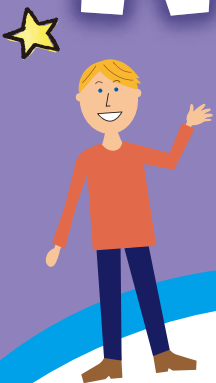


NIA LETTER

Niigata International Association

Vol. **26**
2023.09



NIA Official Facebook

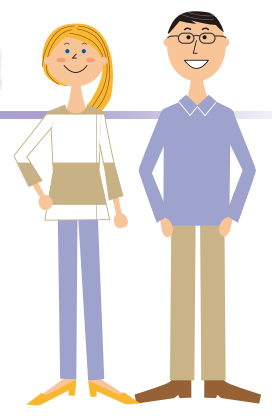


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Feature

International Exchange Facilitator Kick Off!



Every year at NIA, with the goal of increasing the international understanding of college students, as well as bring back the knowledge that they have learned to foster internationalization of local regions, we are dispatching “International Facilitators” that will hold workshops on international understanding.

Workshops for international understanding are a participatory form of learning where all participants gain knowledge about the structure and diversity of the modern world, and consider the process of problem solving. This year, 79 facilitators will hold 13 workshops with the themes of the objectives for 17 SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals).

Before the start of this year’s send off, on 2023 Aug 5, (Saturday) at Toki Messe (Niigata City Central Ward), we held a ceremony to announce and award the appointment of the International Exchange Facilitators. They were aiming to experience and learn together from each others workshops that they implemented through mock workshops, and in addition to the facilitators from the five colleges (Niigata University of International and Information Studies, Keiwa College, University of Niigata Prefecture, Joetsu University of Education, Niigata University), students from Meiji university who are holding multicultural workshops in Tokyo were also present as presenters and participants.



∟ This years titles are... ∟

∟ [Niigata University of International and Information Studies] ∟

- That is the way you see things, yes?
~Is that information accurate?~
- What color are your glasses?
~A world of understanding we all create~
- Colorful Worlds
~Let’s mutually acknowledge what is important to us~
- “I HAVE A DREAM !” ~Education for all children~

∟ [Keiwa College] ∟

- In the world, is “Freedom” taken for granted?
~Let’s think about the importance of democracy and our rights~
- Do you know “Your Rights”?
~The rights all children have, the rights that you have~

∟ [University of Niigata Prefecture] ∟

- Should we have the same starting lines?
~The need for an environment where anyone has equal opportunity~
- Enjoyably! Eat up!
~Lets become chefs with “zero” food loss~
- Let’s revise the way we look at the resources in front of us
~Is that trash burnable? Plastic?~

∟ [Joetsu University of Education] ∟

- What is the difference between cheap and pricy clothes?

∟ [Niigata University] ∟

- This is different! This is the same!
~Life at school in Japan and the world~
- Global water issues and our future
- “No One Left Behind” aiming for disaster prevention
~Thinking about support for foreigners~



International Exchange Facilitators' Expression of Commitment

As representatives of the facilitators of each of the five colleges (Niigata University of International and Information Studies, Keiwa College, University of Niigata Prefecture, Joetsu University of Education, Niigata University), these five have each made an expression of commitment.

What drove me to become an international exchange facilitator, was seeing college students conducting workshop activities concerning international issues in close proximity when I was learning before starting college. I want to hold workshops not just in Japan, but also abroad. I have a particular interest in South Korea, so holding workshops there is my number one goal. (Niigata University of International and Information Studies Wakui Shin)



We will have workshops on the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. In particular, we make workshops with a focus on Article 31, "The right to play and rest". We want children to first know this right and that even they have it, as well as understand why it is important. For example, when at times when they feel going to school is difficult, they can rest at home, and they don't, "Have to go to school no matter what". I would like to convey such a message to the participants at the workshop. (Keiwa College Usuda Sakurako)



