



International Relations SAIJO

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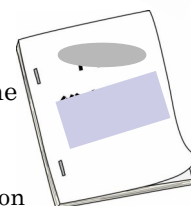


International Relations Saijo is a quarterly newsletter published in Japanese, English, and Vietnamese by the Saijo International Exchange Association (SIEA). We welcome your comments, questions and submissions.

~General Term Meeting Written Resolution~



SIEA has made a written resolution in lieu of the 2020 SIEA General Term Meeting scheduled for May 30 (Sat.) to prevent the further spread of coronavirus infections.



- Agenda Item 1 Saijo International Exchange Association Staff Selection
- Agenda Item 2 2019 Fiscal Year Project Reports
- Agenda Item 3 2019 Fiscal Year Income and Expenditure Review
- Agenda Item 4 2020 Fiscal Year Business Schedule (Proposal)
- Agenda Item 5 2020 Fiscal Year Budget (Proposal)
- Agenda Item 6 Saijo International Exchange Association Amendment of Terms



The Saijo International Association plans to restart courses and events little by little, while being cautious of preventing the spread of coronavirus infections. Once SIEA has decided to hold a course or event, we will inform everyone via public relations, the SIEA website, and the e-mail magazine, etc.

Try Taking a Step toward International Exchange?

Perhaps, all members of the Saijo International Exchange Association are spending their days in different ways than before by staying home to prevent the spread of coronavirus infections.

Many people feel anxiety over this turn of events, as most of us have yet to experience anything similar, and worry that there is no end to the outbreak of the virus in sight. Just as we do, the foreign nationals amongst us are also living in anxiety.

There are 1,600 foreign nationals residing just within Saijo. Just as we sometimes feel comforted and coaxed into a smile with everyday, casual conversations, the foreign nationals living amongst us may also feel less anxious after having casual conversations or exchanging simple greetings.

So, why don't we act more assertively and say a few words to the foreign nationals amongst us?

This, too, is one step toward international exchange.



☆Even Small Deeds Can Make a Big Impact☆

In Saijo, I have met many kindhearted people and made many friends, but since I grew up in a different environment and have had many different experiences from most Japanese people, I usually find it difficult to discuss my troubles with people in Japan. However, 4 years ago, I met Ms. Chinatsu Kume, who has always been a source of support and comfort.

When I first came to Saijo, I hadn't studied Japanese for 6 years, so I wanted to review my Japanese language studies. Fortunately, the Ishizuchi Japanese Club introduced me to Ms. Kume. However, I never felt compelled to study for the Japanese Proficiency Exam. Instead, I wanted to develop my language skills to express more complicated messages in written Japanese. As a result, Ms. Kume and I dived into various topics, and focused on writing.

Over the years, we also touched upon serious issues, but throughout all of our sessions together, Ms. Kume always listened to my ideas with an open mind and helped me to relieve some of my anxiety in the process. This may seem like a small act to an outside observer, but her empathy meant a lot to me.

While you may not be able to understand the entirety of another person's struggles or worries if you are from different cultural backgrounds, if you approach another person as Ms. Kume had approached me—without belittling their experiences and struggles—you can become a source of strength for them. With Ms. Kume's encouragement, I was able to overcome certain difficulties little by little. I feel blessed to have a friend like Ms. Kume, and I feel so much gratitude for her friendship.

Ms. Kume is just as considerate of the other foreign nationals she has taught over the years. About a year ago, she suddenly told me that she would be moving to Vietnam to teach Japanese. I felt a little lonesome, but, more than that, I felt inspired by her decision. In that moment, it crossed my mind that Ms. Kume thinks with an international mindset. These days, the number of international trainees has increased in Saijo, and many of them come from Vietnam. The youth of Vietnam has a lot of interest in Japan and working in Japan, so I believe that Ms. Kume's work as a Japanese language teacher will support this new generation. But I cannot speak on Ms. Kume's behalf, so let's ask her a few questions directly! (ダイアナ・マリー・リントン)

Introducing Ms. Chinatsu Kume!

I was a volunteer Japanese teacher for 12 years in Saijo City. After moving to Vietnam from November 2018, I worked for a technical intern dispatching organization in Hanoi for 3 months and then taught Japanese for 15 months to the nursing department students at Hai Phong Pharmaceutical University in the northern port city. The students will be working at a nursing home in Japan this fall. Since May 2020, I have been teaching Japanese to students who want to work in IT in Japan at the University of Information and Communications in the Thai Nguyen Province, which is located about 60 km away from Hanoi.

