



# International Relations SAIJO

Vol. 10  
March 2016

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*International Relations Saijo* is a quarterly newsletter published in Japanese, English and Vietnamese by the Saijo International Exchange Association (SIEA). We welcome your comments, questions and submissions.

## Thank you! SIEA One Year Anniversary ~Helping build connections~



Nishantha speaking at the first general meeting (May)

Mummy game at the Saijo Halloween Party (Oct.)

English culture at the Afternoon Tea lesson (Jan.)

The sound of children shouting, "Trick or Treat!" The smell of grilling Vietnamese meatballs. The feeling of joining hands and swaying to Hawaiian music.

All of these sensations from these events are fresh in my mind. But the deepest impression from the first year of SIEA is the feeling of accomplishment after working together with individuals and organizations. Our individual strengths became a powerful force.

From my perspective as a coordinator for international relations, the establishment of SIEA in Feb. 2015 has noticea-

bly expanded international exchange in Saijo. There are many new friendships, and I believe that we were all able to have fun while broadening our horizons.

SIEA's activities are not limited to events, but also include language courses, host family coordination, and other work to make Saijo a more international, more interesting place. SIEA also supports non-Japanese living in the city.

Our first year had its share of uncertainty and growing pains, but I am looking forward to how the association grows and changes in its second year. (J)

### 【Annual Membership Fee】

Individual: 1,000 yen, Student: 500 yen,  
Organization: 10,000 yen

【Membership Period】 April 1, 2016 - March 31, 2017

### 【How to become a member】

(Current members) We will send you information about renewal in the mail.

(New applicants) Complete a membership form and submit it to the SIEA office (Saijo City International Affairs Section). (membership forms available at city facilities and for download online)

<<https://www.city.saijo.ehime.jp/soshiki/somu/kokusaioryu-boshu.html>>

### 2016-17 SIEA



Saijo International Exchange Association membership



## 16th Saijo Industry Culture Fair ~Volunteer Staff Wanted~

The 16th annual Saijo Industry Culture Fair features local products, performances, a tug-of-war competition, and more. The Saijo International Exchange Association will hold a "World Food and Activity Corner" where Saijo residents can enjoy learning about other cultures.

We are recruiting volunteers to help us staff this booth. Volunteer at any time during the day for as long as you like! Enjoy the festival with new friends from all over the world.

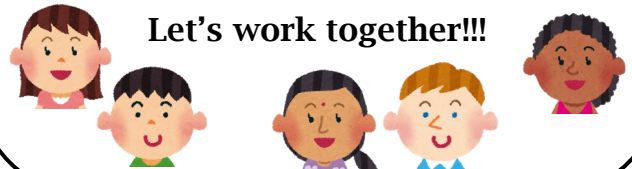
- ◆Time: April 29 9 a.m.~4 p.m. (Fri, holiday)
- ◆Place: Saijo central shopping arcade (The SIEA booth will be in an unused shop space)
- ◆Details: Café corner (selling world food, coffee, etc.), culture exhibits, SIEA member organization activity introductions, games, and more
- ◆To Apply: Call or e-mail the Saijo International Exchange Association office (Let us know what times you are available to volunteer)
- ◆Application deadline: April 8 (Fri)
- ★Come in ethnic clothing or borrow something to wear from us!

## Now accepting proposals for 2016 SIEA programs

The Saijo International Exchange Association aims to give individuals the opportunity to support international exchange in many different ways. Accordingly, we accept program and activity proposals from our members.

Proposals must be made according the guidelines below. We look forward to hearing your ideas!

- ◆All association members are eligible to apply.
- ◆Proposed programs should promote international exchange in Saijo.
- ◆How to apply: Consult with us and submit a "Saijo International Exchange Association Program Proposal Form"
- ◆Deadline: March 31 (Thu)
- ◆Apply to: the SIEA office. The executive committee will review and make the final decision.



### 観光アンケート！

### Tourism Survey!

外国人の皆さん対象西条観光に関するアンケート（西条高校生による）

### Saijo tourism survey for foreign residents/visitors (by Saijo High School students)

- 西条市や愛媛県を対象とした外国人向けの観光プランを考えています。アンケートにご協力ください。
- We are working on a tourism plan of Saijo City and Ehime Prefecture for foreigners. Please cooperate by completing this questionnaire.

