



International Relations SAIJO



Vol. 16
September 2017

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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.

Halloween Party

A: Purchase the participation card to take part!

①~⑥ (Sales at reception for 200円)

① Trick or Treat?! <2:00~3:30pm>

② Game Corner <2:00~3:30pm>

③ Face Painting Corner <2:00~3:30pm>

④ Mummy Game <2:00~3:30pm>

⑤ Costume Parade <3:50~4:20pm> Gather at 3:45pm!

Don your costumes and gather at "Reception"! Everyone will parade to the giant Jack-o-lantern together! Prizes will be awarded to the best costumes!

⑥ Costume Prize Ceremony <4:20~4:50pm>

B: Participate without participation card (③~⑥)

10/28 (Sat)

2:00-5:00pm

Participation Card Sale 1:00pm

**Saijo Shopping
Arcade**



2017
Come in Costume!

※Children below 4th grade must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

Volunteer Staff Wanted!

Won't you join our staff?

【Time】 11:00~6:00pm

【Duties】 Manage day's events

【Target Staff】 100 People!

Please contact the Saijo International Exchange Association!

Request for Artwork Collecting Halloween Poster Designs and Illustrations

【Submissions】 〒793-8601

164 Akeyashiki, Saijo City
SIEA Office (City Hall Central Office Regional Promotion Division 3F)

【Collection Deadline】 October 20 (Fri.)

※As a general rule, the original artwork will not be returned. Organizers reserve the right to use submissions in promotional activities.



Organizers: Saijo Shotengai Machitsukuri Kyougikai, SIEA



Recent Events

International Month

During "Meet the World in Saijo this August," we held exhibitions, homecoming reports,

and a lecture by the new CIR. We introduced the food, clothing, and lifestyles of many cultures. Even those who haven't gone abroad could get a taste of overseas!



ALT & CIR Introduction

ALT: Assistant Language Teacher
CIR: Coordinator for International Relations

- ① Why did you want to work in Japan?
- ② What do you want to do while living in Japan?
- ③ What do you want to talk about with locals?
- ④ What surprised you when you arrived in Saijo?
- ⑤ What is your favorite Japanese food?

- ⑥ What is your favorite Japanese word or phrase?
- ⑦ In what aspect of Japanese culture are you interested?
- ⑧ What is your previous experience in Japan, if any?
- ⑨ What food must visitors try in your hometown?
- ⑩ What should people see in your hometown?

① Growing up in Hong Kong, I liked Japanese pop culture as a child. For me, Japan was like a home I had never been to. ② I want to make hanabi! ③ I want to learn Saijo-ben with the locals! ④ I was surprised that Saijo is famous for its water. ⑤ Oya-ko Don ⑥ 「これは何と言いますか。」 ⑦ The eating and drinking culture! ⑧ I travelled throughout Japan for 3 weeks as a backpacker. Also, I stayed in Narita for a night!

Dominic Chan
 Calgary, Alberta, Canada



⑩ Calgary Stampede Festival

⑨ Beaver Tails Pastry



Megan Hammersley
 Glasgow, Scotland



⑩ Kelvingrove Museum

⑨ Haggis! But, it's not for everyone! It's a mixture of meat, vegetables and herbs cooked inside a sheep's stomach.



① When I was a child, my best friends were Japanese. Ever since then, I've loved Japanese culture and always wanted to live here and teach! ② Sapporo's Snow Festival! I also want to try different seasonal foods. ③ Iyo-Ben! I don't understand it yet, so it'd be great to learn!! ④ I knew Saijo would be hot in summer, but it was still shocking to feel the intense heat! ⑤ Negiyaki with soba noodles mixed in!! Yummy! ⑥ 「大変」、「カケゴエ」、onomatopoeia ⑦ Takarazuka Theatre ⑧ I visited Kyoto for 2 weeks last year. I did a home stay for a few days, but the rest of the time, I was alone. It was scary at first, but Japan is so safe and friendly that I loved it. I couldn't wait to come back!

① I have always loved studying Japanese, and teaching is fun. ② I want to climb Mt. Ishizuchi! ③ The benefits of internationalization ④ It is very hot! ⑤ Anything matcha flavored! ⑥ 「頑張れ!」 ⑦ Daily life ⑧ 8 years ago, I studied abroad in Kanazawa, but only for 2 weeks.

Anna Blythe
 Seattle, Washington, USA



⑨ Smoked Salmon Burger



⑩ Pike Place Market

Kaleigh Fleming
 Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada



⑩ Halifax Waterfront

⑨ Every Canadian is probably going to say poutine, but poutine. It's the best!



