

# Sekai wa Hitotsu

Gifu International Center (GIC)

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## The Gifu Prefectural Japanese Learning Support Center is now open!

Here at the Gifu International Center, we have recently opened the “Gifu Prefectural Japanese Learning Support Center”, to support foreign residents of Gifu Prefecture by providing opportunities to learn Japanese and the culture and rules closely related to daily life, and by supporting the creation of such learning environments.

At the opening ceremony held on June 18<sup>th</sup>, the new signboard was unveiled following opening remarks by Governor Furuta and Board Chairman Yoshida, and a congratulatory address by Mr. Yagi, Director for the Promotion of Social Education at the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology.

The Japanese Learning Support Center will provide consultations related to Japanese language learning, as well as organizing online Japanese classes, training Japanese language instructors, and supporting local Japanese classes set up by municipalities, companies, and other organizations.



Board Chairman Yoshida



Governor Furuta



Director Yagi

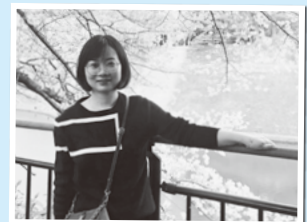
## Introducing our new Coordinator for International Relations!

Nice to meet you all, my name is Yin Xiuzhen and I'm from Jiangxi Province in China. I started working as a CIR here at the Gifu International Center in April. This is my third time in Japan, but it's been 12 years since I was last here.

It's my first time in Gifu Prefecture, but because Gifu and Jiangxi share a longstanding friendship partnership of 35 years, I've been familiar with Gifu for a long time. Gifu Prefecture, blessed with astounding nature, is considered a must-see tourist destination in Japan. My home province of Jiangxi actually has many places that resemble Gifu. Jiangxi has scenic beauty and is full of cultural attractions. It has spectacular mountains, clear rivers, old towns, traditional houses, folk villages and historic archaeological sites listed as UNESCO World Heritage Sites. On the other hand, Jiangxi's provincial capital Nanchang is a vibrant city lined with high rise buildings.

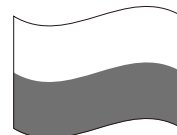
So in Jiangxi, history and the modern era blend together harmoniously. Please visit if you have the chance and enjoy the many charms of Jiangxi Province to the fullest!

I feel truly honored to have the opportunity to work as a CIR at the Gifu International Center. I hope to settle in quickly so that I can perform my duties well and be of service. My current duties include translating and interpreting, running Chinese language classes and multicultural events, etc. I am excited about engaging in cultural exchange and interacting with the people of Gifu Prefecture. I look forward to working with and meeting you all in the near future!



Introducing groups operating in Gifu

# Gifu Prefecture Polish Exchange Association



On February 27<sup>th</sup>, with Gifu Prefecture Governor Hajime Furuta, Gifu Prefectural Assembly Chairman Ikuo Nojima and the Mayor of Ena Takane Kosaka as advisers, the Gifu Prefecture Polish Exchange Association was established. President Shinichiro Abe of the Ena City Tourism Association and President Kumiko Tashiro of the Ena City International Exchange Association were appointed as the President and the Vice President respectively of the Gifu Prefecture Polish Exchange Association.

The Polish Ambassador to Japan Paweł Milewski, member of the House of Representatives Keiji Furuya and the Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Yoshifumi Tsuge were welcomed as guests at the opening ceremony, which was held at the Polish Embassy in Tokyo.

The exchange was set in motion by the Polish canoe team, who were competing in the Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games, coming to Ena for pre-games training.

Later, fundraising activities for Ukrainian refugees living in Poland began after the Russian invasion of Ukraine, with large donations being made. In particular, the Ambassador himself participated in the Ena Kita Junior High School graduation ceremony to convey a message of thanks to the pupils for their fundraising efforts. In August 2023 the Silesian Voivodeship province in southern Poland and Gifu Prefecture signed a memorandum of friendship and cooperation, and following the launch of the Exchange Association, on March 28<sup>th</sup> 2024 the Manggha Museum of Japanese Art and Technology (in Krakow, Poland) and the Hiroshige Museum of Art (in Ena) signed an agreement of friendship and cooperation. For the signing of the agreement, a Polish delegation that included Manggha Museum Director Katarzyna Nowak, five other members of staff from the museum, and Director Urszula Osmycka from the Center for Public Relations and Culture visited Ena to further the exchange.

We will continue to promote projects with the aim of developing the exchange with Poland.



