

Gifu International Center International
Information Publication

English

SEKAI WA HITOTSU

Ena City Board of Educaiton
Assistant Language Teacher
Jessica R. DeMers



2012
Spring
No.122

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

Three-way Call Civic Interpreter Service
(Trio-phone) 058-263-8066

E-mail gic@gic.or.jp URL www.gic.or.jp

Opening
Hours

Sunday to Friday 9:30- 18:00

Closed: Saturday, Public Holidays,
New Years Period.

From April 2012, GIC will no longer be open on
public holidays.

Elementary school preparation support project

The GIC commissioned Kani International Exchange Association to run a preschool specifically designed to prepare children of non-Japanese citizenship for elementary school as part of a wider support network for students of non-Japanese citizenship. This was combined with a training programme for the educators.

The project is aimed at students who have been raised outside of Japan before they reach elementary school age. The students learnt how to write hiragana, and about what kind of things to expect in their daily life at elementary school in a simulated classroom environment.

This system of providing teacher training and specialized education for foreign pre-school students at the same time is going to be held all over Japan on a continuous basis.

Project period :

November 2011 to the end of March 2012

Instructor training November to December

Classroom experience January to March

Place :

Kani Multicultural Center 'Frevia'

Participants :

Instructors- anybody with an interest

Students- 22 children entering into elementary school who have grown up outside of Japan

Students were taught Japanese necessary to communicate with their classroom teachers, and what they needed to prepare for going to school.



Gifu Foreign Community Leader Training Course

~ Gifu Foreign Community Leader Meeting ~

Date : 5th February 2012 (Sun)

Place : Juroku Plaza 4F Room 1

No. of participants : 22

Facilitator :

Representative of the Institute for Human Diversity Japan, Taro Tamura.



Everyone has been working very hard to create an active foreign community in Gifu prefecture through the foreign leader training course. Foreign leaders from various standpoints on different regional issues got together to talk during the training course. Subjects under discussion were education, medical services and welfare, and multicultural community development. The participants divided themselves into groups according to their own interests, and in groups they clarified problems, discussed necessary measures for solutions, and then reported their findings as a group to the rest of the participants.

Representative of the Global Human Resource Support Organisation Hamamatsu, Irma Nakashima, gave a talk on problem solving measures that her organisation utilises. Participants expressed that they took courage from hearing stories from people who were working hard to achieve their goals, and I heard many times from people that they were inspired to work harder than before to support the foreign community in Gifu Prefecture.

Disaster Relief Language Assistant Training



You can well imagine what kind of problems non-Japanese people face during large scale natural disasters. Because of language and cultural differences, and the small number of people with disaster experience, non-Japanese citizens require special treatment. There is quite a bit of discussion about how communities should deal with this situation.

In response to this situation GIC, Gifu City, and Gifu City International Exchange Association (GCIEA) held a disaster language support training session. The training session was designed to find and train language volunteers experienced with natural disasters who would be able to provide appropriate support and information to non-Japanese people during natural disasters. Gifu City, GIC and the GCIEA concurrently held a training session where non-Japanese people could undergo disaster prevention training and experience an evacuation center trial.

Date : 3rd March 2012 (Sat)

Venue : Gifu City Ishihashi Community Center, Bosai-kaigishitsu/ Daishu-kaishitsu 2F

Lecturers : Multicultural National Conference Director Nobuyuki Takahashi and Deputy Representative Director Kazuhiko Takagi.

Participants: 23(Brazilian 7, Chinese 2, Filipino 2, Japanese 12)

Participants practiced exactly how they would run a disaster multilingual support center if a major earthquake occurred in Gifu City. They practiced locating disaster relief centers on a map, and how to conduct interviews with foreigners in evacuation centres in small groups. They also practiced how to disseminate information that the government releases in Japanese to people of various nationalities. They passed on translated information to people in the evacuation centre trial, and asked whether they had any problems understanding the information. In this way, in the event of an actual disaster, the volunteers will know exactly what they need to do to give support.

★ According to the participants:

I really felt that even more important than language skills is the ability to accurately judge what information is important and what is not, and to respond to every situation in a flexible manner.



