

— 25TH ANNIVERSARY
COMMEMORATION MAGAZINE —



Tokoname City Students' International Exchange Conference Association

Introduction



Chairperson of TSIE
Taizo Fukuta

It is a great honor for me to speak to you in celebrating the 25th anniversary of TSIE, Tokoname City Students' International Exchange Conference Association.

First, thank you to all the healthcare workers who are making great efforts to improve resilience on the front line of the coronavirus pandemic. I hope the coronavirus goes away soon.

TSIE's international exchange program for elementary schools based on ISSE (International School-to-School Experience) is unique in Japan. It has been taken over by many parents as volunteers. And it has been supported by ISSE head office, Tokoname Board of Education, successive TSIE officers and staffs, teachers and international exchange committee of each schools, and many local people who give TSIE good understanding and cooperation. It is a great pleasure for all TSIE members to keep having this unique TSIE program in Tokoname.

TSIE celebrates the 25th anniversary of TSIE with holding a ceremony and a party and issuing this anniversary magazine. They are all supported by TSIE members and many local people. I hope more people join us.

By the way, the total number of participants of TSIE visiting and hosting programs until last year is 1,312 including students and adult leaders. We have had an annual general meeting every year to get approval for the past programs, the coming programs and budget. We have supported each school programs, attended the ISSE conference and cooperated with other concerned organizations. We have been making efforts for TSIE programs.

Besides, we have just turned a bad situation in coronavirus into a new style international exchange. We started the remote exchange on the internet ahead of other schools in the world.

I would like children all over the world to share each other, respect each other, and get one together in Tokoname where the international airport is located in. I believe that those children will keep the earth beautiful and sustainable forever. I hope TSIE will keep doing programs for the next generation.

Lastly, I really appreciate your continued understanding and cooperation.



Mayor of
Tokoname City
**Ito
Tatsuya**

2020 is the 25th anniversary of TSIE (Tokoname City Students' International Exchange Conference Association), and I would like to extend my warmest congratulations to the Association.

I also would like to thank all of you for your understanding and great support to international exchange events for students of Tokoname over the past 25 years, which has developed into a wonderful program.

Along with the growth of Chubu Centrair International Airport since its opening in 2005, serving central Japan, Tokoname City has been developing continuously and absorbing new culture from around the world. In recent years, 'FLIGHT OF DREAMS', the 2nd Terminal for low-cost carrier and 'Aichi Sky Expo' have flown from Centrair airport island. These facilities have made Tokoname more vibrant and more international. Not only the local residents but also the people of Aichi Prefecture feel much closer to Centrair. In addition, in October last year Tokoname established a sister state relationship with Yixing City in Jiangsu Province, China. I anticipate that further developments will be achieved in our international communications and exchanges.

However, in 2020 with the threat of coronavirus, restrictions on traveling world and domestic have been put in place causing the cancelations of events in response to the coronavirus outbreak. As a result, the world has moved into a recession, depriving people of opportunities to connect directly with people and cultures of other countries.

There is much anxiety about COVID-19, we do not know how long this situation will last. In this difficult situation we should not give up to keep trying to improve the program even with all the complications that coronavirus is causing. It is important to come up with new ideas to take on this challenge and to keep spirit of heartwarming cooperation alive.

In Tokoname, approximately 1300 students have joined a variety of communication and exchange activities as either members of student delegations to foreign countries or as host families receiving foreign students visiting Tokoname. Experiencing different cultures and customs is a great opportunity for our children to cultivate their own understandings and to broaden their horizons. When they grow up as productive members of society, I believe many of them will become internationally-minded people to make contributions to international societies as well as their hometown, Tokoname.

I truly hope that TSIE will continue to be a big part of the development of our society in the future. These special experiences will be cherished by our children, in creating a better future to unleash their potentials. I also sincerely wish all the members of TSIE the best and continued success.
Sincerely yours!

In celebration of TSIE's 25th anniversary



Former
Superintendent of
Tokoname Board of
Education

**Kato
Norikazu**

I sincerely congratulate TSIE on its 25th anniversary. I would like to express my deepest thanks for your substantial support and efforts to organize the activities of TSIE for all the time. I would like also to take this opportunity to thank Mr. FUKUTA, the President of TSIE and other members of TSIE, the members of Executive Committee of every school and all the teachers.