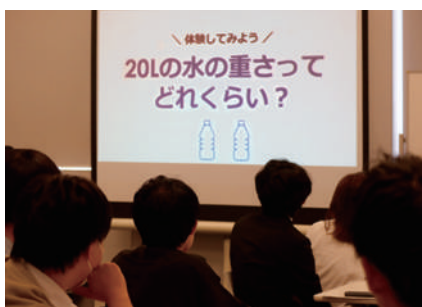
At the University of Niigata Prefecture, we broke into three teams, each of which involved in rewarding workshop activities. In our team, we are making a workshop that drives to solve societal problems from the local level and convey the importance of zero food loss. We would like to make workshops where we can tell students what we want to tell them, and adopt original games for them to play. (University of Niigata Prefecture Yamamoto Koharu)



In my 11 years as a teacher, by working to create workshops with student facilitators, I have been able to think about what my own class should be like. This time, through workshops under the theme of "Clothes", together we would like to give thought to what the students will come up with. (Joetsu University of Education Aida Shohei)



We will implement workshops on water problems. We would like to gradually dig into water issues from the various topics we can come up with from our point of view. We look forward to gain feedback from the participants and use it to build ourselves. At the same time, we hope that we can get across how intriguing the workshops are and provide the participants with a variety of experiences. (Niigata University Kanno Yutaka)



Voices from Schools Implementing International Understanding Workshops

- ① School Name ② Teacher's Name
③ School year and Subject

In one of our school subjects called "Life in the world", we are implementing workshops with the purpose of raising multi-faceted ways of looking at things and thinking through cross-cultural understanding. I feel that by developing their own opinions, expressing them, and acknowledging each other's views, the students are building themselves as individuals. What is more, is that the college students who are close in age to the students become role models, and students who went on to college interested in learning about international cooperation also came, so it is a boost to their career development.

- ① Niigata Prefectural Niigata Suikou High School
② Hasegawa Miwako
③ All grade levels · Geography and History

A student said, "I realized that I asked someone without a thought, 'Do you have a boyfriend?' and I was surprised that I used words of gender bias". This was from the workshop by students from the University of Niigata Prefecture called, "What Does it Mean to Appear Like Something? ~The Prejudice Lying in Everyday Life~". We were able to experience various things at this workshop. We had a quiz on gender bias hidden around us, listened to an explanation of "LGBTQ" and the gender gap, and participated in a workshop where we thought about our actions in everyday situations. As you could see the enthusiastic college students carrying out the classes, as well as the junior high school students in awe, it was a valuable experience to meet and learn.

- ① Sado City Niibo Junior High School ② Oguro Junichi
③ 3rd Year · Comprehensive Learning Class Activities

Workshops for international understanding that are enriched with certain values such as "Knowing the Real Thing", or "Experiencing", helped to broaden the views of the students through the elaborate planning and goals of the facilitators. There is significance in learning about the world that you can't learn from a textbook, so we have the workshops run every year in several classes at our school.

Last year we had the workshops on "Fast Fashion" and "Connections with Others" implemented here, and as the students put what they can do themselves into words, I think there was an unconscious change in everyone. With our views expanded upon, I believe these workshops to be a valuable opportunity which help bridge Japan and the world.

- ① Niigata Seiryō High School ② Ishizuka Kazuhiro
③ 1st Year · Comprehensive Learning

During our rice planting experience we were doing during comprehensive learning class time, I felt that I want more people to understand the value of rice. However, I could not come up with a way to go about or advertise this. We had a workshop on the theme of "The Rice Situation of China, Japan, and Korea and from Here on Out", in which we learned that rice production happens in various forms in Asian countries. We started thinking range of ideas arose on how it can be produced about issues surrounding how we are producing rice, and a diverse.