Medical Interpreter Course:

Learning Medicine at a Virtual Hospital for Medical Interpreter Training

Medical interpreters play an important role as a bridge between doctor and patient. The interpreter needs a wide range of knowledge to understand all of the specialised vocabulary, and may have to deal with life and death situations.

Gifu City and Gifu City International Exchange Association held a medical interpreting assistant course in cooperation with Gifu University at their virtual hospital. This course is the second in a series of two. The first session was held in December 2011. The participants learnt what kind of diagnostic methods are used in the hospital, got to look at and hold the equipment used in the hospital, and virtually experienced things like an ultrasound, AED and sutures, and learnt the Japanese words necessary to explain these things.

Date: 11th of March 2012 (Sun) **Place:** Gifu University School of Medicine

Participants: 38

(15 Brazilian, 3 Chinese, 5 Filipino, 3 Peruvian, 1 American, 11 Japanese)

★ According to the participants:

This was a valuable experience where I learnt many things I don't normally get the chance to study. I learnt a lot about how I have to explain things to patients.



Japanese Language Education Coordinator Training

Coordinators play an important role in promoting Gifu prefecture's Japanese language classrooms. We invited Tokai Nihongo Network's Haruko Yonose to hold a coordinator training course. During this training session we looked at the meaning of the coordinator for the classroom and their role, and also practiced how to carry out conversation-centered lessons in small groups.

Date : 26th of February 2012 (Sun)

Place : Fureai Fukuju Kaikan, Small Research Room 401

Participants : 12

Presenter : Haruko Yonose (Tokai Nihongo Network)

★ According to the participants:

"I realised how important a coordinator is and what they do for the class"

"I realised the importance of conversation in the classroom. I realised that even if you don't specifically teach a sentence pattern first, you can still communicate. This is completely different from how I have taught in the past. I am looking forwards to trying it with real students."



Regional Japanese Language Education General Assembly

~How to use Japanese so that foreign citizens will understand~

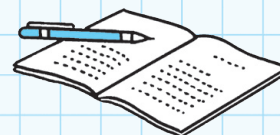
We invited Gifu University faculty of education associate professor Yamada Yoshihiro to speak at the general assembly to Gifu prefecture international associations, Japanese language education volunteer groups, Japanese language schools, and universities teaching Japanese as a second language education. Participants broke into groups and practiced how to communicate effectively in easy to understand Japanese, and rewrote pamphlets with information about what to do in an earthquake in easy to understand Japanese.

Date : 15th of March 2012 (Fri)

Place : Fureai Fukuju Kaikan Reception Room

Participants : 38 people from 19 groups

Presenter : Yamada Toshihiro
(Gifu University Faculty of Education Associate Professor)



ABC Cooking Class

Usually the three Coordinators for International Relations (from **A**ustralia, **B**razil, and **C**hina) hold a lecture style 'international salon' around once a month here at the center, but for a change, this time, we decided to put on a cooking class. We enjoyed getting to know the participants a little better in the kitchen.

Date : 24th of February, 2012 (Fri) **Participants :** 16 (14 female, 2 male)

Coordinators for International Relations :

Sally Wals (Australia)

Morishita Misao Anderson (Brazil)

Yan Zhixiong (China)

First was the Australian dish, which was the traditional English "bread and butter pudding". This is, simply, buttered bread covered in a creamy custard, and baked until golden brown on top. While this was in the oven, we started cooking Brazilian "pastel". In Brazil, the pastel is a kind of pie that is often eaten as a light snack. Lastly, we made Chinese "Pirinasu". We fried eggplants that were cut to look something like a hand, then fried them together with onion, garlic and douchi (fermented black soybeans used for seasoning).

The participants were divided into 3 groups, and each group made all three dishes. We all enjoyed the chance not just to cook, but to get to know each other in a friendly atmosphere, and to conduct some real international exchange. We conducted a survey at the end, where participants expressed that they were happy that they got the chance to interact, they liked the food, they felt they learnt something about non-Japanese cooking, and that they would like to participate again. We would like to say that we would also like to hold the event again, so please look forwards to our next cooking class!



Eggplant Exchange

Coordinator for International Relations Yan Zhixiong

The 10 months I have spent in Gifu city have gone like a flash. Now it's time for me to say goodbye to you all.

