

Sekai wa Hitotsu

Winter 2013
English No. 129



Gifu International Center (GIC)'s Coordinators for International Relations Sally (Australia), Morishita (Brazil) and Chen (China) held an end of year party on December 15 for people of different nationalities to spend time together. Participants enjoyed an internationally themed quiz and a musical performance, as well as the chance to get to know each other. This was a good opportunity to learn about other countries for everyone involved.

End of Year International Party!!



End of year event group photo (Courtesy of Mr Sekiya, Gifu Australia Society)

New CIR Introduction ... P2
● Shane Forde- My country, Ireland

GIC Projects P3~4
● Opinion Exchange for Foreign Resident Consultants
● Working Holiday Seminar
● Gifu Brazil Exchange Week
● Gifu and Jiangxi picture exchange

What do GIC CIRs do? ... P5
● School Visits

Comparing Japanese and Filipino Schools

Information for Foreign Residents P6
● GST Rise
● Lodging Tax Returns

Groups active in Gifu Prefecture P7

● NPO Gifu Cote d' Ivoire

JICA Desk Corner

Notifications from GIC ... P8

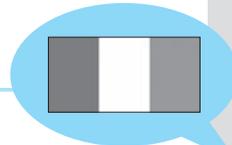
New CIR Introduction



Hello! I am the new Coordinator for International Relations (CIR) from Ireland, and my name is Shane Forde.

I started studying Japanese four years ago, when I entered university. At the time I was majoring in French language, so I never thought that I would end up living in Japan. However, from the moment I arrived in Japan at the end of July, I have been incredibly lucky to experience Gifu Prefecture's fascinating scenery and warm hospitality. As a CIR, my duties include supporting Assistant Language Teachers working in the prefecture, translating letters from ambassadors or diplomats from abroad, and teaching English (and sometimes French) at GIC. I am committed to working to support international exchange at a grassroots level in Gifu Prefecture, and I look forwards to meeting you all!

My country, Ireland



Official Name : Republic of Ireland

Official Language : Irish, English

Capital City : Dublin

Independence : 1921

Currency : Euro

Population : 4,593,100

GDP : 212.8 hundred million USD



Ireland is situated in Western Europe, and is also known as the 'Emerald Island' because of its abundant nature. In the 16th Century it was a colony of Britain, however in 1921 the island was divided into two countries; the south became independent, and the northern area (Northern Ireland) is still one of the four countries that make up the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. It was chosen by the British magazine *The Economist* in 2005 as the best country to live in the world.



Ireland, famous for its rich natural environment, is known amongst western countries for alcohol and potatoes. The most famous alcohol in Ireland is without a doubt Guinness, and about 8.5 hundred million litres is sold around the world every year. If you have the chance, try a glass of the world's best pint of Guinness at the sky bar while looking at the view during a visit to the Guinness Storehouse (the Guinness museum) situated in the middle of Ireland's capitol city Dublin.

There are three UNESCO World Heritage Sites in Ireland, including Newgrange, a tomb built approximately 5000 years ago, and Skellig Michael, the ruins of a monastery. The third, and most famous outside of Ireland, is the Giant's Causeway in Northern Ireland, an area covered with stone pillars formed 50 million years ago by a volcanic eruption. As the name suggests, giants once used the causeway according to ancient legends.



I think that one of Ireland's most interesting cultural aspects is traditional sports. There are two that are particularly popular. The first one is Gaelic Football. It is sort of half way between soccer and rugby, and is popular within Ireland and in places where there are a lot of people of Irish descent, for example London or New York. The second one is Hurling. It is played with sticks similar to the ones used in hockey, and a small, hard ball. It is known as the most fast paced field sport in the world.



There are no direct flights from Tokyo to Ireland, so you if you would like to go you have to make a stop off in London. It takes 11.5 hours to get to London, and another 45 minutes to Dublin.



Opinion Exchange for Foreign Resident Consultants

Foreign residents face complicated and diverse problems due to economic depression and cultural differences, and consultations are increasing in number every year.

The ‘Opinion Exchange for Foreign Resident Consultants’ was designed to support consultants and guide them in being able to independently solve problems.

