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SouthWing

～ Let's Talk about the World in Kagoshima ～ The 18th Japanese Speech Contest for Foreigners

On 12 January 2013 (Sat), 31 participants from eleven different countries / regions took part in the preliminary rounds of the “18th Japanese Speech Contest for Foreigners”. There were more participants this year compared to the last, and each of them gave a speech in Japanese on a topic of their choice. The finals were held two weeks later on 26 January 2013 (Sat) in the Medium Hall of the Kagoshima Prefectural Citizens Centre, with ten selected finalists from six different countries / regions. The ten finalists showed much improvement compared to their performance earlier during the preliminary rounds. Putting in effort on expression, hand gestures, etc., they delivered their speeches before seven judges and about 230 members of the audience, earning rounds of loud applause.



《Winner: Mr. Jeon Hyon Bae》

The winner was Mr. Jeon Hyon Bae from South Korea, currently an undergraduate of Kagoshima University. Titled ‘*Otona ga daisuki na nihonjin wa minna kodomo?! (Loosely translated as “Are Japanese people who like ‘Adults’ childish?!”)*’, his speech, occasionally peppered with humor, discussed the different connotations of the word “Adult” between Japan and Korea. He concluded his speech by declaring, “I hope to become a *Yokanise* (meaning “handsome” in Kagoshima dialect) adult with rich character and individuality, and also enjoy my overseas study here in Satsuma (the former name of Kagoshima), greatly impressing the judges and the audience.



《There was a large audience!》

The three runners-up were Ms. California Boek (United States / Title: “The Great East Japan Earthquake through the Eyes of a Junior High School Student”), Ms. Mazula Mary William (Tanzania / Title: “Life is Exceptionally Important”) and Mr. Kwak Il Yon (South Korea / Title: “Mingle”). The speech by Ms. Purnamawati (Indonesia / Title: “Recycling Program Efforts of a Town”), which talked about the activities that helped forge a bond between Osaki Town of Soo County and her home country, left a deep impression in the judges and she won the “Judges’ Special Award”.

Making a speech in a foreign language before an audience is a feat that requires much courage, and the ten finalists accomplished this feat with much confidence and vigor. We hope the speech contest participants would go on to become bridges to link their home country / region and Kagoshima in the future.



《The finalists (front) and judges (back)》

Japanese Language and Culture Class

The Japanese Language and Culture Class, which is an opportunity for foreign nationals living in Kagoshima to learn Japanese customs and useful everyday phrases, was conducted from May 2012 to February 2013. The Tuesday and Thursday classes each met 30 times for a combined total of 60 sessions.

The class included many practical exercises based on everyday situations where students practiced how to make orders over the phone from a pizza or sushi restaurant, how to buy food from a fast food restaurant, how to ride a bus, etc. Everyone was actively engaged in the class and worked together to create a positive atmosphere.

At the end of the course, students discussed what they hope to study in the future, such as nursing care, Kagoshima dialect, and Japanese food.

Through the year of study, the participants deepened their interest in both the language and culture of Japan.



《A group photo after class》

Multiculturalism Project



《Participants learned the locations of volcanoes in Kagoshima》

This year, the Kagoshima International Association organized the “Disaster Preparedness Class for Non-Japanese Residents” at the Kagoshima Prefectural Disaster Prevention Training Center in Aira City.

17 foreign nationals living in Kagoshima joined this event, including participants from Egypt, the Philippines, and 6 other countries.

While touring the “Volcano Corner”, “Flood and Landslide Corner”, “Earthquake Corner” and “Fire Corner” inside the facility, the group learned about disaster preparedness and the natural disasters which occur in Kagoshima. Staff members from the center emphasized the importance of being resourceful in an emergency and using items which are close at hand. Based on that theme, everyone practiced making their own raincoat with a plastic garbage bag.

Afterwards, the participants gave feedback such as “This class has increased my interest in disaster preparedness” and “I would like to

participate in any future classes related to disaster preparedness.”

This class was a great opportunity to communicate the importance of everyday disaster preparedness measures to the non-Japanese residents of Kagoshima.

Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers Alumni and Foreign Students as Teachers



《Kurokami Elementary School》

The Japan International Cooperation Association (commonly known as JICA) dispatches volunteers, known as “Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV)”, to countries around the world. The JOCVs from Kagoshima prefecture, upon their return from overseas, participate as guest speakers in the “JOCV Alumni and International Students as Teachers” school visit program jointly organized by the Kagoshima International Association (KIA), The Supporting Organization of JOCV in Kagoshima, and the JOCV Kagoshima Alumni Association. This program dispatches speakers to over 40 elementary and junior high schools in Kagoshima prefecture per year and since its inauguration in 1995, the guest speakers have visited more than 700 schools in the prefecture.

