



KCC Newsletter

AUGUST, 2022

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Cross-cultural Teatime "Kingdom of the Sky, Kingdom of Lesotho" (6/18)

We invited two diplomats from the Embassy of the Kingdom of Lesotho in Japan. They spoke about the unique history, nature, and tourism of the Kingdom of Lesotho, which is an independent country surrounded by the Republic of South Africa.

They accepted the request to give a lecture in Kashiwa when we had visited them as part of the embassy visit tour organized by Minato Ward in January 2020. After two postponements due to the new corona virus, we were able to hold the event.

It is a 19-hour flight from Japan to Maseru, the capital of Lesotho via Hong Kong and Johannesburg. The land area of Lesotho is slightly smaller than that of Kyushu, and its population is approximately 2 million. The official languages are Sesotho and English, and Christianity is widely practiced. In 1966, the country became an independent constitutional monarchy as a member of the British Commonwealth.

Its main trading partners are South Africa, the U.S., and Belgium, and its main trade products are clothing (GAP, LEVI'S, etc.) and rough diamonds. In recent years, the country has been focusing on tourism, and there is a ski resort because of its high altitude.

The video introducing the Kingdom of Lesotho showed scenes of its capital, Maseru; the path to the founding of the nation; nature, including Sesabathebe National Park; fashion, including the Basotho Blanket; weddings; traditional Rebollo education system, which is different from typical schooling; dawn and sunset views; and dance and music. We were able to see a variety of aspects of this country.

In the Q&A session, many questions were asked about such topics as the Rebollo education system in the video, the relationship with South Africa, the recent situation on corona infections, the education system, and mobile phone penetration. The event provided a good opportunity for Kashiwa citizens to learn about the Kingdom of Lesotho.

On the day of the event, the reservations were fully booked, and traditional Lesotho Basotho Hats and Basotho Blankets from the Embassy were displayed at the venue, in addition to a small photo exhibition.



The two lecturers



Basotho Hat (Mokorotlo),
and Basotho Blanket

Origami Class (6/1)

The topic for this day was a gorgeous 10-winged fancy crane with five wings on each side. All the participants enjoyed origami in a friendly atmosphere with laughter, and time passed quickly.

Here are some comments from the participants: "It's only been two months since I moved to Kashiwa. I found out about this event while researching the International Relations Association, and for the first time in decades, I did origami," "I joined the class because I was curious about how many sheets of origami the crane was made of, and how I would fold it if it were one sheet," "I want to fold it with my children at home" and so on.

There is another type of crane variation called Imoseyama. Two cranes are made of one sheet of paper and are connected by one of the wings. The instructor folded them in the colors of the Ukrainian flag, blue and yellow, in prayer for peace, and gave the cranes to all the participants as a take-home gift.

It was the first time in almost two years that the event was held face-to-face due to the new corona virus. The event was full of smiles that seemed to dispel the clouds of the rainy season.



Free Legal Advice and Administrative Procedure Support for Foreign Residents

To foreign residents. Are you in need of help? Lawyers and administrative procedure specialists are available for consultation. You can ask for specialists' advice on issues such as family or partner violence, divorce, visa procedures, and problems at work. Reservation necessary.

Date & Time: Wednesday, August 24, 1:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.

Place: Palette Kashiwa, Room A

Reservation: the KCC office



Announcement of Video Posting

You can see the English version of the calligraphy experience video produced in 2021 on our website.



Kashiwa International Exchange Week 2022 (7/4-7/10)

This year, Kashiwa International Exchange Week 2022 was held in cooperation with Kaichi International University, Reitaku University, Girl Scouts Troop 12 and 17, Kashiwa UNESCO Association, ITC-J TOKATSU, Kashiwa City Tourist Association, and Kashiwa International Relations Association.

During the event, photos and posters of international exchange groups in the city were displayed on panels, and exchange salons where participants interacted in easy Japanese with foreign residents in the city were also held. In addition, presentations were given by students from Kaichi International University and Reitaku University, and a Refugee Seminar with the theme of Accepting Refugees in Japan provided lots of information.

