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# awa life



A monthly newsletter for international residents of Tokushima, produced by TOPIA, the Tokushima Prefectural International Exchange Association.

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## momotaro wins again!

by mario dammann  
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**t**he musical 'Momotaro and the Revenge of Akaoni' was the best AJET musical I've ever seen. I'm glad to have seen it three times, because it's gotten better from performance to performance. I saw the first two and the last one. It was important for the actors to practise so much in advance, but how the audience will react you can't see, only imagine. That's why the performance is gotten better. The reaction of the kids and their parents and the other guests were seen on these days. The talk after the show was also very important. Many people came and it was the best musical ever. But let's hear the voice of the producer of this musical, Mr. Andrew Dahms:

**Awa Life: Many people came to the performances this year. Do you think the musical was a success?**



*momotaro faces the fearsome akaoni, the baddest oni in all japan, in one of the fight scenes in momotaro and the revenge of akaoni*

**Mr. Dahms:** I think on audiences had a lot of fun as many counts it has indeed well, which is really what the been a success. We saw a very good turnout at all the AJET musical is all about.

venues this year, which is **Awa Life: What was the always heartening. I think the most difficult part of the**

**momotaro wins again ... con't on page 3**

## inside awa life this month

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## awa life

is a monthly publication of the Tokushima Prefectural International Exchange Association (TOPIA)

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

[http://www.topia.ne.jp/e\\_index.htm](http://www.topia.ne.jp/e_index.htm)

## from the editors

Since coming to Tokushima, March has always been a time for saying goodbye. It's the last month we have to work with some of our colleagues before the staff transfers in April, and I think back over my own time here and what I myself would do if it were my last month in Tokushima. But at the same time I can't help but think about who will be coming in to replace them as well. The people in a workplace are really the deciding factor in how the place feels and operates, and especially in a small office like TOPIA. However, I have been very lucky so far to work with a very good bunch of people over the past few years, as I think all would agree. This year we say goodbye to four of our members - see their messages on page four and five.

Cheers, Andrew



Did you feel it as well? It's getting warm! I can't believe it, I am so happy. So worried about the never ending winter, but I saw them, the beautiful cherry blossoms. Not my first time, anyway it is a signal for me, from now on, everything is going to be better. Also the new Japanese Business-Year has started on April 1st and kids and students are going to school and university again. Also we want to thank everyone who helped out for the musical, the sponsors, the givers, all players and assistants and of course the director Chris Pickles, Script Writer Chris Riedl, and Producer Andrew Dahms. And remember - we have to save the planet, please start using my-bag and my-hashii!

Danke! Mario



*a party out under the cherry blossoms - hanami season is here once again (photo by andrew dahms)*

## **momotaro wins again ... con't from page 1**

### **preparations?**

**Mr. Dahms:** Where to begin... Securing venues for rehearsals and shows was a long and tiring task (for me), but gathering and making all the props is a big job as well. Just as writing the script, organizing dances and fights, and everything else. Nothing is particularly easy!

But overall, I think one of the biggest challenges was in remembering the dances. Everyone was a little worried about that, but we had a seasoned choreographer, Robert Mihalko from Hiwasa, who did a good job in putting everything together.

### **Awa Life: And what was the easiest?**

**Mr. Dahms:** Remembering our lines, I think. It's really the most basic level in getting the whole thing done.

### **Awa Life: Which characters did the people not like and why?**

**Mr. Dahms:** Well, I hope our band of oni did their job! I think they made a very good job of being bad, which is good.

### **Awa Life: Which was the most famous, and why?**

**Mr. Dahms:** It would have to be Momotaro himself. He was in every scene in one way or another, and I think it made a good impression. I think his friends the poodle, pheasant and monkey were pretty popular as well. Oh, and there have been a lot of good reports for Robert Mihalko's role as the old lady Yobachan - it was great.

### **Awa Life: Are you planning**

### **to do a musical also next year?**

**Mr. Dahms:** The musical will be on, but whether or not I will be a part of it is unsure. I get the feeling I will do something, though, but I am interested to see what next year's group comes up with.

### **Awa Life: What title may it have?**

**Mr. Dahms:** There have been rumors of the Little Mermaid, but I'm a bit worried about how they'd do the tails. I guess only time will tell.

### **Awa Life: But you know in which direction it will go? Japanese or Western story?**

**Mr. Dahms:** I think the musical will return to a western story. Momotaro has been good, but it was kind of a special request. There does appear to be some interest in branching out, though.

