



# South Wing

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## Seminars on International Understanding by Foreign Lecturers



Learning the Vietnamese language

This fiscal year, Kagoshima International Association (KIA) organised four workshops on Vietnam, Indonesia, Hungary and Brazil to foster international understanding. International students studying in local universities and foreign residents in Kagoshima led the workshops.

The workshops on Vietnam and Indonesia were both held over three sessions. Participants learned about the country's language and culture in the first two sessions, and cooked local food in the third. Unfortunately the third session on Vietnam was cancelled due to typhoon.



Cooking Indonesian food

Remarks from participants include "although it was a country I have no relation to, this seminar allowed me to come in contact with the culture and it was interesting", "the language is difficult, but I felt that I can become familiar with it quickly", and "the teacher's Japanese is very good".

We believe that the participants are now better acquainted with international students in the prefecture and the Vietnamese and Indonesian cultures.



Seminar on Brazilian culture

At the seminar on Hungarian culture, Kagoshima's sole Hungarian resident talked about the surprising similarities between Hungary and Kagoshima. The Brazil cultural seminar was held in commemoration of the 105<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the Brazil Kagoshima Kenjinkai association. Two government-funded scholarship students at Kagoshima University spoke about the immigrants and indigenous peoples, and legends of Brazil (of how the Amazon River came to be). Participants also experienced playing a nose flute.



Seminar on Hungarian culture

At the seminars, participants were deeply interested and asked many questions. Comments include "I learned that it is very important to learn about foreign cultures", and "with a quiz and segment about legends, it was a productive time that passed very quickly".

We hope such seminars will serve as a platform for foreign and local residents to gain a deeper understanding of one another and their respective cultures, so they may build a relationship of mutual cooperation in their daily lives.

## Regional International Exchange Promotion Programme



At MBC Summer 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 organisations. This fiscal year, KIA participated in the MBC Summer Festival in Kagoshima City and the Marugoto Ijuin Festival in Hioki City.

At the MBC Summer Festival held on the 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> of July 2018, visitors to the booth enjoyed activities such as a stamp rally of greetings around the world, writing names in Korean, Chinese origami craft, and playing with Singapore-themed stamps. For the stamp rally, Coordinators for International Relations, international students and other foreign residents taught children to say “hello” and “thank you” in 6 different languages including Indonesian, Portuguese and English before they stamped the relevant greetings in a booklet.

We believe it was a good opportunity for the residents of Kagoshima to get to know different cultures.

## Alumni of Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers and Foreign Students as Teachers



At Kiyomizu Elementary School, Minamikyushu City

This school visit programme is jointly organised by KIA, the Supporting Organisation of Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV) in Kagoshima, and the JOCV Kagoshima Alumni Association. Returnee JOCVs and international students are dispatched to around 40 elementary, junior high, and special needs schools every year.

This programme aims to educate students on international cooperation and cross-cultural understanding through talks by alumni JOCVs about their work overseas and interacting with foreign people.

Comments from the children include “I was interested in the work of JOCVs, and the talk made me more determined to become one when I grow up so I can help people overseas”, and “I enjoyed learning about a different culture through quizzes and games”.

It appears that hearing for themselves the experiences of JOCVs and international students not only instils in children an interest in foreign countries, but also serves as a catalyst for them to reflect on themselves and think about their dreams and goals.

## Let's Talk About the World in Kagoshima = The 24<sup>th</sup> Japanese Speech Contest for Foreigners



Front row: participants; back row: judges

Out of the 38 contestants from 12 countries/regions who took part in the preliminary round, 10 foreign residents from 7 countries were selected to participate in the finals held on 26 January. The winner was Ms Nurulhuda binti Shafiee, Malaysian Coordinator for International Relations at Hioki City with her speech “Aramaa”.

Through highlighting the word “alamak/aramaa” that has the same meaning and pronunciation in the Malay and Japanese languages, Ms Nurulhuda spoke of the importance of understanding and respecting one another's culture and language. Her humorous speech coupled with animated gestures captivated the audience of 340 people.

The confidence with which participants talked about their experiences and thoughts in a newly learnt language is evidence of their hard work in Japan so far, and listeners were enthralled by their speeches. We hope to continue providing opportunities for the citizens of Kagoshima to interact with people of different nationalities and cultures.



