



30TH ANNIVERSARY

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Greeting from Governor of Hyogo	01
Greeting from HIA's Chairman of the Board	03
History of HIA	05
1990-2000	05
2001-2010	08
2010-2020	12
I. Creating a Multicultural Society.....	12
II. Expanding the Exchange Population.....	20
III. Contributing to Human Resource Development	30
Impact of the Coronavirus (COVID-19)	33

Greeting from Governor of Hyogo

The Hyogo International Association celebrated its 30th anniversary.

Recently, while globalization has progressed in a wide variety of fields such as politics, economy, and culture, the number of foreign residents and tourists continues to increase. As a result, the environment surrounding international exchange between local governments has drastically changed.

The Hyogo International Association has received support from various people, including citizens of the prefecture, municipalities, international exchange groups, NGOs, and NPOs, on many tough occasions. From their support, we were able to develop various initiatives to promote multiculturalism and exchange between people of the world.

First, it is to implement a multicultural society.

Currently, there are over 115,000 foreign residents from 156 countries living in the prefecture, and we must create a society for anyone, such as those with different languages, cultural backgrounds, and lifestyles to live safely and comfortably.

In order to do so, we will actively continue to create a system to support Japanese language education and develop human resources throughout the prefecture. In recent years, as the number of foreign residents becoming victims of disasters has been increasing, we will focus our efforts on supporting local Japanese and native language classes, which will be a safety net in the event of a disaster.

Since April 2019, we have been aiming to strengthen the services in the Hyogo Multicultural Counseling Center by working with an NGO to provide consultation on daily matters in 11 languages. Even during the catastrophe of the coronavirus, it played a major role in providing information for foreign residents.

Second, it is to expand the number of connections.

It is essential to have exchanges on a grassroots level to deepen mutual understanding with people of the world and secure bonds of friendship.

With five of our prefecture's offices based overseas, we are conducting exchange activities in a wide variety of fields such as economy, tourism, education, and culture. Additionally, for the anniversary commemorative project with our friendly states/regions, we have dispatched prefectural exchange groups to further promote friendly relations.

We also carry out a variety of exchange projects for citizens to proactively take part in, such as food cultural class and gatherings by HIA Friendship Society, the Oxbridge Summer Camps Abroad, and volunteering for host families.

Third, it is to contribute to developing human resources.

It is important to develop human resources that will be the bridge between Hyogo prefecture and the world and be part of the future international community.

Starting with the developing nations of Southeast Asia, we provide scholarships to promote the acceptance of international students from various countries and regions, as well as to stabilize the lifestyles of privately funded international students.

Furthermore, we have been steadily developing human resources for the next generation with activities such as accepting overseas trainees from friendly states/regions, dispatching a Japan-France exchange coordinator to Seine-et-Marne, and a youth exchange program through the Hyogo Turkey Friendship Fund.

Given the COVID-19 pandemic, it is difficult to predict the global situation in the future. People around the world should work together more than ever to respond to various issues.

In closing, the role of our association, which has fostered relationships of mutual trust and exchange with various countries and regions, will become even more important. We aim to implement an internationally diverse society where we can live with people from around the world while creating strong trust and bonds. We will continue to push forward and would like to ask all those involved for their continued support and cooperation.

Toshizo Ido

Chairman
Hyogo International Association

Governor of Hyogo Prefecture



Greeting from HIA's Chairman of the Board

The Hyogo International Association is celebrating its 30th anniversary in 2020. I would like to express my sincerest gratitude to you for your support and cooperation.

Our association was established in 1990 as an organization to promote international exchange at the grassroots level, such as promoting citizens' exchanges and enhancing international understanding. We also conducted projects to support foreign residents and provided opportunities for Japanese language education to cultivate future generations.

There are currently over 115,000 foreign residents living in the prefecture. For foreign residents to live comfortably and safely, our association established the Hyogo Multicultural Counseling Center in 1990 to start consultation services and the HIA Information and Advisory Service in 1994 to provide comprehensive consultations for foreign residents. This played a pivotal role in offering support to foreigners in daily life at the time of the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake. Amid the collapse of the Kobe Kotsu Center Building, where we were located at the time, we had to temporarily establish our office inside the Kobe Crystal Tower to respond to many foreign residents regarding housing, daily affairs, safety confirmation, etc. With the enforcement of the revised Immigration Control Act in April 2019, it is expected that the number of foreign residents will continue to increase in the future. In light of this, in addition to the weekday consultations at the Information and Advisory Service Center, in partnership with an NGO that provides weekend consultations in 11 languages, we were able to establish the Hyogo Multicultural Counseling Center.