#### 日本語

- 1) 西条市を観光するならば、どのようなところを観光したいですか？
- 2) 西条市の魅力は何だと思えますか？（外国人旅行者の視点で）
- 3) 観光の内容としてどのようなことを求めますか？
- 4) 旅行者として西条市や愛媛県を観光するならば、どのような体験をしてみたいですか？
- 5) 東京・大阪・京都のような日本を代表する観光地に対し、西条市や愛媛県のような地方の観光に何を求めますか？
- 6) 西条市や愛媛県を観光するにあたって、どのようなことを期待しますか？

#### English

- 1) What place do you want to travel to if you travel in Saijo City?
- 2) What do you find charming in Saijo City?
- 3) What kind of sightseeing do you usually want to do?
- 4) If you can travel around Ehime or Saijo seeing the sights as a tourist, what kind of experience do you want to have?
- 5) What do you ask to see when sightseeing in Ehime or Saijo in comparison with tourist sites that represent Japan (i.e. Tokyo, Osaka and Kyoto)?
- 6) What do you expect when you go sightseeing in Ehime or Saijo?

回答はkokusai@saijo-city.jpに提出してください。ご協力ありがとうございます。

Please submit answers to kokusai@saijo-city.jp Thank you for your cooperation!

## Vietnam Note: From Hue to Japan

*Doraemon* and *Detective Conan* are famous around the world. Thanks to watching a lot of *anime* as a child, I fell in love with Japanese culture. And in order to know more about this culture, I studied Japanese at the Hue Junior College of Education. Japanese is easy and interesting, and I did my best.

Last April, I participated in the 2015 Hue Traditional Craft Festival as a volunteer. There I met visitors from Saijo. It was my first time meeting Japanese people, and though I was worried because I had difficulty understanding them, everyone was kind and treated me like a friend. I was very grateful. In particular, Mayor Aono was courteous and active; he brightened the atmosphere around him.

Japanese people are not just active, but always respect the rules and value working in groups. While working, everyone helps each other tirelessly regardless of their position. While we were preparing for the festival, I was surprised to see a department manager picking up pieces of garbage. This is something that bosses in other countries would not do. I was born and raised in Hue City, and I'm proud that I was able to work with the Saijo group.

Japan has so many good qualities, and so I just had to visit. In October I came to Japan as an exchange student and am now studying at the Osaka Japanese Language School. Living here is more difficult than I thought it would be, and I balance studying and a

part-time job every day to support myself. Moreover, living apart from my family is difficult. I could not eat Japanese food, so I lived on instant ramen for a whole month. However, while there are many difficult things about living here, I do not dislike Japan. That's why I can keep working hard.

Living in Japan is difficult, but it is also convenient. First, the education methods are good. Public transportation is convenient, and the air is clear. And Japanese services are excellent. There are many people who are very sensitive, so development in Japan is rapid.

I want to have many experiences here in Japan and to learn from the Japanese way of living, and when I graduate from language school I would like to enter college. Then I want to be a translator for people working in Saijo.

May these dreams come true. (Nguyen Thi Thanh Thuy)



2015 Hue Traditional Craft Festival (author is on right)

## International Exchange in Africa

From September 2006 to April 2009 I worked in the West African nation of Niger for the Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV). My work—the promotion of health education—took place in the Dosso region. The mortality rate for children under 5 is high, with diarrhea the leading cause of death. From this situation I could see the importance of elementary education. I created a health textbook and visited approximately 200 schools, holding training sessions with teachers and residents. I will never forget visiting remote villages inaccessible by public transit and lacking water and electricity. I would borrow a pack donkey and bring a projector and generator to show videos in information sessions.

The diverse values of the people I met during my time with JOCV has had a big impact on who I am now. Over those 2 years and 7 months I was struck by the importance of education, and of making the most of our fleeting lives.

Currently I work as an educator at an elementary school in my hometown of Saijo. I am grateful for the

security that Japan is blessed with, and I want my students to grow into capable international citizens. With that hope in mind, I tell my students about my experiences in Africa.

