

Slovak Ambassador Kottman gives a special lecture

On June 6th, 2014 Ibaraki University was honored by a visit from Slovak Ambassador Michal Kottman. Ambassador Kottman gave a special lecture about Slovakia to first year students as part of a series of lectures under the title of 比較文化論：異文化とはなんだろう. Approximately 130 students attended the lecture.



Ambassador Kottman gave a very informative presentation about Slovakia.

He started his presentation with a video highlighting the beauty of Slovakia through images of panoramic views and historical buildings. He then began his PowerPoint presentation with an overview of brief facts about Slovakia. He continued his interesting and informative presentation explaining the historical roots of Slovakia, the formation of Czechoslovakia, and then explained more recent historical developments such as the 'Velvet Revolution' in 1989 when Slovakia broke free of communism and the 'Velvet Divorce' of Czechoslovakia, where in 1993 the Czech Republic and Slovakia became independent nations. The Ambassador described Slovakia's strong economic growth which is 4.1 percent higher than the EU average. Slovakia is the world's largest producer of cars per capita in the world. Slovakia manufactures cars for Volkswagen, PSA Peugeot-Citroën, and KIA. Software companies such as ESET, Sygic, and the precision gear manufacturer Spinea are world renowned Slovak companies.



Ambassador Kottman also gave fascinating information about Slovak culture. He showed many beautiful photographs of Slovak cultural items such as crafts, folk costumes, and introduced a musical instrument called 'Fujara', which has been part of the World Heritage List recognized by UNESCO since 2005. He gave many delicious examples of Slovak dishes such as 'Bryndzove Halusky' which are potato dumplings with sheep cheese and bacon.

At the end of the presentation Ambassador Kottman provided students with pamphlets, and other informative material which students eagerly took away with them.

Ambassador Kottman hopes that he has helped make students better aware of Slovakia. He also hopes that he has generated greater interest in Slovakia. I believe that he has been very successful in his aim.

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