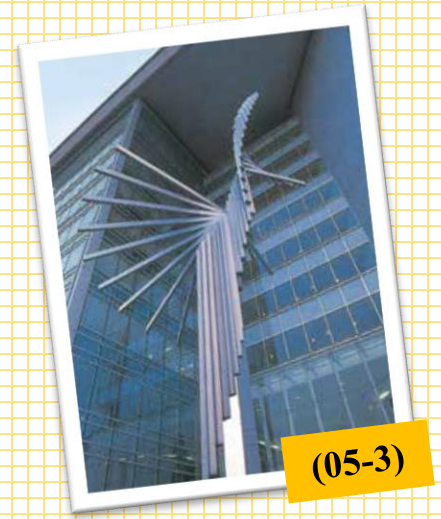
Promoting Japanese and native language education is another major role we play. We not only ensure opportunities to learn Japanese, but we also provide native language support for children of foreign roots. It is becoming increasingly important to not only support foreigners that came to Japan but also to support their children that are either born in Japan or came to Japan at school age. In addition to supporting regional Japanese language classrooms by providing subsidies, we have appointed coordinators to promote Japanese language education in the prefecture as well as at the regional levels in the five-year plan since April 2019. In 2019, along with supporting local native language classrooms, we also supported the establishment of a native language center for native language learning and information exchange.

Due to entry restrictions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, it is temporarily difficult to carry out international exchange activities. This year, we planned on sending a citizens' delegation to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the establishment of a sister-state relationship with the state of Panama, but it has been postponed. I visited Brazil as the head of the Hyogo citizens' delegation in 2018 on the occasion of commemorating 110 years of Japanese immigration to Brazil. I was able to celebrate this milestone year with the local people and deepened the exchange, making it a wonderful experience. I hope that we can once again have active interactions with people around the world once we overcome the coronavirus crisis.

We will continue to utilize the strengths of the association and continue to actively develop projects as an international association covering extensive areas, and I would like to ask for your continued support and cooperation.

Takai Yoshiro
Chairman of the Board
Hyogo International Association

The Birth of the Hyogo International Association After the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake Starting Anew in HAT Kobe



In April 1990, with the purpose of promoting Hyogo's internationalization, international exchange activities among citizens, and contributing to the development of a rich and international community, Hyogo International Association (HIA) was established at the Ikuta Government Building of Hyogo Prefecture. Since its establishment, HIA has expanded and enriched its work under the three pillars: (1) promoting non-governmental exchanges among citizens, (2) contributing to human resource development, and (3) developing new ways for international exchange (e.g., promoting exchanges with the Asia and the Pacific countries, promoting exchanges with Europe, and spreading Japanese language education). From 1994, the three pillars had been revised to (1) promoting non-governmental exchanges among citizens, (2) promoting international cooperation, and (3) promoting regional internationalization.

HIA has set up a consultation desk for foreign residents since the year of its establishment. From 1994, HIA continues to provide consultation services at the newly opened HIA Information and Advisory Service.

In 1991, both the host family registration system and the HIA Friendship Society were established. While our association was taking off, the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake occurred in January 1995. However, the warm support we received from overseas helped us once again recognized the importance of living together as a community and the depth of our connection to the world. Thus, we started to focus on creating a safe and prosperous place for all residents, including foreign residents.

In April 1998, we relocated to HAT Kobe, the new city center that was established as a symbol of the reconstruction from the earthquake. The Hyogo International Plaza set up within HIA has become a platform for people of all nationalities to interact.

In April 1999, we opened the Hyogo Prefectural Government Business Support Center in Tokyo to start supporting foreign companies in Hyogo prefecture (the Center was transferred to the Hyogo Economic Development Center in 2005).

Furthermore, with the opening of Awaji Yumebutai International Conference Center in March 2000, we began to attract international conferences (the control of the Center was transferred to the Yumebutai Co., Ltd from 2012). In the following August, the Center organized the first Asia-Pacific Forum, Awaji Conference Japan (Awaji Conference) at its International Conference Hall (the Hyogo Earthquake Memorial 21st Century Research Institute is organizing the conference from 2008).