### **Awa Life: Was it better to do a Japanese story for a change?**

**Mr. Dahms:** Very interesting, I think, but a little challenging as well.

### **Awa Life: Why is this?**

**Mr. Dahms:** It is a very well known story to the audience, so if you make a mistake and it doesn't turn out well, everyone will know. There's a lot on the line, I think. You need to tread fairly lightly and make sure that while you're adapting the story to something new, you're not taking it so far as to remove it from the original entirely, or take it into dangerous territory. There can be a very

fine line between satire and ridicule, if at least from the view of the audience.

### **Awa Life: Why don't you take entrance fees?**

**Mr. Dahms:** That's a hard question to answer. However, the reason I think it is free is because this is in many ways a gift to the people of Tokushima. We want as many people to come and enjoy the musical in a relaxed environment.

### **Awa Life: But from where do you get the money?**

**Mr. Dahms:** The money comes from the donations of the people who come to watch, and several sponsors such as Tokushima City International Exchange Association, Awa Bank and Tokushima Bank, etc. Other places contribute by lending us venues for free or making props. I am constantly amazed by this kindness and generosity.

### **Awa Life: Then I hope to see next year's musical as well.**

**Mr. Dahms:** You will. I promise.

### **Awa Life: Any last words?**

**Mr. Dahms:** If there is one thing that being the producer for this year's musical has shown me, it is just how important the individual efforts of all the cast and crew has been. It may sound like a cliché, but everyone has their place and their own things to get done, and I believe the reason it has been as big a success as it has is because they did it well.



# farewell, farewell

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**O**nce yet again as April comes around there is the annual staff changeover, and this year we bid farewell to six of our staff at TOPIA and the passport centre - Mr. Kawakami, managing director, Wang Xuan, Chinese Coordinator for International Relations, Ms. Hiroko Kimura, friend to many of the international residents of our prefecture, Ms. Noriko Osaka, friend of German bread, Ms. Yukie Matsumura, Director of the JICA Association at TOPIA and Mr. Isao Matsushita, leading manager of the passport center.

**Noriko Osaka: N**  
**Toshiyuki Kawakami: T**  
**Wang Xuan: W**  
**Hiroko Kimura : H**  
**Yukie Matsumura: Y**  
**Isao Matsushita: I**

## What is your best memory of your time in TOPIA?

**N:** I was dancing with Arasowaren, where I was able to dance together with a lot of people for the first time in a long time.

**T:** More than anything, I am happy that during my time at TOPIA, I was able to see so many events taking place to support and meet with our international residents, even despite the tight economic situation faced by the prefecture. It is all thanks to the support of so many people, and the staff of TOPIA.

**W:** I had a lot of great food while I was here.

**H:** I had a lot of experiences

you can't get at other offices, and I've met a lot of great people.

**Y:** I encountered TOPIA's wonderful staff.

**I:** I had the chance to meet many people, visitors to all of the Japanese staff.

## If you summed up your time at TOPIA in one sentence, it would be:

**N:** A present from life itself.

**T:** Time flies like an arrow; I really believe that the older you become, the faster time seems to pass.

**W:** Good fun!

**H:** A big smile.

**Y:** I can see the world!

**I:** An event that lasted for only a moment.

## And what impressions do you have of your time here?

**N:** The one year at TOPIA has become a treasure for me. I will never forget it!

**T:** The five years I spent at TOPIA in which I met so many wonderful people really were a golden time for me. I am very grateful to have been able to meet everyone that I did.

**W:** I really had a great time, so my one year in Tokushima has passed in an instant.

**H:** I thought I knew a lot about Japan and Tokushima, but through the questions from visitors at TOPIA I found out how little I really knew. It's been a good experience for me - thank you all very much.

**Y:** I could meet nice people from the staff and had good work.

**I:** Harmony and Peace.

## Is there something you were unable to do, but wanted to?

**N:** Nothing! I've done everything I wanted to during my one year here.

**T:** I really wanted to hold some kind of festival in which a large number of people could come and participate.

**W:** I really wanted to take more time to go and see some places within the prefecture...

**H+Y:** Nothing.

**I:** I wanted to learn another language, but maybe I won't have the opportunity for the rest of my life.

## So what are your current plans?

**N:** During my time here I went on a short training visit to Sydney in Australia. I think I'd like to go back there again - the people and the city were all really fantastic.

**T:** I'd like to re-discover Japanese culture and history, and I'd also like to travel overseas as well.

**W:** I'll be returning to China, where I hope to become a Japanese teacher.

**H:** I'll be in Tokushima, working in overseas shipping.

**Y:** I participate in building a school in Africa as a volunteer.

**I:** I want to use the rest of my time to enjoy International Relations from the other side of the line this time, by travelling abroad.

