

< Oshu International Relations Association Activities >

◆ Oshu & Japanese and World Cultural Exchanges ~Aiming to Include Foreign Residents in Society~

- Visits to and lecture on the Hiraizumi World Heritage Site for foreign residents
- Lecture in English on the International Linear Collider
- “Learning World Cultures” Course held by foreign residents
- International Goodwill Day
- Town meetings with the mayor
- Held Live for Japan event
- Youth Development Project “Understanding the World”
~ Why You Can Smile in the Face of Disasters and War Around the World ~
(2012 Assistance in project to aid Oshu Citizen Public Service Activity groups)

◆ Language Classes

- Volunteer English classes
- Chinese classes

◆ Classes for Foreign Residents

- Japanese classes
- Friendship circle for foreign mothers

◆ English classes for children (kindergarten and lower elementary school age)

- English Kindergarten
- Preparing for English

◆ Japanese language instruction for children with foreign roots

◆ Volunteers

- Japanese language supporters (Japanese class volunteers)
- International exchange activity volunteers
- Accepting homestay and home visit guests

◆ Other Activities

- Endeavors in cooperating with government, universities, NPOs, and other related organizations in various projects

◆ Interpretation, translation

◆ Oshu & Japanese and World Cultural Exchanges

• Visits to and lecture on the Hiraizumi World Heritage Site for foreign residents

Lectures and visits are conducted concerning the cultural legacies of Hiraizumi, which has deep ties with Oshu, for foreign residents in Oshu and surrounding communities.

• Lecture in English on the International Linear Collider

With the cooperation of Iwate Prefecture, Oshu City and the Oshu Space and Astronomy Museum, a lecture in English is held to promote understanding by foreign residents of the International Linear Collider, to promote activities to bring it to the Kitakami Highlands, as is currently being considered.

• “Learning World Cultures” Course held by foreign residents

This course is held with the aim of deepening understanding of foreign residents and their respective native lands by introducing the culture of their home countries from foreign residents living here.

• International Goodwill Day

Opportunities for goodwill exchanges between foreign residents and citizens are held periodically. Events are planned so that many people can participate and meet others in order to develop and improve a sense of internationalization with each other.

• Town meetings with the mayor

By exchanging opinions between foreign residents and the mayor, foreign residents can feel they are part of the local community and help build an environment for a comfortable lifestyle.

• Held Live for Japan event

Recovery aid projects are held with foreign residents who remained in Oshu, and who are active in promoting recovery after the Great East Japan earthquake in 2011.

Booths serving food from China, Korea, the Philippines and elsewhere were set up in 2011 and 2012 at the Mizusawa Akindo Matsuri. In addition to giving citizens a chance to taste foreign foods, donations were collected.

• Youth Development Project “Understanding the World”

~ Why You Can Smile in the Face of Disasters and War Around the World ~

(2012 Assistance in project to aid Oshu Citizen Public Service Activity groups)

We provide opportunities for young students in Oshu to learn and consider conditions around the world, centering on “World Stage” lectures that feature stories, music and film by Dr. Norihiko Kuwayama, who provides medical aid to areas suffering from natural disaster and war around the world.

◆ Language Classes

• Volunteer Chinese Classes

People from China living in Oshu teach these courses.

Days and Times: Beginners course – Fridays 19:00 ~ 21:00

Conversation course – Tuesdays 19:00 ~ 21:00

Place: Mizusawa Regional Exchange Hall ASUPIA

Details: Beginners course: Basic Chinese, such as pronunciation, is learned.

Conversation course: For people who have studied Chinese and can talk about days, times, etc.

Capacity: Beginners course: 15 students

Conversation course: 15 students

Course Fee: Beginners course: ¥3,000 (Textbook not included)

Conversation course: ¥4,000

For: General citizens

• Volunteer English classes

These classes are held to develop volunteers needed in various places in promoting internationalization. (These are not volunteer development for specific projects.)

Days and Times: Beginners course – Fridays 10:00 ~ 11:45 (14 class course)

Intermediate course – Tuesdays 10:00 ~ 11:45 (14 class course)

Details: Beginners course – The purpose of this course is to give learners the confidence to communicate what they want to say in English. Basic grammar and vocabulary needed for communication, pronunciation and practical exercises are used for learning. Lessons center on pair work and group work. You will find things you have in common with others and become reacquainted with yourself and your friends in class.

Intermediate course – The purpose of this course is to be able to tell others “Hey, this is how I do things,” and to speak about your habits, actions, how you feel and who you are. This course is recommended for those who want to maintain their English abilities but who do not have the time to complete a long course. In addition, learners can develop useful listening abilities through exercises that include listening to English from people from different countries.

