



International Relations SAIJO

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International Relations Saijo is a quarterly newsletter published in Japanese and English by the International Affairs Section of Saijo City. We welcome your comments, questions and submissions.

Saijo International Exchange Association

2015
Start!

Through this new organization, Saijo's residents will be able to take an active role in promoting international exchange and make Saijo a fun place to live. We are eagerly awaiting the chance to work with you to improve Saijo!

By joining the Saijo International Exchange Association, members can participate in events from the planning stage onward and will also receive a copy of this newsletter, event announcements and other benefits.

The association's activities will be separated into four categories.

- "International Understanding" Work with foreign residents to promote communication.
- "Education" Plan language courses and other seminars.
- "Lifestyle Support" Help foreign residents of Saijo with their daily lives.
- "Economic" Help promote local economic development through exchange and information distribution.

Using the skills and knowledge of our members, we aim to broaden the scope of international activities in Saijo.

Saijo's CIRs Truong Dinh Le (Vietnam) and John Wheeler (America) will also participate as members.

"As a CIR I am delighted by the establishment of this association. There will be more chances to work with Saijo's residents to improve our city," John



CIRs Truong Dinh Le and John Wheeler

said enthusiastically.

When you hear the phrase international relations, what do you imagine? Now is your chance to turn your vision into reality here in Saijo!

【Annual Fee】

- Individual: 1,000円
- Student (HS and younger): 500円
- Organization: 10,000円

【How to Join】

Fill out an application form and submit it to the association's office in the International Affairs Section of Saijo City Hall.

(Application forms are available at public facilities across Saijo and online at www.city.saijo.ehime.jp/khome/somu/kokusaikoryu/)

Interview: Motoko Fujiwara, a bridge to China

In commemoration of Saijo's 20-year friendship with Baoding (Hebei Province), a display of 100 works of Chinese calligraphy from the collection of Motoko Fujiwara was held at the Saijo Cultural Center from Dec. 11-18. Ms. Fujiwara, who has worked for over 50 years to improve Sino-Japanese relations, also gave a lecture on the Dec. 14 entitled "Energizing my two homelands."

Q: Why did you decide to go to China directly after the war?

A: I was studying at the Tokyo University of Education (now the University of Tsukuba) in 1952 when there was a Sino-Japanese friendship boom. I was swept up in that, and I loved Tang Dynasty poetry, so not caring whether I lived or died I left on a ship departing Maizuru for China carrying mostly Chinese passengers. I planned to study abroad for three years.

I applied to university in China twice, but failed both times. At the same time, I began working as a librarian at a middle school in Baoding and was able to remain in China, where I decided to study at the "university" of Chinese society. It would be 22 years before I returned to Japan.

Q: What surprised you when you returned home ?

A: At that time, information in China came only through state newspapers, which were restricted, so when I was first exposed to a mountain of new information through sources like Japanese television I felt like I was sitting on top of an erupting volcano. I was



Profile: Motoko Fujiwara (Chinese name: Teng Ying)

- 1931 Born in Himi District, Saijo City
- 1953 Departs for the new Republic Of China
Works at middle schools and universities in Baoding
- Uses her connections to promote Sino-Japanese relations
- Currently resides in Nagoya
- The calligraphy on the left of the above photo was gifted by Pujie, brother of "Last Emperor" Puyi

like a female *Urashima Taro*.

Q: Do you have any advice for young people?

A: Japan and China are neighbors and can't very well change that, so they must try to get along. Japan received *kanji* from China, and Chinese students visiting Japan during the Meiji Period took new *kanji* such as "education," "theory," and "ethics" home with them. There is a lot to be gained through cooperation. (大)

Tanbara International Speech Contest

The Tanbara International Exchange Association held its 15th Annual International Speech Contest on Dec. 14 (Sun.) at Tanbara Community Center. A total of 26 foreign residents, elementary/middle school students and adults gave speeches in Japanese, English, Chinese and Korean. Topics included homestay experiences, dreams for the future, automobiles, and human rights.

Indonesian resident Mr. Peri gave a speech in Japanese entitled "The Indonesian Heart" about his country's culture and religion. "I was nervous, but I'm glad I was able



Mr. Peri

to express myself," commented Peri on his experience. "The participants spent six weeks preparing for their speeches. The first four weeks were spent writing drafts, and the last two were speech practice. [Peri] is devoted to studying Japanese, and it seems like he has started really enjoying the language because he writes me often asking me to look over Japanese compositions," said Itaru Saeki, the head of the Tanbara Japanese Language Association who teaches foreign residents every Sunday.

Peri wants to get to know more people in Saijo. If you see him around, say "selamat siang" (hello)! For more information about the speech contest, please see the Tanbara Japanese Language Association website: www.geocities.jp/tbrjpn/index.html (大)

Culture Note: Vietnamese Valentine's

Valentine's Day customs and images differ from country to country.

In Japan, Valentine's Day is a chance for women to confess their feelings. They give chocolate not just to romantic partners, but also to friends and colleagues, and are rewarded by gifts from men on White Day (March 14). I have received "obligation chocolate" (*giri-choco*) on Valentine's Day and returned the favor on White Day. At first I was surprised by this tradition, but I found it interesting once I understood it was a part of Japanese culture.

