

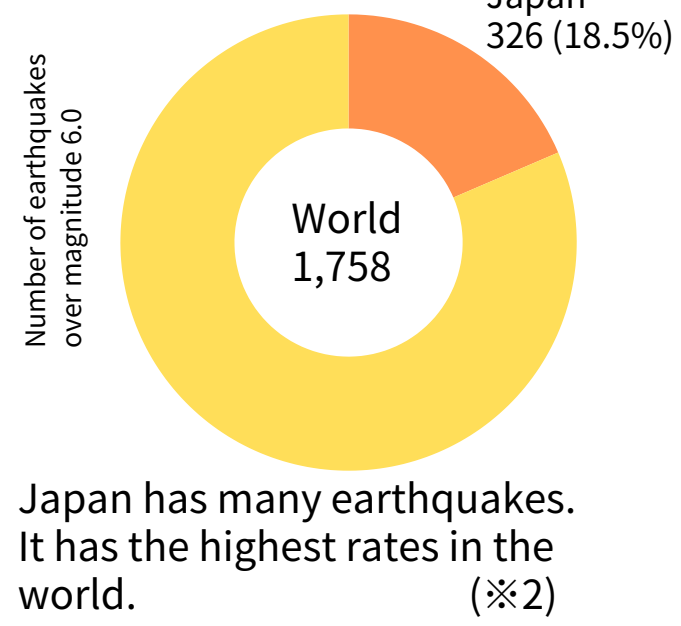
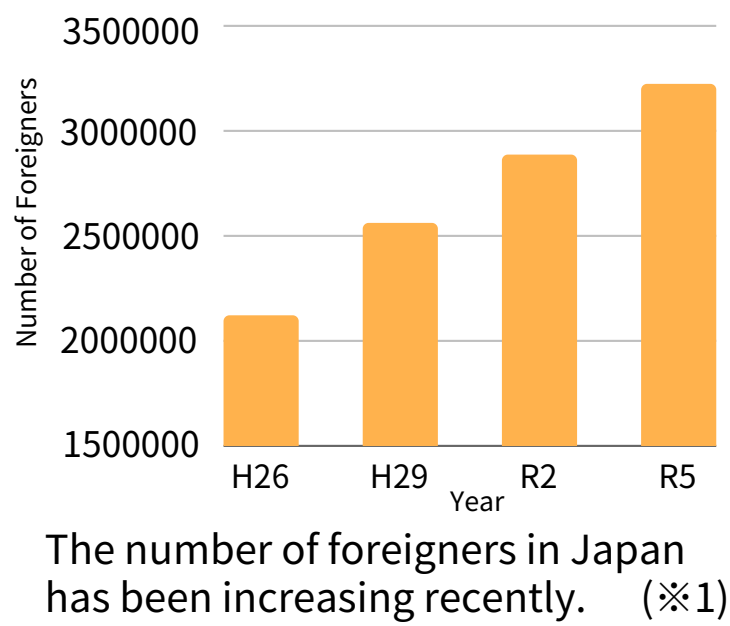
Community to Connect Everyone

~Emergency Drill Games with Foreigners~

Ibaraki Prefectural Katsuta Secondary School



Current Situation



Problems for foreigners

- Language barrier
- Less disaster experience

Problems for Japanese

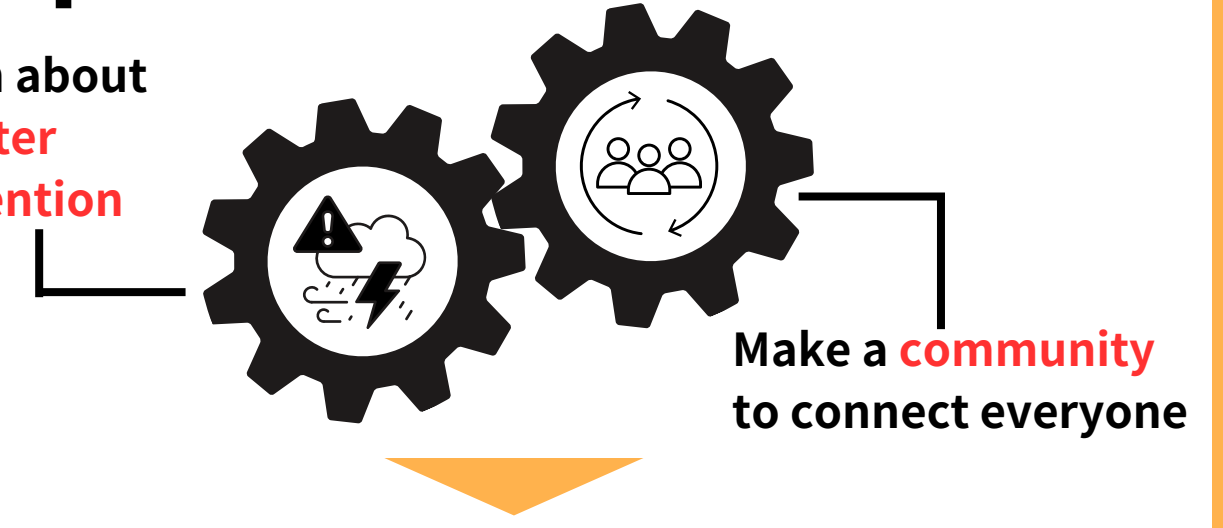
- Assume knowing everything
- Desensitized to disasters

