	Sun (10:00-11:50)	¥100 per class	Any time	Classroom style (5-6 classes)	Yes	Yes. Observation allowed		
Nakatsugawa City	Nakatsugawa Japanese Class ☆	Nakatsugawa Japanese Classroom Tel: 0573-66-0644	○Chuo Kouminkan 2-3-25 Hon-machi, Nakatsugawa (10mins. southwest walk from JR Nakatsugawa station) tel 0573-66-4141 (Free parking available) ○Nigiwai Plaza Sakae-machi 1-1 Nakatsugawa (In front of JR Nakatsugawa station) (Free parking available)	Three: ①April-Jul ②Sept-Dec ③Jan-Mar (Changes may occur)	First 3 Sundays of every month (10:00-11:30)	Course fee ¥500 per month (including materials)	Any time	Small groups (5-6 groups)	Yes	Yes. Observation allowed		
	Nakatsugawa Japanese Class in the afternoon	Miura(private numbers) Tel 090-7020-4205	○ Nigiwai Plaza Sakae-machi 1-1 Nakatsugawa (In front of JR Nakatsugawa station) (Free parking available)	—	Sundays (1:00pm - 3:00pm)	Course fee: 500 yen per month (materials included)	Anytime	Small groups (2 groups)	Yes	Yes. Observation Allowed		
Ena City	Japanese Class ☆	Ena International Exchange Association Tel/fax 0573-26-1868	Ena Naka Kouminkan 1-3-21 Osashima Cho Shoge tel 0573-26-1808 10 mins. walk from JR Ena Station (Free parking available)	Three: ①April-Jul ②Sept-Dec ③Jan-Mar	Sun (10:00-11:30)	Course fee: ¥100 per session	Any time	Small groups (4 groups)	Yes	Yes. Observation allowed		
Takayama City	Japanese Course	Hida Takayama International Association Tel 0577-35-3130 Fax 0577-36-2060	Takayama City Hall 2-18 Hanaoka Cho, Takayama (5 mins. walk from JR Takayama station) (free parking available)	Two: ①Apr-Sept ②Oct-Mar	Mon (19:00-20:30)	Course fee ¥9000 per term	Mar, Sept. Enrollment possible midway through term	Classroom style (1 class)	No	No.		
Toki City	Japanese Class ☆	Toki International Exchange Association Kagohashi (privatenumbers) Tel 0572-59-3266	○Toki Culture Plaza Tokitu-machi TokiD 2121-1 (Next to Toki city hall)	—	Fourth Sundays of every month (14:00-16:00)	Free	Any time	Classroom style (2 class)	Yes	Yes. Observation allowed		
Gujo City	Easy Japanese Class ☆	Gujo Hachiman International Friendship Association (Gujo city hall) Tel 0575-67-1121	Gujo Culture Center 207-1Shimatani Gujo Hachiman	—	Wednesdays (7:30pm - 9:00pm)	10 lessons 2,000 yen	—	Individual	Yes	Yes		
	Japanese Class ☆	Shiratori-cho International Association Private number Tel 0575-82-4614 Fax 0575-82-5275	Fureai Sozokan Shiratori, Shiratori-cho, Gujo (Behind Shiratori station)	—	Mondays and Tuesdays	Free	—	Classroom style	—	No		

Details are subject to change, so please confirm with each group individually

As of November 2011

- ☆ ... Conversation focused. Learn helpful phrases for daily life.
- 📎 ... Class with volunteers who can teach Japanese grammar.
- ... Classroom style. Japanese taught by a teacher.

**For persons wanting to study for official Japanese tests or Japanese for entrance to schools or colleges.**

In Gifu Prefecture there are 5 Japanese language schools.  
(For details about the start of terms and fees, please get in touch with the respective school)

# 2011 Gifu International Center Projects Schedule

## ● Information Service Projects

Alongside publishing various multilingual information on our homepage and in our magazine "Sekai wa Hitotsu", the center will be producing a life guide book. This guide book will detail the information needed for foreigners in the prefecture and the international help desks which have information on international exchange in the prefecture.

Furthermore, alongside deepening understanding through language classes, school visits and CIR culture talks, the center will support full foreign language consultation through dispatching staff who speak Tagalog, Portuguese and Chinese to various administrative help desks.

To look after the mental wellbeing of foreigners who have concerns or worries about their lives in Japan, the center will conduct counseling sessions (kokoro no soudan) with a Portuguese speaking counselor who specializes in helping foreigners.

## ● Volunteer Support Projects

To promote multiculturalism and international exchange with the citizens of Gifu Prefecture, the center is planning skill workshops and providing opportunities for citizens to register as volunteers.