But what about Valentine's in Vietnam? In my country, Valentine's Day is a "couple's day." Therefore, young couples and spouses exchange presents on this day. In particular, men don't stop at presents for their partners, they give flowers as well. The ideal flower is a red rose. Even if women only receive this red symbol of love and nothing else on Valentine's Day, they will be delighted.



Saijo CIR
Truong Dinh Le

Men who give flowers to women are regarded fondly as romantic types.

Moreover, giving flowers or chocolate to the opposite sex on Valentine's Day is a confession of romantic feelings. It means "let's go on a date" and "let's be a couple." For this reason, Vietnamese people will never give Valentine's presents to family members, coworkers, or friends — doing so would invite misunderstanding.

Still, presents differ by generation. Young couples exchange chocolate and flowers. Spouses give presents they know their partner will like and use. Furthermore, many people think that a romantic evening date at a café or restaurant is the best way to spend Valentine's Day.

For men, Valentine's in Vietnam is the luckiest day to confess love. Doing so through roses is popular. Whether or not their flower is accepted is an implicit answer to their proposal. (∨)



Series: Emergency
Readiness Saijo
No. 6

1/17 Comprehensive Disaster Exercises

On January 17 at 9 a.m., sirens sounded and a text message was delivered to my phone, signaling the commencement of Saijo's comprehensive disaster readiness drills, my first such experience in Japan. I immediately departed for city hall.

Once at the 5F Disaster Management Division, I participated in drills as a Coordinator for International Relations, preparing so that I could be a resource for our city's foreign residents in case of an emergency.

My fellow CIR and I translated mock emergency bulletins into English and Vietnamese. These were tsunami reports, so time was of the essence. This was

a chance to practice absorbing vital information and presenting it in an easy-to-understand manner.

However, I know that this will not nearly be enough preparation in the event of an actual emergency.

During the drills, I was contacted by a foreign resident who wanted to participate in the exercises but didn't know where to go. She is not a member of her neighborhood association, so she never received evacuation information. ALT's are taught this information when they arrive in Saijo, but what about the rest of Saijo's 850 foreign residents? We have to make sure they know where to evacuate in case of an emergency. They must receive the information they need quickly and concisely. Saijo City must work with local businesses employing foreign workers to be emergency-ready. This is everyone's responsibility. (J)

Eigo de
GO!John Bull or Uncle Sam?
British English vs American English

It is common knowledge that English vocabulary and slang differ by country. The differences between American and British English are especially famous, the best-known example being the words “elevator” (USA) and “lift” (UK).

Saijo’s ALTs (Assistant Language Teacher) come from all over the world, and so I am constantly exposed to different versions of English. Sometimes this even causes minor misunderstandings.

America and the United Kingdom are said to have a “special relationship,” yet sometimes there is light friction caused by the differences in our languages. We may even make fun of these differences. Sometimes my English students tell me “British English is easier to understand than American English,” which slightly wounds my American pride.

As with the “elevator” example, there are places where words are completely different between the countries, but differences in spelling are more common. According to one of my Australian friends (UK

English), the program Microsoft Word is doing a lot to spread American English across the globe. This is because Word displays the British spellings of words (such as “maths”) as errors.



Moreover, the program even automatically changes some words from their English spelling to American spelling. Try typing “organisation,” and Word will change it to the American “organization.”

As non-native speakers, I encourage you to experiment with how you use English. The nuance differs depending on the what words you choose, so try both US and UK versions. (J)

Japanese	UK English	US English
アパート	flat	apartment
数学	maths	math
フライドポテト	chips	french fries
果肉入り	with juicy bits	with pulp
携帯	mobile	cell phone

Source: Oxford English Dictionary

国際交流 INFO

JICA四国よりお知らせ ～平成27年度JICAボランティア募集～
あなたの技術・経験を開発途上国で活かしてみませんか？現地の人々と協働しながら、人づくり・国づくりに協力します。

募集するボランティア

- 青年海外協力隊／日系社会ボランティア(対象年齢:満20～39歳)
- シニア海外ボランティア(対象年齢:満40～69歳)

愛媛県内の募集説明会

日時:4月5日(日)・18日(土) 13時半～17時

場所:コムズ(松山市男女共同参画推進センター)5階大会議室
(松山市三番町6丁目4番地20)

その他:参加費無料、事前申し込み不要、入退室自由
問い合わせ:087-821-8824(JICA四国)

募集期間:4月1日(水)～5月11日(月) 当日消印有効

Shikoku on the World Stage

Shikoku was featured in *The New York Times*' annual “places to go” as Japan’s only tourist destination. As a result of English-language PR like this, the number of foreign visitors to Ehime will likely increase in 2015. We are excited for the chance to show more and more people what we love about our hometown!

ローチュ

樂趣!! Chinese Quiz

What do the following words mean?

シェンユーピエン シーファージ ハンユエン
一. 生魚片 二. 洗髪剤 三. 韓元

バンチョウ ワンチョウ ユーマオチョウ
四. 棒球 五. 網球 六. 羽毛球

ジェンチャオ
七. 劍橋 (The name of a town in England)



A year and a half has passed since I moved to Saijo, but with our new International Exchange Association, my job begins anew. I look forward to working with everyone in 2015 and beyond. (J)

編集
後記

Staff:

Sachi Kawaguchi (か)
Hiroyuki Ochi (大)
Truong Dinh Le (レ)
John Wheeler (J) (English translation)

中国語のリスニング:
2. シヤンユー
3. ヴァン
4. 球
5. フェン
6. ユー
7. 橋

