

## To All Students of Foreign Nationality Studying in Japan

**Ms. Tian Lu came to Japan from China on March 10, 2012. She attended junior high school, high school, and university in Japan, and she currently works for an automobile company.**



(Ms. Tian Lu on the left)

### · Challenges in Junior High School and How I Overcame Them

“I enrolled in Inuyama Minami Junior High School in April of the year I arrived in Japan. While this school was not originally within my designated school district, it had a classroom specifically for foreign students, so I completed the transfer procedures at the Inuyama City Hall. Although I had attended Japanese language classes in China, when I came to Japan and heard the language it was completely different from what I had learnt. I couldn’t understand anything at all, so for about six months after entering junior high I spent most of my time in the classes for foreign students rather than attending regular lessons. In the beginning, when I didn’t understand something in class, I used to communicate with other students by writing English words or kanji characters we both knew instead of speaking.

“If you have a question or problem that you don’t understand in class, ask the teacher in charge of the subject after school, or keep a list of questions and ask them to the relevant teacher when they come to the foreign student classroom. Both of my parents were busy with their jobs at the time, so I mostly asked the schoolteachers about things I didn’t understand.

“There were times when I was bullied at school, but I never stopped going because the schoolteachers always took care of it. Even now, I am grateful to my teachers, classmates, and school for their support back then.”

### · About High School and University Entrance Examinations

“English was my best subject in junior high, so I wanted to study foreign languages in high school. I took the general entrance exam for a high school with an international liberal arts department. When I was in my third year of high school and thinking about my future, I realized that the standard of my Chinese was poor, so I wanted to study Chinese in more depth. I took the general entrance exam for Aichi University’s Department of Modern Chinese Studies and was successfully admitted. As for advice on university entrance exams, there are other foreign languages to choose from besides English, so if you struggle with English but have a good understanding of your native language, you may be able to get a higher score if you choose to take the exam in your native language. For instance, I chose to take the exam in Chinese. I was able to select Chinese in the Aichi University Department of Modern Chinese Studies’ own test, so I think that helped me pass. However, some schools may not support foreign languages other than English, so it’s best to check with each university for details.”





### · Things You Should Do at University





“There are many things you can do at university other than studying. There’s plenty of time and opportunity to study abroad and join clubs, so if you have the chance, try them out and broaden your horizons.

“Another important aspect of university life is considering your future after graduation. Job hunting usually starts in the third year of university, but if you don’t know what you want to do or what kind of work is suitable for you at that point, please consult with the staff at your university’s career center. This will help to clarify your career path. If you’re unsure about your job prospects, I think it’s a good idea to spend a lot of time there and learn about the job market.”

# Children's Education Creates the Future.

◎Introducing schools and facilities that support children with foreign roots.

