

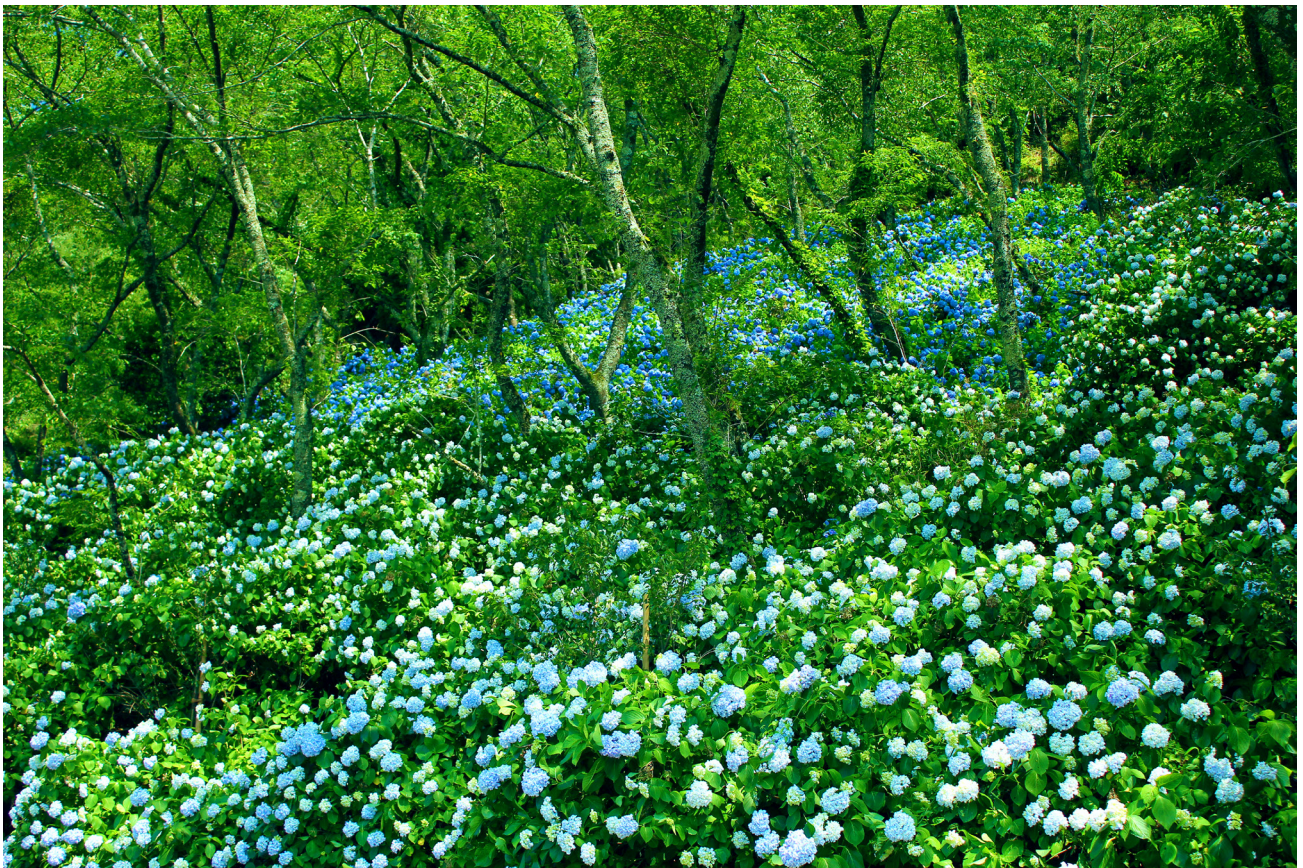
# aWa life

**Global Kaiyo Adventure  
in Tokushima City**

June 2023

# 391

**Japanese & Chinese  
Chimaki**



**Tokushima Hydrangea Map  
2023**

**Gairaigo Galore:  
カンニング**



**TOPIA**

---

## Awa Life is a Monthly Publication of the Tokushima Prefectural International Exchange Association

The time from June to July is famously known as the rainy season for most of Japan. For those of you who have been here a few years you're probably already used to it, but for newcomers it's a good idea to prepare a nice umbrella, raincoat, etc.! Make sure not to leave bread and other items out for too long either, as they will begin to gather mold much quicker during this season. Also make sure to check the weather if you have any plans to go on vacation during this time! Have a great June!

