

“ Rice Series ”

Cook and Lunch !!

32th Cross Cultural Exchange Salon

- Date/time : 10:00-14:00 on February 8, 2009
- Place : Community Center Daiho-Nishi
- Sponsored by : RIFA Cultural Exchange Committee



Both sponsor and participants were exited at that moment !!

= Look like to relay that day's situation from the spot =

The salon like competition in making a boastful meal of each country has just started from 10:00 at Community Center Daiho-Nishi. The theme is to cook a rice based meal.

In the cooking room , men and women wearing an apron are moving actively at a tight space just after the opening ceremony, to make :

- Decorated "Chirashi-Zushi" by Japanese team
- "Sticky Rice" by Chinese team
- "Aji. De. Gajina" by Peruvian team
- "Paella" by Spanish team

The cooking room is now just like the stadium for cultural exchange.



At the cooking table for Japanese team, a Sushi rice just after boil is steaming. The blue mussels are being roughly thrown in the heated fry pan, and there is a nice smell of fish and shellfishes around the Spanish corner. A fried rice is being wrapped steadily with fine bamboo leaves at the Taiwanese table. This scene looks like an illusion of rice cooking !! Also, a fine cream-colored soup has been finishing at next Peruvian table.

Let's taste ! Our hearts are beating with joy. All participants look to be fully satisfied as the meals would meet their initial expectation at the morning.



Then, participants are further heating up ! The team SOUP, making a first debut at this time, sings like gospel music and introduces a Peruvian dancing as a special service.

Shy Japanese, Chinese , Taiwanese and Polish start to sing and dance together.

The cross cultural salon is really enjoyable !! (T.Y)

International Understanding Class

[100th Anniversary Of Japanese Immigration to Brazil]

~ *Seek To Understand and Sympathize More* ~

Date/Time : 14:00-15:30 on January 24, 2009

Place : First floor of Chuo-Kominkan

Originally, the class was projected to talk frankly with Brazilian of Japanese origin near ourselves. The participants questioned and exchanged their opinions each other on the current topics of the day. The class became a time for us to be enjoyable plus thinking.



Yukie Kohno San

Born in Brazil. She went to Japanese College and was married with her husband who she met there. She was asked mainly about her life in Brazil into where her parents immigrated.

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I have been often asked if it might be very hard to live in Brazil. However, there are only good memories for me being born and educated in that country. Thereby, I can not talk about any hardship story !!(laughing) I believe that my parents had gone through hardship. I also had a hard time until I could manage both Japanese and Portuguese.

Yukiko Oka San

Born in Brazil. She was asked mainly about current situation of Brazilian of Japanese origin.

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I came to Japan with my family in August when I was in 6 grade of elementary school. I studied Japanese at home before going to junior high school. However, I was under such situation as not understanding anything at junior high school. Now,
At Minakuchi City Hall, I am spending a busy time to instruct Brazilian of Japanese origin how to write a personnel history and to have an interview, and to translate "an offer of a situation".

Takashi Matsuo San

He is tackling the issues related to foreign residents with Middle and South American nationality.

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It is currently difficult to give counsel to all persons as many persons come to the consulting window in Konan City. May need five hours to talk current situation fully !!

RIFA had held the international understanding classes several times in a year. A theme of class was normally to know the foreign cultures and costumes. However, that class focused mainly on "Brazilian of Japanese origin in Japanese Society".

Second and third generation of Japanese origins who immigrated to Brazil 100 years ago had been coming to Japan. It was said that the wage ten times in Brazil was paid in Japan when so called "work away from home rush to Japan" started. In fact, we heard that the pioneers became so rich as to have own home in Brazil if working in Japan for several years. Brazilian and Peruvian who worked even at holiday and over time without a grumbling at business upturn supported the manufacturing sites in place of Japanese. It is almost of all cases that they are working as a part-time employee or temporary employee, thereby they are at such weak position as being dismissed foremost under current business depression.

Currently, it is very hard even for Japanese to secure a job in Japan. A lack of information, complex administrative procedures and others are handicapping the foreign workers who can not manage Japanese.

I am very impressed by that, in Konan City, local residents are concerned in foreigner's related issues and symbiosis with foreigners probably due to many foreign residents, according to Matsuo San of KIA(Konan International Association)

I think that a negative effect due to pursuit of business efficiency is being shifted to weak persons. I would expect that the time will come when tenderness is more essential rather than power.(H.A)

= Other participant's impression =

+ RIFA could be rid of such organization as having only joyful events even though many issues to be tackled existed.

+ Number of temporary employees are decreasing in the factory in which I am working.

I reflected on myself and recognized an importance of "courage to call out" and "efforts to stop the dismissal of temporary employees.

+ I preferred to close the class with a positive discussion about what we can do.

+ Brigadeiro, condensed milk and coca chocolate, handmade by Kohno San was delicious.

+ There are many unusual things such as Mate-tea and fish scale, may be used for nail polishing, in Brazilian box of Shiga International Association.

New methods of support for the international exchange program.

New steps for international exchange with Hengyang:Hunan , China.

Notice from Ritto city.

In Ritto city, we have had an international exchange with our friendship town Hunan. We sent our missionary to Hunan and received Hunan's missionary in Ritto. Last November when the Hunan missionary came to Ritto, we came to a new arrangement.

It was decided that a new friendship exchange by citizens will be planned instead of official missionary exchanges.

More activities for international exchange from RIFA!

RIFA has contributed to the international exchange for Ritto and Hunan, by helping Ritto city hold the Hunan missionary reception event, and by helping with the teachers' and students' home stay.

