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On November 13 (Sat.), SIED hosted an event, "BOOtiful KYOTO". The word, BOOtiful, is a combination of "Boo", which surprise people, and "beautiful". This event aimed to deeply understand the traditional idea of ghosts in Japan by visiting Seimei Jinja Shrine and Ichijo-Modoribashi Bridge and understanding the concept of ghosts from different regions by sharing each spooky story.

On the day of this event, three international students from China joined our event, and we had a fun conversation about the cultural difference of ghost stories while on the way to Seimei Jinja Shrine. At Seimei Jinja Shrine, the chief priest of the Shrine gave us a talk on Onmyōdō and Onmyōji, which was a valuable experience for both international students and SIED staff. Then, we moved to Ichijo-Modoribashi Bridge, which has various anecdotes that SIED staff had researched and learned in holding this event. We were able to know that history is accumulated in the places we pass through casually.

After visiting the Shrine and the Bridge, we returned to the Doshisha campus and held a ghost story competition called "Kaidan" in Japanese. We talked in the room where one of the seven mysteries in Doshisha remains, so the atmosphere of the room was a little creepy and gave our ghost stories a more realistic feeling. In addition to the solemn atmosphere, the ghost stories told by the participants and staff were spoken with ideas of creativity and ingenuity, and each story had its fear. Above all, we learned that there are various aspects to ghost stories depending on the country and region, and the staff also learned a lot about the influence of culture.

After this event, we got positive comments such as: "I had a good time", "I want to participate in an event like this again" from participants, and it seemed that they enjoyed the event.



We hope all participants had a wonderful experience through our event! We will continue to host many other intercultural events, where students can interact with each other while deepening their understanding of various cultures, including Japan. So, let's join our future events!



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