



South Wing

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Photo: Mt. Miyanoura, Yakushima Town

~Let's Talk About the World in Kagoshima!~ 29th Japanese Speech Contest for Foreign Nationals



[10 Finalists]

38 foreigners (from 9 countries/regions) living in Kagoshima Prefecture participated in the preliminary rounds, and 10 of them (from 5 countries/regions) gave their speeches at the final round held on 3 Feb 2024.

Ms. Nepal Gita from Kyushu Japanese Language School, is from Nepal and her speech titled "The first girl in her village to study abroad" won the grand prize. Her speech waxed lyrical about the challenges that she had faced, is facing, and will face in future since coming to Kagoshima, Japan, and drew in an audience of about 174 people.

The confident manner each contestant spoke about their own experiences and thoughts using the Japanese that they had learnt clearly showed the effort that they have put in while in Japan, and seem to have captivated the hearts of the audience.

We would like to continue to provide the residents of Kagoshima Prefecture with as many opportunities as possible for such international exchanges which transcend the differences in nationality and culture.

International Cooperation Youth Experience Program



[At the homestay location in Lenggong Town]

This is a project jointly held by the Supporting Organization of Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV) in Kagoshima, the JOCV Kagoshima Alumni Association, and the Kagoshima International Association and sends youths from Kagoshima Prefecture to developing countries, where they deepen mutual understanding through homestays and school exchanges. The JOCV currently contributes to nation-building in developing countries, with the aim of deepening understanding of international cooperation and developing internationally-minded human talents.

Ever since the first expedition to Malaysia in 1991, we have sent 376 junior and senior high school students from all over Kagoshima Prefecture to 7 countries on 30 occasions, including the 15 students on this trip.

Due to the effects of the pandemic, this project was held for the first time in 4 years. This time, the junior and senior high school students were dispatched for 8 days from 23-30 July 2023, and they were sent to Malaysia, which is the 10th time for this project.

The homestay was in a rural farming area, and though there was some confusion due to the different living environment, culture and language as compared to Japan, but the participants were able to enjoy communicating with the local people and experience the warm feelings and spiritual richness of the local people.

In addition, they were able to observe the activities of the JOCV volunteers who provides patrol guidance at elementary schools and physical education coaching at junior high schools. This is a valuable opportunity to learn about the acceptance of different cultures and the importance of providing tailored support to each country.

According to the participants, "I will never forget the words of the JOCV volunteers who were working hard on site, and I am convinced that this training will serve as a strong foundation for me to become who I will be in future." With such comments, it is evident that the image of the JOCV volunteers working hard in developing countries has been engraved deeply into the hearts of each student.

Japanese Language and Culture Class



From May 2023 to Feb 2024, 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 in-person on Wednesday afternoons, 30 on Thursday evenings, and 5 were Japanese language courses held online in August.

For the in-person classes, it was split into 2 or 3 classes where various approaches to Japanese language were done such as learning kanji in small groups via road signs seen in daily life, presenting skits using grammar learnt, and giving speeches introducing their own countries to the other students.

For the online course, people from various regions gathered and spoke about their own regions, and it is an experience that would not be possible in the usual in-person course.

Some feedback from the participants includes, “I was able to learn useful expressions because the topics were practical and relevant”, “I want to learn more and be able to speak Japanese”, and from these comments their enthusiasm about learning Japanese can be felt.

Japanese Language Chat Room



This year, 4 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 theme for this year was Japanese culture, and it is centered on the introduction of various cultures and customs by invited guests. In addition, participants from diverse countries also exchanged opinions while sharing about and comparing the differences with their own cultures.

During the event 『Introducing the Mysterious World of Tea』, the culture of Japanese tea was introduced and participants got to showcase and taste the teas everyone had brought from various countries. Through this, it also served as a place for participants to interact with and experience each other's cultures.

Some comments from the participants include, “I was able to interact with diverse types of people and broaden my horizons” and “this was a good chance to learn more about Japanese culture”. We hope that the participant circle of the Japanese Language Chat Room would further widen, connected by their joint motivation of learning Japanese.

Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers Alumni and Exchange Students as Teachers



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 Prefecture 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. Through this, we showcase topics

which cannot be found in textbooks alone such as actually interacting with local money and musical instruments, and also trying on traditional clothing.

Some comments from the 2,150 students of the 40 participating schools include, “I realized what is normal for me is not normal in other countries,” 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 and understanding, but also for them to think about their own future.

