

Sekai wa Hitotsu

Gifu International Center (GIC)

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Multicultural Salon "Happy Easter!"

GIC holds Multicultural Salons to promote cross-cultural understanding in local communities and encourage residents of Gifu prefecture to think about multiculturalism. On Sunday 15th April, we held a salon called "Happy Easter!" at Bairin Children's Center (Gifu-shi) to introduce the spring festival of Easter, celebrated in many countries around the world, to children in Gifu prefecture.



Easter is originally a Christian holiday which remembers Christ's resurrection from the dead. However, today it is also observed by many people who are not Christians as a spring festival celebrating the birth of new life, and has become a kind of "second Christmas". Unlike Christmas, however, the date of Easter changes every year, as it falls on the Sunday following the first full moon that follows the Spring Equinox. This year, Easter landed on April 1st, but depending on the year, it can fall anywhere between March 22nd and April 25th.



The first thing that comes to mind when you think of Easter is probably Easter eggs, which symbolize Christ's resurrection and the new life of spring. In traditionally Christian countries, many people decorate eggs and give each other chocolate eggs as presents during this period.



As such, our salon's main event was also Easter egg decoration. Participants used stickers, crayons and pens to decorate white boiled eggs before dyeing them with food coloring. They also decorated egg baskets to take their dyed eggs home in.



Learning "Hot Cross Buns!"



Brazilian Easter Egg, "Ovo de Páscoa"

The CIRs then talked about how Easter is celebrated in their countries. In the UK, activities such as Easter Egg Rolls and Egg and Spoon Races are held, while in Brazil, large chocolate "Ovo de Páscoa" (Easter eggs) are hung from the ceiling in supermarkets, and children receive them from their parents, or exchange them with friends. After the presentations, we learnt the song "Hot Cross Buns!" in English, and opened up one of the Brazilian chocolate eggs together.



Hunting for eggs in the park outside!

Before we knew it, the hour and a half was up. Participants filled their baskets with goodies from the day to take home: their decorated Easter eggs, the chocolate eggs from the egg hunt, a few pieces of the Brazilian chocolate egg, and a snack from the Philippines. Easter is not as well-known in Japan compared to Halloween or Easter, but the children who came enjoyed decorating their eggs and playing games, and listened to the talks with interest. We enjoyed a fun afternoon celebrating Easter together.



The Typhoon Season is Approaching

Have you made preparations for potential flooding and landslides?

In Japan, most typhoons occur between the months of July and October. Like hurricanes and cyclones, typhoons cause very strong winds and heavy rain which often lead to landslides and flooding. This can damage houses and other buildings, putting many people's lives at risk. Furthermore, it is important to be aware that even if the typhoon itself is far away from where you are, there can still be long periods of heavy rain which increase the risk of landslides. This can happen even in urban areas far away from mountains and rivers, when water overflows from irrigation channels and sewers, flooding roads and fields, and sweeping away houses and cars. In July 2010, a localized rainstorm caused severe damage in Kani-shi and Yaotsu-cho, Kamo-gun, and many were reported dead or missing.



National and local government bodies have implemented a variety of disaster prevention measures in order to mitigate the effects of natural disasters, but these alone are not enough to prevent danger altogether. It is important to pay attention to weather and evacuation information for your area, as well as its particular geographic features and nearby evacuation shelters, and make sure that you are ready to evacuate as soon as an evacuation recommendation is issued, or you feel that you are at risk.

9 Ways to Protect Yourself in a Disaster

※Adapted from information on the Prefectural Disaster Prevention Division's website

- 1 Make sure your whole family knows about your nearby evacuation routes and shelters.
- 2 Decide amongst your family how you will contact each other in an emergency. If a disaster occurs in your area, you can dial the NTT West Japan Disaster Telephone Service to leave messages for your family (<http://www.ntt-west.co.jp/dengon/>). It is also a good idea to attach your contact information (such as your mobile phone email address) to your child's schoolbag so as to be able to make contact with them in an emergency.
- 3 Prepare a rucksack with the essentials to take with you when evacuating. (However, in a true emergency, you should prioritize evacuating over taking any possessions with you.)
- 4 Pay attention to accurate information about the path of typhoons and rainclouds, or aftershocks and damages (in the case of earthquakes) from the television or radio. (Do not be misled by speculation or rumors.)
- 5 Prepare clothes which are light and can keep you warm.
- 6 If you feel that you are in danger, talk with your family and evacuate sooner rather than later.
- 7 If your municipal office issues an evacuation order, evacuate immediately.
- 8 Water easily gets inside rubber boots when walking through flooded areas, making it difficult to move, so wear running shoes when evacuating.
- 9 When evacuating, check in on elderly people and others in your neighborhood who may need help evacuating.