In 2000, HIA celebrated the 10th anniversary of its establishment, and a commemorative ceremony was held in July.



(01)



(03)



(06-1)

(01) The then Chairman of the Board, Toshitami Kaihara, gave an opening speech at the Hyogo International Association commemorative ceremony (1990)

(02) Hyogo International Association commemorative party (1990)

(03) Inaugural meeting of the HIA Friendship Society (1991)

(04) Foreign Residents' Special Counseling Service for Emergencies (1995)

(05-1), (05-2), (05-3) Hyogo International Plaza (1998)

(06-1), (06-2) The first Asia-Pacific Forum-Awaji Conference (2000)

(07) 10th Anniversary Commemorative Ceremony/Japan-US Education Forum (2000)

1990-2000

1990

1990

1991

1995

1998

2000

2000



(02)



(01)



(03)



(04)



(05-1)



(05-3)



(05-2)



(06-1)



(06-2)



(07)

2001- 2010

The Four Pillars of HIA:

**Promoting Non-governmental Exchanges
Among Citizens**

Promoting International Cooperation

Promoting Regional Internationalization

**Establishing the Foundation for
International Exchange**



(09-2)

From 2001, we have developed effective and efficient initiatives under the following four pillars: (1) promoting non-governmental exchanges among citizens, (2) promoting international cooperation, (3) promoting regional internationalization, and (4) establishing the foundation of international exchange. They have been into three pillars in 2009: (1) achieving a multicultural society, (2) expanding the exchange population, and (3) contributing to human resource development.

To promote non-governmental exchanges among citizens, in 2008 we promoted educational travel programs to Japan and started the Oxbridge Summer Camps Abroad (OSCA) and the Hyogo International Summer School (the Asian Youth Camp ended in 2010). In addition to these, we have been organizing programs such as sending citizens' delegations to Hyogo's friendly states/regions almost annually and organizing the Hyogo Joint Summer Session at Sea (ended in 2009).

To promote international cooperation, we had projects such as the Hyogo Turkey Friendship Fund, which started in 2001 to invite orphans from Earthquakes in Turkey to come to Hyogo. Besides these initiatives, we are also developing projects such as accepting technical trainees from overseas to Hyogo (renamed Hyogo overseas trainees in 2008), holding international cooperation seminars, and conducting training for Malaysian vocational instructors (only in 2008).

To promote regional internationalization, since 2002, we started to provide consultation on life in the evenings in collaboration with NGOs and held workshops on regional internationalization (later renamed to Multicultural Coexistence Workshops in 2008). In addition to offering subsidies to support activities for foreign residents' lifestyles, in 2003, we also started operating the Hyogo Information and Advisory Service and holding medical interpreter volunteer study sessions, Japanese language courses, American university study abroad fair, and employment support courses for foreign residents.

To establish a foundation for international exchange, we are in charge of managing and operating international exchange facilities. This includes our overseas offices, one of which is the Brazil Representative Office of Hyogo Prefecture (formerly known as the Hyogo Brazil Liaison Office) that opened in 2006, and the Hyogo International Plaza at HIA. We also work in cooperation with private organizations by offering grants for international exchanges and make an effort to provide more information by publishing PR magazines.

In 2010, we celebrated the 20th anniversary of HIA and held a commemorative ceremony and symposium in February 2011.



(01)



(09-1)

- (01) Dispatch of Western Australian prefectural exchange group (2001)
- (02) Hyogo International summer school (Asian Youth Camp) (2008)
- (03) Inviting orphans from Earthquakes in Turkey to come to Hyogo (2007)
- (04) Conducting training for Malaysian vocational instructors (2008)
- (05) Intensive Japanese summer course (2004)
- (06) Workshop on regional internationalization (2002)
- (07) American University Study Abroad Fair (2001)
- (08) Course to help foreign residents seek employment (2009)
- (09-1), (09-2) 20th Anniversary Ceremony and Commemorative Symposium (2011)

2000**1****-**
2010

2001

2001



2002



2004



2007



**2001-
2010**



2008



2009



2010

2011



I. Creating a Multicultural Society

In order to create a society where foreign residents in Hyogo can live comfortably and safely, activities for a multicultural society with members of the local community were carried out.

① Promoting Japanese and Native Language Education

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

With national policies such as the establishment of a new status of residence, "specified skilled worker," the number of foreign nationals residing in Japan is expected to increase drastically. From 2019, we work on projects to secure opportunities for them to learn Japanese as residents by creating a system for Japanese language classrooms throughout the region supported by academics, Japanese language learning support organizations, government officials, companies, and other related parties.

