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SouthWing

100th Anniversary of the Founding of the Kagoshima Cultural Association of Brazil

This year is a memorable year that marks the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Kagoshima Cultural Association of Brazil and the 105th anniversary of the arrival of the first Japanese immigrants from Kagoshima in Brazil. To commemorate this eventful year, the "Cerimônia do Centenário de Fundação da Associação Cultural Kagoshima do Brasil e dos 105 Anos da Imigração Japonesa no Brasil", organised by the Kagoshima Cultural Association of Brazil (hereafter referred to as "the Association"), was held in the city of São Paulo on 20th October 2013. This grand ceremony was attended by about 500 people, including 85 people from Kagoshima, as well as the Japanese immigrants from Kagoshima, their family, and other people related to the Association.



《Cake cutting during the ceremony》

Mr. Kawabata Takashi, chairman of the "Kagoshima Overseas Immigrant Association" and Mr. Uchiwada Hiromi, Executive Director of the Kagoshima International Association (which acts as the operation office for the Kagoshima Overseas Immigrant Association), attended the ceremony and presented a memento to Mr. Sonoda Akinori, chairman of the Association.



《Brazil Static Display》

After the ceremony, the visiting delegate from Kagoshima parted and went on different itineraries, visiting the Kagoshima Cultural Associations in Peru and Paraguay and interacting with their members.

In leading up to this commemorative ceremony, the Kagoshima International Association put up static displays on Brazil at the International Exchange Plaza (at the Kagoshima Prefectural Citizens Exchange Centre) from July to August, featuring photographs of Brazil by Mr. Sumiyoshi Jutaro, and also photographs and panel display material on the life of the Japanese immigrants in Brazil by Mr. Tokuyoshi Yoshio, who is currently residing in Brazil. The static displays caught the interest of many visitors.



《Brazilian Culture Seminar》

On top of that, to further promote Brazilian culture to the local citizens, we organised several Brazilian culture seminars, including Brazilian coffee, Capoeira, etc., from 24th August till 28th September. The seminar participants enjoyed the classes and gained insight on the long history between Brazil and Kagoshima, and some of them expressed the interest to visit Brazil

Japanese Language and Culture Class



《During class》

The Japanese Language and Culture Class were conducted from May 2013 to February 2014. It is a good opportunity for foreign nationals living in Kagoshima to learn Japanese customs and useful everyday phrases. The Tuesday and Thursday classes each met 30 times for a combined total of 60 sessions.

Besides the learning of Japanese language, classes included many practical exercises based on everyday situations, such as buying stamps from the post office, making a phone call to a retail shop, riding a bus, etc. The students were a little nervous at first, but they actively engaged in the class activities. They also took part in the Ohara festival, as well as the disaster preparedness seminar and health seminar (under the Multiculturalism Project). Throughout their year of study, the students deepened their understanding of both Japanese language and culture.

Multiculturalism Project



《Sakurajima Visitor Centre》

In commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the Taisho Eruption of Mount Sakurajima, the Kagoshima International Association organised an educational excursion for foreign residents residing in Kagoshima to Mt. Sakurajima. 29 participants from 13 different countries attended signed up and toured Sakurajima while learning more about volcanic eruptions and disaster preparedness.

The participants learned not only about the eruption history of Mt. Sakurajima and volcano disaster preparedness, but also the blessings it brings, from Dr. Fukushima, Managing Director of the Non-profit organisation Sakurajima Museum.

One of the participants commented "I realised once again the importance of not panicking during times of disaster". It was a meaningful tour that helped the participants better understand volcanic eruption disaster preparedness and also deepen their interest in Mt. Sakurajima.

In February 2014, with the help of a local medical institution in Kagoshima city, we organised a visit to the hospital, and saw the participation of 22 foreigners (from 10 different countries) residing in Kagoshima.

One of the participants said, "After learning more about the hospitals in Japan, I now have the confidence to visit the hospital on my own". It was definitely a good opportunity for the foreigner participants to experience and learn about Japanese medical facilities and diagnosis procedures.