- ① Joetsu City Uragawara Elementary School
③ 5th Year · Comprehensive Learning

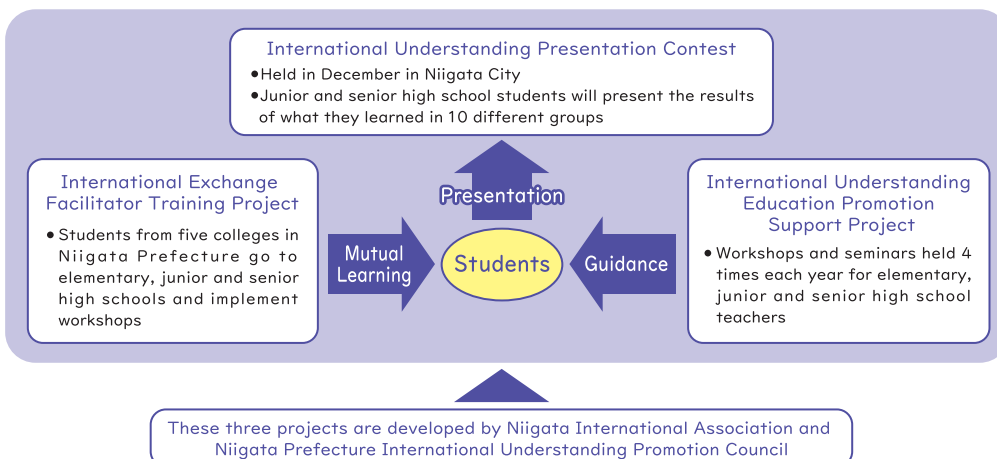
2023 International Understanding Workshop Implementation Outline

Details on how to apply for the second dispatch will be posted on our website.

- Who can apply : Niigata Prefectural elementary, junior and senior high schools, and special support schools
- Implementation Period
(first term) : 2023 Sep.1 (Fri.) ~ Sep.29 (Fri.)
(second term) : 2024 Feb.1 (Thurs.) ~ Feb.29 (Thurs.)
- Duration : Around 90 min. ※Adjustable depending on request
- Number of Participants : Usually around one class (30 to 40)
※Adjustable depending on request
- Cost : Free



International Understanding Education Program Diagram – Aspiring for citizens living together –



NIA collaborates with the "Niigata Prefecture International Understanding Education Promotion Council" to create a cycle of human resource development that naturally links these three projects (International Exchange Facilitator Training Project, International Understanding Presentation Contest, International Understanding Education Promotion Support Project).

Interview with the Prefectural CIRs!

Currently, there are Coordinators for International Relations (CIRs) from America, South Korea, Russia, China, and Vietnam at the Niigata Prefectural International Affairs Division. We will introduce a new CIR from China, who arrived in FY2023!

- Q1. What country and area are you from?
What is a bragging point in your country?
- Q2. Any hobbies or special skills you have?
- Q3. What made you interested in Japan?
- Q4. How is life in Niigata?
- Q5. If you have a message for our readers, please let us know!



What's a CIR?
Niigata Prefecture HP

My name is
Li Li li
李麗麗!



A1. I am from the Chinese city of QiQihar. It is a very beautiful city, and it is famous for red-crown cranes. After I graduated college, I taught Japanese at a university in Daqing City. This city was famous for its oil, but as the supply has fallen, Daqing has transformed into a tourist destination.

A2. My hobbies are reading and traveling. I love Japanese novels. In college, I read "Kokoro" and "I Am a Cat" by Natsume Soseki. There is not many smaller sized books in China, so I have come to like the sturdy, easy to carry long-lasting Japanese books so much that I cannot let go of them. There are many mountains and picturesque spots here. While it is unfortunate that I don't have a car, I want to gaze upon Niigata's wonderful views, and relish in its cuisine as much as possible.

A3. I have been watching Japanese drama and Anime like "Doraemon" and "Ikkyu-san" since I was a child. It was fun to watch even in Chinese. As I became dazzled by Doraemon and Ikkyu-san, I began to think that with the creations of such amazing pieces Japan must be a very creative place. This all became a very important memory I will never forget. With this in mind, I started learning Japanese when I entered college.

A4. This is my first time coming to Japan. I have only been in Niigata since this May, but I have been able to settle in well. Everyday life is made easier by having supermarkets and convenience stores close by. The other people in my office are very nice and have helped me a lot.

A5. Despite my prior involvement in Japanese language education, I have never actually experienced Japan's culture and customs among other things. Now, as a CIR, I plan to introduce the specialty items of Niigata to Chinese people, and intend on talking about my experiences here. I aspire to the best of my ability to serve as a bridge between China and Japan.

