

# Sifa



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Malaysia edition

April - May 2021

# News Flash

## NEWS English ③④

On February 4th, 9th, 16th, 18th and 25th (five meetings total) we held NEWS English classes ③ and ④. Our conversation topics included the discovery of the world's smallest reptile (in Madagascar) and problems with Zoom lectures. While the classes were small, our discussions were great.

Intermediate English students, stay tuned for some new classes and events we have planned for later this year!

## CIR School visits

This term I visited four local elementary schools.

On Monday, February 1st I visited the first-grade classroom at Mishima Elementary school.

On Wednesday, February 3rd, I did a presentation and exchange with the entire student body of Toyooka elementary school over the course of three hours.

On Friday, February 26th, I presented to the lower three grades at Minami elementary school.

On Tuesday, March 9th, I presented to the first- and second-graders of Kinsei Daiichi elementary school.

After starting each hour by talking about my hometown, American festivals and schools, the activities varied by age: first-second graders played games using numbers and colors, third-fourth graders played "Simon says" and "Rock, paper, scissors, split," and upper grades did a quiz game.

Each class asked me various questions and participated enthusiastically in the songs and games.

## English café ③

On Sunday, March 21st, we held English café ③ on the first floor of the Health Center. Sixteen people (from five different countries) gathered to enjoy conversation in English.

Among our discussion leaders was Tushar Dwivedi, who just came to Kawano earlier this year.

Thanks to everyone who came to this year's English cafés. I hope that everyone who has come has enjoyed making new connections and friendships. Let's keep it going!



# Event info

## English café ①

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

Date: Sunday, May 25th (05/25/2021)

Time: 3:00pm~ 4:30pm

Place: Citizen Exchange building (“lunchbox,”) Second Floor meeting room

Sign-up limit: Twelve Japanese (no limit for non-Japanese)

Target English level: Beginner ~ advanced (high school age and above)

Fee: free (non-Japanese), ¥300 (Japanese SIFA member,) ¥600 (general Japanese)

Please sign up by Friday, May 15th



## SIFA Annual Meeting

On Saturday, May 15th, we will hold the SIFA Annual Meeting. We will report on the SIFA activities and events of the 2020 Fiscal year and discuss plans for 2021 and beyond. Last year, due to the COVID pandemic, our Meeting took place by mail. This year will be in person, and we look forward to seeing you there!

Date: Saturday, May 15th (05/15/2021)

Time: 2pm (registration begins at 1:30pm)

Place: Shikokochu Hall Sho (Small) Hall

Event for: SIFA members

Cost: Free

Sign up to attend by Friday, April 23rd

## MS MURAKAMI'S IKEBANA CLASS

When I first arrived in Japan, I was excited to try flower arranging. A friend from SIFA introduced me to Murakami Motoko Sensei, a teacher of the Ohara School of Ikebana. After attending my first lesson, I was immediately intrigued. Since classes are held in Motoko-sensei's home, the atmosphere is warm and relaxed. There is no time limit, and students work at their own pace. At first I was often confused since I was a complete beginner with little Japanese ability. However, the satisfaction of creating a nice arrangement after careful thought and hard work encouraged me to try my best. After about a year and a half of study, I have received my Intermediate Degree certificate and am learning more challenging arrangements. My Japanese has greatly improved as well. In addition to instruction about flowers and arrangements, I've learned a lot about the local community and traditional Japanese food, holidays, and culture. Perhaps the most important lesson I've learned from Motoko-sensei is the importance of what she calls 'Heart Communication.' With kindness, hospitality, and a smile, people can communicate and understand each other despite language barriers. I am excited to keep progressing and learning the art of Ikebana.



**-SYDNEY SIMON**

# Welcome Ken and Tushar!



Hi, my name is **Tushar Kant Dwivedi** and I come from India. I've always been fascinated with Japan since I was a child, so it's great to finally be here. I like singing and making songs, woodwork, camping and meeting new people. I also like watching anime and Japanese movies. I hope to be able to explore Japan and get to see some of the lesser-known places. I'm looking forward to making some wonderful memories while I'm here!

初めまして、インド出身の**トウシャール・カント・ドウイベディ**です。子供の頃から日本に興味あり、来日できて嬉しいです。歌、作曲、木工、キャンプや人と知り合うことが好きです。アニメと日本映画も好きです。今後、日本を旅行して有名ではないところも見つけないかと思っています。日本に滞在している間にいい思い出をつくることを楽しみにしています。

みなさん、こんにちは！**上岡健**です。私は岡山県出身ですが、2歳のときにカナダのバンクーバーへ移住しました。平日は地元の公立学校に通い、毎週土曜日は私立の日本人学校に通いました。英語を教えることが私のやりがいです。公立学校で英語を教える機会ができてとても嬉しいです。私の趣味はバスケットボールで、土居中学校の男子バスケット部と練習をしています。ALTの仕事以外の活動に参加することで仕事に興味を持ち、学生との関係を築くのに役立ちます。今後も学校と協力し、健全で友好的な関係を維持していきたいと思っています！

Hello! My name is **Ken Ueda**. I was born in Okayama, Japan but when I was two years old, my family immigrated to Vancouver, Canada. I attended a local public school during the weekdays and a private Japanese school on Saturdays. Although only three subjects (social studies, Japanese and mathematics) were taught at school, we used the same textbooks (sent from the government) that were used in the public schools in Japan.

After graduating with a degree in International business, I returned to Japan and experienced many jobs such as sales, PR, real estate and retail and finally came to the conclusion that teaching English is where my passion lies. I am grateful that I was given this opportunity to teach English at public schools.

Although this is my first time in Ehime, my family roots began in Tokushima. I have visited Shikoku many times and I am happy that I have moved closer to my relatives. I enjoy playing sports especially basketball. I occasionally play ball with the boys' basketball team at Doi JHS. Participating in activities outside of the ALT job keeps the job interesting and helps to build rapport with the students. I hope to continue working with these schools and maintain a healthy, friendly relationship with everyone!



**Any Questions? Get in touch!**

**SIFA staff**

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**Submissions welcome!**

**Send us your suggestions, thoughts, artwork, life updates etc.**

**How has internationalization enriched your life? Let us know.**

**一緒にこのNewsletterを作ろう!**