

Inuyama Multilingual News

Published by Inuyama International Association
Date of Publication: March 31, 2023
English version (No.6)

Active in the Community Through Supporting Foreign Students at School!



Ms. Gisele Cristina Prata
Yoshida
Nationality: Brazil
Status of Residence:
Permanent resident
Coming to Japan: 1995
Work: Guidance support at
Junior high school



Current job: I have been providing guidance for Brazilian students at a junior high school in Minokamo City for the past four years.

Support provided in the classroom: In the classroom I tell the students what the teacher is saying. Since Brazilian students do not understand Japanese very well, I translate the important content of the teacher's speech and support Brazilian students who have trouble keeping up with the class. We also teach kanji characters that we know the stroke order for and simple math.

What other work do you do?: Advice and support for schools with their support for foreign students.. We also provide interpretation for three-way meetings with parents of students who do not speak Japanese well.

Difficulties at Work: I have never attended school in Japan, so when I first started interpreting the teacher's explanations, I had trouble understanding the content of the lessons. For example, the names of Japanese historical events. So, I learned together with the students.

What I am trying to do: I make a notebook for each textbook and write down everything the teacher explains in class. If I can't translate something right away, I look it up in my free time and tell the students the next day. This allows the students to learn as well as myself.

What I want to tell my students: I tell students that if they do their best they will find more opportunities in the future. I tell students who have difficulty making Japanese friends at the same school because of the language barrier that if they study a little more Japanese, they will make Japanese friends and have more fun. I want them to enjoy their school life.

Good things I'm doing in my job: Interacting with students means learning too. I like to interact with people, so I am happy when I can help them and make them happy. I am glad that I have studied Japanese.

Please tell us what has inspired you to do your best: I am grateful to the Japanese people who cared about me and tried their best to talk to me when I first came to Japan. That is why I am the person I am today, and why my interest in the Japanese language has grown. When I was struggling, I was blessed with good friends who helped me get back on my feet. Otherwise, I might have gone back to Brazil.

A Useful Online Resource Sites on Raising Children

1. Mother and Baby Support Series (Research Association for Multicultural Health Services (RASC)/2020)

- ◆ Supported language: Chinese, English, French, German, Indonesian, Korean, Nepali, Portuguese, Russian, Tagalog, Thai, Vietnamese

<https://www.rasc.jp/momandbaby/>



2. Movie: Japanese Parenting Series for Foreign Residents (Kanagawa International Foundation/2017)

- ◆ Supported languages: Chinese, English, Nepali, Portuguese, Spanish, Tagalog, Vietnamese

<https://www.kifjp.org/child/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/movieflyer.pdf>



3. Kindergarten and Nursery School Guidebook (Aichi Univ. of Education/2013)

- ◆ Supported language: Chinese, English, Portuguese, Spanish, Tagalog, Vietnamese

<https://resource-room.nihongo.aichi-edu.ac.jp/about/guidebook/>

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) offers 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 who want to talk with everyone using Japanese
- A little Japanese is okay

Next date: April 15 (Sat) 19:30~20:30
Anyone can participate. Why don't you think together using Japanese?

- ※ Apply to <https://forms.gle/cLmM8LAJmsozaQVB8>
- ※ Japanese residents in Inuyama and nearby are also welcome to attend.



<Past Topics>

When and where do you find it difficult to use Japanese that you find difficult?

What is important to you when you work with people from different languages and cultures? etc.

A Student Who Is Studying Hard at the Inuyama Japanese Language Class



Ms. Eva Maria Pachas Maceda
 Nationality: Peru
 Came to Japan: March 2022
 Job: Parts Processing
 Status of Residence:
 Spouse of permanent resident



In the Japanese language class, everyone is warm, sincere, and kind. I am happy to be able to experience the Japanese language here. I like Japanese culture. I like kimonos, temples, and the scenery where the old culture still remains. I want to support the children of university students in Peru so that they will be able to graduate. I also want to be able to express myself in Japanese.

<Comment from a teacher volunteer, Ms. Niwa Etsuko>

It has been less than a year since Eva came to Japan, but working hard and doing great, which I think is amazing. I also enjoy listening to her stories about Peru and the Peruvian dishes and desserts that she cooked for us were delicious



Traditional Games and Activities from Around the World



Peru: *Juego de jax* (jacks), playing with superballs



Vietnam: *ô ăn quan*, A traditional strategic board game played with pebbles



China: *Pyaji, menco* (pogs) played with handmade tiles



Australia & England: Scrabble, English word game played in English-speaking countries



Japan: *Kendama* (Japanese cup and ball), *fukuwarai* (making a face game), *ohajiki* (played with marbles), spinning tops, paper balloons, *ayatori* (a cat's cradle string game), etc.

Interview with a Language Course Instructor

Inuyama International Association offers language courses taught by native speakers. In this issue we interview Ms. Kuromiya Eiko (Tei Getsuei), a Chinese language instructor.

◆Origin: Taiwan ◆Arrival in Japan: 1985

◆When I first arrived in Japan: Japanese people were kind and they gave me detailed directions on how to get around. As the Japanese saying goes, *gou ni itte wa, gou ni shitagae--When in Rome, do as the Romans do.* I followed Japanese customs as much as possible, and that was a learning experience.

◆Difficulties studying Japanese: I could not understand intonation because it is not marked with symbols as it is in Chinese! Every day when I got home, I immediately turned on the TV to familiarize my ears with the language.

I didn't know whether "No problem" in Japanese meant "Yes" or "No."

◆About the Chinese language course: There are many Chinese who love Japan. I believe that more Chinese people will come to Japan in the future and that there will be more opportunities to have contact with Chinese people, so I would like people to understand Chinese culture and ethnicity as much as possible through the study of Chinese.