Why did you become a Japanese teacher?

As a Japanese teacher, I have never managed or operated more than 20 classes. I wanted to design a course by myself within a set period, establish a syllabus, produce a certain amount of results, and receive feedback. In Southeast Asia, there are many programs that teach Japanese to university students, so I gathered information, narrowed down my options to a few countries, and traveled to them in advance. I felt a high demand for Japanese language teachers in Vietnam. After traveling, I decided that Vietnam would also be a good fit because it was safe, and the food was delicious.



My family home is actually in Kobe. When I was 20 years old, I became friends with the children of an American family who moved into the house opposite ours, and my parents asked that I be hired for the part-time job as their babysitter. At first, we just played together and looked at homework together, but eventually I grew interested in teaching Japanese because of that connection.

Why did you decide to teach Japanese in Vietnam?

☆ In Vietnam. . .

What do you like about Vietnam?

I teach not only Japanese proficiency but also culture, etiquette and manners to university students who are looking for jobs in Japan. While acknowledging the differences in culture, I teach what is necessary for working in Japanese society. Also, if students have more questions even after studying, we always support them on SNS.

Instead of an ordinary greeting, people often ask, "Have you eaten?" I think it's because they care about the other person. I like this aspect of the culture. Also, there are many kinds of fruits and vegetables, and they are cheap! Here, there is a custom of giving flowers for many occasions, not just for anniversaries. For example, people give flowers on "Teacher's Day", "World Women's Day" and "Vietnamese Women's Day." I think this is great!

As for your students, what activities are you particularly focusing on?

I visited SAPA, a popular tourist destination near the border with China, twice. The beautiful 3000m mountain range and terraced rice fields spread out lushly. There are ethnic minorities living in the area, but many young children under the age of 5 try to sell handmade souvenirs while carrying babies on their backs. My chest really hurt. I was at a loss for words. It was a shocking and thought-provoking experience.

What has been your most memorable experience so far?

My students sometimes prepare food, take me to sightseeing spots, and plan something that is always full of surprises and excitement.

Tell us about an anecdote with the local people!

Every day, I find myself thinking that, in many ways, nothing is obvious! I also think that hurdles to happiness have decreased. I always try to convey my feelings of gratitude.

Has there been a change in your way of thinking after interacting with people from different countries?

☆ Visit Hue, Vietnam: An Introduction to its History ☆

Hue City, which has become a friendship city with Saijo City, is where the imperial palace of the Nguyen Dynasty, the last dynasty of Vietnam, was established between 1802 and 1945. The people of Vietnam familiarly call the city "the ancient capital of Hue." The Nguyen Dynasty was the first dynasty to unify the whole of Vietnam and also the last dynasty of Vietnam.

The Nguyen Dynasty accepted the teachings of Confucius in China as in the previous dynasty, and put a lot of effort into human resource development by introducing new systems, such as education and examinations. It was also interested in armament and learned how to build ships from European countries. The Nguyen Dynasty also issued the National legislation and implemented various important policies. At the same time, it invested money into the construction of the royal palace.

However, in the mid-19th century, Western countries like France tried to invade Vietnam in order to open colonies and markets. Under these circumstances, intellectuals at the time proposed reforms, such as politics, military, diplomacy, economy, culture, education, and technology, to the king. However, the court did not approve of these reforms. Instead, the Nguyen Dynasty banned the spread of Christianity and adopted an isolation policy.

Meanwhile, in 1858, French warships attacked Vietnam's Da Nang Port and invaded Vietnam. By 1884, the whole of Vietnam became a French colony under French control. Although the dynasty still existed until 1945, the king was merely a puppet of the French administration. Known as the Last Emperor of Vietnam, Emperor Bao Dai was raised and educated in France from an early age. After returning to Vietnam, he became the emperor, but he had no choice but to obey the instructions of the French government. He was absorbed in a luxurious life and played around.

Following the end of World War II in 1945, Vietnam became increasingly independent of France. Ho Chi Minh declared Vietnam's independence, and the Democratic Republic of Vietnam was born with Hanoi as the capital. The last Emperor Bao Dai advertised his abdication in Hue City. At the time, he had said, "It is better to be a citizen of an independent country than to be a king of a slave country." Ho Chi Minh invited Bao Dai to join the new administration as an advisor. However, Emperor Bao Dai fled to a foreign country, never returned home, and ended his life in France.

