

NAPIA

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Welcome

NAPIA is a newsletter issued by Nagasaki International Association for foreign residents.

Introduction to the Nagasaki International Association

We promote international exchange by acting as a bridge between Nagasaki and a variety of countries from all over the world. We provide a wide range of information on life in Nagasaki and opportunities for international exchange. This edition of NAPIA contains more detailed information on specific activities and events that we hold. We are open every week,

Monday to Friday, from 9:00 am to 5:30 pm.

Our lobby contains many books, pamphlets and other materials that are free to access, and we also regularly hold Japanese culture classes.



Event/Notice



International Cooperation on your Doorstep! Calendar Fair

The seventh "Calendar and Notebook Recycle Fair & Calendars of the World Display and Sale", hosted by the international exchange organization "NGO BOAT", was held from the 18th to the 20th January. This year's proceedings were donated to a mother-and-child center in Siem Reap, Cambodia which is supported by the Angkor Children's Hospital. Thank you for your cooperation.

Inaugural event: Kobara in Nagayo

Held on Saturday February 2nd at the gymnasium of Nagayo Kita Elementary School.

We were once again delighted to welcome Mr. Youhei Tabuchi, former Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteer, to teach us how to play Kobara. Kobara is a tag game, with extra rules added to turn it into a sport, which is popular across Madagascar. This time we also had special guests playing with us from Congo, Kenya, Myanmar (Burma), the USA, China and South Korea. In addition to the first prize, there was also a prize for the best supporters, so our players worked hard not only on their own performance but also on cheering on other teams from the sidelines.

Next time, why not join us?



Saikai Bridge – Spring Whirlpools Festival

Dates: Saturday 16th March – Sunday 14th April

Venue: around Saikai Bridge Park

You can view the whirlpools while enjoying a picnic amongst the flowers in the park, or directly from above by looking through the glass floor of the pedestrian walkway of the New Saikai Bridge. The area is also known for its spectacular views over the Hario Strait, one of the three fastest-flowing straits in Japan.

The whirlpools are at their biggest in Spring, at the same time as the cherry blossoms bloom, so this festival is a superb opportunity to enjoy both the power of the swirling water and the beauty of the flowers.

The 13th Saikai Rice Bowl Fair

Date & Time: Saturday 9th February – Sunday 14th April

Venue: Selected restaurants in Saikai City (and some in Sasebo City).

18 restaurants around Saikai are offering original *donburi*, rice-bowl dishes, made with seafood, meat and vegetables from the Saikai area. This year, sweet *donburi* are also on the menu! The rice bowl is filled not with rice and meat, but with locally-grown fruit, handmade custard pudding, ice cream and more.

What's more, you can receive a special perk at participating restaurants by bringing your own chopsticks! (NB. disposable chopsticks not accepted)



Michi-no-eki Saikai Roadside Station: Mikan Dome

Why not enjoy some fresh juice made from Saikai City's speciality *mikan* oranges? ♪

At the Mikan Dome, customers who have bought Saikai's seasonal speciality, *mikan* oranges, can use the *mikan* squeezing machines to make their own fresh juice! Simply insert the oranges into the machine, peel and all, and the juice is ready in an instant. As you would expect from just-squeezed juice, the taste is extremely fresh. You can enjoy *mikan* oranges at their very best ♪

The roadside station also sells other speciality products including sweets made from the oranges and hand-made gelato (Italian ice cream) – the vegetable flavours are the best!



Nanatsugama Limestone Caves

In the Nanatsugama area, we can find innumerable limestone caves of various sizes, characterized by calcareous (limy) sandstone which contains a huge amount of fossilized calcareous algae, and marine strata laid down 35 million years ago in the Tertiary period. The Nanatsugama Limestone Caves were nationally designated as a natural monument on 16th December, 1936. The caverns are rare even among the world's limestone caves, as the rock is newer and of a different quality to regular limestone often found in such caves. The air inside the caves is always on the move and the temperature is 15°C year-round.

Inside the caves, it is dark and very quiet. You might even meet a bat! I saw some small bats hanging from the ceiling ♪



~Job-hunting in Japan~

This month we interview Taejun Jeon from South Korea, who is a student of the Department of Naval Architecture, Faculty of Engineering, Nagasaki Institute of Applied Science, about job-hunting in Japan. Taejun has already found a job in Japan for after graduation. He is currently a business-support volunteer for Nagasaki International Association, and helps out on reception.



(NIA = interviewer, TJ = Taejun Jeon)

NIA: Why did you decide to look for work in Japan rather than in your home country, South Korea?

TJ: I wanted to put into practice here in Japan, what I had learned in Japan. Also, I wanted to try living in Japan.

NIA: I guess you really like living here, then?

TJ: Yes, very much so! It's much less stressful than living in South Korea.

NIA: How did you prepare for job-hunting in Japan?

TJ: I revised for the "Synthetic Personality Inventory" aptitude test and worked hard on my naval architecture studies. I also studied Japanese.

