

WORKCAMPS in JAPAN

CIEEJ1201. Neiraku kyodo gakusya/HOKKAIDO

13th - 25th February AGRI/CULT/ENVI

Volunteers: 2
Host Institution: Neiraku Kyodo Gakusha
Terminal: JR Sapporo Station
Nearest airport: Shin-Chitose airport

Background:

Obira-cho where the facility stands is a coastal city located in the north part of Hokkaido. It's a small town with about 4000 residents. The facility where volunteers will work is 14 km away from the Japan Sea and 25 people are working there. Their duty includes taking care of the swine and hens, cultivation of rice and vegetables, and selling their products (such as sausages, eggs etc.) to the local people.

Work

Volunteers will help farm work (including taking care of chickens and pigs) and daily routines in the facility. Volunteers are expected to communicate with people at the facility and with students visiting an elementary school and a junior high school in the town. They will also participate in the town festival.

Accommodation:

Volunteers will be accommodated in the facility.

Facilities and Fixtures:

Beddings will be provided. There are a washer, a kitchen, a lavatory and a bathroom.

Meals:

Meals will be provided 3 times a day including holidays.

What to bring:

Volunteers need to bring clothes for work (which can get dirty) and **warm** in heavy winter. Hokkaido is most famous for its extreme cold in Japan. You have to bring a warm clothes long sleeved clothes or sweatshirts, a hat/cap for outdoor work (you had better cover your ear with it), toiletries, and towels. Please also bring something to introduce your home country such as game, recipes, ingredients, music instrument.

Note:

This project is suitable for those who enjoy living in nature and want to experience the country life in Japan.

Location:

Hokkaido, where the town of Obira is located, is the biggest and northernmost prefecture in Japan. It is also known as the 21st largest island in the world with

abundant nature and a number of national parks. Hokkaido attracts millions of tourists from other regions in Japan not only by the vast wilderness the island possesses but also by its breezy, dry climate in summer and the mountain ranges covered by beautiful crystal powder in winter. Obira is a quite isolated area and it takes 2.5 hours from Sapporo by bus.

URL: Neiraiu kyodo gakusya (JAPANESE):
<http://www.kyodogakusya.or.jp/neiraku/>

Remarks:

There are **dogs, cats, chickens and pigs**. So we can't accept volunteers who have **allergies** against them.

Volunteers need to **go to bed early and rise early!!** Work will start around **6:00 am**. But the work pace is slow. Some of users are inadaptable to society, due to physical and mental problems and others are enjoying being self-sufficient in a small town.

LTV PROJECTS IN JAPAN

NICE/LI-FU12-1 Fukushima 12-1 (Fukushima) 20/01-15/04 EDUC, KIDS 1 vol.

NICE/LI-FU12-2 Fukushima 12-2 (Fukushima) 16/03-10/06 EDUC, KIDS 1 vol.

NICE/LI-FU12-3 Fukushima 12-3 (Fukushima) 13/04-08/07 EDUC, KIDS 1 vol.

NICE/LI-FU12-4 Fukushima 12-4 (Fukushima) 08/06-02/09 EDUC, KIDS 1 vol.

The special non-profit organization Fuku-Kan-Net(FKN) is a citizens' organization dedicated to **deepening the understanding of South Korea's language, culture, economy, and history.** It also seeks to develop mutual understanding and friendship among **Japanese and Korean through exchange activities.** From now on we want to have international exchange not just between **Japan and Korea**, but also between **Japan and the West (Europe and America).**

W: As a program that widens the international perspectives of the region's children, youth, and residents, we have special courses about **international understanding.** By **promoting international exchange** through sports, we make opportunities that are touched by foreign language and culture. We want to **improve/update our current courses,** and create new courses and programs. But 11st May 2011, they had really huge damaged by earthquake and radioactivity. Fukushima has been hit by harmful rumors still now. FKN expects volunteer from abroad, for example, cheering up for people in Fukushima.

S: International Exchange

A: Single room in FKN office. Cooked by yourselves.

L: Fukushima City is the capital of the Fukushima prefecture, and the population is 290,000.

T: From Tokyo to Fukushima: 5 hours by bus.

LA: Participation in the local events; many opportunities to learn the culture of Japan and Korea.

SR: **Speaking good Japanese!** Especially for Korean volunteer, they are important to be able to speak very good Japanese (the common language is Japanese) and have a strong motivation and flexibility to work. **Project site is about 65km from nuclear plant. It is not high level radioactivity here!**

*** IMPORTANT!!** If you want to finish the project in other period (either shorter or longer), please choose among the following dates and clearly write on your application form; 10/06, 08/07, 02/09

NICE/LI-MA12-1 Maki 12-1 (Nagano) 13/04-08/07 AGRI, HERI 2 vols.

