

### Event REPORT : Sports x International Exchange for Kids Connecting to Africa from Senri! with CHEZA × TIAS

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#### Introduction

- In 2020, children and youth were forced to stay in their homes due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Due to this situation, the value of physical activity and sports was considered to increase children's physical and psychological development.
- The current event was organized by CHEZA (industry-academic cooperation) as a partner of TIAS (in a legacy project initiative with TIAS alumni in East Africa) and aimed to utilize the public park through opening international sports event as a child's educational experience.
- Moreover, it aimed to implement a pilot study of the protocol of sports performance test (SPT) that the first author created in 2020 by collaborating with TIAS students, faculty members and CHEZA.
- Hence, it was expected many children will join (open invitation) the activity to help us to acquire the data to enrich the protocol and check reliability.
- The present event report aims to share the research study journey as one of the TIAS legacy and to promote the value of international exchange events for kids as a valuable educational platform.

**-Key concept is creating the enjoyable leaning experience through sports for children-**

#### The Contents of the Event

##### 1. Parent-kid Gymnastics

The activity aimed to introduce the physical activity that can be played among parent and children. Takafumi Tomura (TIAS, 5<sup>th</sup> batch) was assigned to instruct the activity by applying his previous teaching experience as a PE kindergarten teacher in Germany.



##### 2. Sports Class for kids

The activity aimed to introduce some tips on running and throwing performance. Over 60 children joined the activity and had an enjoyable experience to receive professional instructions. Dr. Kazuhiro Kajita (TIAS Researcher) and Takafumi Tomura (TIAS 5<sup>th</sup> batch) organized the class.



##### 3. Sports Performance Test

The activity aimed to measure the physical performance including 8 kinds of assessment for each ability. Parents seemed to be much interested in their child's physical ability. TIAS 5<sup>th</sup> batch students (Kae, Hada, Kai), Mi An (TIAS alumni) and event volunteers (JICA OB/OG, etc.) contributed to implementing the test.



##### 4. Let's learn about Africa by enjoying English communication and Sports

The activity was aimed at providing not only the learning experience of English but also the cross-cultural communication focusing on African culture. Two guests from Africa (Benin, West Africa) shared their culture, music and dance to parents and children, and interacted with the TIAS members.



#### Participating Members (TIAS) Impression

- “We found that the practice of combining the Sports Performance Test and Sports Classroom Activities, was enjoyed by children of all ages from infants to children.”
- “The experience from the research tour was very beneficial for expanding my perspectives as a developing researcher to recognize the demand in terms of sports activity from real parents and children”.
- “Working together at such a public event and collecting data was a tough job but a wonderful learning.”
- “The trip to Osaka was a great learning experience in understanding the work that goes on behind the scenes for an event and the complications that occur as a result of human nature.”
- “I got to be a part of a team that worked coherently to achieve a targeted goal which was making the sports performance test for elementary students a success.”
- “I am so happy to see the TIAS networking is growing bigger and stronger.”

**‘Positive learning experience could be seen on both sides – in participants and host organization – and, we are eager to hold similar events to continue (sustain) the TIAS educational legacies’**