

Iwate International Exchange



~ Friends with the World ~



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Closed: New Year holidays (12/29 - 1/3), other scheduled dates

What should foreigners do in times of disaster?? “Disaster Support Conference”



Foreigners who don't understand Japanese or know about disasters that break out in Japan are at risk of being unable to understand the situation. If a natural disaster occurs, they might be slow to react or evacuate. Culture differences mean that problems are also likely to appear in temporary evacuation shelters.

The Iwate International Association will be holding conferences about how to support foreigners during times of disaster. They will be held in Morioka and Kamaishi. In addition to learning about differences in cultural backgrounds, we will also learn comprehensively about what we should do to help out.

The theme of the next conference is **“Learning about multilingual support”**.

Nobuko Sudo, director of the International Promotion Division at the Sendai Tourism, Convention and International Association, will talk about the multilingual supporter activities they put into practice during the Great East Japan Earthquake and Disaster. She will also explain our roles as multilingual supporters during times of disaster. Practical case studies and situations that are likely to occur will be set up so that participants can practice how to react in such instances.

〈Kamaishi〉 January 14 (Sat.) 13:30~16:00 Aoba Building Conference Room 1・2

〈Morioka〉 January 15 (Sun.) 14:00~16:30 Aiina Conference Room 501

*Even if you aren't confident in your language abilities, please feel free to participate!



On February 11 (Sat.), there will be hands-on training at Morioka City's Ueda Community Center, which acts as the designated evacuation site for foreigners in Morioka.

If you are interested in participating, please apply on the association's website, or apply directly in person.

Event Reports

★Chatland – International Exchange Events
Sunday Funday! International Exchange for Families
10.2.2016

Many families came to the event where they could enjoy picture book storytelling, songs, dances, and games with people from the U.S., Thailand, Kenya, and Nigeria.



Singing Doraemon's theme song in Thai

★2016 One World Festa in Iwate 11.20.2016
The One World Festa in Iwate was held again this year!

There were a bunch of different programs at the event including World Area, where 28 booths representing countries around the world were set up, World Stage, Nepal Lunch, World Café, Bridge to the World Club, Kids' Corner, and Traditional Clothing Dress-Up Corner. With 4,446 people who attended the event, One World Festa was a great success!! Thank you to everyone who volunteered.



Trying on traditional clothes



Japanese dance performance at the World Stage

Events

◆Lecture on the 20th Anniversary of Kitakami International Exchange Room

- 📅 : January 14th (Sat.) 13:30 - 16:00
- 📍 : Kitakami Cultural Exchange Center Sakura Hall
- 💰 : Free

【Part 1】

“Looking back on 20 years at the Kitakami International Exchange Room”

- “Catch the Rainbow”, a sister city song by singer-songwriter Tomonobu Yara
- Video on the exchange room's activities
- Fun talk exchange with foreigners

【Part 2】

“Let's laugh together! "Rakugo" Comedic Storytelling Performance in English”

Rakugo performance by Katsura Kaishi and Canadian rakugo performer, Duke Kanada.

👤 : Kitakami International Association
 📞 : 0197-63-4497 ✉️ : kiah@kitakami.ne.jp

◆UNICEF Photography Exhibition

UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador Agnes Chan visits Guatemala. UNICEF photo exhibition "Fighting against invisible threats, the first 1000 days"

- 📅 : March 9th (Thu.)– 12th (Sun.) 10:00-17:00
- 📍 : Plaza Odette (Morioka)

- 📅 : March 17th (Fri.) – 20th (Mon.) 10:00-17:00
- 📍 : Myoenji (Hanamaki)
- 💰 : Free

👤 : Iwate UNICEF Association
 📞 : 019-687-4460 ✉️ : sn.iunicef_iwate@todock.jp

◆The 2nd Multicultural Salon

"Learning About Russia With Tea and Food"

Making borscht and beet salad, and also drinking Russian tea made using a samovar (teapot).

Come learn about Russian culture while enjoying a cup of tea!

