



International Relations SAIJO

Vol. 8

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

NEW EVENT!

Saijo



Halloween Party



2015

10/31 (Sat)

2-6 p.m.

Saijo Shopping
Arcade

Fun Activities!

🎃 Trick or Treat

☆ Drop by shops displaying Jack-o'-Lantern pumpkins and say "Trick or Treat!" to receive treats. (Don't forget to say "thank you!")

🎃 Costume Contest

Starts at 3:40

☆ Dress up in your best costume! Great costumes will be invited to join the contest on stage! (Contest invitations start at 2:00)

🎃 Stamp Rally

Starts at 4:00

☆ Collect stamps and candy from special ghouls on the arcade. The password is "trick or treat." (limit first 300) Tickets: 100 yen, on sale from 2:00

🎃 Halloween poster & illustration exhibit

🎃 Face painting

🎃 Uchinuki 21 corner

🎃 Game corner 2:00~ (limit 300)

Boo!



Volunteer
Staff
Wanted !

(See Page 4 for details)



SCARY

※ Children 4th grade and younger must be accompanied by an adult.

※ The games will end once all prizes have been distributed

Organizers: Saijo Shotengai Machitsukuri Kyougikai, Saijo International Exchange Association

Volunteer at the Saijo Industry Fair!

The Saijo International Exchange Association will hold a **World Café** at the Saijo Industry Fair, an annual event at the Agricultural High School.

We are looking for volunteers to help us staff the café. Let's bring the world to Saijo!

There will also be a cooking class where you can help us make Vietnamese "Nem Lui," the grilled pork sausages (tsukune) we will sell at the café.

◆Industry Fair World Café Staff◆

【Date】 Nov. 14-15 (Sat/Sun)

※Volunteers will work half-day shifts

【Place】 Saijo Agricultural (Nōgyō) High School

【Details】 **1F Tent:** Nem Lui grilling and sales

2F Classroom: World Café (Nem Lui, Che dessert, etc.), culture introduction, SIEA member organization exhibits, games, world clothing exhibit

◆Nem Lui Cooking Class◆

【Date】 Nov. 8 (Sun) 1-4 p.m.

【Place】 Shoku no Sozokan
(Cooking Center) (2-54
Mitsuya Minami, next to
JR Nyugawa Station)

【Instructor】 CIR Truong Dinh Le

Maximum 10 participants (adv. reservations req.)

※Participation is free, but bring an apron, hairnet, and other necessary clothing.

◇◆Apply To◆◇

Saijo Int. Exchange Assoc. TEL:0897-52-1206



Upcoming Cooking Classes

Learn authentic home cooking from experts at our international cooking classes.

◆Chinese Gyoza (dumplings)◆

【Time】 Nov. 7 (Sat) 1:30-5 p.m.

【Place】 Saijo Public Welfare

Center

【Cost】 500 yen 【Max participants】 30

◆Vietnamese Cooking with Le◆

Make flavorful Vietnamese food with CIR Truong Dinh Le.

【Time】 Dec. 12 (Sat) 10:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

【Place】 Saijo Shoku no Sozokan (Cooking Center)

【Cost】 1,500 yen (SIEA members 1,000 yen)

【Max participants】 30

※Reservations accepted from Nov. 1

◇◆Apply To◆◇ Saijo International Exchange Association TEL:0897-52-1206



Welcome to the International Café!

The first International Café was held on **Wednesday August 12** at the Saijo Sangyō Jōhō Shien Center (SICS). Over 30 participants engaged in lively conversation in multiple languages over coffee, tea, and other drinks.

The next International Café will be held from 6-8 p.m. on **October 7** at SICS, and then on **December 2** at Tanbara Community Center. Stop on by!



Welcome to さいじょう!

~Meet the New ALTs~



① Seichi ② Nicole ③ Joseph

Assistant Language Teachers (ALTs) teach English at schools across Saijo. This summer we welcomed 3 new ALTs.

