

IAC ACTIVITY

UNIVERSITY STUDENTS
FROM FRANCE VISITING AGAIN

From June 26 through July 26, a group of 6 university students from France is going to do a home-stay in the city staying separately with volunteer host families. Their purpose is to brush up their Japanese they learned in their home country and also study Japanese culture based on programs planned by the IAC. They will visit junior and high schools in Chigasaki, experience a tea ceremony/kimono wearing, try ZAZEN (zen meditation) in Kamakura, and so on. However, the close relationships and daily communication with host families including children seem to be the most exciting part of the trip, and they always return to France with fond memories.

This one month stay by students from France started in 1999 and it's going to be the 11th visit this year, those students represent a two top class universities, and their experience is reportedly well reputed among the students in France.

If you happen to see them riding a bicycle in town, feel free to say hello.
For further information, call Noriko Fukumura on 85-1337.

CROSS-CULTURAL EXCHANGE AND EVENTS
PLANNED FOR YOUNG PEOPLE AT KAIGAN
YOUTH HALL

いぶんかこうりゅう
異文化交流

Calligraphy on July 18

Sumi-e (an India ink drawing) on August 8

Kaigan Youth Hall near the baseball stadium in Nakakaigan and the Int'l Association of Chigasaki (IAC) plan to have young Japanese people enjoy a cross-cultural exchange in July and August inviting foreign visitors/residents to the following events.

Those who can participate are from Junior high school students to people under the age of 30. The participants are required to bring writing implements, towel, hat, work gloves, and canteen.

For both programs, the number of applicants openings: 30 (On a first-come, first-served basis.)

(1) July 18 (Sat) 16:00 ~ 19:30

Study *Shodo* or Calligraphy

Try to make shaved ice, udon, hand-rolled sushi

There will also be 6 university students from France joining in.

(2) August 8 (Sat) 17:00 ~ 20:30

Study Sumi-e or India ink drawing

Try to make salad, hand-rolled sushi and have watermelon

Watch the fireworks display very closely from the musical room on the 3F.

There will be several foreign residents from the city.

Note for the above two programs:

(A) Those who can participate are from Junior high school students to people under the age of 30.

(B) Please bring brush pen if available.

(C) Number of participants: 30 (On a first-come, first-served basis)

(D) No participation fee

CHIGASAKI KAIGAN YOUTH HALL • THE INT'L ASSOCIATION OF CHIGASAKI

Application & Inquiries: Kaigan Seishonen Kaikan Tel: 85-0942



PEOPLE IN TOWN

Christine Hashimoto
from the Philippines

I love living in Chigasaki because of the people and it's near the beach.....



Christine Hashimoto's home is Marikina City, about an hour drive from the capital city of the Philippines, Manila. She married a Japanese man who was traveling around Marikina, and came to Chigasaki. It's been 18 years since she started to live in Yabata, they presently have three daughters, and the girl in the picture is her third daughter Lei. She is going to Tsurumine elementary school and is in third grade now.

She feels very happy living with her husband's parents making the family seven in all.

Now, her father-in-law (she fondly calls him *Ojichan*) runs a Yakitori restaurant *TORIKAZU* at Yabata, near Shimamura, and their *Motsuni* (a simmered pork intestine with lots of vegetables) is said to be the special on the menu there.

One thing she noticed living in Japan is the lack of parks where kids can play freely. To her, play is an important aspect in children's lives, but she has to go by car to go to a larger park. She hopes the Japanese government will do something about this.

Nevertheless, she feels so lucky that she is raising her kids in Chigasaki because of its openness and laid back environment. When she came to live with her in-laws, the number of foreigners was very few, and in order to meet other people, she joined various groups such as the AFWJ (Association of Foreign Housewives of Japan), and the IAC for a few years, but she left mainly because she became busy taking care of her family.

She says she loves living in Chigasaki because of the people and being near the beach, and she thinks Chigasaki beach is the best place to spend the early hours walking. Though it does take 45 minutes on foot from her home to the beach.

A year ago, with the support of her family, she started an after-school program for kids in Yabata. You can see from the picture above that she loves kids. After her children grow up, she hopes to travel all over Japan though to her Chigasaki may be the best place in many ways; people, climate, and social systems including schools and hospitals.

ENVIRONMENT

SOLAR ENERGY GENERATION PANEL
AT "SAPOSEN"

SAPOSEN is an abbreviation of the Support Center for Citizen's Activities located near the JUSCO super store, on the other side of Chuo-Dori.

There, a solar energy generation panel is going to be equipped on its roof to start operation from July 5.

This is the first attempt by an NPO called The Renewable Energy Network (REN) to reduce CO2 emission using such public utilities as *SAPOSEN*.

The total construction cost is 5.46 million yen, of which 85% or 4.64 million yen plus the solar panel system is contributed by the Green Power Fund sponsored by Tokyo Electric Power Generation Co. (TEPCO), a major power supplier, while REN uses its reserve fund of 220,000 yen for setting up the equipment. The rest of the total costs in the amount of 600,000 yen is planned to be collected by donations from the citizens who support this project.

The system has a 7.77KW generating capacity but the generated power equals one third of the whole energy the *SAPOSEN* consumes in a year. Staff say they sell the generated power to TEPCO and donate the earnings to the Chigasaki Hometown Fund of the city office. The staff added that they plant *morning glory* and *niga-uri* (balsam pear) to grow outside the windows facing west to prevent sun shine slanting in. The REN's homepage is <http://www.i-shimin.net/ren/>

It appears that such public effort is not so large a project, but every little bit helps to protect the earth from environmental degradation.

