



Multiculturalism Project



Seminar on supporting foreigners at medical institutions



Seminar on supporting foreigners in times of disaster



Group work session

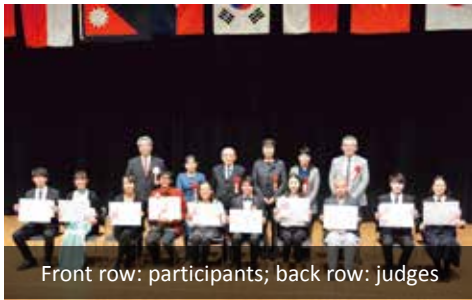
On 17 December 2017, Kagoshima International Association (KIA) organized a study group for volunteer interpreters and staff of medical institutions to learn about the difficulties faced by foreigners when they visit a medical institution. 31 people attended the workshop.

At the workshop, participants first learned some basic interpreting skills and rules when interpreting at medical institutions. Later, they broke up into groups according to their spoken languages and practiced interpreting at a medical consultation through role-play simulation.

KIA also organized a seminar for volunteer interpreters and representatives from related organizations on supporting foreigners in times of disaster on 2 December 2017. The 29 participants exchanged opinions on the topic.

Feedback from these two seminars include “I realized that regular face-to-face contact with foreign people plays a huge role in the event of a disaster”, and “as a long-term foreign resident of Kagoshima, I would like to be able to help fellow foreigners when they experience trouble in the future.” We hope that these initiatives will lead to greater multicultural integration in the region.

Let's Talk About the World in Kagoshima – The 23rd Japanese Speech Contest for Foreigners



Front row: participants; back row: judges

Out of the 52 contestants from 18 countries/regions who took part in the preliminary round on 20 January 2018, 10 foreigners from 7 countries were selected to participate in the finals held on 27 January. The winner was Ms Jeong Hyo Rim from South Korea, a sixth grade student at Murasakibaru Elementary School in Kagoshima City with her speech *"My Badge of Honor"*.

Ms Jeong spoke of how unfamiliar everything was, and the many difficulties she faced when she first came to Japan two years ago due to her father's career. As she could not speak a word of Japanese at the beginning, she ceaselessly practiced writing the *kanji* characters to master the language, and earned a callus on her middle finger. This, she said, is her 'badge of honor'. Ms Jeong also passionately told the audience of 539 people how her Japanese language improved with the help of teachers, friends, and other people around her, how her newfound love of Kagoshima led her to understand the importance of going overseas, and her dream of becoming a diplomat and acting as a bridge between countries.

The participants roused the audience and occasionally brought tears to their eyes with their speeches, which were delivered in fluent Japanese on topics such as the differences between their home countries and Japan, the beauty of diversity felt through interacting with people from different countries, and the good points of Kagoshima. We hope to continue providing opportunities for the citizens of Kagoshima to interact with people of different nationalities and cultures.

Japanese Language and Culture Class



Japanese language class

The Japanese Language and Culture Class was held from May 2017 to February 2018 to teach foreigners living in Kagoshima about Japanese customs and useful everyday phrases. The Tuesday and Thursday classes each met 30 times for a combined total of 60 sessions.

This fiscal year, the activities held include exchanging opinions about current affairs in Japan, learning Japanese proverbs, and there was also a session in which the students played the part of a teacher and taught their classmates words and phrases from their native language. At the end of each term, using Japanese words that they have learnt, the students reflected on the past term and described the name and taste of the home-cooked local dish that they have brought to the potluck party. Although they were nervous at the start of the course, the students showed great enthusiasm in learning and improving their Japanese, and encouraged one another. Through this year of study, the students deepened not just their understanding of Japanese language and culture, but also friendships that transcend nationalities and cultures.

Japanese Language Chat Room



Group photo with lecturer on Tenpuku

The Japanese Language Chat Room, for foreigners with a grasp of conversational Japanese, was held between May 2017 and March 2018 for a total of 20 sessions.

Guest speakers and foreigners living in Kagoshima provided topics on Kagoshima's history and traditions such as "Kagoshima's History and the Meiji Restoration" and "Tenpuku: Kagoshima's Traditional Flute".

Furthermore, we have invited participants of the chat room to speak, and they offered topics including "'Osechi' Cuisine" – that they learned while living in Kagoshima – and their personal experiences of "International Marriage". Comments from the participants include "it was my first time as a speaker, and I was glad I could make use of my experiences", and "I learned things that are useful to living in Kagoshima, and I look forward to attending this chat room every time." We hope that this chat room will provide participants with the opportunity to make new friends and fuel their desire to learn Japanese in an enjoyable way.

