



# SouthWing

Nishioyama Station  
Courtesy of the Ibusuki City Sightseeing Association

## Multiculturalism Project



Diagnosis by a doctor

On 8<sup>th</sup> November 2014, with the cooperation of Yonemori Hospital in Kagoshima city, we organised a visit to the hospital to allow foreign residents to learn more about the healthcare system in Japan. The tour had 22 participants from 8 different countries.

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.

The “Mount Sakurajima Eruption Evacuation Exercise”, jointly held by Kagoshima Prefecture and Kagoshima City on 9<sup>th</sup> January 2015, saw participation by about 4,500 people, including 111 foreigner attendees. The Kagoshima International Association led a group of 20 people (foreign students, and volunteer interpreters including Japanese nationals and foreigners) to the event.

Assuming a large scale eruption of Mount Sakurajima, participants in their respective language groups (English, Chinese and Korean) boarded ferries to stimulate evacuation from Mount Sakurajima, and engaged in standard evacuation drills. During the drill practice, participants experienced simulated health check demonstrations at the evacuation centres. With the help of volunteer interpreters, nurses from the Kagoshima Nursing Association re-enacted emergency health check procedures, asking the participants for their names, checking their blood pressure, etc. After the exercise, feedback received include, “I realised the great importance of such drills” (from participant), and “I would like to study more to improve my proficiency” (from the volunteer interpreters).



Health Check Demonstration

## Public Seminar – Towards the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Meiji Restoration



A public seminar was held on 15<sup>th</sup> February 2015 to commemorate the 25<sup>th</sup> year of official recognition of the Kagoshima International Association by the Council of Local Authorities for International Relations (CLAIR), as well as the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the dispatch of the Satsuma students to England.

Two lectures were delivered during the seminar, “Anglo-Japanese Relations: 19<sup>th</sup> Century and 21<sup>st</sup> Century” by H.E. Tim Hitchens, British Ambassador to Japan, and “Meiji Restoration and International Exchange” by Mr. Haraguchi Izumi, Director of the Kagoshima

Prefectural Library. The lectures provided a good opportunity for attendees to deepen their understanding on the relationship between Great Britain and Kagoshima, as well as the roles played by the Satsuma students in the modernisation and internationalisation of Japan.

## Japanese Language and Culture Class



The “Japanese Language and Culture Class” was held from May 2014 to February 2015, providing a good opportunity for foreigners living in Kagoshima to learn about Japanese customs and useful everyday phrases. The Tuesday and Thursday classes each met 30 times for a combined total of 60 sessions.

Some of the activities include students presenting about their home culture, and practice speaking Japanese with a regular tempo by using a metronome. The students were a little nervous at first, but they actively engaged in the class activities, and they also took part in the

disaster preparedness and health seminars (under the Multiculturalism Project). Throughout their year of study, the students deepened their knowledge of not just Japanese language per se, but also local culture and lifestyle.

## Japanese Language Chat Room



The Japanese Language Chat Room (for foreigners who can communicate using Japanese language) was launched for the first time this year, from May 2014 to March 2015 (total of 23 sessions, 10 in the first semester and 13 in the second semester).

Besides free chatting, the class aims to provide useful information on living in Kagoshima, through inviting guest speakers such as fire fighters and police officers, tourism promotion officials, nursing care staff, as well as foreigner guest speakers who are well-versed in Japanese culture such as Kimono dressing and Karate.

Participants practiced writing Japanese New Year greeting cards, allowing to them to apply the Japanese language they have learnt. Some feedback comments include, “I have gained more confidence on my Japanese language ability”, “I would like to learn more about Japanese culture”, and “I look forward to this class because I can make many friends from different countries”. We hope this class will provide the opportunity for participants to make new friends and fuel their desire to learn Japanese.



## Regional International Exchange Promotion Programme

This initiative attempts to bring together foreigner and local residents in the municipalities through the setting up of international exchange booths in local events and festivals, so as to create more awareness on international exchange. We participated in the “MBC Summer Festival” in Kagoshima City, “Furusato Summer Festival” in China Town of Okinoerabu Island, and the “Ibusuki Marche” in Ibusuki City this year.

We had an International Exchange booth with Kagoshima city during the MBC Summer Festival in July 2014. Besides distributing pamphlets of our Association, we also introduced various types of ethnic clothing on the main stage, and, with the help of the Prefectural Coordinators for International Relations, foreign students and residents, played the “World Greeting Stamp Collection” game with children.

During the game, children were asked to say “Hello” and “Thank you” in six different languages including Spanish, Portuguese and English, and they would collect rubber stamps for each language. Upon completion, they are given the chance to make a bookmark using postage stamps from different countries around the world. We hope this would provide the chance to encourage the children’s interest in learning foreign languages.



Staff donning ethnic clothing at the MBC Summer Festival

## Let's Talk About the World in Kagoshima – The 20th Japanese Speech Contest for Foreigners

The 20th Japanese Speech Contest for Foreigners was held in the Medium Hall at the Kagoshima Prefectural Citizens Exchange Centre on 24<sup>th</sup> January 2015. 21 foreigners from 7 countries took part in the preliminary rounds on 10<sup>th</sup> January 2015, out of which 10 (from 5 countries) were selected to participate in the finals.

The winner was Ms. Guo Luyao from China, a current student of the Kagoshima Prefectural College. With her speech titled “*Manual for Befriending the Japanese*”, she spoke about reading such an online manual before coming to Japan, and upon actual interaction with Japanese people, realising the untruths of its contents. Assuming the existence of similar texts in Japan about the Chinese people, she appealed to the audience to not buy into such false writings but to try befriending actual Chinese people instead.

The 10 finalists delivered their speeches in fluent Japanese on topics such as their experiences in Japan, gratitude towards their parents, etc. earning rounds of loud applause from the audience of about 280 people. Through such speeches, we hope to provide the opportunity for the citizens of Kagoshima to make new discoveries and realisations.



Participants (Front) Judges (Back)

## 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 790 schools in the prefecture.

The children discover new things and surprises by listening to the experiences of the JOCVs and mingling with the foreign students. Some of their comments include, “Being able to receive an education is a luxury”, “I would like to work as a volunteer overseas when I grow up”, and “I want to find out more about other countries in the world”. Besides educating the students about international understanding, these lessons also provide good opportunities for them to think about their future.



Kishira Elementary School, Kimotsuki Town

## Public Seminar on International Understanding by Foreigner Lecturer



During the seminar

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

In December, we had a Venezuelan (and his Japanese wife as interpreter) introduce Latin American music to the locals. The seminar covered the historical development of Latin American music, and towards the end, everyone sang a Venezuelan song, “*Moliendo Café*” (better known as Coffee Rumba in Japan) in Spanish together.

Time was limited but the participants had a lot of questions for the lecturer. Some comments include “It was meaningful to learn (about Latin American music) directly from someone from that region”, and “Now I know that Latin American music is full of emotions, singing about love and sorrows”.

We would like to organise more of such seminars to allow for mutual interaction between foreigners and locals, to provide them the opportunity to recognise the existence of different cultures.

## Services at the International Exchange Plaza

- Event bulletin board
- Rental of flags, ethnic clothing, maps, and UNICEF videos
- Foreign language newspapers, books and magazines, etc. available for browsing
- Consultation for foreign residents
- Chinese Language Lunchtime Conversation (Tue; 12:30–13:30)
- Korean Language Lunchtime Conversation (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

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