For all of those who like writing, please feel free to submit an article to us at any point in time about basically anything. There are a few limitations though, such as you can't write about religion, politics, commercial activities or businesses or anything that we deem inappropriate. But, other than that, we would be more than happy to receive articles about anything and everything including but not limited to concerts, lectures, other events, culture, sports, community group information or anything cool that's happening in your local community.

We highly appreciate all of your articles and we love reading them. So if that writing bug of yours is buzzing about, grab a pen or a computer and write and send away! Please send all submissions to our email:

Your editors,  
Sydney and Nico

[awalife@gmail.com](mailto:awalife@gmail.com)

### **Tokushima Prefectural International Exchange Association (TOPIA)**

1-61 Terashima Honcho Nishi, Tokushima City 770-0831 JAPAN, Clement Plaza 6F

Tel: 088-656-3303 Fax: 088-652-0616

<http://www.topia.ne.jp/>

*Download a PDF file of awa life or view the online version by going to TOPIA's website!*



---

*Editors:*

Sydney Bartig and Nico Bohnsack

*Contributors This Month:*

Tony Lu, Chen Fangyu, Mako Kobayashi, Yuko Lafontaine, Takako Yamada, and Masayuki Ozawa



# Contents

Pg. 2-3: Global Kaiyo Adventure in Tokushima City

Pg. 3-4: Japanese & Chinese Chimaki

Pg. 5: Tokushima Culture and Reading Corner: 徳島中央公園

Pg. 5: Gairaigo Galore: カンニング

Pg. 6: Introduction to NPO Attakaiyo

Pg. 7: Japanese Lesson

Pg. 8-9: Events and Memoranda



## *Global Kaiyo Adventure in Tokushima City*

By: Tony Lu

Hey there, it's Tony, one of the Kaiyo CIR's here! On Saturday, the 21st of March, we held an event for graduating junior high school students! For this event, we took the students to Tokushima City, where they participated in an international workshop, and enjoyed some foreign food!



*Teachers and students giving self-introduction*

Getting to Tokushima City from Kaiyo can take up to 2 hours, although I think the folks around here are quite used to that! After arriving at Tokushima Station, we made our way to the TOPIA office, which is located on the 6th floor of the Tokushima station building.

Here, TOPIA gave our students a very informative presentation about the foreigners living in Tokushima Prefecture, their nationalities and the industries they work in. We also talked about some ways we can coexist and communicate with people from other countries, like by using simple Japanese!



*Student guests giving a talk at workshop*



*TOPIA workshop discussion*

TOPIA also had two student guests hailing from China and Vietnam come in and chat with us! We got to learn some interesting things about them, like their background, aspirations, and their reasons for coming to Tokushima.

We also prepared our own short workshop about foreigners living in Kaiyo! Did you know that we have a high proportion of foreign residents, compared to Tokushima prefecture as a whole? 1.7% of Kaiyo's population consists of foreigners,

whereas its 0.9% for the prefecture entirely!



*Global Kaiyo Team giving a presentation*



*Kaiyo students enjoying Vietnamese food for the first time*



*Graduating JHS students of Kaiyo at the TOPIA workshop*

It was lunch time when we finished the workshop, so we made our way to a nearby restaurant to enjoy some delicious Vietnamese food. We don't have any Vietnamese restaurants in Kaiyo, so it was a first for the students and definitely different from what they're used to.



*Delicious Vietnamese food set*

For the final part of the event, we headed to AEON mall, where the students were able to enjoy some free time at the mall. We eventually got back to Kaiyo at around 5:30PM, bringing our event to a close.

