

Global Café



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July 2017 No.11

This June there were 2 events with bamboo themed activities for international students at Doshisha University!

Visit by international students from Tuebingen University, Germany

On Friday 16th June, 16 international students from the Tuebingen University Center for Japanese Language at Doshisha University visited Kyotanabe.

The students spent the morning at Miyamaki Elementary School

where they participated a calligraphy lesson, and demonstrated their impressive brushwork. Then the children taught the students how to play traditional Japanese games, and it wasn't long before everyone got over their initial shyness.

In the afternoon the students visited an old folk café "Bio-Tatara". Here they tried their hand at making mugs out of bamboo.

Bending the tough stalks to make handles was tricky, but by the end everyone was drinking delicious ume juice out of their new mugs.

It was truly a day jam-packed with Japanese cultural activities!



Nagashi Somen Event at Bio Tatara by SIED

On Sunday 25th June, I participated in a nagashi somen event at Bio Tatara organised by the student group "SIED" from Doshisha University.

Although it was rainy on the day, there was still a good turn out, with many Japanese and international students, as well as members from the Kyotanabe International Exchange Association taking part in the event.

Catching the somen noodles as they flowed past was challenging, but also great fun with a lot of people commenting "omoshiroi!"

Participants also had the opportunity to learn about some of the theories surrounding the famous Japanese folk story "The Tale of the Bamboo Cutter" through a talk by the owner of Bio-Tatara. Some say that the story originated here in Kyotanabe!



Goodbye Kyotanabe!

This may come as quite sudden but I am leaving this job at the end of July, so this will be my last edition of Global Café.

I thank those who have read my reports so far. I feel very fortunate to have had so many memorable experiences and meet so many wonderful people through my work as a CIR over the course of this year.

Outside of work too, many people have been kind enough to say hello when they see me. Many of these times I ran into people when I was dressed scruffily. Regardless of how embarrassed I was however, I always felt so lucky to be living in such a friendly place.

It was also easy for me to feel at ease here as like my home town of Lymington, Kyotanabe is surrounded by beautiful nature. My only regret is that I didn't explore the area enough! When I visit Kyotanabe in the future I will make sure to come by car so I can continue my exploration.

Until then, goodbye Kyotanabe and thank you so much! I will treasure the memories from this year!