An exchange of eggplants was one of the last international exchange events that I was involved in. This was an unusual but pleasing thing. An eggplant is a completely normal, run of the mill household vegetable, that does not stand out in any way. I feel this vegetable might have the same qualities as an authentic grass roots level international exchange event- something that makes you feel familiar, and happens as part of everyday life. I think the experience of being able to share a simple meal between people of different countries was able to contribute far more to international relations than sitting people down and making them listen to grand theories or finicky explanations. Eating together leads directly to participants feeling a fondness towards the culture and the people of the food they are eating, and is a natural way to create friendly relations between people of different nationalities.

The relationship between Japan and China is still problematic, and there a number of different approaches to solving this problem. I think we certainly have to work hard from not just one, but many different approaches to make a difference. During my 10 months here, I have aimed to get rid of some of the bad feelings, build up trust, and to promote friendly relations between Japan and China. I feel satisfied that I have been able to carry out my duties by putting effort into interactions that aren't big events, but small instances of communication. I would like say what a pleasure it has been to meet you all.

Gifu International Center Projects 2012

We are now a Public Interest Incorporated Foundation!!

In accordance with the Public Interest Institution System reformations, Gifu International Center will become a Public Interest Incorporated Foundation as of the 1st of April 2012. We will continue to advance multiculturalism, international relations and international cooperation, and we would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued cooperation and support.

Below we have written up the main projects that we will be taking part in for the new financial year.

Building a multicultural community

1 Supporting children of foreign nationalities

Career guidance, study support for children who will enter the school system, after school study support, operating a preschool with the dual purpose educating instructors and children (see p. 2); we are working to support the further education and career paths of students with non-Japanese nationality.

2 Independence support for permanent residents.

We are consulting with and conducting research within the foreign community, support groups for foreigners, and international exchange associations, as well as raising awareness and improving problem solving abilities amongst our community leaders.

3 Advancing disaster support services for foreign people in the Tokai and Hokuriku regions.

At the Tokai and Hokuriku regional conference, which was made up of international organisations from those regions, we developed support systems for foreign people during natural emergencies, and for supporting foreign people in preparing themselves in the event of an emergency.

4 Multilingual Consulting

By employing consultants who can speak both Japanese and Portuguese or Tagalog, we can provide lifestyle support for people living in Gifu prefecture in those languages.

5 Supporting Japanese language instructors

We are currently researching how to recruit language volunteers and start language schools, have held a series of conferences about Japanese language education, trained volunteer teachers, and worked towards solutions to problems in the classroom.

Creating an environment that promotes regional internationalisation

1 International Salon

There is a space provided at the center that has Japanese textbooks and other library resources, national flags, and a conference room that can be borrowed. Through counselors, we provide support for individuals and groups related to internationalisation, and the salon plays an important role as somewhere to discuss psychological problems.

2 Information Dissemination

The center provides information about international relations and multiculturalism in multiple languages through the seasonal publication "Sekai Wa Hitotsu", and through our home page.

3 "Hello Gifu Hello World" international festival

The international festival is a way for groups involved in international exchange and cooperation to show the people of Gifu what they do, and also to promote the countries they represent by putting on performances and displays.

Supporting volunteer activities and civic organisations

1 Training for volunteers (medical interpreting, multilingual disaster support...)

We recruit, record, and conduct research about language support volunteers (interpreters and translators), Japanese language education volunteers, and volunteers who provide homestay services. By involving residents as volunteers we promote internationalisation and multiculturalism.

2 Trialing a dispatch medical interpreter system

In order to decrease anxiety levels of foreign patients in medical institutions and to facilitate the smooth operation of medical care, we are in the process of trialing a system where the prefecture, medical institutions, and GIC will work together to train interpreters, and where interpreters can devote themselves to their work in optimal circumstances.

3 Providing grants for internationalisation and multicultural projects

We are encouraging a multicultural society in Gifu by providing grants to individuals or groups who are running projects that promote multiculturalism, international exchange or international cooperation.

● Toki Mino Yaki Matsuri (Ceramic Fair)

This is one of the three major ceramics fairs in Japan. Over three hundred thousand people from Gifu and other prefectures gather every year to admire the city most famous for pottery in this region.