The students got to experience new things throughout the day, and I think they were very surprised at some of the demographics and information they were presented with! Overall, the event went smoothly, so hopefully we can do an event like this again!

We'd also like to thank the staff at TOPIA for preparing the workshop and spending their Saturday morning with our students! TOPIA puts a lot of effort into supporting the foreign community in the prefecture through informative workshops. I think they're also great outside-of-school learning for junior high or high school students!



## Japanese & Chinese Chimaki

By: Chen Fangyu

Although both Japan and China have a food known as "chimaki", they are different in shape, how they are made, and the ingredients

that are used.

In China, when we think of chimaki, the thing that

## Japanese & Chinese Chimaki

comes to mind is the Dragon Boat Festival that is held on the 5th day of the 5th month of the old lunar calendar (June 22nd this year). The reason that chimaki is eaten during the Dragon Boat Festival is to remember Qu Yuan, a politician, poet, and patriot of the State of Chu during the Warring States period. Qu Yuan was honest and loyal to his country, deeply beloved by the people.

In 278 B.C., after the State of Chu was occupied by the State of Wei, it's said that out of grief and despair he committed suicide by jumping into the Miluo River. After hearing the news, the local people rushed to the river in boats to search for his body, and it's said that they threw chimaki into the river so that fish, shrimp, and other creatures wouldn't eat his body. Since then, every year during the Dragon Boat Festival, people row boats and eat chimaki in order to remember and express their condolences towards the patriotic poet Qu Yuan.

It is generally thought that chimaki came to Japan via China during the Nara period (CE 710 - 794). During that time in China, there was a tradition of eating chimaki on Boy's Day (May 5th), which is said to have then come to Japan. However, it's also said that a steamed food made of glutinous rice similar to chimaki has existed in Japan since long ago. For example, in the Manyōshū, a poem entitled "Glutinous Rice Porridge" can be found, and it is said to be the prototype for chimaki.

It is said that Japanese chimaki took on the shape they have today sometime after the Meiji period (1868 - 1912). During the Meiji period, westernization advanced in Japan, and there was active exchange with foreign countries. During this time, western-style food and sweets were also introduced into Japan's food culture.

This influence is said to have changed the shape of chimaki. Also during the Meiji period, the name of the Boy's Day changed, and the custom of eating chimaki on Children's Day spread.

### How to make Japanese Chimaki

Japanese chimaki is very simple to make and only requires top-grade rice flour made from non-glutinous rice, sugar, luke-warm water, bamboo leaves, and soft rush. In a heat-proof container, slowly pour in the rice flour, sugar, and luke-warm water. Mix evenly and then heat in either a microwave or steamer. Heat until the dough is clear. Let the dough cool and then divide into small pieces and form each into cone shapes. Wrap the dough between two bamboo leaves, tie tightly with a string, and then heat.



### How to make Chinese Chimaki



There are many types of Chinese chimaki, but today I will show you how to make meat chimaki. You will need glutinous rice, pork, sugar, salt, pepper, soy sauce, bamboo leaves, and soft rush (string). First, soak the glutinous rice overnight. Afterwards, discard the water and add soy sauce. Cut the lean pork into bite-sized pieces and season. The bamboo leaves must also be soaked overnight. Line up two bamboo leaves that have the tips slightly cut off so that they form a funnel shape. Place the glutinous rice and pork inside, wrap the rice with another bamboo leaf, and tie tightly with a string. Steam or simmer in a pot for a good portion of time.