In the first half of the opinion exchange participants received advice from facilitators about appropriate methods for dealing with cases that are too complicated for standard methods.

Participants also learned how to take care of their own mental health, receiving support so that they can carry out their day to day consulting work with healthy mind and body.

The second half of the opinion exchange consisted of round table discussions involving both participants and facilitators, where participants shared information about difficult consultations that they deal with, or particular methods that they use. Consultants have few chances to get together, making the discussion lively. This was a good chance to think together about better ways to conduct consulting and give support.

Consultants were able to gain skills as well as build and strengthen networks, making this a meaningful opinion exchange.

- 5 November (Tues) 1:30 – 4:30
- Gifu Prefecture Think Tank Government Offices, 5F
- Facilitated by Gifu Prefecture Personal Support Center, Gifu Branch Office, Personal Supporter Cesario Yoshiyuki Haranaka and World Café Facilitator Yoshimi Goto
- 18 Participants
- Hosted by GIC and Gifu Prefecture International Policy Promotion Division



Participant Comments:

‘This was a useful session. I got a lot of different advice about consultation methods.’

‘I am going to be able to use what I learnt in my consultation work from now on.’



Working Holiday Seminar



After a positive reception last year, GIC held another working holiday seminar on Sunday November 10 at Ichihashi Community Center in Gifu City.

Kosaburo Onaga from the Japan Association for Working Holiday Makers was invited to explain the basics of the visa system.

Takuya Nagashima from the Nagoya office of the same association and three volunteers talked about their own experiences on working holidays.

The seminar this year was attended by 19 people, and like last year, was a success.



Gifu Brazil Exchange Week

The Gifu Brazil Exchange Week was held at the Fureai Fukuju Kaikan in order to commemorate 100 years since Gifu prefectural residents first emigrated to Brazil. (Cohosted by Gifu Prefecture and Tokio Marine & Nichido Fire Insurance Co., Ltd., with cooperation from Gifu Newspaper and Gifu Broadcasting System Gifu Chan.) More than 2,000 people have emigrated from Gifu Prefecture to Brazil. There are also at present over 10,000 Brazilian people of Japanese descent living in Gifu Prefecture. Prefectural residents were able to experience migration history and Brazilian culture through panel displays, concerts and lectures during the exchange week.



Concert



Panel Display



Lecture

- **Panel display of Gifu and Brazil (Nov 19 - 29)**
Reflecting on the connection between Gifu and Brazil, this photograph display introduced history and exchange programmes.

- **Brazilian music concert (Nov 19 - 26)**
Students of the early childhood section of Ogaki City Brazilian school Hiro performed a charming dance along to Brazilian music. Performances from 'Notogawa and Matsubara' on the 19th, and 'Girassol' on the 26th of familiar Brazilian songs on guitar and drums were welcomed with warm applause.

- **Lecture: Ancestors of our Homeland (Nov 20)**
Two researchers conducted a lecture on the career of Gifu-born Hachisaburo Hirao, who laid the foundation for Japanese people to emigrate to Brazil, encouraged economic and cultural exchange, and contributed widely to the relationship between the two countries.

Commemorating 25 years of friendly relations between Gifu Prefecture and Jiangxi Province

~Elementary Schools exchange pictures~

A visit to Jiangxi Province in the 1980's by the Gifu Prefecture Japan-China Friendship Parliamentarians' Union triggered the start of mutual visits between officials, and on 21 June 1988 a friendship agreement between Gifu Prefecture and Jiangxi Province was signed.

This year 2013 marks the 25th anniversary since the signing of this agreement.

Local governments and international exchange groups involved with exchange between Gifu and Jiangxi ran various projects to commemorate the event. GIC coordinated a picture exchange between elementary schools in order to deepen interaction on a grass roots level.

Kaizu City and the town of Anpachi in Gifu Prefecture respectively formed pairs with elementary schools in Nanchang City and Fengcheng City in Jiangxi Province. The children of each school created pictures based on a theme decided between each school pair, and the artwork was exchanged and displayed at each respective school.

38 students from Kaizu City Higashie Elementary School and 43 students from Nanchang University Affiliated Teacher Training Elementary School Yuquan Island Campus exchanged pictures themed 'What is special about my home town?'

