



## Nara JETNet 38<sup>th</sup> Event

### Exploring Asuka

On April 21, 2012, Nara JETNet held its 38<sup>th</sup> event entitled “Exploring Asuka” at Asuka-mura. Nara JETNet is a committee which plans events to promote cultural exchange and understanding between the members of the JET Programme and citizens of Nara Prefecture. The organizers of JETNet events are the 5 Coordinators of International Relations (CIR) working in the Nara Prefectural Government. The members are the rest of the JET Programme participants located throughout Nara Prefecture. This event had 51 citizens and 41 JET Programme participants come together to explore the historical Asuka-mura.

The participants gathered at Kashihara Jingumae station’s central exit at 10AM, and after the opening ceremony and a short stretch, we headed towards the lunch area, Amakashi-no-oka, at 10:30. Spring flowers were in full bloom, making it a pleasant route to walk through while taking pictures. Afterwards, we climbed up to the observatory in Amakashi-no-oka and had a great view of Asuka-mura. After eating lunch around 12PM at Amakashi-no-oka, we played games such as Hana Ichi Momme. From 1PM, teams left the lunch area to solve the quiz questions regarding Asuka. With a map in hand, Japanese participants and JETs worked together to solve 20 questions. Half were written in English, while the other half were written in Japanese. The teams walked through places such as Asuka-dera temple, Complex of Manyo Culture, Sakafuneishi, Kawara-dera temple, Kameishi, Devil’s chopping board and toilet. All the teams reached the end point, Asuka Historical and National Government Park, around 4PM. Answers to the quiz were given out, and the event finished after the closing ceremony. Although this 10km hike was long, participants of all ages had fun visiting the observatory and Complex of Manyo Culture.

89% of the participants thought the event overall was a success. Some mentioned the quiz was fun because it had both English and Japanese questions, while others said the quiz was the right level of difficulty. Some mentioned that the length of the hike was a little too long for small children, so we will take this in to consideration for future events. We hope to organize another fun exchange event for JETs and local citizens.

Thank you all for participating in the event!

