



# Nagkaisa News

No.14

**Maraming salamat po! Celebrating our 30th anniversary.**



FILIPINONAGKAISA was founded in 1994 as a voluntary organization by Filipino women living in Hamamatsu. Thirty years have passed since then. At the end of last year, on December 22, 2024, we were able to celebrate our 30th anniversary at Abbey Church in Hamamatsu City. Many people attended the ceremony, including old and new staff members, supporters, former students and parents and people from related organizations who have contributed to Nagkaisa's activities. During the ceremony, we enjoyed chatting over nostalgic photos projected on the screen, and we reflected on the past 30 years with heartwarming speeches from people in various attendees. It was a deeply moving moment as we were reminded of the many people who have supported FILIPINONAGKAISA and the great meaning that the exchanges and learning at FILIPINONAGKAISA have given to so many people.

FILIPINONAGKAISA's activities have changed in some respects over the past 30 years in response to changing social conditions and needs. However, we believe that our desire to "create a society where all people living in this community can live better" remains unchanged. We will continue to take on further challenges to realize a multicultural society.

The Articles of Incorporation of NPO Filipino-Nagkaisa state that "the purpose of the NPO is to promote mutual understanding between Japanese residents and Filipinos living in Hamamatsu City and its suburbs through lifestyle support and social education activities, with the aim of realizing a self-reliant and symbiotic society." It has been thirty years since its establishment in 1994 as a voluntary organization, and 12 years since it became a non-profit organization. In recent years, not only Filipinos but also foreign residents from South America and other Asian countries have participated in Filipino-Nagkaisa activities and classes, and the number of students has become increasingly multi-national. We are committed to helping foreign residents not to be overlooked in the foreign community.

The goals we have in mind can be divided into three roles. We hope to give a familiar consultation service for foreign residents, a place where they can feel safe and visit at any time, and a hub that can provide a better way out.

### Connecting Filipinos and Japanese society in both directions



### Activities in FY 2024

- Vocational Training
- Ekinan Class
- Hamakita Class

#### Educational Support Department for Migrants

- Halo Halo Class
- Bayanihan Class
- Intercultural events

#### Local Community Creation Department

#### Realization of a multicultural society

#### Local Human Resource Development Department

- Open lecture
- Acceptance of Internship

## FY2024 Activity Reports

### HALO-HALO Class

The children are being taught by bilingual teachers and Japanese volunteer teachers, helping them with their homework and subjects they find difficult to keep up with in class, such as Kanji, Sansu, and Sugaku (Math). In the 2024 school year, 34 children were enrolled. Although they attend different schools in Hamamatsu, they happily meet every Saturday. On Saturday, March 15, 2024, after class ended, a joyful closing ceremony was held, and all the children received a completion certificate. We also congratulated all of the ninth graders who have decided to go on to high school. (Grace Nakamura)



### BAYANIHAN Class

On Saturday afternoons, Bayanihan class for adults (16 years and older) was held in the next classroom at the same time as Halo-halo class. In 2024, a total of 688 people, or about 30 people attended each class. In this class, participants were divided into various groups according to their individual needs to learn and share information about the community. In each group, a supporter would be there to support the learning process. These supporters are not only Japanese, but also bilingual staff and many young people who used to attend the Halo-Halo and Ekinan classes. They are active in passing on their studies and experiences to the next generation. The presence of these supporters is very encouraging, especially for young people who have just arrived in Japan. In addition, many participants look forward to attending the Bayanihan Class every week, not

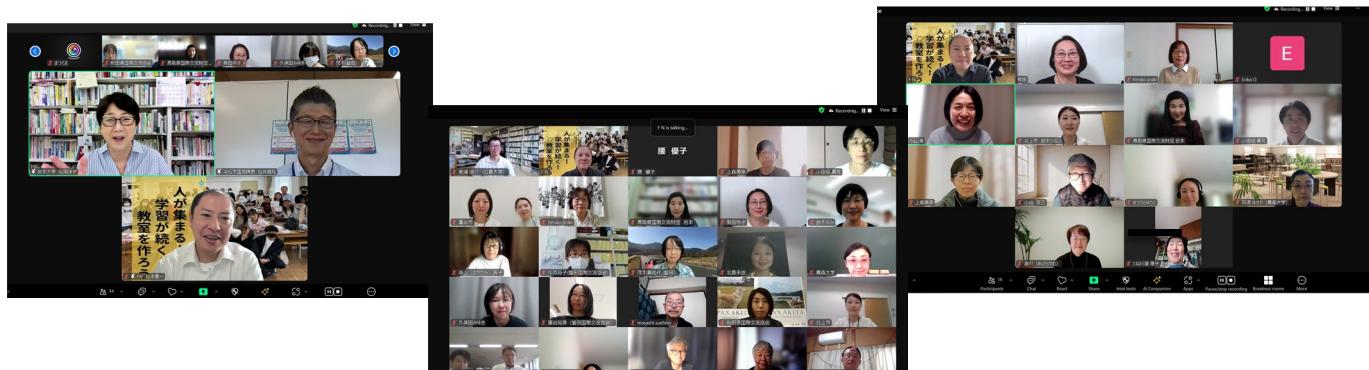
only for the purpose of learning Japanese, but also as a place where they can interact with other people. Through this class, we could see horizontal connections being formed everywhere.