### ○ Medical Interpreting Volunteer Training Courses

With language and mental support being sought when foreigners go to see a doctor, the center is holding a medical interpreting volunteer training course to satisfy the ever increasing needs of interpreters.

### ○ Language Assistant Course for Times of Disaster / Refuge Shelter Training

With the aim of educating language assistants for times of disaster, the center will conduct a special language assistant course, where participants will practice operating and setting up a multilingual support center. Furthermore, the center will also conduct refuge shelter training for foreign residents.

### ○ Volunteer Training Courses (Language & Home-stay)

The center will conduct volunteer training courses aimed at language and home-stay volunteers registered with the center, devise training for volunteers and create a volunteer network.

## ● International Exchange Association Projects

The center will once again host "Hello Gifu, Hello World" where citizens of the prefecture play games from around the world while deepening international exchange.

## ● Japanese Language Teacher Training Projects

The center will host a training course with the aim of increasing and educating volunteer Japanese language teachers. Furthermore the center will support volunteer activities through creating a network for Japanese language volunteers and a place for them to discuss troubles or worries together.

## ● Foreign Resident Self-reliance Projects

In the midst of the severe economic climate, the center is attempting to create self-reliant foreign residents. The center will host training sessions on how to respond to consultations, the Japanese social security system and more, so foreigners will work and be active in the community.

### ○ Foreign Community Formation and Self-Reliance Training Course

The center is devising education for the foreign community so it can solve problems it faces directly.

### ○ Foreign Children and Pupil Support Projects

The center will host a foreign children support training course for people who will conduct foreign children and pupil assistance. The center will also carry out career guidance for foreign pupils and guardians.

## ● Multicultural Training Projects

The center will host training courses related to multiculturalism. It will also promote the establishment of a multicultural society with all groups involved through the creation of a group network.

## ● Special Assistance Projects for Municipal and International Exchange Associations

The center will give assistance to multicultural projects carried out by municipalities and international associations which contribute to life assistance and employment protection and stability for foreign residents in the community.

## ● International Exchange and Multicultural Promotion Projects

The center will offer assistance to projects which foster a multicultural society and international exchange and cooperation.

## ● Foreign Exchange Student Scholarship Project

The center will provide scholarships to foreign exchange students from economically disadvantaged backgrounds who have been nominated by their institute within the prefecture.

# Bulletin Board

## ● Takayama

### Tochi Onsen Cherry Blossom Festival



The cherry blossoms of Okuhida bloom 1 month late, from the end of April to the beginning of May. The blossoms of the Horadani area are particularly beautiful. Paper lanterns will be lit riverside and the cherry blossom lined streets will be illuminated

**Date:** April 23<sup>rd</sup> – May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2011

**Location:** Tochi, Okuhida Onsen, Takayama

**Access:** From JR Takayama station, take the Hida bus bound for "Shinhodaka Onsen". Get off at "Tochi Onsen" and walk for 5 mins

**Parking:** 20 spaces (Free)

**Enquiries:** Okuhida Onsen Tourism Association

**Tel:** 0578-89-2614

### Hida Shokawa Cherry Blossom Festival

These two cherry blossoms trees, said to be over 500 years old, were moved by hand by towns people who lamented their submersion into a dam reservoir.

**Date:** Late April – Early May (Depending on blossoming time)

**Location:** Shokawa Sakura Koen

**Access:** 15 mins. by car on national highway 156, from the Shokawa interchange towards the direction of Shirakawagou.

**Parking:** Free parking

**Enquiries:** Shokawa Tourism Association

**Tel:** 05769-2-2272

### Hida Shrine Festival

This procession of 1,000 people resembles an Edo scroll. The ancient Shinto music and dancing stand is a prefectural designated cultural asset and a must see.

**Location:** Hida Shrine

**Date:** May 4<sup>th</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> (Wed & Thurs)

**Access:** 15 mins walk from JR Takayama station

**Parking:** City and private pay parking available

**Enquiries:** Hida Shrine

**Tel:** 0577-32-0687



## ● Toki

### Toki Mino Ceramics Festival

The Toki Mino Ceramics Festival is one of Japan's three great ceramics festivals. At this once a year event, ceramics are sold at a low price.

**Location:** Oribe Hills

**Date:** May 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> (Tues – Thurs) 9:00am – 5:00pm

**Access:** A shuttle bus will be in operation, departing from JR Toki station north exit, for the duration of the event.

**Parking:** 5,000 spaces (free)

**Enquiries:** Toki Mino Incineration Center

**Tel:** 0572-55-1322



## ● Ogaki

### Ogaki Festival

The Ogaki festival is a 360 year old tradition. Come along and see the floats, stalls and food stands.

