



Welcome to IUJ and UMEX

UMEX holds about 100 members and is supported by students, housewives, local government officials, businessmen and self-employed workers; and encompasses members from the early 20s to 70s of age. This wide diversity underpins various activities undertaken by UMEX, allowing international students to attain well-balanced understanding of the Japanese culture and society

Upcoming Events

Jan. 17	Traditional Festival Tour
Jan. 24	New Year Party
Feb. 20	Tokamachi Snow Festival

UMEX events will be announced by bulletin board or e-mail periodically. Please don't miss it.

What is UMEX?

UONUMA Association for Multicultural Exchange (called UMEX) was set up in May 2002 by the local people and IUJ staff to foster multicultural interaction, support foreign residents and enhance Japanese people's awareness of foreign cultures. Furthermore, UMEX through its various activities in association with the local people helps IUJ students experience "Japan" and thus enrich their knowledge about Japanese people, their culture and social life.

Though IUJ is located in Japan as lots of students say they cannot "feel" real Japan here. It is the result of huge cultural diversity of coming students and the fact that common language of IUJ is English. Before UMEX was established lots of students left IUJ without experiencing what is the tea ceremony, ikebana or kimono.

UMEX in short acts as a cultural bridge between the international students of IUJ and the local community of UONUMA.

For further information, access the report section in UMEX homepage at

<http://www.umex.ne.jp/E/>



Potluck party is held once a month at UMEX salon

UMEX salon in SD 3

Members gather once a week in the UMEX salon located at the IUJ Student Dormitory No. 3, first floor. The salon is open every Saturday, from 13:00 - 15:00 respectively.

The UMEX salon is a place where everyone could meet and talk on a continuous and regular basis to foster interactions. It is an excellent gateway for IUJ students and their families to get to know local people and community.

Conversations held at the UMEX salon are often reflected to a variety of activities, including a bus trip, rice harvesting tour, mountain climbing, wild vegetable cooking as well as presentation by international students or Japanese students of their traditional culture, lessons for Kado (flower arrangement), Sado (tea ceremony) or calligraphy.

UMEX provides the following programs.

1. Helping with your questions on every day life
2. Offering the Japanese Language Program
3. Arranging the Home-stay/Home-visit Programs
4. Offering Japanese Culture classes such as Tea Ceremony class, Flower Arrangement class, Calligraphy
5. Explaining how holidays are celebrating in Japan, for example New Year.
6. Serve as a source of information of upcoming activities in the neighborhood.
7. Having Country Presentation Series by IUJ students, and so on.

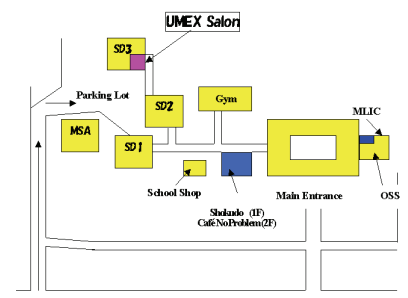
How to obtain information on UMEX programs/events:

- ★ Look at UMEX info on the bulletin board
- ★ Drop by the UMEX salon
- ★ See UMEX homepage at <http://www.umex.ne.jp/E/>

UMEX activities will be decided at the meeting of the working committee to be held at the beginning of every month. Please let us know if you have any suggestions and requests.



Tea ceremony



Introducing UMEX activities

How to join us? Just step in the UMEX salon!



Kids & Baby Salon

The kids salon will be held once a month at the UMEX salon or Tatami-room in MSA.

Mothers and children get together and have fun. Please come and join us with your kids.

For more details, contact:
Ms. Takanami, Kanae or
Ms. Takahashi, Kazuko

Snow festival with UMEX members



Bus trip for introduction of Japanese culture



Hello! I'm Kubota and in charge of UMEX president. Come and see me at the salon of the evening. Based on your requests,

Japanese Language Program

The UMEX offers Japanese tutor program which is a one-on-one conversation partner style. The purpose of our program is to ease communication difficulties of non-Japanese residents by teaching Japanese and also to help make their life here easier and much more comfortable. The service is free of charge.

It goes without saying that the Japanese language is already part of the IUJ official curriculum, but those who are weak in English or those who cannot find an appropriate level of a class might not be able to take it as part of the official curriculum. UMEX serves as a plaza for those students as well as their families and other foreigners living in the community to learn Japanese.

How to Register:

Application will be ready at the beginning of October. For more details, contact Ms. Sekiya, Akiko / Ms. Takahashi, Manami



Rice harvesting with local people



Country Introduction by students



Greetings from Alumni

Relationships between IUJ students and UMEX continue even after the graduation. UONUMA will be your second hometown.

Dear UMEX members:

I spent two wonderful years in IUJ. I had found a lot of warmth in the smiles of UMEX members. We spent time enjoying simpler things in life- the breath taking nature of the place, the river and above all the invaluable friendships.

Through UMEX we were exposed to the core of the local culture. UMEX offered for us a wide range of activities.

I would like to send a big hug to everyone in UMEX and thank them for the great job they are doing. I know in my heart someday I will be back to my second home.

Nancy

See UMEX homepage at <http://www.umex.ne.jp/E/>

For more details, please contact:

Mr. Moriyama, Toshiyuki at the MLIC (toshi@iuj.ac.jp)

Mr. Kubota, Toyomasa (office@umex.ne.jp)

Mr. Michael Frank 2nd year student (mikealar@iuj.ac.jp)

