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Come HIA

The Establishment and Operational Training of the Wide-Area Multilingual Disaster Support Center *Simulation of the process to support foreign residents during disasters*

The Hyogo International Association (HIA) has decided to establish the Hyogo Multilingual Disaster Support Center to share multilingual information and facilitate support from related organizations in the event of a large-scale disaster, and since several years ago, has been preparing a manual to respond appropriately under these circumstances. We have now completed two manuals, a manual for staff during disasters and a manual about the establishment and operation of the Hyogo Wide-Area Multilingual Disaster Support Center. We also have prepared a system to train all of our staff; the first training was held on November 26, 2020 (Thursday).

First, Mr. Doi Yoshihiko, a representative from the Japan Council of Intercultural Community Coordinators (JC-ICC), summarized the history and the role of the Multilingual Disaster Support Center to our staff. Our staff then received an explanation on our association's manual before proceeding to the simulation training.

During the training, our staff experienced collecting, examining, and prioritizing information necessary for foreign residents, as well as the procedures for translating and sending out information.

We will continue to have the training to prepare for future disasters.



Confirming the information on the manual for disasters



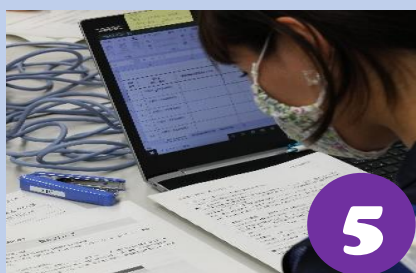
Collecting information from related organizations



Designated staff prioritizing the information



Mr. Doi Yoshihiko, the lecturer, commented on the simulation training



Confirming the procedures in the manual



Preparing the documents for translation (We also worked on translation for this simulation.)

Let's organize an event with CIR

INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE CARAVAN PROJECT

If a member organization of the Hyogo Consortium of International Associations wishes to hold an event, we will dispatch a CIR to different areas in the prefecture free of charge. Currently, there are three Hyogo Prefecture CIRs from South Korea, China, and the United States. The purpose of dispatching them is to let more citizens in the prefecture interact with different cultures. Please take advantage of this opportunity.



Korean culture lecture at Amagasaki City
by Korean CIR Jo Huiyun



Quiz on American Culture at Himeji City
by American CIR Yuan Lei



Papercutting at Kakogawa City
by Chinese CIR Wang Qiusheng

CONTENT OF THE EVENTS

- Seminar on International Understanding (CIRs introduce their country's culture)
- Introducing foreign culture and activities to children
- Making crafts such as papercutting and art
- International food culture classes

What is a CIR (Coordinator of International Relations) ?

CIRs are invited by local governments from other countries through the JET Program. They help carry out various international exchange activities. The JET Program is a project carried out by local governments in cooperation with the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, and CLAIR (Council of Local Authorities for International Relations).

VIDEO ON EGYPTIAN FOOD CULTURE AND SWEETS RECIPES

The first seminar on food culture of 2020 was an interview with Gina Fujiwara, an Egyptian chef and owner of an Egyptian restaurant in Kobe, at the Hyogo Prefectural Kobe Life Enhancement Center on November 27, 2020.

She cheerfully explained Egyptian food and interesting similarities between Egypt and Japan and taught us the recipe for Roz bi Laban, Egyptian rice pudding.

The video for this interview and recipe and cooking video on Roz bi Laban is uploaded on the HIA homepage. Please visit the URL below and try to cook this recipe at your own home.



Chef Gina Fujiwara on cooking



"Roz bi Laban" means rice and milk in Arabic

URL : <https://www.hyogo-ip.or.jp/torikumi/tomonokai/shokubunka.html>



HIA Created Multilingual Pointing Board, Used at Evacuation Centers

HIA created multilingual pointing boards used at evacuation centers in cooperation with Disaster Reduction and Human Renovation Institution (DRI), community groups for foreigners, and the Council of Local Authorities for International Relations (CLAIR). During disasters, foreign residents can also become victims. For those who have difficulty communicating in Japanese, these pointing boards are designed for evacuation shelter operators and disaster-affected foreigners to interact by pointing with a minimum level of communication. In the future, along with promoting the spread of pointing boards and cooperate with municipalities and each international exchange association in Hyogo Prefecture, HIA will continue to further support foreigners under disasters.

The multilingual pointing boards are in 13 languages, English, Chinese (Simplified/Traditional), Korean, Tagalog, Portuguese, Spanish, French, Russian, Vietnamese, Thai, Burmese, Indonesian, and Nepali. By using these three types of boards, you can confirm the language and other necessary information to support disaster victims, such as any problems they have, their physical condition, and dietary restrictions for religious reasons. For further information, please check the HIA homepage, and you can download it for free.



