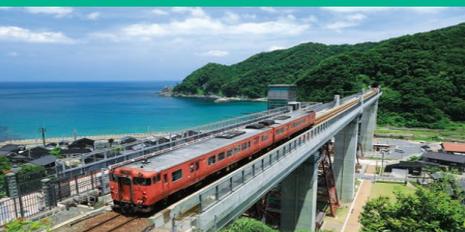


COMET HIA

Let's Build a Multicultural Society Together!

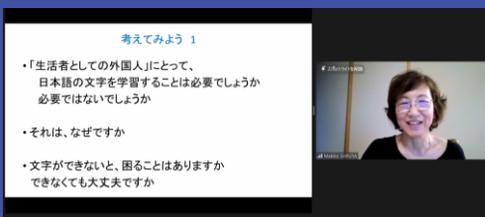


The Implementation of Training Programs for Japanese language Educators

Training programs are implemented for different audiences and purposes, in order to develop the human resources of Japanese language educators who play an active role in the local area.

- ① Training for Japanese language teachers “Challenge! Local Japanese Language Education”
- ② “Basic Course for Staff in Charge of Japanese Language Classes (Coordinator Training)” for staff working in international associations
- ③ “Training for volunteers to support foreign residents (adults) in their daily lives”
- ④ “Workshop on Japanese language support and educational support for children with a foreign background”
- ⑤ “Workshop on the use of ICT teaching materials”

*③, ④, and ⑤ will be announced on the HIA homepage in order from October. If you are interested, please apply.



Training for Japanese language teachers was conducted online. The breakout room was also used to exchange opinions.

Pick UP!

Introducing Japanese culture through group exchange



Thank you for the fun exchange!!



Educational Trips to Japan

Online School Exchange Program

Since COVID-19 has made it impossible to accept foreign tourists, they have been actively promoting online exchange activities between Japanese and overseas schools. Last year, 12 high school exchanges were held between Taiwan and Hyogo prefecture, which were very well received. Some schools will continue to participate again this year and more schools would like to participate after hearing about the successful outcomes of last year. There are also requests from junior high schools to participate in this project. In the future, we are planning exchanges not only with Taiwan, which only has a slight time difference, but also with South Korea, Australia, and New Zealand. In addition, Hyogo Prefecture will continue to promote its own beauty and charm, while also participating along with the other prefectures in Kansai in the promotion of ‘Educational Trips to Japan’ to other East Asian countries and regions such as Taiwan, China, and Malaysia.



Exchanging opinions One-on-one in English



Introductory Seminar on International Cooperation (online)

The Introductory Seminar on International Cooperation “Cafe Caribbean: Learning about the charm of Central America from coffee” was held on Saturday, February 20, 2021. This seminar was co-sponsored by JICA Kansai and JICA Overseas Volunteer Support Group. In the first part, Guest Lecturer Mr. Nakahara Atsushi of Francisco Morazán National Pedagogical University (Honduras) explained the history, politics, and economy of Central America through a story about bananas and coffee. The second part was led by Ms. Imai Eri (Catracha Coffee Shop), Mr. Kadogawa Yusuke (Coyote Coffee Shop), and Ms. Oshima Ai (NatuRica coffee) who were former JICA volunteer members and currently import coffee from Central America. The three speakers passionately talked about their lives in each of the countries they were dispatched to (Honduras, El Salvador, and Costa Rica), the stories of the coffee farmers they encountered, and their thoughts on the environment. At this seminar, participants experienced brewing drip coffee together using the drip coffee that was sent to them in advance for applying early. Participants also exchanged their views on a proposal to process coffee cherries, which were originally going to be discarded, into jam. The seminar was an excellent opportunity for participants to become more familiar with Central America.



Moderator of the seminar



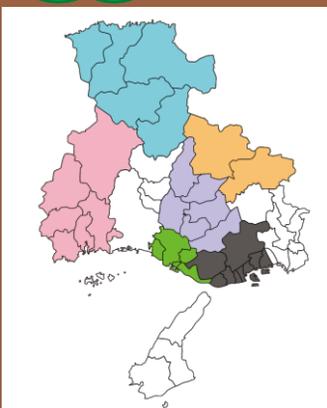
Participants of the seminar



A look into Multiculturalism

Building a Comprehensive System for Japanese Language Education in Each Region of Hyogo Prefecture

The Act on Promotion of Japanese Language Education, which came into effect in 2019, stipulates that local governments are responsible for implementing measures to locally promote Japanese language education under local conditions. HIA is promoting a comprehensive system with a five-year plan, utilizing national government subsidies, and aiming to help foreign residents learn Japanese and promote their participation in society.