* The NTT West Japan Disaster Telephone Service only gives directions in Japanese. The Disaster Message Board (web171) is available in English, Chinese, and Korean. (URL: <http://www.ntt-west.co.jp/dengon/web171/index.html>)

Natural disasters can happen at any time. Please take action to protect your life.

See our website for a list of the different types of weather warnings and advisories!

◆ http://www.gic.or.jp/en/foreigner/upload/docs/en_wether.pdf (English page)

Do You Own a Multilingual Disaster Management Guide?

We have produced a pocket-sized multilingual disaster management guide containing information about earthquakes and other large-scale natural disasters and how to protect yourself during them, which we distribute at training sessions and other events run by GIC. It explains what to do if an earthquake happens, what to be careful of when evacuating, and lists what items you should take with you. You can fill in personal information such as your emergency contact information and closest evacuation shelter and carry it with you in your diary or purse.

We offer 2 versions of this guidebook: a Japanese, English and Chinese version, and a Japanese, Portuguese and Tagalog version. There are a limited number of them, so please contact us if you would like one.

The guide can also be downloaded from our website: <http://www.gic.or.jp/foreigner/disasterguide/>

Please proactively participate in evacuation drills in your neighborhood, school, and workplace!



The detailed report of our disaster prevention workshops from last year will not be carried over from our previous issue as planned.

Lifestyle Information for Foreign Residents

Operating Watercraft in Japan's Seas, Lakes and Rivers

In order to safely enjoy marine recreation, it is important to have the correct license for operating watercraft. In this article, we have summarized the different types of licenses available, how to obtain a license, and the penalties for operating watercraft without a license or lending your watercraft to someone without a license.

Types of Licenses

For operating boats: First or Second Class Boat Operator's License

For operating water bikes: Personal Watercraft Operator's License

How to Obtain a License

Those wishing to obtain a license must take classes at a Boat License School to study the necessary knowledge and skills, before passing the Japan Marine Recreation Association's (<http://www.jmra.or.jp/>) national examination.

- 1 Take theory and practical classes at a Boat License School
- 2 Take the national examination (physical check, written examination, and practical examination)
- 3 Your license will be issued upon passing the national examination

※The written examination can be taken in Japanese, English or Portuguese.

In conjunction with the introduction of the Portuguese written examination in 2015, the National Boat School Association has produced a Portuguese version of the textbook and offers classes in Portuguese.

This year's Portuguese examination dates are as follows. If you are interested, please contact the National Boat School Association via the contact details below.

Dates and Locations: Second Class Boat Operator's Exam: July 28 (Sat.) 9:00~ Toyokawa-shi, Aichi-ken
Personal Watercraft Operator's Exam: July 29 (Sun.) 9:00~ Toyokawa-shi, Aichi-ken, and Yokkaichi-shi, Mie-ken

Contact details: ● Boat License School: National Boat School Association Chubu Branch Office (Ise Bay Marina)
URL: <http://nbsa.or.jp/>
TEL: 059-364-0100 FAX: 059-364-0102 Email: menkyo@kaneni-gp.com

Penalties

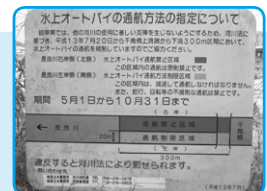
Penalties are as follows (in accordance with the Act on Ships' Officers and Boats' Operators) :

- A boat owner permits someone without an operator's license to operate their boat: up to 6 months in prison or up to 1,000,000 yen in fines.
- An individual operates a boat without an operator's license: up to 300,000 yen in fines.

Furthermore, if an accident resulting in injury or death occurs, you may face a civil or criminal trial. In a past case, an unlicensed individual who caused an accident resulting in death was charged with Causing Death or Injury through Serious Negligence and sentenced to 2 years in prison.

Rules for Operating Watercraft in Certain Waters

In Gifu Prefecture, there are rules governing the use of certain waters such as the Kiso Sansen. Make sure you check these online, or via leaflets or noticeboards at the site.



