

【カムヒア】 Come HIA

Hyogo International Association



Washington & Hyogo
Sister States · 1963-2018

Hyogo Prefecture Residents Delegation visits Washington State



Seattle Seafair Torchlight Parade



Commemorative Ceremony in Olympia



Signing ceremony

To commemorate the 55th anniversary of sister-state relations between Hyogo Prefecture and Washington State, a delegation of 26 Hyogo residents visited Washington State. The trip lasted 8 days from July 24 (Tue) to 31st (Tue) 2018. Members of the delegation took part in ceremonies celebrating the 55th anniversary of the sister-state agreement in Olympia city, the capital of Washington state on the 27th, as well as a signing ceremony between Hyogo Prefecture and Washington State in a joint statement declaring they will continue to exchange in a wide range of fields.

In Seattle city, they enjoyed their stay seeing the Seafair Torchlight parade and strolling through the beautiful cityscape. They visited San Francisco and enjoyed the summer days of the West Coast. Throughout the visit they experienced the further deepening of interactions between Hyogo and Washington and were able to make fond memories of the trip.



Visiting the Bainbridge Island Japanese American Exclusion Memorial

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110th Anniversary of Japanese Immigration to Brazil - Hyogo Residents Delegation Visit -



A Hyogo Residents Delegation of 19 members visited Brazil and stayed for eleven days between July 14-24. This year is the 110th anniversary of the initial Japanese immigration to Brazil accomplished by the Kasato Maru, which departed from Kobe port carrying 781 people and arrived in Santos, Brazil in 1908.

During the visit this year, the delegation attended ceremonies for the 110th anniversary of the immigration to Brazil held in Paraná and São Paulo states, which have friendly relations with Hyogo Prefecture. They celebrated with local residents and further deepened the friendship between both regions.

In addition, delegation members participated in a large-scale Japanese festival held in São Paulo and visited scenic sites such as the World Heritage Iguazu Falls, Rio de Janeiro and sister cities such as Paranaguá and Curitiba. They rediscovered the wonders of Brazil and built closer relationships with local associations of people from Hyogo Prefecture. All in all, it turned out to be a wonderful trip full of memorable experiences.

From top to bottom:
The delegation at the Botanical Garden of Curitiba
Meeting with the Governor and Officials of Paraná
Hyogo Booth at the Japan Festival, São Paulo



Friends of Hyogo

Kobe Japanese Teaching Volunteer Association for Returnees from China

HIA interviewed the “Gaidai Unity Classroom” of the “Kobe Japanese Teaching Volunteer Association for Returnees from China”, a group supported by HIA’s “Ibasho for Foreign Residents and Youth” initiative.

The “Gaidai Unity Classroom” is held every Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Currently there are about 70 learners and 90 volunteers (including 20 students from Kobe City University of Foreign Studies’ “Group of Japanese Learning Support”) enrolled. As we entered the classroom, we were overwhelmed by the vibrant atmosphere.



The classroom

We interviewed first-generation returnees, who all stated that “after retirement, we’re finally able to have time to study”. Although they said “Learning Japanese is quite tough”, they looked pleased to learn. While the average age of returnees is continuing to rise, this class has become a community and an ‘ibasho’, a place to belong, for many.

[Who are the Returnees from China?]
Japanese who were stranded in China after the war and lived there along with their families.



Original Japanese textbooks published by the association

Last year in 2017. The Kobe Japanese Teaching Volunteer Association for Returnees from China had their 30th anniversary since founding. At the time of founding, volunteering was not yet common and they struggled to have their activities understood. Also, students from the Kobe City University of Foreign Studies have continued to take part as volunteers since its inception.

They now have exchange students from overseas joining in the class, and so the number of young people is increasing. Vice-Chairman Zhang said: “We’d like to help them according to their ability and meet their requests as much as we can in order to make the class enjoyable”. Volunteers feel rewarded when they see the learners’ progress during their annual essay competition.

The Kobe Japanese Teaching Volunteer Association for Returnees from China accepts anyone wishing to learn Japanese and continues to support them for as long as they need, and their activities will surely continue to develop in the years to come.



An impressive 130 attendees at the 30th anniversary reception

A new Coordinator for International Relations (CIR) has arrived!

大家好！Hello everyone, my name is Wang Xiusheng and I am from Hainan in China.

I fell in love with Japan when I studied Japanese at university. I studied at Meijo University in Aichi Prefecture for 6 months as an exchange student when I was in my second year in university. At Meijo University, I studied not only Japanese but also business administration. I took part in university events and a training camp for my seminar class, during which many people were very kind to me including my teachers. I stayed with a Japanese family, worked part-time and even travelled. I was able to see many aspects of Japan and had a very fulfilling time with many fond memories. After graduation, I have returned to Japan about once a year and I continue to become more and more attracted to this country.