## Tokushima Culture and Reading Corner: 徳島中央公園

By: Mako Kobayashi

徳島駅のすぐ近くには、広い徳島中央公園があります。この公園は、昔この場所にあった徳島城のあとに つけられました。

公園の中には、自然がたくさんあります。たとえば、春には桜を、そして5月～6月にはバラ園のきれいなバラを楽しむことができ、弁天池とよばれる池もあります。さらに公園の中には徳島城博物館があり、昔、徳島にいた徳島藩と蜂須賀家についての歴史や美術工芸品の展示が行われています。また歴史を体感するためのイベントなども開催されます。

その博物館のとなりに、旧徳島城表御殿庭園があります。この庭園には、「阿波の青石」といわれる縞模様で緑色が特徴の大きな石が使われており、とても迫力があります。そのほか、公園の中をマラソンをしたり、公園の中の低い山「城山」を登ったりと色々な楽しみ方があります。ぜひ一度行って見て下さい。



## Vocabulary List

自然	Nature	美術	Art	庭	Garden	開催	Hold (Event, etc.)
池	Lake	工芸品	Handicraft	青石	Green Stone	楽しみ方	Way of Having Fun
歴史	History	展示	Exhibition	縞模様	Stripe Pattern		
文化	Culture	体感	Experience	迫力	Impact		
博物館	Museum	イベント	Event	特徴	Characteristic		

カンニング (cheating)

By: Sydney Bartig

Gairaigo Galore 

One of the things you have to be especially careful about when learning Japanese is katakana words. For English speakers, there are many words that thankfully translate directly, although they usually have a slightly different pronunciation, such as “ホテル” (hotel), “バス” (bus), “タクシー” (taxi), and countless other words. But as you may know from this column, there are also countless words where the Japanese takes a very different meaning from the original English. For this month’s example, we have the word “カンニング”, which you may immediately expect to translate as “cunning”. However, this is of course not the case.



While in English, cunning is an adjective typically used to describe someone in a not-so-favorable fashion. (I.e: Someone who achieves their goals through less than reputable means.) In Japanese, however, カンニング is a verb that means cheating, and you will hear it used in regards to exams. (I.e: Looking at someone else’s paper during an exam, using your phone during an exam, etc.). It’s important to note that this type of ‘cheating’ only applies to things such as exams, not relationships. (That’s a whole different word.)

It seems that this word made its way into the Japanese language sometime during the Meiji period. Another interesting word that goes along with this is “カンペ”, which would be “cunning paper”, or as it’s actually known in English, a cheat sheet.

# Introduction to NPO Attakaiyo - Attakaiyo Japanese Class

By: Yuko Lafontaine, Chairman

In July of fiscal year 2020, the Attakaiyo Japanese Class held a training seminar for local, Japanese language volunteers, and in October of the same year the actual Japanese classes began to take place. Since we began our activities in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, we faced many restrictions relating to infection prevention. However, with the support of our volunteers who participated in the training seminars, we have been able to continue our activities into the present day.



Although it is not widely known, Kaiyo Town actually has the highest ratio of foreign residents in regards to population in Tokushima Prefecture. When we began our Japanese language classes, they were lively and fun thanks to the employers

who brought their trainees to the classes each week. However, due to COVID-19 and other natural disasters, the number of trainees attending the classes drastically decreased, along with the number of volunteers. Due to this, we continued our classes on a one-on-one basis. Starting from the fiscal year 2022, the number of technical intern trainees slowly began to increase, and although the number of students was small, students from a variety of countries began

attending the Japanese language classes. I think it is very meaningful that, because we continued with our Japanese classes, the fact that Kaiyo Town has Japanese classes available is slowly becoming known to the businesses and people of the town.



At the beginning, it was difficult for us to hold classes during the daytime as many of the technical intern trainees were engaged in agricultural related work. Therefore, we held the classes on Sunday evenings. We also hold cultural activities on a monthly basis, and so that as many of our students can participate as possible, we try to hold these activities on Sunday evenings as well. For our cultural activities, we invite not only the students of our Japanese classes, but also the NPO members and ALTs that are living in the town. We try to create a place where a variety of people can interact with each other and deepen their bonds.

While we still have various issues that need to be addressed, we will strive to improve our method of operations, train new volunteers, improve our disaster prevention/mitigation activities, and more.



This month, let's study A) how to get the attention of others and B) how to respond when someone calls out to us.

