

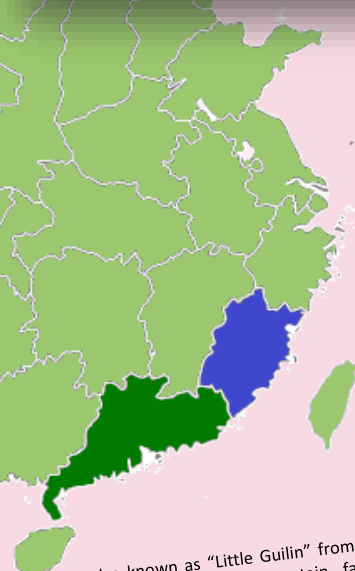
Hyogo-Guangdong Sister Relationship 35th Anniversary

广东省—兵库县结好35周年纪念晚宴 兵庫県・広東省友好提携35周年記念レセプション

2017.12.19 广东·广州



Memorial reception, organized by Guangdong Province. The warm and heartfelt proceedings helped lessen the nervousness of the members. They also took a memorial photograph with the governor.



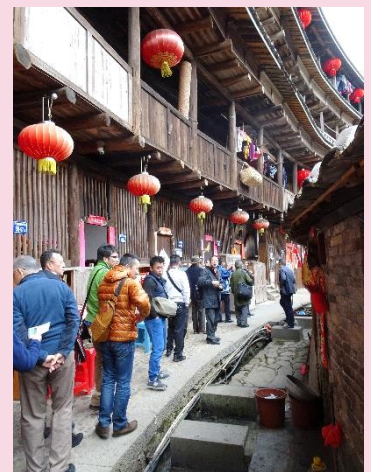
16 Hyogo residents visited Guangdong Province between Dec 16-20 as part of the residential delegation. During the visit, in commemoration of the 35th anniversary of the sister relationship between both regions, the party attended the memorial reception organized by the provincial government and was reminded of the weight and importance of 35 years' worth of exchange while experiencing the moment of turning a new page on future mutual exchange.

The delegation also visited Xiamen of neighboring Fujian Province. They visited world heritage sites and tourist spots rich in history and enjoyed rustic local cuisines including a whole roasted piglet.

The warm and friendly atmosphere helped deepen the mutual friendship between the delegation and locals as well as between the delegation members themselves, making this visit both wonderful and fruitful.



In front of Zhongshan Memorial Hall, built in commemoration of Sun Yat-sen who had ties with Hyogo prefecture (Guangzhou city)



Inside Gaobei Tulou, Yongding (world heritage). Tulous were the "apartment" complexes of the Han people (Hakka)



Zhaoqing, also known as "Little Guilin" from its appearance of steep rocky mountain faces reminiscent of Chinese ink wash painting

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Family Fun Vietnamese Classroom

HIA interviewed the “Family Fun Vietnamese Classroom”, a group supported by HIA’s “Ibashi for Foreign Residents and Youth” initiative. Every Sunday, the voice of children who enjoy learning Vietnamese with vigor are heard from Futaba Area Welfare Center.

Ms Oanh, who represents the Classroom, started the Vietnamese classroom in April 2015 hoping to teach Vietnamese children born in Japan the language and culture of their parents. The family comes to the classroom and the parents are taught Japanese by the volunteers, while the children learn their native Vietnamese from Ms Oanh and her family.

On the day of our visit, the children studied in one large classroom while the parents studied in two separate rooms. During break time, some children would rush over to their mothers, a scene which gave us a sense of the safe and reassuring environment of the classroom.

The children’s class includes songs and games to be fun while learning. The children were really full of energy, and some children performed a song in Vietnamese. As students studying abroad from Vietnam continue to increase, the number of Vietnamese people in Hyogo prefecture is also rising. Ms Oanh hopes that the children who learn Vietnamese about their roots will one day become a bridge between the two countries. The family Vietnamese classroom are supported by regional people and volunteers, and also accepts Japanese people who wish to learn Vietnamese.

We are sure that Ms Oanh’s efforts, ever looking ahead to the future of both countries, will continue to spread.



