

Koryu

International exchange · Pursuing the acceptance of foreigners

Creating a multicultural town

What is "Multiculturalism"?



Let's go and search for Multiculturalism!!

Multiculturalism is the introduction and acceptance of cultural differences. It is promoting cultural equality while recognizing each person as a **member of society**.



How many "foreigners" are living in Ritto city??

As of February of in the year Heisei 22, the number of registered foreigners was 1,130. That's about 1 in every 57 people.



A Point to Consider!



There are many people with Japanese citizenship and registered foreigners that were born and raised here that feel uncomfortable when speaking Japanese. These people are "culturally connected" to other countries. **It is important that when considering multiculturalism that we make a conscious effort to see people from other countries as people, not as "foreigners".**

The main project of the Ritto International Friendship Association this year is explained in the following points: Through the cooperation of the city, and by means of ingenuity and continuous improvement, we are committed creating a multicultural city.



International Exchange

Beginning with international and cultural events, we can each express our own cultures and create friendships with each other.

This can be done by understanding different cultures.

- * Creating opportunities for understanding (Re-discover Ritto! Bus tour)
- * Food stands at the Ritto Summer festival
- * Meet the world plaza in "Shiga-ga-iimon" Market

Developmental education

"Education to promote developing countries" is education promoting the support of developing countries. Becoming knowledgeable about what we can do about these problems

- * "Opening the Pandora Box of the world" (co-hosted by JICA Osaka international center)

Assisting Foreigners

Providing help with not only with daily life, but also language, culture and other differences some people may be facing.

- * Volunteer based Japanese classroom
- * Japanese Cooking (Traditional candy and lunch)
- * Foreign consultation (with Portuguese translation)

Education of Cultural Understanding

In Japan we are promoting the following themes: cultivating Japanese for international living, "Respecting and understanding Japanese cultures and tradition, Cultural understanding, Foreign language and its cultivation

- * Courses on International understanding
- * Language courses

The various events are not separate, but are related to each other.

Experiencing Different Cultures of the World



The 4th "Pandora's box to meeting the world" Crossing the world with a cup and ball (Mozambique edition)



January 24th at the Chuo Community Center
A lecture put on by cup and ball champion, Kubota Tamotsu, about his time volunteering overseas with a cup and ball. Participants were moved to tears by what he had to say and deeply impressed with his two hour presentation.

Presented by : JICA Osaka International center

The 5th "Pandora's boxes to meeting the world" Arab culture and Jordanian cuisine

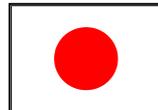


February 14 at the East Haruta Community center
Coming on stage wearing black tribal wear, Yukiko Matsumura surprised everyone with her lecture. It showed the beauty of the Islam culture and Jordanian cuisine. Everyone treasured their name cards which were written in Arabic. Presented by : JICA Osaka international center

"Pandora's boxes to meeting the world" is a workshop put on by the JICA international center in Shiga. In 2009, RIFA and those associated, were able to hold five lectures about different cultures.

Japanese Cooking

A lecture on "Bentos" for foreigners



February 11th at the East Taiho community center
A lecture created after hearing that some foreigners were have a difficult time making "bentos". Yuko Horiike, an international relations member, thought of recipes to create "lunches using low cost, commonly used items." People were very pleased with the event were looking forward to doing it again.

A lecture on international understanding

Living slowly, laughing well: Time in Thailand



March 6th at the East Haruta Community center
Purani Funaoka has a soft atmosphere about her. She works at a massage studio in Ritto. She taught how to speak and write in the Tai language and ended her lecture with a Tai massages.

Catered lectures

A year and a half since coming from Indonesia



February 10th at the Ritto commerce hall
Presented by Dino Morishita who has been coming to the RIFA Japanese language courses. Although nervous due to it being her first time talking in front of a group, Ms. Morishita explained the joys and difficulties she has had since coming to Japan.

*****We are supporting RIFA*****

Sumai Printing Factory

Takara Bundo

Kyohantsu Tourists

Ritto General Commerce

Letters From Namibia



Izumi Yasuhiro Representative from Cesta Básica

In Portuguese, Cesta Basica means ‘a simple basket’.

In Brazil, it means the necessary items to live.

Since the recession last year, we have been supporting those foreigners that have lost their jobs. Website : <http://blog.goo.ne.jp/cestabasica/>

1) About 7.5 percent of my life in the southern hemisphere.

Good afternoon. My name is Izumi Yasuhiro and I live in Nagahama and work in Hikone for the environmental department at Shiga Prefectural University. From November of last year, I have been researching overseas in the republic of Namibia which is located in southern Africa. I am planning to continue my research on rice production until the end of March. In the capital of Windhoek, there is a mix of Europeans and Africans living together but where I work in the northern area of the capital, the majority of people are African.

