

# International Relations

Vol. 6 Mar. 2023

Tie-Dye Workshop



Family Trivia Night









Saijo International Exchange Association

2023 (Reiwa 5)'s Thanks to all your support, SIEA was able to celebrate its 3rd year as a non-profit organization. Our next general meeting will be on May 20, and we will have a special guest lecture right after the meeting.

## General Meeting Feel free to join! & Guest Lecture

May 20, 2023 (Sat.)

General Meeting: 1:00 p.m. ~ 1:50 p.m.; Members-only Guest Lecture: 2:00 p.m. ~ 3:30 p.m.; Open to the public Location: City Hall, Main Building 5F, Room 502

**Guest Lecture** 

Lecturer: Saki Oishi

JICA Shikoku

Ehime Prefecture Int'l Cooperation Agency

Topic: Building a Multicultural Society Starting With

International Exchange

TEL: 0897-66-9990 Contact Info: SAIJO BASE 2F, SIEA Office

#### 2022-2023 Events

Language Classes (ZH/EN/KO/VI)

- African Cooking Class (8/7)
- Tie-Dye Workshop (8/24-25)
- Family Trivia Night (10/1)
- Viet. Mid-Autumn Festival (10/8)
- Halloween Party (10/29)
- Vietnamese New Year (1/22)
- Easy Japanese Seminar (2/25)
- **Relocation Commemoration** (3/11)
- Consultation Desk for Foreigners  $(7/1\sim)$

And more!

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#### Membership Dues for 2023-2024

Every year, SIEA recruits new members interested in cross-cultural activities. Paying membership dues is one way to help support SIEA and get involved.

[Yearly Dues] Individuals: 1,000 yen;

Students (up to HS): 500 yen; Groups: 10,000 yen [Membership Length] Apr. 1, 2023  $\sim$  Mar. 31, 2024

[Application Process] After filling out the Member Application Form, please submit it to the SIEA office electronically or by mail.

(Download the form from the official websites of City Hall, every Branch Office, or every Community Center, or the SIEA homepage.)

 Members receive information on SIEA activities, the SIEA newsletter, and discounts on SIEA events. For more information, please contact the SIEA office.



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 TEL / FAX: (0897)66-9990 E-mail: info@saijo-iea.jp URL: http://www.saijo-iea.jp/

Sakura Nursery's Merry Christmas!

# **Christmas Party**



Saijo ALTs Charlotte, Andrew, and Josh, as well as SAIJO CIR Nhi, paid a visit to Sakura Nursery's Christmas Party. They read Christmas books to the children in English, and played quiz games with the children too. They also wore Santa outfits and handed out presents. All the children had smiles on their faces and it turned out to be a great Christmas party.

#### 1/20 Vietnamese New Year



The Vietnamese New Year event we held at SAIJO BASE was incredibly lively, with over 150 participants. Saijo CIR Nhi planned the event, which showcased countless aspects of Vietnamese culture, such as songs, dances, an áo dài fashion show, a bánh chưng making workshop, and all sorts of New Year games. Many of Saijo's Vietnamese residents helped out. Once the COVID-19 pandemic cools down next year, I sure would like to try some fresh bánh chưng.

# ctivity

From Dec. 2022 to Mar. 2023

Repor

Easy Japanese Seminar

We invited Ms. Michiko Doi, the Niihama International Center's Head of the Secretariat, to Saijo to hear her lecture on communicating with foreigners living in Japan through "easy Japanese." Attendees practiced using easy Japanese and had fun simplifying Japanese phrases and sharing their thoughts. Attendees stated that the seminar was informational and that they would attend future seminars.



#### From Saijo to the World



Location: SAIJO BASE 3F Citizen Gallery Date: Until 4/30 Open every day until the event ends)

The Int'l Exchange Promotion Team is hosting the "From Saijo the World: JICA Exhibition." There are traditional clothes, instruments, everyday trinkets, and journal entries on display, so please check it out!

#### 3/11 SAIJO BASE Relocation Kickoff Event ~Bridging the U.S., Taiwan, and Saijo~

We held an info sharing event in SAIJO BASE's Collaborative Space for Saijo's HS students, American HS students in Austin, Texas via their connections to Saijo, and Taiwanese students via their connections to the Toyo Lions Club. The schools participated online and every student gave a 5 to 15-minute-long presentation. Interpreters (including one of our ALTs) helped to facilitate the exchange.



