



International Relations SAIJO

Vol. 14

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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.

General Term Meeting Announcement

●Date: May 28 (Sun.), 13:00~

●Location: Saijo City Hall

5F Main Building Large Conference Room

We will send 2017 membership guidelines with a postcard about the general term meeting in the mail. We request members' attendance!

2016 Exchange Association Completed Projects

- Public Language Courses (Chinese · Korean · Vietnamese · English)
- International Café (4 times a year)
- Pen Pal Project
- International Understanding Courses (Hawaii, Malaysia, Christmas)
- World Cuisine Classroom (Vietnamese, Japanese, Chinese)
- April: Industry Culture Festival
- July: Anniversary Exhibit at AEON
- July: Young Leader Training Project
- July/Aug.: Hebei University Saijo Visit
- August: Month-long International Exchange Projects
- October: Halloween Party
- November: Industry Fair



2017 Public Language Courses

◆Course Term: June~ March 2018

○Chinese (Sat. · 20 in total)

Intermediate 13:30~15:00

Beginner 15:30~17:00

○Korean (Sun. · 20 in total)

Intermediate 13:20~14:50

Beginner 15:10~16:40

◆Eligibility: Able to attend over 70% of course, falling under next stipulations

○Residing or commuting within the city

○Member of SIEA

◆Capacity: 20 people per course (first-come-first-serve basis)

◆Location: Saijo Wellness Center (Sogo Fukushi Center)

◆Course Fee: 6,000円

(SIEA Members: 5,000円)

◆Application Period:

May 1 (Mon.)~ May 26 (Fri.)

◆Contact: Saijo City Hall Main

Building 4F General Affairs Division
International Affairs Section SIEA office

Tel: 0897-52-1206 ※Courses are not taught by a specialist.

← We made snowmen and Christmas trees during the Christmas course!

【Annual Membership Fee】

Individual 1,000円, Student (until high school) 500円,

Organization 10,000円

【Membership Period】 April 1, 2017~ March 31, 2018

【Enrollment Method】

(Current Members) We will send renewal guidelines in the mail. Hope you will continue your membership!

(New Applicants) Complete membership form and submit to SIEA office (Saijo City International Affairs Section). (Forms available at city facilities and for download online)

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

Saijo International Exchange Association membership

2017-2018

Membership Recruitment!



17th Saijo Industry Culture Fair ~Volunteer Staff Recruitment~

This year the 17th Industry Culture Fair will be held in April. Local products will be sold and events like the tug-of-war tournament are scheduled to take place. The International Exchange Association will also host the "World Cuisine and Experience Corner," where many people can enjoy international exchange.

We are recruiting volunteer staff members to run the international corner. It is okay to volunteer when you are available! Let's raise the roof with our international community at the 17th Industry Culture Fair!

- ◆Date and Time: April 29 (Sat.) 9:00~15:00
- ◆Location: Saijo City Center (the international corner will use an empty shop at the end of the shopping arcade)
- ◆Contents: Free market, café corner (world cuisine, coffee and tea), culture introduction, games etc.
- ◆Application Place: Call or email the SIEA office (Please discuss time available to volunteer first)
- ◆Application Deadline: April 10 (Mon.)
- ★Come in ethnic clothing! You can also borrow something to wear from us!

2017 SIEA Project Proposal Recruitment!

Last year, we hosted a variety of activities with the cooperation of our many members! Thank you for all of your support! This year we will continue to plan festive activities promoting international exchange. Have you ever thought "I want to do something like this!" or "A non-Japanese person might be troubled by this"? We look forward to your determination and ideas!

- ◆Target: SIEA members (organizations • individuals • students)
- ◆Contents: Project proposals for international exchange in Saijo city
- ◆Application Method: Submit "Saijo City International Exchange Association Project Proposal" (Please call or email for consultation)
- ◆Submission Deadline: March 31 (Fri.)
- ◆Submission Place: SIEA office
- ◆Decision Method: Board of directors will review the applicants and make a decision.



Convey Japanese Culture to Canada through Shu-Sou Washi!