Opening times : 3rd of May (Thurs, p.h.) to 5th of May (Sat, p.h.)
Daily from 9:00-17:00.
Place : Oribe Hills (Toki Mino Yaki Oroshi center)
Address: Gifu Prefecture, Toki City, Izumi Kita Yama-cho
Phone: 0572-55-1322 (Toki Mino Yaki Oroshi Center)
Access: By car, 5 minutes from the Toki exit on the Chuo expressway via route 21.
20 minutes from the Toki Tajimi exit on the Tokai Kanjo Expressway via route 21 or 19.
There will be a free shuttle bus between JR Toki-shi station and the festival grounds.
3,000 parking spots available (free).
Home Page: <http://www.oribe-hills.com/>

● Introducing a new language instructor!

As you may know, the center runs foreign language courses. We would like to introduce the instructor of our new French language course, Thibaut Meurisse, from Gifu Prefecture International Strategic Development Division.



Bonjour à tous ! Hello everyone ! My name is Thibaut Meurisse, from Normundy, France. In France I majored in Japanese, and I studied as an exchange student in Japan for one year. After I graduated, I worked in Tochigi prefecture as a Coordinator for International Relations for 2 years. I was transferred to the International Affairs Division in Gifu at the end of July 2011.

I enjoy many things, like reading, studying English, Japanese, and Korean languages, travelling around Japan, and making desserts. Normundy, where I come from, is in the north west of France.

It wouldn't be an exaggeration to say that Normundy is the Mecca of dairy products. Regional products range from Camambert cheese, to butter, cream, and milk. Ironically, I don't like any of these foods, to the point where I can't eat them unless you disguise them in a dessert. Normundy faces the Atlantic ocean, so shellfish like oysters and mussels are also fresh and tasty.

In the town of Caen, where I was born, starting with a castle built by William the Conqueror (the first Norman king of England), there are many ruins left from the middle ages, so you will be able to experience a very medeival atmosphere. There are plenty of beautiful streets to wander around, so if you get the chance make sure you visit. There is also the tiny island of Mont Saint-Michel which is a UNESCO world heritage site, which is situated on the south west point of Normandy.

The Frenchman who eats no cheese is very much looking forwards to looking forwards to spending more time in Gifu. If you see me, please say bonjour!

A Message from GIC

We are now recruiting members for the 2012 financial year!!

We are looking for people who would like to support us in our aims financially during the 2012 fiscal year. The money you spend will go towards projects that support multiculturalism, international exchange and international cooperation.

- Fee** Individuals- 3,000 yen per year Groups- 5,000 yen per year
If you join part way through the year, fee is calculated on a monthly basis.
- Validity** Until 31st of March 2013
- Benefits** Quarterly publication "Sekai Wa Hitotsu" and information about GIC events by post; discounts and priority entrance to fee-based events and educational courses.

Please don't hesitate to check the center website or give us a call for details.



Hi everyone, this is Kurihara from the JICA desk. April is the month of new beginnings, is it not? The JICA desk is no exception. Thanks to all the people around me the last year and three months has been very fun, although far too short. I would like to say a big thank you, and introduce my successor!

This is Mari Kagami from Yaotsu.

I have just come back from a 2 year 3 month Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteer placement in Ghana at the end of January this year.

So, now I'm about to start my dream job of being a Coordinator for International Cooperation in my home prefecture of Gifu. I can't wait!

There's still a lot I don't know yet, but I'm going to work as hard as possible. Look forwards to meeting you all soon!



Challenge yourself by becoming a JICA volunteer!

2012 Application period : 1st of April to the 14th of May
Recruiting people 20-39 years old as Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers, and people 40-69 years old as Senior Volunteers.

There will be explanatory recruitment meetings held throughout Japan during recruitment period. Current and previous volunteers will be there, and individual discussions are also available, so please come along!

25th April (Weds) 18:30~20:30

Place: Fureai Fukuju Kaikan

Details on website www.jica.go.jp

Free. No booking necessary.



~Please don't hesitate to get in touch with me regarding volunteering overseas or lectures on international understanding.~

Mari Kagami, Gifu Coordinator for International Cooperation, Gifu Prefecture JICA Desk
Gifu International Center, Gifu Chunichi Bldg 2F, 1-12 Yanagase Dori, Gifu City
Tel : 058-263-8069 (direct) E-mail : jicadpd-desk-gifuken@jica.go.jp
JICA Home page www.jica.go.jp