Japan has hosted the Rugby World Cup this year. I believe that many people, deeply inspired by the impressive performance of Japan Rugby team, are proud as Japanese. I also believe that many people have gained strength and encouragement from the fighting spirit of each team. I think in the international society, there should be some people living with confidence as a Japanese and showing respectful feeling to other countries.

In Tokoname, approximately 1300 students have joined all kinds of communication and exchange activities as either members of student delegations to foreign countries or as host families receiving foreign students visiting Tokoname. I believe that it is a great opportunity for our children, the future of Tokoname, to experience different cultures and customs to broaden their horizons. They will learn a lot and even make contributions to their hometown.

Finally, I would once again congratulate the success of TSIE and hope that TSIE's activities will continue and play a more important role in the communication and exchanges with foreign countries.



Superintendent of
Tokoname Board of
Education

**Hijikata
Munehiro**

I congratulate TSIE on its 25th anniversary.

We were excited about the opening of the Tokyo Olympic Games which was to be held in 2020. However, in light of the Covid-19 pandemic, the Tokyo Olympics have been postponed until 2021. Undoubtedly all the athletes and staffs were disappointed by this. Even so with their indomitable spirits, they continue practicing hard every day and trust to the opening of Tokyo Olympics in 2021. This greatly impressed me.

I guess that the children of Tokoname also feel sad because the events they were looking forward to haven't been cancelled. Despite this tough situation, I am still sure that our children will develop both personally and mentally by doing their best every day and living in an international society with wide diversity.

Unfortunately, this year all the international exchange events have been suspended. However, I think that TSIE have helped our children grow up with global awareness, giving them more opportunities to participate in international communication activities and understanding the cultures of other countries.

I truly hope that TSIE will organize more wonderful activities and achieve further development in the future. I wish all the members of TSIE continuing good health and success.

Sincerely yours!



The former
chairperson of
Tokoname
municipal
assembly

**Kato
Hisatoyo**

Congratulations on the 25th anniversary of Tokoname City Students' International Exchange Conference Association, TSIE. I greatly appreciate the international exchange program that TSIE members and executive committee members in each school have been providing.

The growing-up process through exchange program with children in other countries will become not only invaluable experience for each child, but also precious resources for Tokoname city. I believe that having children with international sense will surely be a great help for future progress of Tokoname city where Chubu international air port or Centrair is located.

In welcoming the delegation from other countries, children will be promoted to acquire a cosmopolitan way of thinking and raise awareness as a global citizen.

These days, the nearer the distance to the world became, the more accelerated this trend of globalization will become.

It is the children participated in TSIE program that will play an active role in such era.

As a chair of Tokoname city council, I fully understand the importance of TSIE role and continue to support your program. I cordially wish for TSIE growth in the future.



Chairman of the
Tokoname
International
Association

**Koie
Masahiro**

Congratulation on 25th anniversary of TSIE.

Some exchange programs were canceled or changed because of the international situation like infectious diseases and travel warnings until now. But TSIE has been thinking the best way for the children to visit to each country and come back. I respect all their effort. I think it is the most important to value the connections with others. I think it has stronger relation that we know each other even it is possible to communicate with other people without seeing face to face now a days. I am sure that it is valuable for the students in the future to know the people from all over the world who are same generation with them. The children in Tokoname city can get a precious experience.



Tokoname Lions Club
President

**Gonda
Yasukazu**

Congratulation on 25th anniversary of TSIE.

About 30 years ago, exchange programs for high school students started and developed here in Tokoname city. I can still remember that we took care of the delegation at Tokoname Kita High School with anxious and excited feeling. After 5 years later, the importance of them came to primary school students and had been founded TSIE. I am sure that the projects that connected with countries, history, cultures and ethnics are meaningful for children's future. We are very glad to support all programs of TSIE. At last, I really grateful to Mr.Fukuta, staff of TSIE and school officials about the management for all programs.

Best regards.



Tokoname Rotary Club
Preisident

**Morishita
Yutaka**

Congratulation on 25th anniversary of TSIE.

It is effective for the children that they get an experience with the children from all over the world to develop their global awareness. And it will affect their life in the future.

TSIE might have got some problem to provide the programs as a volunteer group. It is difficult for children who do not live in Tokoname city to get a same chance with children in Tokoname city. I respect that the organization has continued their projects for 25 years.

I hope that the programs will make people who have a wide mental horizon. I wish that the activity will continue and develop from now on.



Member of the
Aichi Prefectural
Assembly

**Sugie
Shigeki**

Congratulation on your 25th of TSIE.

