



Issued by: **Matsudo International Exchange Association (MIEA)**

A Public Interest Incorporated Foundation

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MIEA STATION

Spring, FY 2025 (English Edition)



★Event Report★

33rd Japanese Speech Contest for Foreigners

“The 33rd Japanese Speech Contest for Foreigners in Matsudo City” was held at the Matsudo Civic Theater (Matsudo Shimin Gekijo) on Saturday, March 1. Passing the initial screening, 13 contestants gave speeches on a variety of topics. The contestants came from 7 countries : Vietnam, China, the Philippines, Nepal, Russia, Sri Lanka, and Mongolia. The moderators were Ms. Sakaguchi Miyu, who won the excellence prize at Matsudo English Speech Contest for High School Students last fiscal year, and Mr. Sungho Kang, a Matsudo International Cultural Ambassador.



(Attraction)

Ninjutsu Enbu (Ninja art demonstration) by BUJINKAN

🏆 The winners are as follows:

1. Mayor's Award: 「自分を変える自分」(Trust yourself and move forward) Ms. Irushi Chamathka (Sri Lanka)
2. MIEA Chairman's Award: 「大切なことを思い出した」(I realized something important)
Mr. Tecson Roweno Alicaba (the Philippines)
3. Excellence Award: 「え、それも捨てちゃうの! ?」(What a waste!?) Ms. Galbadrakh Gereltuya (Mongolia)
4. Rotary Club Award: 「フレンチ日本」(French culture in Japan) Mr. Nepal Anurag (Nepal)
5. Specialty Award: 「私の母はうそをつくのが好きです」(Mother likes telling lies)
Ms. Gonzales Gleza Vilchez (The Philippines)

★Notice★

Please use MIEA's Volunteer Interpreter and Translator Program! Free

Inquiries: Matsudo International Exchange Association ☎ 047-711-9511 ✉ volunteer@miea.or.jp

Eligibility: National, prefectural and municipal public institutions and public service organizations: persons who reside, work or study in Matsudo.

Fields covered: Administration procedures, medical care, child rearing, taxes, education of students, health and welfare, matters related to activities of neighborhood associations, etc.

Languages supported: English, Chinese, Vietnamese, Korean, Ukrainian, Spanish, Urdu, and Hindi.

For other languages, please consult us.

We are recruiting volunteer interpreters and translators!





Event information


※Scan the QR codes for details and to apply.