(1) Exchange Salon with Ukrainian People (7/4)

Ukrainian people living in Kashiwa City talked about their national flag and delicious food. More than 30 people attended the event, which showed a high interest in Ukraine. First, through a quiz about Ukraine, the participants learned about Ukraine's traditional costumes and that sushi is very popular there. Then, they carefully answered questions from the audience, which seemed to help the audience understand more about Ukraine. Ukrainian people said that they were very grateful for the support from Japan.



(2) Exchange Salon with people from the Philippines and China (7/5)

There were interesting discussions about each country's flag, culture, education, tourist attractions, and delicious food.

For example, there were the following questions and answers.

Q: How come Filipinos speak English so well?

A: We study subjects in English and Filipino in school.

Q: In China, do you use cash at the market?

A: We pay with Alipay or WeChatPay.



(3) Exchange Salon with people from Brazil (7/6)

Brazil is 22 times the size of Japan and has the fifth largest population in the world, 212.56 million. The seasons are the opposite of Japan, and it is winter now. A speaker said that discipline from her grandmother, who emigrated to Brazil when she was a child, was strict. However, when she came to Japan, she realized that her grandmother's teaching style was outdated in Japan. In Brazil, elementary school students go to school by school bus, and adults always pick them up.



(4) Exchange Salon with ten speakers from five countries (7/7)

The first speaker talked about cultural differences between the U.S. and Japan, citing the example of school lunches. According to the speaker, in Japan, school lunches are nutritionally balanced and tasty compared to American lunches, and he was impressed that the children helped serve the meals. He also felt that drivers drive more carefully for the sake of the elderly.

Next, KIRAKIC members and Japanese language students at KCC talked about the flags of the Philippines, Thailand, and China and what each country is. They explained about the flag of the Philippines, and that the colors of the Philippine flag represent equality, justice, courage, and freedom. They also explained that in Thailand, people stand up and pay respect for the national flag when they raise the flag. Food from China and other countries looked very delicious. At the end of the event, four international students from Sri Lanka at Kaichi International University introduced their country, dressed in lovely traditional costumes, the sari. The long name of the capital, Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte, surprised the audience. Sri Lanka is a multi-ethnic country, and the people believe in various religions such as Buddhism, Hinduism, Islam, and Christianity. When they were asked why they chose Japan as their overseas study destination, they answered that they longed to experience what they saw on the TV drama, Oshin, and cherry blossoms. When asked what surprised them when they came to Japan, they answered it was snow. Sri Lankan students said they would like to find a job in Japan after graduation.



Students from Sri Lanka

(5) Exchange Salon with People from China and Taiwan (7/8)

At first, there was an explanation about the meaning of the colors and stars of the Chinese flag, Tiananmen Square, and the Great Wall of China. They also said there are 55 ethnic minorities, and various kinds of religions are worshiped today. An interesting story was that there are 9,999 rooms in the Forbidden City, and there are 10,000 rooms in heaven. In other words, the Forbidden City has one less room than the heavenly world.

Next, Taiwan is made up of 16 ethnic groups, and each has its own characteristics. Participants were surprised to hear that the gates of hell open on the Midyear Festival in the month of July of the lunar calendar, and various souls wander about. There are temples in both China and Taiwan, but there are no graves in temples. Many of the stories they told were new to the audience.



(6) Refugee Seminar (7/9)

We held an online seminar on the theme of Accepting Refugees in Japan, with Mr. Shuichi Nakao from the Kansai Branch of the Refugee Project Headquarters. Although the seminar was held in the evening, 52 people attended, 44 online and eight at the venue.

Japan is a country that accepts very few refugees, even by global standards. During the workshop, participants were divided into groups to discuss six cases in which refugees were initially denied refugee status but later won a come-from-behind victory in court. Many participants commented that they learned things they had not known before and would like to continue thinking about the cases.



(7) Members of Girl Scouts Chiba Prefectural Federation Troop 17 (7/10)

Both adults and children made waste oil lamps using aluminum foil, tissue paper, and plastic glasses. The waste oil lamps can be used for camping. They are also helpful as an emergency supply. You can make lamps from tuna cans. Girl Scouts Troop 17 and the British Friendship Group are visiting each other.