Both

- Lack of communication in community

Purpose

Learn about disaster prevention



Let's enjoy Emergency Drill Games with foreigners at school!

Preparation

- Apr.** ● **Made a proposal**
Learn about **disasters** and **diversity**.
→Notice the importance of **collaboration** between **Japanese people** and **foreigners**.
- May~** ● **Began participating as a volunteer in Japanese language class in our community**
We can break down the **language barrier** by **communicating** with foreigners often.
→We need **Emergency Drill Games!**
- Aug.** ● **Participated in an online event**
The online event was about living together in a **society with many disasters**. We could learn about disasters.
- Sep.** ● **Selected as a strategy team for a contest**
Ibaraki Dream Path is a program for high school students to realize **entrepreneurial plans**. Our school's team became a strategy team in it and received **100,000 yen** for this event.
- Oct.** ● **Participated in online lessons about community**
The lesson was about **diversity**. We learned about how to communicate with foreigners living in Japan and learned about the **problems** they face.
- Oct.~** ● **Began preparing with students of Ibaraki Univ.**
 - Start up**
 - Research foreigners' problems related to disasters
 - Discuss what kind of support is needed
 - Co-action with foreigners**
 - Exchange students in Ibaraki University
 - Foreigners attending Japanese language class
 - Share anxiety about disasters
 - Discuss how we can make fun, useful content
 - Prepare necessary tools**
 - Explanation slides in easy Japanese
 - Prepared emergency foods, cardboard beds, disaster quizzes, etc

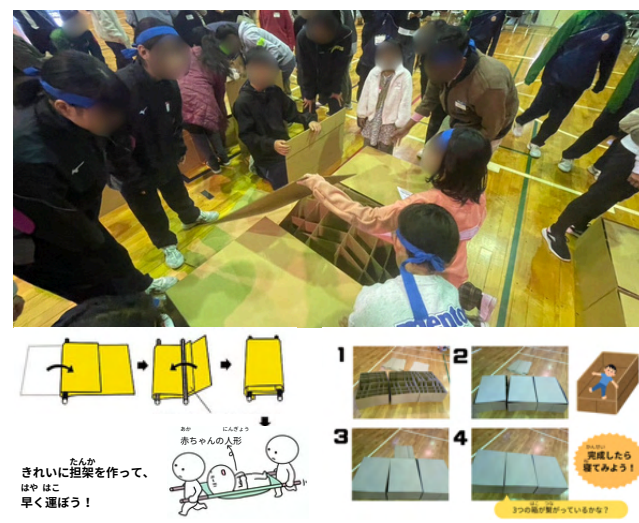
Oct.~ Advertised the Emergency Drill Games

Interview! From a Katsuta Secondary School student

'I faced some challenges during preparation. At first, I assumed English would be the best way to communicate, but some foreigners spoke languages other than English. So, I used easy Japanese, but it was hard to know which words might be difficult for foreigners. I tried using appropriate Japanese words according to their level.'

Event Details

- **Date:** December 8th, 2024
- **Place:** Katsuta Secondary School Gymnasium
- **Participants:** 40 Foreigners (14 nationalities - Chinese, Indian, Indonesian, Vietnamese, Korean, etc), 90 Japanese
~ ages 3-50s, living in Hitachinaka city and neighboring cities
→divided into 10 teams (mixture of foreigners and Japanese) and competed for points
- **Games:** 5 games (shelter life experience, whisper game, quiz relay, obstacle race, disaster alarm quiz)



Shelter Life! ~for an elegant shelter life~

Each team worked together to build a **cardboard bed** (borrowed from the city hall), and also took part in a race where they made **slippers out of newspapers** and a **stretcher out of sticks and a towel**. The aim was to reduce anxiety about living in evacuation shelters.

