



Hyogo Caravan Project

Hyogo's Coordinator for Internal Relations are organizing events all over the prefecture

## Grassroots International Exchange

### Online seminar "Our Refugee Issue 2021"

To promote the understanding of refugees who were forced to migrate to other countries to escape from conflicts and disaster areas around the world, a total of three seminars were held online, co-hosted by the Foundation for the Welfare and Education of the Asian People (Kansai Branch of the Refugee Assistance Headquarters), Kobe YMCA, and the

Hyogo Prefectural Chapter of the United Nations Association of Japan. The seminars focused on the issue of Japan's refugee status system, as well as the current situation in Afghanistan, Myanmar and other regions where people's interest has been growing recently.

Many lecturers expressed their belief that "it is important to learn and spread the word about the current situation of refugees and the diversity of people who become refugees." A Q & A session was also held, providing a great learning opportunity for the participants.



1st Session	<p>Wednesday, December 1, 2021</p> <p>"Current Status and Issues of the Refugee Recognition System in Japan"</p> <p>Lecturer: Mr. Shogo Watanabe (Representative of Japan Lawyers Network for Refugees, Dai-ichi Tokyo Bar Association)</p>
2nd Session	<p>Wednesday, December 8, 2021</p> <p>"Afghanistan Refugees Today"</p> <p>Lecturers: Ms. Shigeko Nambu, Ms. Arefu Araki, Ms. Yoko Ono, Ms. Aiko Nishimura (UNHCR Asia Regional Office)</p>
3rd Session	<p>Wednesday, December 15, 2021</p> <p>"Current Status of Myanmar Refugees and Support Activities"</p> <p>Lecturers: Ms. Keiko Nakao (Representative of Burmese Relief Center-Japan), Ms. Cherry (pseudonym, from Myanmar)</p>

# The 17th Shiso International Friendship Festival

(October 24, 2021)

Shiso International Association

## Do you know about Hyogo's International Exchange Caravan Project?

Hyogo Prefecture's CIR (Coordinator of International Relations, 4 people) hold events in various parts of the prefecture upon request by organizations that are part of the Hyogo Consortium of International Associations. The purpose of dispatching CIR is to provide more people in the prefecture with opportunities to come into contact with foreign cultures. Please feel free to request CIRs to participate in or run an international exchange in your local city. (Free of charge)



Playing a gesture guessing game about the Olympic Games



Making pumpkin decorations for Halloween in the United States



Playing the traditional Chinese game "jianzi" (kicking a shuttlecock)



Enjoying Australian football



Playing the traditional Korean game "Ddakji" (Menko)



Busan, South Korea

**Huieun Cho**

Hello!

I have been working as a CIR in Hyogo prefecture since 2019, and I have met many people living in Hyogo prefecture. Before that, I worked as a CIR for two years in Kirishima City, Kagoshima Prefecture.

I started studying Japanese because I fell in love with the idol group "Arashi". When I was a university student, I studied abroad in Naruto City, Tokushima Prefecture for a year. It was my first time living abroad, but thanks to the warm support of the people of Naruto, I was able to finish my study abroad. I couldn't forget the feeling of gratitude at that time, and I wanted to work in Japan-South Korea international relations, so I became a CIR.

During my five years as a CIR, I was able to interact with many people in Japan and feel the "warm connection between people." It was a very special experience for me to interact with various people regardless of nationality or race. I will continue to enjoy my life while treasuring these experiences forever.



Interacting with children is the most fun time for me!



Hainan, China

**Qiusheng Wang**

It has already been four years since I became a CIR for Hyogo. I have visited and introduced Chinese culture to various places in the prefecture. I am glad that I was able to provide many citizens of the prefecture with the opportunity to come into contact with foreign cultures and interact with many people, from children to the elderly. Thanks to my activities as a CIR, I can now read difficult place names in Japan, and Hyogo became my second home. I want to continue to enjoy life in Hyogo.

Finally, let's end with a panda quiz!



Which is the mascot character for the 2022 Beijing Winter Olympic Games?