51 students from Anpachi Namori Elementary School, and 50 students from Fengcheng City Teacher Training Elementary School exchanged pictures themed 'My home town Anpachi' (and for the students in China- 'My home town, Fengcheng').

Project funded by Tokai Television International Foundation



Displays at Jiangxi Province

Gifu Prefecture made an official visit to Jiangxi Province November 5 - 8. The pictures were displayed in conjunction with this visit at Higashie Elementary school, Namori elementary school, the Yuquan Island Campus of Nanchang University Affiliated Teacher Training Elementary School and Fengcheng City Teacher Training Elementary School. Official visitors observed displays at both schools.

What do GIC CIRs do?



School Visits

Hello! My name is Sally, and I am one of the Coordinators for International Relations (CIR)s at GIC. The three CIRs working at GIC (myself from Australia, Morishita from Brazil, and Chen from China) have a lot of different duties as CIRs, and in this article I would like to introduce what

a 'school visit' is.

Put simply, a school visit means that CIRs go to a school and interact with the children. We introduce our home countries through photographs, dance and games, in accordance with teacher requests. It is definitely a job that has a lot of perks, I can't help but smile when the children tell me that they want to visit one day.

There is a knack to introducing your own country. First, you have to be aware of what the children are interested in. I get a lot of requests to introduce famous tourist sights, but it's not that easy to draw comparisons for the children when they have barely travelled themselves. There are some plusses to introducing these things; however when you introduce what Australian children eat for school lunch the children can draw comparisons to their



Presenting to students

own lives, which is very interesting for them.

It's also important to understand the limits

of the children's knowledge. It's difficult for them to understand things like 'the population density of Australia is three people per square kilometre' or 'Australia has a low population density'. Show them pictures of the space between houses in the suburbs, or how big the fields in farms are, and they can get a better idea. If you compare these things with photos of scenes from Japan, the connection between the two things will become even stronger, and their understanding deeper.

Showing the children actual objects like flags or stuffed toys, or doing activities like dance, games or cooking lets them experience cultural difference not just with their eyes, but also with their bodies.

It's often said that you will forget 90% of any presentation. Perhaps the most important thing to impart to the children is not specific knowledge, but rather the fact that foreign people exist, we are human beings just like them, and we come from meaningful cultural backgrounds just like them. Of course it goes without saying that this is also a chance for the children to understand that they are Japanese.

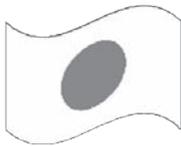


Slide from a presentation

International Exchange in action



How is my town different to yours?



Comparing Japanese and Filipino Schools



There are a lot of differences between Japan and the Philippines- this article will introduce differences in the school systems.

○ Compulsory Education

In Japan, it is compulsory for children to go to school from 6 to 15 years old, and registration takes place with the local government. School fees and textbooks are free for public elementary and junior high schools, and there is no reason for children not to go to school. Local government decides which school children will attend, and acceptance into the school is guaranteed.

Recently in the Philippines, the number of children who cannot attend school because of economic reasons are increasing. Parents have to pay for enrollment and textbooks for public elementary and junior high schools. Children can attend any school they like, but first they must pass an entrance examination.

○ Repeating Years

Japanese readers- in elementary or junior high school, have you ever been told that if you don't get a certain number of points on a test that you won't be able to progress to the next school year? The two most prominent features of the Japanese compulsory education system is that it is free, and that you cannot repeat a year of school. In the Philippines children from elementary school will be held back if they do not get more than 75% in each subject. This makes school very

difficult for the children.

○ Assigning classes

In the Philippines, children that study well are put in the same class together. Classes are decided according to academic results.

○ Commuting

Parents drive their children to school, or children take public transport (jeepney or bus).



○ School lunch

Japanese children eat school lunch, but in the Philippines children bring money to school, and order what they like from the school cafeteria. Schools have three break times. At 10 am there is a 30 minute break for snacks, at 12 pm there is lunch time for an hour, and at 3 pm there is another snack break. Cafeterias sell many different kinds of foods, so children can eat something different every day.

○ Cleaning

Each school employs several cleaning staff, so the children in charge of cleaning only clean their own classroom after class.

Information for Foreign Residents

GST Rises to 8% from April!