Key Points:

Instructions had only pictures with no explanation in words so that the team members can have more **conversations** to help each other. They also had time to try lying on the beds.

Emergency! Whisper Game

Participants passed topic sentences such as “**高台へ逃げてください**” by whispering. The last player chose the matching picture and said the words out loud. The aim is to let everyone get familiar with common words used in **actual disasters**.

Key Points:

We asked the Japanese participants to tell the foreigners the meaning of the topic sentences using **English** and **body language**, if they didn't understand. After the game, we tried using **easy Japanese** to explain the meanings while showing slides in both easy Japanese and easy English. We also provided helpful information, such as how much water should be stored.



Let's Eat Emergency Food!

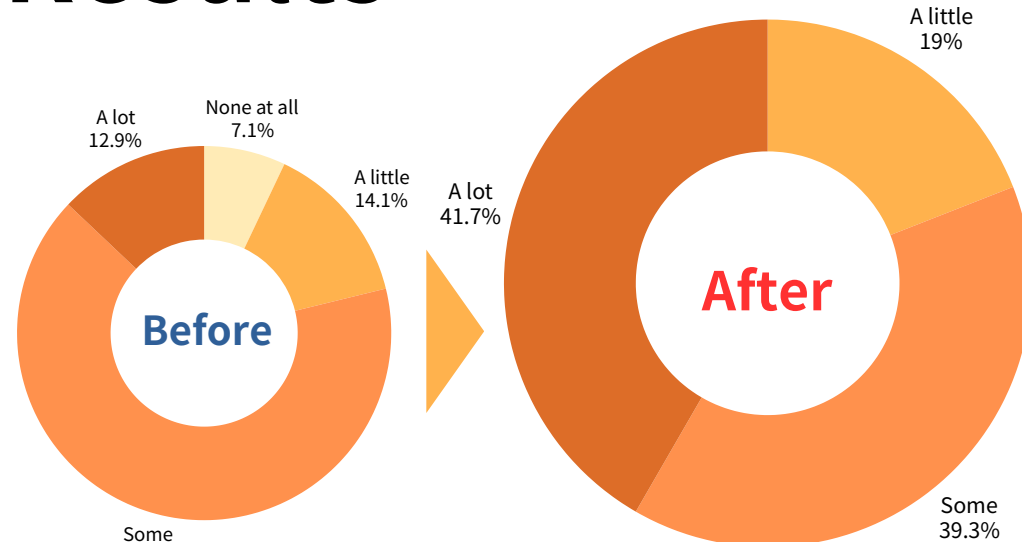
The participants tried eating **pregelatinized starch rice** (chicken & veggie rice, seaweed rice, and vegetable rice). It can be cooked in 7 minutes with only hot water.

Key Points:

We used emergency food with **Halal certification**, which was suggested by our advisor, a professor from Ibaraki University. Also, the food was free of **28 common allergens**. We displayed lists of rice and other ingredients, in order to avoid allergens and other restrictions— such as bonito flakes— for religious or vegetarian participants.



Results



Q: How much do you know about disaster prevention and preparedness in Japan? (Among 85 participants)

Interview!! From participants of the event

From Japanese people

- 'We had lots of time to work and talk in the group, so I enjoyed talking with some international students. It was interesting.'
- 'It gave me the opportunity to think about how I can convey what I want to say to foreigners and children.'

From foreign people

- ' (I think the things I learned at the disaster prevention exercise will help me a lot in the future.)
- 'I enjoyed the conversation with the volunteers.'
- 'I got to meet and talk with other foreigners and Japanese.'

Conclusion

Disaster prevention

Participants were able to learn about disasters and how to deal with them by answering questions or running in races. They enjoyed learning together and gained practical knowledge about how to respond to and prepare for disasters through fun activities. The knowledge will help them understand better and act quicker in case of emergency.

We hope the participants will let their family and friends know what they learned in this event.

Better community

Through introductory icebreakers and the following games, participants were able to talk freely with their teammates. The event provided opportunities for the participants to become friends with new people in the community, regardless of nationality. We hope this brought the community together and will help the local people deal with disasters while also creating a good inclusive atmosphere. By having a barrier-free community for everyone, we can help each other and save lives in an emergency.

Future view

We learned that easy Japanese is helpful for some foreigners, but not enough for other foreigners who don't understand Japanese at all. Therefore, we need to think of ways to communicate with them better. We faced many challenges like this throughout the event. Reflecting on them, we'd like to improve this event for next year. We hope that this kind of event will contribute to a diverse community where no one is left behind. **Let's make a community to connect everyone!!**

Reference

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