## What do you want to do in your last month at TOPIA?

**N:** I'd like to show appreciation to all the wonderful people I've met during my time here, and take a lot of photos of you all

**farewell, farewell ... con't on page 5**

# the hana and me - hanami

by andrew dahms  
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If you've spent any time in Japan whatsoever, you'll be aware of the Japanese affinity for cherry blossoms. And there's a good reason, too - they're beautiful! Likewise, the tradition of 'hanami' or flower viewing is also very popular. Sometimes, when the parties kick off, I'm not sure how much the actual 'viewing' part has to do with things, but for those looking to see some nice spots, here are a few suggestions:

## Tokushima Central Park

It goes without saying that Tokushima Central Park in Tokushima City is a very nice spot to see the cherry blossoms and have a picnic. It is literally packed with them, and while it may look dead for most of the year, this is

when it really comes alive! The cherry blossoms here are set to bloom in early April and fade in mid April.

## Kawashima Castle Park

The area around Kawashima Castle is a lovely park area with a line of cherry blossoms and places to sit down for a bite to eat. Not as large as Tokushima Central Park, but it does have a real castle, something that the 'ruins' of Tokushima Castle oddly lacks. They will be in bloom from the end of March through to early April.

## Hashikura Temple

The trees at this temple are late bloomers, and only start to show their colors when the rest of the cherry blossoms start to fade. In fact, the

temple here is one of the most famous spots for the special breed of cherry blossoms that can be found on the temple grounds there. You can get to the temple by cable car just north of the Tosa - Hashikura Station on the JR Tosa Line from Awa Ikeda to the prefecture's west.

## Naruto - Myokensan

Anyone near Naruto City is familiar with the castle sitting atop the hillside nearby the ocean on the western shore. In the Spring, this hillside becomes a lovely spot for a short walk (and a short climb) and a good place to see the blossoms. The castle is home to a small museum as well, and makes for a good lookout over the surrounding area and coastline!



## farewell, farewell ... con't from page 5

to keep later on.

**W:** I want to see cherry blossoms, and I want to wear a kimono, too. I also want to get some more good food in before I go.

**H:** I'll be leaving a little early, so by the time you read this I won't be in TOPIA anymore. I just hope that with what time I have, I can help as many more people as I can.

**Y:** Hand over the work to my successor.

**I:** The remaining time is too short (please give me more time!).

### Do you have anything else to say?

**N:** Sometimes during your life you come across something wonderful without even

expecting it. To me, this was coming to TOPIA. I hope all you readers can find your own happiness in life and that we can meet again in Tokushima some day. Thank you all so much!

**W:** Tokushima is a really good place, so make sure you get the best out of your time here and enjoy it to the fullest extent.

**T+H:** Nothing

**Y:** Whether enjoyable or difficult times, my colleagues always cheered me up with their smiles. I will never forget my three years at TOPIA and look forward to what lies ahead.

**I:** Can I come to visit TOPIA again some day?

Well, thank you very much everyone for your time - we hope to see you all again soon!

And again the year is over now and we will see how it is going to be next year around this time. Many people change their working place from April 1. They have to adapt to a new environment and learn many things they didn't before. And some even change to places with no relation to the work they did before! The first months are very hard, but we can support them with all with the information we have. Please help them, as maybe someday you will be in the same situation. Happy New Nen-do (Fiscal Year 2008-2009)!



## english books in kinokuniya

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We regret to inform Awa Life readers that the English language book section of Kinokuniya in Tokushima City is no longer in operation. The section, once home to language learning books, English novels, text books, magazines and newspapers has been discontinued, and English books will no longer

be available on the shelves there.

However, the store will be maintaining a collection of Japanese text books and preparatory books for the Japanese Language Proficiency Test. Also, it will still be possible to order books from overseas if you have the ISBN number for the book available with you.

While it is sad to lose such a good resource, always remember that the library at TOPIA is always open and you are free to borrow books here at any time!

For more information or help on getting books / information packs for the JLPT, please don't hesitate to contact TOPIA.



## welcome to tokushima!

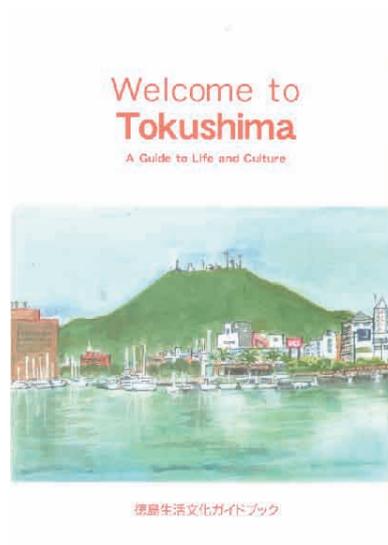
by takako yamada  
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The bilingual Welcome to Tokushima Living Guide was first created at Kokusai Koryu Konwakai HIROBA in 1989 with the aim of providing a handy living guide for foreign residents of Tokushima. Since then it has seen over four reincarnations, and has been of great help to many foreign residents throughout the prefecture over the years.

