



# Welcome to IUJ and UMEX

**UMEX holds about 130 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

Sep 30	Friday Salon Gathering
Oct 2	Rice Harvesting
Oct 9	Hakkaisan Mountain Climbing
Oct 16	Exchanging Friendship to the children

*UMEX annual events in autumn such as the workshop for cross-cultural understanding will be announced at October.*

### UMEX provides the following programs.

1. Helping with your questions on every day life
2. Offering the Japanese/English Language Program
3. Arranging the Home-stay/ Home-visit Programs
4. Offering Japanese Culture classes such as Tea Ceremony, Flower Arrangement and 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.



Flower Arrangement Class

## 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.

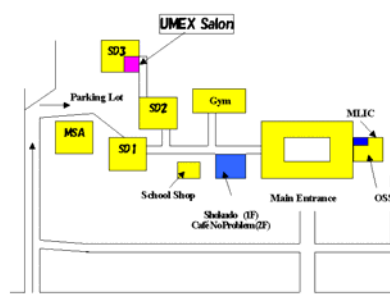
UMEX in short acts as a cultural bridge between the international students of IUJ and the local community of UONUMA.

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

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

## UMEX salon in SD 3

Members gather twice a week in the UMEX salon is located at the IUJ Student Dormitory No.3 (SD3) on the 1st floor. The salon is open every Tuesday and Friday, from 13:00 – 15:00 and 19:00 – 20:30 respectively.



*Chat in English gathering held once a month at UMEX salon*

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, and assisting the hosting of the Japanese Night held by Japanese students.

## Friday Salon Gathering

- ★ Date & Time: Sep 30, 12:00 – 15:00
- ★ Place: UMEX Salon
- ★ Fee: Free of charge

Some UMEX members bring dishes, so we would like IUJ students to join this gathering to enjoy foods and conversation together. You do not need to pay for it, but we would be very glad you bring dishes of various countries if possible.

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

### Tsunami Relief Effort by UMEX and IUJ students

Two natural disasters occurred in two physically remote areas last year. One was the Chuetsu Earthquake in Niigata Prefecture on October 23, 2004 and another was the Tsunami in the Indian Ocean on December 26, 2004. But the two areas turn out to be very close.

TUSO (Tsunami Uonuma Support Organization) organized by the initiative of UMEX has been trying to establish the linkage between the people of UONUMA and the people in Tsunami affected area through IUJ students. Fund-raising through two fund-raising concerts in March and in April amounted to 1,174,218 yen out of it was donated to Minami-Uonuma City as "money gift as a token of sympathy to the people stricken by Chuetsu Earthquake," and, as for the remaining amount of money, 293,000 yen each were distributed to the representatives of four countries; Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Thailand and India. IUJ students and alumni who are working under TUSO project will report their activities to TUSO in October 2005.

We would like to welcome you as not only our guests but our partners who can contribute to transforming UONUMA into the multicultural society in which people with various backgrounds can live and work together.

### Impression Regarding Charity Concerts

Oranoot Withitwinyuchon (Thailand)

Natural disaster is something we cannot expect or forecast precisely when it will occur. As with the humanitarian assistance that will surely come even though we are not expecting; it comes overwhelmingly from people all around the world to those suffering victims.

The first time I heard that UMEX was planning to arrange activities to help people in four affected countries; the generosity of local people in this area came to my surprise. They are the people who just suffered from the big earthquake but they still think of other people suffering in different corners of the world. All the staff in UMEX have been working so hard to raise funds, tirelessly only to help their unlucky counterparts in those countries.

Every activity that UMEX comes up with reflects their sincerity and aspiration in helping Tsunami victims. We organized two charity concerts and the results were extremely successful. Both IUJ students and distinguished guests contributed actively to the shows and loads of people attended the concerts. We raised a significant amount of funds which will be used for the purpose of relief aid.

UMEX is not a huge or powerful organization but it overwhelmingly succeeds in arranging charity concerts because all the staff and IUJ students were worked together as a single unit. Countless thanks from me go to dedicated UMEX staff who sacrificed their free time to realize the concerts. Many thanks are also given to IUJ students and honored guests who created those marvelous performances. All the wholehearted support from everybody reminded me that whenever we are in distress, there are always other people who are willing to pull us out of it. For every time you cry, there is always someone nearby to blot your tears.



### Kids & Baby Salon

The kids salon will be held once a month at the UMEX salon and the baby salon will be held every Tuesday at Tatami-room in MSA.

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

For more details, contact  
Mrs. Kazuko Takahashi  
(yokunkokun@nyc.odn.ne.jp).

### Japanese Language Program

The UMEX offers two Japanese programs: one is a classroom style and the other is a one-on-one conversation partner program. 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. The purpose of our programs 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 services are free of charge.

For more details, contact  
Ms. Etsuko Ohira  
(ecchanumex@yahoo.co.jp)



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

Issued in September

### Cross-Cultural interactions in the campus

Jorge H. Primavera (Philippine)  
IDP Batch 2005

Having just graduated from IUJ last June and having returned to the Philippines, I now look back and examine the experiences I've had at IUJ during my two-year stay there.

As a graduate student in Japan, there were so many adjustments that I had to make upon coming to IUJ. Not only were the demands of the academic workload really terrible, finding ways to overcome the day-to-day challenges posed by living in a foreign country was a constant preoccupation of mine which took up a substantial amount of my time. Interacting not only with fellow IUJ students but also with the local Japanese people seemed quite difficult and daunting.