20 years ago, I was a volunteer for JICA and lived in Paraguay in South America for 2 and a half years. After that trip I still had had some connections with southern hemisphere, and after these last 141 days are complete, I will have become someone who has lived in the southern hemisphere.

2) Our project on “puddles” the size of lake Biwa

A special grain that is particularly strong in arid environments called “pearl millet” is being produced here. But when the rainy season came flooding in neighboring Angola created “Oshana” which when water creates massive pools. This was not normal. This effect produced “puddles” the size of lake Biwa. Although very shallow this caused many water plants to grow rapidly. We were just able to let the livestock roam, but couldn’t do it effectively. A wet environment is the best for this grain, so this is why we started this project a few years ago.

My mission this time was to set measuring equipment for 2.3 hectares is a field of rice and record data from it. Because I heard that the massive flooding, that only occurs once every few decades, completely wiped out the rice fields. I am now preparing seedlings to be planted. Coincidentally, it didn’t rain this year.

Due to a lack of irrigation equipment, I could only

stare at the sky in disgust. If a great drought occurs this year, we have to think that it is because of the recent climate change.

3) In the midst of multiculturalism

I speak English which is the only common language in Namibia but the locals speak in Oshiwambo which I don't understand.

But trying to speak in Portugal and Spain to the people that have worked in Cuba or have gone to Angola is always fun.

I am currently living in a guest house at the University of Namibia and am making Japanese and Western food. I also can make a Brazilian dish called Feijoada which is a kind of stew.

Also, on TV I watch a Brazilian drama called “Da cor do pecado”. Because of all this, I sometimes I forget where I am.

4) The times I feel lost are times of Opportunity.

Until now, perhaps all teachers who used Long-term, overseas training system, from 3 to 6 months, stayed in the Northern hemisphere to their improve skills and language abilities. So it can be said that my choosing to come to Africa to research crops is something of a different color.

But when things didn't go as planned I become more disciplined. So it may seem I went there to train, not to research. I remember when the weather, resources, and laborers where not enough when I was volunteering for JICA.

I have spent my time positively, thinking this an opportunity to train myself, to a lifestyle I am finally becoming used to.



▼ Setting up weather equipment.
Now, to plant the rice...

Information Board

For questions and comments about events and lectures, please contact us by:
Phone: 077-551-0293 (mon~fri 9:00~17:00)
FAX : 077-554-1123
Email : mail@rifa.jp (At any time)

Trash guides (translated) are now being delivered

As of April 1st garbage collection is no longer free
At the city hall, English and Portuguese versions of the guide are now being distributed.

Simple explanations can be downloaded at RIFA's homepage in English, Portuguese and Chinese.

Help is available for those needing a translated version,



About the event for multiculturalism in the year Heisei 22

Here is a basic idea of the events that are being planned next year:

- A guide to daily living (translated)
- A course in Japanese laws
- Events on multiculturalism
- A course on passing the Japanese proficiency test.

For there to be continued success, your continued cooperation is necessary.



The picture show in Korean is almost finished ! ?

An independent lecture on Korean will be held three times a month.

We are currently making the pictures that will be used in the show.

It is a story about Ritto and the old Korean court.

It has taken almost three years and it is almost finished. It will include Taiko and handmade drawings. It is currently available on YouTube. (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6153UAq9yKg>)



↓ A taste of the show

The RIFA English Circle has been created!

Over this past year, the RIFA English group met 23 times. The teacher is David who is from England. He taught in a very fun and energetic way. We can't wait for next year. The circle will be continued for another half of a year.



We are looking for new members!

【Benefits of Membership】

Members receive discounts to lectures and are informed of future events.

【Annual membership fee】

Individual membership 2,000 円
Family membership 3,000 円
Corporate membership 10,000 円

Members

General meetings

- Report 「Koryu」 (4 times a year)
- Expanding the committee
- Webpage maintenance

Cultural exchange meetings

- Managing events on Multiculturalism
- Promoting sister city relationships

Volunteer activities

- Language translation
- Japanese leadership
- Hosting an exchange
- Cultural introduction
- And more

Those thinking about participating, please attend a meeting and participate in the activities!

We are currently looking for foreign participants!

【Spring, Summer, Winter, and Fall】

This is the last edition for this year. Due to the current recession, next year will prove to be difficult. "Koryu" cannot become lethargic. We are always trying to find the least expensive way to maintain and improve our activities.

Please let us know if there are any ways we can improve (M.O)