Age	Inuyama city school	Name of the class <Organizations (other than public schools)>
Infants (under 5 years old)		<p><b>Support for Japanese language learning during infancy and providing information to parents</b>  <b>Nijiuro Oyako (parent-child) · Kosodate (childcare) Salon &lt;Shake Hands&gt;</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Days &amp; Hours: Sunday 10:30AM to 12:00 Noon</li> <li>• Place: Terakoya Shake Hands (Gakuden Children's Center, 2nd Floor)</li> <li>• Fee: Free</li> <li>• Information on raising children in Japan, making friends, and raising children safely through play; consultations, etc.</li> <li>• Meet new friends in the community. Japanese people also participate.</li> </ul>
5 years old (the year before going to elementary school)		<p><b>Japanese language classes and daily life support for entering elementary school</b>  <b>Pre-school &lt;Shake Hands&gt;</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hours: 10:30AM to 12:00 Noon</li> <li>• Place: Terakoya Shake Hands (Gakuden Children's Center, 2nd Floor)</li> <li>• Fee: Free</li> <li>• Learn Japanese in order to study at a Japanese school.</li> </ul>
Elementary School  	<p><b>1. Provides guidance and support to help students quickly become accustomed to the Japanese language and Japanese school life. (Beginner Japanese Language Instruction Class) → Inuyama-nishi Elementary School</b></p> <p><b>2. Students can study in a classroom other than the one in which they are enrolled as a "Toridashi Classroom". (Japanese Language Adaptive Instruction Class) → Haguro and Gakuden Elementary Schools</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The class provides guidance and support for children of foreign nationalities in adapting to life in Japan, learning Japanese, and learning academic subjects.</li> </ul> <p><b>3. Schools with a language instructor who provides interpretation in Spanish or Portuguese. (Language Instructor Dispatch) → Haguro and Gakuden Elementary Schools</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assists in following up on academic subjects in Japanese and communicating with parents in the Toridashi classroom.</li> </ul> 	<p><b>After-school Learning Support and Places to Stay</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supports homework and provides Japanese language instruction. Pick-up and drop-off are available.</li> <li>• Get into the habit of studying immediately after school.</li> <li>• Training for the Japanese Language Proficiency Test.</li> <li>• Japanese language teachers, former teachers, and university students provide guidance. Interpreters are always available.</li> </ul> <p><b>Okaerinasai Juku &lt;Shake Hands&gt;</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Days &amp; Hours: Monday to Friday, after school to 6:00PM</li> <li>• Place: Terakoya Shake Hands (Gakuden Children's Center, 2nd Floor)</li> <li>• Fee: Depends on the family's situation.</li> <li>• A children's cafeteria will be open on Wednesdays and Fridays.</li> </ul> <p><b>For elementary and junior high school students who need support with their school studies and Japanese language skills.</b>  <b>Tsubomi Class &lt;ADJUST&gt;</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Days &amp; Hours: Monday, Wednesday, and Friday 5:00PM to 6:00PM, Saturday 2:00PM to 4:00PM (except holidays)</li> <li>• Place: ADJUST (9 Shindengou higashi, Haguro Inuyama)</li> <li>• Fee: 500 yen/ hour</li> <li>• A certified psychologist who has passed the Japanese Language Proficiency Test (JLPT) teaches children with foreign roots in small groups according to their own pace and characteristics. Support is also provided for the Japanese Language Proficiency Test (JLPT) and the English Proficiency Test (EIKEN).</li> </ul>

