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### Report: Welcome Event for New International Students "Workshop of Japanese Sweets ~Otabe~" (presented by SIED)

Updated Oct. 31, 2017

On October 15th (Sun.), SIED hosted one of the welcoming events for new international students, "Workshop of Japanese Sweets ~Otabe~" at Otabe Honkan. 30 students, seven local and 23 international, took part in the event.

Otabe, thin sheets of mocha-like confection (known as "nama-yatsushashi") filled with bean pastes of various flavors, are popular souvenir sweets of Kyoto.

The workshop included all the procedures of the sweets making: mixing the ingredients for the dough, kneading and steaming it, rolling it, wrapping the bean pastes and molding into its signature shape - a triangle. This time the participants used two types of dough (cinnamon and matcha) and three types of bean pastes (sweet bean paste, green tea flavored bean paste, and purple yam paste). While they waited for the dough to cook, they also took part in a tour of the production line where they witnessed the high standard that they impose. After they finished making Otabe, they enjoyed having it with matcha green tea. Although it was raining, it was a very pleasant time as the participants enjoyed making their own Otabe, talking and knowing one another, and making new friends.

We hope that the event was a good opportunity for the participants to gain interest in Japanese culture and to have intercultural understanding. We look forward to seeing more of you in the future event!



Related Information	<a href="#">同志社大学国際センター(Doshisha University International Center) Facebook</a>
Contact	<p><b>Office of International Students, International Center</b></p> <p>Telephone : +81-75-251-3257</p> <p>Fax : +81-75-251-3123</p> <p>E-mail : <a href="mailto:ji-ois@mail.doshisha.ac.jp">ji-ois@mail.doshisha.ac.jp</a></p> <p><a href="#">Contact Us</a></p> <p><b>Office of International Students, International Center (KYOTANABE)</b></p>

Telephone : +81-774-65-7453

[Contact Us](#)