To promote this system, we established a central council for the whole prefecture and regional councils in a unit of the prefectural government district administration office/center that will cover two new regions every year.

We also hold regional Japanese language classes by Japanese language teachers, Japanese language courses for foreign residents, and projects for human resource development to support Japanese language learning based on the prefecture-wide policies that are decided at the central council.



(01)



(02)



(03)

(01) General meeting of the central council

(02) Regional Japanese language classroom held by Japanese language teacher (Tamaba Sasayama)

(03) Japanese Language Course for foreign residents (HIA)

Establishing and Strengthening the Management of the Regional Japanese Language Classrooms as a “Safety Net”

At the time of the Great East Japan Earthquake, regional Japanese language classrooms played an important role in collecting and sharing information such as confirming the safety of foreign residents. In order to enable regional Japanese language classrooms to play the role of a "safety net," in 2012, 9 cities and towns with no Japanese language classrooms were asked to open a collaborative classroom. In 2016, regional Japanese language classrooms were established all over the prefecture.

(04) Establishing a regional Japanese Language Course as a “safety net” (Sayo)

(05) Establishing a regional Japanese Language Course as a “safety net” (Ichikawa)



(04)



(05)

Support for Native Language Education

Recognizing that learning the native language is indispensable as a foundation for learning the native culture and cultivating self-esteem, as well as communicating with fellow nationals, we support native language education such as assisting the management of native language classrooms conducted by NPOs in Hyogo (from 2010), making native language teaching materials (2009-2013), and supporting the opening of native language centers (2019), etc.

(06) Creating teaching materials (materials in Vietnamese)

(07) Supporting the opening of a native language center (CBK Native Language Center)



(06)



(07)

Creating a place for foreign residents and their children

Since 2011, we have supported Japanese language courses, Japanese learning classrooms, and mother language classrooms conducted by NPOs and other related organizations based in Hyogo. Overall, we support the establishment of Japanese language classes for foreign residents and aim to make these classrooms an “*ibasho*,” a place in the community for foreign students or foreign residents.

(08) Japanese language class for foreign children and students (Ashiya)



(08)

② Supporting the Lifestyle of Foreign Residents

Developing Consultation Services for Foreign Residents

The Foreign Residents Information Center, since its establishment in 1994, has provided comprehensive consultations on lifestyle by skilled consultants in English, Chinese, Portuguese, and Spanish. From 2019, there are consultations in 11 languages with interpreters from an external telephone line.

At the same time, the Network for Foreigners' Assistance KOBE (NGO) opened the Weekend Consultation Service for consultations on weekends. Together with the Foreign Residents Information Center, Hyogo Multicultural Counseling Center is available on weekdays and weekends.

(09) Information Center for Foreign Residents

(10) Weekend Consultations



(09)



(10)

Implementing measures to support foreign residents during disasters

Foreign residents can also become victims during disasters. Due to language and cultural barriers, it is difficult for foreign residents to obtain the necessary information in the event of a disaster. For that reason, we have developed projects that are necessary to support them.

From 2012 to 2014, we have been creating guidebooks for foreigners in 9 languages and holding seminars on natural disaster prevention. Since 2014, we have been participating in an annual disaster drill held by the prefecture for both foreign residents and prefectural citizens. Moreover, from 2019, we have been implementing subsidy projects to promote initiatives such as holding workshops and evacuation center training for municipal international associations in Hyogo.

(11) Workshop for foreigners on utilizing subsidies to prepare for disasters (Nishinomiya)

(12) Disaster Prevention Guidebook in 9 different languages

(13-1), (13-2) Disaster prevention classroom



(11)



(12)



(13-1)



(13-2)

Support for Medical Interpretation

For foreign residents who do not speak Japanese to visit medical institutions with ease, we have supported a medical interpretation system and held seminars on medical care problems that foreigners had from 2012 to 2014. In 2018, we provided subsidies to a foreign support organization that provide medical interpreters.

(14) Provided subsidies to an organization that offers remote interpretation.