(July 2021) Poland's canoe team publicly practicing for the Tokyo Olympics. Children cheered for them using handmade fans of the Polish flag.



(February 2024) From the left, Polish Ambassador to Japan Paweł Milewski presents bouquets of flowers to President Abe and Vice President Tashiro at the opening ceremony of the Gifu Prefecture Polish Exchange Association.

**48<sup>th</sup> National High School Comprehensive Culture Festival**  
To be held in Gifu, the land of clear waters in 2024  
Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> July to Monday 5<sup>th</sup> August 2024, for 6 days

~ What is the National High School Comprehensive Culture Festival? ~

The National High School Comprehensive Culture Festival is an annual festival of art and cultural activities that high school students from all over Japan participate in, and which will be held for six days between Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> July and Monday 5<sup>th</sup> August. The event's location rotates through all the Japanese prefectures, so this year Gifu Prefecture is holding the event for the first time in 40 years.

Approximately 20,000 high school students from around the country will gather together and approximately 100,000 visitors will attend the festival, making it the largest domestic cultural event in Japan.

In addition, high school students from other countries will be invited to participate in the general opening ceremony and the parade, and will engage in exchange with high school students from Gifu Prefecture.

Outline of the festival:

Events	General opening ceremony, parade
Stipulated divisions (19 in total)	Theatre, choir, wind music, instrumental and orchestral music, traditional Japanese music, sword dance-accompanied poetry recital, folk entertainment, marching band and baton twirling, arts and crafts, calligraphy, photography, broadcasting, Go, Shogi, debate, Japanese playing cards based on the classical Ogura Hyakunin Isshu poetry anthology, newspaper, literature, natural science
Cooperative divisions	Special needs school(s), local studies, flower arranging competition

**39<sup>th</sup> National Cultural Festival, 24<sup>th</sup> National Arts and Culture Festival for persons with disabilities**  
Gifu Land of Clear Waters Art Festival 2024  
Monday 14<sup>th</sup> October (national holiday)  
to Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> November 2024

~ What is the Gifu Land of Clear Waters Art Festival 2024? ~

The Gifu Land of Clear Waters Art Festival 2024 is the unification under one name of the 39th National Cultural Festival and the 24th National Arts and Culture Festival for persons with disabilities. It is an event where various kinds of cultural activities are presented, performed and exchanged on a national scale. It will be held for 42 days from Monday 14<sup>th</sup> October to Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> November, and throughout this period different events will take place in every municipality and area of the prefecture so anyone and everyone can become familiar with culture and the arts.

The festival's slogan is "Togetherness and Connecting for the Future: Creating a Culture of Clear Waters". With the use of the key phrase "clear waters", ("seiryu" in Japanese, it can also be translated as "clear streams" in English), which is a vital part of Gifu's identity, the slogan expresses the goal of widely sharing local resources and the efforts of local people both domestically and overseas, along with creating new opportunities for exchange and "a culture of clear waters" unique to Gifu in the post-COVID era.

## For expectant mothers of foreign nationalities giving birth to and raising children in Japan

日本で出産、子育てをされる外国籍の妊産婦さんへ

FREE

### Many maternal and child health services in Japan are free

日本の母子保健サービスの多くは無料です

In Japan, most of the various health checkups, classes, and visits are free, so you should actively make use of them. In particular, infant health checkups are important to monitor your child's growth. Go for each and every one of the checks. Some of the services require payment (health checkup for expectant mothers, care services after childbirth, etc.), however there are subsidies available from your local municipality to reduce the expense burden.



FREE

### Ambulance services are also free

救急車も無料です

If your child becomes unwell all of a sudden, call an ambulance by dialing 119. Ambulance services are local government-run, and therefore free. If you are calling from a mobile phone, have your address on hand when you call.



### Treatment is not given at the Comprehensive Support Center for Families with Children (public health center)

子育て世代包括支援センター(保健センター)では治療はしません

The Comprehensive Support Center for Families with Children (public health center) is a local government center that offers full support for parents and children, from the time of pregnancy through to child-rearing stages (until the time before your child enters elementary school). Please discuss anything you would like to know regarding yourself or your child. Specialists will not only listen to your concerns but will also connect you with the necessary services that you can make use of. However, delivery, immunizations and treatment for illness or injury take place at medical institutions.