The goods and services tax (GST) is levied on transactions like the sale of products or merchandise, or the offering of services. It is predicted that over the short period of a year and a half this tax will rise two times, in this coming April from 5% to 8%, and in October 2015 a further rise to 10%.

Furthermore, previously businesses were required to display the gross sales price, which is the product price including tax, but now it will also be acceptable for businesses to display prices without displaying the tax included.

Gross sales price

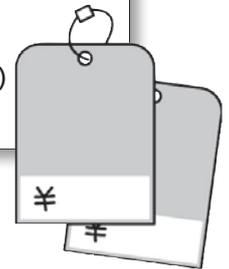
Presently it is necessary to include the price of tax in displayed prices.

- 10,800円 (税込 (tax inclusive))
- 10,800円 (税抜き価格 (price excluding tax) 10,000円)
- 10,800円 (内消費税額等 (including GST price etc.) 800円)

Price excluding tax

Only displays the price of the item.

- 10,000円 (税抜 (excluding tax))
- 10,000円 + (税 tax)
- 10,000円 + 800円 (税 (tax))



~ Methods for displaying price as of April ~

- 1) 「〇〇〇円(税込)」Display the total price including tax (gross sales price).
 - 2) 「〇〇〇円+ 税」Display only the price of the item (excluding tax).
 - 3) 「〇〇〇円(税込〇〇〇円)」Display the price of the item alone and also the price of the item including tax.
- It is permitted to use these three different display systems alongside each other, so make sure that you check the price tag when you shop.

Tax Returns: How much do you know?

Every person earning an income in Japan, even if they are non-Japanese, is subject to tax according to income tax laws, and has to pay the amount specified by law. If you are earning income from employment, your place of work will withhold that amount from your income. However in order to ensure that the amount withheld for the entire year is equal to the amount owed, the amount of tax withheld will be adjusted at the end of the year. Persons earning over 20,000,000 yen per year, persons with a salary from multiple places, and persons running their own business are required to lodge a tax return.

● When should you lodge?

The taxpayer must calculate how much income they have earned over the year from 1 January to 31 December, and how much tax they have to pay on that income; lodge an application to the relevant tax authority, and complete any payments. The application period for 2013 is from 17 February to 17 March 2014. Persons who have retired part way through the year, persons who have had to pay more than 100,000 yen in medical fees, and persons who have had their number of dependents increase could be eligible for a tax refund upon lodging their tax return. You can lodge for a tax refund at any time. If you lodge before 14 February you will be able to have time to talk over your options at the tax office, and you might be able to receive your refund early. You can also lodge an application for a tax refund after 18 March for any time in the past 5 years.



● How do I lodge?

There are two methods for lodging your tax return:

- 1) Pick up the necessary tax return forms from the tax office, and either lodge them in person or by post.
- 2) Fill out the tax return forms on the 'tax return and other document creation corner' of the National Tax Agency website, print the forms and either bring them in to the tax office or post them. It is also possible to lodge the forms online through the e-Tax service.



● Any questions?

If you have any enquiries, please ask your tax office directly. The Nagoya Regional Tax Bureau has explanations on their website in English, Portuguese and Spanish (<http://www.nta.go.jp/nagoya/index.htm>)

NPO Gifu Cote d'Ivoire

Sending shoes and stationary to children in Cote d'Ivoire in West Africa!!

● Outline

This NPO was founded in February 2009 with the aim of encouraging mutual consideration between the people of both countries and making people re-examine their lifestyles through an international exchange project.

● What do they do

Upon learning that children in Cote d'Ivoire were in need of shoes, the NPO started to run collection drives for unwanted shoes and stationary and conducting enlightenment campaigns as a way of providing support. A total of about 19,100 shoes and items of stationary have been delivered to children in need over four separate collection drives.

We send our shoes and stationary we no longer need to children in Africa.

- Founded 2009
- Represented by Toshio Sugiyama
2525-1 Nagara Fukumitsu,
Gifu City, 502-0817
(Inside Sugiyama Florist)
Tel/Fax: 058-295-5577
info@gifu-ci.com

● A message from Gifu Cote d'Ivoire:

Chance first brought me to Cote d'Ivoire. In areas away from the city I often saw children with bare feet playing soccer with a ball made of a cocoa pod wrapped in old cloth. I started this project from the thought 'if only there was something that I could do...' Any support you could offer would be appreciated.