◆Toward a multicultural society: Japanese people should speak clearly. In my Chinese classes, I also tell the students, "Let's say it clearly." Please come to the Chinese class to understand Chinese people in Japan as well as Chinese people who will come to Japan in the future as much as possible. I especially would like young people to attend the class.

*Other languages: English, French, German, Korean, Portuguese and Spanish

Applications will begin on April 3 ⇒



Working in Japan Comfortably (for foreigners working in Japan)

There are various laws to protect workers in Japan. These laws are designed to protect all workers, regardless of their occupation or employment status. They protect foreign as well as Japanese nationals. This pamphlet provides information that foreign nationals should be aware of when working in Japan.

Languages: Easy Japanese, Chinese, English, Portuguese, and Vietnamese

<https://www.pref.aichi.jp/soshiki/rodofukushi/0000060502.html>



Experience and Talk About Japanese Culture.

Those who are not confident in speaking Japanese are also welcomed.

Inuyama International Association (IIA) holds multicultural exchange events.



Home Page
<http://iia.info>



Facebook
[Inuyama International Association]



Getting Along with People from Different Languages and Cultures

We interviewed Ms. Katarina Kaufuman from Germany, who worked and served as a Coordinator for International Relations in Inuyama for four years from August 2018 to August 2022.



I think it is important to have the courage to talk to people. We need to listen to each other and communicate. When we do, misunderstandings are inevitable, so if you don't understand something, say it again or try explaining it in a different way. If there is a misunderstanding and you feel you are not on the same page, stop and check again. Instead of just going along with the story, ask questions and check your understanding. If you don't, you might have difficulties. It takes courage to ask questions.

Foreigners can speak in their poor Japanese and Japanese can speak in easy Japanese. Even if you cannot understand each other, it is important to have the courage to talk with each other.

When I was a high school student, I spent two hours talking about something that would have taken a Japanese person 10 minutes. My host family understood that I was trying my best to convey my feelings, so they were kind enough to listen attentively. It is nice to be heard. Do your best to listen and talk to each other. Also, while it is important to take on challenges alone, you will feel more secure if you have someone behind you to support you. If you have one safe place to go, you can take on new challenges.



Ms. Katarina Kaufuman finished her job as an international exchange staff member in August 2022, and is currently teaching Japanese at a university in Germany.

Onomatopoeia for when illness strikes

(Reference: Waku Waku Kotoba Onomatopoeia NHK Nagoya <https://www.nhk.or.jp/nagoya/neighbors/pdf/onomatope.pdf>)

Zukin-zukin



A repeating, throbbing pain.
(Example:)
Atama ga *zukin-zukin* suru.
My head is throbbing

Gan-gan



A splitting pain, stronger than a throbbing pain.
(Example:)
Atama ga *gan-gan* suru.
I have a strong headache.

Boh



Cannot think of anything. Feverish. Your head is empty.
(Example:)
Atama ga *boh'tto* suru.
I feel lightheaded.

Ze-ze



Breathing is painful.
(e.g., "I have a pain in my chest.")
When I breathe, I hear a wheezing sound.
(Example:)
Mune ga *ze-ze* suru. 5
My chest feels heavy.

A Website for Learning Japanese

◆Inuyama Japanese Language Class: Japanese language classes are offered for foreign residents living in the Inuyama area. Classes are held every Sunday.

For more information, please see the URL. ⇒ <http://iiea.info/newpage1.html>

◆A site where you can learn Japanese on your own: TSUNAHIRO Japanese language study site for "foreigners as people who live in Japan"

<https://tsunagarujp.bunka.go.jp/>

You can select learning contents according to the level of Japanese you want to learn, the scene you want to learn, and keywords you want to use to communicate and live in Japanese.

For example, in scenarios like this:



When you want to talk to someone



When you want to buy something



When ordering

Cool Japan

Sumo



Rikishi: wrestler

Sumo is one of the most popular sports in Japan. Two rikishi (wrestler), each wearing a mawashi (belt) around their waists, push, hold, and throw their opponents in the ring. The winner is when the opponent is knocked down or pushed out of the ring. The average weight of a rikishi is 150 kg. The hairstyle of a rikishi is called "mage. The person who acts as a referee is called a gyoji. Six times a year, in odd-numbered months, 15 days of tournaments (matches are called torikumi) are held. There are also foreign wrestlers. Currently, we have wrestlers from Mongolia, Georgia, Bulgaria, Kazakhstan, Russia, Ukraine, China, and the Philippines.



dohyo: the sumo ring



sumo: the sumo match or game



gyoji: the sumo referee

Inuyama Multilingual News Published by Inuyama International Association

〒484 - 0086 Aichiken Inuyama-shi Matsumoto-cho 4-21 Inuyama Community Center 『Freude』

TEL: (0568) 48-1355 FAX : (0568) 48-1356 HP : <http://iiea.info> E-mail : iia@grace.ocn.ne.jp

Volunteer Translation Team Members:

English: Kusakabe Kazuro, Yasumura Megumi, Uchimura Hidetomo, Steve McGuire

Spanish: Tawara Carlos, Ruiz Bulnes Ricardo Arturo, Saeki Liliana

Portuguese: Yara Marcos, Akagi Kazunori, Akagui Mitsue, Yoshida Gisele

Chinese: Harita Misako, Ten Ru, Sun Jiao, Yang Liya, Ozawa Tsutomu

Vietnamese: Pham Thi Nhu Hau, Tran Van-Ha

Tagalog: Higuchi Marita, Kawasaki Maria