

KIEF NEWS

English Edition No.73 2013.8



★ TOPIC 1 International Friendship Festival 2013

The 2013 International Friendship Festival has moved to the Shiinoki Cultural Complex!
Come and join the fun!

DATE : October 19th, 2013 (Saturday) and October 20th, 2013 (Sunday)
from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

**LOCATION : Shiinoki Cultural Complex,
Ishikawa Prefecture Ishi-no-Hiroba Plaza and Open Lawn Area**

**FREE
ADMISSION!!**

This year we will hold the 21st International Friendship Festival. Come take part in the festivities put on by international groups in Kanazawa, foreign and Japanese citizens, and us here at KIEF!

Taste delicious flavors from all over the world at our World Gourmet Area food and booths located on the open lawn area, and take a look around at the crafts and items on display at the Ishi-no-Hiroba Plaza in the World Bazaar & Information Area as well. Also, don't miss out on the performances on the main stage featuring music and dance from a wide array of cultures. Additionally, we will have a Hands-on Activities Area with traditional cultural activities, workshops, discussions, and group activity information panels. The area will be divided into the following three categories: a world cultures activity space, a Japanese culture activity space, and an ethnic costumes try-on space. Finally, we will also have a World Cafe Area where volunteers will introduce coffee and tea from various countries.

We hope you will join us and meet many people from different cultures over this two day extravaganza!



Jump in and try joining the Taiko drum workshop on stage!



Festival participants enjoying shodo/
(Japanese calligraphy).



Enjoy the festival's nearly 40 food, drink,
and merchandise booths and meet
people from around the world!

Contact Information

Steering Committee for the International Friendship Festival 2013
1-5-3 Honmachi, Rifare 2nd Floor, Kanazawa 〒920-0853
TEL : 076-233-8000 FAX : 076-220-2527 E-mail : kief@kief.jp

For more details, please check out the Foundation's website. (<http://www2.kief.jp/>)
Please note that dates and events are subject to change.

★ TOPIC 2 CIR FAREWELL MESSAGES

* The JET Program (Japan Exchange and Teaching) invites foreign youth from around the globe to work in Japan. CIRs (Coordinator for International Relations) work for local government authorities and promote grassroots internationalization. The CIR position requires a high level of Japanese ability.

Farewell Message



Robert
(from the US)

Three years ago, I arrived in Kanazawa as a fresh college graduate, excited to return to Japan for the third time after being in Kyoto as a student for a year and visiting Kansai for a few weeks as college student. The experiences I have had over these three years have been some of the best of my life.

As a CIR, I have had the opportunity to work with and meet so many great people. I had colleagues and met delegations from countries around the world. Of course, I can't forget all the Japanese people who have been involved in my life; I have served under two mayors, and have worked with countless members of Kanazawa City Hall. Last, but certainly not least, I have had very supportive co-workers at my workplace, the Kanazawa International Exchange Foundation. It has been both a pleasure and an honor for me to meet everyone I have.

Over the years, I have learned about Kanazawa's traditional crafts, gold leaf, Noh theater, contemporary art, phonographs, and gastronomy, among other subjects. I have also heard many presentations from elementary and junior high school students passionate about teaching others about their city.

In turn, I have also strived to impart my knowledge about the United States to as wide an audience as possible. Since it is impossible for one person to represent a country, especially as large and diverse as the US, I have aimed to give personal anecdotes rather than sweeping generalities, and my most important lesson has been that, whatever is true about the US, so is the opposite. I have also endeavored to stress that although cultural differences exist between countries, in particular ones so far from each other such as the US and Japan, that overall, as human beings, there are far more similarities than differences.

Though in some ways I still feel like I just arrived in Kanazawa, my time as a CIR is coming to an end, and I am moving on to the next step in my life. At my next job, which will be in Japan, I am confident that I will use all the wonderful experiences I have gained in Kanazawa in the future. To the city and people of Kanazawa, thank you so much for the opportunity to be here for a short, but magnificent time.



Tot ziens!



Marlies
(from Belgium)

Two years have flown by since I arrived in Kanazawa in August 2011... two incredible and wonderful years. It is safe to say that my first job will also be the most unforgettable one I'll ever have. From school visits to interpreting at official occasions, from baking waffles to translating correspondence from Kanazawa's sister city Ghent, I have done it all and so much more! Of course certain things came more natural to me than others, but I gave it my all every time.

For my KIEF events, I tried to present a variety of Belgian culture, things that I am proud of and passionate about. Everything from making Christmas wreaths and Valentine chocolates, to an introduction to "my" Dutch language and finally a dance workshop! I hope that through these events I was able to bring Belgium just that little closer. I certainly had a lot of fun organizing things and getting to spend time with so many of you! I wonder what my successor will come up with next...as do you probably.

One more summer in Japan and then I head back to Belgium... with suitcases full of souvenirs and a head full of stories to tell my family and friends at home! Stories about my Kanazawa adventures and about the wonderful people I met here. I hope we can stay in touch, as I am pretty sure I will come visit Kanazawa again in the future. Maybe some of you might come visit Belgium too! Showing you around would be my pleasure although you may not even need me anymore... After all those "Belgium quizzes" Belgium doesn't hold any more secrets from you after all.

I want to finish this final message to you by thanking you all from the bottom of my heart for your kindness, your support, for everything you taught me and for the friendship you've shown me these past two years. You always went above and beyond for me, and I cannot thank you enough. Thanks to you Kanazawa has become a home away from home. Having to leave it all behind makes me a little sad, but this is not a final goodbye. So I leave you with the following words: "Tot ziens!" Which you all know means: "Until we see each other again!"

Veel liefs,

Marlies



Contact Information

Kanazawa International Exchange Foundation



**KANAZAWA
INTERNATIONAL
EXCHANGE
FOUNDATION**

Rifare 2F, 1-5-3 Honmachi, Kanazawa-shi,
920-0853

Phone (076) 220-2522

F A X (076) 220-2527

URL : <http://www2.kief.jp>

E-mail : kief@kief.jp

