

Koryu

Ritto International Friendship Association

January,2010 (Vol. 40)
RIFA 〒520-3088
1-13-33 Anyoji, Ritto City, Shiga Prefecture
Home Page : <http://www.rifa.jp/>
Mail Address : mail@rifa.jp
TEL : 077-551-0293
FAX : 077-554-1123

33TH CULTURAL EXCHANGE SALON

Held by: The Cultural Exchange committee

“SEKAI TO DEAU KORYU HIROBA IN SHIGA GA IIMONN ICHI”

Location: The International Square In Shiga Ga iimon Ichi.
The fair is held on every second Sunday.
Please Join this friendly Fair produced by the citizens of Ritto.



The RIFA cultural exchange committee also performed, singing beautiful songs.



SALSA

Latin dance, dance in pairs. It's good for health and beauty.



CAPOEIRA

This is an art of self-defense originated in Brazil. It looks like dancing. After they performed, they kept practicing.



SAMBA

This is from Brazil. Carnival in Rio is famous. It takes 2 hours to make up and get dressed. Look at this gorgeous beauty. It seemed as if this dance had more photos taken than any other performance.



TRIVIA TO PROMOTE INTERNATIONAL AWARENESS !

“ There are about 1200 registered foreigners living in Ritto.”
True or False ?(program directed by the students of Ryukoku University)

Date: 8th November 2009
Staff: about 50 people
Place: Symbol square in the Ritto Culture Hall Sakira
Corporate sponsor: NPO corporation Monozukuri-net
Corporate supporter: JICA Osaka International Center

...The RIFA members got together !...

There were many RIFA members, including members from the Cultural exchange committee, the public relations committee, the Korean class, the English class, and the Japanese class.



Members of the Korean class sold Tjimi at their stand. They all wore matching yellow T-shirts that day. Customers enjoyed the soft and chewy texture of Tjimi.

This event was held last year in Shiga-Ga iimon fair at the same place on 8th November. Every event was so successful.

There were many kinds of foods at the stands; Empanada and Inka Coke (Peru), Chorizo (Brazil), Tacos (Mexico), Tjimi (Korea), Kebab-sandwich (Turkey), Beef noodles and Geppeicake (Taiwan), Pitapan (Andes), Pad Thai noodles (Thailand).

It was rare for us to taste many kinds of cuisines. Many people waited in line to try them.

At the event square, Ruben & Jaqeline team performed their Salsa dance, they were so cool in all black dresses. Members showed children how to dance, they bashfully tried the dances themselves. (Reported by K.N)

This year, registered foreigners living in Ritto and other cities helped the stands. It seemed this was a good opportunity for us. There were 12 stands in all.

4TH CROSS CULTURAL EXCHANGE SALON (sponsored by Cultural Exchange Committee)

Date : November 29, 2009

Participants : 30 persons including 10 foreign residents

Place : Within Ritto City



DISCOVERY BUS TOUR IN RITTO

The cross cultural exchange salon is one of usual RIFA programs. This time, RIFA programmed the bus tour to feel the histories of Ritto, to learn the old life style and to enjoy the natural view by visiting the cultural properties within the city. Total 30 persons including Indonesian, Peruvian, Chinese, Vietnamese participated in. The tour course was;

Ritto Historical Museum/Ex-Nakajima's House--→Konze Village-→

Konsho Temple/Batoh Kannon Doh(see whole view of city)-→Ex-originator of Wachuusan

The tour started at ten o'clock from the city hall and first visited ex-Nakajima's House within the site of Ritto Historical Museum. At the house, the tour participants experienced a boiling of rice at the kitchen furnace, "Kamado" in Japanese and a cooking of rice ball, "Onigiri" in Japanese. The house was constructed at the beginning of Meiji era. A inside of house was dim due to no lights. The participants could experience real "old life style. They took actions for preparation after being instructed by Ohnishi San, the curator of museum, regarding the histories of house and how to boil a rice. It was very hard even to wash a rice because it's volume to be boiled was 4 Sho, equivalent to 5.6kg in weight.