職場<sup>しよくば</sup>で At the work place

To your boss:

1) A: あの、すみません、いま、お時間<sup>じかん</sup>よろしいでしょうか。

B: はい、なんでしょう。



2) A: おいそがしいときに すみません。

B: いえ、だいじょうぶですよ。

To your coworker

1) To a person older than you (to your senior)

Ex. 1: A: いま、いいですか？

B: ええ、どうぞ。(polite) / うん、いいよ、なに? (casual)



Ex. 2: A: あの、すみません。ちょっと きいてもいいですか。

B: ええ、どうぞ。なんですか。(polite) / うん、いいよ、なに? (casual)

2) To a person the same age or younger than you

A: いま、ちょっといい? / いま、だいじょうぶ? (casual)

B: ええ、どうぞ。なんですか。(polite) / うん、いいよ、なに?

(casual)



Let's try!

1. When you talk to your boss while he/she is at work, what will you say?

( )

2. When you talk to your coworker while he/she is at work, what will you say?

( )

Answers  
1. (あの) すみません、お時間<sup>じかん</sup>よろしいでしょうか。  
2. いま、ちょっといい? / いま、だいじょうぶ?



# Events & Memoranda

## A Walk Under the Starry Summer Night Sky

By: Masayuki Ozawa, Group Advisor of the Asutamu Land Science Museum

Once the rainy season ends, you can see the summer constellations in the sky around 9 PM. Let us guide you to that view a little sooner.



Low in the southern sky, there is a large “S” shaped line of stars that sleeps on its side. This is known as

the “Scorpius Constellation”. Due to its beautiful alignment of stars, there are many stories from around the world about it. It’s said that fishermen of the Setouchi region of Japan used to refer to the rounded tail area of Scorpius as “the fishing star” due to it looking similar to a fishing hook. Nowadays, we know that this portion is the central part of the Milky Way, but that was unknown in those days. As it looked like a fishing hook floating in the Milky Way, perhaps the fishermen thought of the Milky Way as the Setouchi Sea and dreamed of catching a large sea bream.

Moving north up the Milky Way, there are three bright stars that appear. Farthest up is a pure white star that is apart of the Lyra Constellation – Vega. This is the Orihime star that appears in the Tanabata story. Moving to the south is the

Altair star of the Aquila Constellation which represents Hikoboshi. Just like in the story, these stars



live apart and are separated by the Milky Way. A star known as Deneb shines as if watching over these two. In the Tanabata story, once a year a magpie creates a bridge over the Milky Way for Hikoboshi to go visit Orihime. However, Deneb is not a magpie, it is actually part of the Cygnus (swan) Constellation.

Summer brings about many opportunities to go out and view the stars, and these stars have the power to soothe our souls. At the planetarium in Asutamu Land Tokushima, we will introduce you to the starry sky of summer, which here is always clear and without a single cloud. How about attending a star-hunting rehearsal before summer truly arrives?



### Planetarium Fun ☆ [A Walk Under the Starry Summer Sky] たっぷりプラネ☆「夏の星空散歩」

During this time where the nights are short, stay up late and enjoy the starry sky!

