

The Ritto International Friendship Association, RIFA which was established on May 1, 1999 greets their 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary in this year.

Two goals for the memorial project , the citizen participating event and the memorial booklet had been set based on the questionnaires for the RIFA members in last year. The preparation work was being done mainly by 16 members of the project committee. On November 9, the event was held successfully under cooperation with many persons.

Citizen participating event : [ Multicultural Exchange Square/Shiga-Ga-Iimon-Ichi]

Date/time : November 9/10:30-15:30

Place : Symbol Square of SAKIRA

Contents : World Foods Square and attraction

Voluntary staffs : 86 persons including 50 RIFA members and 14 foreign residents

Guests : Shoichi Kunimatsu, Mayer of Ritto City

Yoza Nakamura, Deputy Mayer of Ritto City

Yoshitsugu Kunimatsu, Chairperson of Shiga International Association

7 mission members from Joyo City in Kanan Province of China



### Mini-International Understanding Class : [ Do you know Hungary?]



- Let's talk with Judit San, foreign student from Hungary-

Date/time : November 17/ 10:00-11:30

Place : Community Center Daiho-Higashi

Participants : 15 persons including 2 babies and 1 foreign resident

The class is a first one in which RIFA would like even young mothers to participate together with babies or kids easily. The mini-class is so designed as to talk each other sitting in a circle in Japanese room.

Our hope is to increase the opportunities so that the personal relationship between RIFA members and foreign residents would extend.



### Welcome Reception for Mission from Joyo City & RIFA Member's Meeting

Date/Time : November 6/ 18:00-

Place : Ataka Hanten

Participants : 42 persons including 7 mission members, 5 foreign residents and 29 RIFA members  
7 mission members from Joyo City of China, the friendship city of Ritto visited for 7 days from November 5 to 11. During these 7 days, they also visited at Daiho-Higashi Elementary School, Biwako Environmental Business Messa and etc. At the welcome reception that was held on the second day of their visit, all participants were swelled by dancing Goshu- Ondo. They also enjoyed a chorus of Shiki-No-Uta and a song of Kitaguni-No-Haru in Chinese.

### Reports on other activities

<<RIFA own activities>>

- English class(first term) : 10 times in total from September 3 to November 5
- Simulation test for Japanese ability test on November 22

<< Participation in non-RIFA activities>>

- 2008 Ohmi- Multicultural Exchange Festival at Kusatsu Elementary School on October 5
- Multicultural Kids Square at Piazza-Hall on December 7

## Multicultural Exchange Square/Shiga-Ga-Iimon-Ichi

Who joined? How about situation of that days?  
A voice of staffs and visitors in the event was collected.



### << Introduction of voluntary staff's activities >>

As a first, we would like to emphasize that the foreign residents made a remarkable efforts from the preparation phase to serve the boastful foods of their home country.

At that day, many cooperators listed below jointed the event as a voluntary staff.

- RIFA members including students of Korean Class, Chinese Class, English Class and Japanese Teaching Class, and their friends
- Members from Multicultural Symbiosis Support Center(SHIPS), SALSA Dancing Class and high school students
- Members of Shiga-Ga-Iimon-Ichi of that the event was held under the joint auspices

They worked so hard as the staffs for a booth operation, a master of attraction, a guide for performers of attraction. They also took charge of such works as distribution of lunch box, photography, accounting, preparation of event place at the day before the event and after the event. We would very much appreciate their contribution.

We were delighted to see that the visitors in the neighborhood of Ritto City recognized an existence of RIFA. However, all project committee members desired that the voluntary staffs would meet and have a friendship with many other staffs.

