

Inuyama Multilingual News

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Exchange with the local community through the cultivation of vegetables using abandoned farmland!



Mr. Tran Van-Ha
Nationality: Vietnam
Status of Residence:
Engineer
Came to Japan: 2014
Work: Manufacturing
Deputy section Chief



Why did you start farming?

I thought it was a waste because there were many abandoned fields around my house due to aging. I thought that I would rather grow vegetables by farming it than having it covered with weeds. I was introduced to the owner of the abandoned farmland by an acquaintance of a city council member of mine who lived in the neighborhood. I also had farming experience in Vietnam, so I rented the field free of charge and am currently growing vegetables with my wife. I visit the owner with vegetables and report on the cultivation status once a month. I also bought a used tractor. The field is divided into three places, and the cultivation area is 160 square meters in total. There is still a lot of abandoned farmland in the surrounding area, so I would like my Vietnamese friends to do farming, but in order to rent a field, I think that it is first necessary to build a relationship of trust with the owners of the farmland.

How did you build a trusting relationship?

In my case at first, I borrowed a part of the field that an acquaintance city council member of mine had cultivating, and we weeded frequently to keep it clean. I think the owners of the abandoned farmland in the surrounding area have come to trust me by observing the situation.

What vegetables are you growing?

There are more than 15 kinds of vegetables including white corn, *montoi* (tsurumurasaki), *kuusinsai* (a kind of spinach Vietnamese are fond of), lemongrass, peanuts, sweet potato, and pumpkin.

The vegetables I harvested are eaten by me, the owner of the farm, and my Vietnamese friends living in about 20 households in the neighborhood.

What makes me glad I started farming

It's been eight years since I came to Japan, and I want to live in Japan forever. Vietnamese and Japanese have different eating habits, so we wanted to remember the taste of our home country and grow what we wanted to eat as much as possible. Thanks to renting the abandoned farmland, I was able to grow various vegetables and I think that I deepened my interaction with the people around me.

Why I started farming and how it has spread.

The desire to make effective use of abandoned cultivation land and engage in agriculture is spreading around the area. I also interact with Japanese people around me.

A message to foreign residents

No matter where you live, I think that it will be easier to live by following the rules there and not bothering the people around you.

Message to Japanese people

Since I am a foreigner, there are things I do not understand, and if there is any inconvenience due to cultural differences, I would be grateful if you could let me know.

<Comments from Mr. Shintaro Suzuki, a resident of Gakuden>

As of 2021, the amount of abandoned farmland in Inuyama was about 6.3 hectares. The reasons for this are the aging of the population, lack of heirs, and the increasing damage from wild boars. However, thanks to the arrival of people like Mr. Ha, both he and the people in the community have benefited from each other's efforts, and we have grown closer together. In particular, the elderly people in the community have come to talk to me casually, and I feel that the "barriers" of nationality and culture are disappearing. Many of the vegetables that Japanese people eat were imported from overseas centuries ago. Foreign nationals know better how to grow and eat them.

We would like to create a space where everyone can join and talk together to help create a town where people of all origins and of all types can live comfortably together.



The Inuyama International Association (IIA) holds a Multicultural Online Chatting Club once a month for one hour on Zoom. Everyone is welcome to join us:

- People who want to exchange opinions with others
- People, even those with limited Japanese, who would like to talk with others in Japanese, are welcome

*Let's talk together about our community in Japanese.
Next date: December 17th (Sat.), 19:30-20:30

*Apply to <https://forms.gle/cLmM8LAJmsozaQVB8>



*Japanese residents in Inuyama and nearby are also welcome to attend.

*We are looking for additional discussion topics. Please share with us any troubles, difficulties, or anything you would like to see changed: <https://forms.gle/oDoEK8kyyupxFmbQ9>



Past Topics:

*Manners in my country,
Things my parents, teachers,
and other adults said to me when
I was a child, and more.*

Shakeout Training (Source: The Great Japan Shake Out)

Japan has earthquakes. You never know when an earthquake will strike. You do not know where you might be when an earthquake strikes. You might be at home, at school, at work, or on vacation. In order to react quickly in case of an emergency, it is important to practice shakeout drills on a regular basis. If you are indoors, protect your head by performing the Safety Action 1-2-3 "Stay low, protect your head, and don't move" on the spot. Then remain still until the shaking stops. If an earthquake occurs while you are outside, find a place at first that is away from buildings, trees, utility poles, and power lines, and then take steps 1-2-3 to secure your safety. Remain there until the shaking stops.



If there is a possibility of a tsunami, evacuate to the highest possible place nearby as soon as the shaking stops.

Here is a man who is studying hard at the Inuyama Japanese Language Class!



Mr. U Koutei
Nationality: Chinese
Arrived in Japan: December 2020
Work: Painting
Status of residence: Technical Intern



I came to Japan because Japan is close in distance and its culture is similar to ours. I have been watching Japanese anime on TV in China since I was a child. I watched Conan, Naruto, Doraemon, Crayon Shinchan, and many others. When I came to Japan, I visited Gosho Aoyama's hometown museum in Tottori Prefecture. I also like mystery novels and read Keigo Higashino's novels in translation in China. There were senior Chinese employees at the company who taught me a lot of things, so I had no particular problems. I would like to study Japanese hard and work in Japan for a long time.