- 📅 : January 14th (Sat.) 9:30 - 13:00
- 📍 : Hanamaki Exchange Center
- 💰 : Hanamaki International Exchange Association members 300 yen, Non-members 500 yen

Capacity: 15 people

- 📅 : January 4th - January 12th

*applications will be closed upon reaching capacity

👤 : Hanamaki International Exchange Association
 📞 : 0198-26-5833
 ✉️ : kokusai_staff_b@ext.city.hanamaki.iwate.jp

◆I want to know more about that country! Part 14 Vultures Flying Overhead, the Republic of Peru

An introduction to the Republic of Peru and a performance by Sergio Auca Surco - Musical performance of Peru's traditional instruments quena and zampoana -

- 📅 : February 25th (Sat.) 18:30 -
- 📍 : Hiraizumi Cultural Heritage Center Fureai Hall
- 💰 : 1,000 yen (1,200 yen at the door)
Free for middle school & under

👤 : Hiraizumi International Association
 📞 : 0191-46-4652

Language Courses

◆English Interpreting Course

- 📅 : February 2nd – March 9th (every Thursday for a total of 6 times) 18:30 – 20:00

- 📍 : Plaza Odette (meeting room 1 and 2)

Who: Individuals who can speak English at a level exceeding daily conversation

- 💰 : Morioka International Relations Association members 2,000 yen, Non-members 3,000 yen

📝 : Write “英語通訳講座 受講希望” clearly on a reply-paid postcard, along with your postal code, address, name (in furigana), age, phone number, and gender. Post this to the Morioka International Association.

〒020-8530 Morioka-shi Uchimaru 12-2 Morioka shiyakusho honchousha 1F

Application period: December 15th ~ January 13th (Fri.) Must be postmarked by the deadline.

◆Start Learning Spanish Now!

- 📅 : January 21st – February 25th (every Saturday for a total of 6 times) 14:00 – 15:30

- 📍 : Plaza Odette (meeting room 1 and 2)

Who: Individuals who have never learned Spanish or learned about Paraguayan culture

- 💰 : Morioka International Relations Association members 2,000 yen, Non-members 3,000 yen

📝 : Morioka International Relations Association members may register by phone on December 19th (Mon.) from 10 AM. Non-members may register by phone on December 20th (Tue.) from 10 AM.

(students will be accepted on a first-come-first-served basis)

👤 : Morioka International Relations Association
 📞 : 019-626-7524

Living Information

◆TOHOKU HIGHWAY BUS TICKET On Sale

Tickets allowing unlimited rides on Tohoku highway buses.

Who: Foreign tourists

- 💰 : 4-day ticket ...10,000 yen
- 7-day ticket ...13,000 yen

🌐 : <https://japanbusonline.com/Tohoku/>



Learn About New Zealand – Global Education and Family First Community

New Zealand fell into an economic crisis in the 1980s. The country took this opportunity to undertake major market reforms – Reducing the size of government and government projects, and moving from a centralized government to a decentralized government. And supporting this new society were two new projects: “Family First Community” and “Global Education”.

On October 8th (Sat.), Takanobu Oikawa, an Iwate Cultural Ambassador who resides in New Zealand (referred to as NZ from here on), along with junior high school students and teachers from NZ, visited Iwate, where they had participants experience various aspects of NZ.

● Global Education in NZ

■ *What’s the main goal of classes? Communication is not only about language! The important thing is “the desire to communicate”.*

In a middle school of 600 students in NZ, there can be up to approximately 50 different nationalities spread amongst the students enrolled. Of course, there are students who cannot speak English. Even if you can’t speak English, as long as you have your own opinions, you’ll be able to communicate.

■ *What are the school rules? “Talking is OK”, “Mobile phones are OK”, Global adaptability is not something you can teach with force-fed education.*

School in NZ is fun! Why? The blackboard is only used for 30 minutes of the school day. In the remaining 5 hours, students play the leading role. If you don’t know something, you can use your tablet to look it up during class. The teacher won’t tell you the answer. “Think about it on your own” = NZ-style classrooms!

■ *Communication is the ability to ask questions – “Output learning”* Communication ability and the ability to ask questions are very highly valued in NZ. Communication skills are also important, but in order to give a presentation, you have to first ask questions. Children are trained from elementary school to be able to ask questions.

Experiencing a real NZ classroom! We experienced a NZ-style classroom together with Mr. Oikawa and students from NZ.

Demonstration 1: “Receiving rewards”

Teacher: “In NZ, it’s our culture to cherish birthdays. In particular, we regard birthdays when you turn 5, 13, 16, and 21 special birthdays. What do you think each of these ages signifies?”

Student: “The age when you can start to drive”, “The age when

you can legally vote”... The teacher throws candies to the students who speak their thoughts.

“Speaking up and getting a prize for it is NZ-style!”

Demonstration 2: “Building the ability to ask questions”

Teacher: “What do you want to know about NZ?”

The group that asks the most questions wins. They don’t win by content, but by the number of questions

asked. Each group fights to ask as many questions as they can. Their papers become filled with question after question. The group with the most questions had over 100. The concept of education in NZ schools is Learning Journey, which is to have children look for answers on their own. This is also called “SML” or “LLL” (clothing sizes?!). Well, what do you think?

If you want to learn more about this, why not take a trip to New Zealand?