NICE/LI-MA12-2 Maki 12-2 (Nagano) 08/06-02/09 AGRI, HERI 2 vols.

Host organization is **Maki Farm of Kyodo Gakusha (KG).** KG is a NPO running 5 **organic farming communities in Japan** where people with various backgrounds such as mentally disadvantaged, those who want to learn farming, etc. in order to change our society from competitive to cooperative. Maki Farm has 5-10 members and is located in a very isolated area (not accessible for cars and we have to walk 4 km in the mountains), so once it became **an abandon village in 1970s.**

W: We will help their **organic farming** (weeding in rice and vegetable fields, planting vegetables, taking care of goats and chicken, etc.) and also **carry the**

things from the town, renovate the trails, help their house work, etc. Be ready to work for quite a long time (05:30-18:00 with some brakes) and hard.

A: Building for volunteers in the farm, cooking as a group by turn (Vegetarian is possible!)

L: Very isolated, but beautiful village near "Japanese Northern Alps". About 900 meters asl. There are something remained here that most of Japanese areas have lost in modernization.

T: From Tokyo, 4 hours by express train or 8-10 hours by bus and train.

SR: Speaking good Japanese (common language will be Japanese), and strong motivation to work and enjoy simple life in the isolated area and respect to the local culture and way of the local organization! Skills of agriculture or construction can be useful!

* **IMPORTANT!!** If you want to finish the project in other period (either shorter or longer), please choose among the following dates and clearly write on your application form; 10/06, 08/07, 02/09

NICE/LI-NA12-1 Nabari 12-1 (Mie) 20/01-15/04 ENVI 1 vol.

NICE/LI-NA12-2 Nabari 12-2 (Mie) 16/03-10/06 ENVI 1 vol.

NICE/LI-NA12-3 Nabari 12-3 (Mie) 13/04-08/07 ENVI 1 vol.

NICE/LI-NA12-4 Nabari 12-4 (Mie) 08/06-02/09 ENVI 1 vol.

Host organization is 'Akame no Mori wo Mamoru kai', a local environmental NPO, since 1998. In an area between Osaka and Nagoya, there were plans for a golf course and disposal of industrial garbage, but the local community has stopped them with the 'Woods Trust' movement. The group was formed in 1996 to collect donations to buy and protect the land, to build an eco-resort to enjoy nature, to maintain forests, to create a pond for dragonflies, etc...

W: We will do a variety of different work to care of the forest such as cutting trees, cutting branches, maintaining the footpaths, etc... They organize some events(Ex. To collect edible wild plants, nature observation) in their Field. They also open up new projects(apiculture, biomass energy etc.) We will help their activities.

S: Local participation to protect nature. **Bring** some info.!

A: The pension named 'Eco Resort Akame'.

L: About 60 km east of Osaka. There are famous falls nearby that many hikers visit. The climate in this season is relatively cold; so don't forget to bring warm clothes.

T: Osaka or Nagoya (1 hour by train from both).

LA: Excursion, exchange parties, visiting schools, exchange with elderly people of the eco-resort, etc...

SR: Speaking good Japanese, strong motivation to work with the host, respect to the local custom and life, open mind and flexibility.

* **IMPORTANT!!** If you want to finish the project in other period (either shorter or longer), please choose among the following dates and clearly write on your application form; 10/06, 08/07, 02/09

NICE/LI-OH12-1 Ohda 12-1 (Shimane) 20/01-15/04 ENVI, SOCI 2 vols.

NICE/LI-OH12-2 Ohda 12-2 (Shimane) 16/03-10/06 ENVI, SOCI 2 vols.

NICE/LI-OH12-3 Ohda 12-3 (Shimane) 13/04-08/07 ENVI, SOCI 2 vols.

NICE/LI-OH12-4 Ohda 12-4 (Shimane) 08/06-02/09 ENVI, SOCI 2 vols.

Organized together with the 'Organization of Green and Water' (founded in 1992) since 2011. This organization was established to advocate for the importance of the prairie and forest in our ecosystem. They work around Iwami Ginzan, a silver mine, which was registered as a World Heritage site in 2007. The organization wants to care for the forests and prairies. It is important to continue to care for our forests after we have disrupted the ecosystem. Extension of bamboo forests is a serious problem in Japan.

W: We will do various work to maintain and protect the forests such as **cutting bamboos and grasses, burning grasses, etc...** **Empowering NEET youth** (Communication with them, they can get confidence by the experiences of communicating foreign people, to talk, to do activities.)