Regions that implemented the project (Kobe implements the project independently)

Implementation of the Project

Hyogo prefecture is divided into nine blocks, and the project is implemented by one city or town in each block (in 2021, the project has been implemented in five blocks, including regions where the entrustment has ended). Japanese language courses by Japanese language teachers and events/training based on the participation of residents are conducted in cooperation with various related organizations. Regional meetings are held to share the results and issues with other cities and towns in the region.

Region	Project Coordinator	Year of Implementation
Kita-Harima	NPO Kato International Association	2019-2020
Tamba	Sasayama International Center of Understanding (SICU)	2019-2020
Nishi-Harima	Tatsuno International Association	2020-2021
Tajima	Tooyoka International Association	2020-2021
Higashi-Harima	Takasago International Association	2021-2022



Multiple venues in Tooyooka are having online classes together



A course called “Let’s Confirm Together! Garbage, Natural Resources and Recycling,” was held in Tatsuno where Japanese language course participants and local residents learned together.

SPECIAL THANKS

We would like to thank the following HIA Volunteer Translators for their assistance with this volume’s publication; we would not have been able to produce it without their help.

Ms. Tatsumi Yuki **Ms. Xu Xiaojun**

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General Meeting of the Hyogo Consortium of International Associations



President Akagi Maasaki

The General Meeting of the Hyogo International Association Consortium was held online on May 21, 2021. The meeting began with the opening remarks by Akagi Maasaki (Chairman of the Board for Hyogo International Association since April 2021) who chaired the meeting. After discussing last year's results and this year's agenda, an award ceremony for the "Grassroots International Achievement Award" was held for individuals and groups that contributed to international exchange activities in Hyogo Prefecture. The award ceremony was not held last year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. As a result, at this meeting a joint award ceremony was held for 2020 and 2021 where 7 individuals and 5 international associations were commended for their achievements.

2020 Award Recipients

Ms. Fukuda Kazuyo

Recommended by the Inami International Association

Ms. Fukuda has been working on the promotion of international exchange as the director of the Inami International Association for about 20 years until 2018. She has also been volunteering as a host family for foreigners visiting Japan for 30 years and is still active as a Japanese language volunteer. She is deeply involved in the lives of

Japanese language learners and supports them so that they can have a fun and fulfilling life in Japan. For example, she organizes cherry blossom viewing events, kimono dressing events, and accompanying them to the hospital when they are unwell.



From the left to right: President Maruo, Ms. Fukuda

Himeji International Exchange Festival Executive Committee

Recommended by the Himeji City Cultural International Exchange Foundation

The Himeji International Exchange Festival has been held since 1997. It is run by the Himeji International Exchange Festival Executive Committee, which is a local volunteer organization. The organization contributes to the promotion of international exchange, international understanding, and volunteer spirit. Through hosting the festival,

the organization provides opportunities for Himeji citizens to raise their international awareness and engage in volunteer activities.



Executive Committee members

The number of foreign residents such as Brazilians and Peruvians has increased in this area since around 2000. Kokusai Hiroba Ashiya was established in 2006 by the local citizens in response to requests from parents of foreign residents to teach their children Japanese. This organization has become well known through hosting international exchange programs in the local community. In addition to supporting foreign residents, they contribute by actively engaging in the local community, and deepening the local citizen's understanding of multiculturalism.

Mr. Kataoka Koichi

Recommended by the Miki International Association



Mr. Kataoka Koichi

Mr. Kataoka has been teaching Japanese to foreigners as a Japanese language volunteer since 2012 and is widely trusted by foreigners. He creates a safe place where foreigners can feel at ease and facilitates interaction between the local community and Japanese learners so that they do not feel lonely in Japan.