Mental Health Counselling with Foreign Counsellors

GIC offers mental health counselling sessions for foreign residents.

Until now, counselling has only been available in Portuguese, but as of this year, we also offer Tagalog sessions. The counsellors are individuals who have majored in psychology in their home countries, and the counselling sessions are one-on-one, so your privacy will be protected and you can have peace of mind during your sessions.

Do you struggle with issues related to school, your child's education, mood swings, marriage, work, or relationships?

Why not book a session to receive counselling in your own language?

Counselling sessions are available by prior reservation only, so please get in touch with us over the phone if you wish to make a reservation.

Counselling Sessions Portuguese (4th Sunday of every month): July 22 August 26 (provisional) September 23 (provisional)
Tagalog (2nd Sunday of every other month): July 8 September 9

※Dates are subject to change. For the latest information, please check our website or Facebook page, or contact us directly.

110th Anniversary of Japanese Emigration to Brazil



Japanese emigration to Brazil is said to have begun with the arrival of the *Kasatomaru* at the Port of Santos, São Paulo on 18th June, 1908. These first immigrants faced extremely severe labor conditions, working from 4 in the morning until dark, and many succumbed to grim diseases such as Malaria. Despite these harsh circumstances, they endured to become trusted members of Brazilian society, and now make up the largest overseas Japanese community in the world.

This year, 2018, is the 110th anniversary of the arrival of the first Japanese immigrants in Brazil. As such, many anniversary events will be taking place amongst the Japanese community in Brazil, for whom this is a very important occasion.

105th Anniversary of Gifu Prefectural Residents Emigration to Brazil // 80th Anniversary of the Founding of the Brazil Gifu Kenjinkai

On 30th March 1913, 5 years after Japanese emigrants first arrived in Brazil, the first emigrants from Gifu prefecture (11 families, a total of 44 people), left from the Port of Kobe on the *Wakasamaru*. They arrived at the Port of Santos 45 days later, on 15th May. At that time, the breadwinners in most families were individuals in their prime between their late 20s and 30s. The 44 from Gifu settled in Mato Grosso as “colono” (tenant farmers) on coffee plantations. Immigration from Gifu continued after this, albeit in small numbers.

In spite of obstacles such as an unreliable postal service and inconvenient transportation, the immigrants from Gifu prefecture managed to stay in touch with one another, and in July 1938, they held the inaugural “Gathering of Gifu Residents in Brazil”, which was the beginning of the Brazil Gifu Kenjinkai. This year, the Kenjinkai celebrates 80 years since this founding meeting. The Kenjinkai runs various projects such as member gatherings, a Japan-Brazil Friendship Exchange Painting Exhibition, recruitment of prefecture-funded exchange students, producing a journal, and sharing information via their website and Facebook page.

In the 1960s, immigration to Brazil began to slow down, but the Kenjinkai’s relationship to its home prefecture grew stronger, with the launching of several projects such as the Prefecture-Funded Exchange Student Scheme and the Gifu Prefecture Agricultural High School Overseas Training Project.

Representatives from Gifu prefecture will take part in anniversary celebrations through the Gifu Kenjinkai.



Several cities in Gifu prefecture are also twinned with cities in Brazil!

Brazil-Gifu Friendship (Sister) Cities		
	Friendship/Sister City	Date Established
Seki City	Mogi das Cruzes, São Paulo	5 th September, 1969
Nakatsugawa City	Registro, São Paulo	4 th August, 1980
Gifu City	Campinas, São Paulo	22 nd February, 1982

– For Foreign Residents who study Japanese –

Japanese Language Resources Available for Borrowing!

We have started loaning out Japanese language resources. Anyone is welcome to come and borrow books! Why not use our library to compare different textbooks and find one that suits you?

How to Use Our Library

- 1 Register**
 - Please register at GIC.
 - Bring documentation which can confirm your current address e.g. a driver's license.
- 2 Borrowing**
 - You can borrow 2 books at a time for up to 2 weeks.
- 3 Returning**
 - Please return books within 2 weeks of borrowing.
 - Bring books to GIC to return them.

There are around 190 books available for borrowing, including general textbooks, practice problems, and kanji books!



- You can see our full catalogue on our website : <http://www.gic.or.jp/2018/03/post-88.html>
- Please do not write in the books.
- Due to copyright laws, you may not make multiple photocopies from books to use for Japanese classes or similar purposes.

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 Closed: Saturday, Public Holidays, New Year Period
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