

# YOUTH FORUM NEWS

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## Sapporo Ramen Show 2016

Four kinds of ramen from different shops.

By Kotaro Kobayashi, Kanae Seino, and Yusuke Utsumi

When you think of Japanese food, one of the first things that come to mind is ramen.

Since 2015, ramen lovers in Sapporo have looked forward to the Sapporo Ramen Show.

It's estimated that 80,000 servings were sold this year.

The Ramen Show was held in two parts (acts) over a two week period.

Act 1 was held from May 17 to 22, and Act 2 was held from May 24 to 29.

There were a total of 14 booths from all over Japan and six booths from Hokkaido.

Patrons could choose from three different kinds of ramen broth flavors – miso, shoyu (soy) and shio (salt).

Professor Radcliffe's News Seminar students went to taste and review a few of the different varieties of ramen from various cities throughout Japan.

*Kotaro Kobayashi:* I chose Tori Baitan ramen from Fukushima.

This ramen was made by a team which was

formed by famous shops in the Nakadori area of Fukushima.

This ramen soup was flavored with salt and chicken broth.

The toppings were roast pork, green onions and fried chicken fat.

This ramen was oily a bit because the roast pork's oil and chicken oil were floating together in the soup.

However, it was easy to eat because the soup was not very salty and the noodles were thin and short, so I ate it without getting tired of the taste.

Also, the roast pork was tender and it had a delicious smell.

I gave this ramen a rating of two out of five stars because the toppings looked smaller in person than in the photo and I wish the soup was more salty.

*Kanae Seino:* I decided to try the Chinese noodles from the Inaniwa area of Yuzawa, Akita prefecture at this year's Ramen Show.

The broth was simple and consisted of one-hundred percent soy sauce.

The noodles had a smooth and soft texture and were thin, similar to soba noodles.

I think anyone would be able to eat and enjoy this ramen.

The ingredients consisted of green onions, bamboo shoots, nameko mushrooms and sliced bamboo shoots.

In addition, you can choose some extra toppings for ¥100 for each.

I recommend adding the half-cooked egg topping because it went well with the soy broth. It was delicious.

*Yusuke Utsumi:* I chose Shinshunya's "Kin No Torichuka" ramen from Yamagata.

This shoyu ramen was not oily and included lots of chicken.

This ramen also used Mongolian rock salt, which is why it wasn't so oily.

The combination of shoyu and shio was very tasty.

In my opinion, this was the best ramen at the show. However, the boiled egg didn't include the egg whites.

I love egg whites, so I was a little surprised and disappointed to find them missing.

Therefore, I gave this ramen a rating of four out of five stars.

# Soran! Soran! Soran!

The SU Yosakoi team Lafête participated in the Sapporo Yosakoi Soran Festival again this year.

The event was a five day period from June 8 to 12.

This year was also the 25th anniversary of the Sapporo Yosakoi Soran Festival. The first Yosakoi Soran Festival was held in 1992 and

only had ten teams of about 1,000 participants, but it has grown bigger every year since then.

Now there are about 300 dance teams with a total of about 30,000 dancers. About 1 million spectators come out to see the event each year.

Sapporo University's team began in 2000, so this is the 16th year they have been participating.



held over



The SU Lafête team has over 100 members. Shun Inoue, a sophomore English major, was this year's team leader.

He said the team practiced hard for many months. They practice for a couple of hours three or four times every week at night.

Lafête means "celebration" in French. The name shows the positive spirit of the team. Before the festival begins the teams are divided into 20 groups of 12 teams each.

The top 3 teams from each group are chosen after the first stage competition. The first place team from each group goes

on to compete until the end of the festival on

the final stage.

The second place teams go on to the semi-final stage. The winner of the semi-final gets to compete in the final stage with the first place team.

The third place teams get to continue at various locations around the city, but not on the final stage, with one exception.

The public gets to vote for their favorite third place team by cell phone. The team with the most votes gets to compete in the semi-final stage with the second place winning teams.

So it's possible that the team that wins the popular vote could go on to the final stage if they win in the semi-final.

Lafête placed third in their group this year as well as last year.

Their hope is to place second or even first someday and perform on the final stage.



# Emerging Artists in Hokkaido

By Yusuke Utsumi

The Emerging Artists in Hokkaido exhibition was held from May 25 to June 23 at the Hokkaido Museum of Modern Art.

This theme of the exhibition was “Tomoni Irukoto, Tomoni Arukoto” and the keyword was “Kyousei” (symbiotic).

The artists included in this exhibition were Ikuko Imamuhra, Kineta Kunimatsu, Masayo Keizuka, Haruka Koro, Mikio Saito, Shie Sato, Yuya Suzuki, Rieko Takano and Ryo Yamada. Most of them are from Sapporo.

These nine artists expressed themselves through paintings and wood sculptures in various ways.