Age	Inuyama city school	Name of the class <b>&lt;Organizations (other than public schools)&gt;</b>
Junior High School	<p><b>1. 🌱 Students can study in a classroom other than the one in which they are enrolled as a “Toridashi Classroom”. ( Japanese Language Adaptive Instruction Class ) →Nanbu Junior High School</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The class provides guidance and support for children of foreign nationalities in adapting to life in Japan, learning Japanese, and learning academic subjects.</li> </ul>  <p><b>2. 🌱 Schools with a language instructor who provides interpretation in Spanish or Portuguese. ( Language Instructor Dispatch ) →Nanbu Junior High School</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assists in following up on academic subjects in Japanese and communicating with parents in the Toridashi classroom.</li> </ul>	<p><b>🌱After-school Learning Support and Places to Stay</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Supports homework and provides Japanese language instruction. Pick-up and drop-off are available.</li> <li>Get into the habit of studying immediately after school.</li> <li>Preparing for the high school entrance examination and the Japanese Language Proficiency Test.</li> <li>Japanese language teachers, former teachers, and university students provide guidance. Interpreters are always available.</li> </ul> <p><b>Okaerinasai Juku &lt;Shake Hands&gt;</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Days &amp; Hours: Monday to Friday 7:00PM to 9:00PM</li> <li>Place: Terakoya Shake Hands (Gakuden Children’s Center, 2nd Floor)</li> <li>Fee: Depends on the family’s situation.</li> <li>A children’s cafeteria is open on Wednesdays and Fridays.</li> </ul> <p><b>1. 🌱 For Junior high school students with foreign roots who aim to attend a full-time public high school.</b></p> <p><b>Sakura Class &lt;ADJUST&gt;</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Days &amp; Hours: Monday, Wednesday, and Friday 6:00PM to 9:00PM (except on holidays)</li> <li>Place: ADJUST ( 9 Shindengou higashi, Haguro Inuyama)</li> <li>Fee: 1<sup>st</sup>-year junior high school student: 5,000 yen/month; 2<sup>nd</sup>-year student: 6,000 yen/month; 3<sup>rd</sup>-year student: 7,000 yen/month</li> <li>A certified psychologist who has passed the Japanese Language Proficiency Test teaches children with foreign roots in small groups and offers career path suggestions according to their interests and strengths.</li> </ul> <p><b>2. 🌱 For elementary and junior high school students who need support with their school studies and Japanese language skills.</b></p> <p><b>Tsubomi Class &lt;ADJUST&gt;</b> (The day, time, fee, content, etc. are the same as those of the Tsubomi Classroom in the Elementary School section)</p>
5 years old to 18 years old	<p>For more information on ADJUST→</p> 	<p><b>🌱Children with developmental disabilities or similar difficulties as well as children who are not attending school are eligible for this program (regardless of nationality).</b></p> <p><b>ADJUST Inuyama class &lt;ADJUST&gt;</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Days &amp; Hours: Tuesday to Friday 4:00PM to 9:00PM, Saturday 2:00PM to 8:00PM</li> <li>Place: ADJUST ( 9 Shindengou higashi, Haguro Inuyama)</li> <li>Fee: 4,950 yen/visit</li> <li>A licensed psychologist will provide learning methods, counseling, and career path suggestions tailored to the characteristics and needs of each child.</li> </ul>
Guardian	<p>For more information on Inuyama International Association→</p>  <p>For more information on SHAKE HANDS→</p> 	<p><b>🌱Classes for foreigners living in the Inuyama area to learn the Japanese language and converse in Japanese.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Students will learn the Japanese language used in daily life, Japanese culture and customs, and an understanding of life in Japan.</li> </ul> <p><b>1 - 1 . Inuyama Japanese Language Class &lt; Inuyama International Association &gt;</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Days &amp; Hours: Sunday at 10:00AM to 11:45AM</li> <li>Place: Inuyama Community Center [FREUDE] 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Room#203</li> <li>Fee: 100 yen/ visit</li> </ul> <p><b>1 - 2 . Sunday Juku for All (Japanese Language Class for Parents and Children)</b></p> <p><b>&lt;Shake Hands&gt;</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Days &amp; Hours: Sunday 10:30AM to 12:30PM</li> <li>Place: Terakoya Shake Hands (Gakuden Children’s Center, 2nd Floor)</li> <li>Fee: Free</li> </ul>

※For more information, please call the following numbers:

◆About School→Inuyama City Education Department, School Education Division (City office main building, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, TEL: 0568-44-0350)

◆Shake Hands→TEL: 090-9940-2939, 0568-39-5266

◆ADJUST→TEL: 0568-64-5521, 070-4212-7441

◆Inuyama International Association →TEL: 0568-48-1355



## Introducing Somebody Who's Working Hard at the Inuyama Japanese Language Class!

Nguyen Thanh Dat (nationality: Vietnamese) came to Japan in September 2024.

"I'd like to be able to talk more with Japanese people. I also want to live in Japan for a long time and make Japan my second home. The Japanese I use at work has a lot of technical terms, so I'd like to learn the language of daily life at the Inuyama Japanese Language Class. In the 'rainbow' class I learnt about food, medicine, how to buy tickets, and other expressions that I didn't know before. My hobby is photography. I'd like to see Japanese fireworks. I would also like to visit the 'Basho Memorial Museum' in Mie Prefecture."



### Comment from Kyoichi Sugimoto, volunteer in charge ↓

He is an earnest, positive, sincere, and kind young man. I think it's the values of his home country, but I was so impressed that he wouldn't forget to show respect to older people like me. However, he called me 'Grandpa' in his newly learnt Japanese, and that made the class laugh.