① Seichi Kamimura

Hometown: Los Angeles, USA

Interests: reading, basketball, church activities

First impression: My students are polite and there are kind people everywhere: at school, in my neighborhood and in shops! I'm from the city, but Saijo is a peaceful and easy-to-live place. My hometown is currently in a drought, so seeing all the flowing water when I walk around Saijo is a little shocking.

Message to Saijo: I'm honored to be able to live with all of you! I'd be happy if you take an interest in international relations. I want to have a good impact on children as an English teacher. In English or Japanese, say "hi!" to me anytime!

② Nicole McCoy

Hometown: Edmonton, Canada

Interests: hiking, reading, ice skating

First impression: Not much time has passed since I arrived, but it's very beautiful and the people are nice and friendly.

Message to Saijo: Thank you for welcoming me so warmly!

③ Joseph Toeava

Hometown: Auckland, New Zealand

Interests: fishing, camping, reading

First impression: It's in-between the inaka and the city but everything moves more slowly than in New Zealand. But I like that.

Message to Saijo: If you see me on the street, say "hi!"



A Letter from Hue

A college student from Saijo introduces Vietnam.

Xin chao! Hello. I'm a college student studying English in Hue, a city in the center of Vietnam.

This probably raises some questions for you. Studying English in Vietnam? That's not something you hear everyday. But English is more widely spoken in Vietnam than in Japan. Moreover, Vietnam is a safe country very suitable for going abroad. Now I'd like to introduce Vietnam, where I've spent the last three months.

Since coming to Vietnam, I've experienced many cultural differences, but first I'll talk about the people. When we make eye contact, Vietnamese people young and old all smile at me. And they are very open-hearted. If you spend time talking with a Vietnamese person and become friendly, they'll soon say "Let's get a meal together," "I'll show you around," or "Come over to my home!" Different from Japanese politeness, this really is omotenashi (welcoming). People are very close to one another. In fact, if you try to create some space, Vietnamese people might feel sad and wonder "Are we really friends?" This is true even for teachers and students. Something that surprised me is that romance between teachers and students is common and open. My friends were surprised at my surprise.



A temple (Author is 2nd from left)

Especially in a smaller city like Hue, one makes a lot of acquaintances. Everyone from the old lady who runs a small shop to the motorcycle taxi drivers wave hello and ask me how I'm doing. I love this openheartedness in the Vietnamese people.

Next I'll talk about the food. In a word, Vietnamese food is inexpensive and delicious!! Every kind of food suits my taste. I think many people have an image of Southeast Asian food as spicy, but actually that's not the case. There are many kinds of food with gentle flavors similar to Japanese cuisine. My favorite Vietnamese food is "banh canh," which is like Japanese udon noodles. The ingredients differ depending on the restaurant, from shrimp to fish to meat. The noodles can be made from wheat or tapioca flour, so you can enjoy different flavors. Of course local restaurants are the best! Vietnam is a long, narrow country, so the climate is completely different from north to south. Naturally, the food differs de-

pending on the climate, too. People who enjoy food tourism should make a journey across Vietnam. You can enjoy many regional food cultures within the same country.

This essay is already getting long, but have I managed to pique your interest in Vietnam? Japan and Vietnam are very close. I want more and more people to know about this country's charms. If you have a chance, why not take a trip to Southeast Asia. You won't regret your time in Vietnam.

By Yuki Goda



Column: Everyday International Exchange



Hello, everyone. My name is Mamiko Imai. I joined the Saijo International Exchange Association office staff in July, after moving to Saijo this year. While "international exchange" might at first glance seem like an unfamiliar concept in a regional city like Saijo, after experiencing the warmth of this city's residents, I feel that it is exactly the people of the countryside, people overflowing with humanity, who are equipped for positive exchange with non-Japanese residents.

Cologne, the place I lived while studying abroad in Germany, was also a small city. The people didn't treat foreign residents any differently. They were open-hearted in the same way as Saijo's citizens, always

willing to lend a hand if necessary. For example, whenever I made an order at an ice cream shop in my neighborhood, the owner would respond "Wrong! Once again" just like a language instructor and make me repeat myself. When I couldn't improve, he would say with joking magnanimity "I'll let you off today" and give me my ice cream. By joking lightly with me while giving me friendly help, I believe he gave me courage. It was just that sort of exchange with friendly, casual people that remains impressed on me all these years later. And I believe that Saijo is a place where a similar culture of kindness has strong roots, and that the casualness of relationships between neighbors creates an environment perfect for international exchange.