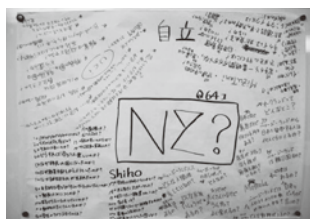
● NZ’s Family First Community...?

• “Family time” takes place from 5PM to 7PM on weekdays. This is when you eat dinner together with your family.


• Drinking parties and overtime for adults occurs after 7:30 PM, and children are also taught to prioritize spending time with family over school activities or cram school.

What are the meanings of the special birthdays in NZ?

- 5 years: Entering elementary school
- 13 years: Becoming an adult (the beginning of the teens. The start of career education)
- 16 years: End of compulsory education
- 21 years: Support yourself = independence
- 40 years: Achieve independence! (Independence means owning your own company!) **Big birthday**



Comments from participants



- I was surprised at the NZ students – they speak up and say their opinions without any hesitation.
- The teacher only talks for 30 minutes of the day!?
- It’s wonderful that the community is built off trying again even if you make mistakes.

Consultation for Foreigners

◆ General Support

- When: 9:00 am – 8:00 pm every day
- Languages: Japanese, English, Chinese
- ※English and Chinese speakers might be absent at certain times.

◆ Consultation in Foreign Languages

- **Chinese:** Tuesday - Friday 0:30 pm - 6:30 pm
- **Korean:** Wednesday 3:00 pm - 5:00 pm
- **English:** Thursday 3:00 pm - 5:00 pm

◆ Consultation with a Legal Administration Expert

- Date and Time: Every third Wednesday, 3:00 pm - 6:00 pm
- Place: International Exchange Center (5th floor, Aiina)
- Reservations: Iwate International Association
- ※Prior booking is essential⇒Tel: 019-654-8900

Now Recruiting Supporting Members

The Iwate International Association is recruiting supporting members to assist with our activities and contribute towards our goals. We would very much appreciate your help. The membership fee provides invaluable assistance towards non-profit international events and multicultural activities.

<Annual Membership Fee> (one single payment) Adults 3,000 yen Groups 10,000 yen Students 1,000 yen

Oh My いわて

My name is Anne Mutahi and I'm from Kenya. I've been living in Morioka for seven months as a student at Iwate University. When I first arrived here, I was amazed by the beautiful scenery surrounded by mountains with many rivers. I love nature and Iwate has offered me the greatest opportunity to enjoy it. In spring, I got to see the beautiful cherry blossom at Takamatsu Park. I like the fantastic food, beautiful temples and shrines, parks and a culture with a long and rich history.

This month, the Iwate Prefectural Government offered a guided tour of craft workshops and a local sake brewery in northern Iwate for foreign residents here. Our one-day trip began in Morioka, with a visit to the Iwachu cast ironworks and in Hachimantai to Appi-nuri lacquerware workshop, Koji-ya Motomiya and Washinoo Sake Brewery.

During the tour at Iwachu cast ironworks, I was not only struck by impeccable collections of an amazing array of teapots and cookware but also how the craftsmen hand-make each item with precision throughout the



At the Appi-nuri lacquerware workshop

Exploring beautiful Iwate



At the Iwachu cast ironworks

manufacturing process. There was also a 350 kg tea kettle, largest of its kind in the world.

At the Appi-nuri lacquerware workshop, we were taught about Appi-lacquer which is used to coat daily utensils, like bowls, plates or chopsticks, to get deep, shiny lustre of black or dark red lacquerware. You can't help but marvel at these gorgeously decorated items. We also had an opportunity to painting our chopsticks using the lacquer.

We were treated to a delicious lunch and miso soft-serve ice cream at Koji-ya Motomiya after visiting the miso factory.

Our last stop on this tour was Washinoo Sake Brewery. After a walk through the brewery, we enjoyed a delicious sake tasting paired with various snacks.

It was a wonderful introduction to Iwate crafts and culture.



Anne Mutahi

Place of birth: Kenya
Student of the Faculty of Agriculture,
Iwate University
Hobbies: Listening to music and Hiking.

Iwate Quiz ?

We asked Yumie (USA) and Chin (China), Coordinators for International Relations in Iwate Prefecture, to set some quiz questions for us. Can you figure them out?

1. Sand Hot Springs (suna onsen) are uncommon, even throughout all of Japan. Where can you experience this?

- ① Nishiwaga ② Morioka ③ Ofunato ④ Ichinoseki



2. The Iwate Snow Festival (yuki matsuri) is held in

- ① Appi Ski Resort ② Iwayama Park
③ Hiraizumi ④ Koiwai Farm