**Location:** Ogaki

**Date:** May 14<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> (Weekend)

**Access:** JR Ogaki station south exit

**Parking:** City pay park

**Enquiries:** Ogaki Commerce and Tourism Division

**Tel:** 0584-81-4111

## ● Kani

### Flower Fiesta 2011

Come along and see 7,000 different flowers and 30,000 roses in bloom.

**Dates:** Mid May – Early June

**Times:** 9:00am – 5:00pm

**Tel:** 0574-63-7373 Fax:0574-63-7374

**Website:** <http://www.hanafes.jp/hanafes/>

## ● Gifu

### Nitten Display Piece and Sketch Exhibition

Most of the works, which we appreciate in museums and galleries, are complete works. However people who have interest in the creation process, such as how works are painted, are few in number. This exhibition will show the systematic creative processes until a sketch, drawing, piece or work is completed.

**Date:** February 15<sup>th</sup> (Tues) – April 24<sup>th</sup> (Sun) Closed

Mondays and the following day after a holiday. (If holiday is on a Monday the next day)

**Location:** Kato Eizo Touichi Memorial Museum (Gifu History Museum Annex)

**Access:** From either JR or Meitetsu Gifu stations, take a Gifu Bus heading to Nagara and get off at "Gifu koen rekishi hakubutsukan-mae". (Approx. 15mins)

**Enquiries:** Kato Eizo Touichi Memorial Museum

**Website:** [www.rekihaku.gifu.gifu.jp/katoukinen/info.html](http://www.rekihaku.gifu.gifu.jp/katoukinen/info.html)

## ● Gifu

### Gifu Seiryu Marathon

Main Venue: Gifu Memorial Center

Participation fee and application submission required before race

**Date:** May 15<sup>th</sup> (Sun) Rain or Shine

**Access:** Approximately 20 mins. by Gifu bus from either JR Gifu or Meitetsu Gifu train stations

**Enquiries:** Takahashi Naoko Seiryu Marathon Executive Committee Secretariat

**Tel:** 058-263-1295

## ● Gifu

### Cormorant Fishing on the Nagara River

Cormorant fishing on the Nagara River boasts 1,300 years of history and tradition. At the start of each cormorant fishing season, on the 11<sup>th</sup> of May, a safety prayer ritual takes place. Cormorant fishing takes place every evening, except when there is a harvest moon or the river level is high, and continues until the 15<sup>th</sup> of October.

**Dates:** May 11<sup>th</sup> – October 15<sup>th</sup>

**Location:** Nagara riverside, Gifu

**Access:** Take Gifu Bus heading for

"Nagaragawabashi" from either JR or Meitetsu Gifu station, alight at "Nagarabashi" or "Ukaiya" and walk for 1 min.

**Enquiries:** Gifu Cormorant Fishing Viewing Boat Office

**Tel:** 058-262-0104

# GIC Corner

## Farewell Friends

The days go by quickly and with that, 2 years have already passed since I came to Japan. It seems like only yesterday I arrived at Gifu Hashima station.

As a CIR, I have done various work to link China and Japan such as, school visits, language classes, culture talks, Chinese community support projects and international exchange events. I have learned much in the 2 years.

I have fond memories of traveling in my spare time to Japan's tourist spots such as Okinawa, Kyoto and Hakone. I am grateful to my many Japanese friends and I have come to regard Gifu as my second home.

Even upon returning home, I hope to be able to build bridges between China and Japan. Everyone please come and visit China at least once. I look forward to being able to meet everyone from Gifu again in China! Goodbye everyone!

Yi Ro



# JICA Corner

## Hello Everyone!

Juri Kurihara from the Gifu JICA desk here. 3 months have passed since I moved from my home prefecture of Kanagawa to Gifu Prefecture. I hope to one day be able to walk throughout the prefecture without my hay fever getting the best of me.



## Have you heard of Gabon?

I was active as a Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteer in Gabon from September 2008 until September 2010. Gabon is not well known in Japan, but here I will give an introduction!

Gabon is located in central Africa. It is next to Cameroon, Equatorial Guinea and Congo. It faces the Atlantic Ocean and is on the equator.

- Capital: Libreville
- Area: 267,667 km<sup>2</sup>
- Currency: Francs CFA (100CFA = 20-25円)
- Language: French
- Population: 1,366,000
- Population Density: 5.1 / km<sup>2</sup>



### Breakdown of the flag



Flag

← Abundant greenery

← Equator and sun

← Plentiful water, rivers and the Atlantic Ocean, Maritime nation symbol

State parks comprise 11% of Gabon's national territory. Number **1** in the world!