From the Foreign Resident Consultation Center

—Multilingual General Consultation Center of Niigata—
Multilingual Consultation Center Correspondence—



- Consultation Hours:
Monday-Friday, 10:00-17:00
- Location: Niigata-shi,
Chuo-ku, Bandaijima 5-1,
Bandaijima Bldg. 2nd Floor
- Consultation Methods:
In-person, phone, email, online

Professional consultation (Immigration, legal or administrative scrivener) is available over zoom

Reservations are available from our homepage here →



For education-related or other general consultations, please call or email us.

☎ 025-241-1881

✉ nia10@niigata-ia.or.jp

For details, see here →



	Consultation Languages				
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Japanese	10:00~17:00	10:00~17:00	10:00~17:00	10:00~17:00	10:00~17:00
Chinese			10:00~17:00		
English	10:00~17:00			10:00~14:00	10:00~17:00
Filipino (Tagalog)	10:00~17:00				
Thai		10:00~17:00			
Vietnamese		10:00~17:00			
Spanish				10:00~14:00	
Portuguese				10:00~14:00	
Russian	10:00~17:00	10:00~17:00	10:00~17:00	10:00~17:00	10:00~17:00
Other languages	10:00~17:00 Can be done via machine translation on a tablet.				

NIA Activities Report

Support for Foreign Residents in a Disaster Seminar

On January 21 (Sat.), 2023, we held a seminar with Ms. Sudo Nobuko who is the Director of the International Business Department of the Sendai Tourism, Convention and International Association, as a lecturer to learn how to prepare for supporting foreigners in times of disaster and plain Japanese (Yasashii Nihongo).

In the case of a major disaster, foreign residents are placed in a difficult situation where they are faced with language, cultural and institutional barriers. Because of this, they are classified as “persons requiring special assistance” in the “Niigata Prefecture Regional Disaster Prevention Plan”. Japan has many natural disasters that consist of not only earthquakes, but also heavy rain and snowfall, so we learned about the necessary knowledge to quickly connect non-Japanese residents to support networks, as well as facilitate the understanding of local Japanese residents. At the seminar, local foreign residents were present in addition to neighborhood association officials and disaster specialists. They then broke into groups for a workshop to learn some easy-to-understand Yasashii Nihongo expressions.



Multicultural Coexistence Symposium in Niigata

On February 7 (Tues.), 2023, at Niigata Nippo Media Ship (Niigata City Chuo-ku), we held a hybrid symposium, “Multicultural Coexistence Symposium – A Town By Everyone, For Everyone 2nd Chapter”.

Currently, change is required in our area to create a multicultural society with diverse people. In October 2022, we conducted a survey with various angles in mind on what non-Japanese residents think Niigata-like multiculturalism should be.

We invited Professor Yamawaki Keizo of Meiji University to be a keynote speaker and join the panel discussion concerning the survey, which also consisted of colleges, the Social Welfare Council, as well as foreign residents. From all their various viewpoints, they talked about what is to be sought after from future coexistence in the region.



Keynote Speech “Building a Multicultural Community from Diverse Sectors”

Lecturer: Professor Yamawaki Keizo, School of Global Japanese Studies, Meiji University

Panel Talk

“Toward Building a Multicultural Community Unique to Niigata
~From the Niigata Prefecture Foreign Residents Survey~”



Brainstorming Session on Supporting Children with Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Backgrounds

On March 19 (Sun.), 2023, at Toki Messe (Niigata City Chuo-ku), as the second training session from 2022 on support for children with foreign roots, Igi Rodrigo at Aichi Prefecture Mito High School who is a 3rd generation Brazilian-Japanese teacher gave a lecture called “CARPE DIEM~Living in the Moment~”.

Despite coming as far as being a teacher, during his time soon after coming to Japan, he experienced and overcame many difficulties such as language barriers, bullying, and sudden illness. Now, all of this which added greatly to his experiences, along with his desire to talk about supporters for children that have roots abroad, which contributed to his powerful lecture.

Interpreter Volunteer Seminar

On March 18 (Sat.), 2023, we held the “Interpreter volunteer Seminar” at Toki Messe (Niigata City Chuo-ku) for Niigata International Association interpreters, translation volunteers, and those with an interest in interpretation, with goals of boosting skills and expertise.

After a lecture on the necessary preparation and tips for interpreting, 43 participants split into different language groups and conducted group work on scenarios where they interpret for visitors to Niigata from abroad.