I appreciate Mr.Fukuta, staff of TSIE and school officials about their effort that they have developed exchange programs for the children in Tokoname city. Aichi prefecture aim to be international innovation hubs as an industrial city. There is an international airport as a gateway to the world in Tokoname city. I hope that the programs will make children who are successful throughout the world in the future. And a friendship agreement between Yixing in China and Tokoname city was signed in this year. It can say the first year of internationalization in Tokoname city. I hope that globalization in Tokoname city and programs of TSIE will develop more in the future.



International School to School Experience



Bev Campbell,
ISSE Administration

It's with great pleasure that ISSE congratulates TSIE for 25 years of achievement in providing Japanese students with cultural experiences. We've observed your strategies and planning over many years, and TSIE has become very successful in these endeavors. Your teachers, administration, and the school support are all factors in making you very successful in the ISSE organization.

We hope to see continued interest and support with ISSE and TSIE, as we all work together to bring our children better multicultural understanding.

I'm sending two photos of the ISSE International Conference in Malaysia showing Japan's TSIE delegation in attendance and the most recent International Conference in China.

All our best to TSIE for 25 years and look forward to your next 25 years.



Georgina Ivanoff
ISSE Australia President and
ISSE co-ordinator for Regency
Park Primary School

Through the TSIE / ISSE program in Tokoname, Japan, I have had the pleasure to visit and co-ordinate host exchanges with many schools in Tokoname. Since my first exchange in 1998 with Nishiura Minami School, Regency Park has had a total of six exchanges, with seven different schools. Each exchange has been a wonderful, rich and memorable experience for everyone involved. I know that the many delegates and hosts from Regency Park families who have been involved with the program over the years have continued to keep in touch.

Kind, generous and considerate, everyone I have met involved through my six Japanese exchanges have been a delight to work with. Staff at schools and their families have embraced the program ensuring a fabulous exchange, providing a great

variety of different experiences, including a sharing of class lessons, a tea ceremony, kimono dressing, excursions to temples and castles, meetings with the mayor, visiting local sights, including the famous Pottery Walk and many other experiences.

I have also had the pleasure of meeting and working with many TSIE committee members, Japanese families and school community members. I have thoroughly enjoyed getting to meet and know so many people, so many of whom I am happy to call friends, and with whom I still keep in touch. Highly organised and always providing an excellent cultural exchange, I, my school Regency Park and many other Australian schools, have been very fortunate to be able to exchange with so many wonderful schools and hard-working TSIE committee members.

When delegations visit our schools in Australia, their cultural show is fabulous, their interaction with the community is great and despite the language differences, we have been able to communicate with a willingness to learn.

I have always been happy to share my wonderful experiences, and praise the TSIE committee and Japanese program, to other colleagues and ISSE Australian committee members, staff and principals from the ISSE Australian schools.

Keep up your great work and congratulations TSIE on your 25th Anniversary!



KAMARUDDIN BIN KAMSAH
TSIE Malaysia Branch Manager

I am most happy to be part of the TSIE twenty-fifth anniversary celebration. When our first group of students began the Japanese-Malaysia exchange program in 1997, it did not cross my mind that TSIE would become a great success as it is today. From then on and in the subsequent years, dedicated TSIE staffs work enthusiastically to create a platform for school children from Tokoname, Japan and Shah Alam, Malaysia to learn, share and exchange social and cultural resources to enrich their life journey into adulthood.

On each yearly program the students were limited to a short three-week stay in the host country. Yet, the TSIE staffs aspired to pack the program with social and cultural activities that could have a life-long impact on the participating students. The key was to highlight activities that could foster friendship and nurture understanding and respect for the environment outside and away their home country. It was a challenging task for the TSIE staffs, given the social, cultural and environmental contrasts between Japan and Malaysia. However, year after year, the young children have made their parents, teachers and countries proud for being the true ambassadors of their respective country. They have demonstrated respect, understanding, tolerance and influence at such a young age. These, I believe, are the essential building blocks to build peace in this complex and complicated world.

I am so proud to celebrate the enthusiasm and success of all the TSIE staffs, alumni, principals, teachers, parents and supporters all these twenty-five years. Please pass on your experiences, thoughts, lessons and excitement to all the people around you, especially to the younger generations. TSIE has come this far successfully because of its multi-generational participation and shared vision for a kinder and peaceful world in the future. Our beautiful children and their children deserve such a world.

