

**Information**

◆We have published the Report on TIFA International Kids Camp 2009  
Reports about each group's activities, the comments from the participants and more. Available at TIFA Office.

◆We are collecting misprinted or unused postcards.

Please donate misprinted or unused postcards. It will help to fund TIFA's activities.

◆Laptop PCs are wanted!

We will open two PC schools in Nepal, to help the youth become financially independent. Please donate laptop computers with Windows 98 or newer that you are not using any more.

**Membership Invitation**

- **Active Member** ... Entrance Fee ¥2,000  
Annual Fee ¥6,000 (¥500 per month)
- **Supporting Member** ... Annual Fee ¥3,000 or more  
Your donations are also appreciated.  
For details, please contact the TIFA Office

**Come & Join Us!**

Contact: TIFA Office (Tel. 06-6840-1014)

<p><b>Sunday Bazaar</b> Time: Every 3rd Sundays 10:00~12:00 Place: Global Toyonaka Items: New clothes, accessories, fresh vegetables, sweets, etc.</p>	<p><b>Kankyo Idobata Kaigi</b> Time: Every 3rd Sundays 12:30-13:50 Place: Global Toyonaka Small study sessions about global environmental issues.</p>	<p><b>Salon for Foreign Mothers &amp; Children</b> Time: Every 1st &amp; 3rd Thursdays 10:00-12:00 Place: Mainly at Toyonaka International Center Mothers and fathers are welcomed. Let's enjoy talking and playing together!</p>
<p><b>Nihongo Koza -Japanese Teaching Class for Non-Japanese</b> Time: Mondays 10:00-12:00 Place: Global Toyonaka Let's study Japanese so that you will be able to teach it to the people who just come to Japan. You may bring your children.</p>	<p><b>Nihongo Koryu Salon (co-hosted by Tabunka-kyosei wo Susumeru Kai)</b> Time: Every Fridays 19:30-21:00 Place: Toyonaka International Center (B1) Intimate lessons suited to students' individual needs. Chat &amp; tea time will be fun!</p>	<p><b>Night Kanji Class</b> Time: Every Wednesdays 19:30-21:00 Place: Toyonaka International Center 2F Students who wish to learn Japanese including Kanji (Chinese character) are welcome.</p>

**Published: Non Profit Organization Toyonaka International Friendship Association (TIFA)**

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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For the newest information on events, please check the homepage.

<再生紙を一部使用しています>

**Please support the education of the children in Nepal!**



TIFA Nepal Project enables underprivileged children in Nepal to receive education, working with the members from Nepal. Your membership fee and donations will be used for raising them and their scholarship. Please support the project so that we will be able to continue the activity into the future.

**Supportive Group for TIFA Nepal Project**

Annual fee : ¥ 5000 or more  
Your donations greatly appreciated.  
For details, please contact TIFA Office.