S: Similar kinds of activities of forest care, protection and youth empowerment in each country. **Bring** some info.

A: The house named 'Yukimi-ru', it is the center of NEET youth members. Pocket money is **20,000 yen** per month.

L: About 250 km northwest of Osaka. Near the Sea of Japan.

T: Osaka (9 hours by train). From Tokyo, 6 hours by bullet train or 12 hours by midnight bus.

LA: Visiting school, exchange parties, home stay.

SR: **Speaking some Japanese!** Interested in nature conservation. Motivation to learn and speak Japanese language!!

*** IMPORTANT!!** If you want to finish the project in other period (either shorter or longer), please choose among the following dates and clearly write on your application form; 10/06, 08/07, 02/09

NICE/LI-IK12-1 Ikata 12-1 (Ehime) 20/01-15/04 AGRI, HERI 2 vols.

NICE/LI-IK12-2 Ikata 12-2 (Ehime) 16/03-10/06 AGRI, HERI 2 vols.

NICE/LI-IK12-3 Ikata 12-2 (Ehime) 13/04-08/07 AGRI, HERI 2 vols.

NICE/LI-IK12-4 Ikata 12-2 (Ehime) 08/06-02/09 AGRI, HERI 2 vols.

Host organization is **Kikuya Community Group (KCG)**, formed by the local young people to think of the future of their small village. Ikata is famous for its main industry of oranges farming, but has been facing **depopulation**, lack of workers and ageing society since most of young people leave the town. So, the number of abandoned orange farms is increasing and the town is losing its tradition, life, custom and scenery. KCG strongly hopes to host vols. to work together to animate the town and revive the farms.

W: You will **help orange farming** (This is the main work!! Harvesting, taking care of trees, etc, depend on season!), **support local youth club (Taking care of elderly people etc)**, and **create new activities to animate the town.**

A: **Share room** at the **volunteers' house.** Cooked by vols. Pocket money is **20,000 yen** per month.

L: In the edge of Sata Peninsula, surrounded by the sea, so fishing is also famous. There are only 30 houses in this community. The climate is relatively warm though it can be cold in winter.

T: Matsuyama. From Matsuyama, about 2 hours by train and bus

LA: Participation in the local events, exchange with the local groups, etc.

SR: Speaking good Japanese, strong motivation to work with the host, respect to the local custom and life, open mind and flexibility. Be ready that work is for quite a long and hard (Especially, Dec. to April.)

*** IMPORTANT!!** If you want to finish the project in other period (either shorter or longer), please choose among the following dates and clearly write on your application form; 10/06, 08/07, 02/09

NICE/LI-AS12-1 Asakura 12-1 (Fukuoka) 20/01-05/04 ARTS, KIDS 2 vols.

Organized together with "Kodomo-Art" since 2004. Kodomo art, Society of Children's Theater Works and Community Development, was founded in 1972. They have held the international child art festival for several years. They want to activate this area through art and cultural promotion in the future for kids and build the fruitful network of a child and a cultural art organization. We aim to involve local people to promote global understanding, friendship and solidarity through this festival.

W: We will help to prepare the festival, such as site management and decoration. We will promote this festival to local kids through the visiting the kindergarten, some local companies and the nursery school. We will do the activities for children to spend the festival with a lot of fun.

S: Unique art festival. Bring some info.!

A: Home stay in staff's house. Sharing the room with another volunteer. Cooking by turn.

L: Small town in the mountains, 60 km south of Fukuoka. Good access by highway bus from Fukuoka.

T: Fukuoka (1.5 hours by bus). From Osaka, 5 hours by bullet train or 12 hours by midnight bus.

LA: Exchange parties, excursion, etc.

SR: Woman only!! Speaking good Japanese, strong motivation to work with the host. Interest in art and Kids!! Pocket money is 20,000 yen per month. It does not include evaluation seminar this program dates. Please join it from 13rd to 15th April.

NICE/LI-MI12-1 Minamata 12-1 (Kumamoto) 20/01-15/04 ENVI 2 vols.

NICE/LI-MI12-2 Minamata 12-2 (Kumamoto) 13/04-08/07 ENVI 2 vols.

This is the first LMTV in collaboration with the local people, 'Shokubutsu Shigen No Chikara'. Shokubutsu Shigen No Chikara ("Natural Resource Power") is a local non-profit organization (NPO) which supports the natural ecosystem cycles by promoting the regeneration and rebirth of land forests and sea forests. It has hosted international workcamps almost every year since 1992 and has had a significant impact on the process of creating forests from reclaimed land. This year, the organization will continue its work in forest reconstruction, environmental education, and agricultural work, and it will continue to develop regional cultural activities.

