

A Beautiful Earth for our Children!

Hikaru Kubo

We Japanese, living in a developed country, are like the saloon passengers enjoying an extravagant party on the sinking Titanic, while the passengers in the ship-bottom (people in the developing countries) are battling with the flooding water vainly.

About a half of the world's population live on less than two dollars a day. Thirty thousand children die because of poverty every day. However, we seem to put more value on economical growth than fixing the damaged ship at the bottom. Is money more important than the safety and lives of children?

Studying environmental issues is examining the way of our lives. If you learn about them, your values will change. Al Gore, the former vice president of the United States, said, "We have the right to know and an obligation to learn." Our generation is responsible for the environmental problems. Our hope is leaving a beautiful earth for our children.

Phillip's Tip about Enjoyable Ecological Life in San-Francisco

- ◆ At supermarkets, no plastic bags are provided (Only your bags, or paper bags)
 - ◆ If you bring your own bags, you are eligible to enroll your name into a lottery. Every month \$50 are given to the winners.
 - ◆ Any merchandise using Styrofoam is prohibited to sell by law.
 - ◆ Free ice-cream for the person who has their own mug-cup at the office!
 - ◆ Discount for coffee and juice if you bring your own mug-cup.
- People are enjoying ecological life!

Come and Join Us!**Japanese Class for High School Students**

A five-day summer course for the students whose mother tongue is not Japanese. You will learn Japanese used at school and useful information for your school life. (Winter and spring course will be held at the same place.)

Time: 13:30 - 16:45, July 27th (Mon) - 31st (Fri), 2009

Place: Meeting Room, 5F, Osaka City Naniwa Jinken Bunka Center (50 meters from JR Ashiharabashi ST)

Nihongo Koza, a Training Course for Foreign Residents to Teach Japanese Language

Let's study Japanese of day-to-day use, so that you will be able to teach it to the people who have just come to Japan. You may bring your children.

Time: Mondays 10:00 - 12:00 Place: Global Toyonaka

Salon for Foreign Mothers and Children

Time: Every 1st & 3rd Thursday 10:00-12:00

Place: Mainly at Toyonaka International Center

Mothers and fathers with babies are welcome.

Let's enjoy talking and playing together!

Kankyo Idobata Kaigi

Time: Every 3rd Sunday 12:30-13:50

Place: Global Toyonaka

Small study sessions about immediate and global environmental issues.

Sunday Bazaar

Time: Every 3rd Sunday 10:00-12:00

Place: Global Toyonaka

Open bazaar with high-quality clothes, accessories, daily goods, etc., sometimes with fresh vegetable.

Membership Invitation

Be a TIFA member and let's work together!

Active Member

Entrance Fee ¥2,000 Annual Fee ¥6,000
(¥500 per month)

Supporting Member

Annual Fee ¥3,000 or more

For details, please contact TIFA Office

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TIFA was founded in Nov. 1985 in Toyonaka City, Osaka. It is our aim to appreciate and encourage multicultural and peaceful coexistence through community-based activities and global cooperation programs

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Toyonaka International Friendship Association

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Japan-Thailand Youth Exchange

From May 3 to 10, students and teachers of Singburi School in Thailand stayed in Japan for TIFA's friendship program with Japanese students.

Look forward to their future friendship

Fusa Kasai

Five years have passed since we started the youth exchange program with Singburi School in 2004. Since then, we have been sending volunteer teachers to its Japanese class every year. And also, we have both visited each other to promote friendship.

In the meantime, some of the students of Singburi School have been encouraged to go ahead with their Japanese studies in order to work as a guide or act as a bridge between the two.

This year we carried out the Thai-Japanese youth camp in Minoh for 3 days, and TIFA members provided home stay for 5 days. We invited 6 members (2 teachers and 4 students) from Singburi. 22 Thai and Japanese students (high school, university, graduate school) gathered at the campsite and created their own friendly atmosphere under the leadership of graduate students.

Actually, a couple of Thai students who were attending Japanese high school happened to talk about their hard and isolated days at school because of their unfamiliar Japanese habits and poor Japanese language ability. Every participant listened to them carefully and understood them just like they were their brothers and sisters. Other students also talked about their Japanese studies. It was a wonderful time for them to share each of their experiences frankly.

They did just what we had hoped. We feel how quickly and easily young people make good friends! We hope they will keep in touch with each other, and maintain and deepen the friendly relations formed at this camp.



At the camp site



Thai students visited Baika high school

Dancing Interchange of Thailand and Japan

From April 8th to 19th, Thai Rajamangala University dancing group came to Osaka. Volunteers from TIFA organized and held home stays, Japanese culture class, a Thai dance performance, and a potluck party. We shared a great time together.



Nepal Project

Some of the TIFA members went to Nepal in April. They visited the groups TIFA is supporting, and talked with the local staff.

■ We have started the scholarship program Bati Shrestha

I returned to Nepal for the first time in two years. This time as a member of the TIFA Nepal Project, I conducted educational support. I hoped to see this program succeed, so I was very glad. I appreciated the members' cooperation. I want more members to become foster parents to raise funds for the children's school expenses.