### If you are having difficulty raising your child

育てにくさを感じたら

Along with your child's growth come issues such as, when your child will not sit still for a moment and calm down, if your child becomes completely absorbed in something and becomes unaware of everything else around them, when they have you wondering why other children are reasonable and yet.... At times like these, you should discuss the issue with someone such as a public health nurse from the Comprehensive Support Center for Families with Children (public health center), or your regular pediatrician. At health checkups you may be told that your child's development is not the same as that of other children, however while receiving the necessary support, understand the individuality of your child and focus on enhancing their strengths.

### Violence is prohibited

暴力は×です

Before and after childbirth, hormone balances change suddenly, and post-delivery, having to get up to change diapers and breast-feed every two to three hours can lead to exhaustion mentally and physically. This can lead to stress, and there may be times when a mother will strike her child. For partners too, being unable to sleep because of a crying baby added to the stress of work could lead to them yelling angrily or hitting. However, no matter the reason, assault or causing injury is strictly prohibited! If frustration builds, after checking your child's safety, separate yourself from the child momentarily to compose yourself. Otherwise you can call the Comprehensive Support Center for Families with Children (public health center) and talk to someone about how you are feeling.



### Don't struggle alone

ひとりで抱え込まないで

When you do not go out often while your child is young, you can become prone to getting caught with concerns and worries alone. Moreover, if the only other person who can use your native language is your partner, you may become isolated. Raise any concerns or worries about child raising with someone from the Comprehensive Support Center for Families with Children (public health center). If you are looking for a friend who can speak your native language, or would like information in your native language, first, check prefectural governments international exchange associations or embassy websites using a smartphone or computer. There may be a community listing or information that will give you some relief.



企画・制作 公益社団法人 母子保健推進会議

## Let's celebrate Bastille Day with Brazilian-style BBQ and Japanese-French rakugo exchange!

July 14<sup>th</sup> marks Bastille Day in France, and under France's founding principles of freedom, equality and fraternity, Cyril Coppini (a traditional rakugo storyteller of French nationality) and Brazilians from all over Japan are invited to gather together in Gifu to engage in exchange with the people of Gifu through enjoying food, rakugo storytelling and samba. Let's all have fun and experience this multicultural event!



- Date and time** 14<sup>th</sup> July 2024 16:00-20:30 Churrasco Brazilian BBQ  
18:30-19:30 Japanese-French rakugo performance
- Location** Entokuji Temple (6-24 Kanda-machi, Gifu-shi)
- Joint hosts** Gifu Prefecture Japanese-French Association  
Gifu Prefecture Japanese-Brazilian Association
- Eligibility** Anyone can participate
- Capacity** 150 people (for the rakugo storytelling)
- Price** Rakugo performance: 1500 yen (for members of the Japanese-French or Japanese-Brazilian associations, or when bought in advance), 2000 yen (for non-members or when bought on the day of the event).  
Churrasco BBQ party: 2500 yen (1500 yen for elementary school children).
- Enquiries** Japanese-French rakugo performance applications:  
Gifu Prefecture Japanese-French Association  
Address: 12 Hashizume-cho, Gifu-shi  
TEL/FAX: 058-235-7253 090-3850-9478 (lizuka)  
Email: i-grec@mub.biglobe.ne.jp  
  
Churrasco BBQ applications:  
Gifu Prefecture Japanese-Brazilian Association  
TEL: 058-263-4315  
FAX: 058-263-4357  
Email: kumada@earth-p.com



### Information

#### Gifu Prefectural Consultation Center for Foreign Residents

Please get in touch if you are facing difficulties regarding life in Japan in areas such as taxes, housing, education, and welfare. We work with administrative parties to help you find solutions to your problems. \*We cannot provide services in certain areas such as medical interpreting.

**Opening hours** : Monday to Friday 9:30 – 16:30

※excluding public holidays and the New Year holiday period

**Phone number** : 058-263-8066

**Languages** : English, Chinese, Portuguese, Tagalog, Vietnamese, Korean, Indonesian, Thai, Khmer, Nepali, Burmese, Spanish, Malay, Mongolian

In-person consultations are available in English, Chinese, Portuguese, Tagalog and Vietnamese at the Gifu International Center. For other languages, consultations are only available over the phone.

#### Issued By

#### Gifu International Center (GIC)

Gifu Chunichi Building 2F,1-12 Yanagase Dori, Gifu City, 500-8875  
Tel: 058-214-7700 Fax: 058-263-8067  
E-mail: gic@gic.or.jp URL: <https://www.gic.or.jp>  
Opening hours: Sunday to Friday 9:30 – 18:00  
Closed: Saturday, Public Holidays, New Year Period  
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