

Host Families For Foreign Stidents Communication Center

Activity Name	Hanshin Awaji Earthquake 15th Annual Memorial Project Stories by International Student Earthquake Survivors and Memorial Concert			
Date	1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m., January 16, 2010 (Sat)			
Location	Pifure Hall (Nagata Ward, Kobe City)			
Participants	International Students	Residents, Corporations	Other	Total
	125	145	57	327

< Activity Details >

1. Stories by International Student Earthquake Survivors

International students talked about the "togetherness" displayed in the extreme circumstances when the earthquake struck with Professor Ikuko Seguchi coordinating.



Part 1: Stories by International Student Earthquake Survivors (Kataribe)



Part 2: Cello Ensemble Eclat Performance (Cello 2)

2. Memorial Concert

Cello Ensemble Eclat, a group of twelve students and top performers led by Kenichi Kamizuka who studied under twelve cellists from the Berlin Philharmonic, attempt to create a new kind of music by playing in diverse genres of classical, baroque, pop and jazz like "1,000 Winds, 1,000 Cellos," a performance that paints a virtual picture of the post-quake recovery.

< Comments from Participants >

- It was a unique listening experience and a valuable opportunity.
- It was a good chance to look again at the importance of communication and compassion.
- I feel like I want to hear from many more earthquake survivors and I think the content was truly deep.
- I got a good understanding of experiences from the time of the quake and of the state of current reports fifteen years later that make use of those experiences.
- I was living in Kobe at that time, but I didn't have a chance to know how tough it was for foreign residents.
- I was moved by their beautiful Japanese language. I felt pleased that they have developed a love for the city of Kobe.
- The experiences of international students in the quake became a springboard for building bridges connecting Kobe and Japan with their home countries and deepened their interaction. I thought it was wonderful.
- I was able to hear stories from perspectives that Japanese people do not notice on their own.
- The earthquake was an unfortunate event, but one saving grace is that it was an opportunity to deepen global understanding.

- The great emotions and will of the international students made a deep impression on me. I felt anew the need for people from various backgrounds to speak out.
- I remembered the victims and their families while listening to the cello performance.
- The performance was a soul-touching experience. The explanations of the songs made them easy to understand.
- The performance of "Tetsujin 28" was very nostalgic and I smiled as I listened in ecstasy. I enjoyed the songs' variety of genres.
- It was my first time to hear a one-time cello ensemble. I was surprised at the very unique and beautiful sounds they created.
- The soft tone of the cellos soothed my heart.