

Rachael's August CIR Report:

Zoom Intercultural Café



Every year, the International Exchange Department hosts an "Intercultural Café" event where Japanese people and foreign people can get together and learn about one another's cultures. However, this was made more difficult

this year as due to the effects of COVID-19, all face-to-face events had to be cancelled. We realised that in order to comply with social distancing rules while fostering intercultural exchange in the "age of corona", we would have to change our approach. Our incredibly smart Ko-san came up with a wonderful idea— host an event over Zoom! Around the world, many people are using the video calling app Zoom to attend classes and communicate with colleges while working from home. Many events have also begun to be hosted over Zoom too.



We decided on the 1st of August for the day of our event. Even though it was a Saturday, our 5 Japanese participants and 4 foreign participants from 4 different countries (Ireland, America, India and the Filipins) woke up early to participate in the event. As everyone was participating from their own homes, it meant that a participant from overseas was able to take part! I think one of the best things about the internet is its ability to connect us with people in far-away countries.



For the first 30 minutes, we split up into groups of 5 to chat. We talked about a wide range of topics, like how COVID-19 has impacted our day-to-day lives, what working from home is like, new hobbies we have picked up and holidays we plan to go on in the future amongst others. We spoke in a mixture of English and Japanese, and had a really wonderful time. After that, John and I held a quiz about our home countries. At times the questions could be tricky, so it was a bit of a challenge for the participants. Before we said goodbye, we asked the participants their thoughts on the event, and

as I had hoped, everyone had a good time and also learned a little bit too.

I am really looking forward to the next Zoom event! Due to the effects of COVID-19, I am sure that there are probably many people out there feeling a little bit lonely. However, thank to apps like Zoom, the word has become smaller, and we are more easily able to connect with each other, which no doubt helps to ease some of this loneliness.

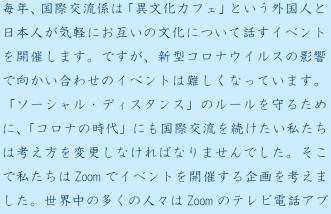






レイチェルの8月の CIR レポート:

Zoom の異文化カフェ





リで授業を受けたり、またはテレワークをしています。多くのイベントも Zoom で行われるようになりました。

日にちは8月1日に決まりました。土曜日でしたが、日本人5人と4カ国(アイルランド、アメリカ、インド、フィリピン)の外国人4人がイベントに参加してくれました。外国に住んでいる方自宅から参加してくれました!遠い国の人々と繋がることはインターネットの魅力だと思います。



最初の30分の間に、私たちは5人ずつのグループに分かれて、色々なトピックについて一緒に話しました、例えば、新型コロナウイルスの日常生活への影響、テレワーク、新しい趣味や将来の旅行などです。英語と日本語で話し、とても楽しい時間を過ごしました。次はクイズの時間でした。私とジョンは母国についてのクイズを作りました。時々難しいクイズもあり、参加者は少し答えに迷っていたようです。終了前に、参加者から意見を聞きました。私の希

望通り、皆さんがイベントを楽しんでくださって、勉強になりました。

私は次の Zoom での異文化カフェをめちゃ楽しみにしています!新型コロナウイルスの影響で、多くの人が寂しくなってしまったかもしれませんが、Zoom のようなテレビ電話アプリのおかげで、世界は身近になり、他の人と簡単に繋がれるので、この寂しさをちょっと消してくれるような気がします。