Furthermore, JOCV alumni in Saijo created the "International Exchange Promotion Association," which organizes fun, informative events such as exhibitions with themes such as "world clothing, food, and lifestyles," workshops, cooking classes, and more.

We will be introducing our activities at the SIEA booth at the Saijo Industry Culture Fair on April 29. We hope to see you there! (Midori Satake)



←The author teaching in Niger  
↓ International Exchange  
Promotion Association





Eigo de  
GO!Puzzle Pieces for Difficult Vocab  
—Rooting Out Long Words—

Do you know the meaning of the word “arachnophobia”? It doesn’t even look like English, does it? Can you guess the meaning by looking at it?

English has a long history and has been influenced by many languages over centuries. The biggest influences are Greek and Latin. Many “roots” in English vocabulary originate in these two languages.

For example, the above “arachnophobia,” can be broken down into “arachno” (spider) and “phobia” (fear). Put them together and you have “a fear of spiders.” Many fears follow this pattern, and if you study Greek roots you will be able to guess their meanings. For example: agoraphobia, claustrophobia, xenophobia

Greek roots are not behind just fears, but play a big part in a wide variety of special terminology in fields such as medicine and law.

High school students in English-speaking countries study these roots. They are thought to be essential knowledge for college entrance examinations. I also often recommend them to my adult students. The more

roots you know, the more puzzling words you can piece together without using a dictionary.



Latin roots are an even more fundamental part of English vocabulary. Fundamental roots such as “pre” (before, as in “previous”), “post” (after, as in “postscript”), “in” and “im” (unable, as in “impossible”) are the key to countless English words.

Even if you do not know a word, the more you study the more connections you will make. It is the same with Japanese kanji. For those who want a grounding in English, why not try putting down deep “roots”? (J)

## Root Riddles ～語根のなぞなぞ～

Word	Root	Meaning
1. arachnophobia (Greek)	arachno phobia	fear of spiders
2. bibliophile (Greek)	biblio phile	
3. inscribe (Latin)	in scrib	

## Events &amp; Announcements

From the Saijo International Exchange Association  
2016 General Meeting

- ◆Time: May 29 (Sun) 1 p.m.
- ◆Place: Saijo City Office 5F Main Conference Room

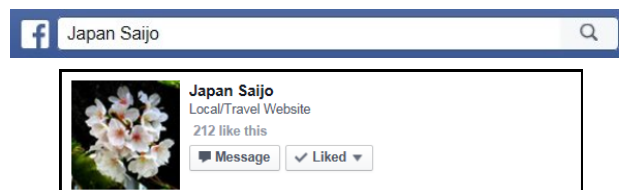
Details about the 2016 General Meeting will be distributed by mail with the 2016-17 membership renewal form or by postcard. We hope that all members will attend.  
Inquiries: Saijo International Exchange Association office

独立行政法人国際協力機構 JICA四国からのお知らせ  
「JICAボランティア募集」  
～僕たちにできることは必ずある～

- ①青年海外協力隊/日系社会青年ボランティア
  - ②シニア海外ボランティア/日系社会シニア・ボランティア
- あなたの技術・経験を開発途上国で生かしてみませんか？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。
- 対象：①満20～39歳、②満40～69歳(2016年4月1日現在)※日本国籍を持つ人
- 申込：募集期間/2016年4月1日(金)～5月9日(月)
- 応募書類配布場所/JICA四国、県国際交流協会、役場
- ◆HP: <http://www.jica.go.jp/volunteer/seminar/shikoku/>
- ◆◆問い合わせ先◆◆
- 独立行政法人国際協力機構JICA四国
- Tel: 087-821-8824

## “Like” the new Saijo Facebook page in Vietnamese!

Vietnamese CIR Truong Dinh Le has started a Facebook page to show people back home all about Saijo’s charms. The page features many photos in addition to articles in Vietnamese and Japanese, so “like” us on Facebook.

Editor  
Notes

One year has flown by since the Saijo International Exchange Association was established. We were able to meet many people through our activities and are grateful for their support. Nothing motivates me more than hearing, “I want to do this again!” (か)

## International Relations Saijo Staff:

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