<p>April-June (Tuesday) and (Friday) 9:00-10:00</p> <p>Some exclusion may apply (See the QR code for details on dates.)</p> 	<p>Around the world with MIEA Open-Air Tai Chi Class</p> <p>Experience meditation while moving. Increase your immunity and get more exercise. Let's get together for Tai Chi Chuan! Tai Chi is easy on the body, and anyone can participate regardless of age.</p> <p>Instructor: Ms. Jin Chunhua (Matsudo International Cultural Ambassador from China)</p>	<p>Venue: Kinro-kaikan (labor hall) Eligibility: Beginners are welcome Capacity: First 20 persons Fee: a book of 10 tickets ¥5,000 (MIEA member) ¥8,000 (Non-member) ※Feel free to apply at any time. ※A free trial lesson is available.</p> 
<p>April 15 – July 15 (Tuesday) 10:30-12:00</p> <p>【10 lessons】 (Excluding Apr. 29, May 6, 20, and 27)</p>	<p>Elementary German Course</p> <p>~Enjoy learning about various themes on Germany~</p> <p>Instructor: Ms. Annette Uematsu (German language Instructor from Germany)</p> <p>Text: Purchase by yourself. 教材:『マウスと仲間たち楽しく簡単ドイツ語』 Jリサーチ出版 (ISBN : 978-486392-573-1)</p>	<p>Venue: Matsudo City Tourism Association, 2F hall Eligibility: Beginners of German conversation Capacity: First 15 persons Fee: ¥10,000 (MIEA member) ¥13,000 (Non-member)</p> 
<p>April 19 – September 27 (Saturday) 13:00-14:30</p> <p>【18 lessons】 (Excluding May 3, 10, July 12, August 2, 16, and 23)</p>	<p>Elementary Korean Course II</p> <p>~Take on the challenge of conversation using basic grammar !~</p> <p>Instructor: Ms. Choi Hyo Yeon (Korean language instructor at a prefectural high school in Chiba) Text: Purchase by yourself 教材:『新装版 できる韓国語 初級II』 (ISBN:978-4872177237)</p>	<p>Venue: International Friendship Room (Kokusai Yuko Room) at Bunka Hall Eligibility: Those who want to develop a solid base in Korean. Capacity: First 20 persons Fee: ¥18,000 (MIEA member) ¥21,000 (Non-member)</p> 
<p>April 19 – September 27 (Saturday) 10:30-12:00</p> <p>【18 lessons】 (Excluding May 3, 10, July 12, August 2, 16, and 23)</p>	<p>Intermediate Korean Course</p> <p>~Use the grammar learned in Elementary II, and enjoy conversing in Korea~</p> <p>Instructor: Ms. Choi Hyo Yeon (Korean language instructor at a prefectural high school in Chiba)</p> <p>Text: Purchase by yourself 教材:『新装版 できる韓国語中級I』 (ISBN:978-4872179279)</p>	<p>Venue: International Friendship Room (Kokusai Yuko Room) at Bunka Hall Eligibility: Those who want to study Korean once again. Capacity: First 20 persons Fee: ¥18,000 (MIEA member) ¥21,000 (Non-member)</p> 
<p>May 10, June 7, and July 12 (Saturday) 13:30-15:00</p> <p>※Can apply for each day</p>	<p>Intermediate German Course</p> <p>~With a specific theme for each lesson, students will practice “watching, listening, writing, and speaking”.</p> <p>Instructor: Ms. Eva Bilik (part-time lecturer, from Hungary) Text: Deutsche Welle web text “Deutschland-Labor”</p>	<p>Venue: Matsudo City Tourism Association, 2F hall Eligibility: Intermediate German conversation learners Capacity: First 15 persons Fee: ¥1,000/day (MIEA member) ¥1,300/day (Non-member)</p> 

<p>May 14 – July 16 (Wednesday) 【10 lessons】 15:45-17:15</p> <p>※We will visit and experience Vietnamese restaurants around Shin-Matsudo on June 11 and July 16.</p>	<p>Start learning Vietnamese from scratch</p> <p>Learn basic Vietnamese, and use it for travelling and dining.</p> <p>Instructor: Ms. Truong Thuy Lan (Matsudo City Coordinator of International Relations, from Vietnam)</p>	<p>Venue: International Friendship Room (Kokusai Yuko Room) at Bunka Hall Eligibility: 16 years old and over Capacity: First 20 persons Fee: ¥11,000 (MIEA member) ¥14,000 (Non-member) Including text</p> 
<p>May 16 – July 18 (Friday) 【10 lessons】 15:15-16:45</p>	<p>Elementary Chinese Course I</p> <p>While reviewing basic knowledge learned before, learn further expression and phrases used in daily life.</p> <p>Instructor: Ms. Luo Gang Sui, high school Chinese lecturer, from China) Text: Purchase by yourself 『新訳第3版中国語会話301(上)』語文研究社 (P67 lesson 8 and up)</p>	<p>Venue: International Friendship Room (Kokusai Yuko Room) at Bunka Hall Eligibility: Those who are able to introduce oneself in Chinese. Capacity: First 20 persons Fee: ¥10,000 (MIEA member) ¥13,000 (Non-member)</p> 
<p>1) June 7 (Sat.) 2) July 12 (Sat.)</p> <p>English: 10:30-12:00 Taiwanese Mandarin: 13:00-14:30</p> <p>Applying period 1) May 1-15 2) June 15-30</p>	<p>Language Salon ~Culture and Languages~</p> <p>Experience foreign cultures! Try foreign languages (English and Taiwanese Mandarin)!</p> <p>Facilitators: High School ALTs, and others Cosponsor: Matsudo City Board of Education</p>	<p>Venue: Salon Space at Matsudo Bunka Hall Capacity: English 15 persons Mandarin: 10 persons Fee: Free (MIEA member) ¥500 (Non-member) *participants will be selected by lottery if applicants exceed capacity</p> 

