

PUBLIC RELATIONS MAGAZINE

DATE

伊達

ENGLISH
DIGEST

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DATE CITY NEWS

The following are synopses of the news articles found in the Japanese edition.

Disaster Relief Programs

There are support systems (tax relief, recovery subsidies, etc.) for restoring the livelihoods of everyone who has been adversely affected by natural disasters. Please refer to the Date City Homepage.

House Demolition Notifications due by December 27th, 2019; Tangible Business Asset Declarations accepted throughout January 2020.

Subsidized pneumococcus vaccines available for seniors

Measles immunity checks and vaccinations available at no charge to men born between 1962 and 1979

Inclusion in Elderly Health Care System available from age 65 with disability certification; medical fee reduction to 10% possible

Holiday-season traffic safety emphasized in prefecture-wide campaign



Enjoying nature and international exchange on the Ryōzen Mountain Climbing Tour with Foreigners

A “Ryōzen Mountain Climbing Tour with Foreigners” was held to enjoy the natural environment of Ryōzen while engaging in international exchange. The day’s participants included eighteen foreigners, and three Japanese citizens from Date City. Hailing from countries such as the United States, China,

Vietnam, Jamaica, and Malaysia, the participants headed for the mountain top with local guides. The foreigners who participated remarked that “It was fun,” and “The red and yellow of the changing fall colors was beautiful,” and everyone enjoyed international exchange atop an autumn Ryōzen.

Esperanto

When December comes around, I celebrate two birthdays. The most important, of course, is that of Jesus Christ at Christmas. Additionally, I celebrate the birthday of Ludwik Lejzer Zamenhof, who was born on December 15th, 1859. Zamenhof was a Jewish ophthalmologist, and he is famous as the creator of the international auxiliary language Esperanto.

Probably, most readers are unaware of the existence of Esperanto. When I first came to Japan, I knew nothing about it either. However, when I returned to the United States to further my education, I came across it during a class about social justice in language education. I sensed that Esperanto, which can be learned and used with equal ease and dignity by anyone regardless of their ethnicity or native language, is a panacea for a multitude of social problems. It had great appeal to me as a language instructor, since the unwavering regularity of grammar and word formation make acquisition speedier than that of other languages, and because multiple studies have shown that learning other languages becomes much faster after having studied Esperanto. At that time I wanted to put my full effort into Esperanto study, but my plate was

already full with graduate school studies; and besides, I couldn't find any opportunity to speak it with others.

My opportunity to become an Esperantist came when I returned to Japan. The Fukushima Esperanto Club "Rondo Majo" was offering beginner's classes near my workplace at the time. I was taught by a kind elderly woman, who had made many friends while traveling the world using Esperanto. After the course ended, I continued to attend the weekly meetings. However, I could rarely participate in regional or national conferences, as I had to work on weekends.

Since becoming one of your Coordinators for International Relations, a regular workweek has enabled me to attend such conventions, and I have even been able to make presentations about Date City in Esperanto. Furthermore, when I moved my residence to within Date City, by complete coincidence I ended up living in the same neighborhood as my kind old Esperanto teacher, and we often meet for Esperanto conversation. Zamenhof's dream of facilitating international communication through Esperanto has come true, even in Date City.