

Issued in September 2006



## Welcome to IUJ and UMEX

**UMEX holds about 120 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

Sept 17	Welcome BBQ Party
Sept 22	Friday Luncheon Gathering
Sept 23	Kids' Salon

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

#### 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 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.



Country Presentation

### 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 located at the IUJ Student Dormitory No. 3, first floor. The salon is open every Tuesday and Friday, from 13:00 - 15:00 and 19:00-20:30 respectively.



Friday Luncheon gathering is 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

### 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 Programs 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

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

### Introduced Indonesian Dance "Poco-Poco" to Japanese People

Adila Chaerman (Indonesia, IDP)

We are the Indonesian student in IUJ collaboration with UMEM member was practicing "Poco-poco dance" to participate for "Natsu Matsuri" who are organized by Moegi Group in Muikamichi on August 19 from 06.30 PM to 08.45 PM. The Poco-poco is a popular line dance which originally comes from the Minahasa people in Sulawesi. The steps are said to originate from farming activities such as picking cloves, planting rice, hoeing the fields and peeling coconut fiber. It is a popular dance for celebrations such as weddings, birthdays and Independence Day in Indonesia.

We were amazing that almost Japanese can dance very well even only 2 times or short times for practicing. The night became more exciting as a group of people did poco-poco dance to follow the poco-poco songs played from a tape. And also while we gave performance Poco-poco dance during the "Matsuri" many Japanese communities joint and enjoy together and very exciting!

Warm regards from the heart of the city, in general, we were very pleased to be invited to attend the festival. It was fun to get to know each other, especially the IUJ students with Japanese community especially for UMEM organization. We would like to thank UMEM organization for giving us a chance to obtain good relation, and best 'world-oriented' friendship while we stayed there.  
THANK YOU FOR UMEM!



Hello! I'm Kubota and in charge of UMEM events. Come and see me at the salon of the evening. Based on your requests, I'll plan

### My Heartfelt Gratitude towards UMEM

Thin Thin Myint (Myanmar, IDP Class of 2006)

I have only one week left in IUJ and I am nearly about to return to Myanmar. Before going back to our country, a special note of gratitude is owed to UMEM's members, especially Bandai San, Moriyama San, Kubota San, Ritsuko Abe San, Michiko San, Watanabe San and other UMEM members who gave me constructive supports when I was staying in IUJ. As for me, UMEM forever remains in my memory.

To tell the truth, we've got a lot of opportunities and experiences from the UMEM. Among the Japanese local people and IUJ staff, we could retain a mutual understanding, strengthen an intimate and boundless relationship and preserve a constructive communication through sharing and exchanging knowledge and ideas. UMEM gave relentless backings to IUJ students who are not familiar with the Japanese environment and Japanese culture.

Among the recipe of UMEM activities, some visible activities UMEM enthusiastically initiated and participated are: providing Japanese language programs to IUJ students, collection of fund (donation for Indonesia Earthquake), hiking to Mt. Sakado, interesting trip to Kawagoe, flower arrangement, tea ceremony, barbecue party, food gathering party, joyful Picnic at Ateha Highland Resort etc. UMEM arranged amazing social gatherings for international students, Kids Event which is mainly planned for kids to introduce Japanese, traditional custom - carp streamer, hiking trip and so on. 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.

At last, I would like to recommend you to join UMEM activities which would give you a better understanding of the Japanese people and of Japan.



### Kids & Baby Salon

The kids salon will be held once a month at the UMEM salon, and the baby salon will be held every Tuesday at Tatami-room in MSA if it needs.

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

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

### Japanese Language Program

The UMEM offers two Japanese programs: one is a classroom style and the other is a one-on-one conversation partner program. 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.

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. UMEM 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. Akiko Sekiya, Ms. Kyoko Ode and Mr. Masashi Watanabe



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

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Dear UMEX members:

I am very happy to have Sekiya-san visit me in my hometown of BARCELONA. It 6month zings back all the wonderful memories of being at IUJ for one Semester. I hope all of you have the opportunity to come visit me in Barcelona so that I can take you to eat PAELLA by the beach.

I MISS YOU ALL.

Alvaro Ortega (Exchange Student from Barcelona in 2002)

### Greetings from Alumni

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

Zhengyu REN, IM 2005

Wish everyone a happy new year and make more new friends this year. Memories of UMEX activities are really treasures in my life. Thanks for everyone's hard work and devotion.

