

# SIFA TIMES

Shikochu International

Exchange Festival 2

News Flash 3

Event Info 4

ALT intro & farewell 5

Bi-monthly trivia 6



April-May 2020

# Shikochu International Festival

On February 9th we held the 6th annual Shikochu International Exchange Festival on the 4th floor Multipurpose room of the Social welfare building. About 250 of us gathered together to enjoy stage event, world culture booths and delicious food.

The stage event started off with the Mishima HS calligraphy performance club. Many attendees got to witness this impressive performance art for the first time. Second on the lineup was the Vietnamese song Đón Xuân, “Welcoming Spring,” followed by a dance medley. The first dance was performed to music from the TV show Cỏ Ba Sài Gòn, “The Saigon Lady.” The second number was the Japanese group AKB48’s song “Koisuru [loving] Fortune Cookie.” Our final performance was by city ALT and jazz guitarist Matthew Ellis. Matthew is from South Africa, and the first piece was in a jazz style originally from the Congo, “Soukous”. It made everyone want to dance! The second piece was “That’s right” by jazz artist George Benson.

# News



This year we were lucky to have two new booths: Zimbabwe and a consultation booth staffed by the Matsuyama International Center. Our other booths were: Japan, Vietnam, China, USA, South Africa, New Zealand, ethnic clothing and the police/disaster awareness booth, for a total of ten. Attendees visited many booths and collected prizes after visiting six. We're looking forward to next year's festival.



# Flash

News English ②



From January 16th to February 20th we held News English ② every Thursday night. After reading news articles in English and practicing vocabulary, we practiced stating our opinions. Among other topics, we read articles on the British royal family, the relationship between stress and aging and the best place in the world to raise a child. The 'instructor' actually learned a lot from the students as well. We enjoyed having a high school participant (and a very cute five-year-old popped in a couple of times). Looking forward to seeing everyone again!

## CIR school visits

The city CIR Daniel Cruse visited Kawano South Preschool on January 22nd and Kawano Preschool on January 30th. After talking about festivals in his hometown in the American Pacific Northwest, everyone guessed animal sounds from "Old MacDonald had a farm" and played games like "Duck, duck, Goose!" and "Rock, paper, scissors, split." The kids (ages 3-5) were adorable, and the one-hour visits passed by in the blink of an eye.



## English café ④

We held English café ④ on January 26th at Joyfull Kawano. Our English speakers were Shingai Maziire, Lucas Buechler, Jason Lockwood, and Daniel Cruse, and we had eleven Japanese attendees (including two high-school students). We split into four groups, drank tea, enjoyed talking in English and made new friends. Thanks everyone for coming!

## "The art of pie" cooking class

We had planned to hold a cooking class on February 28th, but in the interest of maximum protection against the novel Coronavirus, it was cancelled.

We plan to hold the pie-cooking class later this year. Once we determine the date, we will announce it here in the SIFA newsletter. We're looking forward to seeing you all.

# EVENT INFO



## Concerning the SIFA Annual Meeting

Thank you for your support and participation in the events of the Shikokuchuo International Friendship Association.

While this association holds its annual General Meeting in May, this year, in the interest of preventing the further spread of novel Coronavirus, we are adjusting our plans.

When the situation improves we will provide more information regarding our anniversary Meeting.

We appreciate your understanding.



## Concerning upcoming SIFA events

Thank you for your support and participation in the events of this Association.

As you know, the spread of the novel Coronavirus has caused many events to be postponed or cancelled. In the interest of minimizing the spread of this disease, we at SIFA will refrain from publicizing events at this time. We will continue to publish this newsletter, but with respect to the 'Event info' section, the contents will change.

Once the COVID-19 situation has been resolved, we will resume publicizing our events here in this newsletter. We look forward to seeing you then.

Thank you for your understanding.