Hyogo Friends

Vietnam Yume KOBE

On a sunny autumn Saturday, children have been practicing Vietnamese alphabets since early in the morning. “Done! Can you take a look at my work?” the children said enthusiastically to Ms. Duong Ngoc Diep, who organized this mother tongue class and the co-representative of Vietnam Yume KOBE.

This class, held at the Takatori Community Center, was started by Vietnamese residents in Japan for children with Vietnamese roots to study their mother language. The class has been held for more than 20 years, and it has been over 10 years since Ms. Diep took over. She works as a teacher for the mother tongue class from 9:00 to 10:30 and a teacher for learning support until 12:30. After 13:30, she works as a counselor for middle school students from Vietnam. She says with a smile, “I am exhausted when Saturday is over, but the kids are really cute.”

Most of the children who go to the mother tongue class were born and are attending elementary school in Japan, so they are good at Japanese. However, when it comes to Vietnamese, they can speak it but are weak in reading and writing. Their parents bring them to this class, hoping that they will get better at reading and writing Vietnamese.

Each child is at a different level, so Ms. Diep teaches the children one-on-one with content suited for each child so they can enjoy learning Vietnamese at their own pace. In this mother tongue class, children first learn how to write the alphabet then learn how to put words together.

Children who have been attending the class since early elementary school can read anything once they reached sixth grade. Ms. Diep usually uses elementary school textbooks from Vietnam. However, some contents are not compatible with the Japanese lifestyle, so she would sometimes use Vietnamese teaching materials for Japanese people. She wants to make materials that fit each kid’s level but is concerned she does not have enough time.

The children quickly got along with their classmates whom they are connected to by the Vietnamese language, and they would ask their parents to let them go back to the class again. When the class was closed due to COVID-19, there were many phone calls saying, “My kid(s) is/are looking forward to attending the class again very much.” Ms. Diep said, “Because I am everyone’s mother,” she will continue to work closely and warmly with children who have Vietnamese roots.

Studying in the classroom



The teacher checking the student’s work



WE HELD WORKSHOPS ON MULTICULTURALISM

In collaboration with an NGO, we held an online workshop for those who often interact with foreigners, including local municipal staff, teachers, Japanese language teachers, and volunteers, to deepen their understanding of multiculturalism.

Date October 29, 2020 (Thu), November 1, 2020 (Sun), November 5, 2020 (Thu), November 8, 2020 (Sun)

Held online (via Zoom)

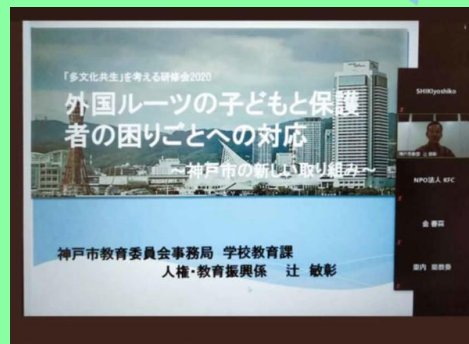
Content

First: Introduction

Second: Education for children with foreign roots

Third: Initiatives of multiculturalism in the region

Fourth: Current support for refugees and migrants



Screenshot of the workshop held on November 1st

THREE WORKSHOPS FOR SUPPORTERS OF JAPANESE LANGUAGE EDUCATION

Three online workshops were held for volunteers working to support Japanese language education for foreign residents.

December 12, 2020 (Sat): Workshop on Japanese education and learning support for children with foreign roots

December 20, 2020 (Sun): Workshop for volunteers to help foreign residents to learn everyday Japanese

January 16, 2021 (Sat): Workshop for utilizing ICT teaching materials



Screenshot of the workshop held on December 12th

JAPANESE LANGUAGE CLASSES FOR FOREIGN RESIDENTS

Practical Japanese Course

This course is held with the goal of being able to take necessary actions in daily life such as during shopping and disasters. In-person lessons are conducted with necessary infection prevention measures.

Period

August 19, 2020 (Wed) to September 11, 2020 (Fri)

Beginner Japanese Course

With the goal of communicating in basic Japanese, we held online classes (the second term; twice a week, 5 times total) to learn necessary Japanese grammar and vocabulary.

Period

October 19, 2020 (Mon) to December 15, 2020 (Tue)



Screenshot of the participants for the online courses

SPECIAL THANKS

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