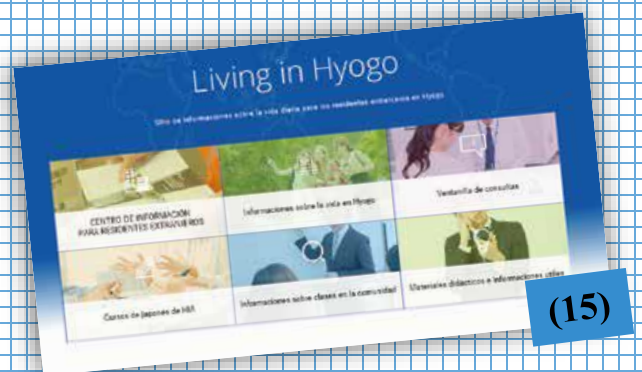
Operating Our Website in Japanese and Other Languages

The website to share information on living a more fulfilling lifestyle and language class information was completely renewed in 2018 to make it easier to read for foreign residents living in Hyogo. It was also created to be compatible with smartphones in multiple languages.

(15) Multilingual website



(14)



(15)

③ Raising Awareness on Multiculturalism



(16)

Workshop on Multiculturalism

In cooperation an NGO, we hold workshops for those who have more opportunities to work with foreign residents, such as administrative staff, teachers, Japanese language teachers, volunteers to deepen their understanding of multiculturalism since 2002.

(16) Workshop on multiculturalism



(17)

Tsudoi - Aiming for a Multicultural Society After 20 Years of the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake

In 2015, 20 years after the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake, we held a *tsudoi*, a gathering with the purpose of multicultural acceptance, with events such as a disaster prevention sport event and panel exhibitions.

(17) Disaster prevention sport events (*tsudoi*)

(18) Earthquake panel exhibition for the “January 17 shall never be forgotten” (*tsudoi*)



(18)

Kobe Global Charity Festival

As a project to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the prefectural government, an event was held in 2018 to strengthen the horizontal connection among the foreign residents' communities, and to provide an opportunity for exchange between younger generations such as student volunteers and foreigners residing in the prefecture.

- (19) Opening ceremony (Kobe Global Charity Festival)
- (20) Sport event (Kobe Global Charity Festival)
- (21) Presenting world dances on stage (Kobe Global Charity Festival)



(19)



(20)



(21)

Publishing a Chronicle on Multiculturalism

We cooperated with multicultural groups and scholars to make easy-to-understand materials on the history and progress of Hyogo's multiculturalism with an aim to share the appeal of Hyogo's multiculturalism and further raising awareness on multiculturalism (2020).

II. Expanding the Exchange Population

We organize a wide range of activities to encourage the promotion of international understanding among Hyogo citizens and boost more exchanges to take place both at home and abroad such as international exchange programs and seminars at the grass-roots level.

① Promoting International Exchange



(22)



(23)



(24)

Management of Hyogo International Plaza

The Hyogo International Plaza (International Information Center and Exchange Gallery) is established and operated as a place for international exchanges, including providing various information on international relations and collaborative exhibitions with NGOs and related organizations.

The International Information Center has a collection of about 26,000 books, including books that focus on multiculturalism, international exchange, learning Japanese, and also books written in various foreign languages.

The Exchange Gallery is used for multiple purposes such as exhibitions, events, and international exchange projects.

(22) International Information Center

(23) The opening of the Moldova photos and ink wash painting gallery at the Exchange Gallery

(24) Event at the Hyogo International Plaza

Activities of the Overseas Offices

We oversee the management of Hyogo's overseas offices in five locations of Washington State (United States), Western Australia, Paris, Panama State, and Hong Kong, and have exchanges in a wide variety of fields such as friendly states/regions, economy, tourism, and culture. The Hong Kong office reopened in 2012 as an economic exchange office for the first time in five years. Prefectural employees have also been dispatched to Brazil since 2015.

(25) Hong Kong Book Fair

(26) Culture Day event in Washington State, US



(25)



(26)



(27)

