



Kyoto Prefectural International Center

NEWS

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Special Story on page 3: THE LIFE OF AN ARTIST IN VILLA KUJOYAMA

In this edition, discover the impressions of Simon Gauchet, a French artist who came to live in Villa Kujoyama – a prestigious French cultural and artistic residency located in Kyoto which is welcoming every year some of the most talented French artists.

Activity report 1 • Fukuchiyama 25th and 26th August

FIELDTRIP IN KYOTO PREFECTURE'S FUKUCHIYAMA CITY: INTERCULTURAL EXCHANGE BETWEEN LOCALS AND EXCHANGE STUDENTS.

At the initiative of the Kyoto Prefectural International Center, a group of ten exchange students (from seven different countries) residing in Kyoto City enjoyed a 2 day/1 night trip to Fukuchiyama City's countryside.

After a bus journey of around 2h30 from Kyoto station on the first day, the students reached Fukuchiyama City by 10 in the morning. They were warmly welcomed by locals, who organized a traditional taiko drum concert for their arrivals. From there, self-introductions from both locals (including young children, university students and volunteers) and exchange students were reciprocated. Even though at first everyone felt nervous and shy, the many cultural activities shared together during the weekend brought them to open up to one another and eventually friendships blossomed!

On the first day they experienced cooking temaki-sushi, picking fresh vegetables in a field, making a camp fire and relaxing in an outside traditional goemon bath. On the second day, the "doronko dodgeball" (dodgeball played in water) game was a true success as it became the most popular activity of the entire fieldtrip according to the students' surveys. As always, sport unites! Right after, everyone had a unique lunch



time with "flowing somen", a kind of noodle running through bamboo that you need to catch with your chopsticks before the noodles are taken away by water. If you want to eat you have to earn your food!

Overall the students spent an amazing time getting acquainted with the locals, eating local food, and enjoying the fresh air of the countryside! It was a rare opportunity for them to learn about the Japanese countryside way of life and its customs. Be sure to check when the next field trip is so as not to miss it!

Participants' voice

The time I spent in Fukuchiyama will always be fresh in my memories. On the field trip I was happy to discover that we were joined by some wonderful children of Minamikayano Children's Center, and I really got attached to them.

The best part of the trip was when everybody joined the dodgeball game! It was followed by a fun time in the river and then a goemon bath which I really enjoyed. Altogether it was an experience that I will cherish for the rest of my life. (Deb Soumya)

NEW COORDINATOR FOR INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS (CIR) FOR KYOTO PREFECTURAL INTERNATIONAL CENTER (KPIC)



Hello, nice to meet you! My name is Sandra Arazi, and I'm the new Coordinator for International Relations (CIR) at the Kyoto Prefectural International Center and Kyoto Prefecture International Affairs Division. I'm really

excited for my new life in Kyoto City and will do my best to promote further understanding, communication and interaction between Japanese and international people.

First of all, let me introduce myself. I come from the beautiful capital city of Paris in France. I suppose everyone has already heard of Paris, but did you know that it is the sister city of Kyoto? As for me, when I first heard this, I felt a strong bond with Kyoto and its people! I sincerely hope I will be able to help deepen the international relationships between our two cities and countries from now on.

For as long as I can remember, I have always been fond of Japan and its culture. That's why I studied Japanese language and civilization at INALCO University for three years in Paris. Then, through a recommendation of the Embassy of Japan in France, I got a MEXT scholarship to

study abroad at Keio University for one year in the amazing city of Tokyo. It was indeed a great experience and I feel lucky and grateful for the opportunity that was given to me by the Japanese Government. Now I have the feeling that it is my turn to offer my services to Japan in return. After going back to France, I decided to broaden my knowledge by studying Cultural Mediation and Tourism at Sorbonne Nouvelle Paris III University.

As for my past work experience, I have done several internships these past few years: in France at the Japan National Tourism Organization (JNTO), at the tourism agency HIS, and in Japan (Tokyo) at an event company called Japan Promotion. Furthermore, I have been working for two consecutive years as a presenter and interpreter on stage at a major Japanese event called Japan Expo that goes on every year in France.

In search of a fulfilling job, I applied to the JET Programme for which I was lucky enough to be selected. And here I am, freshly arrived in my new life in Kyoto. My work will mainly consist of translating, interpreting, giving lectures and furthering international relations between France and Japan. Please don't hesitate to contact me for work-related requests or if you need any information at: sandra@kpic.or.jp
Cheers!

Activity report 2 • Nantan 21st October

NANTANIAN KIDS' CARNIVAL : SPREADING MULTICULTURAL AWARENESS FROM CHILDHOOD.

On the 21st of October, the International Relations Association of Nantan city organized an international event for children called "Nantanian Kids' Carnival 2018". The carnival is organized every year with the help of international volunteers. This time seven countries were represented at the event including England, China, Canada, Peru, Japan, Myanmar and France.

I was asked to represent France's booth and take care of preparing French games to introduce to the children. They really enjoyed

the game "chamboule tout" (ball throwing game) usually played at French festivals known as "kermesse" at junior schools. Other booths introduced games and cultural peculiarities of their countries – for example at the Canadian booth you could try eating maple syrup with crackers and at the Japanese booth you could experience calligraphy and origami!

The JICA booth was also really popular with the children as they could borrow and put on traditional outfits from all over the world.

