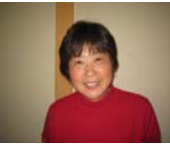


**Sawasdee ♪ from Singburi School, Thai**

Fumiko Matsunami, a volunteer Japanese teacher at Singburi Middle and High School, from last May, reports her days.



"Ohayo gozaimasu." "Konnichiwa."  
I hear the voices of students greeting me everywhere. The Singburi students, including the ones who are not taking Japanese classes, are all friendly. I feel their strong interest in Japan. Many of them listen to Japanese young pops downloaded from PC. They also love Japanese food, and I was frequently asked, "Fumiko, do you know how to cook okonomiyaki?"

I hear it was extremely hot this summer in Japan, but it is even hotter here. Especially in May, when I came here, it was almost burning. External temperature was 40 degrees C. I felt myself breaking out into a sweat just by breathing. Japanese classes are often in a room without an air conditioner. I admire the students working hard in the heat.

Five months have passed since I came here, and everything is still fresh to me. I would like to enjoy my days with the motto of maipenrai (take it easy).

**Coco Project in Mindanao Island, Philippines**

We visited three farms near Cagayan de Oro in the Province of Misamis Oriental in the east of Mindanao Island, from Sept 13<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup>. We checked the progress of the Coco Program that receives distribution money of the International Volunteer Savings at current year. In Southeast Asia, coco trees are indispensable for people's lives, and called "trees of life". But the trees that would live 100 years are cut down for timber one after another. Though it will take about five years that the seedlings planted this summer bare fruits, we are looking forward to their growth. It is the charm of this project that we can make local people smile with coco. (Mizuki Hosogai)



**Membership Invitation**

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

**Come & Join Us!**

Inquiries: TIFA Office Tel. 06-6840-1014

**Nihongo Koza (Japanese Teaching Class for Non-Japanese)**

Time: Wednesdays 9:30-11:30  
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.

**Nihongo Koryu Salon**

Time: Every Fridays 19:30-21:00  
Place: Toyonaka International Center  
Intimate lessons suited to students' individual needs. Chat & tea time will be fun!

**Night Kanji Class**

Time: Every Tuesdays 19:30-21:00  
Place: Toyonaka International Center  
Students who wish to learn Japanese including *Kanji* are welcome.

**Salon for Foreign Mothers & Children**

Time: Every 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays 10:00-12:00  
Place: Mainly at Toyonaka International Center  
Mothers and fathers are welcomed. Let's enjoy talking and playing together!



**Global Bazaar**

Time: Every 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays 10:00-12:00  
Place: Global Toyonaka  
You can get clothes, accessories, daily goods, etc. of quite good quality.



**Published: NPO Toyonaka International Friendship Association**

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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**Feature** TIFA International Kids Camp 2010 (P.2)  
Hosting the Teachers in Asian Studies Program from Vermont USA (P.3)

**TIFA Nepal Project**

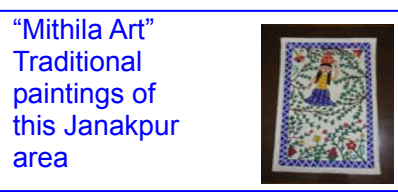
The activities of Toyonaka International Friendship Association (TIFA) comprise:  
1. Support to foreigners who live in this area;  
2. International mutual understanding programs at schools;  
3. International exchange programs; and 4. International cooperations.  
As for No.4, we have 3 projects in Nepal:  
a) Support the construction and management of the community's Learning & Training Center;  
b) Support to run a girls' orphanage; "Happy Girls Home"  
c) Start and manage a Support Center in Kathmandu;  
We are working in cooperation with Nepali NGO groups, counting on many sponsors

**Report: Happy Girls Home Sumi Tanaka & Fusa Kasai**

In October, we visited Sindhuli to teach sewing techniques to girls who finished the 10 years education period at "Happy Girls Home". 5 of the girls have been practicing to make Mithila arts (traditional regional Painting), small bags, which Japanese high school students ordered. There are 18 girls including 3 girls who will finish their studies next March and 10 small girls. They all said that they are very happy as they can go to school, eat well and have friends there. Though TIFA has been encouraging staffs to manage the orphanage by themselves without TIFA's support, we will have to support few more years...



Big girls are working with sewing machine



"Mithila Art" Traditional paintings of this Janakpur area



Happy Girls Home (Girls' orphanage in Nepal)

**Please give your support to the women and children in Nepal!**  
Your membership fee and donations will be used for the management of Happy Girls' Home, their scholarship, and to support the women to be independent. Please support us so that we will be able to continue these activities.  
**Supportive Group for TIFA Nepal Project**  
Annual fee : ¥ 5000 or more  
Your donations will be appreciated anytime.  
For details, please contact TIFA Office.

