

KIEF NEWS

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★ TOPIC 1 Volunteer Work at KIEF

At the Kanazawa International Exchange Foundation, we host a range of projects run by volunteers from all over the world. We would like to introduce just a few of these opportunities and pass on some words from our volunteers. Why don't you try volunteering at KIEF too?

English Cruise Ships Volunteers

Our English-language cruise volunteers respond to inquiries from foreign passengers and crew members when a cruise ship calls at Kanazawa Port. They provide a range of information in English, from how to get to tourist attractions in the city, to information about the Port area. Thanks to their hard work, guests from all over the world are able to enjoy the city of Kanazawa to the fullest.



Words from our volunteers: "People had so many questions; it was like I was on vacation myself!" "It was my first time ever taking part, but—thanks to the help of the Port staff and other volunteers—it was a really fun experience."

Mother and Baby Health

At the Kanazawa City Welfare and Health Center, volunteer interpreters support communication between nurses and foreign residents during infant health checkups and well-baby visits.



Words from our volunteers: "Those who move to Kanazawa from overseas are all a part of the multicultural society Kanazawa City is aiming to foster. I've only lived in Kanazawa for a year, but I'm really grateful for the opportunity to participate in the local community like this. I really hope that people from overseas will feel enriched by the work we do here and become a link in our chain of international exchange."

Cultural Lessons

During these sessions, volunteers introduce aspects of their own culture to Japanese residents. This includes everything from traditional dishes, to facts about the country itself.



One volunteer from Slovakia showed residents how to make halušky and Slovakian apple pie.

Words from our volunteers: "I don't really get much opportunity to tell people about Slovakia, so I was really happy to see so many people interested in my home country. I'm so glad I was able to really connect with the people of Kanazawa through food."

Events for Children

Foreign exchange students in Kanazawa can volunteer to teach elementary school students about the culture and language of their home country. The volunteer in the photo taught children about a range of Chinese children's games.



Words from our volunteers: "This is the first time I've ever volunteered for an event like this so I really wanted to make sure the children enjoyed it. It was a lot of fun!"

★ TOPIC 2 Messages from our Coordinators for International Relations

In April and August this year, Kanazawa welcomed 3 new CIRs. Sadly, we also have to say goodbye to Linda, who is leaving after starting work as a CIR in July, 2 whole years ago! Here are a few words from them all:



● Jimin Lee from Korea

Hello, everyone! My name is Jimin and I'm the new Korean CIR from Daegu.

I majored in Japanese and Tourism Management at university. My hobbies include singing, watching movies and going for walks. The main reason I became a CIR is because I love both

Korea and Japan equally and wanted to work as a bridge between the two cultures. My job as a CIR has really been a fun and fulfilling experience so far.

I didn't arrive here all that long ago, but I'm already getting used to life in Kanazawa and am deeply attached to this city. I'm really glad I was given the opportunity to work here. Kanazawa is a wonderful place for tourism, with all of its history and tradition still intact. Every street is so beautiful that it doesn't matter where you walk – it's always a feast for the eyes. I can't wait to explore more and take even more pictures of Kanazawa. I'll do my best at work too, obviously. I look forward to seeing you all around!



● Yuhui Yang from China

Hello, everyone! I'm the Coordinator for International Relations (CIR) from China, Yang Yuhui. I started working in Kanazawa in April this year. I can hardly believe it's already been almost half a year. This is my first time living in Japan, so I was rather worried at first. Thanks to the kindness of everyone around me (especially those at City

Hall), I got used to life here in no time.

Kanazawa is a wonderful city; steeped in history, embracing of the modern and blessed with rich nature. I'm able to thoroughly enjoy all these aspects of Kanazawa life on my days off by visiting all kinds of historical and contemporary locations of cultural importance.

I have also had amazing and fulfilling opportunities at work, such as Fairtrade tie-dyeing, teaching children about China and making chimaki origami, and I still haven't even participated in that many events yet! I can't wait to share even more of China's charm with Kanazawa and share even more of Kanazawa's charm with China.

I can't wait to see what Kanazawa life brings from now on!



● Ellie Boocock from England

Hello, everyone. I'm Ellie, one of the new Coordinators for International Relations.

I was born and raised in Yorkshire, England, also known for its proud history and abundant countryside. For this reason, even though I've only been in Kanazawa for a very short time, it

already feels like home. I can't wait to find out everything Kanazawa has to offer.

My walk to work past Kenrokuen and the 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art is representative of everything amazing about Kanazawa. The dedication to preserving history and investing in both the present and the future is really moving. I also really love that there are so many different libraries and hope I can read in all of them!

Even though I've been nervous, everyone has been kind and supportive every step of the way. I can't wait to gain more and more confidence and experience everything life here has to offer.



● Linda Liu from America

Hello, everyone! I'm Linda, the (former) American CIR. I can't believe my time as a CIR is already at an end. I still remember getting off the bullet train and passing through Tsuzumi-mon Gate for the first time as if it was yesterday. I was a bundle of nerves and anxiety—What if I can't

communicate with my coworkers? What if I burn my apartment down?—but I needn't have worried.

Over the last two years, I have made so many unforgettable memories and met so many wonderful people. I got to spend two Christmases making cookies and cupcakes with Kanazawa families; share my favorite picture books with kids; connect with monks, Kutani ware artisans, and volunteers from all walks of life; and spread my love of English and American culture through crafts and games. I can't say enough how thankful I am to everyone at KIEF and city hall for supporting, encouraging, and indulging me. I don't know what awaits me but wish me luck! So long and thanks for all the fish!

Contact Information

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