My heartiest congratulations TSIE! You have done well. Keep going to inspire all the children of the world. Best wishes.

The joys and sorrows, frustrations and pleasures of the Host Families

Takeuchi Makishi (Onizakimikita ES)

Pat stayed my house for 3 weeks 4 years ago. He's from Thailand. Thai students were always smiling and I felt that Thai language is very soft.

I played some games and soccer with him and my friends. Japanese students could hardly speak English, but I didn't feel language barriers because of using gestures. We're from different country, but I felt that we're the same elementary school students.

Four years have passed since then. We became high school students, have mobile phone and are connecting with Instagram. His school life is really similar to mine. He's enjoying with his friends. Japan and Thailand are different in culture and language, but we're same human race!

I will continue to our friendship and grow each other even if we're away.

I want to see him again someday.



Tsuchikawa Mion (Tokonamehigashi ES)

We spent 2 weeks with Kebia who came from Mexico as a host family when I was in the 4th grade.

We had been a little bit nervous because we were not sure whether we could talk with her or not before we met. But Kebia ran up to us, hugged and talked with a big smile when we welcomed her at the Chubu Centrair international Airport.

I remember that I was so excited for the coming 2weeks. I could not speak English at all. But we communicated with gestures, and hand play for the waiting time. We always exchanged our hearts although we could not understand each other's language. We went to school together, and went many places on weekends for 2 weeks. It really passed by fast. My whole family missed her when she left Tokoname. We promised we would surely meet again, and we hugged dozens of times.

4 years later, we could meet her again as promised. I could have many great experiences with her. I think the friendship continues even if we are away.



Amano Urara (Onizakiminami ES)

I hosted Aryssa, a girl from Malaysia. Although I had been so excited to see her, I was a bit worried.

Aryssa was very shy and quiet at first. But the more friendly we became the more fun we had. We laughed a lot and joked around together. I remember very much that we went Nagashima Playground and rode the thrill rides, and we enjoyed playing cards at home.

However, I was so sad when Aryssa left Japan after spending all the time together. I couldn't stop crying. I had never experienced such a sad farewell before.

I found that we can become friend with anyone if we want to do, even though we have different language.

I want to visit Aryssa and have fun with her and make another good memory.

Thank you very much for giving me a lot of good experiences and memories.



Maruyama Noriko (Kosugaya ES)

I still clearly remember to have such a beautiful time with Mala who was so sweet and had a bright smile.

On the first day, she looked like she had fun with us. She showed us very cheerful behavior in front of us. But it actually not what it seemed when she was going to bed.

She was very quiet and looked so sad. Mala secretly told me that she was a home sick that she missed her family so much... Since that day, during the period of her stay I tried my best to get her relax with a hand massage before sleeping every night. It felt like we had a better connection. I deeply felt like she was my own daughter.

Sometimes, it was very difficult for our family to accept the gaps of our cultures between Japan and India. I was watching my children and she was having fun and laughing when they played card games every day. I thought that even if the countries are different the language barrier is still very small. They very easily got over it.

Four years have passed. We still keep in touch and communicate via SNS. After her stay, our view of the world has certainly expanded. We greatly appreciate TSIE for giving us such a good opportunity and a wonderful experience. We strongly hope the project and event will continue for very long for the kids.



Yokoi Hinatsu (Miwa ES)

I and my family hosted a delegate from Australia two years ago. Maddy is very cheerful so I had fun whenever I was with her. There are a lot of unforgettable memories. For example, when we saw dolphins' show, dolphins splashed water on us. And she said to me "nice!" when we played Australian football in PE class.

Everything is novel and memorable that I experienced with her. I remember that we joked and played together and she called my name for the first time and she became

homesick and wept at the first day of her stay and she also wept when she left Japan. I was so sad when she went away because she was always by my side. But she sent me a Christmas card and sometimes called to me and she and her family came to see me last April. And being with friends with her became a reason that I wanted to be a delegate to Australia last year.



Okada Kazue (Tokonamenishi ES)

In 2018, my daughter was in the third grade and was excited to be a host family, we hosted a male teacher, Mr Zaquan from Malaysia. He had a nice relationship with my daughter, they played a lot. He was like a Father.

He was Muslim, so I made Japanese Halal food. We had no problems. On our host family day we went to see Mt Fuji, it was beautiful and is a great memory.

We were very sad when parting, but we will continue to be connected. We would like to go and visit him in Malaysia.