Instructor: Chiharu Watanabe (Secretary General of the Oshu International Relations Association)

Capacity: 20 students for each course

Class fee: ¥6,000 for each course (including textbook)

For: General citizens

◆ Classes for Foreign Residents

• Japanese Classes

In recent years, the number of persons coming to Oshu has increased. Whether from Asia and South America who are married to Japanese, agricultural and technical trainees sponsored by the prefecture, municipal or non-government organizations, as well as foreign language instructors at junior high and high schools, they come from many different countries to live here. Therefore, the Oshu International Exchange Association offers Japanese lessons for people who come from various backgrounds in language and Japanese language learning experience.

We are always looking for new students. Volunteers (Japanese supporters) give instruction in Japanese that meet learners' goals and desires.

We are also continually looking for Japanese supporters (volunteers) to support Japanese language learning for foreigners.

○ Mizusawa Japanese Class

Days and Times: Tuesdays 19:00 ~ 21:00

※ We also provide guidance for private lessons and persons taking the Japanese Language Proficiency Test.

Place: Mizusawa Regional Exchange Hall ASUPIA Conference Room

For: Foreign residents

Class fee: ¥500 per class (¥300 for students and trainees)

○ Maesawa Japanese Class

Days and Times: Fridays 13:00 ~ 14:30

※ We also provide guidance for private lessons and persons taking the Japanese Language Proficiency Test.

Place: Maesawa Regional Center

For: Foreign residents

Class fee: ¥500 per class (¥300 for students and trainees)

○ Japanese Class for Beginners

Days and Times: Tuesdays 14:00 ~ 16:00

※ We also provide guidance for private lessons and persons taking the Japanese Language Proficiency Test.

Place: Mizusawa Regional Exchange Hall ASUPIA Conference Room

For: Foreign residents (especially those at a beginner level of Japanese)

Class fee: ¥500 per class (¥300 for students and trainees)

• Friendship Circle for Foreign Mothers

People who come from overseas have many worries concerning differences in language, culture and lifestyles.

This circle helps those mothers who are learning Japanese feel at ease while finding others who speak their language, make friends and get used to a Japanese lifestyle naturally.

This circle supports the creation of such an environment. It is not only for pregnant mothers and those who have just given birth, but also for those who have families, so that everyone can help each other make having children and raising a family as easy as possible.

Days and Times: One Tuesday a month 9:30 ~ 11:30

Fee: Free

Place: Oshu City Child Rearing General Aid Center “Kokkoro”

Contents: Japanese language class

Talks and consultations on raising children (such as medical examinations, baby food, teething, vaccinations) by midwives, day care teachers and public health nurses.

Organizing Groups: Oshu City Health and Welfare Division, Health Promotion Section / Oshu City Child Rearing General Aid Center “Kokkoro” / Oshu International Relations Association

◆ English classes for children (kindergarten and lower elementary school age)

• English Kindergarten

This English conversation and cultural understanding class is for 4 and 5 year old children. Learners become familiar with different cultures and English in a fun environment while playing. The year is divided into two terms.

Days and Times: Second Sunday of the month, 10:00 ~ 10:45

Place: Mizusawa Regional Exchange Hall (ASUPIA) Salon

Instructor: Chiharu Watanabe and foreign guest

Capacity: 30 students

Class Fee: ¥4,000 (5 times)

For: 4 and 5 year old children

• Preparing for English

Assistant language teachers and foreign researchers from the National Astronomical Observatory of Japan bring their specialized knowledge to life using English as the world’s common language. They teach Japanese, math, science and social studies to elementary first ~ third grade students.

Days and Times: Once every other month (Second Sunday / 11:00 ~ 11:45)

Place: Mizusawa Regional Exchange Hall (ASUPIA) Salon

Capacity: 30 students each

Class Fee: ¥1,500 each (including learning materials)

For: Elementary school students, first through third grade

◆ Japanese language instruction / learning aid for children with foreign roots

This provides Japanese language instruction and support for school studies for children who have foreign roots who live in the city.

◆ Volunteers

• Japanese Language Supporters (Japanese class volunteers)

Volunteers support Japanese language learning for foreigners in Japanese language classes.

Volunteers are always welcome.

Apply [here](#).

• International Exchange Activity Volunteers

These volunteers help with booths that the International Relations Association sets up at lectures, events and regional industry festivals.

Volunteers are always welcome.

Apply [here](#).

• Accepting homestay and home visit guests

We are looking for homes that are willing to accept visitors from overseas who want to do a homestay / home visit in Oshu.

Apply [here](#).