10 years ago, when I worked as a kindergarten teacher, I wanted to share the international community with children. I wanted to convey that if they liked learning English, they could expand their horizons, so I journeyed to Toronto, Canada.

Every morning at the preschool where I volunteered, everyone would hold hands and sing the Canadian national anthem. Skin color, hair color, eye color – everyone was different. Canada is a multiethnic nation, and Toronto is a city of immigrants. This is an obvious reality for the people living in Toronto. Still, I felt so happy when I saw those children hold hands and sing.



**Everyone was different.
Everyone was good.**

Now I dream of sharing Japanese culture through shu-sou washi (traditional Japanese paper) when I return to Canada, the country that taught me that our differences are good.

I was born and raised in Osaka, but I always yearned to live in a place abundant with nature. I love the simple pleasures of my current, ordinary life – delicious water, beautiful scenery, and the people of Saijo – so I want to use shu-sou washi to communicate life in Ehime. I hope to convey the wisdom of our Japanese papermaking predecessors, who had lived through poverty 200 years ago.

I have forgotten quite a lot of my English, but I will do my best to restudy it with the Coordinator for International Relations while I pursue my dream.



Vietnam Note: PETS

Many people in Japan have pets. For the first time, I saw pet owners treating their pets as they would treat their friends or children in Japan. Japanese people mainly keep dogs and cats as pets.

Recently, the number of people keeping pets in Vietnam has also increased, but only a few years ago pet owners were very rare. In my mind, pets amount to goldfish or birds. However, people who keep goldfish or birds do so only as a hobby. In Vietnam, people also keep dogs and cats but not as pets. Instead, cats are kept to deter mice from laying waste to household objects and food; dogs are kept to sound the alarm and protect the house should someone suspicious attempt to trespass the premises. Therefore, people allow cats, but not dogs, inside the house. Even I had three dogs that I adored but never let inside the house.

I often see Japanese people taking their dogs for a walk, but I have seldom seen that in Vietnam. Dogs in Vietnam, especially those in the countryside, run free, so they go out for a walk and return home whenever they please. Conversely, people keep savage dogs on leashes, so any dog-lovers traveling to Vietnam should be careful not to approach them.

Moreover, there are no dog beauty parlors or hospi-



tals in Vietnam. If a dog gets sick, the owner will call a veterinarian who will come to the house to apply treatment. Furthermore, pet food is not sold in Vietnam; instead, families feed leftovers to cats and dogs after they finish their meals.

One of my Japanese acquaintances has a dog that is 14 years old. She loves it as if it is her own child and talks to it every day. I could not help laughing when I heard stories about how she took her dog for walks, slept with it, and even brushed its teeth. It is unimaginable in Vietnam.

However, with the increase in the wealth of our livelihoods, the amount of young people keeping dogs as pets has increased. Perhaps, dogs may one day live with people as members of the family in Vietnam as they do in Japan. (レ)



Thoughts on Ehime Marathon

Since elementary school, I have been a runner. The first club I joined was the cross-country club, and I continued racing up to the age of 16, having competed in local and national competitions. Although I stopped competitive running in high school, it has always been a dream of mine to run a full marathon. I can now tick it off my bucket list – twice!

This was my second marathon ever and my second marathon in three months. I'm not very motivated in my training, but I wanted to do well in Ehime Marathon. I wanted to do well on home turf, because I have loved every minute of my time in this beautiful prefecture so far.

Running Ehime Marathon has been one of the best – and most painful – things I've done. I spent a lot of the race smiling so much my face hurt, which really shouldn't happen when you're running 42.195km. There must be something wrong with me. But honestly, the atmosphere is infectious and the excitement palpable, with supporters lining the entire course through the streets of Matsuyama and Hojo.

It's not difficult to see why Olympic athlete, Naoko Takahashi (Qちゃん) comes back every year.

My highlights:

- ~ The groups of boys singing in the tunnels at the top of their lungs
- ~ Running with Qちゃん for the last 3km
- ~ Eating botchan dango, mikan and other delicious morsels along the way
- ~ Being interviewed by a TV crew as soon as I finished (I couldn't speak English well, let alone Japanese)
- ~ High five-ing as many people as possible along the course.
- ~ Beating my time in Okayama Marathon and finishing with a new personal best.