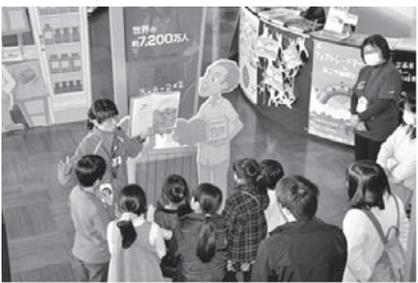
New or used shoes or stationary also accepted. Anything that you were grateful for receiving yourself, pass on to someone else! Collection drives held on an ad hoc basis. Thank you for your cooperation.



JICA corner

Nagoya Global Plaza Visitor's programme

There are photos and items on permanent display at JICA Chubu's Nagoya Global Plaza. You can also deepen your knowledge about the world from our guides with international cooperation experience. Make sure you take advantage of this plaza if you are ever in Nagoya for a social study school trip or excursion!



Hi everybody! This is Kagami from the JICA desk. How are you putting up with the cold weather? I'm not a big fan of it, but I love visiting hot springs with my friends. I don't mind going a little further than normal to get warm ☺ Introducing JICA's education programmes about development and international understanding!



On-Demand-Delivery Lectures: International Cooperation

JICA dispatches former Overseas Cooperation Volunteers and former Senior Volunteers to lecture about developing countries and what kind of activities and international cooperation they were involved in!! Dispatches to schools and regional public service groups.

Learn how to be an instructor in development education!

- Application period: Mid-April to May
 - Schedule: 8 sessions (starting in June)
 - Where: JICA Chubu
 - Who: students, teachers, general public
 - Cost: Free
 - Learn how to run workshops and role plays, and how the programme is structured.
- For further details, please enquire at the JICA desk!

Feel free to get in touch with me regarding volunteering for JICA or international understanding education
Mari Kagami, Gifu Coordinator for International Cooperation, Gifu Prefecture JICA Desk
Tel: 058-263-8069 E-mail: jicadpd-desk-gifuken@jica.go.jp



ABC Cooking Class



GIC's three Coordinators for International Relations will each introduce a dish. Enjoy cooking and eating together. Why don't you join us!



Last years class

When : 26 February 2014 (Weds) 10 am – 2 pm
Where : Dream Theatre Gifu (6 Meitoku-cho, Gifu City) Cooking Room 3F

Capacity : 18 people
(member priority, non-members in order of application)

What to bring : Apron, bandana to cover your hair

Application deadline : 21 February (Fri)

Cost : non-members ¥1000, GIC members ¥500
Application directly to GIC (Fax, email or phone)

Featuring : Sally Wals (CIR, Australia),
Anderson Missao Morishita (CIR, Brazil),
Chen Ping (CIR, China)
Special guest : Jeanette Nagaya
(Foreign Resident Consultant, the Philippines)

Programme

10:15~10:45	Australian dish
10:45~11:15	Brazilian dish
11:15~12:00	Chinese dish
12:00~12:30	Philippino dish
12:30~14:00	Eat, free talk
14:00	Finish

Become a member!

The GIC runs projects that support multiculturalism, international exchange, and international understanding. We have a membership system for people who want to support our aims financially.

- **Yearly Fees:** ¥3000 for individuals, ¥5000 for groups.
*Fees will be calculated on a monthly basis for applications made part way through the year for first time members.
- **Benefits:** Notifications about our international exchange or understanding projects.
Discounts and priority entrance to our fee based events (language courses, cooking classes etc.)
A copy of our international exchange information publication *Sekai Wa Hitotsu* posted to your residence.
Discounts from cooperating companies and retailers.
- **How to apply:** Please contact GIC directly

Advertise with us

We are looking for advertisements to display on our home page
(on the Japanese, English, Portuguese, Chinese and Tagalog sites).

and in our international exchange information publication
Sekai Wa Hitotsu
(in Japanese, English, Portuguese and Chinese).

For further details please enquire directly to the GIC.



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Closed: Saturday, Public Holidays, New Year Period.

