



International Relations SAIJO

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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.



On April 29, Saijo held the Industry and Culture Fair in the Saijo Shopping Arcade. At the SIEA booth, JICA introduced the lifestyles, food and attire of people throughout the world on exhibition panels. JICA members also prepared and sold East African home cooking, chapatti and beef soup.

Visitors could enjoy international teas and snacks at the international café and try traditional ethnic clothing. Diana, Saijo's CIR, led a totem pole workshop, while AJET organized a cookie-decorating station. Guests could also experience osteopathy under a French practitioner. Lastly, Ehime University exchange students from Indonesia spoke to the community about life and culture in Indonesia.

This year, we had endeavored to host an event in which everyone – volunteers, staff members, and guests alike – could have a great time. We welcomed

many more guests this year. Children diligently created their very own totem poles while learning about the meaning behind Native American totem poles in Diana's workshop. Many enjoyed the chapatti, which is similar to nan, and soup full of beef and vegetables.

We are grateful to all of our volunteers for their support and cooperation. Thank you!



San Francisco Study Tour

15 Saijo high school students journeyed to San Francisco from March 18~28. As representatives of Saijo, the students did their best to introduce Saijo's charm and Japanese culture to students in America. Through this experience, the students have matured and grown into individuals capable of promoting international exchange and intercultural understanding. (☆)



While I wouldn't say, "I am great at English!" I am interested in foreign countries, so I participated in the study tour. I am so happy I could meet so many people in San Francisco. **Rika Tatsuno**

Though it was difficult to express my intentions in English, I definitely felt a sense of accomplishment when I could! **Yuria Satake**

As the customs are different from those in Japan, I was perplexed at first. However, thanks to the kind support of my host families, I enjoyed a meaningful 11 days. I am truly grateful to them. Through this study tour, I learned not only about language but also about culture and cuisine. I endeavor to use this experience as fuel for my future. **Mayuko Murakami**

My host family spoke to me using English that I too could understand, so I had a lot of fun talking with them. I am so happy to have had the privilege of a home stay with such a warm, wonderful host family. **Mahiro Nakagawa**

My host family was Filipino-American. Until now, I had never tried Filipino food nor had any interest, but I found my host family's cooking delicious! ☺ My host family was also pleased that I could enjoy a part of their culture. **Hayato Takeda**

I met so many people and could feel cultural differences through our conversations. I would like to make use of everything I learned from my experience in America. **Misae Ogura**

I had to express our appreciation to our hosts in English, so I was very nervous. But knowing that I accomplished something I had never done before in San Francisco fills me with joy. **Maria Satake**

I felt the importance of communicating in English without getting petrified by embarrassment and of challenging myself and learning through failure. I am grateful to the American students who did their best to understand us. **Himeka Ochi**



As it was my first time traveling abroad, I felt anxious. However, after returning home and looking back on the experience, I feel that the time I spent in San Francisco was nothing but fun! **Akari Okusako**

This experience won't go to waste. Each day we spent together is an unforgettable treasure. **Ayura Soga**

I learned so many things in San Francisco, especially to cherish our relationships with other people. **Kaito Toyota**

Having made friends with kids in my own generation, I would be excited to collaborate on something in the future! **Misato Kuroda**

Observing classes and talking to students, I experienced the atmosphere of an American high school. **Shinto Sogabe**

I was impressed that students did not just listen during classes but actively participated. **Haruka Saiki**



In America, I learned that each location and the lifestyles of each individual can differ completely because people from various cultural backgrounds live together.

Recently, it is hardly unusual to see foreign tourists or people coming to work in Japan. With words like "foreigner" or "different ethnicity" coming to mind, most Japanese people's first instinct is to be wary of "difference." Many people put up their guards and become passive. I also did not know how to approach people from different countries before I went to America.

However, in America – especially in California where people of many ethnicities live – I noticed that "difference" was not paramount – that everyone is a human being. With people from all over the world and diverse ways of thinking, I find America an attractive country. I hope to share all that I have gained from this experience with many more people. **Mayuka Kaneda**

Hue Traditional Handicraft Festival 2017!

With disaster preparedness educational support as the impetus, Saijo City has participated in international exchange with Hue, Vietnam since 2005. This year, Saijo joined the “Hue Traditional Handicrafts Festival 2017” from April 28~May 2.

About 3,000 Hue citizens and foreign tourists came to enjoy our exhibition panels of Saijo’s beautiful seasons, the “Saijo Matsuri”, and creations of washi, traditional handmade Japanese paper.

Taking commemorative photographs while wearing yukata was particularly popular among guests. As the average age of Vietnamese citizens is in the 20s, many young girls came to the Saijo booth to take photographs in colorful yukata!