The theme of this year's marathon was "gratitude". While we ran, we should give thanks to the thousands of people involved in organizing and volunteering, as well as our supporters and fellow runners. As for me, I was most thankful when I could finally stop running after 4 hours 17 minutes! My next goal: to beat the 4-hour mark.

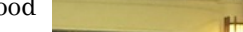
Anna Tattersall





I like Setsubun. With so many extravagant matsuri in Japan, joining in Setsubun festivals and scattering roasted beans at home do not seem to stand out, but I find these rituals just as interesting as the larger matsuri. Amidst the serious ceremonies held at temples and shrines, there is a playful side to Setsubun, one where everyone, regardless of age, tries to catch beans and fortune!

At the Ishizuchi Shrine Setsubun Festival on February 3rd, I absentmindedly explained to my parents, “Everyone throws beans at one another.” However, without describing a morsel of the Shinto beliefs that are at the root of Setsubun, particularly ‘Mame-maki’ (scattering of the beans), Setsubun is an unusual pastime, and ‘Mame-maki’ seems like a cryptic food fight.



The idea that beans have a life force strong enough to drive away demons captivates me. This year I experienced some rituals for the first time: ‘O-Taki Age’ (burning old talismans), Kagura (Shinto dancing) and



‘O-Shinzo Haitai’ (rubbing your back with statues of the gods for luck).

Whenever I tell my Japanese friends that I like Setsubun, they usually say, “Isn’t it strange? Surely, people only throw beans in Japan.” As a result, I researched festivals with food fights and found 3 more!

La Tomatina takes place on the last Wednesday in August in a town called Buñol in Valencia, Spain. It began in the 1940s, but its origins are unclear. One theory states that disgruntled townspeople attacked a government official with tomatoes during a riot. Thereafter, it became a tradition.

Binissalem in Mallorca, Spain holds its annual Grape Throwing Festival on the last weekend in September. Before the official harvest festival, the villagers pick grapes that are ‘not very good’ and have a food fight to ensure a good harvest.

The Battle of the Oranges is the main event in Ivrea, Italy's historical carnival. It originated from an uprising against a dictatorial ruler in the middle ages. Adult men earnestly throw oranges at each other, so it must hurt!

These festivals may have very different origins from Setsubun, but, after all, people the world over enjoy eccentric celebrations and throwing food! (♪)



Events & Announcements

Announcement from the Japan International Cooperation Agency, JICA Shikoku

「2017 JICA Spring Volunteer Recruitment」

~Be the Power to Change the World~

- ①Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers/ Youth
Volunteers for Nikkei Communities
- ②Senior Overseas Volunteers/ Senior Volunteers
for Nikkei Communities

Do you want to utilize your skills and experiences in a developing country? Collaborate with the local people in personnel training and nation building.

- ◆ Eligibility : ①20~39 years old、②40~69 years old (by May 10, 2017) ①②Also, in possession of Japanese citizenship
- ◆ Recruitment Period: March 31 (Fri.)~ May 10, 2017 (Wed.)
- ◆ Recruitment Procedure : Web Application (If under special circumstances you cannot apply by web, please request the application documents from the contact below.)

- ◆HP : <http://www.jica.go.jp/volunteer/seminar/shikoku/>

- ◆Inquiries : JICA Shikoku
Tel: 089-821-8824

English Speech Contest and Exchange Assembly

- ◆Date: March 18 (Sat.)

【Contest】

13:30~17:00 @ Saijo Library 2F Conference Room

【Exchange Assembly】

17:30~19:00 @ Saijo Industry and Information Center (SICS)

1F Exchange Salon (※Free to Participate)

High School Study Tour Homecoming Presentation

- ◆Date: April 8 (Sat.) 10:00~11:00
- ◆Location: Saijo City Hall 5F Large Conference Room
- ◆Contents: Presentation of what high school students learned and experienced in San Francisco

Editor Notes

This spring the International Exchange Association has been preparing for the High School Study Tour and the Hue Festival. In our next issue, expect to hear more about Saijo's overseas exchange! (今)

International Relations Saijo Staff

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Read in full
color ! 