A air-blowing to the furnace was operated jointly by patient and child !! Father was often encouraged by child !! Some sound could be heard through the air-blow pipe being put on the wooden cover on the rice-boiling pot. A sound of "Goro-Goro" would indicate that a rice boiling operation was still on going, while a sound of " Shuwa" would be a signal of finishing the operation. Was a tasty boiled rice would ready for eating ?The participants completed a rice boiling operation for around one hour and then cooked a rice ball.They ate it with the baked sweet potato at Konze Village.



Drug machine at ex-originator of Wachuusan



At Konsho-Temple

The tour next visited Konsho Temple and Bato Kannon Do where the participants were satisfied with the colored leaves and the whole view of the city. Then, they moved to ex-originator of Wachuusan.

In the past, ex-originator of Wachuusan manufactured and sold the drug named " Wachuusan" that would cured a stomachache of Ieyasu Tokugawa, 1st Shougun of Edo era. Also, it was served as a key resting place at the route of Tokaido.

After being explained by Yazaemon Ohsumi San, 24th head of family, they observed his house and garden designated by the nation as important cultural property.

Through the bus Tour, the participants recognized that it would be a first step of international understanding not only to see the fixed properties left by the men of old time, but also to learn the history and the culture close to ours. That day was so valuable for the participants.



Air-blowing was operated together with father



Is rice boiling complete?(Check sound through air-blow pipe)

Sai Koh San(Tomomi Nakamura in Japanese name)

-Would like to introduce the participant being met at the bus tour-

She came to Japan from China in 1984. She joined to the bus tour in order to take a picture to be exhibited to Ritto Photo Contest. She was brought up such home environment that all of family members were related to movie production. For example, Sai Rubin San, her father was the producer for the movie entitled " Last Emperor".A picture she took was such as we could overlooked usually, but we were really surprised by her color utilization. We would like you to see her colored photos.



Whole view of the city from Batoh Kannon Do. Pink coat, purple coat and green bag are brightened.



Mexican Christmas Party

Date: Sat 19th Dec 2009
Participants: 111 people
Venue: Grand Hall in Chuo-kominkan Hall
Co-host: JICA Osaka & Hello Kids

The long-awaited day of the Mexican Christmas Party finally came. The children were waiting for the event to start with their eyes shining. The Party began with the activity "Checking Your AMIGO Level!" to find out how much they knew about Mexico. They learned about Mexican food and life by doing quizzes. Suddenly a couple wearing Mexican ethnic clothes appeared on the stage to demonstrate Mexican dance. They were actually Yanira from Mexico and Taishi Kunino, the chairperson of Hello Kids. Surprisingly, they had paired up only the day before the event. Yanira and Santa taught the children how to introduce themselves and greet people in Spanish.

In Lotelia (Mexican bingo game), the children looked happy with presents from all over the world. We were impressed by the taste of Tacos (This was the first time we've eaten them). A lot of participants wanted to have second helpings. The serving of Tacos was a really successful element of the event. And finally, what the children were waiting for was breaking Pinata (a ball packed with snacks hanging up from the ceiling). They really enjoyed splitting it with sticks. Though they found it difficult to break apart the Pinata swaying above their heads, they were amply rewarded when it burst open and they gathered up the treats. The day was a precious experience for children who do not know about other countries' cultures. (interview by MOCO)

【Feedback From Children】

- Lotelia was fun. I made friends with new people. Putting beans as markers to fill the pictures in the grid was interesting. This is different from bingo in Japan.
- Mexican clothes were very cute.
- I enjoyed Tacos. I want to cook them at home.



▲ Kids Breaking Pinata



▲ Ritto Boys & Girls Choirs Singing



▲ dough rolling-out machine, kneading maize flour to make dough for tortilla.



▲ Santa & dancing couple

A Little Episode about Pinana in Mexico



▲ Pinata sold in Mexico



Pinata is an essential part of Christmas and birthday parties for children. As Christmas approaches, many Pinata appear on the streets & markets.

