

IAC ACTIVITY

JAPANESE SPEECH CONTEST BY FOREIGNERS



A HIGH SCHOOL GIRL FROM THE CZECH REPUBLIC WON TWO PRIZES

The Japanese speech contest by foreigners held on March 22 went smoothly having 16 speakers from Vietnam, China, Indonesia, the Czech Republic, Russia and Korea. Mah Dhi (phonetic), a Chinese young man who has been in Chigasaki two years talked about the 2016 Olympic games, and won the mayor's prize, while the IAC's chairman's prize was awarded to a Russian lady, and two prizes of Int'l Soroptimist Chigasaki were given to a young Chinese man and a high school girl from the Czech Republic. The high school student from the Czech Republic also won a prize for POPULARITY voted for by all the audience. She spoke about her dream in the future.

This contest will be held next year again and it will be the 14th event then. The IAC is looking forward to hearing from foreigners who are willing to participate as speakers. The competition is open to anyone, not only to those living in Chigasaki.



IAC GENERAL MEETING SCHEDULED ON JUNE 14 (Sun)

The IAC's general meeting this year will be held at the Labor Citizen Hall on June 14 (Sun), 2009, from 13:00.

There is no directors' election this time, and after the general meeting is finished a party for the communication exchange among attending members

LECTURES ON INTERNATIONAL UNDERSTANDING

**BY KIMIYA TAKEBE, Vice principal
TSURUGADAI JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL**

What I considered traveling around Asia and Africa.

On February 1, there was a lecture by Kimiya Takebe who was sent to Thailand to teach at a Japanese school in Bangkok five years after he became a teacher. At that time, he also was in charge of the "Japanology course" at both Chulalongkorn and Thammasart universities.

Under the title of "What I considered traveling around Asia and Africa", he talked about his experiences in Thailand and African countries, and what impressed the audience was his comments on the importance of awareness of other parties as well as of the differences in the way of thinking, culture, etc. He also mentioned that Japan is facing a difficulty having both economic wealth and fragility.

He is presently vice principal of Tsurugadai Junior High School, and is working on improving the class right now.



PEOPLE IN TOWN

Dianne Roman from the U.S.

Dianne Roman was born in Seoul, Korea in 1968 and shortly thereafter moved to the U.S. Her mother is a Korean who married an American born in Puerto Rico. He was in the Air Force at that time. She spent the early part of her childhood in Japan, but went to the U.S. later living in various States; New York, New Jersey, and Washington D.C. She returned to Japan after finishing high school to attend university. After graduating from university, went to Korea to study the Korean language for about 6 months.



Dianne has been living in Japan for 29 years altogether and has made the most of her international upbringing. In fact, she is fluent in English and Japanese, and has a basic understanding of Korean.

She has lived in *shitamachi* (downtown) Tokyo or Koto-ward area, Yokohama and Kawasaki, where her company Dell Japan is located. It has only been a year and five months since she started to live in Hishinuma, Chigasaki. Currently, she is engaged to be married to a Japanese man who also lives in Chigasaki. He plays American Indian flute and runs a shop on Higashi-kaigan on *Teppodori*. In the shop you will see beautiful accessories of turquoise, colorful Native American carpet and music CDs. The two actually met via an online match-making website.

Her hobbies include wining & dining, traveling, and cooking. She recently purchased a *tajine* and is learning to cook Moroccan dishes. Weekends are sometimes spent cycling out to *Enoshima* with her partner. She is very active, regularly participating in 10 kilometer charity marathons in Tokyo.

She likes the environment of Chigasaki as she can enjoy the ocean breeze as well as greenery on the hill side. Moreover, she feels Japan is a safe place to live and the people hospitable.

One thing she has learned from Japanese society is a necessity to think before speaking. For her, it was common to be straightforward at any time. On the other hand, she feels compared to 15-20 years ago, there is a lack of respect for others among Japanese people. The people seem more stressed out.

In so far as her working environment goes, she enjoys a great work/life balance; rarely seen at Japanese companies.

On Chigasaki Breeze, she finds it informative and thinks foreign newcomers will appreciate reports on community activities, local events, history and general information on daily necessities. In the near future, she hopes to become more active in supporting local community efforts. She likes Chigasaki for its laid-back life style.

**BY TADASHI OHMORI, Vice principal
HOKUYO JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL**

You'll know your country better by knowing other countries in the world.

On March 1, there was a lecture given by Tadashi Ohmori, vice principal of Hokuyo Junior High School, under the captioned title. He was the first teacher sent to São Paulo, Brazil, from Chigasaki by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He talked about his experiences in Brazil but also about the experiences of his three children who went to Portugal, India and Tunisia/France independently.

He first introduced what his child told him that you wouldn't behave like a Japanese if you live in other countries, while he introduced his experience in Brazil saying that you couldn't stay close to a community unless you claim or advocate what you want to say, quoting a proverb that babies cannot drink milk unless they don't cry. Another interesting story was about the traffic in Brazil and that a car will run into other cars if you stop to follow the signal, meaning the law stops a stream of human beings. They were issues over some thirty years ago, but they may be true even today. He said his experiences and the way people look at other people in Brazil helped his education very much after coming back to Japan.