Lecture

“What You Need to know and Do as a Beginning Interpreter”

Lecturer: Professor Sodekawa Hiromi,
College of Foreign Studies,
Kansai Gaidai University



Group Work

“Beginner Interpreter Practice”

Facilitators:
Niigata Association of Translators
Takai Ayako Kubota Kaori



International Women’s Day Fair

To coincide with the yearly International Women’s Day set to March 8 by the United Nations, the Niigata International Association held the International Women’s Day Fair on Saturday, March 4, 2023. The Vietnamese CIR Chi presented some basic facts about her country and Vietnamese women.

After CIR Chi’s speech, the Russian CIR Dina along with an exchange student from China talked about the fashion and food that was trending among women in their countries. Lastly, in our, “Let’s try on traditional clothes from around the world!” themed corner, there were participants who tried on traditional clothes from various Asian countries and had a photo contest. With people just passing by also joining in, the event became a big success.



Seeking Teams For the International Understanding Presentation Contest!

This will be an opportunity for junior and senior high school students to present their thoughts on "International Understanding" in relation to global issues, multicultural coexistence, and issues with Japanese international relations.

Date December 19 (Sat.), 2023

Venue Toki Messe, International Conference Hall (Marine Hall)

How to Apply Junior High School Division, High School Division

Please apply as a team with a group of 3 to 5 students and at least one leader who is 20 and over.

Apply by September 29 (Fri.), 2023



<Last year's contest>



<Presentation Contest website>

※Details are on the website under OUTLINE.

2023 Job-hunting Seminar for Exchange Students

We are holding a job-hunting seminar that will cover basic job-hunting knowledge you should have in Japan!

Date November 8 (Wed.), 2023

Venue Toki Messe 2nd, Floor Main Hall B

Description ① Job-hunting in Japan・Fundamental knowledge that exchange students should know
② Seniors talk about their experiences job-hunting in Niigata Prefecture



Please make use of our Exchange Student Representatives!

We have 34 registered Exchange Student Representatives active in 2023.

At the Niigata International Association, we have students from abroad who have an interest in international exchange activities registered as "Exchange Student Representatives." We have them present themselves in international exchange, international cooperation, and multicultural coexistence events at private organizations, municipalities and schools, and other such organizations that require the participation of exchange students. These exchange students, who are rich in individuality and possess a variety of abilities and special skills in addition to Japanese language communication, are helping to promote an increase in international exchange and create a multicultural coexisting society in Niigata Prefecture. We hope you will make use of the Exchange Student Representatives.



※Examples of Activities

- International understanding lecture and introducing their country's culture during Comprehensive Learning time.
- Giving presentations on their living experiences in Japan at international exchange organizations

FY2023 Exchange Student Representative Introductions!



Name: Sonia Ristanti
Country of Origin: Indonesia

A1 My hobbies are gardening and fishkeeping. I also like to draw.

A2 I can introduce Indonesian culture. Do you all know what part of the world Indonesia is located in? Indonesia is located right on the equator, so year-round its weather is like the summer in Japan. It consists of many islands, and has a variety of peoples, cultures, religions, and languages, but everyone is connected by the national language of Indonesian. The staple food is rice, and there is also a sauce akin to soy sauce used for cooking and fermented soybean products. Indonesia is similar to Japan in that people eat lots of fish. I would like many people to know more about Indonesia.

A3 I also would like to participate in activities such as cross-cultural exchange, presenting about my country, opportunities to use English and Indonesian, as well as activities where I can exercise. I want to interact with all kinds of people. Therefore, I intend to actively participate regardless of the activity.

- Q1** Any hobbies or special skills you have?
- Q2** What can you say about your country?
- Q3** What activities would you like to participate in as an exchange student representative?



Name: Pham Van Long
Country of Origin: Vietnam

A1 I like Karaoke, photography, and playing with kids.

A2 I can teach simple Vietnamese, and introduce Vietnamese culture, tourism, and cuisine. I can also make some Vietnamese dishes such as banh xeo, fresh spring rolls, and deep-fried spring rolls, so I would be happy to have the chance to express Vietnamese culture through cooking.