There was even a fashion show at the end! It is important for future generations to be aware of the rest of the world and get familiar with foreign cultures, and this kind of event is truly necessary to keep this awareness possible.
Sandra Arazi (CIR)



Special Story

THE LIFE OF AN ARTIST IN VILLA KUJOYAMA



Exactly one month ago now, I remember standing in front of the huge entranceway of Villa Kujoyama. Built into Kyoto's Higashiyama mountain, it rose in front of me with its tall walls and imposing concrete architecture.

I was very impressed by the place but more than anything, I felt really excited to have managed to get this far, to this new home I had longed for so much.

After dropping off my luggage, I eventually met my "roommates": the other residents of the Villa. They include the writer, Olivia Rosenthal, but also

Martine Rey, a lacquerware artist, Nash who is a Krump dancer, Sandrine Rozier, a textile and costume designer, and last but not least, Lina Hengten, a plastics artist. We all have our own research projects and sometimes work in collaboration with a Japanese artist.

Each one of us is hosted in a studio, all of them very similar. As for me, I work as a theater actor and director in France. Here, I am carrying out a project with a Noh theater actor of the Kongo family, whose name is Tatsushige Udaka. We are almost the same age. I first met him ten years ago, here in Kyoto. At that time he had begun to teach me bits and pieces of his millenary theater and made me promise to come back one day to transmit "my theater". I'm here, I'm back, I have kept my promise. And so, we work on our transmission rituals, be they between actors or between generations.

A few days before my arrival, just a moment before meeting Tatsushige again, I was afraid I would not recognize him. However, as soon as our eyes met, I knew that nothing had changed. We met again, and it was as if only a few days had passed since we last parted ways. From that moment on, we have been working up to three or four days a week at Villa Kujoyama. At every rehearsal, I transmit to him a piece of my theater and he, his, to me. From this exchange, we are putting together a show that will be out next year in France.

During the first weeks of residency, there was a kind of anxiety that one would not manage to penetrate this foreign culture and instead be kept outside of it. The fear that maybe nothing would occur, or that nothing would happen. The idealized Japan was confronted with reality and this made every certainty we had crumble – all we had planned in advance. However, time has brought with it some changes. Now, the days pass by, never being the same, and we understand that we have to let go, that our endless astonishment is one of the most beautiful tools to make the unknown happen. Our Japanese and French cultures are so different, and yet are so irresistibly attracted to one another.

Since coming here, I am noticing all these sheer coincidences, those obvious encounters that make Japan, in my opinion, the "country of coincidences". Sometimes you need to give it a little push, but often I get the feeling that a hidden something is leading us on an invisible road – something that is so meaningful, provided we take a moment to glance back behind ourselves.

Simon Gauchet



INFORMATION FROM KPIC

NATURAL DISASTERS IN JAPAN: ARE YOU SUFFICIENTLY PREPARED ?

When it comes to natural disasters, Japan is indeed on the top of the unlucky list. The country has to endure many kinds of disasters year round: earthquakes, typhoons, tsunamis, storms and floods.

Every year around June-October, Japan is subject to typhoons. On September 4, 2018, the very strong typhoon, Jebi, struck the country and caused disastrous damage especially in the Kansai area. However, the population is well-trained against these natural disasters and knows how to react when faced with them. Why is that? Japan has put much effort into communicating preventative actions. In fact, many Japanese organizations provide up-to-date information before, during and after a disaster occurs. However, as an expat residing in Japan, if your Japanese language ability is not near native level, understanding the natural disaster vocabulary used during these critical times may be difficult for you as the Japanese terms employed are very specific, and given the sad reality that there are limited translations offered in different languages. That's why we recommend international residents in Japan to memorize the most important words related to natural disasters for their own safety in case of emergency.

We have established a vocabulary list of useful emergency alerts with their definitions, so be sure to check it and familiarize yourself with it!

避難準備 (Hinan Junbi) Evacuation Preparation / Emergency level 1

Prepare to evacuate at any time, bringing your most important belongings with you.

避難勧告 (Hinan Kankoku) Evacuation Advisory / Emergency level 2

As it is dangerous to stay where you are, go to an evacuation center in your area.

避難指示 (Hinan Shiji) Evacuation Order / Emergency level 3

This order is given when a disaster is about to strike or has already struck. As it is very dangerous to stay where you are, go to an evacuation center immediately. This instruction is stronger than Evacuation Advisory.

避難所 (Hinan Jo) Evacuation Site

This is the place where you have to evacuate in case of emergency. (e.g.: schools, gymnasiums and public halls). To find the closest one to you check out this app that can be downloaded on your phone: Japan Shelter Guide

Apple: <https://itunes.apple.com/jp/app/japan-shelter-guide/id446063625?l=en&mt=8>

Google Play: https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=jp.hinanjo.guide&hl=en_US

Kyoto Prefecture CIRs common blog

<http://tabunkakyoito.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 can 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 through the online or by 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>

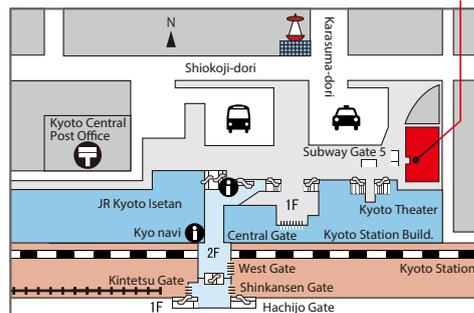
Living Info by Email

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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