In February 2017 I began working as a Coordinator for International Relations in Date City. Four years ago I came to Japan as an Assistant Language Teacher. I studied Japanese in high school, I was both surprised and attracted to the indirect expressions in Japanese, and from that point on, took an avid interest in the Japanese language. Possibly influenced by the fact that the ninety percent of the classmates in my surrounding environment were of foreign origin, I began to think that I, too, would like to live in another country. I heard about the nuclear accident from the news, but after looking at the available information, decided that it would be safe here.

Fukushima’s mountains are incredibly beautiful. I very much enjoy mountain climbing. At work, I have guided foreign residents up Mount Ryozen. I’ve climbed 30 mountains in Fukushima Prefecture thus far. My favourite mountains are Mount Ryozen and Megamiyama. Next year I’d like to climb Mount Iide.

I study Japanese by reading books and watching dramas. At the moment, I quite enjoy watching “Midnight Diner”. At work I enjoy interacting with the locals. I also teach English and sing songs like “Twinkle Twinkle Little Star” with preschool and kindergarten aged children. I think that being able to experience foreign languages at a young age is incredibly important. Seeing the smiles of the children is something I look forward to.
The Matsuri in Iizaka

On Saturday, October 7th, the Iizaka Rotary Club held the “27th Annual The Matsuri in Iizaka” alongside the Iizaka Kenka Matsuri. Despite the light drizzle that descended upon them, approximately ninety foreign residents, including study abroad students and English teachers gathered to participate in a rare mikoshi carrying experience. After gathering at the Hachiman shrine, they paraded around the town while carrying the mikoshi, or portable shrine. Afterwards, the participants were able to heal their cold and weary bodies in Anabara Onsen’s famous Yoshikawaya hotel hot springs. Participants had many good things to say about the experience such as “I’m so glad I was able to participate in a Japanese tradition” and “the mikoshi was unexpectedly heavy” among others.

Opening of Motomiya City’s “English Garden”

The “English Garden” that Prince William visited in order to pray for Fukushima’s revitalization has been opened. An opening ceremony was held on November 4th, where British Ambassador Paul Madden, former House of Commons member Lady Borwick, and others with ties to England, came together to celebrate the symbol of friendship that bridges England and Japan. Messages from Crown Prince Charles and Prince William were received and read at the opening ceremony which was rife with a celebratory mood.

Malaysian Junior High School Students Visit Nakajima Village

On October 19th, for five days, Junior High School students from Inanam Secondary School in Sabah State in Malaysia were accompanied by their principal and Japanese teacher on a visit to Nakajima Village. The students were able to deepen their cultural understanding of each other by participating in home stay’s with the villagers, apple picking, painting darumas, and dressing in kimonos. The students of Nakajima Junior High School’s “Chinese Bellflower Festival” included a welcome ceremony, a slideshow from their field trip to Malaysia, and a koto performance.

Multilingual information on the Revitalization effort from “Fukushima Restoration Station”

On Fukushima Prefectures official revitalization related information portal site “Fukushima Restoration Station” hosts the latest data on food safety efforts and the activities of those supporting Fukushima in 9 different languages (Japanese, English, Mandarin, Korean, German, French, Italian, Spanish, and Portuguese).

Fukushima Restoration Station  http://www.pref.fukushima.lg.jp/site/portal-english/

FIA Information

Support Desk for Foreign Residents

Here at the FIA, we provide consultation services for foreigners in English, Chinese, Korean, Tagalog, and Portuguese.

- **English, Chinese, Japanese Consultation**
  Every Tuesday to Saturday from 9:00 to 17:15

- **Korean, Tagalog, Portuguese Consultation**
  Thursday from 10:00 to 14:00
  ※Appointment necessary for 4th and 5th Thursdays.

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