

Fukushima International Student Exchange Promotion Council

Activity Name	Fukushima International Speech Contest and Cultural Gathering			
Dates	November 28, 2009 (Saturday)			
Location	Fukushima Prefectural Education Hall			
Participants	International Students	Residents, Corporation	Other	Total
	61	47	27	135

<Activity Details>

On Saturday, November 28, 2009, the Fukushima International Student Exchange Promotion Council hosted the Fukushima International Speech Contest and Cultural Gathering.

Sixteen international students and two Japanese students from five universities in Fukushima Prefecture gave speeches on their experiences with foreign cultures. The winner was Jun Kyung Hun, an international student from South Korea's Baekseok University, currently studying at Fukushima University. The title of his speech was "An Environmentally Friendly Japan: Thinking about Ecology." The top five places were won by international students, and the special Asia Friendship Association Award was given to a Japanese student. After the speeches, participants enjoyed a performance of Fukushima's traditional ryozen drumming by the Ryozen Drumming Preservation Society, and even had the opportunity to try it themselves, deepening their association and friendship.



After a speech

<Comments from The Participants>

From international students

- I became friends with international students from a variety of countries. I learned the differences between my culture and that of other countries.
- I learned about the cultures and food of other countries, and was able to participate in international exchange. I also learned from the speeches about ecology, cultural comparisons, etc.
- The speech contest gave me the opportunity to expand my views and knowledge of other countries. I really learned a lot.



More difficult than expected?



The first speech

From the general public

- I was impressed by the passion of the speakers and the students. I felt the necessity of an environment that nurtures and protects students.
- I was highly impressed by the attitudes of the international students and the content of their earnest presentations. I also gained courage. I've started to worry that if Japanese students don't work harder, they'll get left behind by international society.

- I was able to learn about the feelings and images that international students have toward Japan. I was really struck by the speeches expressing a different viewpoint for each person. I feel like I've been taught about Japan's good and bad points that I hadn't been able to see. I hope there are even more events like this in the future.

- The drumming experience. I enjoyed interacting during lunch.
- I liked the hands-on experience event.



Drumming is fun!