



International Relations SAIJO

Vol. 5
Dec. 2022

Thank you for all your art submissions! This year, Mitsuki Ishihara got first place. Congratulations!



Runner-up: Noa Usami



First Place: Mitsuki Ishihara



Runner-up: Maho Hirokawa



This year's float featured Huggy Wuggy!



2022's Halloween Poster

On Oct. 29 (Sat.), the Saijo Shopping Street Community Council and the local volunteer organization ELIS co-hosted a Halloween Party in the Konyamachi Shopping Street for the first time in 3 years. The weather was great and about 2,000 people gathered there. Kids wore their best costumes and went door-to-door, trick-or-treating and playing games as they went.

Thank you to all the attendees, as well as all the Saijo HS students and organization members that helped to make the event run smoothly. While this year's event was more restricted than last time due to COVID-19 restrictions, enforced mask usage, and limitations on food and drink, the fact that we were even able to hold a large-scale event like this for the first time in 3 years successfully and without any problems is thanks to all of you. All of us here at SIEA extend our deepest thanks.



Participation Card



SIEA

International Relations SAIJO is a newsletter published by the Saijo International Exchange Association (SIEA). Feel free to contact us with your comments, questions, and submission requests.

Saijo International Exchange Association (SIEA): SAIJO BASE 2F, Akeyashiki 131-2, Saijo, Ehime 〒793-0023
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Event Information

Aug. through Nov. 2022

SIEA held its first African cooking class and tie-dye workshop. Thank you for cooperating with our COVID-19 restrictions (mask wearing and eating without talking rules). We have more fun event ideas for next year, so feel free to join us!

8/7 (Sun.)

Kambai Community Center

Trying African Cuisine



The International Exchange Association and the JOCV's Ehime branch invited long-term JICA trainee Augustine for an African cooking class. Participants made jollof rice from Nigeria, Augustine's home country, before moving onto the dishes of countries like



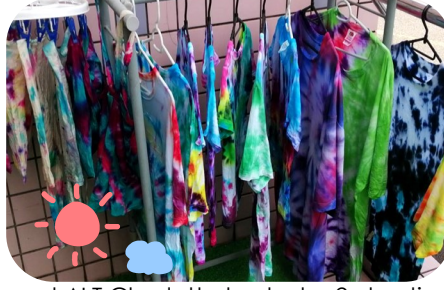
Senegal, Bangladesh (in Asia), and Niger. Every dish tasted great.

← Get the recipes from the association!

8/24-25 (Wed./Thurs.)

Kambai Community Center

Tie-Dye Workshop



Local ALT Charlotte hosted a 2-day tie-dye event. "Tie-dye" involves tying and dying cloth to make designs. T-shirts were dyed and left overnight, and washed the next day. No one knew what to expect, but they all came out better than we could've hoped for. With all the exciting English games, this 2-day event was a perfect way for people to have fun on their summer vacation.



10/1 (Sat.)

Komatsu Community Center

Family Trivia Night



Local ALT Joshua held the 2nd Family Trivia Night at the Komatsu Community Center after its massively successful launch in 2021. The questions were tough, but all the teams finished with tons of points! This year, the venue was also used to test everyone's luck, and the event turned out to be more exciting than last time.



10/8 (Sat.)

Saijo Welfare Center

Vietnam's Mid-Autumn Festival



Local CIR Nhi, who arrived in August, celebrated the Mid-Autumn Festival with Saijo's Vietnamese residents. After learning about the festival's origins, they made mooncakes and star-shaped lanterns, and played with Vietnamese toys. The halls echoed with the lively laughter of children, capping off another great event.



10/22-31

SAIJO BASE

Halloween Art Exhibit



Thank you for all your submissions! They were so cute that the judges had trouble choosing the winners! The winning submissions will be used for next year's Halloween poster!

Event Information

SIEA Website



SIEA Facebook Page



SIEA Newsletter



Want to join but don't know how?
Want to know more about our events?
Or have any other questions?
Just call us! (^^) /
Call our office at TEL: 0897-66-9990!

Let me introduce our club...