Their works of art have a very individualistic and original style and express the (symbiotic) relationship

between humans and nature.

There was a great feeling of loneliness and sadness in their works. Many of the paintings show a person with the background in winter or evening.

In particular, Haruka Koro’s works included many such paintings, including a mountain covered with snow with a person standing on a hill or near a lake.

Masayo Keizuka’s works were wood sculptures of two children and two rabbits.

The title of this piece was “Who are you? Who am I?” She made two children with the faces of rabbits, so there were two rabbits and two children with the faces of rabbits.



*Going Home* by Haruka Koro (2012)

The two children were standing next to each other, but they were separated from the two rabbits which were also standing next to each other.

Kineta Kunimatsu’s wood sculpture looked like a tree trunk and was about 180 centimeters tall, but the top one-third of it was covered with white acrylic glass that looked like white marble.

Overall, the exhibition matched well with the theme “Tomoni Irukoto, Tomoni Arukoto”—Humans and nature exist together, but humans and nature are separated from each other.



*Some examples of the items for sale.*

By Kanae Seino

Every year there are a series of events at Sapporo Art Park called “Art Park’s Art Market.”

Many professional or amateur artists exhibit and sell their creations at these events.

The number of artists and

crafts continue to increase each year. In addition, since 2015 these events were turned in to a large outdoor market with over 100 artists and

craftsmen setting up booths.

There are many different kinds of crafts for sale there.

For example, woodworking, ceramics, handicrafts, designs, accessories and so on.

This year the events are held on June 19, July 16 and 30, August 6 and 7, September 18, October 16,

and November 3.

In case of rain, the dates are changed to the following Saturday or Sunday.

All of these events are scheduled outdoor on holidays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., but the final two days, October 16 and November 3, are held indoor.

The event on June 19 was cozier than expected and the mood was good and the many artists there were very kind.

The artists greeted visitors warmly and they gave detailed explanations of their work.

If you are an art and crafts lover, you will really enjoy visiting one of these events and seeing the wide variety of hand-made items for sale.

You will undoubtedly find something that catches your eye.



## Art Park’s Art Market

# URESHPA Club members meet indigenous Taiwanese

By Ryo Yonezawa

Most people are familiar with Native American Indians, the Maori of New Zealand, the Aborigines of Australia and Ainu of Japan.

But did you know that there are also indigenous people in the small island country of Taiwan?

In fact, there are twenty-seven distinctly different aboriginal tribes in Taiwan.

From February 26 to March 3 of this year the SU URESHPA Club visited Taiwan to learn about the native peoples of Taiwan and what kind of policy the Taiwanese government has in dealing with them.

Thirteen students and four teachers took the trip.

Even though there are twenty-seven distinctly different

aboriginal tribes, the Taiwanese government only recognizes 16 of them officially.

Some of the tribes were assimilated in the 17th and 18th centuries when people from the Chinese mainland Han culture started living in Taiwan.

Our first day was flying from Shin-Chitose airport to Haneda airport, then on to Taipei airport and finally arriving at Taitou airport.

From Taitou airport we went to a Bunun village where Bunun aboriginal people live and own a tourist facility.

We arrived at night and we ate original Bunun food and slept.

The next morning we watched a traditional Bunun dance.

After that we went to the National Taiwan History Museum.

We learned about the history of the 16 officially recognized indigenous tribes.

In one corner of the museum there were 16 tablets that teach you the 16 different tribal languages.

It was very interesting and educational. After the museum, we went back to the

village and had a tour around the village and learned how they made the tourist facility.

That night we performed some of our traditional dances for each other.

On the morning of the third day, we participated a Bunun worship ceremony, and then we went to the Taiwan Indigenous Peoples' Culture Park.

The park was so big that we had to ride a bus that take us around the park.

We saw many different traditional dances and traditional houses.

After that we went to a Rinari village. We each stayed at different houses like a

***Club members and indigenous Taiwanese performed for each other.***



homestay.

It was very hard to communicate because no one spoke Japanese or English, so we had to use jesters.

On the fourth day, we went to Formosan Aboriginal Culture Village where we watched a show and visited a museum.

The museum had many valuable historical items.

We also talked to many elderly Indigenous people.

It was very moving to hear their living history.

On the 5th day, we went to the Taiwan Indigenous Peoples' TV Station.

It's a TV station for indigenous people and people who want to learn about their culture. The TV shows use indigenous languages.

Eighty percent of Taiwanese who are not indigenous say they like this channel because it is the only channel where they can learn about indigenous people.

Next we went to the Public Power Vision. At this station there were news experts from each tribe.



Also, there are about 780 indigenous people living in the village and they have coverage for each tribe.

After that, we went to the Council of Indigenous Peoples.

We went there to learn what kind of policy the government has toward indigenous people and what other things they are doing for them.

On the last day, we went to a Presbyterian Church in Taiwan.