The star shape with its round base and 7 cones is often used for Christmas. As Catholicism is a major religion here, 7 cones represent 7 human weaknesses including acquisitiveness and arrogance. I hear they break Pinata to overcome them and get snacks as rewards if they can. (laugh)

Nowadays Pinata carries a strong sense of a colourful decoration, so animal/animation character-shaped Pinata is more often used in parties. But they break it down anyway? Umm, that sounds awful, because it looks attractive. I, one of the Japanese, have a mixed feeling because I'm not used to it. (N.M)

Lecture On Demand

Held on Wed 2nd Dec 2009 at Ritto Commerce & Industry Hall as a regular meeting of Ritto Rotary Club

Minatsu Uotani (JICA Osaka) recounted her personal experience in Kenya. She has worked with RIFA for Meet the World Jewel Box. Her story of Kenya, a far-off country made me feel as if I was in Kenya: "President Obama's grandma can only speak a tribal language Luo, but she enjoys watching her grandson on TV." "I was impressed by how beautifully giraffes run." Many people involuntarily nodded when she said, "I learned how luxurious it is to have a relaxed, non-hectic time. Values in developed countries are not absolute."



Message Board

For enquires about events & courses, contact
Phone : 077-551-0293 (9.00-17.00, Mon-Fri)
Fax : 077-554-1123
Mail : mail@rifa.jp

 The 4th Meet the World Jewel Box

Kendama Meet the World



【Date/Hrs】 Sun 24th Jan 10.00-12.00
【Venue】 Grand Hall in Chuo-kominkan Hall
【Lecturer】 Mr. Tamotsu Kubo
【Contents】 Learning about Mozambican thru
Kendama (cup and ball)
Exhibiting the champion's prowess!
【Limited to】 40 (parents/kids preferred)

* You are allowed to observe the event. Contact us first for details.

 The 5th Meet the World Jewel Box

Arab Cultures /Jordanian Food



【Date/Hrs】 Sun 14th Feb 10.00-15.00
【Venue】 Community Centre Haruta-higashi
Already reached the quota. Thank you.

Free Consultation for Foreign Residents

Every Wednesday afternoon, a living consultation service is provided for foreign residents to go through City Office procedures. (Portuguese interpreters available.) More foreign residents also visit the Office for consultation about tax, work and life insurance. In addition, many complain about their needy circumstances, and it takes 30min-1.5hrs sometimes. Some have requested that waste disposal rules be translated into Portuguese. "Japanese/Portuguese Dialogues," a useful collection for simple greetings and communications in residents association activities, are available at the Executive Office. For a copy, contact the Office.

Recently, more foreign residents have been coming to the City Office to seek assistance for goods. RIFA refers those people to Shiga Support Network for Foreign Residents, which says that it is currently short of goods and donations. Rice/ flour/ instant noodles/ canned food/ cooking oil/ sugar/ powder milk/ disposable diapers are especially wanted. We would really appreciate your cooperation.

Members Wanted!

【Membership Privilege】

Reduced fees for RIFA events & courses, Sending *Koryu* & events info

【Annual Fees】

Individual Members	¥2,000
Family Members	¥3,000
Corporate Members	¥10,000

For those who have not paid 2009 fees: Your contributions matter.

Committees

General Affairs/PR Committee
• Issuing *Koryu* quarterly
• Recruiting/ PR campaigns
• Building/Managing our HP
Cultural Exchange Committee
• Planning/Managing events
• Exchanging with Sister Cities

Volunteer Activities

- Interpreters/Translators
- Japanese teachers
- Home-stay/visit helpers
- Culture specialists
- Others

Be active and have fun. If you want to help RIFA, →join us in Committees/Volunteer Activities♪♪

Foreign residents' members wanted. Tell your friends about us.

【Four Seasons】

新(New) was selected as the kanji character of 2009. A new non-LDP government was born for the first time in 16 years. 18-year-old Ryo Ishikawa, a professional golfer, became the youngest new prizewinner in Japan. This is, however, the year of a mix of expectation and anxiety because of the new flu epidemic. I believe this marks the beginning of the new era. I hope we can take substantial new actions in whether it is politics, economy or international exchange. (K.K)

