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Bringing you news about the Foundation's immigration-related activities

Japanese cultural experience for Descendants of Immigrants Exchange Students

On Saturday 15th November, a Japanese cultural experience was organized for the Descendants of Immigrants exchange students at the Ohori Park Japanese Garden in Fukuoka City. During their year of exchange, we would like the students to learn about various aspects of Japanese culture in addition to their school work, and the kimono-wearing experience is part of the organized activities each year. With assistance from 'Mayu no Kai'* on the day, the students were each dressed in the kimono of their choice. They were also guided through tea ceremony procedures and etiquette by a professor of Mushakojisense tea ceremony, Nanao Iino. Masashi Gyotoku spoke some words of appreciation on behalf of the exchange students. "Today I am very happy to have the chance to wear a kimono, Japan's traditional garment. We are always wholeheartedly grateful to the people from the International Exchange Foundation and the Kazokukai."



[Together with guests who attended]

*Mayu no Kai: An organization which offers kimono-wearing classes and kimono rental, as well as opportunities for international exchange which allow foreign students to become familiar with Japanese kimono.

Global Stage Fukuoka ~Prominent Fukuokans around the World~ First Seminar

This year, we began a new project - 'Global Stage Fukuoka'. Utilizing the Overseas Fukuoka Kenjinkai network, this project invites people from Fukuoka who are now active around the world to present seminars on various topics.

For the first seminar, we invited as guest speaker Kihachiro Tajima from the Nanka Fukuoka Kenjinkai. Coinciding with the release of the film 'Vancouver Asahi', about a baseball team of 2nd generation Japanese Canadians, Mr. Tajima spoke of the history of immigration to America and Canada. Those in attendance were engrossed as Mr. Tajima spoke passionately about the way immigrants continued to be proud of their Japanese identity, the troubles they faced, as well as the importance of learning a foreign language.

Speaker: Kihachiro Tajima, Nanka Fukuoka Kenjinkai

(Japanese American National Museum Volunteer Guide)

*Resides in Los Angeles, USA. 2nd generation Nikkei father and Japanese mother. Former Chairman of Nanka Fukuoka Kenjinkai. Became interested in and researched the history of Japanese immigrants, conveying his knowledge of over 100 years of Nikkei history and experiences to many visitors at the Japanese American National Museum in Little Tokyo, Los Angeles. Also tirelessly engaged in various lectures and seminars.

Theme: Overcoming Adversity, Maintaining Pride as Japanese ~The Efforts of Japanese Immigrants~

Date: Tuesday 9th December 2014
 Venue: ACROS Fukuoka Circular Hall



The audience listened enthusiastically to Mr. Tajima's presentation

Date: Friday 12th December 2014
 Venue: Fukuoka Kishokan Junior High School



Mr Tajima gave a warm shout-out to some 500 young students.

● Upcoming Scheduled Seminars

<2nd>
 February 2015
 Vietnam Fukuoka Kenjinkai,
 Hiroharu Murakami

<3rd>
 March 2015
 Hawaii Shima Fukuoka Kenjinkai
 Chairman, Junichi Noumaru

Sending our congratulations to 96 senior members of Overseas Fukuoka Kenjinkai

Fukuoka Governor Ogawa sent letters and gifts of congratulations as recognition of the longevity of 96 members from 11 Kenjinkai, who are Fukuoka-born immigrants or their descendants. We pray for your ongoing health and happiness.

<Breakdown of 2014 Senior Member Commendations>
 Sanju(Age 80) 36 members Beiju (Age 88) 40 members
 Chinju (Age 95) 11 members Hakuju (Age 99) 3 members
 Momoga(Age100 or over) 6 members

Do you know about the Overseas Fukuoka Kenjinkai Facebook?

Are you aware that there is a Facebook page for the Overseas Fukuoka Kenjinkai? It is full of the latest information about our immigration-related projects, including glimpses of the prefectural-scholarship students' life in Fukuoka. Anyone is welcome to post information, so please feel free to add reports of your Kenjinkai's latest activities or photos from events. (Languages other than Japanese also OK) We look forward to hearing from you!

【Facebook page】 <http://www.facebook.com/fukuoka.kenjinkai>