Nepali Cooking Class (Lectures for International Understanding open to the public)



[Introducing the nature of Nepal]

The 『Nepali Cooking Class』 was held on 13 October, with the aim of deepening Kagoshima prefectural residents' understanding of the creation of a multi-cultural community through such courses where foreign residents introduce their own culture.

During this course, participants made and enjoyed Nepali momos (dumplings), chow mein (noodles) and lassi (a yoghurt drink).

After the cooking class, there was a cultural introduction class where it was explained what kind of country Nepal is, including its ethnic groups, traditions, culture, and recommended itineraries. We received very positive reviews, with people saying that they were able to enjoy learning about Nepali culture, of which the opportunity to do so normally is rare, and all in an easy to understand and fun way.

The participants greeted each other using simple Nepali, and had times where they were surprised by the lecturer's explanations. It seems that through this course, they were able to feel closer to Nepal and deepen their understanding of the country.

We hope that such lectures given by foreign residents will continue to be an opportunity to promote multicultural coexistence in Kagoshima.

20th Anniversary Project of the International Exchange Plaza



[Enjoying shadow puppets]

It has been 20 years since the International Exchange Plaza relocated to the Kagoshima Prefectural Exchange Center. To commemorate this occasion, we are co-sponsoring with Kagoshima Prefecture Potter's Association to jointly hold the event 『Welcome to the World of Cafes and Pottery』 ~ Experience a global tea party with Kagoshima pottery』.

The purpose of this project is to deepen understanding of the cultures of each country through the medium of tea, and to allow visitors to experience the wonders of Kagoshima pottery via tea utensils and other items created by members of the Kagoshima Prefecture Potter's Association.

For the introduction and demonstration of tea, for the UK we have Ms. Maki Tanaka, director of TEALAN from the Satsuma Students Museum; for China we have Ms. Teng Shi Pei, the lecturer in the Chinese language courses; for Vietnam we have Ms. Vu Thuy Lien; and for Taiwan we have Ms. Deng Yu Ting from the Taiwanese Cultural Association.

In addition, since this day coincided with the Mid-Autumn Moon, we held a moon-viewing party in the front garden of the Reimeikan Museum, where foreign residents and Japanese residents enjoyed the full moon together and talked about the moon as associated with each country. Mr. Masayoshi Yamaguchi of Chirorin-mura, NPO Ikigai Support Center, also showed off his balloon art skills.

According to the participants, they were glad that they were able to learn about culture along with the tea tasting. We also received feedback that participants would like to participate in more hands-on courses such as this, where they were able to deepen their understanding of the cultures of various countries.



[Chinese tea appreciation]

Regional Exchange Promotion Project



[Attempting to play the traditional game of Fukuwarai in Spanish]

This project aims to increase interest in international exchange, and we work with foreign residents living in the area and international exchange organizations to exhibit our international exchange booths at events throughout Kagoshima prefecture. This year, we exhibited a booth at the International Exchange Festival in Ichikikushikino City.

At the booth, participants could experience the culture of four countries: South Africa, the United Kingdom, South Korea and Peru, and were visited by families, elementary and junior high school students, and international students living in Ichikikushikino City. At the event, our 『International Exchange Passports』 were also distributed, and participants enjoyed "traveling around the world" at Ichikikushikino City.

A wide variety of visitors ranging from children to adults participated in the activities, which include dances from South Africa, games using teapots from the UK, Hanbok (traditional Korea clothing) origami from Korea, and a fukuwarai game (a traditional Japanese New Year's game) that incorporates Peru's famous alpacas and the Spanish language. These events were a great chance for visitors to become familiar with international exchange by coming into direct contact with foreign people and foreign languages.

Guide to the International Exchange Plaza



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

【World Talk Salon】

Conversational classes in English/Korean/Chinese

【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

V e n u e : Kakuix Exchange Centre (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

F e e s : 1st Term (10 classes) 1,000yen / 2nd Term (20 classes) 2,000yen

【Japanese Language Chat Room】

D a t e : 4 times per year *TBC

V e n u e : Kakuix Exchange Centre (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 and Culture Class】



【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 provides consultation services in multiple languages for foreign residents living in Kagoshima Prefecture.

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

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

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

○ 23 languages available:

• 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).



【Consultation Desk for Foreign Residents】



↑ Facebook QR Code

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

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 – 5:00PM (Tuesday to Sundays)

Closed on: Mondays (if it falls on a public holiday, the Centre will be closed on the next day),
end of year holidays (29 Dec – 3 Jan)