About half of the schools request that an international student or other foreign resident accompany the JOCV to introduce their home country. The speakers incorporated a variety of photos, music, and ethnic clothing into their presentation and the feedback received from the students and their schools was very positive. Some of the comments from the students include, “I have learned not to take things for granted in life”, “I am really happy to be able to try the ethnic clothes”, and “I want to learn more about other countries”. These lessons are a great way to encourage students to think about international cooperation, deepen understanding of developing nations, and nurture an interest in other parts of the world.

Project Report for FY2012 : <http://www.synapse.ne.jp/kia/report/1301speech.html>

Public Seminar on International Understanding by Foreigner Lecturer

This fiscal year, the Kagoshima International Association organized two public seminars on international understanding, “Egyptian Cooking & Culture Class: Let’s Make Kushari!” and “Chinese Culture Class: What Kind of Place is Shanghai?” Such public seminars are led by foreigners residing in Kagoshima, who, through the seminars, introduce their home culture to the locals.

Participants happily commented “It was really fun learning about the country, including making food and trying on the ethnic clothing,” and “I realized that my previous knowledge of Egypt was very superficial and decided that from now on I want to study more in-depth.” Kushari is an Egyptian dish made with macaroni, chickpeas, lentils, and rice topped with tomato sauce and fried onion. This inexpensive food enjoys popularity all over the country. It’s a rather filling dish, so the participants in the class said they went home stuffed full of food and totally satisfied. Instructors for the two seminars created a comfortable “at home” atmosphere during class.



《Making Egyptian food “Kushari”》

The “China-Japan 40 Year Friendship Anniversary” Project



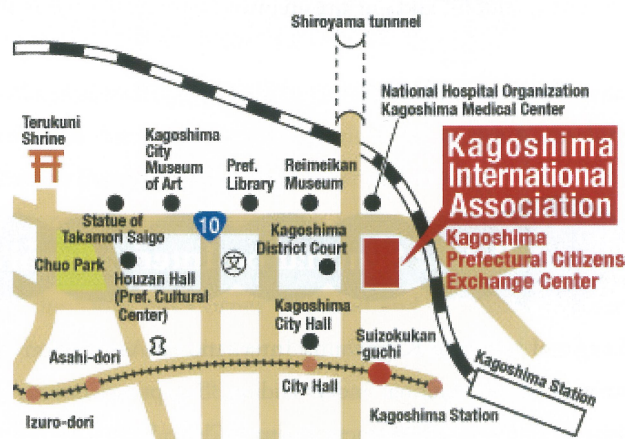
《Handmade Paper Lanterns》

To commemorate the 40th anniversary of normalized diplomatic relations between China and Japan this year, photo panels and other materials introducing the lifestyle in China and Kagoshima's connections with the country were displayed at the international exchange plaza from September 22 to October 6, 2012. During this time, many guests came to see the “China-Japan 40 Year Friendship Anniversary Photo Contest” sponsored by the Japan-China Friendship Association of Kagoshima (prefectural) and the Kagoshima Japan-China Friendship Association (municipal) as well as commemorative items and a panel display explaining all exchange activities and friendship agreements with cities and provinces in China. The first day featured a performance of traditional Chinese dance and musical

instruments. Visitors enjoyed the graceful timbre of the erhu (a two-stringed Chinese instrument played with a bow) and beautiful dances. Furthermore, the anniversary celebration also included a variety of hands-on cultural classes such as “First-time Study Abroad in China”, “Chinese-style Paper Cut-Outs”, “Fun with Lantern Riddles” and “Chinese Pop Culture Chat”. The participants responded cheerfully, saying “I’m glad I got to hear such a valuable story about someone’s personal experience” and “I was having so much fun that the time just flew by.”

Services at the International Exchange Plaza

- Event bulletin board
- Check-out and rental for library books, UNICEF videos, flags, and ethnic clothing
- Foreign language televisions (BBC English broadcast, CCTV Chinese broadcast, KBS Korean broadcast)
- Foreign language newspapers and magazines
- Consultation for non-Japanese residents
- Chinese Lunchtime Talk (Tuesdays 12:30~13:30)
- Korean Lunchtime Talk (Wednesdays 12:00~13:00)
- Lunchtime English Club (Fridays 12:00~13:00)



※ We provide information on daily living and offer support to any problems you might be facing on life in Japan. We will recommend suitable organizations that may better attend to your needs (when necessary). All personal information will be kept confidential so do not hesitate to stop by for consultation.

《Opening Hours》 9:00~17:00 (Tuesday~Sunday); Closed on Mondays (If Monday is a national holiday, the office will be closed on Tuesday instead) and during the New Year holiday (December 29~January 3)

Kagoshima International Association 【Int'l Exchange Plaza, South Wing inquiries, consultations】

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