

Wakasa–Mikatagoko Tourism Association

Activity Name	Wakasa Town Visitor Exchange Initiative			
Dates	From June 2, 2009 to October 18, 2009			
Location	Wakasa Town area			
Participants	International Students	Residents, Corporation	Other	Total
	35	67	35	137

<Activity Details>

August 10, 11: Tour for Nagoya University Students

Students took a tour of local sightseeing spots and stayed at an inn where they savored fresh seafood and talked with the *okami* (proprietress). The students also enjoyed fireworks at night. There was an informal meeting on the second day to exchange views with those involved in Wakasa Town's tourism, including the *okami* and officials from the Tourism Association.



Group photo at Rainbowline Summit Park

August 27, 28: Tour for Ritsumeikan University Students

The itinerary was almost identical to the one used for the Nagoya University students. Some Japanese students also participated this time. International students, Japanese students, and local residents all got to interact with each other.

October 17, 18: Tour for Ritsumeikan University Students

This time students stayed with host families (two to three students per house), experienced farming, and participated in a walking event called the "Wakasa–Mikatagoko Two–Day March." Participants loved it because it allowed them to spend quality time with local residents.



Interaction with the inn's *okami*



Fireworks on the beach

<Comments from the Participants>

Linbin Hou (Ritsumeikan University)

Participated in the tour from August 27 to 28

"The scenery of Mikatagoko was unique. It was great that I could get close to nature. I also experienced Japanese culture by spending the night in a traditional Japanese-style room, wearing a *yukata* (light summer kimono), and seeing real fishing, as well as through tasting very fresh sashimi."

Syed Abdul Kadir Zawai Bin Syed Abdul Fattah (Ritsumeikan University)

Participated in the tour from October 17 to 18

"We had sushi and vegetables, which we harvested during the farming experience, for dinner at the house where we stayed. We cooked and had the dinner with the family. It was great because I haven't had a dinner with a large group of people for quite some time. I think the air is so fresh in Wakasa. It's a very quiet and safe town."



Talking in the sunset



Experiencing set-net fishing



Departure ceremony for the Wakasa-
Mikatagoko Two-Day March