Oishi Kiyonori (Onizakiminami ES)

I was very worried if my daughter could become a friend with foreign children before we were selected host family. Because my daughter can't speak English at all just like me and she is very shy. At the first day, a girl from Thailand got homesick and cried as soon as she arrived at our home. I was very upset because something that I didn't want to happen, happened. But there was nothing to worry about it. My daughter brought some dolls and toys for her one after another and cheered her up. They started to play together after a several minutes. It made them much closer. From the next day, they were always together holding hands. They seemed to have been best friends for a long time or sisters. I didn't really understand how they communicated with each other. They are still enjoying communicating on the video phone, though it has been a year since she went back to Thailand.

My daughter let me know that there is no language barrier in the international exchange through this host experience. And I found out that my daughter is kind and active and has grown a lot, although I thought she was never like that. I became a host family for my daughter, but in the end, it was very precious experience and very meaningful for me.



Kato Remi (Nishiurakita ES)

The student accepted at my home was a girl born in America, raised in Australia and have Indian parents. I was little anxious when I heard that her Native language was Tamil at the time of matching. But, when we met her she was fluent in English and had no trouble with the language. My eldest daughter used mobile phone application and spoke to her naturally using broken English. My second daughter was also having fun coloring book with her.

That girl was clever calm and unobtrusive, because of being on only child in an Australian family. She is calm and don't shows her emotion. so even it I went to play or took pictures of a kimono or dress in the studio. I was sometimes feel lost it was fun or not , but my family could spend a peaceful time without being angry or any fight.

Finally, I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to everyone in this project for giving me this valuable wonderful experience. Thank you very much.



Mizuno Chinari (Ono ES)

Even before Tintin had come to Japan, I thought that Tintin and I had something in common, such as learning to play tennis and loving dogs, so I was sure we could get along. When I first met Tintin at the airport, she jumped and came to me, she was cute. Tintin was a very friendly girl. As soon as she arrived in my house, we played together with Liuzhou's puzzle that she brought to us, and soon she got along with us.

On the last night in our house, the whole family was impressed by Tintin's very good performance of piano.

Living with Tintin was nothing but fun every day. It was also a lot of fun to sleep with our favorite stuffed animal, Tintin, and my sister.

I want to continue this connection and I want to see her again in China next time!



Experiencing a foreign culture

Yoshihara Yuto (Tokonamenishi ES)

I went to Thailand 4 years ago. I experienced a different culture by homestay, foreign school and food etc... There was Mother's day during my homestay. In Japan, there is a culture that family members give carnations to their mother. In Thailand, children wash their mother's feet one by one. And a ritual to give presents to traditional Thai vessels.

I thought that the queen and mother were very precious. I also felt that cherishing my family is commonness in the world.

Through this experience, I was interested in International exchange and studied abroad in this summer. I want to continue International exchange. And if I have chance, I would like to study abroad again.

I appreciate to TSIE for the wonderful experience.



Swada Yuki (Kosugaya ES)

I had been to Regency Park Primary School in Australia when I was in the 6th grade. I had been anxious whether I can speak English and make friends until I went there. However, my host family, they were eager to hear my words so I felt confident that I can communicate with them. I made friends at school and enjoyed playing with them every day. I taught my host family how to make origami and to write Japanese calligraphy. They seemed very happy. I was so pleased



that they enjoyed Japanese culture. I was not used to the taste of some meals, however my host family devised the seasoning for me, so that I could enjoy their meals.

My impression of foreign countries had totally changed by this experience. I realized everything will be accepted if I behave positively. I would like to go and see my host family again soon and visit another countries to interact with many people in the near future.

Mizukami Yuzuki (Tokonamehigashi ES)

I went to Mount View Elementary School in Australia when I was in the fifth grade of Tokoname East Elementary School in 2016. My host was Jayna and her family.

The most important thing in I learned during the 3weeks stay was saying my feeling clearly. It was difficult at the beginning but I thought if I didn't say what I wanted nobody would understand me. That's why I started speaking from myself.

Saying some English words was sometimes enough to have communications. My host family tried hard to understand what I said. Thinking what I wanted to say and speak English was not easy for me. But I thought I've got a great chance to experience to try to communicate in English in Australia.

I was able to meet Jayna and her family again during the summer vacation in 2019. I was a little nervous at first, but we were able to get back to good friends soon after and had a great time again.

I will study hard to be able to speak English better and keep in touch with my host family who has given me wonderful memories.