However, the Uonuma Association for Multicultural Exchange (UMEX...of which I am a proud member) is an organization in IUJ which works at fostering and developing cross-cultural interaction between IUJ students and the local Japanese community in Urasa and

nearby areas. UMEX organizes and holds activities which facilitate the adjustment of foreign students to life in Japan. UMEX-sponsored activities give IUJ students opportunities to interact and mingle with the local Japanese people and learn and experience the local culture.

UMEX makes students' life in IUJ more interesting. It is said that IUJ is not in Japan and one would really have to go out of his way to experience the real Japan. UMEX helps make IUJ students see and experience the real Japan. During my two-year stay in Japan, I would say that the best way to know the country is by knowing its people. Life as a graduate student is not all study and academics.

Joining UMEX activities would give you a better understanding of the Japanese people...and of Japan.



Aizu-Wakamatsu Castle



Ms. Yulia, Center left



Explain how to use a sickle



Exchange with people in Hirokami

### Message from Alumni

### Welcome new IUJers to Minami Uonuma-shi !

Valerie Cicero (U.S.A.)  
IRP Class of 2005

Two years ago I was where you are now - living in the middle of rice fields, surrounded by beautiful mountain scenery, in a country with different customs, traditions and language and studying with students from over 50 different nations who too have their own language and customs. While it is very exciting, it is also a bit intimidating and a little scary. This is why I would encourage all of you to become active in UMEX.

UMEX helps bring IUJ students and the local community together. Through UMEX you will meet many new friends as well as have the opportunity to enjoy a multitude of local experiences that would not otherwise be available to you. I can not stress enough how important and valuable these connections are. Now, back in my home country, I miss all the wonderful people I met through UMEX

and regret that I did not take advantage off all the activities they had to offer. I hope that as you settle down to your studies at IUJ you enjoy the generous hospitality of UMEX and Minami Uonuma-shi.

### Rice Harvesting Trip is scheduled for October 2, 2005

#### Tentative schedule

- 09:30 Leaving IUJ
- 10:30 Starting Rice Harvesting in Tokamachi city (Gannyu community)
- 12:00 Lunch and Exchanging friendship gathering
- 14:00 Leaving Tokamachi city (Gannyu community)
- 15:00 Arriving at IUJ

Fee: 500 yen for Bus and Lunch / Capacity: 25

For details, please check information on the bulletin board in front of the SPSC.



**Though IUJ is located in Japan, you cannot "feel" real Japan here without a bit your effort. Join us to approach to real Japan.**

## **Enjoy Cultural Exchange through Homestay Program**



Yoshiko Takahashi

I'm living in Yuzawa and occasionally invite IUJ students to my home as a part of my UMEX activities. In fact, my daughter studied in the United State. When I visited her, I was touched by realizing that my daughter was supported by many people there. This is the motive from which I am offering the invitation of homestay to IUJ students.

However, it seems that I have gotten priceless returns than things I had offered to the students. I'm learning about various countries and the cultures of those through the exchange with students, which I enjoy very much. Luckily, my husband and my mother-in-law are very helpful and cooperative with my UMEX activities.

Please take a look at a photo on the top There were three guests at my home in the middle of July; Ms. Frances of the Philippines, Ms. Khet of Myanmar and Ms. Rin from Thailand. Two out of three will graduate from IUJ and return to their countries by the end of August. I hope that visiting my home would be one of the pleasant recollections of Japan for them.

Who will visit my home first in this autumn? I am looking forward to being able to meet as many of you as possible at UMEX events.



**We need your help**

## **English Tutor Program**

To better organize events and programs of UMEX, we need your help. If you are interested in volunteering for the following things, please contact us or send an email at [office@umex.ne.jp](mailto:office@umex.ne.jp).

- Communication supporters between international students and local people. We need person who can speak both in English and Japanese.
- English writing reporters for UMEX homepage and UMEX newsletter.
- Speaker who introduces his/her country to local people either in Japanese or English.
- English tutors for UMEX members.

UMEX has an "English Partner Program" as a counter-program to the "Japanese Language Program". To establish reciprocal relationship between foreign residents (mainly IUJ students) and the local people, we need to overcome the language barrier with a mutual effort. Both UMEX Japanese and English language programs will be offered for this purpose.

The program outline is as follows. We hope that as many of you as possible will participate in this program as our partner.

### **Procedures:**

1. Those who wish to join this program please submit the registration form to UMEX office at your pleasure.
2. UMEX office accepts the application form from UMEX members at any time.
3. UMEX office matches partners upon request from UMEX members and IUJ student tutor.

### **Basic Conditions:**

1. One group consists of a maximum of three students (local people).
2. One group pays 1,000 yen per one hour to their tutor each session.
3. The content of the lessons is to be decided by students and their tutor. Basically, the lesson is held once per week.

For further information, please contact Mr. Masashi Watanabe at the UMEX salon or send an email at [office@umex.ne.jp](mailto:office@umex.ne.jp).

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



**For more details, please contact:**

Mr. Toshiyuki Moriyama at the MLIC ([toshi@iuj.ac.jp](mailto:toshi@iuj.ac.jp))  
Mr. Masashi Watanabe ([office@umex.ne.jp](mailto:office@umex.ne.jp))  
Mr. Tolgahan Dilgin, 2nd year student ([tolgahan@iuj.ac.jp](mailto:tolgahan@iuj.ac.jp))  
Mr. Go Kumagai, 2nd year student ([gordius@iuj.ac.jp](mailto:gordius@iuj.ac.jp))



*Calligraphy Session at Japanese Night*