



JETNet 49th Event “International Sports Day”

On Saturday, April 25th, 2015, Nara JETNet held its 49th event "International Sports Day" at the Umami Kyuryo Park in Kawai-cho.

Nara JETNet has, since its founding in the year 2000 been involved with the deepening of mutual international understanding. The organization committee is comprised of the 5 Coordinators for International Relations (CIR) working at the Nara Prefectural Office, and the membership is made up of all the JET Program participants in Nara prefecture. For this event 26 members of the JET Program along with 47 local citizens from Nara prefecture came together to participate in international exchange together through hiking and various games.

At 10:00 a.m., CIRs and ALTs led participants from Kintetsu Ikebe Station to the Midorimichi Path and to the Tsudoi-no-oka Hill. Participants and JETs were then divided into 4 teams: red, blue, yellow, and green. After the Opening Ceremony at 10:30, the new Korean CIR Ho-seon Lee led everyone into a Korean-style ice-breaking activity, which teams did together to know each other's names. Then, at 11:00, we began the next activities, Capture the Flag (CTF) and a word-matching game. Blue and green played each other in CTF, and red and yellow tried to find each other's matching word cards in a simple game that sparked conversations. At 11:30, the groups switched so that red and yellow played CTF, and blue and green played the word game.

At 12:00, we had a lunch break, and people from all teams sat down and ate and talked with each other, or went out onto the field and played volleyball and dodgeball.

At 13:10 p.m., we began the next activity stations. All 4 teams had 15-20 minutes to play different games from around the world. Le Beret, a game like Steal the Bacon; China's Handkerchief Game; the Telephone Game in English and Japanese; and Tomato, a French game where you have to defend yourself from having a ball pass through your legs.

At 14:45, we played 2 rounds of Dodgeball, first with blue facing yellow and green facing red, and again with blue facing red and green facing yellow.

The weather being too nice to us made many participants tired, so we skipped the final relay race activity.

After passing out and taking surveys, we took a group photo, and people returned on their own to the station or to the parking lot.

From the results of the questionnaire 90% of the participants felt that the event was really good. Amongst the impressions were the following:

- The children were a little shy at first, but after a while they began to have fun with many different people, regardless of country or language.
- I thought it was a great experience to interact with many different people.
- I had lots of fun playing games I had never heard about.

We plan to continue to promote international exchange at the grass roots level. Thank you to everyone for your input and participation!

