

International House, Osaka

Activity Name	i-house's Summer Festival "The NIGIWAI" 2009			
Date	Sunday, July 26, 2009			
Location	International House, Osaka			
Participants	International Students	Residents, Corporation	Other	Total
	300	1,245	155(Staff and Volunteers)	1,700

<Activity Details>

Themed around the Japanese summer festival tradition, i-house's Summer Festival "The NIGIWAI" is an annual community-based event that is organized with help from volunteers. It has become an International House favorite over the past 10 years as an event in which local residents—including those from foreign countries—interact and learn each other's culture.



Yakisoba noodle stand

This festival included food stalls serving Japanese and other foreign specialties in the International Food section, a Traditional Games section for those with children, and a Japanese Culture section where visitors were able to try on *yukata* (light summer kimono). In addition, the festival offered spectacular Stage Performances that featured Bon dancing, folk dance, and international music, a Fair Trade section that allowed participants to become familiar with international cooperation, and the International Picture Book Readings "AI-AI" for children were conducted in Japanese, English, Chinese, and Korean. The event drew about 1,700 visitors.



Traditional Games



International Picture Book Readings "AI-AI"

<Comments from The Participants>

Volunteers (Japanese)

"It was great that I got some exposure to cultures that are not easily accessible. But, I wish there had been more opportunities for international exchange using English."

"It was very stimulating to interact with various people, both visitors and other volunteers. Communicating with students from all over the world was exciting, since I usually don't get such opportunities."

Volunteers (International Students)

"I made *yakisoba* noodles for the first time, and it was a lot of fun." (Laos)

"It was a completely different festival from the ones in my country. I enjoyed it." (China)

"I got to talk to Japanese people as well as people from other countries while volunteering. I made some friends." (Bangladesh)

"I was on my feet all day, which was hard, but I had a good time." (Saudi Arabia)



Bon dancing to end the event



Experiencing Japanese taiko drums