

# the hippo way

## MULTILINGUALISM IS THE NATURAL STATE OF BEING

For 35 years, LEX/Hippo Family Club members have shared languages from all over the world. We've found that anyone can learn any number of languages when they utilize the same processes involved in acquiring their native languages – the key is an immersive, multilingual environment that exposes listeners to the sounds and rhythms of different languages.



## CREATING A MULTILINGUAL NATURAL IMMERSION ENVIRONMENT

Just as a baby begins to understand their mother tongue before ever seeing a textbook, Hippo members pick up languages naturally through immersion. This is done with the help of language materials, which are recorded by native speakers and include stories about daily life. By constantly playing these tracks in the background, we create an immersive environment that allows us to absorb various language patterns.



The Hippo experience also includes weekly community-based clubs where members get together to share their language discoveries. These clubs often involve various activities, from singing and dancing, to games and discussions, to listening to our recordings in different languages. They provide a fun, nurturing environment where members can support and encourage one another in their language development. We believe that language grows out of these connections as we strive to communicate with one another.



## SINGING THE SOUNDS: LANGUAGE IS OUR MUSIC

One of the most important activities at LEX / Hippo Family Club is known as metakatsu, or "singing the sounds." This is the process of mimicking the sounds as we listen to them, with emphasis placed on maintaining the rhythm, melody, and natural patterns of the language.



## ANYTIME, ANYWHERE, WITH ANYONE!

Another essential element of the multilingual environment is incorporating members from around the world. Our Transnational Exchange allows members to spend time in the homes of families in numerous countries, and to host international visitors in their own homes.



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**HIPPO FAMILY CLUB**  
Institute for Language Experience,  
Experiment & Exchange (LEX Institute)

Language Station  
**hippo**  
By LEX Institute / Hippo Family Club

# LEX Hippo 河馬 Transnational Newsletter

2017

Hippo Family Club  
Institute for Language Experience, Experiment & Exchange (LEX Institute) ◆英語/English◆

## ★ What's New at the Hippo Family Club ★

### JOINT RESEARCH PROJECT ON MULTILINGUALISM AND THE BRAIN



LEX Director Kenshi Suzuki  
with Dr. Flynn and Dr. Sakai

Dr. Suzanne Flynn, Professor of Linguistics and Language Acquisition at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Dr. Kuniyoshi Sakai, Professor at the University of Tokyo have embarked on a series of research projects on multilingualism and the brain. The first project will be conducted using fMRI machines in Dr. Sakai's Lab at the University of Tokyo and will examine the extent to which multilingualism provides cognitive and linguistic benefits. Participants will include trilingual LEX members, as well as non-members. Stay tuned for what we hope will be some exciting results!



**多言語 4TH LMP YOUTH**  
Tokyo 2017 ⇨ LEX Multilingual Presentation for Youth

### LEX MULTILINGUAL PRESENTATION 2017

Applications to the next LEX Multilingual Presentation (LMP) are now open! Run in the style of TED Talks, the LMP is a speech presentation geared towards youth between the ages of 16-25. Participants speak about their experiences with language and culture, but with a twist – their presentations must include a minimum of three languages! The presentations challenge us to truly embrace the values of multilingualism and multiculturalism that LEX / Hippo Family Club espouses.

### 35th ANNIVERSARY SD CARD

In celebration of our 35th Anniversary, LEX / Hippo Family Club has compiled our language materials into a set of SD Cards! These cards can be purchased as a Standard, Standard Plus, or Premium Set, with the Premium set containing all our recordings from the past 35 years. These sets are available for order in Japan and are a great first step towards creating a multilingual immersive environment!





# LEX / HIPPO FAMILY CLUB TRANSNATIONAL EXCHANGE

Our exchanges offer the ideal means to learn about a new country, examine your culture through new eyes, and build lifelong friendships. Applications are open throughout the year, so you can be sure to find a program to suit your needs!

## OVERSEAS HOMESTAY PROGRAM - FAMILY EXCHANGE -

The Family Exchange is a 1-2 week homestay program for individuals and families with children. Since 1981, this program has expanded to include exchanges with over 20 countries worldwide. Approximately 400 members go overseas annually to initiate new friendships.