Public Seminar on International Understanding by Foreigner Lecturer

The Kagoshima International Association organised two public seminars on international understanding this fiscal year. Such public seminars are led by foreigners residing in Kagoshima, who make use of the opportunity to introduce their home culture to the locals.

The American Christmas Seminar was held in December 2013, where the lecturers, a family from the USA, spoke about the differences in Christmas celebration between Japan and the USA, how Christmas is usually celebrated in the USA, Christmas songs and decoration cookies, and many other things about Christmas in the USA.

The lecturers created a warm and friendly atmosphere, sang Christmas songs and decorated cookies together with the participants. Some of the feedbacks include "It was a good opportunity to learn about certain Christmas practices unique to Japan", "I found out about how Christmas is celebrated in the USA", "It was a good chance for me to use English to interact with the lecturers". It was a fruitful session for the lecturers to interact and mingle with the locals.



《Singing "The 12 days of Christmas" with the participants》

Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers Alumni and Foreign Students as Teachers

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, participate as guest speakers in the "JOCV Alumni and Foreign Students as Teachers" school visit programme jointly organised by the Kagoshima International Association (KIA), The Supporting Organisation of JOCV in Kagoshima, and the JOCV Kagoshima Alumni Association. This programme dispatches speakers to over 40 elementary and junior high schools in Kagoshima prefecture per year. Since its inauguration in 1995, the speakers have visited more than 750 schools in the prefecture.

Based on the request from schools, foreigners residing in Kagoshima, such as international exchange students, sometimes accompany the JOCV on the school visits to introduce their home country (about half the total number of visits).

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 comments from the students include, "Being able to receive an education is a luxury", "I realised that the Japanese people live a very blessed life", and "I want to find out more about other countries". These lessons are a great way to encourage students to think about international cooperation, deepen understanding of developed nations, and nurture an interest in other parts of the world.



《At Shimama Elementary School, Minamitane Town》

~Let's Talk about the World in Kagoshima~ The 19th Japanese Speech Contest for Foreigners

The 19th Japanese Speech Contest for Foreigners was held in the Medium Hall at the Kagoshima Prefectural Citizens Exchange Centre on 25 January 2014. 30 foreigners from 11 countries/regions took part in the preliminary rounds, out of which 10 (from 7 countries/regions) were selected to participate in the finals.

The winner was Ms. Wang Yuhan from Taiwan, currently a student of Shigakukan University. Titled "*Kotoba no omoenashi*" (loosely translated as "Hospitality in Spoken Words"), her speech discussed vague Japanese expressions such as "*iketara iku*" (I'll go if I can), while can be confusing for foreigners sometimes, is actually an expression of kindness and hospitality of the Japanese people.

Making use of body and hand gestures, and current buzzwords, the 10 finalists delivered their speeches in fluent Japanese on topics related to cultural differences and international peace, earning rounds of loud applause from the audience.

The speech contest this year was attended by almost 310 people, who seem to have deepened their knowledge on international understanding through listening to the speeches. We look forward to further promoting the understanding of multiculturalism and friendship across nationality and cultural differences.



《Participants (Front) Judges (Back)》

Services at the International Exchange Plaza

- Event bulletin board
- Rental of books, UNICEF videos, flags, ethnic clothing and maps
- Foreign language television programmes (BBC English, CCTV Chinese, and KNTV Korean)
- Foreign language newspapers and magazines
- Consultation for foreign residents
- Chinese Lunchtime Talk (Tue; 12:30-13:30)
- Korean Lunchtime Talk (Wed; 12:00-13:00)
- Lunchtime English Club (Fri; 12:00-13:00)



We also handle queries on international exchange matters, JICA volunteer work, registration of volunteers as host family for foreigner homestays, language studies, etc. All personal information will be kept confidential so do not hesitate to stop by if you have any enquiries.

《Opening Hours》 9:00-17:00 (Tue-Sun)

Closed on Mondays (if Monday is a public holiday, the office will be closed on Tue instead), and during the New Year holiday (29 Dec-3 Jan)

For further enquiries on the Int'l Exchange Plaza and/or South Wing publication,

Kagoshima International Association

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