



Event Report: Chess in English!

On June 26th, 2013, the event “English Chess!” was held at Asobook Library. This has been the third chess event held in Niseko. Many children came to play, creating quite the exciting atmosphere. Some of the children had participated in previous chess events and for others it was their first time. Even those children who couldn't quite grasp the rules of the game enjoyed themselves as they played in their own way. Some of the kids even made up their own rules for the game. It's moments like that make you realize that sometimes kids are smarter than you'd think.

The main reason I wanted to hold chess events in Niseko was simple: chess is a game for two people. You can't play it alone; you need a partner. It's not just international exchange, it's a sort of personal exchange. The first chess event was at Asobook in January; the second event was held at the Gakudo Daycare Center. I was very moved by everyone's interest in the game; after every event many people would take home the handmade chess boards I had made so they could continue playing at home.

You, too, can make your own chessboard. Check the Niseko Town International Exchange Council Facebook page (www.facebook.com/nisekokokusaikouryuu) for downloads, including printouts for the chess board and pieces and instructions on how to play. Paste the paper cutouts onto some cardboard and you have yourself a free chessboard!

-Jennifer Ward

The 11th Monthly International Culture Event Notice: Let's Play Korean Traditional Games!



What kind of games did kids play in Korea back in the day when there were no video games or computers? What kind of games did kings play in their palaces? We have a ton of games for you to try: passed down through generations, they're still well-loved today. Let's give them a shot!

♪**Date: Saturday, August 17th, 2013**

♪**Time: Participants may enter at any time between
10:00AM – 12:00PM (11:30AM last entrance)**

♪**Place: Asobook Community Room**

♪**Presentation: Joohyun Kwon**

Entry is free of charge! We are looking forward to seeing you there!

A Message from the Departing CIRs

There is also a message from the departing CIRs in the monthly kouhou. Please take a look!

♪Eva Haslauer

I will be returning to my home country soon. However, I often get asked where exactly it is that I'm returning to. Well, let me introduce you to my home!

I was born in Carinthia, Austria's southernmost state. Since Slovenia and Italy are right next door, many people also speak Slovenian or Italian, besides German. Carinthia is located in the European Southern Alps, so most of the state's roughly 550,000 inhabitants live in valleys. These valleys are also famous for their lakes of which there are over 1,200. Furthermore, the Grossglockner, Austria's highest mountain (3,798 metres) can also be found in Carinthia. This rich combination of mountains and freshwater lakes attracts a large number of tourists every year who enjoy skiing in winter or water sports and hiking in summer. Like Niseko, Carinthia is known as an outdoor paradise.

Carinthia also has the longest history in all of Austria. You can see the ruins of a 2300 year old Celtic realm alongside Roman remains and medieval castles. There are even contemporary dishes that go back to Celtic days! A northern Italian influence can also be felt in Carinthian cuisine, which makes it unique in all of Austria.

There are a lot of great things to experience in Austria, I'm looking forward to welcoming many of my Japanese friends back in Austria. Please come visit if you get the chance!

♪Jennifer Ward

I will be returning to Canada shortly. People often ask me what my home country is like, but the truth is that Canada is just really big! (Second biggest in the world after Russia.) Various regions parts of Canada are very different.

I grew up in the southeastern area of British Columbia (the westernmost province in Canada) called the Kootenays. My hometown is a bit west of the Rocky Mountains and about 8 hours by car from Vancouver. Canada: it's big.

The word "Kootenay" comes from the Native peoples of the area, the Ktunaxa. There are a number of bands and reserves in the Kootenays, and Ktunaxa also live in northern Washington and Idaho (in America).

Most of the towns in the Kootenays began as mining and logging towns in the late 1800's, attracting immigrants from England, Russia, and Portugal. During the Vietnam War, my hometown of Nelson was also a popular destination for Americans escaping the draft. The draft-dodgers and hippies of that generation had an interest in the arts, and since then the town has become a tourist and arts center. There is also a national park and a number of hot springs to visit (you have to wear a bathing suit, though!).

The Kootenay area is also well-known for its unfortunate history. During World War II, the Canadian government confiscated property from all Japanese Canadians and forced them into internment camps, many of which were in the Kootenay area. Famous Canadians such as David Suzuki and Joy Kogawa were imprisoned with their families in these camps as children. It wasn't until 1988 that the government apologized for these actions and made redress. Today there is a Memorial Center in New Denver in the Kootenays in recognition of the need to protect human rights and challenge racism.

If you ever get the chance, please do come to the Kootenay area to visit! It's a very beautiful region with its own unique arts and history. I would be happy to show anyone around.

Inquiries: Niseko Town International Exchange Council (Niseko Town Council Planning & Environment Division)

Head: Ward, Fukui. Phone:0136(44)2121 E-mail: kikaku@town.niseko.lg.jp