Book Lovers on Mondays

Learning English and Reading Books



Commemorative photo at the last session

Book Lovers on Mondays started its second term of 2022 on October 3. At this book club, members aim to read an English book over 8 Monday sessions held at the Saijo Community Center every 2-3 weeks from 7:00 to 8:30. Currently, everyone is reading "The Hundred-Year-Old Man Who Climbed Out of the Window and Disappeared," the English translation of a Swedish best-selling novel. At this session, members learned about Sweden and author Jonas Jonasson's career, and talked about the theme and setting. Discussions are mostly in English, but Japanese can be used whenever to help. Hailing from the U.K., local teacher Richard Westrop advises the club, choosing the books and planning the day's discussion. Thanks to his English discussions, members cover a wide range of topics from vocabulary and reading comprehension to the culture and history of the U.K. and the rest of Europe.

Learning More

Launched in Oct. 2020, the book club is now at its 5th term, with every book varying in theme. For example, "The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time" addressed the autism spectrum. By inviting guest speakers for talks, members can further their understanding and expand their knowledge about each book's themes. Members learned about Scottish culture and geography through "44 Scotland Street", exploring Scotland in their minds. It's amazing how reading books opens up so many new worlds.

We Are Book Lovers. And You?

Borrow the books from the Foreign Language section of the library.



The club currently has about 10 members belonging to different age groups, genders, and occupations. They do, however, share a lifelong desire to improve their English and a love for books. While finishing an English book by yourself can be difficult and seemingly impossible, you can push yourself further when you're surrounded by peers. Share ideas with your peers, toss around questions, and deepen your reading comprehension. That's what makes a book club so great. Every session brings new discoveries and surprises.

Book Lovers on Mondays is always looking for new members. If you're interested or want to know more, give them a call.

Contact Info: 090-6289-7924 (Fujita)



My name is pronounced just like "knee." I came to Saijo in August and I work at SIEA on Wednesday afternoons. I look forward to working with all of you!



The view of the mountains from Saijo City Hall



A view of the mountains in Hà Giang

When I first came to Saijo, the mountains stunned me with their incredible beauty. If you want to see mountains in Vietnam, you basically have to go the northern city of Hà Giang, which faces China. It's said that roads leading to the city are a bit difficult to navigate, so solo trips are generally not recommended. That's why I truly appreciate my new life in Saijo — when I bike to work, I get an up-close look at the majesty of the mountains.



Even though I've only been able to hold a Vietnamese Mid-Autumn Festival event for elementary school kids so far, the kids had a lot of fun, and that made me so happy. I told them folk tales about the festival, and we made cute Vietnamese mooncakes, festival toys, and star-shaped lanterns. The kids didn't just take the event seriously, they also talked with the Vietnamese trainees helping out at the event, so I think they got an authentic taste of Vietnamese culture. That being said, only 5 kids attended the event, so, moving forward, I hope I can share the wonders of Vietnamese culture to more and more kids in Saijo. Of course, I'll do my best to share bits of Vietnamese culture with the community at large, so feel free to ask any questions (contact SIEA for more information about Vietnamese events and activities)! Recently, crimes committed by trainees from Vietnam and elsewhere have been popping up on the news, but I hope that interactions with Vietnamese residents in Saijo will leave the community with good impressions of both Vietnamese people and their culture.



Saijo is slowly getting colder and colder. Back in Vietnam, I lived in Ho Chi Minh City in the south, which meant that we didn't really have distinct seasons like Japan has. We have dry and wet seasons, with an average year-round temperature of about 26°C, so cold weather wasn't really a thing. It's been a while since I've been this cold, so I've been putting on tons of sweaters and winter clothes, which gets my co-workers concerned sometimes. Now that it's winter, take care of yourselves! I believe in once-in-a-lifetime meetings, so even if we do meet only once, I'll treasure that meeting for the rest of my life. I look forward to meeting and working with all of you!



Vietnam Tet 2023

★ Vietnamese New Year at Saijo Base

[Date] Jan. 22, 2023 (SAIJO BASE Day) 10:00~15:00

※ A detailed schedule will be posted on the SIEA Facebook Page.

[Location] SAIJO BASE 3F

[Details] A celebration of the Vietnamese New Year, known as Tet, featuring music, games, áo dài rentals, and zongzi samples.

Editorial
Comments

Let's hope 2023 turns out to be a good year! – Kondo

International Relations SAIJO Staff:
Minoru Tokumasu
Kondo

Readable in
full color! ➡



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