

FFWPU UK: Learning Oriental Culture The Fun Way

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The Intercultural Peace Society, renowned at the University of Greenwich, organises diverse events, from Parliament gatherings to local community service projects, exemplifying their vibrant engagement and cultural exchange, as showcased in a recent presentation featuring Japanese and Korean traditions.

Our Intercultural Peace Society is well known at the University of Greenwich as one of the most active and exciting student clubs on campus. Who else organises events in Parliament, service projects in local communities and trips as far afield as Japan and Korea?

This Wednesday saw presentations of Japanese and Korean culture to a weekly meeting in the Queen Anne building near the world-famous Cutty Sark.

Mieko D. donned a kimono to lead the Cha No Yu tea ceremony. Two teams of willing volunteers knelt down on a sheet (representing a tatami mat) and learned the "polite" way of drinking tea. Basically, very slowly and respectfully - until the last drop which should be slurped as noisily as possible to show (a) you've finished and (b) you enjoyed it. Before that, absolute silence is the expected way. Mieko didn't hesitate to scold the noisy ones!

Next came a hilarious game of "Global Animal Kingdom," a Korean variation of Rock Paper Scissors. By winning consecutive games, the aim is to advance from cat to frog to chicken to cow. But you can only play someone at the same rank as yourself. How do you find an opponent? By making the appropriate animal noise ... in Korean, of course.

Newly arrived UPA missionary So Hi taught us all the right words, and then a cheerful farmyard chaos broke out. It isn't that easy to win four times in a row, hungry work as well! Luckily there was a good supply of Korean KimBap rolls and Japanese noodles for all.

In addition to the fun cultural afternoons, the Intercultural club also invites students to study the Unification Peace principles and regular seminars are planned at nearby Livingstone House where the missionary team is based.