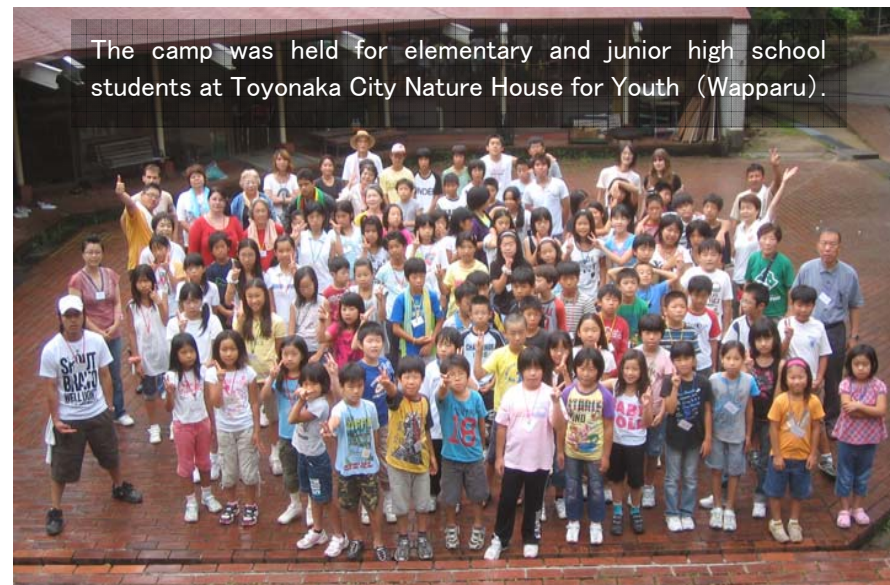


**Special Cultural Exchange Tour Report (Page 2)**  
TIFA members visited Vermont, USA, last September.



**3rd TIFA International Camp**

TIFA hosted the third annual International Camp from August 5<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup>. The children and foreign instructors from ten countries (China, Romania, Peru, Germany, Guatemala, Indonesia, Vietnam, Bulgaria, Azerbaijan, and Thailand) were divided into 5 groups and lived together for 3 days and 2 nights. The instructors shared lifestyles, language, songs, dances, games and foods from their respective countries, creating a memorable experience for the children. This year, as many children with international backgrounds were able to participate, the name "International Camp" is especially appropriate. We believe that the door of each child's heart has been opened to the vast world around them.



The camp was held for elementary and junior high school students at Toyonaka City Nature House for Youth (Wapparu).



Nice to meet all of you!



Let's cook food from different countries!



Did you learn Peruvian Spanish?



All of us danced together and enjoyed.

- <Schedule>**
- Day1
    - Let's make friends. (Meeting each other)
    - Group activities (Learning about each country)
  - Day2
    - Morning exercise and exploring the camp site.
    - Group activities (Singing and dancing).
    - Let's make food from other countries!
    - Why I am proud of my country!
    - The Haunted House.
  - Day3
    - Orienteering.
    - Group activities (Sharing memories).
    - Closing Ceremony and campsite cleanup

# Vermont: Living an Ecological and Multicultural Lifestyle

Sept.18-28, 2009

TIFA has hosted a group of teachers from Vermont for past 9 years, introducing Japanese culture through a homestay program. This time 10 TIFA members visited Vermont and met teachers again renewing our friendship.



## A broader global view is important in creating a better society.

Through the support of the Japan Foundation, we traveled to Vermont in the USA. We visited elementary schools that accommodate children with various backgrounds, and observed the current attitudes towards eco-friendly living, and facilities for senior citizens.



We observed elementary school classes consisting of less than 20 children, special staffs being provided for ESL classes, special needs students, lunchtime, and after school programs. Resources were devoted to protect the environment. Green materials were used even at greater costs in consumer goods and construction.



We would like to share what we learned from the people in Vermont in the hope that our lifestyle and attitudes will be challenged and improved. (Kasai)

## Wonderful VT! Wonderful People! Shelburne Farm eco-event, retirement home, schools and homestay

Activities started on our second day in Vermont. First we went to the eco-center, where they make fuel from weeds and tools from waste wood, reusing thread from old clothes and using sun energy. It was very similar to Japan. We experienced making wreathes and cornbread there. The retirement home was extremely beautiful! We showed *kamishibai*, tea ceremony, and how to wear kimono. We also enjoyed a game: passing a beanbag while singing a song of 'Hello, hello tortoise...' When we visited schools, we introduced Japanese calligraphy to the pupils. We taught the kanji for mountain, moon and river. They were excited and they wanted to try more and more! When I gave an explanation about how the kanji were created, they exclaimed, 'Cool! Cool!' They were interested in our culture. During our homestay, each of us had valuable experiences, such as carving Halloween lanterns out of pumpkins, attending a neighboring funeral, participating in a festival, and sightseeing. Someone even visited a junior high school with her host to introduce Japanese culture. We all experienced a very nice time with the children and our new friends. (Ito)

## Multicultural Education in Vermont the background and the practice

On the first day we visited a fair in Shelburne Farm. Blue skies, vast expanse of land, and country music from somewhere far. "Now I'm in the US!"

Some of the teachers we had met in Toyonaka invited us to visit their schools. A primary school in Burlington provides various assistances for the students in need, such as school meals and dental care. Children with different cultural backgrounds (27 countries!) are studying with American children. An English Language Class for young ESL/bilingual students began with the teacher's question: "What is it for?" as she showed a hammer with a nail. It was an example showing that the English language is an important tool for living in this country, just like a hammer is for driving in a nail. I admired the practical approach in motivating students to learn.