I'm very glad to become a CIR for the Hyogo Prefectural Office. I hope to visit many places in Hyogo and pass on my experiences of life in Hyogo to the Chinese people. I'd also like to further introduce Chinese culture to Japan, so that more people here can learn about and love China. I'd like to do my best to foster even closer relations between these countries.

I look forward to meeting you during my time here!



Ms Wang



Hyogo's 4 CIRs

Grassroots Exchange

Oxbridge English



~ 2018 ~

Summer Camp



The Oxbridge English Summer Camp is an international program in which students from the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge in the U.K visit schools and other organizations in Hyogo prefecture. They run English conversation classes and other cultural exchange events to promote friendship between the two countries.



We had a welcome party!

We held a Welcome Party at the Kobe Club on July 18 (Wed) for 11 Oxbridge students. The party was attended by around 130 people including members of the hosting organizations, the students' host families and the HIA friendship club. They enjoyed dancing, a jazz performance and lottery in which the winners received prizes brought from Oxford and Cambridge. The room was filled with cheerful voices and everyone had a wonderful time.



Dance performance by host students ~ Oxbridge students also joined in!

Elizabeth and Lauren came to HIA!

HIA accepted two university students from July 23rd (Mon) to 27th (Fri): Elizabeth from Cambridge and Lauren from Oxford. They held English conversation workshops, where around 60 students studied hard in the elementary and intermediate level classes. Elementary school students also immersed



Elizabeth presenting



themselves in English songs and games with Elizabeth and Lauren in the "Let's have fun in English!" class.

Lauren teaching verb forms

Photo Exhibition: "Kobe Photo Album of a French Consul II"

Photo exhibition "Kobe Photo Album of a French Consul II" was held at the Hyogo International Plaza Gallery from July 6 to July 27.



The exhibition displays

Mr. de Lucy-Fossarieu (1891-1906), French Consul to Kobe-Osaka, came into Kobe in 1889 and took many of photos during the sixteen years of his stay in Kobe, putting them together into family photo albums.

For this exhibition, some items were added to those of the previous exhibition "Kobe Photo Album of a French Consul" held at the Kobe Kitano Museum last November. A total of approximately 60 photos were displayed from the albums, now kept by his descendants.



Lecture by Mr. Tetsuo Kamiki

Dr. Yoshiko Taniguchi, organizer of the exhibition, gave explanations to visitors about the exhibit whenever she visited the gallery. During the exhibition,

commemorative lectures were given by Dr. Tetsuo Kamiki, professor emeritus of Kobe University, Mr. Yukio Yasufuku, chairman of the Kobe Japan-France Association, and Dr. Taniguchi, with each one ending on a high note.

HIA English Salon – "International exchange in English"

HIA will be running the HIA English Salon – 'International Exchange in English' as part of a new project starting in September, and a trial run of the Salon was held on June 27 (Wed). The presenters for the event were two CIRs from Hyogo prefecture, Kai Simms (Australia) and James Bollinger (USA), alongside former Kobe City PR Specialist Louise Takata (UK). The theme at this event was Ms. Susan Cain's TED presentation titled "The Power of Introverts", with the event's 30 participants freely exchanging opinions in English.

At the beginning of this event, the participants watched a video of the TED presentation, after which the three presenters talked about their own experiences of introversion, extroversion and ambiversion.



Presenters talking about their own experiences

Participants then had a discussion on topics such as "what kind of people are more commonly accepted in Japan and abroad", "does the environment and age affect the formation of introverted and extroverted personalities", and "do these feelings change over time". There were many interesting opinions from the participants. After the discussion, participants divided into smaller groups, where they exchanged opinions on the theme "What do you put in your suitcase to represent you?", a theme that appeared in the video.

This was the first time HIA held such an event with participants actively discussing a single topic in English, and the event became a very fruitful experience.

Upcoming Events

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

Oct Events

- Translating and Interpreting Volunteer Training (Oct 21)

HIA Gallery Exhibits

- Myanmar Exhibit

HIA Library Display

- Reading Week

Nov Events

- International Friendship Festival (Nov 11)

HIA Gallery Exhibits

- Japan – Through Diplomats' Eyes 2018

HIA Library Display

- All About Spain

Dec Events

- Childrens Japanese Education Conference (Dec 12)

HIA Gallery Exhibits

- Japan – Through Diplomats' Eyes 2018

HIA Library Display

- Christmas Around the World

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>

