

Kyoto Prefectural International Center



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Special Story on page 3:

In this issue, we lead you to Kyotango region and invite you to discover the beauty of Amanohashidate, the serenity of Ine town and the silk crepe industry of Tango.

Activity report 1 | • November 12th 2017 at KPIC

Lecture for cross-cultural understanding: Scotland and Edinburgh

15 people attended the KPIC lecture for cross-cultural understanding to listen to Maia Hall talking about Scotland and Edinburgh. Maia is currently Coordinator for International Relations (CIR) in Kyoto but has lived in many places like Germany, Japan, Hong Kong and Scotland. For about an hour, Maia introduced us to the distinctive features of the city of Edinburgh where she studied at the university. Then, she explained about what people of Scotland think about U.K. leaving EU (Brexit) and how she personally felt about this topic. The participants were very curious and asked a lot of questions during the next hour about things such as

folklore, differences between living in Kyoto and Edinburgh or the future of

Scotland outside the European Union.



Fieldtrip in Nantan : love at first sight for the locals and Miyama!

A day trip to Miyama in Nantan, 1 hour north of Kyoto city was held for international students living in Kyoto prefecture. Forty participants from 15 different countries gathered to enjoy a day full of deep interaction with the locals. In total, more than 90 people attended this event and exchanged together.

Despite the cold morning weather, everyone started with a zazen experience and a thoughtful and inspirational story from the Rinshoji Temple' s head priest. After a delicious lunch with a vegetarian option, we engaged in craft activities like fan painting thanks to the guidance of Japanese students from Kyoto University of Arts and Craft.

Then, international students and locals together enjoyed a taiko drum performance by the local team, Ashyura, based in Sonobe. Participants could even try themselves and play together a song written for the occasion. At the end of the day, we went to Miyama to see

the very typical thatched houses of the village. We all wished we had more time to stay !

It was a day full of cultural discoveries and experience, and many bonds between international and local residents were tied.



Asu no Kyoto: great success of the quiz rally organized by KPIC !

As usual, KPIC was very active during the Asu no Kyoto event which takes place every year on November 23rd at the Kyoto Prefectural Botanical Garden.

This year, the day was interrupted by a few showers but overall, the weather was sunny and the temperature good enough to spend the all day outside.

About 1400 people visited the booth where staff from KPIC, Coordinators of International Relations (CIR) and Kyoto Prefecture Friendship Ambassadors talked about their country or introduced their actions to foster internationalization of Kyoto Prefecture.

What most aroused people's curiosity was the quiz rally which consisted of a dozen questions on the theme of international cooperation or about internationalization. NPO and organizations like JICA, Terra Renaissance, JIPPO, KOCA and CPI cooperated with KPIC by explaining their activity and giving the answers for the quiz.

Not only famous among children, but also among adults, the lottery was a moment of

joy for some and sometime disappointment for others. Asu no Kyoto 2017 was very special as everyone could get free goods! The people who won could take back with them handmade goods or foods.

What about you? Could you find the correct answer of the three following questions? If not, you are more than welcome to our Center or check our website: <https://www.kpic.or.jp/english/>

Q1. What is the proportion of foreign residents in Kyoto Prefecture?

- A One in 50 people
- B One in 100 people
- C One in 150 people

Q2. How many local Japanese classes are in Kyoto Prefecture?

- A About 20
- B About 40
- C About 80

Q3. What is the name of the Japanese language that is used so that international residents can understand it easily?

- A Teinei Nihongo
- B Yasashii Nihongo
- C Muzukashii Nihongo



Special Story "A journey to Kyotango with Kyoto Prefecture Friendship Ambassadors"

Our journey started with a great meal, as good days usually begin and with the specialty of Kyotango : the bara-zushi (roasted mackerel fish cake, shiitake mushroom, and rolled egg are scattered onto sushi rice).

The first day, we were introduced to Tango chirimen or silk crepe. It is a form of textile made of flat-woven silk. While there are kind of chirimen across Japan, Tango chirimen is particularly renowned for being a high quality silk fabric and having a soft texture. Recently, it is more and more used, not only for high quality kimono and wrapping cloth, but also in hand-bags, purses, pouches, and other Japanese style accessories. We visited a factory and the Chirimen Museum to know more about the process and the history.

At night, we met and talked for more than 2 hours with the members of the Komaneko Project. As silkworm were eaten by mice, residents of Tango used cats to protect their business. Now, some people try to revitalize the area by organizing events or craft activities where foreign people are welcomed. We tried to give them some useful advice!