Public Seminar on International Understanding by Foreign Lecturers



Public seminar on Peru's culture

This fiscal year, KIA organized public seminars on international understanding on Peru and Islam, which are led by foreigners residing in Kagoshima who make use of the opportunity to introduce their home culture to the locals.

The Peru cultural seminar led by a speaker from Peru was held at the “Japanese Fascinated by Machu Picchu, and the Ancient Civilization of the Andes” exhibition, jointly organized by KIA and The Open University of Japan Kagoshima Study Center. Visitors were quizzed on Peru and

deepened their understanding of the country. There were also exhibits on Peru Kagoshima Kenjinkai, which allowed them to understand the history and ties between Kagoshima and Peru.

At the seminar on Islamic culture, the speaker from Egypt talked about Islam and its culture, and about Kagoshima as seen by a Muslim. Participants also were given a taste of a halal lifestyle. We believe this seminar allowed the participants to understand Islamic culture from a viewpoint that is often overlooked.

We hope such seminars will serve as a platform for promoting international exchange in the region through providing the opportunity for interaction between foreign residents and locals to become better acquainted with one another and their respective cultures.

Alumni of Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers and Foreign Students as Teachers



At Kiyomizu Elementary School, Minamikyushu City

This school visit program is jointly organized by KIA, the Supporting Organization of Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV) in Kagoshima, and the JOCV Kagoshima Alumni Association. The program dispatches returnee JOCVs and international students to over 40 schools every year, and since its inauguration in 1995 the guest speakers have visited more than 910 elementary and junior high schools in the prefecture. The program began dispatching speakers to special needs schools from 2016.

Comments from the children include “just like the speaker whose work transcends borders, I want to bravely challenge myself to something big”, and “the phrase ‘everyone in the world is equal’ made an impression on me”. Rather than information from textbooks and the internet, it appears that actually interacting with the JOCVs and international students and listening to their experiences gives the students a critical opportunity to reflect on their lifestyles and think about their future. We hope that this program will continue to serve as a catalyst for the torch bearers of the future to experience the world up close.

Regional International Exchange Promotion Program



At Lifelong Learning Festival

This initiative aims to stimulate interest in international exchange through the setting up of international exchange booths at local festivals with the cooperation of foreign residents and international exchange organizations. This fiscal year, KIA has participated in the MBC Summer Festival in Kagoshima City, the Koyama Yabusame Festival in Kimotsuki Town, the Lifelong Learning Festival in China Town, and the Marugoto Ijuin Festival in Hioki City.

It has been 3 years since we last set up booth in China Town. There, we carried out activities such as “Craft using Colored Tissue”, “Making Eco-friendly Foreign Newspaper Bags”, “World Greeting Stamp Collection” and “Bookmark-making using Foreign Stamps”. At the corner for trying on ethnic costumes, children and adults alike enjoyed themselves wearing their preferred costumes and taking pictures. We believe it was a good opportunity for the islanders to become acquainted with different cultures.

Kagoshima Global KIZUNA Assembly

Website: <https://www.allkagoshima.com/en/front/#roots>

Figure 1. The effect of the number of nodes on the number of nodes in the network.

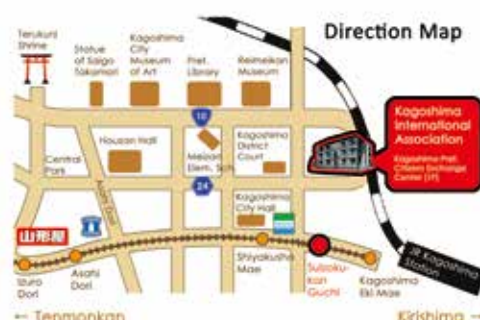
Services at the International Exchange Plaza

- Events bulletin board
- Rental of flags, ethnic costumes, maps, and UNICEF videos
- Foreign language newspapers, books and magazines for browsing
- Consultation for foreign residents
- Chinese Language Lunchtime Conversation (Tue; 12:00 – 13:00)
- Korean Language Lunchtime Conversation (Wed; 12:30 – 13:30)
- Lunchtime English Club (Fri; 12:00 – 13:00)



Opening hours: Tue – Sun; 9:00 – 17:00

Closed on Mondays (if Monday is a public holiday, the office will be closed on Tuesday) and during the New Year holiday (29 Dec – 3 Jan).



Kagoshima International Association
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URL : <http://www.synapse.ne.jp/kia/>
★ We have revamped our website.

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