Vietnam's 150 years as the Nguyen Dynasty set in Hue City became a history of prosperity and extinction. Hue Street is a precious treasure that Vietnamese people consider with pride, as it has many buildings with deep historical meaning and an elegant nature. Everyone in Saijo, how about a visit to Hue City?





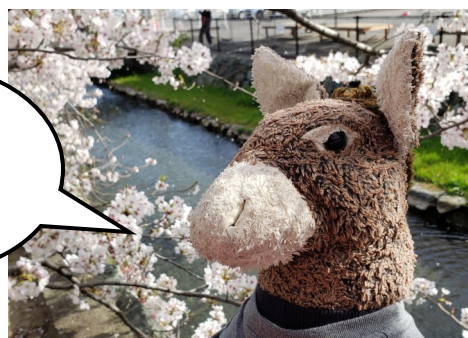

Nice to meet you. My name is Siddhartha Linton. I am half Indian and half German. My father is a rock star in Bremen, Germany, so my mother raised me by herself. However, when I was very little, I was separated from my mother and had to work in the Amazon. The work was unbearable, but I was able to retire in 2010 because a Saijo CIR, Diana Marie Linton, adopted me. That is why my last name is Linton.

In 2016, I came to Japan with Diana. It was not my first time in Japan, but it was the first time that I would live in Japan. Saijo City in Ehime Prefecture is very peaceful, and, thanks to the famous “Uchinuki” spring water, Saijo is blessed with delicious fruits and vegetables, so I was very happy! I was so impressed by how tasty the fruits and vegetables cultivated in Saijo are, so I looked forward to going to Suito-ichi and Mi-

nor Chan Market every time! The carrots and cabbage that I love so much are always fresh, and the markets have many different varieties.

Saijo has a beautiful natural landscape, so it is an easy place to live for a handsome donkey like me. I have lived in a lively metropolis before, but, after all, the gentle environment of Saijo suits me better. I feel as though I have a place where I belong in Saijo.

I will be leaving Saijo from August, so I feel rather sad. But since Saijo is the best place for retirement, I know that I will return one day. I am forever in your debt.



**Thank you
very
DONKEY!**

Events & Announcements

2020–2021 Public Language Courses

- ◆Korean (Saturdays·15 classes per level)
 Beginner 13:00~14:30
 Intermediate 15:00~ 16:30
 ○Course Term: September 2020~ March 2021
 ○Application Period: Aug. 3 (Mon.) ~ Aug. 13 (Thurs.)
 ○Capacity: Beginner : 15 people·Intermediate 20
 people (first come first served)
-
- ◆Chinese (20 classes per level)
 Beginner Mondays 19:00~20:30
 Intermediate Wednesdays 19:00~20:30
 ○Course Term: September 2020~ April 2021
 ○Application Period: Aug. 3 (Mon.) ~ Aug. 13 (Thurs.)
 ○Capacity: 20 people per level
 (first come first served)
 ○Eligibility: Able to attend over 70% of the course, falling
 under these stipulations:
 ①Residing or commuting to the city
 ②Member of SIEA
 ○Location: Saijo Sogo Fukushi Center
 ○Course Fee: 7,000円 (SIEA Members: 5,000円)
※Courses are not taught by specialists.
**※The day of the week and time for both courses have
 changed.**
**※There is a possibility that the course will switch to the
 online course.**
**※If you stop attending the course, the tuition fee will not
 be refunded.**
 ○Applications & Inquiries: SIEA Office
 TEL:0897-56-5151 (Extension 2292)

「Considering the Global Environment from the Forest of Borneo」Lecture

- When: August 8, 13:30~16:30
- Free admission (applications necessary)
- Where: General Welfare Center (Fukushi Center)
Resource Room 2
- Application Method: Apply by QR code or email
(slows2030@gmail.com)

International Culture Course "World Study"

- Capacity: 10 people
- Application Period: Sept. 10, 2020~ March 11, 2021
(10 sessions in total)
- Eligibility: Kindergarten ~ Middle school students in Saijo
- Application Period: Aug. 4 (Tues.)~22 (Sat.)
- Where: Saijo Chuo Community Center
- Application Method: Submit the application form to any community center or the SIEA office
- Course Fee: 5,000円

Editor
Notes

We hope that everyone is doing well. Due to the coronavirus, we couldn't enjoy many outings and there were inconveniences, but perhaps you have also enjoyed a different lifestyle, cleaning up at home and watching movies at your leisure! (ノ)

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Read in full
color !