<Comments from Masaru Zemoto, volunteer in charge>

Mr. Koutei always takes a lot of notes and studies hard. Above all, I am impressed by his readiness to come earlier than the starting time every day. All these things inspire me too. It seems that his bosses at his company are very kind to him, and perhaps his hard work naturally makes those around him want to support him.

Beware of Heat Stroke! (source: Suntory Beverage Solution Co.)

Summer heat in Japan is also very humid that many foreigners might not be accustomed to it. Have you ever heard of *necchusho*, *heat stroke*? Necchusho, heatstroke is an illness that causes various symptoms such as elevated body temperature, dizziness, cramps, and headaches as a result of a rise in body temperature, an imbalance of water and salt in the body, and an inability to regulate body temperature.

To avoid heat stroke:



1. Avoid being in the hot places



2. Hydrate regularly



3. Take a break if you get tired



Interviewing Our Language Course Teacher

Inuyama International Association offers language courses taught by native speakers. The courses are English, Korean, Spanish, German, Chinese, Portuguese, and French. In this issue, we interviewed Ms. Kawase Debora, a teacher of the Portuguese language course.

- ◆Country of Origin: Parana, Brazil
- ◆Arrival in Japan: 19 years ago (in 2003)
- ◆About Portuguese Course: In the course, I do not only teach the Portuguese Language but also introduce the culture and customs of Brazil. By learning about the culture and customs behind the language, you will also deepen your understanding of the language. Brazil is not just a country of samba and carnival, so I want people to know more about Brazil's charms and I'd love to see you visit Brazil. Won't you join us for a Portuguese language course?
- ◆Cultural shock when you first came to Japan: Japanese-style toilet and bathtub. In Brazil, there are no bathtubs, and showers and western-style toilets are generally located in the same room.
- ◆What you struggled with most when you first came to Japan: I could not use Japanese at all.
- ◆How did you learn Japanese?: I studied on my own and I have Level N2 now.
- ◆What language do you speak at home?: We were speaking Portuguese when we arrived in Japan. Currently it's 80% Japanese. My two younger children were born in Japan, however I taught them Portuguese at home so that they could speak directly with relatives when they return to Brazil, so they speak both Japanese and Portuguese.
- ◆Difficulties in living in Japan: The high cost of living. Because I did not know about the Japanese school system, I faced things that I was not familiar with, such as the entrance fee that is required in addition to the tuition fee when a child goes to college, and so forth.
- ◆What would you like to do in Japan in the future?: Travel to various places in Japan, especially to Hiroshima.



Rules For Riding a Bicycle (source: Aichi Prefectural Police Headquarters)

In Aichi prefecture, in order to reduce the number of traffic accidents involving bicycles, new rules have been in place since October 2021.

※Both adults and children should wear helmets when riding bicycles.



Many people lose their lives from head injuries in bicycle accidents. Wear a helmet and protect your life.

※To ride a bicycle, you must also have bicycle insurance.



Having an accident on a bicycle can cost you a lot of money. So please get insurance for your bike.

We offer events where you can experience Japanese culture and meet new Japanese friends. You do not need to know a lot of Japanese.

Inuyama International Association (IIA) offers multicultural events throughout year for the local foreign and Japanese residents throughout the year. Here are some of the events we have held recently.



Hiking in Inuyama (Oct., 2022)
The participants visited Inuyama Castle.



Multicultural Exchange Café
(Feb., 2022)
After trying Japanese calligraphy, participants shared the traditional games and culture of their own countries.



International Cooking Class
(July, 2022)
Vietnamese and Japanese participants interacted with each other as they cooked Vietnamese and Japanese dishes together.



Multicultural Exchange Café
(Aug. 2022)
The participants experienced a traditional Japanese tea ceremony and talked about the tea culture of other countries.

○Next Hiking Event:

Date: Sunday, November 27th, 2022, 1 p.m.
Meeting Place: Entrance Hall of Freude
※Please see IIA's Website for further information.

We have a number of events planned for this year. Please check our homepage and Facebook page for details. IIA homepage: <http://iiea.info>. Please search for the Facebook account using "Inuyama International Association."

<Homepage> <http://iiea.info>



Search on Facebook

「Inuyama International Association」



Let's watch the news in easy Japanese!

You can watch the news in easy Japanese and listen to audio on the Internet and Facebook.

◆NEWS WEB EASY (NHK): [NEWS WEB EASY \(nhk.or.jp\)](https://www.nhk.or.jp/news/easy/)

◆Yasashii Nihongo News (Easy Japanese News)/With news Asahi Shinbun | Facebook:

[やさしい日本語ニュース / withnews ・ 朝日新聞 | Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/yasashii-nihongo-news/)

Cool Japan

Tea Ceremony



The tea ceremony is a traditional Japanese culture of hospitality, in which a cup of tea is dedicated to a guest.

When we welcome guests, we prepare with all our hearts, and we do our utmost to please them. The tea ceremony naturally generates a sense of gratitude in those who receive it, and we are able to communicate with each other.



Japanese Onomatopoeia!

Do you know onomatopoeia?

Onomatopoeia is a word that describes a state, movement, and so forth. in sound.

Learning Japanese onomatopoeia will make your Japanese conversation more enjoyable.

Try using it!

paku-paku



When someone is eating very quickly

gera-gera



When someone is laughing loudly

pota-pota



The sight and sound of water drops falling

gyu-gyu



People forcibly cramming and pushing

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