# Open a Door to the World!

2010.8.23 ~ 8.25 at Wapparu Toyonaka

80 children attended the 4<sup>th</sup> TIFA International Kids Camp this year and spent 2 nights-3 days with leaders from all over the world. There were 5 groups. This year junior high school group was established to provide more attractive and challenging programs for each age group. Junior High school kids learned more about foreign cultures, and sometimes supported program leaders as assistants. Younger kids respected them. It was extremely hot and TIFA member spent most of the time providing liquids. We have already started talking about the next year's program.



This year, leaders were from Vietnam, China, Inner Mongolia, Germany, Thailand, Peru, Korea, Afghanistan, Brazil, Guatemala, and Malaysia!



Children listening to a lecture about Afghanistan with great interest



Boys and Girls enjoyed cooking their own international lunch. It was very delicious!



## Voices from the Leaders

- \* I will not forget the wonderful time I spent with the kids in this summer.
- \* I played games with children so it was very tiring but I spent a great time.
- \* It was very difficult to give orders to the children but Japanese staff helped us a lot. This camp was a touching experience for me.
- \* For the children, I think I was not a leader but a friend.
- \* Children helped me with making lunch and ate it with big smiles. It was a rewarding experience.
- \* Most important finding in this camp was that children do not have any preconception for foreigners. These experiences will be very important for the children and Japan's future.



Children wearing Inner Mongolian costumes. At "Okunijiman" children sang, danced and showed what they had learned from their group leaders.

<TIFA International Kid's Camp was funded by "National Institution for Youth Education, Children's Dream Fund">

## University of Vermont Asian Studies Outreach Program

July 9-17, 2010

TIFA has hosted a group of teachers from Vermont, USA since 1999, introducing Japanese culture through a program including home stay. This was their 10<sup>th</sup> visit, and we provided the 12 teachers with various Japanese culture experience programs.



### Messages



I am always overwhelmed by TIFA's generosity and many kindness to me, and to all our ASOP members. Thank you from the bottom of my heart. -Sharon (leader)



I look forward to bringing the things I have learned back to my classroom, and will treasure the three weeks I have spent in Japan. - Eric



My favorite day was our visit to the Harada Castle Ruin. We enjoyed viewing some traditional Japanese dances, touring the beautiful house, etc. What an excellent day! -Lisa



I am grateful to my host family for the lovely way they have opened their home and their hearts to me. They have led me into a quiet and personal experience of life in Japan today, here in Toyonaka. - Dianne

Last year TIFA members visited Vermont and interacted with some teachers, and then a new group of teachers came to Toyonaka this year. TIFA members provided them the best possible programs including home stay, traditional culture workshops (such as Japanese cooking, Japanese calligraphy, the tea ceremony, flower arrangement, Origami, Japanese dance, and tsgaru-shamisen), and had a party to deepen our friendship. It is important to be exposed to each other's culture and promote a better understanding, especially in this complicated world. "Let's build a peaceful world by personal contacts on a grass-roots level!" We said goodbye, shaking hands with each other.



at Japanese class



Bon dance wearing yukata (light cotton kimono)



After the tea ceremony



Shamisen lesson

## Activity Reports

### ■ Bus tour with foreign residents

On Sat., May 22, a total of 49 people including TIFA members and foreign residents took a trip to Shiga. Impressed by the beautiful building and exhibits of the Miho Museum and greeted by a herd of raccoons at a kiln in Shigaraki, tourists enjoyed the sunny spring day. In the Koga school Ninja house, some tried shuriken, or blade throwing.



### ■ Training session for Japanese language teaching volunteers

Commissioned by the Agency for Cultural Affairs, TIFA conducted a seven-part series of training sessions, from May through September, for volunteers who give Japanese language lessons to foreign residents. Expertise and experiences were shared by Prof. Nishiguchi Ms. Lokugamage, Mr. Okada, and former foreign students who finished learning at TIFA language classes. TIFA is committed to delivering more effective lessons that meet the needs of the students.

### ■ Afghanistan Workshop

We had Ms. Mayumi Karako, Chief of Lala Association (Ikoma City, Nara) as a guest speaker on Sun., September 12. She has worked to support orphanages and women's independence in Herat, Western Afghanistan. She talked about her experience and ended her speech saying, "Having a good local partner is the key to foreign support." What we can do for them is, I believe, not giving up on them, that is, thinking about them.



### ■ International Understanding Programs

TIFA holds international understanding programs on a regular basis at after-school classes in Elementary schools. We also dispatch foreign speakers to local public halls, middle schools or high schools. We have responded to their requests such as "Please dispatch several foreign students from different countries", "We need a native English speaker" and "Please send a foreign student to play with little children." We believe that those programs will be a great experience not only for children, but also for foreign students or residents. Feel free to contact us for the program.

### ■ Multicultural Salon for Foreign Mothers and Children

We meet on the first & third Thursdays every month. Last September, we made a toy "Rainbow Egg". We are now thinking about what to do next, such as Dressing Kimono, rhythmic, hiking or storytelling in different languages, etc. Would you like to join us? (If you are Japanese, you can join as a staff and help us.)