To this end, I want to do my utmost as a part of the new Saijo International Exchange Association to support your positive efforts to promote exchange. I look forward to working with all of you. (今)

英語
でGO!Tell me about Japan
—Let's Practice Explaining in English—

What things can you explain in English?

Are you able to talk in English about parts of Japanese culture that are interesting to non-Japanese like “kimono,” “obon” and “kaitenzushi”?

Explaining concepts and objects in a foreign language is difficult, and this is one activity that most of my students don't seem to enjoy. When I studied Japanese in college, I hated this kind of practice too.

In spite of this, I believe that explaining “something” in a foreign language is a very effective study method.

For example, why don't you try explaining “imotaki,” a popular autumn custom in Saijo in English?

First, think about “imotaki” in Japanese. Sometimes my students tell me, “I can't explain that even in Japanese!” You can think of this practice as a chance to study your own country's history and culture.

For beginners, try to explain using simple words and gestures. For advanced speakers, try explaining “imotaki” in one minute. This is useful practice.

Explanation for beginners: Imotaki is a soup with potatoes and meat. *Imo* is potato and *taki* is boil. We eat imotaki at the river.

What kind of gestures can you use? Try to imagine how to explain things with your hands. I believe you must speak and use your whole body to leave an impression on your brain. Don't forget gestures!

Advanced explanation: Imotaki is a stew with potatoes, meat, and other local vegetables in broth. The word means “boiled potatoes.” It is traditionally eaten in the evening at the riverside from August to October.

Learning how to explain many different things is one surefire way to communicate with others. (J)

英語	説明
kimono	traditional Japanese clothes, full robes tied with a belt
Obon	a festival in August that honors ancestors and departed family
kaitenzushi	sushi on a conveyer belt a kind of sushi restaurant, called sushi train in Australia
Source: Wikipedia	

Events & Announcements

【Halloween Party Staff Wanted!】

Let's make this year's Halloween Party a big success!

- ◆Date: Oct. 31 (Sat) 2-6 p.m.
- ◆Place: Saijo Shopping Arcade (Shotengai)
- ◆Volunteer responsibilities include attending meetings, helping set up the party, helping run the activities
- ◆Around 30 volunteers needed
- ◇◆Inquiries/Applications◇◇

Saijo International Exchange Association office
(Saijo City Office General Affairs Division)
TEL: 0897-52-1206 Email: kokusai@saijo-city.jp



【Chinese Friendship Association Presentation】

- ◆Date: Oct. 3 (Sat) 6:30 p.m.
- ◆Place: Saijo Public Welfare Center 3F Kenshushitsu 2
- ◆Info: Participants in a tour of China's northeastern provinces and an exchange with Chinese technical trainees who worked in Saijo will give a presentation.

【Saijo International Exchange Assoc. email newsletter】

SIEA has recently created an email newsletter.
To receive the latest news and event info for Saijo City and Ehime Prefecture, email your name and address to kokusai@saijo-city.jp with the subject line “Email newsletter registration”

【2nd International Exchange Lecture 「Let's enjoy English With Anna-Kay」】

ELIS will host ALT Anna-Kay for an international exchange lecture about her homeland of Jamaica.

- ◆Date: Sept. 26 (Sat.) 1:30-3:00 p.m.
- ◆Place: Omachi Community Center 2F Hall (TEL0897-56-3835)
- ◆Speaker: Anna-Kay Dunkley (Saijo High School ALT)
- ◆Title: “Jamaica: Land of Beauty”
- ◆Participation is free.

※This lecture will be conducted in English.

◇◆Inquiries◇◇

ELIS (English Volunteer Organization) Mr. Fujita
TEL: 090-7782-3234

編集
後記

This month's issue was full of upcoming event announcements. We hope to see you at these international exchange events! Let's enjoy autumn activities in Saijo together!! (今)

International Relations Saijo Staff:

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