W: The area has been affected by deforestation of bamboo thickets and the

production of bamboo charcoal. The project aims for cyclical environmental preservation within the affected areas. The work involves helping with existing environmental education projects for middle school students. Participation in the international workcamp in February.

A: Local House. Meals will be made at the site of the project, in rotating shifts among NICE Program group members

L: Minamata city is located in southern Kumamoto prefecture in Kyushu, one of the four main islands of Japan. It faces a beautiful semi-closed sea called Shiranui-kai and has some gorgeous natural scenery.

T: From Osaka, 3 hours by airplane and bus. From Tokyo, 4 hours by airplane and bus.

LA: Agricultural Assistance Program (Harvesting paper mulberry trees, citrus fruits, onions, etc.) , Ocean life investigation, Environmental education etc.

SR: Speaking some Japanese! Motivation to learn and speak Japanese language!!

NICE/LI-SA12-1 Samegawa 12-1 (Fukushima) 13/04-08/07 AGRI, KIDS 2 vols.

NICE/LI-SA12-2 Samegawa 12-2 (Fukushima) 08/06-02/09 AGRI, KIDS 2 vols.

Host organization is **Abukuma Nature School Network (ANSN)**. ANSN has three objects to organize their projects. The first object is to offer the space to play with the nature and learn the power for living for children. The second one is to tell the culture of rural areas to children of the next generation. The third one is to empower rural areas by organizing the projects in these areas. (Their theme is **learning from soil and nature, and live together!**) And to make it into practice, ANSN organizes many programs for ranging from kids to adults such as a nature school, classrooms for farmers, foresters and organic farming groups, 2 weeks nature camps for kids, etc. They are hoping to make these programs more active and make better relationship between local community and organization.

W: You will **plan, prepare and organize the above events** and programs with other staff members of ANSN. You will support to accept smoothly people from kids to adults. You may do some **agricultural and forest work**, such as cutting the grass, sowing seed and harvesting, in the land of ANSN that are also very important, as well as organize some activities with the local elementary school and community. For example, as a diet education activity, you will support to accept people who experience baking pizzas.

A: **Single room** of the nature school. **Cooked by vols.** Pocket money is **15,000 yen** per month.

L: **Small village in the forest area, the population is about 5,000**, surrounded by rich nature. The temperature in the winter can be minus 5 to 10 though the inside buildings are warm enough!

T: Tokyo (2 and a half hours from Tokyo by bus)

LA: Participation in the local events, many opportunities to learn the local wisdom, etc.

SR: **Speaking good Japanese, strong motivation to work with the host and live in the remote area with a lot of nature, respect to the local custom and life, flexibility, friendliness, positive mind and those who likes children. Experience of similar types of work is welcome!**

※At present, the accident of nuclear plants in Fukushima has not been resolved,

but ANSN starts activities because a radiation dose is smaller in these areas. ANSN strengthens cooperation with NICE. In case nuclear plants are unstable again, ANSN make the participants to move from Samegawa to a safety place immediately.

NICE/LI-HI12-1 Hinode 12-1 (Tokyo) 13/04-08/07 SOCI, HERI 1 vol.

NICE/LI-HI12-2 Hinode 12-2 (Tokyo) 08/06-02/09 SOCI, HERI 1 vol.

Host organization is Hinode Taiyo no Ie (HTI), home for mentally challenged, that was used to be isolated from the local community since the locals were afraid & against to its construction in the late 80s. We have been creating a "bridge" between locals & HTI by the workcamps through which the locals have met the challenged people and removed prejudice step by step. They have Samurai house that is used for a training of vols. and a rental facility for organization of conferences, gatherings, lodging etc.

W: You will **advertise for groups** to use Samurai house (updating the website, to make a brochure, etc.), **coordinate to host the groups, plan new hosting programs, assist other staff members** to help the daily life and work of the mentally disadvantaged people.

S: Management of welfare facilities, mixture between social welfare and ecology.

A: Single room of Samurai house (very traditional Japanese house!) where meals are often provided (No vegetarian!).

L: Mountain side with natural surroundings, about 50 km west of Tokyo.

T: Tokyo (90 min by local train)

LA: Participation in the seminar for volunteer coordinators, exchange with the local people, etc.

SR: Speaking good Japanese, strong motivation to work with the host, respect to the local custom and life, flexibility, friendliness, positive mind and those who likes children and also creates new activities. Experience of similar types of work is welcome!

For application and extra info, please contact us

info@servicevolontaire.org

www.servicevolontaire.org