We hope to continue to offer classes where people can learn Japanese casually, where they can ask for help when they have problems, and where they can go anytime they want. (Kazuyo Sakaguchi)



## BAYANIHAN Human Resource Development Courses

The Bayanihan Project, commissioned by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT), offers courses to foster human resources who will work in the community to realize a multicultural society. The theme for FY2024 is "Motivation," the same as the previous year. We often hear the problem that it is difficult to gather participants even after holding Japanese language classes. Filipino Nagkaisa and Hamamatsu City held an open lecture in the form of a symposium to introduce their accumulated efforts to date on how they are trying to attract foreign residents to local Japanese language classes. In addition, a public lecture was given by Dr. Minamiura of Hiroshima University on the learning required of local Japanese language classes and the nature of evaluation. In a workshop based on the two public lectures, participants considered how to meet the needs of learners and nurture their motivation to learn in their own settings. With nearly 70 participants from across Japan, we were able to provide a forum for exchange and learning that transcended regional boundaries. (Yuko Yamaura)



## EKINAN Class

This class is designed to support children (5-19 years old) who have just arrived in Japan to pursue higher education in Japan. Since Filipino-Nagaysa has long been involved in supporting young people, Filipino youth, especially in their late teens, come to this class immediately after their arrival in Japan. A new trend in recent years is the increase in the number of young people from not only the Philippines but also Vietnam, India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, and other countries who come to Japan on family visas. High school entrance is of great significance, as graduation from high school in Japan may enable them to change their status of residence to one with no restrictions on employment. In FY2024, 18 young people with foreign roots entered this EKINAN Class. It is difficult for these immigrants, who moved to Japan at an impressionable age, to maintain their desire to learn and to look forward to the future in Japan. Some of them give up their higher education for various reasons. We feel that it is important to devise ways to help them clearly identify their goals for learning and to encourage them to continue their studies. We also place importance on connecting them to other forms of learning if necessary. In 2024, 10 young people from this EKINAN Class went on to full-time and part-time high schools in the city. The number of young people with foreign roots who wish to go on to higher education is increasing year by year, but it is still a big hurdle for them to pass the high school entrance exam. We would like to continue our activities so that these young people, who live in this region and are responsible for the future of this region, can fulfill their wish to go on to higher education so that they can carve out a better life for themselves.

(Yuko Yamaura)



## MENSETSU SAKUBUN Class (Classes for Interviews and Writing Exams)

The mock interview exam was held on January 11th. On that day, a former vice principal of a prefectural high school was invited as the examiner. Since autumn, the students had been practicing for the interview. They memorized common questions and their answers in Japanese, and worked hard to be able to respond properly. Although each student was nervous, they tried their best to show how much they had prepared. The results varied, some students met the criteria, while others did not. However, many students seemed to gain new ideas for improvement from the experience. Regardless of the results, they showed strong determination to keep practicing for the real exam.

All the staff will continue to support them so they can achieve their dreams. (Eva Suzuki)



## Job Training Course

In FY2024, "Job Training for Foreign Residents" was held three times. The program, which began in FY 2019, has seen an increase in the number of participants introduced by former participants each time. The number of participants has become increasingly multinational, and now includes the Philippines, Brazil, Peru, China, Bolivia, Mexico, Spain, and Vietnam. However, the challenge is that many applicants are not able to take the training because of the many procedural hurdles that must be overcome before they can enroll.

Many of the participants' wishes are to acquire computer skills or to find a job directly in the job market. As a matter of fact, we have even seen people who were exposed to computers for the first time pass the Level 3 Excel Proficiency Test or find a job of their choice as a full-time employee.

Instructors of each subject, experienced interpreters, and others provide enthusiastic and attentive support. (Yoshie Furuhashi)



## Japanese Language Volunteer Training Course

As a project commissioned by HICE, we held the "Japanese Language Study Volunteer Training Course" at the Hamakita Regional Activity Training Center. In the curriculum of 15 sessions, there were opportunities to listen to the voices of foreign residents, such as "Voices of Foreign Learners" and "Experiences by Youth Role Models," workshops such as "Thinking about Multicultural Conviviality from the Hyotanjima Issue" and "Understanding Different Cultures," and practical experience such as "Easy Japanese Use Experience" and "Hands-on Volunteer Experience" and other practical experiences. The QR code below allows you to watch the classes.

Those who successfully completed the training course are now active as volunteers in the "Weekend Reading and Writing Class".

