

Minami-Alps International Exchange Association Annual Report

英語

FRIENDSHIP



2022.4 VOL. 19



Enjoy “International Exchange and Intercultural Cohesion”!



1,137 people from 33 countries live in Minami-Alps City as of January 1st, 2022. “Intercultural Cohesion” means people of a variety of tribes and nationalities recognize each other and living together while having a amicable relationship. The nationalities are different, so the languages, lifestyles, ways of thinking, and cultures are different too. “We respect each other!” We can live like this! The Minami-Alps International Exchange Association is planning a lot of events that will encourage everyone to enjoy both Japanese culture and the cultures of other countries represented here. Please come and join our events this year!

Minami-Alps International Exchange Association

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Website



Facebook



Minami-Alps City Hall Policy Promotion Division

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President of Minami-Alps International
Exchange Association

Jiro Watanabe



FY2021 Business Meetings Report
★ Board MTG & General MTG(including in writing to hold a conference) 3 times ★ Pre-MTG 4 times ★ Monthly Newsletter issue

Our activities have been limited due to COVID-19 for two years. I am saddened that we had to cancel the junior high school students' exchange program with the sister cities in the USA. On the other hand, the Japanese lesson class, "Nihongo-Saron", was held 25 times this past year. I am so thankful to the volunteers for preparing a lot for the class. Also, we were able to have the English class, Chinese class, and other events like making wreaths, wearing YUKATA summer kimono, and doing Japanese calligraphy. The participants really enjoyed learning about Japanese culture. At the entrance of this building, a lot of nice decorations for Halloween, Christmas, New Year, and different seasons were enjoyable for everyone!

Last year we moved to this new location, Kushigata Shakai Fukushi Kaikan, and this year we are designated to manage this building. So far, everything is running smoothly. I would like to start thinking about "Intercultural Cohesion" again, and the members of this association will get together and start to make a better world.

I thank the Minami-Alps Mayor and other supporters with great sincerity under the severe condition.



Vice President, Japanese Language
Committee

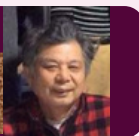
Hiroyuki Ikubo



We planned the Japanese lesson for 30 times in a year at first, but due to the COVID-19, we could have only 25 lessons. I appreciate every volunteer that gave a support to the learners. The volunteers really enjoyed talking with the learners not only during the lesson but also after the lesson. In addition, I feel that "the Nihongo-Saron" ran smoothly since we had decided who will teach each lesson among the volunteers. "The Saron" is held on Saturdays (about three times a month) in the morning. If you are interested in learning or volunteering, please come and join us.

Vice President, Foreign Language
Committee

Yoichi Ogino



Since many towns and villages have merged, the Foreign Language Committee has held conversation classes in English, Chinese, Spanish, Korean, and other languages. Do you have a foreigner living in your neighborhood?

*I want to talk to a foreigner in my neighborhood.

*I am interested in foreign culture and food.

*I want to be able to converse in the local language when I travel abroad.

Each of the students has various reasons for participating in the foreign language classes. We will continue to hold

these classes in the future while also checking the status of COVID-19 infection. In the past, I took an English conversation course from an Australian teacher once a week. Later, an American assistant language teacher(ALT) at a public school in the city told me that I have an Australian accent (lol). We have some ALTs and native speakers of Chinese and Korean for our classes and lectures. The classes will be held in June and October. Come and join us!



Vice President, Sister City Committee Tomoko Hagihara



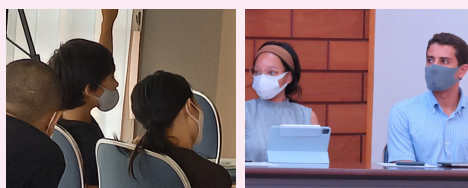
The worldwide spread of the COVID-19 has made us postpone our sister city exchanges between the two sister cities in Iowa, U.S. Our student delegation visited Winterset and invited the Marshalltown group to our city in the summer of 2019, but we could not make progress for the past two years. Considering the current international situation, the 2022 exchange program has also been postponed. Students who visited Winterset in 2019 maintained our international communication by making a "video letter" and exchanging emails since they could not invite their friends to Minami-Alps. We have also been unable to recruit new exchange members to visit Marshalltown. We are prepared to wait until we can resume our program in the near future.



Cross-Cultural Experiences

Japanese Culture Experience in June

Enjoyed wearing summer Kimono, Yukata, doing calligraphy with colorful ink, and making some decorations for the summer festival, Tanabata.



Halloween Pumpkin Carving in October

Painted funny faces on Halloween pumpkins and then carve them! Put candles inside the pumpkins to make fantastic Jack-O-Lanterns!

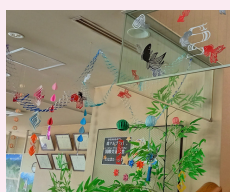


Enjoyable Lecture of Foreign Countries in July

2 CIRs (Coordinator for International Relations) came and gave enjoyable lectures. One is from the USA, and the other is from Brazil. They talked about their lifestyles since living in Japan. The participants asked a lot of questions to them. We would like to plan some similar lectures for the future.

Decorations for the seasonal events

Our office has moved to Kushigata Shakai Fukushi Kaikan, Kushigata Social Welfare Hall. Many people come to this building to enjoy their activities like exercising, playing music and meeting with others. We would like to share our activities and the foreign cultures with everyone. We are always decorating for Japanese and international holidays. Feel free to take photos!



Making Autumn Wreaths in November

Enjoyed making wreaths as autumn gifts! The wreath base is made from the wisteria trellis from the Shimin Katsudo Center, Civil Activity Center. Also, a lot of the pinecones are from around Minami-Alps City! The participants were surprised by the variety of pinecones.



Disaster Drill in December

The participants consisted of expats or second generation immigrants to Japan. They listened to the lecture and then tried the earthquake experience and trained with the fire extinguisher. By the end of the disaster drill event, they were able to fully understand what to do during these hazards.



International Exchange Association Hours of Operation and Services

- ◎Open weekdays from 8:30am to 5:15pm. Some Saturdays are open when the events are held.
 - ◎There are 24 parking spaces in total in front of the building and across the street.
 - ◎The reception counter is on the left as you enter.
 - *You can register for language classes and events.
 - *You can view information magazines, sister city exchange panels, seasonal displays, and photos of events that have taken place.
- We also offer consultation services for foreign residents. Please contact us if you have any problems with school or workplace information, Japanese customs, or want to study Japanese.

- ◎About “Kushigata Shakai Hukushi Kaikan”, a Social Welfare Hall
- Our association has been selected as a designated administrator for the hall from April, 2022. We will accept the application for the use of the hall and issue a permit. You can also check the availability of each room by phone. We are planning to hold events for local residents to join, so please come and enjoy!

Thank you for your membership!

小林ニット(株)
白根ケーブルネットワーク(株)
医療法人 高原会
(株) 土谷設計事務所
(株) ホンダショップ山梨
(株) 山扇印刷
(株) 山梨医療福祉研究所
山梨中央銀行白根支店
山梨メディカルケア協同組合
(株) 渡辺新聞店

(敬称略)

Sign up to become a member!

- Annual fee: individual member ¥2,000
corporate member ¥10,000
- Expiration date :valid until the end of March 2023
- Membership benefits:
 - discounts for the language classes,
 - prior to book events, monthly newsletters

Minami-Alps International Exchange Association

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