



## JETNet 44<sup>th</sup> Event “International New Year’s Party”

On January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2014, Nara JETNet held its 44<sup>th</sup> event, “International New Year’s Party”, at the Central Community Center of Kashihara City. Nara JETNet is a committee which plans events to promote cultural exchange and understanding between the members of the JET Programme and the citizens of Nara Prefecture. The organizers of JETNet events are the 4 Coordinators of International Relations (CIR) working in the Nara Prefectural Government. The members of JETNet are the rest of the JET Programme participants, Assistant Language Teachers (ALT), located at public schools throughout Nara Prefecture.

For this event, we had 32 JETs and 45 Nara Prefecture citizen participants of all ages. Opening ceremony was held at 10:30 AM. Afterwards, we warmed up our bodies with two dances, and then listened to a few JETs present about New Year’s holidays in Australia, China, and France. Once the presentations ended, we all learned how to sing New Year’s songs in Chinese, English, French, and Korean.

After the songs, we took a lunch break for an hour, and at 1:15 PM, started working on different crafts. There were tables set up for the Epiphany crown, Korean hanbok and fortune bag origami, Chinese lantern and goldfish, Valentine day’s card, snowflakes and holiday songs. Everyone was free to move between tables and make whatever craft they wanted to within two hours.

At 3:30 PM, we finished all the crafts and moved on to bingo. Winners of Bingo were awarded with prizes. At 4:00PM, we requested the participants to fill out our surveys about how the day went, and we finished the event with an exciting round of a limbo dance contest.

According to the surveys, participants both young and old were able to enjoy the crafts. They also mentioned they had fun chatting with the JETs during these craft stations. The country presentations also had good reviews, while many others found singing songs in different languages quite enjoyable as well.

The day ended successfully and all the JETs had a lot of fun with the participants, too. We hope to see everyone again at our next event!

