

Batik exhibition & workshop



An exhibition of batik took place from June 6th to 28th at the Hyogo International Plaza's International Gallery.

Batik is a type of cloth made using a wax-resist dyeing technique. The patterns are drawn on fabric with wax, which blocks the dye and allows the spaces in between to be colored with pigments, leaving the lines in base color. JICA Malaysia staff have been supporting local groups of disabled people to practice and preserve this traditional printmaking technique. The exhibition included panels introducing these efforts, as well as some of the batik artwork created by the local groups.

On June 9th and 15th, a batik workshop was held by Yoshie Kato, a former staff member of JICA Malaysia. 30 people participated in the event and enjoyed creating a batik piece of their own, getting a glimpse of traditional Malaysian culture.

We will be hosting similar cultural events to showcase our activities in many parts of the world, so please come and join us.!



Ms Kato



They came out beautifully!

Short Film - "Sugihara Survivors: Jewish and Japanese, Past and Future"

On July 8th, we held a screening of the short film "Sugihara Survivors: Jewish and Japanese, past and future" along with a lecture by the film's Hyogo-born Director, Junichi Kajioka at the Hyogo Prefectural Museum of Art's Museum Hall. About 250 people attended the screening.

The short film traces the lives of Jewish Holocaust survivors who traveled from Lithuania to Japan, via the former Soviet Union, using visas issued by Chiune Sugihara. It tells their stories through interviews and continues to look at their lives in Kobe up until their eventual exile to a third country.

Director Kajioka told stories of things that happened behind the scenes during filmmaking and talked about the reality of the Jewish people at the time. Participants commented that they were impressed that so many unknown Japanese were involved with Sugihara's visas, and touched to learn that not only one person but many ordinary Japanese helped to play a part in saving the lives of Jewish refugees. There were also requests for similar events in the future to promote international understanding and world peace.



Director Kajioka's Q&A



Director Kajioka's profile and work



New Arrivals

Two new Coordinators for International Relations (CIRs) have arrived!



Zhang Minheng (張 敏恒)
Guangdong, China



Ni-Hao! My name is Zhang Minheng. I come from Guangdong, China.

I have been interested in Japanese movies and animation since I was a child. Though I started learning Japanese 15 years ago, I still have many things I don't know about Japan. That's why I want to see Japanese society with my own eyes and experience Japan's natural beauty for myself.

Through my work, I want to meet and interact with all kinds of people and build up good relationships, while also learning about Japanese social manners and etiquette.

I will strive to be a bridge of friendship between Hyogo and her sister-province Guangdong so that I can teach Japanese people about today's China, and show China what Japan is really like. I hope to make the best of my time in Kobe.



Kai Nagara Simms
Sydney, Australia



I was born and raised in Sydney with both Australian and Japanese heritage, and growing up I was always curious to know what it would be like to live in my "other" home country. This eventually led me to study Kyoto as an exchange student for one year at Kyoto university. From this experience as well as two further study programs I fell in love with the country and resolved to return after graduation.

My work as CIR largely involves planning and participating in cultural exchange programs and events, translating and interpreting work and helping to deepen ties between Japan and foreign visitors. As someone constantly keen to learn new languages and cultures, I feel this position provides a unique opportunity.

I hope to not only continue to learn the Japanese language and culture, but also develop interest amongst Japanese people in Australian culture and those of other countries.

I look forward to meeting you during my time here!



We currently have four CIRs (US, Australia, Korea, China) working with municipal International Associations to run 'Hyogo-Caravan Project's throughout Hyogo prefecture. We look forward to meeting you in your town!!

Meet Itsuki, Hyogo International Plaza's new librarian!



Hello everyone, I am Itsuki Nagai, the new librarian at Hyogo International Plaza. Our library owns publications on cultural exchange, textbooks for learning Japanese along with foreign titles in Chinese, English and Spanish etc.

I have been working here since April and I find my job exciting and challenging, as I spent my time reading Japanese novels and didn't have an opportunity to familiarize myself with foreign languages in the past.

This June, we accepted Souta, an intern student from Nagisa Junior High School (who was on the "Try-Yaru (Trial) Week" scheme). He learned to perform routine tasks – how to such as lending books to visitors, sorting books and arranging them on shelves. We hope he enjoyed his time with us at the library.

We are always trying to make this place better and more useful to meet the diverse needs of the visitors, and we look forward to your visit.

Hyogo International Plaza
Tel 078-230-3060
Opening hours: 10:30 – 18:30

(Closed on Sat, Sun, national and New Year holidays)





First “Introductory Seminar on International Cooperation” of 2017

Marking the 30th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Japan and Bhutan, a seminar titled “Bhutan, its people and the notion of happiness –What we can learn from the World’s Happiest Country” was held on July 22nd, at JICA Kansai’s Briefing Room.

Following the screening of “Happy”, a documentary film which looks at ‘happiness’ around the world, Professor Katsuhiko Masaki of Konan University, who is also on the board of trustees of the Japan-Bhutan Friendship Association, gave a lecture on Gross National Happiness. Tomohiko Okayama, former volunteer at JICA’s JOCV, also shared his experiences in Bhutan.

Although Bhutan is relatively unknown in Japan, over 100 participants joined us on the day and the seminar was quite lively.

Despite facing major socioeconomic issues, not least of all a widening gap between the wealthy and poor, the people of Bhutan find ‘happiness’ in their day-to-day lives. In light of this, we too were inspired to reflect on the nature of happiness.

Scholarship Awards Ceremony for Self-Funded Foreign Students in Hyogo

HIA has been providing self-funded foreign students studying in Hyogo scholarships to support their studies and living costs, with over five thousand recipients since its introduction in 1988.

On July 15th, the Awards ceremony was held for the 145 students receiving scholarships this year. On behalf of the recipients, Ms. Yun Hijin (second year at Kwansai-Gakuin University) said “I appreciate this scholarship because I can spare more time for studying and doing less part-time work, as well as balance my time to allow for other experiences.” HIA hopes these scholarship recipients will continue to work hard in their studies and go on to play an active role between Hyogo and their homelands in the future.



Upcoming Events

Note: These events are subject to change. Please check our website or newsletter for any updates

November

Events

- JET Film Festival
- Screening: “Laprak: The Most Beautiful Village in the World”
- Second Seminar on International Cooperation - Nepal
- Sasayama ~ Autumn Satoyama Festival
- Taka ~ Hyogo Forest Festival
- Nishi-Harima ~ Nishi-Harima 'Fure-ai' Festival

HIA Gallery Exhibits

- Moldova panel exhibit
- Myanmar photo exhibit

HIA Library Display

- Christmas Around the World

December

HIA Gallery Exhibits

- Japan Through Diplomats’ Eyes 2017

HIA Library Display

- Christmas Around the World

January

Events

- “Iza! Kaeru Caravan!” Kids Disaster Prevention Day

HIA Gallery Exhibits

- Moldova panel exhibit

HIA Library Display

- New Year Around the World

February

Events

- Salon CARNAVAL
- Seminar on International Cooperation

HIA Gallery Exhibits

- Asia Kids’ Picture Diary Fest

HIA Library Display

- Proud Japan

Interested in our events? Want to know more?

Free
Newsletter



ComeHIA Mail

Subscribe to HIA's free newsletter to find out more about us and what we do. We send out the latest information on news and events (on multicultural exchange, culture and education) in Hyogo twice a month.

*Also available in other languages

For more information, visit:

<http://www.hyogo-ip.or.jp>

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