

Come HIA

HIA supports the activities of Japanese Language Schools!

Japanese language classrooms have been established in all of the 41 cities & towns in Hyogo Prefecture, and there are about 100 schools currently run by volunteer groups or municipal international associations. These schools do not just serve as a place for foreign visitors to learn Japanese in a comfortable space they can belong, but are also a place where foreign residents and Japanese volunteers can meet and deepen their understanding of each other's culture. These schools thus play a significant role in the front line of the development of multi-cultural communities.



Above: HIA Japanese language course for foreign residents in Hyogo



Left: Language support volunteers from different communities getting together at a workshop



Above: Students giving a performance of "Shovel Shamisen" they practiced with their classmates (Taka Town)



Right: Students learning useful Kanji from the things they encounter everyday

In addition to offering beginner Japanese courses, sharing its knowledge and experience at workshops in different locations, and creating opportunities to exchange opinions on how to run schools, HIA also cooperates with Japanese language schools throughout Hyogo Prefecture to support foreign residents' Japanese study and interaction activities with local communities.

HIA is working to create a system where every foreign resident, wherever they live in Hyogo, can learn a level of Japanese necessary for their everyday lives and begin to take part in their local community.

For further information on Japanese language programs, please contact:

HIA TEL: 078-230-3261

Fukusaki Japanese Language Salon —Striving for a Cozy Salon—

“Ohayo gozaimasu!” The Japanese language class began with a bright voice on Sunday morning. One day beneath a clear winter sky, we visited the Fukusaki Japanese Language Salon, one of the groups being supported by HIA’s “*Ibasho* for Foreign Residents and Youth” initiative.

The Fukusaki Japanese Language Salon, organized by the Fukusaki Japanese Language Volunteer Society in Fukusaki Town, was established in 2014 and the salon celebrates the 5th anniversary of its founding this year. The salon originally started as a Japanese language class for non-Japanese living in Fukusaki, but in recent years the number of technical interns, particularly from Vietnam or Indonesia, has been increasing and consequently have become the majority of learners at the salon.

“Our salon should not be held for companies. However, we would like to meet the needs of every foreigner who wishes to learn with us.” A member of the volunteer group passionately said. With like-minded members, the salon is held twice a month on Sunday while organizing groups according to learners’ Japanese ability. They also have preparation classes for the Japanese Language Proficiency Test after requests from learners. The members of the volunteer group eagerly put a lot of thought into the lesson content and have developed tools such as records for each individual learner to tailor content. Consequently, the total number of learners registered with the salon now exceeds 80 learners and sometimes their classroom is completely full. Learners we interviewed on the day said “I always can’t wait to come to the salon,” and “I really enjoy learning Japanese,” their smiles leaving a lasting impression.

The Fukusaki Japanese Language Salon has already been considered “a cozy place for foreigners” in Fukusaki. Their activities will surely continue to spread from here on.



The Fukusaki Japanese Language Salon is always looking for volunteers willing to support Japanese language learning as non-Japanese in the area increase.

Fukusaki Japanese Language Volunteer Society
(Inside the Fukusaki Culture Center)
TEL 0790-22-3755 FAX 0790-22-2561

Overseas Offices

The scene of Japanese Education in the near future?



A screenshot of the arithmetic game Prodigy



Answer the quiz given by an enemy to defeat them

The head offices of Microsoft and Amazon, companies which everyone knows, are in the suburbs of Seattle, Washington. Thus, a lot of IT systems engineers live in and around Seattle. You can see people using a laptop at a café or on a commuting bus developing program systems.

Their starting annual salary exceeds 10 million yen, and they accelerate the economic growth of the whole Seattle area. In this Seattle area, various IT technologies are being utilized in the education front. In some school districts, various software applications are used in class that can be played like a game. In arithmetic classes, tablets are used by all students, where they play a game in which the hero solves an arithmetic quiz given by the enemy. The enrollment for school procedures is done over the internet. It is possible to check school records or attendance via the internet.

It is thought that programming education is going to be introduced into elementary schools in 2020 in Japan, as the relationship between education and IT technology deepens. It may be that the current educational scene in the suburbs of Seattle is what the what awaits Japan in a few years’ time.

HIA Friendship Party 2019



The "HIA Friendship Party 2019" was held at Kobe Club on Saturday, March 16th. A total of 140 people, including HIA members, Kansai consular members, members of international exchange organizations, and foreign community members participated.

Mr. Maeda, chairman of the HIA Friendship Society, gave the opening remarks, while Mr. Kanazawa, Vice Governor of Hyogo Prefecture, gave the congratulatory address as the honorary guest. After that, Gerard Michels, Consul General of the Netherlands made a toast, and the participants' meals and talks began amidst a peaceful atmosphere.

On stage, chanson singer Mio Koseki sang songs in a mix of Japanese, French and English, and combined with her accompanying guitar her voice resonated throughout the hall. The final performance was the four-piece female music band "Saxophone Quartet Copain". During the performance, they moved not only on the stage but also throughout the hall, and gave a powerful and colorful performance.

Mr. Takagi, Chairman of HIA, gave the closing remarks, calling for everyone to join the momentum of international exchange in Hyogo Prefecture.



Left: Saxophone Quartet Copain

Below: Guests having a pleasant chat



A toast by the Dutch Consul General



Ms Koseki singing chanson



Vice Governor Kanazawa's Address

Taiwan School Exchange

National Changhua Girls' Senior High School - Himeji Nishi Senior High School



Exchange activities with overseas schools are strongly promoted in Hyogo, and at these exchanges students from both countries have introduced their cultures to each other through classes, club activities and others, for a deeper mutual understanding.

Exchange partner schools are mainly from Japan's neighboring countries such as Taiwan, South Korea and China, but we have also accepted groups on high school excursion, groups of observers, and visiting groups of elementary school students and junior high school students from countries such as India and Indonesia.

On Wednesday, January 23rd, a group of 84 students from the National Changhua Girls' Senior High School in Taiwan (77 students, 7 teachers and others) visited Himeji Nishi Senior High School for an exchange initiative. The Taiwanese students were divided into groups and, using English, experienced some traditional Japanese games such as hagoita, kendama, hyakunin-isshu karuta, and fukuwarai. There was also a performance of a play that was based on an old story inherited among a minority group in Taiwan, as well as a musical performance with the Japanese instrument of Koto, which became a precious experience of learning about cultures different from their own.



Theatrical folklore passed down through a Taiwanese ethnic minority



Visiting the school's Guitar & Mandolin Club

Upcoming Events

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

May

HIA Library Display

- Special Feature; Finland

Jun

Events

- Hyogo Consortium of International Associations – Annual General Meeting

Jul

Events

- Applications for HIA Japanese Courses
- Hyogo EU Seminar: Lecture by the Lithuanian Ambassador

HIA Library Display

- Special Feature: France

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