



**Special lecture by First Secretary Mr. Ontko from the Slovak Embassy**



On June 5 Ibaraki University received a very special visit by Mr. Ontko, First Secretary, Deputy Head of Mission at the Slovak embassy. He gave a lecture to approximately 120 students. The lecture was part of a series of lectures given by the intercultural section at the College of Humanities.

Mr. Ontko began his presentation by giving a general overview of Slovakia. Students learned important facts such as that Slovakia became an independent nation in 1993 and that it is a member of the Eurozone.

He mentioned the similarity between Japanese 'Tonkatsu' and Slovak 'Wiener Schnitzel'. He described the natural beauty of Slovakia which is 40% forested, and gave information about spas such as in Piestany town.



He showed many beautiful photographs of places in Slovakia, such as of some of its 180 castles. He introduced the Unesco Intangible Heritage musical instrument Fujara and played some examples of the beautiful sounds it makes.

He gave information about Slovakia's capital city Bratislava with its convenient location near Vienna and Budapest.

In the second part of his presentation, Mr. Ontko discussed the uniqueness of Slovakia under the theme of 'Small with size, Big with Uniqueness'. He introduced places such as

the Tatra mountains, Slovakia's many spas and mineral springs, and wooden churches which were built without nails or metal material.

He showed interesting slides of special UNESCO heritage sites such as the Slovak Karst cave, and the world's largest wooden altar found in the Church of St. Jacob. He also gave interesting historical information about the Kremnica mint where coins have been made since 1328.

Near the end of his lecture Mr. Ontko introduced famous Slovaks such as the inventor of



the parachute Stefan Banic and the famous artist Andy Warhol whose ancestry is Slovak.

Mr. Ontko also introduced economic information about Slovakia as being the world's largest producer of cars per capita.

In concluding his lecture, he showed videos illustrating the natural beauty and interesting cultural heritage of Slovakia.

Throughout his lecture Mr. Ontko quizzed students. Students who answered his questions correctly received as a wonderful prize a booklet about Slovakia.

At the end of the lecture many students eagerly asked Mr. Ontko questions. He was very happy that students demonstrated such interest in Slovakia.

I feel that the students' active participation in volunteering to answer Mr. Ontko's questions and asking questions at the end of the lecture reflects very highly on Ibaraki University students. Mr. Ontko's lecture was a great success.