I am currently a student at a college in Niigata Prefecture, but I would like to participate in various activities and developments, and support exchanges between Vietnam and Japan as not just a student, but as a citizen of the prefecture.

A3 I would like to participate in activities that enable me to experience multiculturalism in Japan. Through such activities I feel that I would be able to more deeply understand my own country, so I intend on participating in many activities as an Exchange Student Representative.

For all Applications and Inquiries

Niigata International Association
<https://www.niigata-ia.or.jp/> TEL:025-290-5650 Email:nia21c@niigata-ia.or.jp

Announcement from NIA②

Start of the International Understanding Seminar, "Discover the World from Asia!"



To learn about the history, society, and culture of Asian regions that have deep connections with Niigata Prefecture, and to enhance international understanding, we are holding this seminar across many places in the prefecture. So that as many people as possible can participate, there are also seminars available online. Please feel free to join us.



<The seminar last year>

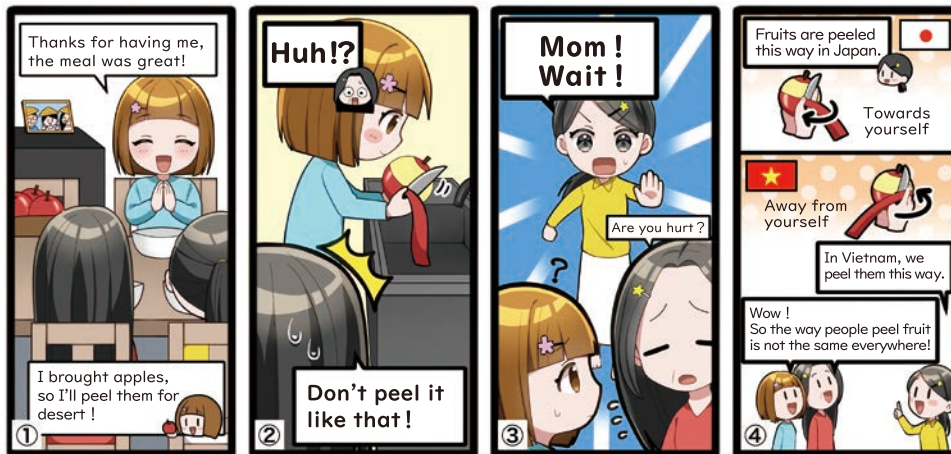
Date	Topic	Lecturer	Place
10/22(Sun.) 13:30~15:00 Hybrid	The latest information on Indonesia and its connection with Niigata	Indonesia Center Niigata PORE INDONESIA NIIGATA Ltd. Representative Kojima Amnah	Niigata Nippo Mediaship Knowledge Room 6F, Meeting Room A and B
11/3(Fri.) 14:00~15:30 Hybrid	Vietnamese Festivals and Food	Niigata Agro-Food University Vice President Nakai Yutaka & Vietnamese Students	Niigata Agro-Food University Room 201, Building J, Tainai Campus
11/18(Sat.) 13:30~15:00 In-person only	Sharing the Charms of the Philippines With You!	Niigata Philippine Society President Stevenson Allosa	Joetsu City Kubiki Ward Community Center Minamigawa Branch
11/25(Sat.) 10:00~11:30 Hybrid	Discover Mongolia in 90 Minutes	Niigata Sangyo University Lecturer Aohara Uriji	Kashiwazaki Civic Plaza 201・202

Vol.11 "How to peel fruit"

Pen name: Nekono Nekotaro

Japan Animation and Manga College Visual Design Course 4th year

※An episode of when a Japanese person visited a Vietnamese household.



Hello,
I'm Nekono Nekotaro.
I'm from Niigata,
and I love cats.
I usually draw
illustrations and comics
of boys and girls and
characters with
big heads.



This episode of life in Japan was inspired by ĐÀM LAN Chi, a Coordinator for International Relations (CIR) at the Niigata Prefectural International Affairs Division, who wrote about this topic in the "CIR Tsubuyaki," where the CIRs share their experiences, as was illustrated into a 4-panel comic by a 4th year student at the Japan Animation and Manga College. You can read this CIR Tsubuyaki article and more at our Association's International Exchange Plaza, so please stop by.



Published by the Niigata International Association

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