When: June 1st (Thur.) - July 31st (Mon)  
15:40 - 16:30

Where: Asutamu Land Tokushima,  
Children’s Science Museum Planetarium

Fee: It is necessary to purchase a planetarium viewing ticket

夜の短い時期は、夜更かして星空を楽しもう！

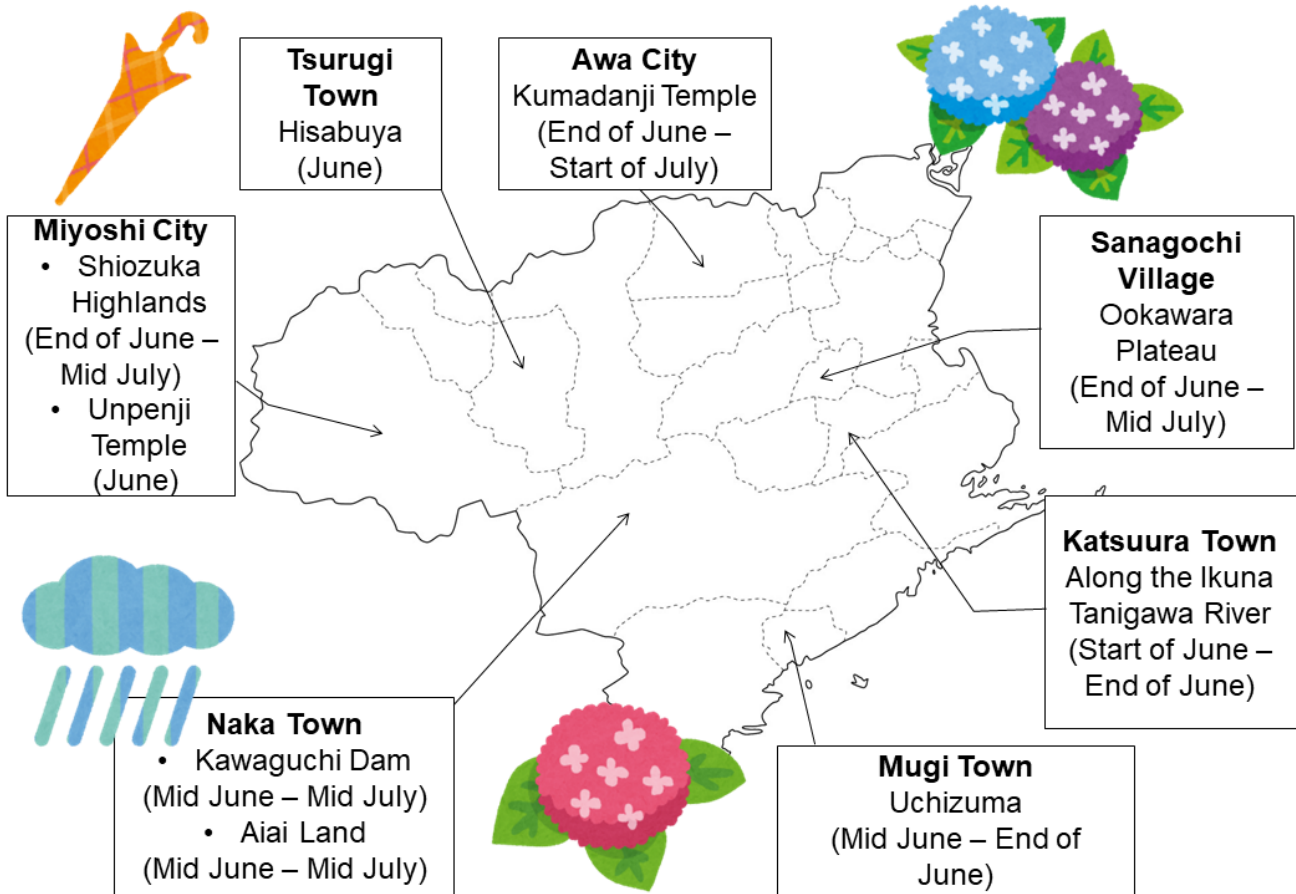
日時：6月1日（木）～7月31日（月）  
15:40 ～ 16:30

場所：あすたむランド徳島  
子ども科学館プラネタリウム

料金：プラネタリウム観覧券が必要

# Events & Memoranda

## Tokushima Hydrangea Map 2023 徳島県あじさい案内図 2023



### Counselling Service at TOPIA ・ トピアの相談窓口

TOPIA provides consultation on everyday life, education, labor, medical institutions, and disaster prevention; and information on sightseeing spots to overseas residents and visitors. When necessary, we will refer you to the appropriate organization that can assist with your needs. Counselling is available in English, Chinese, Vietnamese, and Japanese. Please note that although every effort will be made, we may not be able to deal with all cases.

**Japanese, English, Chinese:** Everyday, 10:00 - 18:00 (closed during the New Year's holidays)

**Vietnamese:** Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays, 10:00 - 14:00

Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays, 10:00 - 18:00 (closed during the New Year's holidays)