(Yoshikazu Matsumoto)



## Weekend Reading and Writing Class

From November to February, a total of 10 reading and writing classes were held on Saturday mornings at the Hamakita Regional Training Center, located right in front of Gansuiji Station in Hamana-ku. The classes were attended by people from Brazil, Peru, China, Indonesia, Pakistan, and many other countries. Many of the volunteers in this class had completed the "Japanese Language Volunteer Training Course," which was held from June to September. There are six groups in the class, including "Hiragana," "Katakana," and "Kanji for Daily Life," and students can study according to their individual progress. Volunteers provide almost one-on-one support in all groups. This is why we have heard from students that it was very easy to understand. This indicates the high level of satisfaction among the participants. The atmosphere was always friendly as we proceeded while communicating with each other. (Kazuyo Sakaguchi)



## University student Interns

We accepted teaching interns from the Shizuoka University of Art and Culture's Japanese language teacher training program. 2 university students participated in our weekly Saturday classes as teaching interns for about 3 months from the end of September to the beginning of December 2024. During the teaching practice, we asked the students to think about "What do the Japanese language learners living in the community want to know, learn, and be able to do?" From there, the students are asked to think about their objectives and goals, create a lesson plan, and actually conduct the teaching practice twice each. Each year, we ask them to create a lesson on an interesting theme, and this year the theme they came up with was "Japanese food". They covered a lot of topics such as "Finding a restaurant in Hamamatsu," "How to make a reservation using a web app," and "The importance of SANKAKU-TABE from a dietary education standpoint".

Thanks to their efforts, students enjoyed lessons very much.

(Yoshikazu Matsumoto)



## International Exchange Activities

The Hamamatsu International Festival was held on December 28th 2024 at the Hamamatsu City Gallery Mall Solamo. The festival is part of Hamamatsu City's Multicultural City Goal.

Filipino Nagkaisa Youth Dance Group joined the said event. They gave a Delightful Performance doing Modern Hip-Hop and Folk Dance called 'SINGKIL', a popular Philippine folk dance, primarily tells the story of a Princess (often Princess Gandingan) rescued from a storm by a Prince. The Dance involves dancers, Princess herself and her servants, moving gracefully between bamboo poles that are rhythmically clapped. (Aprillyn Sato)



On February 9, 2025, Hamamatsu Global Fair, one of the largest multicultural events in Hamamatsu City, was held at Create Hamamatsu. Filipino Nagkaisa held a Filipino speech contest in one of the rooms at the venue. This year was the fourth time this contest was held. This year, 10 Japanese from various backgrounds, including those who are active in local Japanese language classes and those who are studying Filipino at universities, tried their hand at Filipino speech contest. This contest is not just a contest for the best speeches. The contestants and Filipino staff members of Filipino Nagkaisa work as buddies to write and practice their speeches. Everyone enjoyed the process of working together to create a better speech and understanding each other through many dialogues. (Yuko Yamaura)



## External Activities

In 2024, we received requests to collaborate with various local organizations and to speak at lectures.

MAY Attended Hamamatsu Foreign Children Support Council

JUN. Appeared in event of Philippine Independence Day in Nagoya

Lecture on Easy Japanese at Kitahama ES

JUL. Lecture at Hamamatsu Johoku HS

AUG. Lecture at U-ToC Japanese Language Volunteer Training Seminar.

SEP. Lecture on Easy Japanese at Ryuzenji ES, Sanarudai ES, Hamana HS

Cooperated for Hamamatsu City Promotion Video Shooting

Visited Fureai Koryu Center ITAYA

OCT. Lecture on Easy Japanese at Shinohara ES, Kitahamahigashi ES

Lecture on "Civic Activities in Shizuoka" at the University of Shizuoka

Guest speaker at Intercultural city Sympodium 2024 Hamamatsu

Participated TenryuKoseikai Festival

Visited Shizuoka University of Art and Culture

NOV. Interviewed by Nihon University Interviewed by Jochi University

FEB. Lecture at U-ToC for Foreigners Japanese Language Volunteer Training Seminar

Interviewed by Experts on immigration policy



### <Membership>

With the support of many people, NPO Filipino Nagkaisa has been conducting support activities for Filipinos and other foreign residents in Japan. In order to continue our stable activities and operations, we are looking for members from organizations and individuals who agree with and support our activities

### <Annual fee>

Adults: 6,000yen Child: 1,000yen

Corporate organizations: from 10,000yen per unit

Please scan 2D code for register. →



### Editorial Post

Thanks to your support, we were able to hold our 30th anniversary party on December 22, 2024 to celebrate the founding of Filipino Nagkaisa.

When we celebrated our 25th anniversary, we said to each other, "We would like to celebrate our 30th anniversary in a more formal way". We are very happy that we were able to make this happen. The theme of the 30th anniversary celebration was "Looking Back 30 Years". We were pleased to see many old faces, including those who have supported the association and former Nagkaisa students, as well as some speeches looking back on the past 30 years. The next event will be the 40th anniversary! I am looking forward to seeing what kind of party we will have.

### FY2025 Filipino Nagkaisa Staffs

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