

Kawagoyan News

Kawagoe-Salem Friendship Society

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<http://www.tiu.ac.jp/~bduell/KSFS/indexJ.html>

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"Using New Technology to Improve International Exchange: Internet Video-Conferencing"

by Barry Duell

It takes much time and money to travel to Salem, Oregon. Not everyone in Kawagoe is able or interested in doing that. The same can be said for Salemites visiting Kawagoe. Until recent years, two alternatives have included correspondence by mail or telephone calls. Regular mail is an inexpensive way to communicate, but it takes about two weeks to get a response even if the person in Salem answers quickly. Telephoning is becoming more economical as the rates continue to fall, but it can be difficult to find a good time to call someone due to the time difference between Kawagoe and Salem.

In recent years, FAX and email have become more commonly available for communication. FAXing a message to Salem can be cheaper than sending a letter by mail, and it is certainly faster. However, it is not as popular in Salem for people to have FAX machines as it is in Japan. Email is also very fast, but it also requires that the receiver have a computer and Internet connection. In Salem, anyway, even if someone has no computer, they may reserve computer time at the City Library and send/receive email free.

But, whether using mail, telephone, FAX, or email, it is usually necessary for a Kawagoyan to speak or write English in order to communicate with someone in Salem.

Let's think how new technology can be used to improve the Kawagoe-Salem sister city relationship. Faster Internet services (such as ADSL or cable services) are becoming more available in the Kawagoe area. Also, computers with faster data-processing speeds, and new web cameras able to capture images more quickly than before are now available. These services and equipment are reasonably enough priced that a



コンピュータにビデオカメラをつなげてインターネットビデオ会議は開かれます。

typical household could afford to buy them. But what is the point of having such things?

The setup described above can be used to see and talk to people who are far away, such as our friends in sister city Salem. In fact, the KSFS is tentatively planning to schedule such an event in 2002. This is but one event that many different groups in Kawagoe are considering for helping celebrate the 80th anniversary of Kawagoe becoming a city.

The details of the Internet video-conferencing event being considered by KSFS for next year are still vague, but are likely to involve a planned event between one group of people in Kawagoe and one in Salem. The event will include translators so that the language barrier will be minimal. If the Kawagoe-Salem video-conferencing event is successfully carried out, it will mark a new stage of exchange between the two sister cities. Even you, the reader, may soon be video-conferencing with overseas friends via the Internet.

親善協会 これからの活動

露崎亮治さん講演会

親善協会の会員でもある露崎さんによる講演会です。東欧での人々の暮らし、独特な風物、文化など尽くせぬ魅力を紹介していただきます。

日程 12月2日(日) 午前10時~11時30分

テーマ「東欧の魅力」

会場 東京国際大学第1キャンパス、一号館2階、125号教室

経費 無料

応募 11月1日から11月17日までに事業部、小倉聡子 233 0245、佐藤芳子 231 0467、齋藤尚 243 1159、岩城由光 262 0205

親善協会交流バーベキュー&パークゴルフ会

前号で募集した川場村ツアーは参加希望者少数のため中止になりました。そこで、サイボク(日高市)を会場にした交流会を企画しました。秋の1日、パークゴルフ(初めての人でもすぐプレーできます)で気持ちいい汗をかいてみませんか。

日時 10月27日(土) 午前10時~午後3時

川越駅~サイボクは送迎バスを予定。詳細は参加者にお知らせします。

経費 2500円(バーベキュー、パークゴルフ代)

応募 10月10日までに事業部、小倉聡子 233 0245、佐藤芳子 231 0467、齋藤尚 243 1159、岩城由光 262 0205

親善協会は、9月11日に起きた米国同時多発テロの被害救済のため、日本赤十字をつうじて、義捐金10000円を米国赤十字に送りました。

事件の犠牲者をいたみ、テロ事件のない平和な社会を願います。