



South Wing

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Forest (Amami Oshima) by KPG

~Let's Talk About the World in Kagoshima!~ 27th Japanese Speech Contest for Foreign Nationals



[Participants of the final round and members of the judging board]

On 29 January, the final of this year's Japanese Speech Contest was held. A total of 22 foreign nationals living in Kagoshima Prefecture from 10 countries applied, and after a preliminary round 9 participants from 6 countries were chosen to present their speeches in the final round.

The winner of the main prize was America-born Mr. Burgess Keegan, with his speech titled 'Living in a divided world'. Speaking about the divides created by discrimination, he presented to the audience his honest thoughts. As racial

discrimination in America affects family and friends, Mr. Burgess was able to understand and talk from many different standpoints, with Mr. Burgess also having experienced discrimination in Japan. As for the solution to racial discrimination, Mr. Burgess expressed how he believed making close and genial connections with those around us is vital.

Speaking in Japanese about such a difficult societal problem, Mr. Burgess's speech touched the hearts of the audience.

Seminar on 'Support for Foreign Residents on Disaster Prevention Measures'



Confirming in groups the location of dangerous areas

The seminar on 'Support for Foreign Residents on Disaster Prevention Measures' was held for a total of 4 sessions from October to November. It was targeted towards foreign residents living in Satsuma Town and the surrounding Satsuma area, with Satsuma Town co-hosting the event. Overall, 29 Japanese participants and 25 foreign residents participated in the courses.

There were classes aimed at foreign residents to teach them the fundamentals of Japanese disasters and disaster prevention measures. Classes aimed at Japanese residents focused on how to support foreign residents during times of disasters alongside deepening understanding of multicultural coexistence. The last session was a joint class between the foreign and Japanese participants, in which they worked together in groups using Satsuma Town's Hazard Map to confirm the location of dangerous areas, evacuation shelters, and evacuation routes.

Comments from participants include, "I was able to understand what the most pressing concerns are for foreign nationals," and "I think that just by recognizing someone's face, it becomes easier to form a relationship where you can talk to them." We hope that this project will serve as a chance to form relationships wherein people recognize each other, and that it will help foreigners in the event of a natural disaster.

Japanese Language and Cultural Class



The 'Japanese Language and Cultural Class for Foreign Residents,' where students learn useful Japanese for everyday life and Japanese customs, has concluded after a total of 60 sessions (30 during Wednesday daytimes, and 30 on Thursday evenings) from May 2021 to February 2022.

Due to the impact of COVID-19, this year classes had social-distancing measures in place, with desks laid out like a classroom rather than the previous discussion format.

In the course, students were divided into groups of small numbers and given a passage related to Japanese culture to read. After studying the passage's vocabulary, these new words were put into practice by creating a Japanese-language skit in their groups to present to the other students. Indeed, this shows how various methods were utilised to learn Japanese. One student remarked, "I was able to learn useful phrases about realistic topics that actually relate to students," and another said, "I want to continue studying so that I can be able to speak in Japanese," showing their desire and motivation to study Japanese.

Vietnamese Cultural Understanding Class



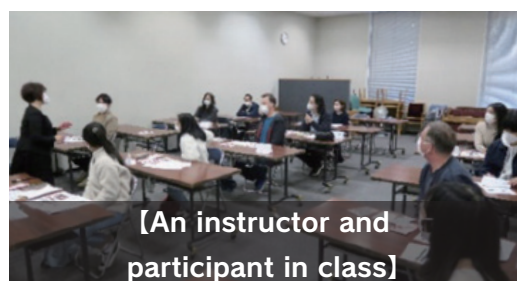
A course to shed light on what daily life is really like in Vietnam took place in collaboration with four cities across Kagoshima Prefecture (Ichikikushikino City, Satsuma Sendai City, Kanoya City, and Ibusuki City). Within the foreign population in Kagoshima prefecture, the Vietnamese nationality is the largest population. Each of the courses were led by an instructor from Vietnam, and sought to deepen understanding about ethnicity,

culture, lifestyle and language in Vietnam. In total, 128 people participated in the courses.

In the first half of the course, the leader of the course Ms. Yen gave an overview of Vietnam, and in the second half Vietnamese guests invited from each city gave a presentation titled 'Introduction to My Hometown.' Comments from participants include, "I didn't know much about Vietnam previously, so I'm glad to have learned a lot," and "I'm so impressed to see how those from Vietnam came to Japan and are trying their best here."

For participants, the course deepened their understanding of Vietnam and can be used as a reference point to help build communication with those from Vietnam around them.