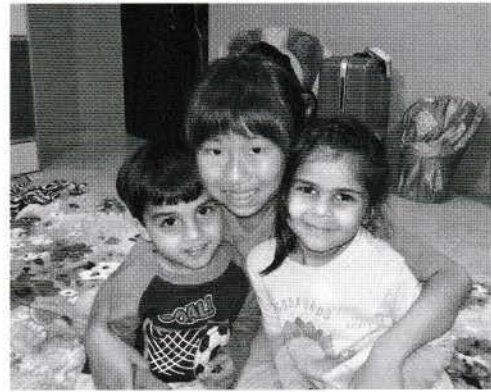


Soda Ren (Ono ES)

I went to India as a delegate when I was in the fifth grade of elementary school. I had a lot of memories which I couldn't experience in Japan.

In particular, the Indian caste system left a strong impression on me. My host family took me to various places. Every time I went out, I met people who begged. It was shocking to see a variety of people, such as children and adults with many physical disabilities.

But the sightseeing spots such as the Taj Mahal and the Indian Gate were very beautiful, and I felt the excitement and wonderfulness. Thanks to the host family being very friendly, I was able to enjoy the trip that I was a little uneasy about. It was a short period of two weeks, but I could make a lot of precious memories. I want to visit India again.



Yoshida Kota (Onizakiminami ES)

I had many China's memories Even as for now when two years passed. I had various experiences in China which I went at the age of a sixth grader. As soon as I arrived at China, I made friends with his Host family. I cannot speak English. However, I did a gesture. And I made friends with his family. Host's mother brought the teacher of the Chinese instrument 'Chinese erhu'. Because learned a violin in Japan. So Host's mother planned to delight me. And Her planned the lesson of golf to me. Because I like exercising very much.

It is a lifetime treasure for me for two weeks that I spent in China.

The shelf of my room has a lot of China's memory goods. I challenged it in various ways in China. So I want to challenge it in various ways forever.

Finally, I thank for TSIE. TSIE let me experience various experience. Thank you very much



Ikuse Maaya (Miwa ES)

Thank you very much. I deeply appreciate all that you have done for me. I have been to Australia as a member of Miwa Elementary School in August, 2018. My host family always talked to me with a big smile, so I was able to enjoy myself during my stay. I was so happy to be able to make a success of Japanese cultural performance. I really enjoyed football lesson, too. It was difficult for me to kick the ball straight, but I had a good time. I will never forget the time that I spent at Mount Waverley Primary School. Now Melbourne, Australia is one of my favorite places in the world.



Tagami Sana (Onizakikita ES)

I participated in the ISSE program, because I was interested in the exchange with foreign countries.

I learned English and Spanish before visiting Mexico. I was very nervous before going, but I was comfortable during staying there because my host family was really kind to me.

Japanese people usually keep time, but I felt Mexican people doesn't care much about it. So I was able to relax with them. For foods, I was worried about eating ice and drinking fresh water, but it was no problem because my host mother cooked nice foods for me.

I was so sad and didn't want to say goodbye to Mexican people after spending wonderful days.

I think this exchange program was a great experience for me. I would like to make use of this experience in the future.



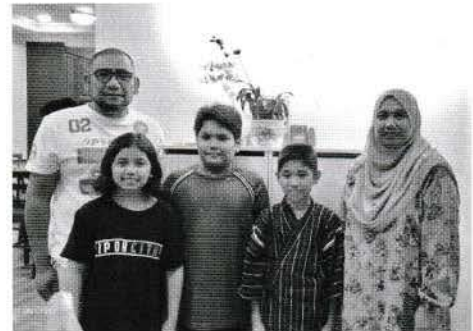
Hisada Koga (Nishiurakita ES)

I was not interested in International Exchange at first. However, I gained interest when I saw my younger cousin doing all these stuffs. I attended a briefing session for dispatch to Malaysia with my cousin. I was able to interact with some Malaysian people and other participants. I found it quite interesting to interact with them and listen their stories. Although, preparation and culture show practice were quite difficult, I was really happy to announce it in Malaysia.

I went Camping with host family and play Beyblade, river play. When I was playing Beyblade with my host family, I can even communicate with without language, I had a good time.

When I was in Malaysia, I missed my family a lot, also realized the importance of family and how it feel like to be far from them.

If I have chance to visit again, I would love to visit with my family and show all the places I had enjoyed.



