



# International Relations SAIJO

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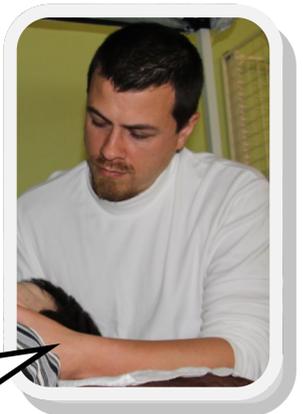
*International Relations Saijo* is a quarterly newsletter published in Japanese, English, and Vietnamese by the Saijo International Exchange Association (SIEA). We welcome your comments, questions and submissions.

## 18th Industry & Culture Festival!



**Jose in his mariachi suit!**

The Industry and Culture Festival was held in the Saijo Shopping Arcade on April 29. At the international booth, we introduced the cultures of Latin America. Thanks to the help of many volunteers, we received rave reviews! Thank you!



Western osteopathy was also a great success! Many felt refreshed after receiving treatment!★

Saijo Senior High School students gave a presentation of their Study Tour to England!



Jose, an Imabari ALT, brought a handmade piñata for kids to smash to pieces. In the end, the kids scrambled for the candy that tumbled from inside!

At the CIR workshop, we made mini DONKEY piñatas! A piñata is a papier-mâché container filled with treats. It is often broken during celebrations for children.



# ENGLISH in ACTION 2018

From March 23~25, the Saijo International Exchange Association hosted an English camp! Saijo's junior and senior high school students immersed themselves in English with non-Japanese residents.

While enjoying diverse cultures, everyone played various games, wrote English poems, and designed mystical symbols to represent Japan. On the last day, the students gave disaster prevention presentations in English.

As you can see from their reflections, the students learned that communication with people from different cultures is not born from perfect English skills but from the courage to engage in conversation with others. They also express their intentions to make use of this experience in the future!



I want to attend the English camp again next year! **Sota Ochi**

It was a valuable experience because I could interact with junior high school students and people from foreign countries, a rare opportunity for me.

**Sora Shiozaki**

I was so happy the teachers kindly spoke to me again and again even though my English skills are poor!

**Miyu Saiki**

We learned many things that we can't learn in the classroom, so I hope to make use of those lessons in the future.

**Nene Ochi**

I can only speak a little English, but everyone treated me so kindly. I want to help non-Japanese residents here should they ever find themselves in trouble.

**Kotori Shirakawa**

Our conversations with the teachers left a deep impression on me. They answered my questions without hesitation and kindly explained their questions when I didn't understand.

**Arisa Hiratsuka**



Communicating with people from different countries is difficult, but I realized that it is important to reach out to others by expressing the things I want to say.

**Aoi Hashida**

I learned that having the courage and assertiveness to speak to others without the fear of making mistakes is more important than perfect English skills and pronunciation. Thank you so much ~♥

**Kotoha Yoshimura**

I'll remember everything we learned over the camp, and I hope to make use of those lessons for myself and for others as I pave the way forward!

**Yukiko Tsushima (Big Sis)**

My goal was to learn to love English. After the English in Action camp, I started to enjoy learning English.

**Kanako Tsushima (Little Sis)**

It was so much fun to have so many conversations. I learned a lot. Thank you for teaching me how to use English for my presentation. I will make the most of this experience while grappling with my future studies!

**Daido Kumika**



## \*My "Love Saijo" \*

Recently, I have been guiding visitors to Saijo. Everyone's first impression is that Saijo is blessed with nature, filled with an invigorating, refreshing atmosphere and, unlike larger cities, full of a peaceful happiness.

I have studied in Japan 2 times, so I am relatively familiar with Japanese customs and culture. However, when I first arrived in Saijo, it was so quiet at night that it was frightening and I could not sleep. Where I grew up in Vietnam, nighttime is full of the sounds of cars and motorbikes. Fortunately, I have grown accustomed to Saijo's "sound." When I visited Osaka for a day-trip, I soon wanted to return to Saijo. Once I had, I went Itani Benkyodo to eat takoyaki. I have eaten takoyaki at various establishments, but Benkyodo's takoyaki is the best. I love old things, so perhaps I enjoy its taste because it has the flavor of 100 years of history. Afterwards, I returned home via the path between Saijo Library and the Public Welfare Center thinking, "Saijo really is wonderful."

Since coming to Saijo, I have had many firsts. In April, I climbed Mt. Kamegamori (1,896m) with friends. Once I told my family in Vietnam that I had accomplished such a feat, they showered me with compliments. In reality, I started climbing from the trailhead at 1,671m, so it was an enjoyable hike even for a beginner like me. A field of bamboo grass almost entirely covered the peak, so it looked like the World's Only Golf Course.

With the adrenaline of the climb, we took on the Shimanami Kaido cycling course the next day. I felt a sense of accomplishment that I had not felt in many years. The road from Imabari to Onomichi was long, but I felt refreshed as I caught glimpses of bright greenery. While many seem to love cherry blossoms, as someone coming from a tropical climate, I love the color of new leaves. It was difficult to ascend the inclines on the bridges connecting the islands, but it was downhill after reaching each peak. The journey reminded me of the joys of life. In life, there may be difficulties, but once you overcome them, something good will come your way. I also recalled an inscription at a temple near my house. It says, "If you are tired, take a break. When your energy returns, begin walking. Appreciate that this is natural." Taking a breath of the spring air, I continued to ride along the trail with high spirits while viewing the budding branches in the bright sky.

It is exciting to be in a city like Saijo where all of this is possible. Before I knew it, I had begun to think of Saijo with pride. I would like my family, friends, and many others to visit Saijo! Since I have come to Saijo as a Coordinator for International Relations, I want to treasure the "ties" I have here. (ア)

## SIEA General Term Meeting • Guest Lecture

On Saturday, May 19, SIEA held its general term meeting and lecture for 2018~2019 in the City Hall's Large Conference Room. During the meeting, we carried out staff elections, reports on the 2017-2018

projects and finances, and the deliberation of project proposals and budget for 2018-2019 (drafts).

This year, we welcomed Shino Takahashi, the deputy director of the Center for International Education at the Ehime University Institute for International Relations, to give a lecture on the theme "Don't be afraid if you cannot speak English! Communicate with non-Japanese people using 'simple' Japanese." Through the lecture, we were able to renew our understanding of the important of communicating in our mother tongue and actual circumstances of the daily lives of the non-Japanese residents in Saijo.

We hope you support SIEA's promotion of activities for international understanding and exchange this year.

<Japanese Courses available through the Saijo International Exchange Association >

- Saijo International Exchange Volunteer no Kai: Saturdays 19:30~21:00, Saijo Fukushi Center (Free)
- Saijo Nihongo Benkyo Kai: Sundays 10:00~12:00, Kanbai Kouminkan (Free) ※Annual copy fee (500円)
- Tanbara Nihongo no Kai: Sundays 9:00~11:00, Tanbara Kouminkan (Free) ※Must purchase textbook
- Sakura Nihongo no Kai: Wednesdays 15:00~17:00, Saijo Kouminkan (Free)
- Ishizuchi Nihongo Club: Dates based on consultation, Saijo Fukushi Center (Fee charged)

For details, please contact the SIEA office.



