



Bringing you the latest in the foundation's immigration-related activities

10th Worldwide Fukuoka Kenjinkai Convention "Roots in Fukuoka, Dreams Beyond Worlds" ~Bonding and Boundless~ November 6th-9th, 2019 in Fukuoka Prefecture

On May 29th, 2019, the general meeting establishing of the 10th Worldwide Fukuoka Kenjinkai Convention Executive Committee was held in Fukuoka City.

The Worldwide Fukuoka Kenjinkai Convention is an event where members all of 39 Fukuoka Kenjinkai located in 24 different countries and regions of the world can gather together. After six years since it was last held in the Fukuoka Prefecture, the 10th convention will once again be held in the mother prefecture, from Wednesday, November 6th to Saturday, November 9th.

Governor Ogawa, who also serves as chairman, said, "I want to spread the word about the activities of overseas Fukuoka Kenjinkai with our residents, at the same time, we will make every effort to plan the perfect experience for all the incoming kenjinkai members." Also, on June 18th, the opening ceremony of "Overseas Immigration Panel Exhibition" was held in the first-floor lobby of the Fukuoka Prefectural Government Office. The date matches, Ijyu no hi, the date of early Japanese emigration. The exhibition is a related project of the world convention.



【General meeting establishing executive committee】

This exhibition, available for public viewing until June 28th, features the history of emigration from Fukuoka Prefecture and exchanges between the prefecture and oversea Kenjinkai. After then, the exhibition will also be held in Iizuka City, Kitakyushu City, Kurume City.



【Opening ceremony】

1st Year of Reiwa Era - Nine students participating in the Exchange Student Program for Descendants of Immigrants from Fukuoka Prefecture start their new life in Fukuoka!

In April, the nine students arrived in Fukuoka Prefecture where they began their one-year study as international students in their ancestral home. In May, they visited the Prefectural Government Office, where they were welcomed by Vice Governor Eguchi with a courtesy call, encouraging them "to spur on and in the future, serve as the bridge that connects the world with Fukuoka."



【Courtesy call by Vice Governor Eguchi】

Meet the students!



Until I got used to it, navigating the transportation system in Japan was a challenge because it was so complicated. For the coming year, I will work hard on my research at Kyushu University, and reunite with my relatives in Fukuoka, where it all began.

Da Silva Diego Issy (Brazil)



In this coming year, through the various experiences that I'll be having, I hope to learn about my ancestors, improve my Japanese, and expand my knowledge of pharmacy.

Ikejiri Karina Akemy (Brazil)

I thought Fukuoka City was a small country town, but I was surprised by the balance between the traditional and modern side of it. My goals for this year is to improve my Japanese language, learn about Japanese culture, make new friends, and grow as a person.

Eto Henrique Itiro (Brazil)



My goal for this year is to learn about my ancestry and become familiarized to Japanese culture and improve my Japanese. Since Japan is leading in computer vision and pattern recognition technologies compared to my home country, I hope to study hard and make use of my learnings when I go back.

Sugino Nicolas Alejandro (Argentina)



What surprised me when I came to Fukuoka was that the trains were always very crowded. There are also times when I would be troubled by the kanji that I can't read, but everyone is kind and that moved me. My goal for the year is to acquire as much auto maintenance skills as possible.

Iwase Kevin Tsukasa (Bolivia)



The lectures are difficult, but it is fun because there is also practical training. In one year, I hope to improve my Japanese and talk to my grandmother in Japanese when I return to Colombia. She'll be pleasantly surprised.

Sakamoto Sachi Andrea (Colombia)



I like the universities in Fukuoka very much. There are lots of exciting things going on in and out of the classroom. Conversation in Japanese is a challenge for me, but I'm making progress. I also want to absorb lots of ideas about my graphics design specialization.

Shibata Sauri Luis Angel Koich (Peru)



Although the culture of Japan and my home country is different, I want to learn more about life in Japan. Also, the food in Fukuoka is outstanding. Although jargons used in lectures are difficult to understand, my friends are always there for me.

Teramoto Toshio Iida Arturo (Mexico)



Japanese people are always polite, respectful, and that is very impressive. For this year, I want to improve my Japanese, make friends and learn more about my ancestry. After returning home, I want to do a job that I can use Japanese.

Hori Taishi (Southern California)

