



NEWSLETTER NO.26

International Y's Men's Club of Takarazuka



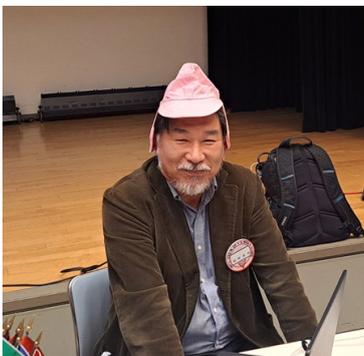
March, 2026

February, the month of Pink Day meeting and Happy Valentine's Day!

★ Pink Day meeting



With Ms. Kotani (the 4th from left, front) and 3 guests.



Yaz Okano
Area Committee
Chairman
NDERF



At this regular meeting, February 11, our annual Pink Shirt Day meeting was held with 18 members attending in person and 1 member via Zoom. The meeting began on time, conducted by Y's member Kanaoka, and was officially opened with President Tago's gavel.

Our guest speaker was Ms. Takako Kotani, who has lived in Venezuela for 38 years since her twenties. She shared her valuable experiences and stories from her life there. She began by describing daily life in the capital city of Caracas. She showed photos of Venezuelan roses and night-blooming cereus flowers rarely seen in Japan, as well as morrocoy (land turtles) in the garden and squirrels eating orange peels together with their young. She also introduced local foods such as vitamin C-rich acerola, a white fruit called guanábana, and arepas (cornmeal patties). She even shared an episode about being stung by a scorpion, making her talk both fascinating and enjoyable.

Surrounded by Venezuela's rich nature and its warm-hearted people, she also spoke about her efforts to promote Japanese culture—especially origami—as a means of communication. Through this, she established origami associations and schools that brought together both children and adults.

Although there was much more she could have shared, time unfortunately ran out. Despite the difficult domestic situation and relations with the United States, it was clear that after returning to Japan, she continues to contribute to exchange activities between Japan and Venezuela. Finally, we heard comments from Ms. Kita, who joined via Zoom, and the meeting concluded on time with President Tago's closing gavel.

★ Happy Valentine's Day to DBC members!

We have two domestic brother clubs of Tokyo Machida Cosmos Club, Japan East and Kagoshima Club, Japan West keeping touch by visiting their anniversaries and exchanging seasonal gifts and greetings. Here you will see the "Thank you message" from the clubs with our valentine's gifts with LOVE.



Thank you very much for the wonderfully thoughtful surprise gift from the Takarazuka Club ladies. All the members of the Cosmos Boys were deeply touched and truly grateful.

Mr. Tokuhiko Gondoh, Tokyo Machida Cosmos Club



We sincerely appreciate your kind consideration. Everyone was delighted.

Mr. Kiyosato Nakabori