

July, 2017

#7 Science Dialogue for International English Course

On July 1st, Science Dialogue was held for the students of the International English course. This is the program organized by the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS). In this program, we invite a foreign researcher who came to Japan as a lecturer and listen to the researcher's lecture in English. This year, we had Mr. Reto Hofmann from Waseda University as a lecturer. This program is called "Science Dialogue," however, this lecture was not about science but about Japanese history and it was focused on thinking logically and critically.

In the lecture, Mr. Hofman, who has lived in many countries, gave us a lecture with topics such as "What is home?" and "Why do I became a histroian?" It was so hot in the gymnasium. The students studied about the lecture in advance and commented as follows: "It was nice to know the objective image Okinawa has from the viewpoint of someone outside of Okinawa." "This lecture was good because the content of it made us think about Japan and Okinawa, also we could participate in it together." "We could listen to a native speaker's English. It was a good opportunity for us." "English words were difficult to understand, but it was fun." Many students seemed to be encouraged to learn English from now on.



#8 Science English Lab

Science English Lab is an event to perform simple scientific experiments in English. Students had this event with some native speakers of English, who were Ms. Jennie Li and Bojan Brink from our school, Ms. Alessandra Watson from the Board of Education in Okinawa and Mr. Brett Shintani from the Okinawa Education Center.

They had two experiments this time, which were "An Oscillation Reaction" and "Colloidal Solution." Due to handling dangerous chemicals, students wore gloves and glasses for safety. For the first experiment, they mixed three kinds of solutions together and it changed its color from transparent to brown. Students broke out into cheers to see the changing colors of the solution.

For the second one, it was an experiment to understand the colloidal solution by making *yushi-dofu*. Students were impressed about the fact that chemistry is hiding in our daily lives, such as in *yushi-dofu*. Students commented as follows: "It was really hard to make *yushi-dofu*. In the end, we couldn't make real *yushi-dofu* and it became just liquid, however, it was fun." Most of the students said it was an enjoyable event to participate in.

Speaking English is difficult in itself, however, it probably is much more difficult to conduct experiments using chemistry terms in English. Nevertheless, almost all participants commented, "It was difficult, but so much fun," "Speaking English is fun (science, too)." Some students commented, "When I could make myself understood in English, I felt so good." Speaking English is very difficult. In accumulating these kinds of experiments, they will be able to speak English well. We would like Kyuyo students to be able to express their thoughts and opinions in English as well as in Japanese.

We are looking forward to seeing many participants next year.