Suzuki Rika (Kosugaya ES)

I went to Prasarnmit school in Thailand for 3 weeks, from Aug.3 to 24, 2019. I was very impressed that many people celebrated for my birthday, had a birthday party and I could ride an elephant. I was delighted to see the Thai delegation who our school received 5 years ago, too.

Thai food was not to my taste, and it was no easy matter to understand English and Thai for me. I could not have any time to spend with my host girl Nam, because she was very busy with her lessons. So I felt like crying. But thanks to the kindness of host mother, teachers and my friends, I felt their tender and dearly heart.

I could have a very wonderful experience, so I could learn it was very essential to connect with people, and to consider of each other. I thank every people to support me from the bottom of my heart. From now on I study hard English and Thai. I'm looking forward to seeing friends of Prasarnmit school in Thailand.



Leader's Comment

Katayama Takayuki (Nishiurakita ES)

It was in August, 2015 that we went to Australian Weeden Hights elementary school. I'm happy to begin this International exchange.

We made friends with Australians especially when we had lunch together. It enjoyed everyday with pleasure and laughter. In Australia, our culture show introduce our language and calligraphy, we danced traditional dance "Sorau-bushi" . We were excited to perform the dance. We went to Philip Island.

We could saw koalas and penguins there. We saw the beautiful "Flinders Street station" in Melbourne. Everything was a wonderful experience for us.

We can appreciate both our own and Australian culture through these exchanges.

I want to keep this friendship forever.



Omori Natsuha (Ono ES)

During my elementary school days, I gained valuable asset being in the TSIE program.

I had the experience twice when I was in fifth and sixth grade of elementary school, I was a host family for Indian delegate and I also went to Australia as a delegate member. Interacting with people who have completely different history, culture, customs and values gave me a chance to change myself. When I visited India as a leader, I felt once again the goodness of international exchange, which is connected to the heart of the host families, students felt homesick but tried their best to overcome the language barriers. The host families treated them warmly like their own families.

Through this program, the children have developed much more selfconfidence and awareness in themselves.

I am grateful to have had a lot of experiences from TSIE and I hope many children will join the international exchange in the future.



Kihara Takuma (Onizakiminami ES)

Congratulations for the 25th anniversary of TSIE. In August 2017, I participated in the exchange program to Wan Tang Primary School in China where is the first country for TSIE. I was very nervous because I have never been to China. However, I actually went to China and my sense of values changed a lot. The children puzzled by cultural difference and language barriers at first. They grew up greatly through the exchange program and were able to communicate with a lot of foreigners positively when they returned to Japan. Every host families welcomed us warmly, so I could see the growth of children. "Even if we don't understand the language, the heart was through!" We can feel this feeling only when we actually go abroad and communicate with people from that country. I strongly want many children to know the goodness of international exchange.

I thank you heartily for giving such precious experiences.



Kawai Motonao (Tokonamenishi ES)

Congratulations on the 25th anniversary.

In 2017, I joined the Malaysian delegation of Tokoname Nishi Elementary School. I was worried about spending 3 weeks in a country where I couldn't speak Japanese and had a different culture, but thanks to the support of many people, I had a wonderful experience. There were new discoveries by touching foreign cultures, and I was reminded of the goodness of Japanese culture. I especially felt the importance of smiling and respecting the culture of others and trying to understand them. I felt that these were things I had to be aware of in my daily life in Japan.

I honestly didn't expect to get so much stimulation at this age. The reason is not just a trip abroad, but I was able to have a homestay and live a school life with Malaysian children. Thank you for having a valuable experience with the students. I hope TSIE will continue to open the door to the world for Tokoname children.



Fujiki Katsuharu (Onizakikita ES)

From the day they welcomed me, how relieved I was to take the same words like a shower. "It's okay. Don't worry about anything, because you are a member of my family."

With their expressions and hugs, I felt they were from the bottom of their heart. In strange place, I was worried about whether it led to learning based on the purpose of TSIE and the physical condition management of children. However, thanks to the wonderful network and support of the host family, I spent a calm and inspiring day.

During my stay, half was school life at TAE and the other half was sightseeing. The time to think about each other's problems in the country and to confirm the importance of human relationships built between families was valuable. They were attentive to my wife and children, so it was a stay that brought a big change to my sensibility and way of thinking. Above all, I was happy to see close the growing children up through the relationship with the people from scratch. I really appreciate. "Viva Mexico!!"



Kaneyama Tomoyo (Miwa ES)

I visited Mount Waverley Primary School in Australia from August 10th to August 29th in 2018 as a leader.