(8) Members of Girl Scouts Chiba Prefectural Federation Troop 12 (7/10)

They taught us how to make slippers using newspapers and a cute cherry brooch using red beads and green felt. Slippers can be made easily from newspapers, so knowing how to make them will be helpful in a disaster. Both adults and children enjoyed making them.



(9) Presentations by a team of students from Reitaku University (7/10)

First, a five-member team made a presentation about ideas for a Nipponia exhibition that would provide an opportunity for foreign residents in Japan. The team proposed the possibility of a new close cooperation in a symbiotic society with foreigners by creating a booth for the information session. It would be a hands-on booth to support their daily lives, and to make connections with support groups.

Second, three students from an international cooperation organization called "Plas+" with 15 members reported on the traffic safety support for children in Cambodia, which they have continued despite the COVID-19 pandemic. They also talked not only about issues such as literacy rate and differences in traffic rules but also about what they learned through dramas with the children. They also said that they can feel how wonderful the interaction with each other is through group activities. Their presentations made the participants feel happy. People there gave a big applause to the young power of the future, which was displayed in the two presentations.



Reitaku University "Nipponia"



Reitaku University "Plas+"

August Events

Japanese Shonan Classes Summer vacation 7/15-8/31		
Online Classes		
Sun	10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.	Minna no Nihongo, Primary I (2 classes), Intermediate II
In-person Classes (Shonan Community Center)		
Thu	10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.	Minna no Nihongo, Primary I, Intermediate II
Sun	10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.	Minna no Nihongo, Primary I
Japanese Kashiwa Classes Summer vacation 7/17-8/31		
Online Classes		
Tue	7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.	Minna no Nihongo, Primary I
Wed	10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.	Conversation elementary level 2 B
Wed	7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.	Minna no Nihongo, Primary I
Thu	10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.	Conversation elementary level 1 (For Beginners, Primary 1)
Thu	1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.	Conversation elementary level 2 A
Fri	7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.	Minna no Nihongo, Primary II
Sat	9:30 a.m. - 11:20 a.m.	Conversation intermediate level
In-person Classes (Palette Kashiwa)		
Sat	10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.	Minna no Nihongo, Primary I

Information from Other Organizations

Online study meeting for KIRA members "Creating an Organization that Enables the Participation of the Younger Generation"

Date & Time: Thursday, August 18, 8:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
Lecturer: Takahiro Kageyama (Town Planning Coordinator)
Participation fee: Free
Number of Participants: 25

Application: Sign up directly at the KCC office or send an email to <boshu-1@kira-kira.jp> with your name and phone number. We will send you the invitation link on the day.

Next session: Thursday, September 15, 8:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
"Effective Vocalization" Lecturer: Ms. Naomi Yamazaki



Staff Wanted for "Kashiwa de International Exchange Festa 2022"

To KIRA members! Would you like to join us in planning and organizing the "Kashiwa de International Exchange Festa 2022" on November 20? If you are interested in the Festa and love festivals, please join us.

Period of activity: From August to the end of November
Application: Sign up directly at the KCC office or send an email to <boshu-2@kira-kira.jp> by Friday, August 12.

Information about COVID-19 for Foreign Residents

Available in multiple languages



Consultation for Foreign Residents

Monday: Spanish
Tuesday: Korean (only the 2nd and 4th Tuesday)
Wednesday: Chinese
Thursday: English
Friday: Chinese
※ 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. everyday
Consultation Counter for Foreign Residents
(Main City Hall 3F)
TEL: 04-7168-1033 No reservation required.

Kashiwa information Delivery Service

Sign up to receive email announcements from the city, such as information about earthquakes, fires, crime, and infectious disease outbreaks in the language of your choice. Send a blank email to this address to register.

Also, please read Kashiwa City Magazine. It contains information about COVID-19 vaccination.



Announcement of Video Posting from KIRA

You can see the video of "KIRA Activities in FY2021" on KIRA's website: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P4kVIN6cYsY>



Questions?
Please contact the office of
Kashiwa Cross-cultural Center (KCC)

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Hours: 8:30 a.m. - 5:15 p.m.
Closed on Sundays and national holidays