In the morning of the second day, we went straight to Amanohashidate famous for its pine covered sandbar. From the Kasamatsu observatory you can perfectly see it. Viewed from the mountains, it looks like a pathway between heaven and earth. Our guide said it rather looks like a dragon when you bend over looking between your legs! The scene is ranked among Japan's three most scenic views so if you're living in Kyoto city, you know what to do next weekend!

Near Amanohashidate, there is a small town called Ine. The unique aspect of this remoted area is its typical fisherman's houses: "funaya". Literally meaning "boat houses", these traditional waterfront buildings contain garages for boats on their first floors and residential space on the upper floors. Today there are over 200 funaya remaining along the bay. A small number of them now serve as guest houses where visitors can stay the night and experience the funaya first-hand.

We finished our journey by meeting locals of Yosano town to help them attracting more tourists and let people know about Tango chirimen. The meeting took place in the beautiful Old House of the Bito Family, a raw-silk crepe merchant's mansion. I definitely recommend having a look inside! We then go back late to Kyoto city, eating some local delicious home-made senbei in the bus.



For more information about local international exchange associations:

Ine Town International exchange association
<https://www.facebook.com/iices.net/>

Miyazu City International exchange association
0772-45-1604

Kyotango City International exchange association
<https://www.facebook.com/kyotangokia/>
0772-69-0120



INFORMATION FROM KPIC

1 At KPIC, we recruit a native person who can translate from Japanese to Filipino.

- Requirements**
- Japanese skills must be equivalent to the JLPT 2 or higher
 - To have a permanent access to your email

If you are interested, please see the following web page for more details.

<https://www.kpic.or.jp/about/recruit.html>

Kyoto Prefecture CIRs common blog

<http://tabunkakyoto.wordpress.com/>



For more information, please refer to

Web <http://www.kpic.or.jp/english/>

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COUNSELING SERVICES for Kyoto's International Residents

1 Support Desk for International Students

Our counseling staff will give you information and advice for daily life, preparation for jobs, contacts with graduates working in Japan, etc. This service is free of charge.

- **Consultation days and hours** : Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday, 10:00-17:00
- **Languages** : Interpretation in English, Chinese, Korean, Filipino, Spanish and Portuguese available. Reservation required for interpretation.
- **Email** : counsel@kpic.or.jp ■ **TEL** : 075-342-0088

2 Visa consultation

An expert can respond to your visa-related questions including those about changing or renewing your status of residence. Please make a reservation at least one week in advance by Web form or Fax.

- Date** : Fourth Sunday of every month, 13:00-16:00 (30 minutes/person)
- Fee** : Free of charge.
- Details** : <http://www.kpic.or.jp/english/residents/consul.html>
- <http://www.kpic.or.jp/english/residents/consul.html>

COUNSELING Q&A for Kyoto's International Residents



Q

I will soon graduate from university. Could you tell me the procedures to change to a visa which enables me to work?

A

To switch from a university student visa to a working visa, in principle you need to contact the competent authorities of where you live. Check the Regional Immigration Bureau or the branch offices of your area.

If you want to start working just after graduation, it is usually necessary to start the visa procedures as early as possible.

Because it takes time for the immigration bureau to investigate your application, consult as soon as you get a job offer from a company to know what documents you will need to provide and then start the procedures early.

If there is no problem, you may get a notification before graduating. However, you will need to submit your certificate of graduation to complete the procedure.

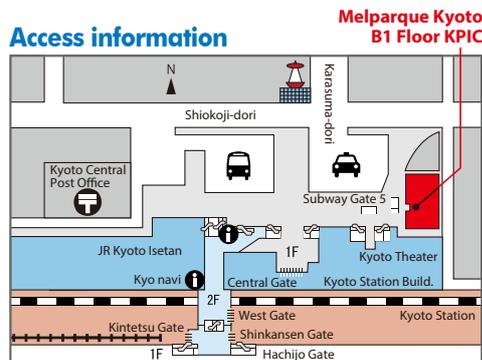
Living Info by Email

We send email messages full of useful living information twice a month. Please send your choice of language (English, Chinese, Filipino, Japanese or Japanese in the hiragana syllabary) to:

living-e@kpic.or.jp



Access information



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Open hours : 10:00-18:00

Closed : 2nd and 4th Tuesday of every month, national holidays, 12/29-1/3



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