

## College Students Discover the Charms of Ikaga

The Residents' "Plentiful Lifestyle" in a Booklet

March 4, Omiya

This fiscal year, Ryukoku University's Policy Studies Club has been doing surveys and research in the Ikaga region in Omiya. On March 4<sup>th</sup>, associate professor Mayuko Shimizu's "Policy Implementation and Research Practicum" students held an activity briefing session in Ikaga Community Shop Kasen, and about thirty local residents participated.

In order to discover the appeal of the region, the students directly interviewed residents, using a method of "ask-and-listen" to talk about things such as lifestyle, eating habits, and purpose in life. One issue that became apparent was that there are few chances for skilled and experienced residents to demonstrate their strengths, so the students reported about residents working as lecturers in *barazushi* or konjac-making classes to give them more opportunities.

On the same day, they also held a miso and soba-making experience to investigate local traditional food culture.

These efforts of cooperation between the region and university, aiming for local invigoration and issue resolution, are just one part of the "Kyotango City Community Development Collegiate Committee" plan.

The students will make a booklet conveying their personal experiences and research results about the bountiful lifestyle in Ikaga, which will be distributed in local community locations.

The same club's associate professor Kōjitsu Kin and lecturer Taketo Tanigaki's "Policy Implementation and Research Practicum IA" students also surveyed the Mie and Morimoto wards of Omiya, and held an activity briefing session on February 27<sup>th</sup> in the Mie Livelihood Improvement Center. From a local resource investigation, they discovered and reported that two types of diving beetle were identified as endangered species, and they also proposed to capitalize on the survey by making a "local-brand rice."



↑ Ryukoku University students experiencing miso-making.

---

## Amateur Band Performance

2016-17 Tango Culture and Arts Festival

February 26, Mineyama

The 2016-17 Tango Culture and Arts Festival, titled “Amateur Rock Festival,” was held on February 26<sup>th</sup> at the Tango Cultural Hall to a crowd of 300 audience members.

This event was sponsored by the Tango Culture and Arts Executive Committee to give locally active amateur bands a place to present the results of their practice. This year seven groups performed, such as “INOBE BAND” (Yasaka), whose members’ average age is fifty. This was also the last live performance of the Kumihama High School 3<sup>rd</sup> years’ band “Kotsu Hikari,” who charged up the crowd with their performance of Remioromen’s “Sangatsu Kokonoka.”



↑ The members of “INOBE BAND” performing in sync.

---

## New Tourist Attraction In Yuhigaura

### “Hachigayama Yuuzakura Park” Cherry Tree-Planting Festival

March 10, Amino



↑ Tachibana Elementary School students planting a Sargent’s Cherry sapling on a hill.

On March 10<sup>th</sup>, in Hachigayama (Hamazume, Amino), a Cherry Tree-Planting Festival was held in order to establish “Hachigayama Yuuzakura Park.”

This project was planned by the “Rakuyuukai” organization (Chairman: Masahiro Shirai, seven members), a group of local ryokan managers who made this new sightseeing spot with the goal of drawing in more tourists during the off-season. Other efforts centered around the Rakuyuukai have been continuing since last August, such as clearing a path through a mountain thriving with bamboo grass and various types of trees.

On the day of the event, 6<sup>th</sup> grade students from Tachibana Elementary School and other enthusiastic parties participated, numbering about a hundred people. They planted one hundred Sargent’s Cherry tree saplings on a slope while learning from the Rakuyuukai members.

Chairman Shirai said “We received help and cooperation from many different people, including the landowners of the mountain, and Yuhigaura Tourism Association. I would like to protect this park together with our children, who will take responsibility of this town.”

The cherry trees that were planted this time will bloom in three years. In mid-April a viewing platform will be set up, and the park will be opened to the public.

---

## Energizing the Region with Community Business

### Businesses that Received City Subsidy Give Activity Briefing

March 2, Kumihama

In 2014 the city established the “Community Business Support Subsidy.” The businesses that opened using this subsidy held an activity briefing session and exchange meeting on March 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Thirty people participated in the morning half of the event, which was held in “Minna-no-Furusato” (Tomoshige, Kumihama), a building that was opened this year using the same subsidy. A representative of Minna-no-Furusato, Iwao Yasui, brought up issues concerning elderly people and the increase of primary nursing care, and introduced a local food delivery service that uses local ingredients. He also said, regarding their continuing efforts, that “With the opening of this facility, I would like to make a place where children and seniors alike can fit in.” Next, he introduced the sea kayaking experience implemented since last May by the Kamai & Asahi Revitalization Council.

In the afternoon segment, three business operators gave case reports at Mineyama City Hall. The forty-one participants exchanged opinions on how to solve local issues, and encouraged exchange between business owners.

Hidenori Sugioka, an advisor at the University of Fukuchiyama’s Local Management Department, said “Everyone’s contributions to the local community and sense of duty are wonderful.”



↑ The activity briefing session at Minna-no-Furusato (Tomoshige, Kumihama).

---

## Experiencing the Setting of Medical Welfare through Games A Simulation at Tango Kingdom's "Shoku-no-Miyako"

March 12, Yasaka



↑ While unable to see, a participant listens to instructions from a caregiver and searches for sweets.

On March 3<sup>rd</sup> in Tango Kingdom's "Shoku-no-Miyako," a medical welfare simulation game called "THE Six SENSE" was held. (Sponsor: Social Welfare Service Corporation Northern Tango Welfare Association).

The Tokyo NPO Ubdobe created this game to give people a way to experience the troubles of human resources shortages in welfare and medical care, and it is the first time that it has been held in Kyotango City. The participants moved about in wheelchairs over a projected square grid, and depending on the grid squares, would move to different events at booths set up around the room. They tried to find sweets in a wooden bowl while wearing a blindfold, and tried writing using only three fingers while wearing three layers of gloves. Participants learned about caregiving methods while experiencing life like a person with disabilities.

---

Tango Kindergarteners' Surprise Visit  
Saying "Thank You" to Tango Middle Schoolers  
Mar 8 Tango



↑ A kindergartener and a middle schooler enjoying a game of rock-paper-scissors.

Forty-five children of Tango Kindergarten paid a surprise visit to Tango Middle School on March 8<sup>th</sup> for an exchange with the middle school students.

Last June the kindergarteners held a “combined emergency drill” with the middle schoolers, and they have also played and exchanged with the older students during other events and activities. To give their thanks for the year of exchange, the kindergarteners gave a choral performance to the middle schoolers who met them in the gymnasium. After that they all played a rock-paper-scissors game, where the loser had to latch on behind the winner to make a “rock-paper-scissors train.” They also danced to music, and had a good time together.

---