Dispatch of Prefectural Exchange Groups

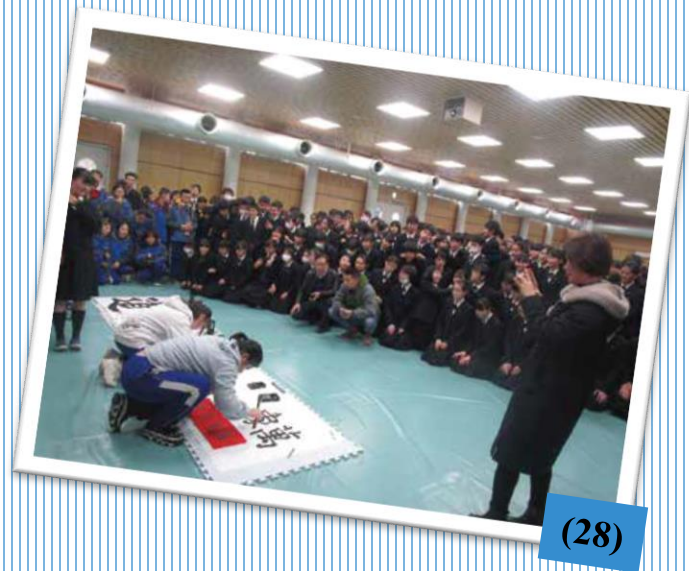
As part of the project to commemorate the anniversary between Hyogo prefecture and our friendly states/regions, we have dispatched prefectural exchange groups to friendly states/regions with a purpose of participating in local commemorative ceremonies and grassroots exchanges. From 2011 to 2019, we have dispatched 12 teams with a total of 298 people participated.

(27) Prefectural exchange group's visit to the Dormition Cathedral of Khabarovsk, Russia (2019)

Promoting Educational Trips to Japan

Since 2008, we have been conducting school exchanges for educational trips to Japan intending to expand international exchanges among the younger generation and promote international understanding in education. From 2011 to 2019, we accepted a total of 422 schools and 11,773 students.

(28) Calligraphy performed by the HNNU and Bocai Experimental Middle School from China and the Suma Gakuen Junior High School (educational trip to Japan)



(28)



(29)

Hyogo Homestay Project

Since 2011, we have expanded our work; in addition to letting foreign residents in the prefecture know about the appeals of Hyogo, we matched both foreigners and host families to deepen the understanding of different cultures and have active exchanges.

(29) Exchange through the Hyogo Homestay Project

Grassroots International Exchange Projects

We are carrying out a variety of grassroots international exchange projects led by residents of the prefecture, centered around the members of the HIA Friendship Society. Among these exchanges, the food cultural exchange class started in 2002 and the English Saloon started anew in 2018 have been well received.

(30) Korean food cultural exchange class

(31) English Saloon (Consulate General in Kobe)

(32) HIA Friendship Party



(32)



(31)



(30)

② Promoting Intellectual Exchange

Introductory Seminar on International Cooperation

From 1995, we have invited experts with different nationalities from international cooperation, NGOs activists in the prefecture, and alumnae from Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers as lecturers for seminars hold two to three times a year with various themes.

(33) Setting up booths for the introductory seminar on international cooperation on World Fair Trade Day



(33)

Oxbridge English Summer Camp

Since 2008, approximately 10 students from Oxford University and Cambridge University have been sent to Hyogo's universities and high schools to conduct English conversation classes and international exchange programs.

(34) Elementary kids at the "Let's have fun in English" event (Oxbridge English Summer Camp)



(34)

③ Promoting International Exchange

Subsidy for Non-profit International Exchange Projects

In order to foster and encourage international exchange activities among Hyogo's citizens, since 1991, we have been subsidizing pioneering and leading international exchange projects conducted by non-profit organizations/groups in the prefecture. From 2011 to 2019, grants were issued to a total of 209 organizations/groups.

(35) Experiencing Japanese culture at Ikuta Shrine (Non-profit international exchange project)

(36) Japanese traditional performing arts and kyogen appreciation event (Non-profit international exchange project)



(36)



(35)

Hyogo International Association and Related Organizations

The International Association consists of 37 International Association groups of prefecture/municipalities within the prefecture in 2013. In 2020, 4 towns without local International Association groups participate as associate members, and trying to utilize and share the know-how and information possessed by the International Association organizations. We also implement various projects to support foreign residents.

- (37) Conference meeting of Hyogo International Association organizations
- (38) Instructor dispatch to an Easy Japanese Course (Kami-cho)
- (39) Participating in the joint prefectural disaster drill



(38)



(37)



(39)

Hyogo International Association Caravan Project

Hyogo International Association and other related organizations hold international exchange events that are planned by Hyogo Prefecture's Coordinator of International Relations (CIR) at about 20 locations annually.