## There's a Place Where You Can Talk in Japanese with People from Various Countries on an Equal Footing!



We meet once a month for an hour to talk about a specific topic. We discuss our own ideas while learning about each other's cultures and customs. You'll make new discoveries through the stories of people from different countries.

※We're open alternately on weekdays and Saturdays.

「Multicultural Chat Club - Online」

Application →

<https://forms.gle/cLmM8LAJmsozaQVB8>



### ◆ What's the best thing about being a supporter of the Multicultural 'Oshaberi Club'?

"The best thing is being able to interact with people from various cultural backgrounds. It was very enjoyable and stimulating to spend time talking about common themes and understanding each other, transcending differences in language and culture."

Ms. Le Thi Thuy Tien, a supporter of the 2024 Project →



### ◆ What did you notice that was new?

"The most important thing I realized was that it's difficult to create an environment where anyone can talk easily. Since participants come from different cultures and linguistic backgrounds, I felt it was very important to create a situation where everyone can relax and talk."

"For example, it's important to start with simple self-introductions, to increase the number of opportunities for small group discussions, and to have a wide range of participants from various age groups."

### ◆ What do you find attractive and enjoyable about the Multicultural 'Oshaberi Club'?

"The participants share different cultures and enjoy each other's company while understanding each other. It is also a great pleasure to learn about the customs and ways of thinking of different countries and regions, and to make new friends. We look forward to your participation!"

## Various Cultures and Customs: New Year's Day

In Cambodia, people go to the temple on New Year's morning to pray. At lunch, families enjoy eating delicious food and drinking alcohol. At night, many people gather together to perform traditional dances. In Cambodia, people start dancing at school and learn traditional practices. There are also universities where students can study traditional culture in order to preserve Cambodian traditions.

How about in your country?



Ms. Saing Oun performing a Cambodian dance ↑

Please click here for information on events held by the Inuyama International Association (IIA).

Home Page.



Facebook



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**We want employees and the company to be on an equal footing. We want to grow together and create new opportunities.**

**■ We interviewed Mr. Suzuki Hiroataka (President and CEO of Toyo Metals Co., Ltd.)**

(President Suzuki is on the left in the photo.)



“Small and medium-sized enterprises have a hard time finding the right people and are struggling to hire. However, when I learned from close business associates and support groups that there was a possibility of hiring foreigners who have studied a specialized field, I decided to hire them. In order to help them get used to life in Japan, I held an orientation during the first week. During that time we took them through the procedures for moving in, opening a

bank account, signing a mobile phone contract, and getting a personal seal. We also took them shopping together and taught them to be careful when riding a bicycle. During that week, we had them stay at the CEO and the Managing Director’s homes so that they could get used to life in Japan. In the midst of all this, the taste of the typical Filipino home-cooked dish ‘adobo’ that Mark cooked for us was an unforgettable memory. In response to their request, we held a barbecue for the company welcome party.

“Two years have passed since they joined the company, and now they are accustomed to the work and doing well. I expect them to take the next step in their work by utilizing their individual characteristics. There will be times when they will need to improve their Japanese, but this will also give them new skills, so I hope they will take on the challenge. As a company, we would like to take on new challenges together. The company can operate now thanks to their efforts in learning about Japan and the Japanese language. I have learned a lot from them.

“As Japan’s productive population continues to decline, the number of foreigners who can help will increase, and the Japanese people will also change. This is a turning point, and it is an opportunity for us to realize that we, too, must continue learning. For example, I heard that on Negros Island, Aljane’s hometown, resource recycling has not yet been implemented. I wonder if there is a place for us to make use of Japanese technology in the Philippines and make an impact? To achieve this, we would also need to learn about the Philippines and improve our English skills. Next month, we plan to welcome another Filipino who has studied a specialized field. We would like to continue growing together with them.”



←Ms. Aljane: I am happy to be able to use the Japanese analytical equipment. I would like to broaden my experience so that I can analyze new types of products in the future.