The missionary of Hunan came to Ritto last November attended the Ritto international 10th anniversary event at Sakira square. The missionary enjoyed some ethnic food, life of citizens and Japanese culture. This was just one step for RIFA's activities, we would like to plan many more events for international exchange with Ritto citizens! (A.O)



They enjoyed food with kids

The Youth Symphony Orchestra of the Mannheim conservatory of Music in Germany (80 people) coming to Ritto!

(Support for this event is provided by Ritto)

Date: 2009. 17th April (Friday) 19:00-21:00

Place: Ritto culture Hall Sakira Big Hall

Tickets: 1500yen (1000yen for students and the seniors)

Requires: Sakira Ritto Music Athenaeum 551-1455

*RIFA volunteer staff will provide their home stay for a 4-night-stay.



English Class Mr. Art loves travelling!

He had 10 classes (September-November, January-March.)

Mr. Art is a Polish gentleman who loves travels riding horses and camels!

We enjoyed his teaching and his interesting travel stories and pictures.

(You can see his travel pictures at : www.picasaweb.google.com/axchannel/)



New guest! Ms. Carmen Shiratori



At the 32nd international cultural exchange salon, Ms. Carmen (from Barcelona Spain) cooked Paella. She lives in Kyoto, teaches Spanish, Spanish cooking and is a private tour guide. We would like her to talk about many things at the Understanding International class.

RIFA supports SHIGA: Supporting registered foreigners Network.

In Shiga, 60 % of workers are foreigner workers that are employees of dispatching and undertaking companies.

The depression since last year made many foreigner workers lose their jobs.

That's why this supporting network was established. We need goods and funds. We would like you to understand that RIFA joined and has started to support this endeavor.

Contact here : <http://gaikokuseki.shiga-saku.net/>

For inquiries : Phone 077-561-5110

Japanese teaching class

How's Japanese teaching in Shiga? March 14th Saturday 14:00-15:30

The Biwako Japanese Network (BNN) holds a Speech Contest once a year as a networking opportunity for Japanese teaching classes in Shiga.

We had a chance to talk with Ms.Yoko Kanatsuna (a representative) and Mr.Shigeaki Numata(sub representative) about BNN activities, How each class in going , and about Japanese teaching in Misono elementary school.)

A view from a participant

I have worked toward establishing Japanese classes in Ritto, this information about other classes and the activities of BNN are really helpful.

I thought once more about Japanese teaching and the system for registered foreigners who live in Japan longer than "temporary".

Volunteer teaching in Misono elementary school is really impressive, gives me power for Japanese classes in RIFA. (H.K)

Notice Board

Plans, for more information at the RIFA homepage, and the paper Ritto

General meeting -We discuss RIFA activity on Heisei 21 fiscal year-

Date: May 10th Sunday 10:00-12:00

Place: Chuo kouminkan

Many members are expected.

Japanese Cooking How to cook Japanese food (new activity)

This is for registered foreigners and Japanese.

More information is at the RIFA homepage, groups of more than 5 people may participate in this class.

*The material costs would be 300 yen -1000yen.

The purpose is to show how to cook Japanese vegetables(some might think it's difficult) and seasoning in Japanese cooking. "Easy cooking but tasty!" is our policy.

Chinese dumpling party -Japanese class exchange meeting-

Date: 11th March Saturday 10:00-14:30

Place: Community center Daihou higashi

Cost: about 500 yen

Contents: The first Japanese class in this year is a special cooking class.

Soup dumplings !

If you're interested in Chinese or Japanese class, please come!

*capacity is about for 20 people.

Year-round Activities

For foreigners' life counseling room (every Wednesday 13:00-17:00 At the Ritto city hall)

Korean class (by members) (on Tuesdays, 3 times 19:00-20:30at chuokouminkan)

Chinese class (by members) (on Saturdays, 3 times 10:30-12:00at chuokouminkan)

Japanese class (on 2nd and 4th Saturday 10:30-12:00 at Chuokouiminkan)

*Chinese class time and place will be changed from March.)

Please contact us if you want to visit classes.

For inquiries: Phone 077-551-0293 FAX 077-554-1123 MAIL:mail@rifa.jp

RIFA is waiting for registered foreigners to join us!

Collection of RIFA Members

For the persons who are interested in an international exchange, please consider to join in RIFA membership.

Special favor

Discount of fee for participating in RIFA events and classes
Deliver "Koryu" and event guidance

Member's fee

Individual member	2,000 yen
Family member	5,000yen
Corporate member	20,000yen

Committee

【General Affair & Public Relations】

Publish Koryu quarterly
PR for RIFA to expand membership
Prepare/manage homepage

【Cultural Exchange】

Plan/implement events and classes
Exchange with sister/friendship cities
【10th Anniversary Project (in 2007 and 2008)】
Plan/implement memorial events

RIFA Voluntary Activities

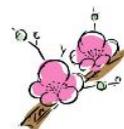
Let's join RIFA committees and voluntary activities if you want to be active enjoyably and more positively, and rise RIFA.

Major area of activities are as follows.

Interpretation and translation
Teaching of Japanese
Home-stay, home-visit
Introduction of culture
Others

Four seasons (shunkashutou)

I traveled in East Europe from January to February thinking of Ms. Yudit.
I went to Germany, Czech, Austria, Slovakia and Hungary, I was surprised I don't notice when I crossed the borders. I felt EU connects stronger.
The Euro is used in more countries.
I will talk more about my travel someday. (M.O)



Translated by

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