Please watch the Beijing Winter Olympic Games for the answer



**1 Panda**

Jing Jing  
「晶晶」



**2 Panda**

Bing Dwen Dwen  
「冰墩墩」



**3 Panda**

Pan Pan  
「盼盼」



**4 Panda**

Rong Bao  
「蓉宝」



# Do you know about Hyogo's International Exchange Caravan Project?

## International Day

(Saturday, November 13, 2021  
Harima-cho International  
Friendship Association)

### What's a Coordinator for International Relations (CIR)?

CIR are people from various foreign countries who are invited by the local government to work in Japan through the JET Programme (The Japan Exchange and Teaching Programme). The JET Programme is a collaborative project between the local government, MIC (Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications), MOFA (Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan), MEXT (Ministry of Education, culture, Sports, Science and Technology), and CLAIR (Council of Local Authorities for International Relations). CIRs usually work in the city office of the local government and conduct a variety of international exchange activities.



Self-introductions



Introducing Korean traditions



Taking an interesting quiz about the panda and trying out paper-cutting of a panda



Introducing Australian animals through a quiz



Through the introduction of American culture, participants learned about Thanksgiving Day, and made turkey bookmarks



Melbourne, Australia

### Tommy Ly



Good day mate! I'm Tommy Ly and I'm from Melbourne, Australia. I'm Chinese/Vietnamese, but I was born and raised in Australia. I started working at the Hyogo International Association from last year and before that I was working at the Katsuragi City Office in Nara.

I have been studying Japanese since high school and I'm fascinated by Japanese culture. I'm often asked why I came to Japan, but there are so many reasons, it's hard to say. Was it to find myself? Or perhaps it's because I like Japanese aesthetics and anime? Or because I enjoy learning the Japanese language? Indeed, these are all real reasons.

Or maybe it's because I wanted to understand the little differences in culture and thus get to understand myself better, such as why do Australians love to go to the beach and get tanned but Japanese consider white skin to be beautiful? Or why do Australians eat apples in public places or walk barefoot outside, but these acts are considered to be a faux pas in Japan? Or why do Japanese always insert in their email the phrase, "Thank you for your ongoing support".

Anyway, Japan is interesting, isn't it?



Michigan, U.S

### Yuan Lei



Hello! My name is Yuan Lei, and I am the American CIR. This is my third year working as a CIR for the Hyogo Prefectural Government. I was born in China and immigrated to the US when I was five. America is a country with many diversities, made up of people from various backgrounds. There are 50 states in America, and each state has its own unique food, culture, and groups of people. My hometown is Ann Arbor, a city in the southeastern part of the state of Michigan. Shown below is a picture of Michigan, and it has a unique shape. What does it look like? (Answer: a left-hand mitten)

I was lucky to have met people from many different countries during my university days. This made me want to experience and see the world more, so I decided to work in Japan. I chose Japan because of my interest in Japanese art history, especially those from the Edo period such as ukiyo-e. I hope that you can teach me more about Japanese culture and that I can share my perspective of American culture with you. Thank you.

See you soon!



Michigan Theater (Ann Arbor)



# Hyogo International Plaza: A Special Feature on the International Resource Center!

Hyogo International Plaza International Resource Center focuses on collecting foreign language books, textbooks for learning Japanese and foreign languages, and books on multiculturalism, international relations and cooperation.

In particular, the library has a wide range of books on Japanese language study, including the Japanese Language Proficiency Test (JLPT) N1 to N5 with sample questions and other books on Japanese language education.



Please visit our website for a list of books on teaching and learning Japanese in our collection.



## Also available at the library!

It is not uncommon for books that are popular in Japan to be translated and published abroad. We carry a small number of foreign language editions of popular books, comics and picture books. We also have some “parallel texts” for some comics and picture books, which can be read in Japanese and a foreign language alongside each other.



Bestsellers and classic picture books are also available.

## The “Disaster Preparedness Guide for Children and Parents” (available in 5 languages) was revised!

We made a revision to the “Disaster Preparedness Guide for Children and Parents,” which was created for foreign residents who are parents and their children to learn about disaster preparation together in Japanese. This year, we revised 5 languages (English, Chinese, Vietnamese, Portuguese, and Spanish) out of 9 languages and updated information about “My Evacuation Card,” how to evacuate depending on the type of disaster, and other helpful resources in the event of a disaster.



You can download it from HIA's website. We hope that it's helpful!



## We published a pamphlet about developing one's mother tongue in Spanish “Japanese, Spanish, and Me”

With the support of experts and local organizations, we created this pamphlet, in both Japanese and Spanish for foreign parents and children to communicate the importance of developing one's mother tongue.



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