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Initiative to Promote Cross-Cultural Understanding in Miyako Junior College

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Applicable principle

Principle 6: A commitment to encouraging global citizenship through education

Principle 10: A commitment to promoting inter-cultural dialogue and understanding, and the “unlearning” of intolerance, through education

At Iwate Prefectural University, Miyako Junior College, we hold English Time program to provide students an opportunity to attend lectures on international exchange and English conversation with the hope that students' international understanding will be further deepened through cross-cultural understanding and cross-cultural exchange events as well as volunteer activities for foreign tourists.

1. Lecture on International Exchange

In December 2021, the Deputy Secretary-General for the Miyako International Association was invited to our university to give a lecture on "Current Efforts for Foreign Residents in Miyako City".

In the lecture, through pictures, the Japanese language classes, English conversation classes, and events to learn about traditional Japanese culture that are held by the Miyako International Association were introduced and students learned how the Miyako International Association is working with foreigners living in Miyako City.

After the lecture, group work on understanding life in foreign countries under the title of “International understanding in each of us” was conducted. The participating students formed groups and learned about international issues through quizzes on their interest in international understanding.

Some participants commented that they would like to learn more about international issues and different cultures in more depth, while others had difficulty in understanding against international understanding and did not answer the quiz correctly.

2. English Time

English Time was held twice in July and December.

(1) July

In July we held English Time twice for the first-year and second-year students respectively.

For English Time for the first year students, many of them were participating for the first time and were a little nervous as they began English conversation. However, as time passed, the students gradually began to speak more actively in English. The students learned that there were many languages spoken in one country, and deepened their cross-cultural understanding. The students seemed to have a good time as they found that they could have a conversation with simple English words. For English Time for the second-year students, many participants could speak English, and they talked about foreign cultures, the history of countries, the history of music, and so on in English.

(2) December

In December, we held English Time twice by mixing the first year and second year students.

After watching a video about the life before and after COVID-19 titled "After COVID-19", we spoke in English about things that became inconvenient and convenient, what we couldn't do and could do after the spread of COVID-19, and what we would like to do if COVID-19 subsides. At first, the students seemed confused and nervous about speaking in English, but in the end, they became comfortable speaking in English and began to speak willingly, and seemed to have a good time.



Lecture on International Exchange



English Time