



South Wing

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Photo: Yagoroudon Festival © K. P. V. B

~Let's Talk About the World in Kagoshima!~ 28th Japanese Speech Contest for Foreign Nationals



Finalists and judges

The 28th Japanese Speech Contest this year received applications from 30 foreigners (from 13 countries) living within Kagoshima Prefecture. Among them, 10 applicants (from 7 countries) successfully passed the preliminary round held on 28 Jan 2023. The winner of the grand prize is Ms. Yoon Chaeyun from South Korea, who gave a speech titled 'Freedom from Nationality'.

She talked about encountering people who are proud of their own identity regardless of their nationality, her firsthand

experiences of how people are not any different from herself despite having different nationalities, and her realization that people should not be defined by their nationality.

In addition, the other contestants also gave excellent speeches conveyed in clear Japanese about their thoughts regarding topics such as life in Kagoshima and interactions with people.



Ms. Yoon, Grand Prize Winner

Japanese Language Chat Room



Participants at Terukuni Shrine

This year, 8 sessions of the Japanese Language Chat Room was held for foreigners who can hold daily conversations in Japanese, with the aim of creating networking opportunities and improving their Japanese.

The sessions were very lively, with topics relating to Japanese culture such as calligraphy, summer festivals and kimonos. We also invited guests to discuss a wide range of topics such as Japanese language, police and wagyu

(Japanese beef).

In addition, we also visited Terukuni Shrine, explored the area and learnt about worship methods and visiting manners under the topic of learning about hatsumode (first shrine or temple visit of the new year).

Some comments from the participants include, "I was able to learn many things", "this was a good chance to learn more about Japanese culture", and "I learnt much from everyone's opinions via the discussions". We hope that the participant circle of the Japanese Language Chat Room would further widen, connected by their joint motivation of learning Japanese.

Japanese Language and Culture Class



From May 2022 to Feb 2023, 60 sessions of Japanese Language and Culture Class was held for foreign residents living in Kagoshima, with topics such as Japanese language useful to daily life and Japanese customs. Of these classes, 30 were held on Wednesday afternoons and 30 on Thursday evenings.

Instead of the usual discussion groups, it was held in a classroom format this year with distance maintained between participants due to the COVID pandemic. During the classes, there were various approaches to Japanese such as learning kanji in small groups via road signs, presenting skits using grammar learnt, and introducing their own countries.

Feedback from the participants includes, "the classes were useful in my daily life, as this was what I wanted to study", "I want to learn more and be able to speak Japanese", whereby their enthusiasm about learning Japanese can be felt.

Support Seminar for Foreign Residents on Disaster Prevention Measures



A seminar was held together with Wadamari Town in October and Yusui Town in November this year, and a total of 18 Japanese and 17 foreigners participated.

In the morning, a basic course was held for foreign residents to learn about disasters and disaster prevention measures in Kagoshima, and a course about easy Japanese was held for aid workers helping foreigners. In the afternoon, a joint workshop for both foreigners and Japanese was held to make simple portable toilets and protective raincoats. They also practiced identifying hazardous areas, evacuation sites and routes in residential areas while checking hazard maps.

Comments from the participants include, "I am thankful that there are many programs like this which can strengthen ties with foreigners", and "I was able to learn about self-protection and refuge locations during times of danger". We hope that this project will be able to foster closer ties during normal times and strengthen support for foreigners during a disaster.



International Cooperation Youth Experience Program

[Global Camp in Osumi ~International Cooperation X Cross-Cultural Understanding x Kagoshima~]



Kagoshima Prefecture International Cooperation Youth Experience Program dispatches youths from Kagoshima to developing countries to improve mutual understanding, international cooperation and global talents.

This is done via homestays, school exchanges and visiting JOCV activity sites in developing countries. This is jointly organized by the local Kagoshima JOCV chapter, the JOCV Kagoshima Alumni Association, and the Kagoshima International Association. However due to the COVID pandemic, this program was cancelled for 3 years since 2020.

As such, the possibilities of experiencing international cooperation and cultural understanding without going abroad was considered. As a result, it was the first time in Japan that this program was held for high school students. The students enjoyed various experiences through workshops, activities with JOCV alumni, visits to Kagoshima's sites of international cooperation and exchanges with international students.

It was a short but enjoyable 3 days where participants were able to broaden their horizons, and shared comments such as "I was able to feel the importance of international cooperation through this program" and "I wish to work hard towards connecting this to my future". In order to provide such similar chances, we would like to aim towards a system that can send more junior and senior high school students overseas next year.

Urgent Aid Project for International Students



Benefit coupon presentation ceremony

Continuing from last year, this is a project to give out supermarket vouchers for foreign students living in and attending universities in Kagoshima Prefecture who are struggling due to the impact of the COVID pandemic.

