



JETNet 45th Event "Spring Hike in Ikoma"

On Saturday, April 19th, 2014, Nara JETNet held its 45th event "Spring Hike in Ikoma".

Nara JETNet has, since its founding in the year 2000 been involved with the deepening of mutual international understanding. The organization committee is comprised of the 5 coordinators for international relations working at the Nara prefectural office, and the membership is made up of all the JET program participants in Nara prefecture. For this event 42 members of the JET program along with 48 local citizens from Nara prefecture came together to participate in international exchange together through hiking and various games.

At 10:20 in the morning everyone gathered together in front of Toriimae Station found at the base of Mt. Ikoma, then after the opening ceremony everyone separated into eight different groups and headed off to Ikoma Sanroku Park. The path to the top was filled with various sights, including lush foliage, rivers and waterfalls to name a few.

Everyone arrived at Ikoma Sanroku Park at around 12:30. After taking time for lunch, the games began at 1:15. For the first game participants were asked to pair up together, one JET member with one Nara citizen. From there each pair were handed a sheet with a list of unique experiences that various participants had sent in earlier, the goal being to find the original writer of that particular experience.

The next game was an Easter egg relay race. Using eggs painted in vibrant colours, teams raced to see who could complete the race first coming together excitedly to support each other for this event.

The last game of the day was called "Drawception" where the first person receives a word/sentence that they have to draw, that drawing is then passed onto the next person who must then write a word/sentence describing what they see, With all sorts of interpretations and drawings all sorts of changes occurred from the first person to the last.

After the surveys were filled out, everyone headed back down the mountain towards Ikoma station, this time travelling though the Ikoma streets, making the hike 7km in total.

From the results of the questionnaire 82% of the participants felt that the event was really good. Amongst the impressions were written the following:

- Thank you for taking the time to talk with us and being so kind with the children
- I didn't understand any of the English but I had a really great time.

We plan to continue to promote international exchange at the grass roots level.

Thank you to everyone for your input and participation!