### <<Voluntary staff in charge of Peruvian booth and reporting >>

7 booths were opened at the World Foods Square. Peruvian, Brazilian, Korean, Chinese, Taiwanese, Vietnamese and Japanese foods were arranged on the booths. It stopped a light raining starting from the morning and a number of visitors was increasing. They were very interested in the foods of foreign country that were new for them and looked at the booths even before opening. Just before starting the tasting, many visitors gathered at the Japanese booth where a Mochi-Tsuki operation was finished. Due to relatively low temperature, hot meals became a favorite with visitors. They were in a long line just at opening of the booth. I intended to pass through the Peruvian booth which was serving potato based food so called "Papa a la huancaína". But, I tried to bark courageously because I was encouraged by such voice from the visitor, who ate that food, that "the food was very tasty, please advise me the recipe." Against our concern, the food was sold out firstly. Brazilian foods was sold out simultaneously.

In the past, my student cooked and brought such Peruvian food. My surprise was that a homely taste of the food depended on cooks. The food seemed a boiled potato but very tasty due to spicy sauce. I felt a taste was South American one as expected. Brazilian food was more simple, sandwiching a sausage in a bread. The hot sausage was delicious and pickles harmonized very much with salsa.

I wanted to eat the foods of other countries, but gave up. The visitors were in a long line in front of the booths and the foods were sold out when my turn came around. The visitors eating the foods seemed very happy. I guessed that was because the food of every countries would be delicious. That day was beneficial a little for me. I was under such feelings as on short trip to the country that I had never visited, when eating the food of that country. (MOCO)

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Believe that all voluntary staffs were so busy. Thanks very much for their contribution!!



**<<Voluntary staff in charge of Japanese booth>>**

My surprise was that the booth could be operated very smoothly even if all staffs met for the first time. Through the event, I recognized that the personal relationship was really essential not only within the company but also the society. (H.T)

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I was very impressed by the teamwork of staffs who met for the first time. Great job!!!

**<< Voluntary staff in charge of Vietnamese booth>>**

I could not eat any foods. Our booth was too busy and 100 Yen was so cheap !!!

The visitors were in a line with no time for tasting Vietnamese soap( with sweat), and I could not see what type of food was served at other booths(with tear). I worked so hard, but very joyfully.(H.N)

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The sale staff's work of that booth might be hardest. We would truly appreciate their efforts.

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Pictures of International Exchange Festival and Shiga fair

~ Check pictures at homepage too~

**1**



**2**



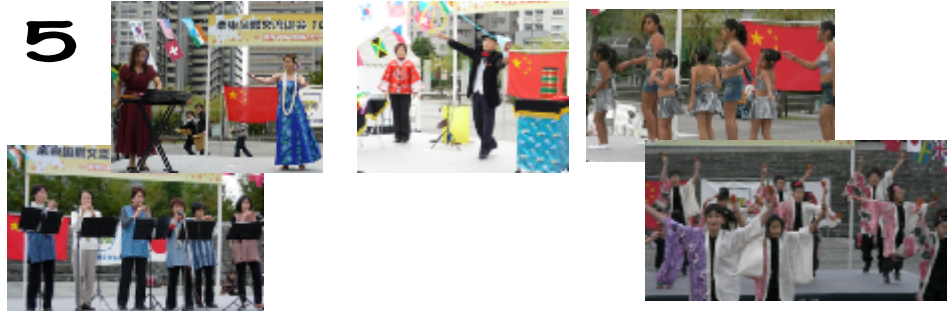
**3**



**4**



**5**



**6**

1. The day before festival, staff prepared the site by putting up tents, tables. We were hoping for a nice sunny day for the festival !
2. It was very cold! But there was no sign of rain. On this day, we began preparations at 8:00 in the morning.
3. The ceremony began at 10:30, 7 mission members from China attended the event too.
4. Fun pounding steamed rice into moti. Children enjoyed it with high school boys and girls.
5. There were so many beautiful shows, we couldn't take our eyes off of them.
6. At 12:00, representations for each country began selling traditional food items. There was a long line , the food sold out in only 20 minutes !

soldout only 20 min!



## 【MENU】

Each serving costs 100 yen. Each stand prepared 100 servings.

Peru: Papa a la huancaína (using potatoes) tasty !

Brazil: Hot dog & Chorizo with salsa sauce, spicy !

Korea: Crispy Tteokbokki, this is a difficult dish to make it crispy !

