

KIEF NEWS

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★ TOPIC 1 *New Initiatives for a Multicultural Society*

At the Kanazawa International Exchange Foundation (KIEF), we run many projects for foreign residents, with the goal of creating a multicultural society in Kanazawa.

Local Japanese Classroom “KIEF Japanese Café”

The number of foreign residents in Kanazawa is growing year by year, meaning more and more people are struggling to learn Japanese and make connections with Japanese citizens of Kanazawa. For this reason, we started the KIEF Japanese Café, where people can learn Japanese through conversation!

In preparation for the KIEF Japanese Café, training sessions were held on the 4th floor of Rifare on the themes of “Creating a Multicultural Community through Japanese Language Classes” (lecturer: Minato Ishizu, IFIE) and “Easy Japanese” (lecturer: Ishikawa Japanese Language Instructors' Association). 32 Japanese language volunteers attended.

65 foreign residents participated in the first group of sessions from May to July. They gave self-introductions and talked about food, health, language and life in their home countries. The participants enjoyed being able to chat with a range of people in easy Japanese and to learn about the differences in lifestyle around the world.

We hope to encourage the creation of a multicultural community in Kanazawa through our Japanese language classes.



Mommy and Babies Class for Foreign Mothers in Kanazawa ♪

At KIEF, we have been working with Kanazawa City Health and Welfare Centers to dispatch volunteer interpreters who can facilitate communication between foreign residents receiving infant health checkups and public health nurses. However, we have found that some foreign parents have few opportunities to discuss their child-raising concerns with people nearby or interact with other foreign parents and children due to the Japanese language barrier. Therefore, we started the “Mommy and Babies Class for Foreign Mothers in Kanazawa”, where foreign parents and their children can discuss their worries and concerns about child-rearing in Japan, make friends and share information through exchanges with other foreign parents and their children.



The first session was held on Friday, June 28 at the Motomachi Welfare and Health Center and was attended by five groups of foreign parents and their children. In the first half of the class, workers from the NPO “Sakurakko” introduced fun physical activities for parents and children alike. In the second half, English and Vietnamese volunteer interpreters recommended places to go to exchange information about raising children in Japan. Public health nurses provided information on Family Support Centers and Community Health Centers for Child Raising.

★ TOPIC 2 Support for Children in Foreign Communities “KIEF Children’s Japanese Language Plaza”

At KIEF, we have one-on-one Japanese support for children with foreign roots in the form of the KIEF Children’s Japanese Language Plaza. This takes place on Sunday mornings at the KIEF Plaza, on the second floor of the Rifare building. Volunteers base their support on each child’s individual needs, aiming to create a space where they feel at home. Currently, 14 children and 35 volunteers take part in the Language Plaza. If you know anyone who would like to take part, please introduce us to them!

“Japanese Language Plaza” Student Statistics by School (2024/7/21)

• Elementary: 4 (1-1 st Year, 1-4 th Year, 1- 5 th Year and 1-6 th Year)
• Middle: 4 (1-1 st Year, 2- 2 nd Year, 2-3 rd Year)
• High: 6 (3-1 st Year, 2-2 nd Year, 1-Other)

Where they are from : China, Russia, Nepal, Thailand, Philippines, Myanmar, etc



There are also many non-study based exchanges related to the Japanese Language Plaza. On March 24, 6 learners, their families and 10 volunteers gathered to play games and listen to the children talk about their countries and their specialties. On July 21, 18 learners, their families and 16 volunteers gathered to make uchiwa (Japanese fans) and eat shaved ice. It was the perfect summer event.

★ TOPIC 3 Why Don’t You Join One of Our Multicultural Events?

At KIEF, there are lots of opportunities for Japanese residents of Kanazawa to chat to foreign residents. We would love it if you could join one of our events to make new friends from around the world or to introduce your home culture as a volunteer instructor!

April 28, Sunday – Learn About Foreign Cultures in English: UK and the Philippines

This event consisted of two lectures entirely in English! Foreign residents of Ishikawa, Ellie, a CIR from the UK, and Adrian, a Filipino research student, introduced their home countries to a Japanese audience. The event was held at the KIEF Plaza on the 2nd floor of the Rifare building with 24 participants. The lecturers spoke about their country’s food and tourist attractions. The participants enjoyed learning about the unique cultures of both countries, including world-famous British literature and the 195 different languages used in the Philippines.



May 11, Saturday - Explore the World as a Family! ~ Let’s Make Brazilian Sweets~

This was the first session of the “Explore the World as a Family!” program, which aims to increase parents’ interest in different cultures through hands-on experience of world cuisines, crafts, languages, and games. During the event, 11 groups of elementary school students and their parents learned from Ms. Betty Ikemoto, a native of Brazil, about “Brigadeiro,” a sweet made of condensed milk and cocoa powder, often eaten on children’s birthdays. Ms. Betty also gave a fun introduction to Brazilian food culture and elementary school life in Brazil, making the distant country feel as close as home.



July 20, Saturday - International Student Meetup

This is an event where young people can casually chat and get to know people from all around the world. This is the third time the Meetup was held. 8 Japanese high school students, 7 Japanese university students, and 8 international students met at the KIEF Plaza on the 2nd floor of Rifare. After an ice-breaking game, the participants were divided into small groups based on their preferred language (Japanese or English) and had three 20-minute talks with different members, so that they were able to talk to as many people as possible. It was a day of fun and laughter and everyone seemed to really experience the joy of international exchange.



International Friendship Festival 2024 in Kanazawa

Every year, international exchange groups gather in Kanazawa to celebrate the “International Friendship Festival in Kanazawa”, the largest international event in the Hokuriku region. There’s something for everyone, with performances and dancing from all around the world on the World Stage, food from a range of different countries at the World Gourmet, trinkets and fairtrade merchandise in the World Bazaar and a range of cultural experience workshops! We can’t wait to see you there!

- **Date:** October 12 (Sat.) and 13 (Sun.), 2024, 10:00-15:00
- **Venue:** Kanazawa City Hall Square
- **Admission:** Free / rain or shine
- **Inquiries:** International Friendship Festival 2024 in Kanazawa Committee (Kanazawa International Exchange Foundation) 076-220-2522



Contact Information

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