



In the News / Yukiko Sakai / Introducing Japanese working abroad to children through lectures

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2:05 am, November 26, 2015

The Yomiuri Shimbun

Yukiko Sakai

By Chika Takayama / Yomiuri Shimbun Staff Writer

Using a self-produced DVD titled “Sekaibito Zukan” (Global human guide) containing interviews with Japanese people working in various parts of the world, Yukiko Sakai is a visiting lecturer who offers advice at primary, middle and high schools as well as universities.

Ten Japanese people are featured in the DVD, including a pizza shop owner who is expanding Japanese-style services in Vietnam, and a man running a consulting company in Taiwan who believes Japanese strength lies in “coordination capability.”

Sakai, 50, advises children with such phrases as: “What a waste just to stay locked up in Japan!” and “Speak out when you are abroad.”

Working for companies, including a foreign-affiliated firm, for about 20 years, she also talks about her own rich experience abroad during her lectures. The number of students she has taught totals about 2,000.

When Sakai started her own business to support the overseas expansion of Japanese companies four years ago, she planned to produce a “guidebook,” hoping to “show children the globalizing world.”

Although Sakai asked celebrities to appear in the DVD, her requests were rejected. She was finally introduced to “ordinary Japanese working abroad” by her acquaintances.

Being a single mother whose son is a third-year middle school student, Sakai wanted to respond to her son’s question, “What do we learn English for?”

Sakai has promised to have a reunion in 10 years with sixth-grade primary school students she asked to write about what they wanted to be in the future. Wondering what kinds of “sekaibito” these students would be like, Sakai can hardly wait to see them when they grow up. ♪