



## Nara JETNet 54th Event Nara International Arts Festival

On June 19<sup>th</sup>, 2016, Nara JETNet held its 54<sup>th</sup> event, the “International Arts Festival” at the Kawanishi Cultural Hall. Nara JETNet is a committee which plans events to promote cultural exchange and understanding between the members of the JET Programme and the citizens of Nara Prefecture. The organizers of JETNet events are the 5 Coordinators for International Relations (CIR) working in the Nara Prefectural Government. The members of JETNet are the rest of the JET Programme participants located throughout Nara Prefecture. This event was put on by 40 JETs and saw about 360 people from around the prefecture come out to participate in the various booths, activities and performances held throughout the day.

The event began at 12:30 with a musical performance by the Tenri JHS Koto Club and the opening speech, after which spectators were free to move around upstairs. On the second floor were country and regional booths displaying the cultures of the different countries and regions of the World: Australia, Germany, New Zealand, the USA (California, Minnesota, Kentucky), Canada, China (Mainland, Hong-Kong), the UK and Jamaica. There were also activity areas allowing people to experience games and crafts from all over the world: koto workshop, art expo, artisanal activities, live purikura, le béret, taekwondo, tea around the world and a game room.

From 3pm, performances began inside the Cosmos Hall on the first floor. There was a wide array of different cultural performances starting with the Kawanishi Taiko group, followed by another performance by the Tenri JHS Koto Club. Next, the JETs performed with a piano-guitar duet, bands, comedy sketches, and more.

The day was a great success and enjoyed by all the Japanese visitors according to the survey. 92% of the people who answered the survey said they were satisfied with this event while 77% told us that they could communicate well with the JET participants. They also told us that it was a really fun event and that they will come to our future events. They were happy to have had the opportunity to learn about a foreign culture. Visitors enjoyed the exchange with the JETs, as they were very enthusiastic and also due to the fact they do not usually interact with foreign cultures. It was also the last event for the leaving JETs, and it left them with some truly unforgettable memories.

This event served as the last for many of our JETs and we would like to thank them for their continued hard work and support in Nara. As always we would also like to extend a huge thanks to the town of Kawanishi and all the visitors for supporting our event.

