

A JAPANESE-STYLED NEW YEAR CELEBRATION

In order to let students experience the Japanese culture, Department of Japanese held various activities, including “mochi-stirring,” Japanese traditional Apo dance in the field in front of Foreign Languages and literatures Building on December 14th. The passionate audiences and red bean soup sold at the ground fill in a warm air into the chilly winter.

To stir the mochi with a pestle is a routine activity held in Japanese New Year. Two Japanese Department students wore traditional costumes to demonstrate how to stir; they also invited some students to experience the activity. Moreover, they shared the mochi with teachers and students. Another interesting activity was the performance of Apo dance which is used to welcome the ancestor in Summer time in Shikoku in Japan. Dancers raise their hands in front of the chest and dance with the special steps to show energy and elegance. Dr. Peng Chuen-yang, chair of Japanese Department said, Apo Dance is an important traditional dance in Shikoku, and the teachers of the dance need to pass the strict examination; thus, it is hard to learn the authentic dance. It is worthy appreciating. This special dance was directed by a Japanese foreign student, Fuku Hiroji, (first year in master program), whose family is famous for teaching this dance in Shikoku. He said happily, “I have learned this dance for 22 years, and I also had already got the certificate from the family, and I hope I can spread this culture to anyplace in Taiwan.” (~ Jaime Liu)

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Figure: Students of Dept. of Japanese wore traditional costumes and demonstrated how to stir mochi, and then shared it with teachers and fellow students.

