



JETNet 41st Event “Hanami Umami You & Me”

On April 20th, 2013, Nara JETNet held its 41st event, “Hanami Umami You & Me” at Umami Kyuryo Park. 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 3 Coordinators of 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.

For this event, we had 29 Japanese participants and 45 JETs hike to the park together and do a fun stamp rally course. Registration and opening ceremony were held at Kintetsu Goido station from 9:45AM. After a quick stretch, we split up in to 5 different teams and left for Umami Kyuryo Park at 10:20AM in order of the teams.

After we arrived at the park around 11:30, we sat down for lunch and took a nice break. JETs introduced frisbee and rugby to the participants for a fun game after lunch. From 1PM, stamp rally instructions were given and the teams went their own ways to start. The stamp rally consisted of 6 different stations: quiz station, ball and spoon relay game, jump shot station, janken contest, chopsticks game, and pick a task station. Both JETs and Japanese participants had a great time at these stations. TV crews also came by to film everyone in action during the stamp rally.

Unfortunately, the event ended earlier than planned due to rain. We held the closing ceremony in front of the park office, and after the participants filled out the surveys, we walked through the flower gardens quickly and ended at Ikebe station.

Although the event ended earlier than planned, participants of all ages had a great time with JETs. Almost 95% of the participants said they enjoyed speaking with the JETs. Some mentioned that the hiking course length was just the right amount, and the variety in the stamp rally stations made it interesting. 75% of the participants also mentioned that they will be coming out to our next event in June.

Thank you all for participating! See you in June.