# Welcome Shingai

初めまして、シンガイ・マジールです。私はジンバブエ系カナダ人で、オタワ市出身です。現在英語とフランス語が話せて、他の言語にも興味があります。2017年にオタワ大学の国際発達とグローバリゼーション課程を卒業しました。それ以来、ナイジェリアやブルキナファソなど、色々な国で研修でき、大学院に進学しました。現在大学院生です。

JETプログラムに応募した理由は子供と青少年の教育に対しての情熱です。多文化について興味と関心があり、日本、日本の文化と日本人について、たくさん習いたいです。

日本に住みながら人脈を広げ、日本の人々の実態を知りたいです。私の趣味はドキュメンタリー映画、ハイキング、料理、ロードトリップ、そして新しい体験が好きです。地元のおすすめスポットやアクティビティがあれば気軽に声をかけてください。

皆さんに会うことをとても楽しみにしています。

Hello, my name is Shingai Madziire. I am from Ottawa, Canada with origins from Zimbabwe. I am fluent in English and French, and I am always curious to learn other languages. In 2017, I graduated from the International Development and Globalization program at the University of Ottawa. Since, I have had the opportunity to complete placements in various countries (eg. Nigeria and Burkina Faso) before continuing on to do my master's in education, which I am in the process of completing.

My passion for education and working with children and youth were one of the reasons that I applied for the JET Programme. However, my curiosity and interest in different cultures gave me a desire to want to learn more about Japan, its culture and its people.

I look forward to meeting new people during my time in Japan, learning about their realities while sharing some of my interests with others. I enjoy watching documentaries, hiking, cooking, going on road trips and trying new things. If anyone has any recommendation on things to do, or if anyone would want to join me on my adventures, please do not hesitate to get in touch with me. I hope to meet each and every one of you soon.



# Goodbye Samantha

Since August 2019 I have lived in Shikokuchuo; I have enjoyed my time very much. Shikokuchuo is a city filled with many welcoming and friendly people, and Ehime is a beautiful prefecture. My favourite part about living here has been working with the teachers and students I had the pleasure of meeting. The students and teachers I met have made my time here memorable. I will go back to Canada to be a teacher there but I am happy for the time I spent here. I hope I can come back and visit again soon!



2019年から四国中央市で住み、ここで過ごした時間はとても楽しかったです。四国中央市には親切な方々が多くいて、愛媛県の景色はとても綺麗です。日本で経験したことの中で一番楽しかったのは学校の先生や生徒と一緒に授業をすることでした。皆一人ひとり印象に残っています。これから帰国してカナダで先生の仕事をします。ここに來られてとても良かったです！早く四国中央市に遊びに來たいです！

# World knowledge

## ZIMBABWE



### Harare, the capital city



This year our community has welcomed a member of Zimbabwean heritage. What kind of country is Zimbabwe?

Zimbabwe is a land-locked country in the south of Africa (north of the republic of South Africa, also bordering Botswana, Zambia and Mozambique). Of its sixteen official languages, the most widely-used are Shona, English and northern Ndebele. About 71% of the population of Zimbabwe is Shona.

### sable antelopes, the national animal



Zimbabweans love to cook with peanut butter. A couple of peanut-based dishes include mupunga unedovi (rice with peanut butter) and muriwo unedovi (greens with peanut butter).

### mupunga unedovi



### Victoria Falls

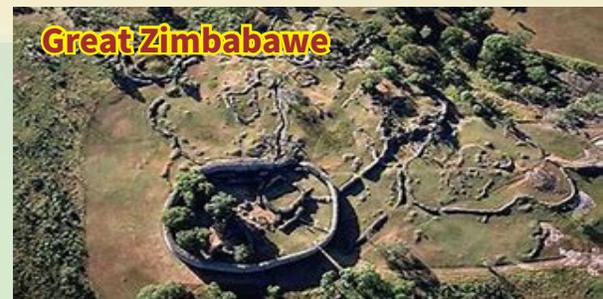


### mopane worms

Another local delicacy is mopane worms. They're full of protein, so give them a try if you get the chance!

Zimbabwe is also home to numerous World Heritage sites. The most famous of these is Victoria Falls (on the border with Zambia). Along with Iguazu national falls in Brazil, it's the largest waterfall in the world. Cultural heritage sites include Great Zimbabwe, a ruined 11th century-15th century palace complex, and the Khami ruins (15th - 17th centuries).

### Great Zimbabwe



Questions? Suggestions? Get in touch!

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