



## Nara JETNet 36th Event “A JETNet scenic journey in Yata-Yama”

On October 29<sup>th</sup>, 2011, Nara JETNet held its 36<sup>th</sup> event entitled “A JETNet scenic journey in Yata-Yama”. Nara JETNet is a committee which plans events to promote cultural exchange and understanding between the members of the JET Programme and citizens of Nara Prefecture. The organizers of JETNet events are the 5 Coordinators for International Relations (CIR) working for the Nara Prefectural Government, and members are JET Programme participants located throughout Nara Prefecture. This event saw 32 citizens of the prefecture participate alongside with 23 JETs.

The event began at 9:00. After greetings from the JETNet chairperson, participants were divided into teams and stretched. At 10:00, participants began the hike, breaking at 11:30 when they reached the Kodomo Kôryûkan to play ice breaking games until 12:00. Then they enjoyed a lunch break together on the lawn. At 13:00, they played more games until the hike resumed at 13:30. Participants went to Kosasa no Tsuji and Yata Tôge where they enjoyed the beautiful scenery from two panoramic viewpoints. Finally, they headed to Hagi no Dai Station where the hike ended at 15:40. Despite the hike being a substantial 10km long hike with steep roads, participants, from the children to the elderly, had a noticeably good time sharing the day with JETs.

The survey revealed indeed that whereas the hike might have been a little difficult for small children, all participants enjoyed talking to the JETs and playing various games.

Here are some comments from the Japanese participants:

“I enjoyed talking to people from various countries”

“I had a great time playing games with everyone”

“The Yata Prefectural Natural Park was a really beautiful place”

“I usually don’t hike much but I really enjoyed this hike and the weather was just perfect for the occasion”

From the JETs’:

“Good number of participants. Sometimes it's too many”

“I thought it was a well-planned event”

“It was nice to relax with the participants who couldn't speak Japanese without needing language”

“Walking up steep hills is too much for little kids and old people”

“I thought this event was a superb merging of the JET and Japanese communities, and I loved the opportunity to enjoy the beautiful scenery while meeting new people”

We would like to thank all participants! Everyone gave their all walking this long but beautiful and historic trail.