Vermont was the first state that proclaimed the emancipation of slaves. I found the people there are hard working and at the same time very concerned for the welfare of the disadvantaged.

Vermont is a place where woods, lakes and human beings exist in harmony. (Uchida)



## ■ Multicultural Salon for Mothers & Children Let's Practice Calligraphy!

Sep.17 (Thur.): Toyonaka International Center

We learned Japanese calligraphy from Ms. Ohya, a TIFA member. Though it was difficult to use a brush, we tried writing our children's names in Kanji, and enjoyed Japanese culture. New members have joined from Nepal and Spain. We expect our salon will be more lively.



## ■ Toyonaka Festival - Citizen's Friendship Square

We opened a stall at the Toyonaka Festival Citizen's Friendship Square on Aug. 5 and 6, and sold Nepalese goods and *pajeon* (Korean pancake). In spite of the extremely hot weather many members got together in the TIFA's tent!



## ■ Japanese Classes for High school students

Jul.21 (Mon) - 31(Fri) at Osaka City Human Rights and Culture Center

The 5 day intensive course finished successfully. The 18 participants coming from China, Korea, Brazil, Afghanistan, Philippine, Sweden, and Thailand studied practical Japanese useful for their studies and daily life. They did a great job with much help from teachers and Japanese instructors. On Dec.25 (Fri) and 28 (Mon) we will have a winter course; 25<sup>th</sup> to visit the Osaka Museum of Housing & Living, 28<sup>th</sup> to write a report in Japanese at Osaka City Human Rights & Culture Center. New participants are welcome!!



## ■ Cross-cultural Understanding Program

At Kitaoka Elementary School on September 16<sup>th</sup>  
Lecturer: Ms. Eli Rostinah (Indonesia)

"Selamat siang! (Hello)" The guest speaker, Ms. Eli, briskly exchanged greetings with the Elementary students in Indonesian. She introduced her country to the children in gentle and fluent Japanese. The red of Indonesia's flag represents courage while the white represents purity. She also spoke briefly about Ramadan (Muslim's fast), and how they use that period to think about people in poverty and helping others. Lastly, the children enjoyed singing the "Do-ra-e-mon" song in Indonesian with Eli, which is very popular among children in Indonesia as well as in Japan.



## ■ TIFA Seminar "The Reality of Palestinians born in Nablus Refugee Camp"

Date: Sept. 5 (Sat) at Toyonaka International Center  
Speaker: Mr. Mahmoud al-Mahmoud

Mr. Mahmoud spoke, in reply to Ms. Eto's questions, a TIFA member, about how his fellow Palestinians live under the Israeli occupation and how he himself was brought up.

Surrounded by 8-meter high walls, refugees depend on the U.N. in all aspects of their lives from food to education. The camp is filled with feelings of despair and there is no hope. On the Israeli side, people teach their children to view the Palestinians as the enemy and train them to kill people. The hostile relationship has lasted 60 years. Mr. Mahmoud said that he does not want to leave this peaceful country, Japan, to go back to his hometown now; but if Israelis proposed that Israelis and Palestinians live together in harmony, he would return home immediately. TIFA members do hope that his prayer will be answered soon.

Many participants felt that the session was fruitful as they could learn new ideas by meeting with Mr. Mahmoud in person. TIFA will continue offering seminars where we can hear directly from those who experience firsthand, and not through the media.

## ■ Afghanistan Seminar

'Afghanistan - Life in Chaos'

Oct. 3 (Sat.) at Kurashikan Event Hall  
Lecturer: Fumikazu Nishitani (Free Journalist)

We were happy to welcome Mr. Nishitani, who visited Afghanistan in June, who briefed upon the present situation of the Afghan people with video and photos.

He visited a refugee camp in the suburbs of Kabul to find 1500 or more refugees who were caught in the conflict between the US and the Taliban and left their homeland. Without any support from government or UN, they were barely surviving with handouts from the neighboring community. It's no surprise that there are ever more "New Taliban" fighters produced from such inhumane circumstances. They need jobs. They expect Japan to help them with nonmilitary support, instead of spending money to support the US army.

Soon Mr. Nishitani will visit Afghanistan again to bring food and blankets to the refugees. "Thank you for helping people of my home country." As an Afghan student expressed her gratitude, everyone's faces showed a smile.