Children learning Vietnamese!
~ attempting difficult pronunciation



Volunteers work to teach Japanese in a simple manner



Classroom excursion for viewing Autumn leaves

Training Course for Local Japanese Language Leaders (Nishi-Harima area)

Calling out to 8 organizations actively involved in language learning from the Nishi-Harima area, we held courses aimed at thinking together about the future of Japanese language learning groups. Starting in May, we held 4 group workshops in Tatsuno city and 3 individual workshops at each organization.

Around 30 language volunteers and administrative staff attended the group sessions, where they started by sharing information with each other. Each group then probed into their present management problems while looking ahead to the next 5 years for their organizations. After the workshop, each organization thought of opportunities for skill development inside their regular activities as a way to support student learning.

On the final day, everyone reported on their efforts to improve operations over the 8 months of the course. Ideas and schemes to improve learning support were also shared and was followed by a lively Q&A session.

Exploring language-learning obstacles with Mr. Yoshihiko Doi (Representative Director of NPO Resource Center for Multicultural Community Tokai)



The teacher demonstrated lessons with the help of non-native volunteers



Volunteers from different organizations working together



Through Diplomats' Eyes 2017 Photographic exhibition and seminar

From December 1st to January 12th, the Hyogo International Plaza hosted the "Through Diplomats' Eyes 2017" photography exhibit, which showcases images taken by foreign diplomats in Japan and provides glimpses into how they see the country.



The photographic exhibition

Mr. Shinobu Abe, the Secretary-General of the photographic exhibition talked about the themes and highlights of the display during the opening day of the exhibition. This year, the exhibition's 20th, the theme was "Japan — a country of contrasts". Works included photos of children playing with bubbles, undeniably Japanese sceneries and scenes of casual daily life.



Exhibition Highlights introduced by Secretary-General Abe

These displays communicated the charms of Japan seen through the eyes of 70 diplomats from 46 countries, and the exhibition was full of visitors every day.

News from overseas office : Visitors from Western Australia!

Participants of the "Hyogo and West Japan" Tour, organized by the Hyogo Prefectural Government Cultural Centre (Hyogo Perth office) visited Hyogo from Monday 6th to Saturday 18th November.

This tour was originally held 4 years ago, and it was planned again due to its popularity. It was clear the number of "Hyogo Fans" was growing as many people were joining tour for the second time.



Purchasing Miki knives

In Kobe they visited Kobe Shushin-Kan, tasting sake and observing the sake-making process, while in Himeji they learned about the history of Himeji castle and visited Engyoji temple with a priest's guidance. In Miki, they made their own knives and purchased locally made ones, and in Tanba they visited the Museum of Ceramic Art, Hyogo and the Tachikui Pottery village. Finally in Awaji, they were impressed by the whirling waves and enjoyed a Japanese puppet show. They enjoyed many special activities around the Kyu-gokoku (five ancient countries of Hyogo) including the healing properties of the Arima and Kinosaki hot springs.



Our Try-Yaru (Trial) Week students helped guide around Kobe Shushin-Kan.

Some members stayed with host families during the two days of free time, where they experienced Japanese daily life with their host family, then spent time interacting and communicating with local people living in Hyogo. When they left, they promised to keep in touch and meet again with their host families. Afterwards,

they shared heart-warming stories of their homestay experiences.

We hope that not only the people who joined the tour, but also everyone who was involved with the tour will share their experiences with their families and friends so that the relationships between the countries and people will grow deeper and the intercultural roots will continue to spread.



The delegation members sent us pictures with gratitude

Interested in our events? Want to know more?

Upcoming Events

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

May

- Applications open for "Immediately Useful Japanese" courses (courses begin July 9)
- EU seminar
- **HIA Library Display**
- Museums around the world

June

- EU seminar
- Annual General Meeting of the Hyogo Consortium of International Associations
- **HIA Library Display**
- United States of America

July

- Hyogo Prefecture Residential Delegation visit Washington State in commemoration of the Hyogo-Washington 55th Sister State Anniversary
- Scholarship recipient award ceremony
- **HIA Library Display**
- The History of Hyogo

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HIA



ComeHIA Mail

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*Also available in other languages

For more information, visit:

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