Furthermore, while looking at the Japanese characters for “Hope, dream, and love” etc., guests made

their own washi cards, using multicolored stamps to create original designs. Full of smiles, everyone who visited our booth enjoyed experiencing Japanese culture.

The volunteer students not only helped man the exhibition but also helped us prepare and clean up. Their bright smiles reassured us throughout the five days.

As we will continue this cultural exchange in the future, we sincerely hope that the friendship between our two cities will deepen.



Commemorative Photos with Saijo Cherry Blossom Backdrop (^ ^)



Participants Enjoying Making Cards



Original Cards Made with Traditional Japanese Paper!



※ Many thanks to the city hall personnel and SIEA members who participated and helped set up Saijo’s exhibition booth for this year’s festival. We are in your debt!



Hue students skilled in Japanese provided reassuring support. We carried out a deeply heartwarming exchange. Thank you! **(Ms. Fujita)**

My second visit to Vietnam! I like it even more. As I introduced Saijo to women from Ho Chi Minh, they gave me their business cards and invited me to their store ♪ **(Mr. Teramachi)**

The youth could enjoy the international exchange trying on yukata. If I get the opportunity, I’d like to experience more of Vietnamese culture and lifestyle. **(Ms. Aoi)**



I could sense warmth from the Vietnamese people. Vietnam is a country that I would like to visit again and again. I hope to deepen our ties in the future. **(Mr. Ando)**



While in Vietnam, I could sense the spiritedness of the people in the cities and the serenity of the countryside. What a meaningful visit! **(Mr. Teraoka)**



※Using the URL below, you can view a video of the Hue Festival (Vietnamese).

<http://www.trt.com.vn/TRTOnline/tabid/65/Default.aspx?CategoryId=66&ItemId=4111>

SIEA General Term Meeting · Guest Lecture

On May 28, SIEA held the general term meeting for 2017 in the 5th-floor large conference room in Saijo City Hall. During the meeting, we selected the new chairperson and officers, gave a report of the 2016 projects and financial statement, and discussed the plans for the 2017 projects and budget.

After the term meeting, we welcomed our lecturer, Ms. Ikuko Morikawa. Ms. Morikawa presented her lecture with this theme: "The Livelihood and Life-



styles of the Mongolian Nomads ~ the Japanese 'Who Have' and the Mongolians 'Who Do Not Have.'"

Along with her husband who serves JICA, Ms. Morikawa has lived in Nepal, Bangladesh, Jordan,



and Mongolia. During her lecture, she introduced Mongolian culture and eating habits. Easy to understand and full of humor, Ms. Morikawa's presentation helped listeners feel more familiarity with Mongolia.

Thank you to all the organizers and participants. This year, SIEA once again asks for everyone's support as we endeavor to promote international exchange and understanding.

(Above) SIEA's new chairperson, Mr. Kunio Sekino
(Left) Guest lecturer Ms. Ikuno Morikawa

Events & Announcements

「The Aloha State: Introducing Hawaii」

University of Hawaii students, Kara and Courtney, are residing in Ehime Prefecture this summer. They will introduce Hawaiian culture through hula and other fun activities! ※The event will take place in Japanese.

【Date & Time】 July 15 (Sat.) 14:00~15:30

【Location】 Saijo Public Welfare Center
Kenkyushitsu 2 (3F)

【Capacity】 60 people (1st come 1st serve)

【Application Period】 July 3 ~12 (Mon.~ Wed.)

【Contact Person】 SIEA

【Contact Number】 TEL 0897-52-1206



English Course Announcement

Translation Team

Do you want to study English and improve your skills? Join the translation team! Let's share Saijo's charm with more foreign tourists and residents by translating Saijo's wealth of sightseeing information!

Reading Club

Striving for international exchange and cultural understanding, members of the Reading Club will read about and discuss the perspectives of various Americans to increase understanding of the multicultural nation.

Courses will start mid-Sept.

(Application period: early Sept.)

International Exchange Café Opening!

The International Café is a place where Japanese and non-Japanese residents can gather and talk casually in any language. Please come freely as there is no need to apply in advance!

【Date & Time】 June 28 (Wed.) 18:00~20:00

【Location】 Sangyō Jōhō Shien Center (SICS)
Kōryū Salon (1F)

【Participation Fee】 300 ¥ (Ordinary), 200 ¥ (Members)

【Contact Person】 SIEA

Editor
Notes

○This will be my last issue with the Saijo International NEWS editorial staff. I have been so happy to meet so many people and learn new things through SIEA. Thank you! (今)

○After changing departments, I have joined the Saijo International NEWS staff. I can only speak Shū-sō Ben, but I will do my best! Nice to meet everyone! (寺)

International Relations Saijo Staff

Yuki Teraoka (寺)
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(English Translation)
Mamiko Imai (今)

Read in full
color! 