NIA: I suppose that many students from overseas must struggle with speaking Japanese. How was it for you?

TJ: It was tough for me too, particularly having to write essays in Japanese. I got my Japanese friends to help me brush up on my Japanese, by looking over my essays for example. I also went to Japanese classes. In fact, I still go! Also, volunteering here at the Nagasaki International Association has been very useful. I get to speak Japanese with working adults, of course, and I also found that by speaking to older generations, and people with experience, I can discover opinions and ways of thinking that are different from those held by twenty-somethings.

NIA: I see! It's important to step outside the world of the university campus. Can you tell us about job interviews? What sorts of things did you take care over?

TJ: I am careful of my manners from the moment I step into the interview room. We had classes at university on interview strategies. It's important to speak loudly and with confidence.

NIA: At interviews, were there any questions that were specific to your being an international student?

TJ: Yes, there were. For example, I was asked "Won't you return to your home country?", to which I replied that I wanted to work in Japan and start a family here.

NIA: How many companies did you interview for in total?

TJ: 2 companies. Actually, my first-choice company suddenly called off the recruitment exam in the middle of the selection process, for some reason. My professor and I were both really shocked. Why did they even start recruiting?, we wondered.

NIA: How did you get over that setback?

TJ: Due to my visa, if I had failed the next recruitment exam I would have had to return home. So I just had to go for it! I decided to do my best.

NIA: How was the interview for your second choice company?

TJ: My interview happened to take place exactly during the company's lunch break. There was a relaxed atmosphere in the office, so I was able to face the interview without feeling nervous.

NIA: Do you have any advice for international students hoping to find work in Japan?

TJ: The advantage of being an international student is that we have a different culture, set of values and way of thinking to Japanese students. So, when job-hunting, you need to make the most of what sets you apart from Japanese students. I heard that 30% of international students who find work in Japan return home after 3 to 5 years. This means that the remaining 70% are still working hard in Japan. I intend to be part of that 70%, and to be positive and do my absolute best.

NIA: Lastly, please tell us your dream for the future.

TJ: My dream is to see a boat that I have built sailing on the ocean.

NIA: Good luck! We hope your dream will come true! And best wishes for your new job. Thank you for talking to us today.

Home-stay & Home-visit in Nagasaki

To all foreign exchange students living in Nagasaki: wouldn't you like to experience Japanese home-life? You can spend time with a family, cooking together, talking about one another's lives and so on, widening the circle of international exchange♪ Why not give it a try? For more information, and to apply, please contact the university to which you belong.

- One-day home stay (if you want more days, please ask)
- Home visit: no overnight stay



Amy's favourite places in Nagasaki City



When I first came to Nagasaki as an exchange student I visited the important historical sites such as the Atomic Bomb Museum and Peace Park, and saw the famous lantern festival. Having lived here now for over two years, I have come to enjoy Nagasaki's lesser-known charms, and I enjoy seeking out new ones. Here are a few of my recommendations:

Places

I love the outdoors, walking and good views, so top of my list is **Kazagashira**, a large hill in Nagasaki City. After a steep climb up from Teramachi, through the old graveyard, you finally emerge at the top to an amazing view of the city. Then you can visit the statue of Ryoma and (literally) step into his shoes before climbing down to the river through the winding staircases and cat-filled pathways that are typical of Nagasaki. Start your climb between the Daionji and Koutaiji temples in Teramachi (7-4 Ginyamachi).

Heading out of town a little, pick up a Saruku map from tourist information and take the Nagasaki mainline to **Hizenkoga**. This little town between Nagasaki and Isahaya is home to beautiful gardens with amazing trees 'trained' into shape using weights and other techniques. You can wander through the gardens following the map and sometimes see the gardeners at work.



Moving indoors, my current favourite place to spend a chilly evening or a lazy afternoon is **Cinema Central** at 5-9 Yorozyuamachi – an old cinema which shows classics like *West Side Story* as well as the latest Hollywood and foreign films. Before or after the film you can enjoy a blackberry soda (with real blackberries!) and French toast at the Dico Appartement café upstairs.

Food and Drink

Here is a list of a few of my favourite places to eat in Nagasaki City:

★The **World Foods Restaurant** at the *Chikyukan* (6-25 Higashiyamatemachi) – people from around the world visit and cook dishes from their country. Check the website at <http://www.h3.dion.ne.jp/~chikyuj/frame.htm> for the chefs' schedule.

★**Inokuchiya** (4-11 Sakaemachi) – a beautiful old sake shop, behind which lies a gorgeous *izakaya* (Japanese-style pub).

★**Little Angels** (5-36 Yorozyuamachi) – a patisserie run by a French lady, selling delicious fruit tarts.

★**Agio** (5-26 Yorozyuamachi) – a fancy cocktail bar hidden behind a bookshelf!

★**Chanoma** (11-10 Motofunamachi) – instead of convenience-store *onigiri* (rice ball), why not treat yourself to a delicious *onigiri* made fresh before your eyes with your choice of filling?