## Multiculturalism Project (Workshop on Supporting Foreigners in Times of Disaster)



Presenting their opinions

On 3 October 2018, a workshop was held for residents and officials to think about the issues foreigners face in times of disaster and the support the community can provide them. The lecturer was from Kumamoto International Foundation, and 47 people attended the workshop.

During the first half of the workshop, the lecturer talked about the kind of support required by foreign people based on firsthand experience of the 2016 Kumamoto Earthquake. In the latter half, 3 foreign residents in

Kagoshima talked about the differences in awareness of disaster prevention between their home country and Japan, as well as their worries and fears in the event of a natural disaster.

Feedback from participants include “I was surprised to learn that the term ‘給水 (kyūsui, meaning “water provision”)’ is not easily understood. I will endeavour to use easy Japanese from now on,” and “it was good to hear the candid opinions of foreign people on disaster preparedness”. We hope this project will lead to greater multicultural integration in the region.

## Japanese Language and Culture Class



Extra-curricular Japanese cultural experience

The Japanese Language and Culture Class was held from May 2018 to February 2019 to teach foreigners living in Kagoshima about Japanese customs and useful everyday phrases. The Wednesday afternoon and Thursday evening classes each met 30 times for a combined total of 60 sessions.

This fiscal year, activities include learning practical phrases for hospital visits and schools, and introducing to the class their home country during lessons. The classes enabled students to learn about one another's countries and exchange opinions on cultural similarities and differences.

At the end of each term, using Japanese words that they have learnt, they reflected on the past term and described the name and recipe of the home-cooked local dish that they had brought to the potluck party.

Students commented that they “want to convey their thoughts and feelings in Japanese”. They showed great enthusiasm in learning the Japanese language, and gave one another encouragement and help. Through this class, they built friendships that transcend nationality, gender, age and culture.

## Japanese Language Chat Room



Learning about festivals

The Japanese Language Chat Room, for foreigners with a grasp of conversational Japanese to network with one another and improve their Japanese, was held this fiscal year for a total of 20 sessions.

This year, guest speakers from the Kagoshima Meteorological Office and the Kagoshima Chuo Police Station were invited to provide topics useful to living in Japan and Kagoshima such as disaster prevention measures for volcanic eruptions of Mt Sakujiyama and handling lost and found belongings.

Participants also enjoyed experiencing weaving using foot looms and learning about the Meiji Restoration, Kagoshima's culture including its traditional festivals.

Comments from participants include “I was motivated to learn more about Kagoshima's history and culture”, “I enjoyed making new friends”, “I want to work harder to improve my spoken Japanese”.

We hope that this chat room will provide participants with the opportunity to make new friends and fuel their desire to learn Japanese.

## Kagoshima Global KIZUNA Assembly

The Kagoshima Global KIZUNA Assembly was held in Kagoshima City over 2 days on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> of November. In addition to Kenjinkai associations from around Japan, 20 Kenjinkai associations from abroad also took part in this gathering. The event was held on the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Meiji Restoration with the aims of enhancing our network with Kenjinkai associations worldwide so we may hand these international connections down to future generations, and discovering Kagoshima-born talents that play an active role on the global stage and expanding this network of people. The Assembly kicked off the Kagoshima KIZUNA Project, which was initiated with the objectives of nurturing global talents that will define our future and promoting active economic exchange on a global scale.



Welcome reception

This was the first such gathering where people with ties to Kagoshima came together from all over the world. KIA was a part of the Assembly's executive committee which mainly comprised members of Kagoshima Chamber Commerce and Industry, and aided in its operations. Through various programmes, participants were able to deepen their ties with one another as well as rediscover the wonders of Kagoshima.

## Services at the International Exchange Plaza

### Main services

- Event bulletin board
- Rental of flags, ethnic costumes, map, 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)



We also handle queries on international exchange matters, registration of homestay host family and volunteer interpreters, etc. All personal information will be kept confidential, so do not hesitate to stop by if you have any enquiries.



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).

To contact us about the International Exchange Plaza or South Wing publication,  
Kagoshima International Association

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★We have revamped our website.