Last year, vouchers were given to international students enrolled in universities here. This year, vouchers were given to 325 students enrolled in vocational schools here (as of 1 Jul 2023). The funds came from the bereaved family of Ms. Fumiko Higashi, who was affectionately known here

as the 'older sister of international students'.

According to one of the voucher recipients, "I was moved after hearing how Ms. Higashi used to help support international students. I am very grateful, and wish to continue working hard on my studies." Another student also commented that "I plan to use it for my living expenses, and I want to work hard towards my future goals."

We look forward to these students being able to overcome their difficulties and work towards becoming a bridge between Kagoshima and their home countries.

Support for International Students by the Kagoshima International Association

Support loans for international students

Funds are lent to support international students studying in Kagoshima Prefecture when there are temporary large expenses such as living expenses, housing expenses, medical expenses, tuition fees, home country visit expenses and so on. The aim is to help foster a conducive and stable environment for the students to study in.



↑ More info about the support loan system

Subsidies for international students' research activities

Subsidies are provided for international students residing in Kagoshima Prefecture to participate in academic conferences in order to support their research activities.



↑ More info about the subsidies for research activities

Subsidies for international student exchange activities

Subsidies are provided for international students for the purposes of exchanges between these students and prefectural residents. It aims to promote such exchanges, and is implemented by organizations which are comprised of international students, or are organizations which support these international students.



↑ More info about the subsidies for exchange activities

Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers Alumni and Exchange Students as Teachers



Introducing Vietnam at a junior high school

Every year, the Supporting Organization of Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV) in Kagoshima, the JOCV Kagoshima Alumni Association, and the Kagoshima International Association holds a joint project that dispatches JOCV returnees and international students living in Kagoshima as lecturers to around 40 elementary and junior high schools.

The aim of the project is for students to learn more about international cooperation and understanding through the experiences of JOCV alumni and by interacting with foreign residents. Due to the COVID pandemic, the usual exchange-type lessons could not take place this year. However, topics which cannot be found in textbooks such as local experiences, different countries and traditional clothing were introduced via photos and videos.

Comments from the 2,335 students of the 41 participating schools include, "I now want to know more about other countries," "there were so many things I didn't know about," and "when I grow up, I want to play an active role overseas as part of the JOCV." This project not only is a good chance for students to deepen their understanding about international cooperation, but also for them to think about their own future.

Guide to the International Exchange Plaza

- Event bulletin board
- Rental of national flags, traditional clothing, maps, and UNICEF videos
- Free browsing of foreign-language materials such as newspapers, books, and magazines



International Exchange Plaza

Japanese Language and Culture Class for Foreign Residents】

Classes: 1st Term, May-Jul (10 classes)

2nd Term, Sep-Feb (20 classes) *TBC

Wednesday Classes: 10:00am-11:30am every week

Thursday Classes: 6:30pm-8:00pm every week

Venue: Kagoshima Prefectural Citizens Exchange Centre 1F,
Meeting Room A (in front of the shop)

Capacity: 15 people per class

Eligibility: Foreign residents of Kagoshima who are 18 years of
age or older and are new to learning Japanese

Fees: 1st Term (10 classes) 1,000yen

2nd Term (20 classes) 2,000yen



Japanese Language
and Culture Class

Japanese Language Chat Room】

Date: 4 times per year *TBC

Venue: Kagoshima Prefectural Citizens Exchange Centre
1F Meeting Room A (in front of the shop)

Eligibility: Foreign residents of Kagoshima
(with conversational Japanese ability)



Japanese Language
Chat Room

We also welcome enquiries on international exchange matters,
registration of homestay host families and volunteer interpreters, etc.
Please feel free to stop by if you have any enquiries.

Consultation Desk for Foreign Residents

The Consultation Desk for Foreign Residents distributes information and provides consultation services in multiple languages for foreign residents living in Kagoshima Prefecture.

Support is available for various issues related to daily life, including status of residence, employment, medical care, welfare, pregnancy, child-rearing, and children's education.

○ Method of consultation: In-person visit, telephone, email, Facebook Messenger

• Tel: 070-7662-4541 / Email: kiasoudan@gmail.com

• Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Kiasoudan>

○ Languages available: 23 different languages.

• Japanese, English, and Vietnamese are available directly
at the consultation desk.

• For the other languages, it would be via a multilingual call center (includes: Chinese, Tagalog, Korean, Indonesian, Nepali, Khmer, Thai, Burmese, Portuguese, Spanish, Malay, French, Russian, German, Italian, Mongolian, Sinhala, Hindi, Bengali, Ukrainian).



The Consultation Desk for
Foreign Residents



↑ Facebook QR Code

【For enquiries related to the International Exchange Plaza, Consultation Desk and our journals】

Kagoshima International Association

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