China: Boiled Gyoza(dumplings) home-made dough !

Taiwan: Timpano, wrapped by bamboo leaf, special recipe!

Vietnam: Pho(with beef) special warm cuisine!

Japan: Zenzai, warm winter dish is this !

Mail from RIFA

Ms. Miki Tomisaki ( volunteer translation staff, suggested meeting for mother/child.)

### I joined “What is Hungary?” meeting.

Ms. Judit introduced us to the history, location, foods(including famous sweets), architecture of Hungary. She used presentation slides that made it easy for us to understand her.

There were many questions about life, economy, and welfare in Hungary. She brought a Hungarian flag to share with us.

She enjoys learning in Japan, but misses Hungarian food, especially food cooked in an oven. I would like to sample traditional Hungarian dish with sour cream, sounds so tasty !

After the meeting was over, there were still people with lots of questions for her.

I hope we have more chances for such international exchanges.

ユディットです。  
刺身もわさびも、  
なんでも大好き☆



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**Notice**

These are planned programs, further information is available at RIFA homepage and the paper “Ritto”.

**32nd International Exchange salon  
~`rice cook &lunch`~**

Date: 8<sup>th</sup> February Sunday 10:00~14:00

Place: community center Daiho Nisi

Capacity: 40 people

Fee:

500yen for Rifa members and registered foreigners

700yen for non-members

Contents: popular event “Tastes of 4 Countries” including real recipe Timaki, and other rice dishes

**International Understanding class  
“Brazil emigration Century Anniversary”**

~♥ We want to know more ♥~

Date: 24<sup>th</sup> January Saturday

4:00~15:30

Place: Chuou kouminkan

Capacity : 20people

Fee: 200yen for members and registered foreigners, 500yen for non-members

Content: Let's talk with Japanese-Brazilians living in Shiga

**Japanese teachers training class**

~elementary school and junior high schools in Ritto, What is teaching Japanese ?

Date: 14<sup>th</sup> March Saturday 14:00~15:30

Place: Chuo Kouminkan

Capacity: 15people

Fee: free for members and the foreign registered  
500yen for others

Content: lecture from a teacher who teaches Japanese at elementary, junior high schools.

Please include your name and address in your application.

Check out the RIFA homepage , you can see more information and the Japanese class blog !

<http://www.rifa.jp/>



Inquiry and application for events at  
TEL 077-551-0293 FAX 077-554-1123  
Mail address , mail@rifa.jp

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## Collection of RIFA Members

For the persons who are interested in an international exchange,  
please consider to join in RIFA membership.

### **Special favor**

Discount of fee for  
participating in RIFA events and  
classes  
Deliver “Koryu” and event guidance

### **Member's fee**

Individual member    2,000 yen  
Family member        5,000yen  
Corporate member    20,000yen

### **Committee**

#### **【General Affair & Public Relations】**

Publish Koryu quarterly  
PR for RIFA to expand membership  
Prepare/manage homepage

#### **【Cultural Exchange】**

Plan/implement events and classes  
Exchange with sister/friendship cities

#### **【10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Project (in 2007 and 008)】**

Plan/implement memorial events

### **RIFA Voluntary Activities**

Let's join RIFA committees and voluntary activities if you want to be active enjoyably  
and more positively, and rise RIFA.

Major area of activities are as follows.

Interpretation and translation  
Teaching of Japanese  
Home-stay, home-visit  
Introduction of culture  
Others



## **Shunkashutou( seasons)**

It's nice joining RIFA, my name is Toshiyuki Yamamoto.  
I'm surprised to know many people in Ritto have become RIFA members.  
This year is 10<sup>th</sup> year Anniversary of Establishment RIFA, we tried various events.  
Actually I apologize my absence for International Exchange Square Good things in Shiga.  
December has many events , forget-the-year parties, Christmas parties, rice pounding.  
I love December , it makes us happy and warm.  
This year's resolution is to make the paper Koryu better, makes members happy.  
Douzo Yorosikuonegaisimasu !

