

S I F A



T I M E S

News Flash

2, 5

Snapshots from Seoul 3-4

Event info

5

Ao dai to Kanga

6



Seoul

February - March 2021 edition

Introductory English ②

From November 18th to December 23rd, 2020, we held Introductory English ②. We studied the final chapters of the textbook, learned some grammar, practiced speaking and generally improved our English skills. During the fourth class session (December 10th) we used our English in a different setting while making pies and quiches in the Health center kitchen. From our new student to veteran members, everyone in the group contributed to our friendly learning community.

The next time we hold this class, we plan to switch to a new textbook.



Graham-Cracker Houses

On Sunday, December 20th, we held a Graham-Cracker house event for the first time in six years. The venue was the Shikochu Hall first-floor showroom. Participants made candy houses using graham crackers, icing and candy. While we were busy at work, the Shikochu Smile Fest was taking place outside on the grounds; the atmosphere was very festive. Everyone's graham cracker houses were beautiful.

Let's do it again next year!



CIR Presentations

Morning Seminar

On Tuesday, November 24th, I (Daniel, city CIR) addressed the Shikokuchuo Ethics Association during their 6AM morning seminar. I talked about my experiences in Japan (and a few current events). Before the talk, everyone sang the society anthem and read aloud in turns from a 'good work habits' text. It was fascinating (especially given the early hour!) and a pleasure to learn about the group and to meet everyone.



Volunteer Center

On Friday, November 27th, I spoke at the city Volunteer Center's lecture series. The location was the Citizen Exchange building ("lunchbox") second floor. We started with a bit of English and a self introduction, moving into discussions of 'Voluntourism,' 'Inclusive Volunteering,' and profiles of various domestic and (in particular) transnational volunteer experiences. It was very meaningful to get to talk about the volunteers who came from inside and outside Japan to help rebuild the northeastern Japanese town of Ofunato after the catastrophic 2011 tsunami. (I lived in Ofunato for three years.) After the talk, two attendees registered to volunteer at the volunteer center, so I consider the afternoon a success!



Doi Elementary

On Monday, November 30th, I visited Doi elementary school's fifth-grade classroom. After presenting about schools and festivals in the USA Pacific Northwest, we played Color Tag and rock, paper, scissors, split. We used the school gymnasium and students were eager and energetic, so the forty-five minutes went by quickly.



Disaster preparedness

On Saturday, November 28th, the Shikokuchuo Fire and Disaster preparedness Center put on a disaster-preparedness seminar for non-Japanese city residents. We watched a video, practiced navigating a smoke-filled room, used the earthquake machine and practiced chest compression and using an AED. The small numbers meant that each participant got extra practice and instruction.

This seminar only happens once a year, so don't miss the opportunity next time!



English cafe ②

On Sunday, December 6th, we held English café ② on the second floor of the Citizen Exchange building ("lunchbox".) Eighteen participants from five different countries enjoyed great conversations with two different groups for ninety minutes. Many thanks to our discussion leaders, especially our first-timer Kenneth Santos.



Event info

English cafe ③



Come chat in a relaxed atmosphere. English speakers can meet locals, learn about the area, and discuss various topics.

The venue this time will be Shikokuchuo Health center (next to Mishima library, behind city hall.)

Date: Sunday, March 21st (3/21)

Time: 3:00 – 4:30pm

Location: Health center first floor (group screening and lecture room)

Maximum size: twenty participants total

Discussion leaders: non-Japanese city residents including the city CIR, city ALTs, and others

Target English level: Beginner ~ advanced

Fee: ¥200 (Japanese SIFA member,) ¥500 (Japanese general public,) free (non-Japanese)

Sign up by Friday, March 12th

※ The health and safety of our members is our first priority.

This event may be postponed or cancelled if the COVID situation worsens in our city.



International Festival

The 7th Annual Shikochu International Exchange Festival has been postponed until February 2022. We hope to see you then!



The Art of Pie

Out of an abundance of caution, the 'Art of Pie' cooking classes that we had scheduled for January 16th and January 19th have been postponed. We will announce the new dates for the classes here in the newsletter once we select them.



Trivia: World clothing from Ao dai to Kanga

EVERY YEAR THE WORLD CLOTHING BOOTH IS ONE OF THE MOST POPULAR ATTRACTIONS AT THE SHIKOCHU INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL. SINCE THE FESTIVAL HAS BEEN CANCELLED THIS YEAR, WE'LL INTRODUCE A TRADITIONAL GARMENT FROM FOUR COUNTRIES. (CAN YOU RECOGNIZE ANY NATIONAL FLAGS?)

The Ao dai is a Vietnamese traditional garment. "Ao" means 'shirt,' and "dai" means 'long.'

The long upper garment and long pants make a set. Some of the charms of the ao dai include its variety of designs and fabrics, its lightness and ease of movement.

Malaysia is a multicultural country where Malays, Chinese, Indians and many other peoples live together. While every group in Malaysia boasts unique traditional garments, today we'll profile the Baju Kurung, the main garment for Malay women. It's a two-piece outfit consisting of a knee-length, long-sleeved blouse paired with a long skirt. On one hand, the loose, comfortable design reflects Malay women's modesty; on the other, the vivid, floral designs highlight their beauty. Muslim women enjoy the fashion choices available from matching their baju kurungs and hijabs.



Ao dai

In Vietnam ao dai are worn quite often. In addition to important events such as weddings, ao dai are also women's dress code at school, at the bank and at the airport, so you can often see them worn around town.

Recently modern ao dai have become a fashion trend. Some argue that ao dai should become regulation attire for men, as well.

Why not try on an ao dai for yourself?



Baju Kurung



The Saari is the traditional women's garment in Bangladesh. It's a long cloth that you wear around the shoulders and tuck in at the waist.

Men can wear a panjabi (upper body garment) and lungi (for the lower body).



Saari



Panjabi & lungi



Kanga

In eastern Africa's Tanzania and Kenya, one unique local garment is the kanga. This is a rectangular cotton cloth, about the length of a towel, that has bright colorful patterns and a Swahili saying on it. Women wear it wrapped around the waist, over a skirt, to protect other clothes. But it's also used for many other things!



"Sweet but short life"



"Don't overdo it"

Questions? Suggestions? Get in touch!

SIFA staff

(City hall International Affairs section)

Yamakawa, Nino, Cruse

TEL: 0896-28-6014

email: sifa@city.shikokuchuo.ehime.jp

Homepage: www.sifaweb.org



Want to pay your SIFA membership dues

by ATM? Here's how:

pay to 伊予銀行三島支店 普通 1596241

SIFA chair Katsuichi Goda

No fee if you use an Iyo Bank ATM.

Thank you for your support!