How I fell in love with Nagasaki ~Nagasaki through the eyes of CIR Zhu~

It is almost a year since I came to Nagasaki. The time has flown by! It's nearly the end of my appointment here – soon I will return to China.

I'm so sad to leave! I dearly wish I could stay longer here in Nagasaki. I really love Nagasaki!

The memory of the evening when I first arrived in Nagasaki is still fresh in my mind.

I had come from living in Shanghai, and the Nagasaki evening seemed so very quiet! I said to myself, perhaps there is another part of the city which is a little livelier... but I quickly realized that Nagasaki is, in fact, just a really tranquil place.

However, in the midst of all this quietness, Nagasaki is overflowing with tenderness, politeness and orderliness. I saw this, and I felt the true spirit of Nagasaki, and came to love it.

Here in Nagasaki, when I ask the way, it's not unusual for someone to lead me all the way to my destination. I have enjoyed making *miso* and *mochi* with local people. I have even been invited by Nagasaki people into their home to eat traditional New Year food, *o-sechi ryori*. And of course, here at the Nagasaki International Association, I have had the chance to try my hand at various Japanese traditions. I have nothing but good memories!

More than anything else, I feel that as I have gradually come to understand the essence of Nagasaki, I have gained a great asset. I hope to treasure this understanding, and even after I return to China, I wish to continue to have a close relationship with Nagasaki and its people.

See you again! *Zai jian!*



Looking back over my traineeship in Nagasaki

by Rika Iwase, Overseas Technical Trainee



I was born and grew up in a Japanese community in Bolivia, so I can speak everyday Spanish and Japanese, but since coming to Nagasaki, part of my training has been in using Japanese! I've struggled every day to use the various forms of honorific, modest and polite language correctly, as well as other intricacies of the language. For example, when Japanese people decline or refuse something, they often use the word "kekkou". This word actually has many different meanings from 'splendid' to 'sufficient', and different usages, even being used to mean 'no thank you'. For example, "mou kekkou desu", literally means "it's sufficient already", and is used to say "I don't need that". "Kekkou tabemashita", literally "I ate sufficiently", means "I ate a large amount". And "sono kakkou de kite mo kekkou desu", literally "It's sufficient to come dressed like that", means it is alright to dress as you are.

Every week I submitted a written research report, and every 3 months I wrote an article for the Nagasaki International Association newsletter. My supervisor checked and corrected them all. During my traineeship, my Japanese has got better, and in particular, I think I have become better at writing in Japanese.

I made a lot of mistakes while answering telephone calls. There were times when I was nervous and forgot to ask for the name, company name and phone number of the caller, or when I put the receiver down for a moment without pressing the hold button, and accidentally cut off the call. It was also hard to pick up the phone quickly when it rang. When I got used to things a little more, my colleagues praised me for my progress ☺ I guess the saying is true: "failure is a stepping stone to success". I got to learn how important it is to take care over one's speech and actions when talking on the phone or greeting visitors.

During my time here, I have also attended Japanese culture classes. I had the chance to try my hand at the koto (a string instrument), tea ceremony, traditional dance, origami, calligraphy and flower-pressing. This was my first experience of tea ceremony and koto, which were very exciting! There are many delicate and complex procedures involved in tea ceremony, from the preparation of the tea, to the ways of holding the tea bowl, to the way of drinking. As for the koto, I am not very good at playing musical instruments, but I love music, so I enjoyed learning the koto too. I am very happy to have had the opportunity to play koto so often! When I go home, I want to tell people about what I learned in the culture classes.

If you are interested in learning about Japanese culture, why not visit and try out some of the classes?

I have had a wealth of new experiences while living in Nagasaki. Nagasaki is a wonderful place. This city is my second home! Over these 7 months I have been fortunate enough to meet the warmest people. I will treasure this experience for my whole life!



Japanese Culture Classes

To everyone from my placement at Nagasaki International Association: thank you for everything!



★ Participants wanted for the 5th "Chatting in Nagasaki" Japanese Speech Contest for non-native speakers.

Our annual Japanese Speech Contest, which is usually held in November, has moved to June. We invite non-Japanese people working or studying in Nagasaki to present a speech in Japanese on their thoughts and feelings about life here. For more detailed information, please visit our homepage. We await your applications!

Time & Date: 2pm – 5.30pm, Saturday 22nd June 2013

Venue: Nagasaki University of Foreign Studies Hall

How to Apply: Please submit the following

- ① application form (downloaded from our homepage)
- ② a tape or CD with a recording of your speech (before your speech, please state your name, school/workplace, nationality and the title of your speech)
- ③ written draft of your speech.

Deadline: 12 noon on Monday 20th May

Please submit applications by mail or in person to: Nagasaki International Association

2-11 Dejima-machi, Nagasaki City 850-0862

If you have any comments or suggestions about NAPIA, Please let me know

Nagasaki International Association

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