## OVERSEAS HOMESTAY PROGRAM - YOUTH EXCHANGE -

The Youth Exchange is a homestay program during the spring and summer ranging from one week to one month, and is catered to youth from the age of 10 up till university students. Each year, up to 650 children participate in an unforgettable experience in another country.

## TRANSNATIONAL HOMESTAY IN JAPAN

The Hippo Transnational Homestay Program has welcomed more than 5000 people from over 120 different countries to participate in LEX homestays in Japan. The participants are exchange students, company trainees, families and youth from our partner organizations all over the world, and have the chance to immerse themselves in Japanese culture while taking part in our various Hippo activities.

## LEX INTERNSHIP TO JAPAN

The LEX Internship to Japan brings participants to Japan for an extraordinary experience at none other than the LEX Hippo Office in Tokyo! Participants get to be at the hub of Hippo activities and can look forward to an exciting experience of multilingualism at our internationally-oriented office. From running events, to participating in workshops, to acting as communication liaisons, interns can be sure that there will never be a dull day at the office!

## ACADEMIC YEAR LONG HIGH SCHOOL EXCHANGE

The Academic Year Long High School Exchange recently celebrated its 20th anniversary in 2016 & continues to expand every year. The program not only sends Japanese students abroad, but also accepts high school students from around the world to study in Japan. Approximately 120 Japanese students leave to study in places ranging from the US, to France, to Thailand, where they stay with host families and absorb the daily rhythms of their host culture. This year also saw 25 students from seven different countries coming to Japan for a year. The exchange truly is a unique opportunity for growth!



France



Thailand



Taiwan



WIP in Kenya



USA



Vietnam



Snow Camp



LEX Internship to Japan



Korea



Russia



Nature Camp



Year Long 20th Anniversary Conference



Mexico

## HIPPO ASIAN PROJECT: ASIAN MULTILINGUAL YOUTH NATURE CAMP

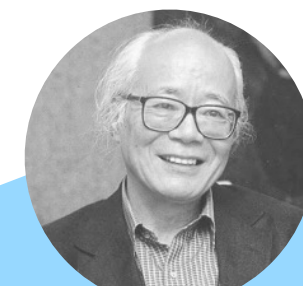
To promote multilingual friendships in Asia, the Hippo Asian Project was launched with two youth camps under its wing. The Asian Multilingual Youth Camp in Shanghai and the Asian Multilingual Nature Camp in Thailand are geared toward secondary school students and youth from China, Thailand, Korea, Japan, and all over Asia. Each year, participants enjoy making new friends from different countries and sharing their languages, all while taking part in a variety of outdoor activities. These youth get to enjoy the beauty of nature while gaining a broader perspective of the world and developing new friendships.

## WORLD INTERNSHIP PROJECT (WIP)

The WIP is an exciting opportunity providing adults of all ages with a life-changing exchange experience in another country. WIP interns spend 1-12 months volunteering with LEX in Japan, Korea, the US, or Mexico, or with our various partner organizations in up to 40 different countries around the world. Interns will have the opportunity to live with a host family and absorb the rhythms of daily life. The program is open to qualified adults, ages 18 and up.

## MULTILINGUAL SNOW & NATURE CAMPS

The Snow and Nature Camps, held annually in March and August respectively, provide the perfect chance to enjoy Hippo's multilingual activities in the beauty of nature. The Snow Camp takes participants to the snowy landscape of Nagano Prefecture in March, where participants get to play in a winter wonderland before retreating to traditional *minshuku*, traditional Japanese inns, at night. The Nature Camp, also held in Nagano, is awash in flora and fauna and full of exciting outdoor activities. Open to people around the world, these camps are a truly multilingual, multicultural experience!



Remembering Yo Sakakibara  
1930 – 2016

This year, the LEX family lost someone incredibly dear to us – our founder, Yo Sakakibara. However, even in his absence, his spirit lives on in all of us, spurring us to open our ears to different languages, and our hearts to people from all over the world.

To Yo, thank you for everything!  
ありがとう! ¡Muchos gracias! 谢谢!  
Grazie! Danke! Merci beaucoup!