←Mr. Mark: In Japan, time is very important. Also, work is done carefully. I am interested in maintenance work and would like to learn new things in the future.

I feel there is a sense of teamwork within the company on a daily basis. For example, there was an employee who personally took them to Shirakawa-go, as they had never seen snow before. There are people within the company whom they can talk to about things that have nothing to do with work, so they can live and work in Japan with peace of mind. The president also said that being given the opportunity to advance in the workplace is rewarding for the employees and makes the company happy. I felt that this would be a great source of hope for the employees in the workplace.

(Interviewer: Aiko Tsuji)

## Interviews with Language Class Instructors

The Inuyama International Association offers language classes taught by native speakers. For this issue of our newsletter we talked to Mr. Guenter Walter, a German language teacher.

**From: Germany.** Arrived in Japan in 1989.

"Initially I couldn't speak Japanese at all, but Japanese people were kind and helpful, and I didn't experience any problems. I subsequently studied Japanese on my own and attended Kumon\*1 (cram school), and I learned to read and write hiragana and katakana. However, kanji is still difficult even now.

"I've been living in Inuyama since 2001. Inuyama is more amazing than any city or town I've ever lived in. In Inuyama, we're not treated as 'foreigners'. I've also been treated kindly at the city office and hospital. All people are equal, and it's important to share our knowledge with each other. If we treat each other with an open mind\*2, I believe we can make each other happy.



"Inuyama City is a sister city of St. Goarshausen, Germany. In terms of diligence and honesty, Germany and Japan are similar in many ways. German is also spoken in Switzerland and Austria. Why not take a German language course, learn to speak German, and enjoy trips to old German castles and the Alps?"

\* 1KUMON: This is a learning method in which students are not directly taught how to solve problems, but rather solve the problems using their own abilities. It's a learning method that fosters a sense of self-assurance that "if you try, you can do it!"

\* 2 Open-mindedness: It means big-hearted, flexible, unprejudiced, accepting, enterprising, wide open, etc.

We hear that there are some foreign nationals in Japan who are not able to integrate well into the local community, as they are only content within their own community. On the other hand, Mr. Guenter is an ideal "open-minded" person who can easily get along with anyone, and he has blended into Japanese society and has many Japanese acquaintances and friends.

(Interviewer: Ogino Kiyohiko)

※Other languages available in language class: English, Korean, Chinese, German, French, and Portuguese.

※ Information for the Language classes⇒



## Consultation about any problems or questions you may have in your daily life.

### Inuyama City Free Consultation Window

- Contents: General information on city services and introduction of consultation services
- Place: Inuyama City Hall, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Consultation Room
- Language and consultation date and time:
  - ◆ Portuguese and Spanish → Every Friday 1PM to 4:30PM
  - ◆ Tagalog and English → Generally the 4th Friday of every month, 1:00PM to 4:30PM
  - ◆ Chinese → Generally the 4th Friday of every month, 1:00PM to 4:30PM
- Registration: Reservations are not required. First-come, first-served on the day.
- Inquiries: 0568-44-0343 (Inuyama City Diversity Promotion Division)



### Aichi Prefecture Aichi Mult

Multicultural social workers provide multilingual consultation services for foreign residents of the prefecture in their daily lives, as well as a variety of information.

- Supported Languages: Portuguese, Spanish, English, Chinese, Filipino/ Tagalog, Vietnamese, Nepali, Indonesian, Thai, Korean, Myanmar, Russian, Ukrainian, and Japanese.
- Call or visit the office for consultations: TEL: 052-961-7902
- ◆ Days & Hours: Monday to Saturday, 10:00AM to 6:00PM
- ◆ Place: Aichi Prefectural Government San-no-Maru Building, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, 2-6-1 San-no-Maru, Naka-ku, Nagoya City, Aichi Prefecture. Within Aichi International Association
- Consultation on SNS:

Facebook:



Line:



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※Data Version⇒