The Presbyterian Church has been helping the indigenous people for many years.

They do things like make books for them to learn their own language and culture and help them to recover their rights.

There are 514 churches for indigenous people. Almost all of them are Christian.

In the afternoon, we went to Shih Hsin University to meet with the indigenous students enrolled there.

We had a discussion about the rights of indigenous people and about how to recover culture, as well as many other topics.

On this Journey to Taiwan we learned many things.

One surprising thing was how the policy for indigenous people in Taiwan is more forward-looking than in Japan.

One reason it is more forward-looking is because the people there have demanded it.

We learned that we shouldn't always depend on the government. If you want something to be done, you have to start a movement on your own.

***A map showing some of the tribes in Taiwan.***



## Notes from Ball State exchange student Kyree Nelson

My name is Kyree Nelson. I am 22 years old and before this year I had never been outside of the United States.

I attend Ball State University in Muncie, Indiana, where I was born and raised.

I have a double major in Anthropology and Japanese, with two minors in Asian Studies and TESOL (Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages).

I decided to study in Japan to improve my Japanese language ability and to experience living in a different culture.

Before I came to Japan I was confident that I would be able to get by with only simple daily conversation.

However, I was wrong. But even with the little Japanese I know, I was able to make a lot of new friends from Japan as well as other countries.

Before I came to Japan I had never lived in a big city, I had never been on a train and there were many other things that I had never experienced before.

The first two weeks of my stay here were quite awful due to culture shock, and because I wasn't connected to the Internet the first week I wasn't able to contact my family or friends back in the states.

But once I got over the shock of everything new, I grew to

love the city.

I loved taking the train to places that seemed so far away, but were actually just in the same city.

I loved walking from the train station all the way home and seeing all the people and different businesses in Sapporo.

I even got used to hearing the endless traffic all day every day, and seeing mountains every day, unlike the flat plains of Indiana.

These things may seem small and simple, but they grew on me faster than I could have imagined.

Going out with friends, whether for shopping or just sitting around cooking and talking, has made my stay here so wonderful and the time has gone by so quick.

My time here in Japan has helped me realize that I want to

go on to graduate school to study Japanese further as well as continue my studies in Anthropology.

Eventually I would like to return to Japan and teach English.

I was unsure of what to do with my life after graduation before coming here.

I feel that living in Japan has changed me as a person.

Some things that seemed normal to me before I came here no longer seem normal.

My stay here in Japan wouldn't have been so amazing if it weren't for my friends, and I hope to keep in contact with them for a very long time.

And so to all of my friends, I want to thank you for everything that you have given me in the short three months I was here in Sapporo.



*Kyree (front row, third from right) with classmates.*

# *Titan attacks Sapporo!*

By Kotaro Kobayashi

An exhibition titled “Shingeki no Kyojinten” (Attack on Titan) WALL SAPPORO was held at the Sapporo Art Park in Minami-Ku, Sapporo from April 5 to May 25.

This exhibition included a variety of attractions about the anime series “Shingeki no Kyojin.”

The ticket price was ¥1,500 for adults. Other separate expenses were ¥800 for a voice guide and ¥600 for the immersive theater Koh.

“Shingeki no Kyojin” began as a famous manga created by Isayama Hajime. It was first published in 2009 by Kodansha.

There have been 50 million copies printed, which have been praised highly not only in Japan, but also overseas.

It has also been made into animated films, novels and live action movies based on the original manga series.

The theme song from the animated series is “Guren no Yumiya” and it became a huge hit in Japan.

There were many attractions at the exhibition to amuse the audience.

For example, there were original manuscripts of the animated series and there were models of items that appeared in the animated series in the gallery.

There was a huge model reproduction of Titan that was faithful to the animated series, the immersive theater Koh, and the cafeteria had special items on the menu featuring “Shingeki no Kyojin.”



*Fans marvel at the art work.*

The two most impressive things were the huge Titan model and the immersive theater Koh.

The huge Titan model was made the same size as the real Titan in the anime.

It was displayed in a pitch-dark room and emitted red light.

Also, the sound had a tremendous impact and scared the audience.

The immersive theater Koh was an interactive facility where the audience could fight with Titan in the imaginary world using a head mount display, and the audience could explore the 3D graphic world from different points of view.

This attraction gave a feeling of floating in the air and had a big impact because the audience jumped and fell and popped violently in the immersive 3D graphic world. It cost ¥600 separately.

The overall quality of exhibition was very high, so this event was truly amazing for anime freaks.

The event venue wasn't crowded because it was the final day of the exhibition. Two hours was more than enough to see everything, including the separate attractions.

However, the exhibition was costly because of the extra fees for the separate attractions, the voice guide, the café and the souvenirs.

And the special menu was way too expensive! If you ever get a chance to see the “Shingeki no Kyojin” exhibition sometime in the future, it would be best to eat something first.