## Newsletters

Our newsletters will be released at the beginning of every month. Subscribe to the newsletter via our website for up-to-date event information!(^^)/★

西条市国際交流協会



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Welcome to 2023



In this month's article, we'll be covering the Vietnamese Tết event we held 3 months ago at Saijo Base! Please give





"Tết," or the Vietnamese Lunar New Year, is based on the lunar calendar, unlike the Japanese New Year. Tết is Vietnam's longest holiday, and Vietnamese people around the world take time off from work—no matter how busy their schedules—to spend time with their families. It is an incredibly important event. Compared to the Japanese New Year, Tết is much livelier too. The week before Tết, Vietnamese people decorate their houses, make offerings to the gods, and prepare the ingredients, drinks, and snacks needed for a Tết feast. On New Year's Day, people watch fireworks, celebrate the new year with their families, or visit temples. The first three days of the new year have their own customs: on the 1st day, people play with their father's side of the family; on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, they play with their mother's side; and on the 3rd, they visit the homes of their friends and teachers. That's why

people are often seen having fun during Tét. It's extremely fun

SAIJO BASE held a Tết event on Jan. 22, and about 150 Japanese and were Vietnamese attendees. It was a lot of fun for me too. The attendees didn't just look at the displays on Vietnam and Tết either; they played various Tết games too. They also enjoyed a fashion show centered around the áo dài (a traditional Vietnamese dress comparable to the Japanese kimono) and several dances. Tết Exhibition

The most popular activity was the "Bánh Chung" workshop, where people tried making bánh chưng sticky rice dumplings. At first, many people had trouble making them, but they neatly wrapped all of the bánh chưng in the end. The dumplings were all boiled on the spot and distributed to everyone when they were done. How was this little taste of Vietnam?







Tết Games



Fashion Show

Bánh chưng is a traditional Tết food, made with glutinous rice, mung beans, and pork. It is wrapped into a square packet using a 20 cm long lá dong leaf, and then boiled for 8-12 hours.



Preparing for the Tết event was a lot of work throughout, but watching Japanese and Vietnamese people celebrate Tét together and go home with smiles on their faces made me really happy. We got to showcase the culture behind Tết, alleviate some of the loneliness our Vietnamese residents felt because they couldn't be home with their families, and bridge the Vietnamese and Japanese communities in Saijo, so it was a really important experience for me. We'll do our best to make next year's event even more fun, so definitely pop by. We'll be waiting. New Year's already over, but... Chúc mừng năm mới (Happy New Year)!

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[Location] Saijo City Welfare Center

[Eligibility] City residents, commuters, and SIEA members [Fees] 5,500 yen (3,500 yen for SIEA members)

**XTextbook fees not included.** 

(Term Length) June to September (10 total classes;

about 2 classes per month)

[Days and Time] OElementary: Wed. 7:00 pm-8:00 pm

OIntermediate: Wed. 8:10 pm-9:10 pm [App. Period] 5/1 (Mon.)  $\sim 5/26$  (Fri.)

【Contact Info】 SIEA Office TEL: 0897-66-9990





This year, we'll be reviving some events that we

put on hold!

Make sure to join in on the fun!

Date/Time: 6/10 (Sat.)

11 am~1 pm

Location: SAIJO BASE

Fees: 400 yen

> (SIEA Members: 300 yen) \*Reservations not required.

Contact Info: SIEA Office TEL: 0897-66-9990

#### & ★ Details ★ ☆

This is a café where we can talk with people from around the world.

George Washington HS students will be ioining us this time.

Comparing British and Japanese Culture Date and Time: 5/13 1:30 pm ∼ 3 pm

nt'l Understanding

Location: Saijo City Welfare Center

B Wing 3F, Seminar Room 2

Lecturer: ALT Jared Beare

International Relations SAIJO Minoru Tokumasu

Readable in Full Color!



**Editorial** Let's do our best this year too! (Kondo) Note

Kondo Andrew Tham (Translator)

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