

Prefectural Government 150th Anniversary Hyogo Multicultural Festival

The Hyogo Multicultural Festival was held at Kobe Chinese School on November 11. This time, it was held as a co-hosted event with the Kobe Global Charity Festival (KGCF), which is an international charity group that supports children's education in Asia and Japan.

On this cloudless day, approximately 3,200 people, including Hyogo residents with international roots, students, families with small children and seniors joined the event. Everyone looked to be enjoying themselves as they watched the sports carnival and international dance performances, tasted international cuisine at food stands, played games with children and shopped at the stalls there.

The atmosphere there seemed to expand the ring of exchange beyond nationalities and generations.



International dance event: Brazilian Samba carnival



Playing ball-toss with event visitors



"Shishimai" (lion) dance was performed by Kobe Chinese School in the opening ceremony

Hyogo Multicultural Festival Planning Committee

Kobe Overseas Chinese Association, Indian Chamber of Commerce in Japan, MINDAN Hyogo Head Office, The General Association of Korean Residents in Hyogo Prefecture, Comunidade Brasileira de Kansai, Comunidad Latina Hyogo, VIETNAM yêu mến KOBE, The Association of Foreign Schools in Hyogo Prefecture, NGO Network for Foreigners' Assistance KOBE, Takatori Community Center, Kobe Foreigners Friendship Center, Community House and Information Centre, Nepal Chamber of Commerce

Training to support foreigners in a disaster

The 2018 Hyogo Prefectural Joint Disaster Drill in Tajima was held in Kami Town on September 2. Twenty-nine people (including Japanese) from seven countries participated in the drill with the cooperation of the Kami International Association and Toyooka International Association, both members of our organization, as well as NPO Nihongo Toyooka AIUEO.

Under the assumption that a big earthquake strikes, participants experienced evacuating from a tsunami, escape training from a trapped train and experiencing an earthquake with an earthquake simulation vehicle. Foreign participants seemed surprised to learn how terrifying an earthquake can be.

When using evacuation shelters, even foreigners need to present "their name, address, contact information, etc." in Japanese so they practiced reading and writing these in Japanese during the drill. Similarly, we should take actions such as placing multilingual "Evacuee Cards" at evacuation centers in each town to develop our support system for foreign evacuees. It was a good opportunity to recognize that while the government formulates the management scheme, there is a necessity for each international association to encourage their local administrations.



Multilingual Notation for the Information Display in the Hall



The Governor of Hyogo Visited the Evacuee Registration Card Practice

International Student Haku-san Participated in an Internship at HIA



From September 3-7, Haku-san, an international student from China, participated in an internship at HIA. Haku-san, now studying at the Graduate School of Language, Communication and Culture at Kwansei Gakuin University, talked about how he wanted to be a bridge between Japan and China. He participated in multicultural events which had taken place even before the internship started and actively interacted with children as one of our staff at the "International Fure-ai Day" held at Hyogo International Plaza Gallery.

He also worked earnestly during the internship. At the International Industrial Fair held at Kobe Port Island on Sep. 6 and 7, he dedicated himself to Chinese customer support and Japanese-Chinese interpretation and played a very important role at the fair. We hope this experience will help him succeed further in the future.



At the Industrial Fair
(Haku-san is on the leftmost side)



The International Fure-ai Day

A new Coordinator for Franco-Japanese Relations has been sent to France!

I had many precious experiences, such as introducing Japanese culture at local schools, and working as an assistant at Seine-et-Marne Attractivité (the Department tourism/business agency).

Sara Kobayashi, the former Coordinator for Franco-Japanese Relations has come back to Japan after a year in the Department of Seine-et-Marne. This district maintains friendly relations with Hyogo prefecture.

Last October, Miki Yamahana left for France as the new Coordinator.

Don't miss Ms. Yamahana's blog, "A life next to Paris"!



For the next year I will cooperate with the Paris office in promoting friendship between both prefectures and both countries.



Ms. Kobayashi (on the left)



Ms. Kobayashi presenting



In front of the Palace of Fontainebleau



Ms. Yamahana

To Western Australia for a Summer Workshop

Let's study abroad in the summer vacation! Western Australia is a mecca for exchange among junior and senior high school students. There are four reasons: first, there are only a few hours' time difference between Japan and Australia, so they can communicate with each other during class over the internet. Second, the seasons of Australia are opposite from Japan meaning Japanese students can attend classes in Australia during their summer vacation. Third, many Australians are very interested in Japanese language and culture, with Japanese being the most popular foreign language. Finally, the crime rate is low in the country.



Barbecue with members of the Centre: Nishiwaki Senior High School

Perth, AUSTRALIA

Perth



Light-hearted self-introductions: Akashi and Morley Senior High Schools

Because of these reasons Australia has been popular for student exchange, and this summer 30 groups totaling 360 people visited Perth from public junior and senior high schools alone. At the Hyogo Prefectural Government Cultural Centre in Perth, the staff match schools together and introduce interesting places for students to visit, as well as giving lectures and tips to enjoy activities and homestays in Australia. They do their best so that the students can spend a wonderful time without worry.

HIA International Exchange Bus Tour in Ako

On Saturday Dec 1, we held the HIA International Exchange Bus Tour and visited Ako City. Ten Japanese and thirty foreigners joined the tour co-hosted by Ako City and the Ako Tourism Association. They cultivated exchange over a salt-making workshop, conversations during lunch and a stroll through the lovely streets of Sakoshi.

At the Ako Marine Science Museum Shionokuni, we tried making salt using a traditional method in which brine is boiled off in an earthen pot. After that, we visited Oishi Shrine and the Ako Castle Ruins, where local guides provided a detailed description of their historical background.

It was a great chance to learn more about the story of the forty-seven loyal retainers of Ako, who are well-known not only in Japan but also overseas. At lunch we cooked oysters over a charcoal fire and enjoyed fresh seafood (such as turban shells) at Kaisentonya-Jo. At the end of the day we split into faster and slower-paced groups and wandered the tranquil streets of Sakoshi. The view from Myokenji temple was majestic and it made many of us want to come back again!



Salt-making workshop at Shionokuni

Enjoying oysters at the Hamayaki-style (barbecuing freshly-caught seafood over an open flame) restaurant



Experiencing water divination for the first time at Oishi Shrine

Photo exhibition "Myanmar: Tradition and Vibrance"

From October 1-31, the photo exhibition "Myanmar: Tradition and Vibrance" was held at the Hyogo International Plaza. The exhibition displayed many photos taken by fourteen photographers, both Japanese and Myanmar residents in Japan, and showed scenes of people living in harmony with tradition, history and the beautiful natural landscape of Myanmar.

During the exhibition, we held a series of talks where each of the photographers told the story of their own experiences with Myanmar. One of the speakers spoke about how they encountered the heart and culture of Myanmar, another was the story of a backpacker over 80 years old, while another spoke of the current condition of the Rohingya crisis which we seldom hear. The Q&A session was lively, and we could see the participants' keen interest in these topics.



The second day of talks



The photo exhibition gallery

Upcoming Events

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

Feb Events

- Seminar to consider community-based Japanese-language support (Feb 2)
- Second Multilingual Interpreting Training (Feb 3)

HIA Library Display

- Special Feature; China

Mar Events

- (Mar 16)

HIA Gallery Exhibits

- Environmental Education Poster Contest (Mar 18~29)

HIA Library Display

- Women of the World

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