(40) Hyogo International Exchange Caravan Project (Shiso)

(41) Hyogo International Exchange Caravan Project (Harima)



(41)



(42)



(40)

Japan-US Grassroots Exchange Summit 2019 Hyogo/Himeji Tournament

In 2019, we organized an exchange project with John Manjiro Whitfield Commemorative Center for International Exchange with approximately 90 participants from the United States and local residents from 10 cities of the prefecture, including Himeji City.

(42) Experience wearing Japanese armor for Japan-US grassroots exchange (Tatsuno)

(43) Reporting the day's activity at the closing for Japan-US grassroots exchange (Awaji)



(43)

The Publication of “Come HIA”

Through mediums such as public relations magazines and Facebook, we are able to widely distribute information to Hyogo citizens about our association's work, international exchange and cooperation, and information on multiculturalism in Japanese, English, and easy-to-understand Japanese.

(44-1) The 99th edition of ComeHIA in 2020

(44-2) The English version

(45) Information on our Facebook page



(45)



(44-1)



(44-2)

III. Contributing to Human Resource Development

We implement activities, such as supporting international students and accepting Hyogo trainees, to promote human resource development for the next generation in Japan and abroad who will support the international community.

① Providing Aid to International Students



Scholarship System for Privately Funded International Students

In order to stabilize the lifestyle of privately funded international students and support their educational activities, we provide scholarships for them since 1988. From 2011 to 2019, we aided a total of 1,661 people.

(46) Scholarship awarding ceremony for privately funded international students

② Human Resource Development

Hyogo Overseas Trainee

We accept trainees from various countries, including our friendly states/regions, and conduct problem-solving exchanges by providing training opportunities. From 2011 to 2019, we accepted 65 trainees.

(47) Trainees from Turkey listening a lecture at the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake Memorial Disaster Reduction and Human Renovation Institution

(48) Trainees from Argentina visiting SMEs in the prefecture



(47)



(48)



(49)



(50)

Exchange with Seine-et-Marne

Since 1991, we accept trainees from our friendly region of Seine-et-Marne, France, and a Japan-France exchange coordinator has been dispatched to promote mutual understanding and friendly relations between the two regions. From 2011 to 2019, nine people were dispatched.

(49) Trainee giving a presentation of Seine-et-Marne at the International Industrial Fair

(50) The Japan-France exchange coordinator (the second person on the right) and Hyogo's Paris office staff promoting Japanese sake

Support for the Hyogo Turkish Friendship Fund

We implemented projects to invite orphans from the 1999 İzmit earthquake (in the northwestern part of Turkey) to Hyogo Prefecture, as well as dispatching high school students from Hyogo Prefecture to Turkey. These projects were from 2000 to 2013.

(51) Children from the Hyogo Turkey Friendship Fund experienced making Tamba pottery (Tamba Sasayama)



(51)

Promoting School Exchange for Foreign Residents

We have been subsidizing school for foreign residents in the prefecture that conducts learning through hands-on experiences since 1998. From 2011 to 2019, we supported a total of 75 schools.

(52) Canoe practice at a school for foreign residents



(52)

Impact of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) (as of September 2020)

The novel coronavirus (COVID-19), which has been spreading worldwide since the beginning of 2020, has also spread to Japan, and on April 7, 2020, Hyogo is included as one of the seven prefectures to be in an emergency state under the Emergency Declaration.

The declaration was issued, later extended to all prefectures, requesting to refrain from going out, holding events, and restricting the usage of facilities. Our Association was also affected by various factors such as changes in the work system and suspension of businesses.

【Work and Human Resources】

- Introduced telework to reduce 70% of employees commuting work
- Postponed positions to oversee-offices (temporarily closing the overseas offices)

【Use of Facilities】

- Information Center (library), exhibition space, reception room for exchange were temporarily closed
- Consultations for foreigner residents at the Information Center were stopped

【Businesses and Projects】

◆2019

- Gathering exchanges, accepting overseas trainees (from Hainan Province), and having educational trips to Japan were canceled or postponed
- Reducing the scale of businesses targeted for subsidies to create a place in the community for foreign residents, etc.

◆2020

- The Oxbridge English summer camp, exchange with Seine-et-Marne, acceptance of overseas trainees, educational trips to Japan, etc. were canceled or postponed.
- Some businesses eligible for private-sector international exchange subsidies and businesses targeted for subsidies to create a place in the community for foreign residents were stopped
- Cancellation of Japanese language classes and trials for distance learning
- Postponed prefectural exchange groups, etc.



HIA

Hyogo International Association