① I think Japan has a lot to offer, both here and the rest of the world. ② I really want to learn Japanese! And I want to learn how to surf. ③ Books! Always books. And I want to know where the best places to go and eat are! I want to know what locals enjoy and what their aspirations are. ④ There are so many beautiful mountains! ⑤ Ramen! And vending machine coffee ⑥ 「少しずつ」 ⑦ Asian horror films! Also, I have encountered the best stories in Japanese books, films, and video games. I think Japan has a rich story-telling culture, and I hope to delve deeper into that culture (in Japanese). ⑧ This is my first time in Japan!

① I hope to convey how the people of Japan preserve nature and culture to Vietnam and the rest of the world. ② “Cycling Shimanami” events ③ Our dreams for the future ④ The “Uchinuki” water is cold and delicious! ⑤ Tako-yaki ⑥ 「初心忘れるべからず」 ⑦ Sumo Wrestling ⑧ In 2004, I was an exchange student at Waseda University for a year. In 2009, I enrolled in Bunkyo University’s Graduate School for 3 years to pursue my master’s degree.

⑨ Everything with rice noodles!



Nguyen Bui Anh Thy
Binh Duong Province, Vietnam
(CIR)



⑩ Orchards and Song Be Pottery



“Vietnam Folk Tales I want to share with the people of Saijo!”

“Cuoi and the Banyan Tree on the Moon”

The “Otsukimi (Moon viewing)” Festival is coming soon! The Festival is on August 15 of the lunar calendar. This year it falls on October 4. In Japan, people eat rice cakes called “Tsukimi Dango” and enjoy the beauty of the full moon. In Vietnam, family members get together, eat sweet cakes and enjoy the full moon.

Look at the dark part of the full moon. What do you think it looks like? Japanese people see a rabbit pounding steamed rice into cake on the moon. We Vietnamese see a man named Cuoi sitting under a banyan tree. I would like to tell you the reason why we see Cuoi and the banyan tree through a Vietnamese folk tale!

Long ago, there was a man named “Cuoi” working as a woodcutter. Cuoi met a tiger in the forest one day. He killed the tiger, but another tiger suddenly appeared. As quickly as he could, Cuoi climbed up a tree.

The second tiger took some leaves and fed them to the dead tiger. To Cuoi’s surprise, the dead tiger came back to life. Understanding that the tree’s leaves had magical powers, he waited until the tigers left. Cuoi uprooted the tree to bring it home.

On the way home, Cuoi noticed a dead man lying on the road. Cuoi fed some leaves to the dead man. The man opened his eyes and came back to life. Cuoi told him about the tree, and once he saw it, the man said, “This is a magic tree! Give it clean water! If it is watered with dirty water, something bad will happen!”

Cuoi replanted the tree by his house and took very good care of it. He used the leaves of the tree to cure sick people or bring them back to life if they died.

One day, he rescued a dead dog floating on the river, and from then on, the dog followed him around.

Another day, an old man’s beautiful daughter had just drowned in the river. The old man desperately asked for Cuoi’s help. Of course, Cuoi could revive the man’s daughter with the leaves. Grateful for saving her life, the daughter asked her father for his permission to marry Cuoi. Her father accepted, and they were happily married. Then, the couple and the dog lived a peaceful and happy life.

One unfortunate day, some thieves came to their house when Cuoi was at work, and they killed his wife. The thieves heard about how Cuoi could bring the dead back to life, so they ripped out her intestines and threw them away. When Cuoi came home, he found his wife dead. He hurried to give her the leaves, but she would not come back to life without her intestines. His dog saw how depressed his owner was, so he offered to give his intestines to Cuoi’s wife. Cuoi was very grateful to the dog and was able to revive his wife.

However, from that day, Cuoi’s wife changed a lot. No sooner had she heard something than she forgot it. Since the tree was very special, he always reminded his wife to water it with clean water. However, one day, when Cuoi was out, his wife watered the tree with laundry water. The tree swayed from side to side vigorously and began to uproot itself. Just then, Cuoi was coming home. He quickly grabbed the roots and tried to pull the tree back to earth, but the tree continued to float up into sky. Eventually, the tree pulled Cuoi to the moon where he and the tree live to this day. Years and decades have passed, but Cuoi still looks at the Earth wondering how to get home!

I hope that I could convey a story of human love and the friendship between a man and his dog. Now, whenever you look up to the moon, can you see the shadow of the banyan tree with a man named Cuoi sitting below?