Recruitment

<p>Application period: May 15 – May 31</p> <p>※Current ambassadors who wish to continue are requested to apply again.</p> <p>Commissioning ceremony: Scheduled for September 7 (Sun.) in the afternoon</p>	<p>Recruitment for the 28th Matsudo International Cultural Ambassadors</p> <p>We are seeking volunteers to serve as the cultural ambassadors from September 2025 to September 2026.</p> <p>The ambassadors are volunteers who introduce the cultures, lifestyles and arts of their home countries and Japan through lectures promoting international understanding, international exchange events, and other activities conducted in Matsudo.</p>	<p>Capacity: about 30 persons Selection process: Pre-screening and interview (scheduled for late June)</p> 
<p>Application deadline: June 25 (Wed.) (Must be received by then)</p> <p>Contest date: August 16 (Sat.) 13:00 – 17:00</p>	<p>Recruiting Contestants for the 44th English Speech Contest for High School Students in Matsudo</p> <p>Topic: Your own choice (within 5 min., subject to preliminary screening of draft) Eligibility: High school students living in Matsudo or commuting to a school in Matsudo</p> <p>The following students are not eligible.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Students who have stayed in an English-speaking country for more than 6 consecutive months or a total of one year except for those who were younger than 5 years old at the time. 2. Students who are currently studying or who have studied at an international school where the curriculum is taught in English for more than 6 months. 3. Students who live together with a parent or relative who is a native of English or is from an English-speaking country. 4. Students who were previous award winners of this contest. 	<p>★The top six winners will be given priority to participate in the Youth Delegation Program scheduled in February or March 2026, sponsored by MIEA. A portion of their travel expenses will be subsidized.</p> 

<p>Application accepted from April 8 (Tue.)</p> <p>Venue: International Friendship Room (Kokusai Yuko Room) at Bunka Hall</p>	<p>Elementary Japanese Classes (1st term)</p> <p>If you know foreign residents who want to acquire Japanese, please encourage them to choose the classes herein.</p> <p>※Those who have ever attended the classes are requested to apply for the entry again ※Those who apply for the first time, please contact the MIEA office</p>	<p>Fee: ¥1,000 per class (each term) Eligibility: MIEA members 15 years old and over (born before April 1, 2010)</p> <p>※Junior High School Students are excluded. ※MIEA member fee for FT2025 of ¥1,000 is required.</p> <p>Application form⇒ </p>
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Face-to-Face Lessons			
Class	Day	Time	Period
Elementary	Tue.	10 : 10-12 : 10	May 13 – July 15
		12 : 30-14 : 30	
		18 : 45-20 : 45	
	Wed.	10 : 10-12 : 10	May 7 – July 9
	Fri.	10 : 10-12 : 10	May 9 – July 11
		12 : 30-14 : 30	
Sun.	10 : 10-12 : 10	May 11 – July 13	
	12 : 20-14 : 20		
Kanji Study of N4 Level Kanji (For those who can read and write hiragana and katakana)	Wed.	10 : 10-12 : 10	May 7 – July 9
	Sun.	14 : 30-16 : 30	May 11 – July 13
Conversation: Kaiwa Hiroba (For those who can read and write hiragana and katakana, and who can speak simple Japanese)	Wed.	13 : 00-15 : 00	May 7 – July 9
	Thu.	13 : 30-15 : 30	May 8 – July 10
Online Lessons			
Class (Level)	Day	Time	Period
Elementary Class (For those who can speak a little Japanese)	Thu.	10 : 00-12 : 00	May 8 – July 10
Conversation Class (For those who can make simple daily conversation)	Tue.	13 : 30-15 : 30	May 13 – July 15
<p><u>Subsidy for short-term care for children</u> ※Please apply in advance at MIEA office. We will provide a partial subsidy to parents who need short-term care for their children while taking Japanese classes. (For first 10 persons.)</p>			

MIEA STATION is published in Japanese, Chinese, Spanish and Vietnamese, and English.

Many Thanks to the translators of this issue.

Chinese: Ms. Lu Lujin

Spanish: Mr. Mian Yataco Bilal Javed

Vietnamese: Ms. Truong Thuy Lan

English: Mr. Shimada Akio



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