Children in Dadhauri

The children are doing fine in Dadhauri village in Sindhuli, Dadhauri is a remote place that it takes over 10 hours to reach from Katmandu by off road vehicle. There are many poor areas here and their educational environment is harsh. A lot of children study holding their little brother or sister on their lap, so the classrooms in the lower grades are busy with children of various ages. But unfortunately the number of students decreases as their grade levels advance.

When the children received new notebooks and pencils, their eyes were twinkling. I said, "Good luck with your studies!", and they replied, "Yes!" with spirit.

■ The extension work of the Dadhauri Health Center and the support program for children in Nepal

With the support of Postal Savings, TIFA has been working on the construction of the second floor of Dadhauri Health Center. Ms. Tsutsui, Mr. Koike, Ms. Luxmi and Kasai visited Dadhauri and discussed this year's plan & budget. The construction started in May. We also distributed notebooks, pencils, ball point pens, tooth brushes etc. to needy children to encourage them to study well. This program is supported by Osaka Community Foundation "Koto Kyoko, Japan" (Fusa Kasai)



■ First Visit to the Happy Girls' Home Yuriko Tsutsui

After working as a TIFA member for 10 years, I finally visited the Happy Girls' Home in Nepal!

After a 10 hour bone-jarring drive we arrived at the TIFA Happy Girls' Home where I found pretty girls, whose faces are familiar to me from photos, welcoming us with flowers in their hands. They brought water from the well for our bathing and cooked delicious chicken curry for our dinner. Then black night fell silently. In the bed I felt moved to tears, thinking of the years these girls have been living together here, supporting each other, sharing the pain of losing their parents.

The next morning, after playing with the girls before they went to school, we discussed with the home staff about the girls' future. Five girls will complete compulsory education and leave this home next year, but we will not be able to stop supporting them until they find an independent career.

People I met in Nepal were all very warm and strong. But due to longstanding political unrest, Nepali young people cannot find their future hopes and dreams. I think we have to consider what we can do for them.



Activity Reports

■ Salon for Foreign Mothers & Children

◆ April 2 : We attended the seminar "Global food issues and our lives" (Kurashikan living information project) in order to cooperate with the TIFA Eco-project. Environmental issues are common issues in the world that will have an effect on our children's future. The first step is to know about that. After the lecture, we enjoyed having Indonesian egg dishes and Korean Yuzu tea with the participants.

◆ April 16 : Today, we got out of Toyonaka International Center and visited Banpaku Koen (Expo Park) with lunch boxes to see the tulip festival. There were colorful tulips in full bloom. Children got so frisky and parents also had a refreshing and fun time.



■ Recycling Bazaar for Foreign Residents

April 11(Sat): Many people visited the Recycling Bazaar held at Toyonaka International Center. TIFA holds the recycling bazaar of daily necessities in the spring and fall every year. Used home electric appliances, furniture, and bedding are very helpful for foreign students who have just come to Japan. We have been having the bazaar for years in order to support their lives and also to make effective use of resources. We thank you for your continued supports.

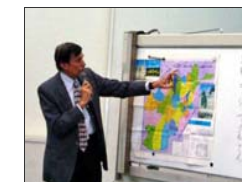
■ World Cookery - Italian Cuisine in Spring

April 23 : We learned how to prepare a course dinner from a former chef of an Italian restaurant. Federica from Bologna joined us, and we enjoyed discussing the difference between the ways of thinking toward meals as well.



■ TIFA Seminar "Let's Know about Afghanistan"

April 11, 2009: Toyonaka International Center
Lecturer: Mr. Raj Satal (Former vice director of Kabul University Library)
Raji from Kandahar talked about the complicated structure of tribes and races in Afghanistan, located in the center of the Silk Road and its cultural and historical background. According to his comments, there were many ethnic conflicts in Afghanistan before, and the civil wars put the country into a state of anarchy. At that time a powerful group, the Taliban, emerged. Now the Taliban's image is awful, but it could not manage the country without strict control. He also said that 99.9% of the people are Muslim. They believe in Islamic doctrine more than their own constitution.



He taught us that now, Afghanistan needs clean water, women doctors, jobs, and the recovery of rich agriculture and so on.

How do we, as Japanese citizens, support the country?

■ Citizens' Net Seminar 'Daily lives of North Koreans'

March 7 (Sat.) At Toyonaka International Center
Lecturer: Jiro Ishimaru (Representative of Asia Press International)

Organizer: International Citizens' Net Toyonaka
This lecture made us aware of how much we were controlled by the limited information we have about North Korea. North Koreans are not brainwashed robots. Through the unprecedented social confusion, the amount of powerful people are increasing who think by using their brains, without depending on the nation, and live for themselves. This change from the bottom is shaking the national system from the inside. Mr. Ishimaru's eagerness to share the truth made us feel his spirit as a journalist.

TIFA NEPAL PROJECT Supporters Wanted!

TIFA is looking for new members who support our activities to help and support children's education in Nepal. The member fee is ¥5,000 per year including mailing expense for regular reports.(3 or 4 times a year)
For more information, please inquire at the TIFA office.

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