Ash Sharma, IM 2005

Happy and prosperous New Year to everyone associated with UMEX. As this party demonstrates IUJ is just the beginning of a life-long bond between people from all around the world and a commitment to international understanding. All the best in 2006!

Saikeung Tang, IM 2003

Happy new year! I have been working in Tokyo for more than 2 years and still missed the weekly UMEX meetings in IUJ from time to time. So, I think for students in IUJ shall make the best use of it and you will have a great memory,

Jami Wu, IM 2003

To UMEX members, thank you all for the wonderful experience in IUJ and wish you all happy new year. Thanks to all of you, I got married to our alumni, Ripple, on Jan 4th. Show you the pictures after I receive them!

Mihai Isacovici, IDP 2005

UMEX is an important member of IUJ family. Let's keep and develop this portal of communication between campus and Japanese community in the New Year. Good luck and count on our support!



Bus trip for introduction of Japanese culture



Country Introduction by students



Charity concert for earthquake victims

## Participated in Naked Man Festival

Hung Nguyen

I want to thank Banzai san for inviting me to her house. I had a wonderful time with Banzai san and her friends. We ate a very nice diner at her home. I think Banzai san and her mom are very good cook. It has been a long time for me to have a nice Japanese food like that. We ate, drank, and talked till around 9:00p.m then we went to naked man festival.

It was very cold outside at that time, however, I saw a very spiritual atmosphere from festival participator. Even though, the temperature seemed like below zero degree, naked man were shouting and running around the place. To me, they were very exciting and a little bit crazy. I really enjoyed the festival.

We stayed there until the festival was almost over. We took many pictures and went back home around 10:30 p.m. I really want to thank again to UMEX and Banzai san to give me the best chance to enjoy the Naked Man festival.

## Sansai Garden Party

Thea Sophy

When all the snow melt down, green plants and flower buds sprout up saying goodbye to the sober autumn and welcoming the charming spring. At the beginning, a short beauty of SAKURA brings a lot of enjoyment to a peaceful life at IUJ campus. Then, next is the taste of spring.

No wonder, taste of spring comes from a variety of SANSAI (wild vegetable) that we can find easily on IUJ campus ground and in the nearby mountains. It was an initiative of UMEX to arrange the garden party on May 15 at the barbeque site for students to enjoy the sweetness of SANSAI UMEX members and other local Japanese people show us how to cook SANSAI. Of course, we can boil SANSAI or make tempura. It was interesting that we can pick up the vegetable from the mountain and make delicious food from it. We ate SANSAI tempura with cold soba and soy sauce. I could not tell how tasty it was, but whenever



Sansai Garden Party

I think of SANSAI, I really want to eat it again and again. I really appreciate the UMEX's effort in organizing such a wonderful event where students can get together and get to know the flourish natural advantage of this area.

If you are first year students, please don't miss the chance to try it next year!

**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.



### **English Tutor Program**

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.

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 Ms. Yoko Yanagase at the UMEX salon or send an email at [office@umex.ne.jp](mailto:office@umex.ne.jp).

### **Learned a lot from students**

Rajendra Khichi  
(India, IM Class of 2006)

English Tutor Program has been one of the most interesting and rewarding experiences I have had during my IUJ stay. Indian philosopher Gandhi has said live as if you were to die tomorrow. Learn as if you were to live forever. And this is what people at UMEX are doing and enjoying I think.

Well, I can definitely say this about my Japanese students who in a way are actually my teachers as I learnt a lot more from them about the Japanese culture and their life experiences. Their zest and enthusiasm for learning is amazing and I learn from them how to enjoy the life. During the classes we enjoyed exchanging information about India and Japanese local customs, traditions and ways of life.

Thank you very much Oami-san, Shino-san, Iguchi-san, Akiko-san, Waka-san. I hope you all enjoyed the classes as much as I did. My sincere thanks to UMEX for giving me this opportunity and I look forward to continue this fulfilling relationship with UMEX and its people.



### **We need your help**

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.

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 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).

**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](mailto:toshi@iuj.ac.jp))  
Mr. Kubota, Toyomasa ([office@umex.ne.jp](mailto:office@umex.ne.jp))  
Mr. Xu, Aidong 2nd year student ([xuaidong@iuj.ac.jp](mailto:xuaidong@iuj.ac.jp))  
Mr. Karki, Milan 2nd year student ([milan\\_np@iuj.ac.jp](mailto:milan_np@iuj.ac.jp))