The Japanese Language Chat Room



This year's 'The Japanese Language Chat Room' was held for a total of 7 sessions for foreigners proficient in conversational Japanese to network and further improve their language ability. In the sessions, participants were able to interact with Japanese culture through various events and themes. These included a Japanese Calligraphy Experience and a session about the August Obon Festival. There was also a talk on Diseases from a member

of Kagoshima City's Infectious Disease Control Division and a class held by an Etiquette Instructor about manners for weddings and funerals. This wide array of subject matter allowed for a broad discussion on everyday life in Japan. Voices from participants include, "It was so fun to get to know everyone here," and "It was great to hear about cultures of other countries that weren't my own or Japan." We hope that the Chat room will serve as a chance for participants to expand their social circle and lead to their continued motivation to study Japanese.

International Understanding Classes by Foreign Residents



[Demonstrating traditional Instrument]

The International Understanding Classes by Foreign Residents in Kagoshima Prefecture invites foreign residents to introduce their mother country's culture and help promote multicultural coexistence.

The event takes place annually at the Kagoshima Prefectural citizens Exchange Centre in Kagoshima City. However, this year there were plans in place for the event to occur not only at the Exchange Centre but across the prefecture. Taking the subject of 'International Understanding Classes by Foreign Residents that Connects the Community,' foreign residents in locations within

Kagoshima Prefecture were set to take on the role teachers and hold seminars in their towns of residency. However, due to the recent spread of COVID-19, the classes in local towns were unfortunately postponed. On the other hand, the Kagoshima Prefectural Citizens Exchange Centre was still able to hold their seminars. A Taiwanese resident and Malaysian resident each became the instructors and held seminars in which they introduced the cultures of their hometowns to participants. Not only were specific aspects of the speaker's countries and areas introduced, but also various performances of traditional instruments and keyring making using traditional craft techniques of the lecturer's respective mother country were carried out.

In each lecture, the instructor introduced their home country in a fun, humorous manner, deepening the understanding of participants in a peaceful atmosphere. Comments made by participants such as "I gained an interest in different cultures," "I wanted to try going once!" and "I'm so happy to have learnt many things I didn't know before," show how participants were able to have fun whilst deepening their understanding of different areas. We look forward to the next time we can serve as a place for exchange and mutual understanding between prefectural citizens and foreign citizens residing in the area.



[Introducing the mother country]

Alumni of the Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers and Exchange Students as Teachers Project



[Introducing Costa Rica at an elementary school]

Every year, 3 groups, the Supporting Organisation of Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (hereinafter called JOCV) in Kagoshima, the JOCV Kagoshima Alumni Association, and the Kagoshima International Association, hold a joint project that sees JOCV returnees and international students living in Kagoshima Prefecture dispatched 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 coronavirus pandemic, the usual exchange-type lessons could not take place. However, by using photos and videos, local experiences, different countries and traditional garments were introduced; such matters that you cannot learn about through a textbook. Some comments from the 2,000 elementary and middle-school students of the 35 schools that took part in the project include, "I now want to know more about foreign 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 serves not only a good chance for students to deepen their understanding about international cooperation, developing countries and the development of international human resources, but also for them to think about their own future.

Urgent Aid Project For International Students

A project to give out benefit coupons for foreign students living and attending universities in Kagoshima Prefecture who are struggling due to the impact of the coronavirus pandemic was carried out in cooperation with universities in Kagoshima Prefecture. The benefit fund comes from the bereaved family of Ms. Fumiko Higashi.

Ms. Higashi had helped support international students for many years, leading her to be affectionately referred to as the 'Older Sister of International Students studying in Kagoshima'. With the cooperation of universities, 9 universities were able to give benefit coupons to 383 international students. One international student who received the benefits said, "I was moved after hearing about how Ms. Higashi used to help support international students. I am grateful for her support, and wish to continue working on my studies." Indeed, both Japanese and international students are striving to study whilst dealing with difficulties in their daily life brought about by the prolonged coronavirus situation. In such circumstances, the Kagoshima International Association will continue to support international students' research activities and funding projects so their lives here in Japan can improve.

We sincerely hope that international students will continue to overcome difficulties and become a bridge between Kagoshima and their home countries.

Guide to the International Exchange Plaza

- Event bulletin board
- Rental of national flags, traditional cultural dress, maps, and UNICEF videos
- Foreign-language newspapers, books, and magazines available to browse
- Chinese Language Lunchtime Talk (every Tuesday from 12:00-12:45)
- Korean Language Lunchtime Talk (every Wednesday 12:30-13:15)
- Lunchtime English Club (every Friday 12:00-12:45)

We also handle 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 a consultation service in various languages for foreign residents living in Kagoshima Prefecture. Support is available for various issues related to daily life, such as status of residence, employment, medical care, welfare, pregnancy, child-rearing, and children's education to bring about a suitable solution.

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: 22 different languages.

- The Consultation Desk offers Japanese, English and Vietnamese
- The Consultation Desk utilizes a multilingual call center for other languages.



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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HP: <https://www.kiaweb.or.jp> Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Kagoshima.Intl.Assoc/>

Opening Hours: 9:00am-17:00pm (Tuesday-Sunday) Closed: Mondays (If Monday is a public holiday, the holiday is held on the following weekday) and during the end-of-year celebrations (29th December-3rd January)