Joto-cho supplementary lesson

Recommended by the Hyogo International Association

There are many Vietnamese children living in Himeji City because the Himeji Resettlement Promotion Center accepted many refugees from Vietnam and other countries. Mr. Kanagawa felt that Vietnamese elementary and junior high school students needed supplementary tutoring class for studying and started this classroom in 1999. Teachers work closely with many young children with foreign roots, giving each of them individualized guidance. Furthermore, by bringing back



Joto-cho supplementary lesson members

graduates who share their success stories with the students, the teachers can motivate them and support their ongoing independence.

Kokusai Hiroba Ashiya

Recommended by the Hyogo International Association



Kokusai Hiroba Ashiya members

Mr. Tanaka Kenji

Recommended by the Kakogawa International Association

Mr. Tanaka has been teaching Japanese to foreign residents independently as a Japanese language volunteer since 2007. He contributes to the promotion of multiculturalism through his teaching activities and often shares his experience as a Japanese language volunteer in the meetings held by the Kakogawa International Association where they exchange ideas and opinion.



From the left to right:
Mr. Tanaka and Ms. Fujiwara

Ms. Fujiwara Hitomi

Recommended by the Kakogawa International Association

Ms. Fujiwara has been teaching Japanese to foreign residents independently as a Japanese language volunteer since 2007. She actively promotes multiculturalism in the region through participating in international exchange events with foreign residents and introducing Japanese culture such as tea ceremony and kimono dressing to them.

Ms. Mikami Toshie

Recommended by the Tatsuno International Association

Ms. Mikami has been volunteering from 2005. Since the establishment of the Tatsuno International Association, she dresses the guests from abroad in kimono when they visit Tatsuno. She continues to contribute to the promotion of international exchange within the local community and also participates in the "Let's wear Kimono" booth of the International Exchange Festival, which has been held since 2016 and has been very well received among foreign residents.



From the left to right: Ms. Mikami,
Mr. Yamamoto (Mayor of Tatsuno)
and Ms. Nishida

Ms. Nishida Yoshiko

Recommended by the Tatsuno International Association

Ms. Nishida has been involved in volunteer activities since the 1990s. Even now as a director of the Tatsuno International Association, she is actively working as a Japanese language volunteer for foreign children and provides support and advice for their daily lives. She also makes use of her special skills as a painter to help revitalize the local community by donating her paintings to public facilities in the city. She continually strives to promote multiculturalism in the region.

Himeji Youth Exchange Students

Recommended by the Himeji Cultural and International Exchange Foundation

The organization Himeji Youth Exchange Students was established in 1989. They contribute to the internationalization of Himeji by utilizing the knowledge and experience gained by the staff who have spent time abroad in sister cities. They support the city by organizing information sessions for new exchange students going overseas and with coordinating visiting groups to Himeji. They continue to play a role in promoting international exchange and multiculturalism in Himeji. For example, at the Himeji International Exchange Festival, they introduced various multicultural experiences and provided information about countries where one could do an exchange program in.



Mr. Yamaguchi
(chairman of the
Himeji Youth
Exchange Students)

Ms. Oonishi Toshiko

Recommended by the NPO Nehime College (Kasai International Association)

Ms. Oonishi has been working as an instructor and volunteer for various projects of the Kasai International Association since 2012 in order to raise awareness of Japanese culture among foreigners. For example, cooking classes, Yukata dressing, Japanese tea ceremony, among other activities. She is also actively involved in the training of young volunteer leaders and is committed to nurturing the next generation.



From the left to right:
Director-General Kobayashi
and Ms. Oonishi

Nihongo Hiroba Okamoto

Recommended by the Hyogo International Association

Nihongo Hiroba Okamoto was established in 1999 with the aim of building relationships where people can get to know each other, learn together, and respect each other. They make endeavors to achieve this goal by providing Japanese language learning support for South Americans of Japanese descent and returnees from China working in the food industry, international students, and expatriates and their families. The Japanese language volunteers provide detailed one-on-one support. In addition, they hold Japanese cultural events and international exchange events, such as the Tanabata Festival and barbecue party, where the students can introduce their own country's cuisine and participate in cultural exchange with each other.



Members of Nihongo Hiroba Okamoto