



MAEBASHI FOCUS

Coordinator for International Relations (CIR) Newsletter



On October 7, I had the privilege of carrying a Mikoshi at the Maebashi Festival with other city hall employees. At practice sessions, I gained confidence thanks to the careful guidance of others. On the day of the event, veteran carriers helped me when changing into attire and checked in with me throughout, which I greatly appreciated. I vividly remember eating karaage and takoyaki, taking group pictures, and just having a great time with everyone. By working together as one, we were able to accomplish something that would not have been possible otherwise. I was happy to experience that feeling of accomplishment with everyone as a member of the team. It was my first time participating, so I was a little worried that I would hurt my shoulder, but the day ended without any serious injuries. I hope to participate again next year should the opportunity arise. Thank you so much, everyone!

And on October 8, I performed Danbee Odori. I attended practice every week, but I biked to the venue with my predecessor, Jalen, for the first couple of sessions. I also received the naruko used in the dance from Jalen's predecessor, Laura, while paying a visit to the Maebashi International Association. I'm glad I was able to connect with and spend time with the former CIRs through Danbee Odori. Practice provided an opportunity to interact with neighborhood locals and ALTs from foreign countries as well, helping me meet more people and integrate into the community. Attending practice each week and actively moving around also improved my mood and served as stress relief. On the day of the dance, our group performed to the best of our ability. The festival may have ended, but I hope to continue going to practice.

