



## Nara JETNet 40<sup>th</sup> Event “Cultural Exchange in Hayama”

On October 13<sup>th</sup>, 2012, Nara JETNet held its 40<sup>th</sup> event in cooperation with the Nara Prefecture Outdoor Activity Center. 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 3 Coordinators of International Relations (CIR) working in the Nara Prefectural Government. The members of JETNet are the rest of the JET programme participants located throughout Nara Prefecture.

This event was for children from grade 4 and up. 36 JETs and 17 young participants had a great day playing games and running through a field athletics course during the 40<sup>th</sup> JETNet event. After the opening ceremonies at 11AM, a few JETs made presentations to the participants about different countries including Korea, Kenya, Australia, and etc. Through presentations and games, including the Irish JET’s Halloween game, everyone had a great time getting to know each other.

After lunch, everyone divided in to 5 teams and entered the field athletics course. For an hour and a half, the JETs and children worked together to finish a challenging, but exciting, obstacle course in the woods. After reaching the finish line, everyone grabbed shovels and gloves to dig up sweet potatoes at a nearby field. The day ended with sampling roasted sweet potatoes and gathering freshly dug sweet potatoes and persimmon for home.

Both JETs and participants had a great time at this JETNet event. Some participants mentioned that they made great memories with the JETs, and that they would love to come out to future events. Others also commented in the surveys that they had a great time digging up sweet potatoes and running through the obstacles with the JETs.

We owe the success of this event to all the helpful staff members at the Outdoor Activity Center!

Also, we would like to thank all the participants for attending our 40<sup>th</sup> event. We hope to see everyone again soon at our next event!