We spent a day in the school on weekdays. I worried about whether my students could communicate with students in Australia because they often spent a break at our delegation's room. They didn't spend a break at our room so much as they played with students in Australia. I've never forgot their happy days in the school. I was impressed with their attitude they tried to communicate even though they didn't speak English fluently.

Host families thought of my students as their children. I thought tears everyone shed at the airport evidenced true bonds. This visit became irreplaceable experience to my students. I am happy to be a leader because I could participate in wonderful experience to my students.



Kurimoto Aiko (Tokonamehigashi ES)

Rather than going abroad in private, as a leader of the delegation team, taking a child from the Tokoro delegation group to Thailand was more anxious than a fun one. However, those uneasy feelings disappeared quickly thanks to the "warmth of the heart" of the people I met in Thailand.

From the moment I met, my host family greeted me warmly like a real family. I was worried that the children in the delegation were not healthy and encouraged them with me and contacted the families of the children's homestays.

Thai people tried to actively engage with us as Japanese people. I felt that many people, including Thai children and teachers, host families and people I met in town, valued us. Anxious feelings turned into fun thanks to the warmth of the Thai people.

Seeing with my own eyes, listening with my ears, and feeling with my heart for two weeks in Thailand became irreplaceable. I am deeply grateful to the many people who have given me such a valuable opportunity and supported the dispatch.



Kitamura Kiyoshi (Kosugaya ES)

Congratulations on the 25th anniversary of TSIE.

I participated this program as a leader of delegation to Thailand this year. I remembered it was my first experience to visit Thailand, I was so nervous at first. I managed to play a role because of delegation's vitality, care of the staff in Prasarnmit elementary school and the kindness of the host family.

The delegations were forced to struggle to overcome the barriers of food, language and customs and anxiety of leaving their parents for three weeks. However, they were helped by the dedication of their host family and by encouraging each other, they were able to overcome that barrier and grow greatly. In the future, I hope that they will contribute to international exchange by making use of their experience participating in the delegation.

Finally, I would like to express my gratitude to all the people who have worked this program and wish for the further development of TSIE.



As the agreement of TSIE

Tanaka Sanae (TSIE)

As the agreement of TSIE, we have been working to provide students with lots of experiences and try to understand the importance of the international experience from the cultural exchanges.

Furthermore, TSIE utilizes the ISSE program "We are intended to have children understand, learn and influence each other and investigate the world peace by living together with the children from all over the world."

- regular meeting of committee member (monthly)
- general meeting
- workshop and evaluation meeting for leaders
- inauguration ceremony and returning report
- courtesy call on city mayor(delegation)
- a get-together of delegation leaders
- meeting with school leaders
- contact and coordination with home and report
- ISSE meeting(monthly)
- participation in the ISSE conference
- community center festival(display, food and disused bazaar)

By kindly support of many people, we have been working this activity for 25 years, I hope that the activity continues for a long time, also I would like to express my heartfelt thanks for everyone.

At the ISSE Conference

Tsuzuki Akemi (TSIE)

ISSE conference is held in one of participating nations biennially. In 2016, seven countries gathered in Guayaquil, Ecuador, just on the equator. In 2018, the conference was held in Liuzhou, China. Nine countries got together there. Every time, we talk about what is good for children, what makes the best exchange programs, and so on.

Around 20 years ago, contact methods for programs were letters, international phone calls, telegrams and fax messages. Changing from e-mails from PC, or text messages by cellular phones, now we can use SNS to exchange messages or we can make free phone calls through the internet. It's been becoming very convenient these days. Even if technology has evolved, basic exchanges with a person and a person haven't changed. International programs are great opportunities to touch each other's heart directly for children from different countries. I hope ISSE will continue for a long time.

Next conference will be held in Mexico City in 2020.



Conference in 2016



Conference in 2018



25TH ANNIVERSARY STAFF

Fukuta Taizo (TSIE Chairman)
Suga Katsunari
Chiba Chihaya
Hiraoka Mamoru
Nomiya Taeko
Takeuchi Naoko
Kita Junko
Tsuchikawa Yumi
Yunoki Mizuho
Akai Kikumi
Yamashita Hiromi
Hisada kimiyo
Umeda Kazuyo
Hirano Tihoko
Takeuchi Yumi
Ito Naho
Yamamoto Yoshie
Kubota Yoko
Kawabata Rie
Tanaka Sanae