Now, a full seven years after the 4th edition that was published in 2001, we are proud to announce the arrival of the 5th (B5, 121p, 1,000 yen). It has been in planning and production for over a year, and a great deal of work has gone into ensuring it becomes a useful publication.

Over the years, the environment of Tokushima, from child rearing to the law, health services and many other fields, have undergone vast changes due to the succession of town mergers that have been so common in the last few years.

This new edition presents the latest information in a slim format, with



*the cover of the welcome to  
tokushima living guide*

color printing and many illustrations to help present the material in a way that is easy for readers to follow and understand.

It is our sincere hope that this book might become the source of helpful information for many people who come to live in an environment vastly different to that which they are used to, from language to customs, culture and more. Furthermore, this guide is not only for foreign residents, but can be of use to anyone who

wants to introduce Tokushima overseas while on a trip or business, and to tourists passing by. It can also be of assistance to schools with exchange students, or to host families.

Overall, Welcome to Tokushima provides the perfect way to introduce Tokushima and makes for a good souvenir to take home with you as well. In many ways, it can also act as a bridge between countries, helping to connect people of one language and culture with another.

The contents of the book includes a wide variety of useful information, such as an introduction to Tokushima and Japanese customs, information for handy medical institutions, daily life in Tokushima, guides to transportation and much more.

For those wanting to get a copy of the new Welcome to Tokushima Guide, please send an e-mail to the above address, or contact Kokusai Koryu Konwakai HIROBA at 090-2787-3597.



# martin's manga corner

**martin o'brien**  
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<b>Title:</b>	<b>Tetsuko no Tabi ( 鉄子の旅 )</b>
<b>Manga-ka:</b>	<b>Naoe Kikuchi, Hirohiko Yokomi</b>
<b>Publisher:</b>	<b>IKKICOMIX</b>
<b>First published:</b>	<b>2007</b>
<b>No of volumes:</b>	<b>Five</b>

In a country as densely populated as Japan, it's no surprise to see how important a role the train system plays in getting its citizens from A to B. In Shikoku, perhaps the importance of trains can be understated to some extent as the population is a lot smaller and more widely distributed than in other areas such as the Greater Tokyo area or the Osaka-Kobe urban area where the train system is truly the lifeblood of these regions economies.

Not surprisingly, the journeys that people take by trains whether they be a rare occasion to visit to a popular tourist area or the mundane daily commute to school or work are culturally speaking of some impact. In recent years the love of all things train related has invaded mainstream culture in the form of the **tetsu otaku** or **tetsu taku**. A **tetsu taku** is what someone in the west might call a train spotter. However Japan's trainspotters are a lot more numerous, organized and vocal than their western counterparts.

Many non **tetsu taku** also hold the daily commute back and forth in some affection. While at face value there might no seem to be anything interesting or fun about getting from A to B, especially when standing up and crushed up beside other commuters. But, the commute does for many

provide some private time, a break from the pressures of work, school, and family. You can sleep, read a book or play video games while JR or one of the other rail companies gets you where you are going with typical punctuality. How can you not love the trains?

This month's manga Tetsuko no Tabi deals about a trio of people who embark on various trips across the various regions of Japan and record their adventures in the form of a manga comic, describing the areas that they visit and the cultural minutiae that is associated with the trains and train lines that they travel on.

The manga comes in five parts. There is the Higashi-Nihon edition, the Tokaido edition, the Hokkaido edition, the Nishi-Nihon edition and last but not least the Shikoku & Kyushu edition. Of the edition that I read the one that was of most interest to me was the latter edition.

The trio in question are Naoe Kikuchi, the manga-ka and the two **tetsu taku**, being Hirohiko Yokomi and Masaki Kamimura. In the Shikoku & Kyushu edition, the trio set off from Tokyo station to Okayama, eager to get to Shikoku as quickly as possible and thus scratch off the last of the main islands that they haven't been to. As always, there is an amusing, omnipresent tension between the manga-ka Naoe and Hirohiko. Naoe not always

appreciating Hirohiko's fanatical zeal for all things associated with railways, something which the slightly intense Hirohiko somewhat resents. The tension is regularly defused by the more moderate and light hearted Masaki.

After making their way to the coastal station of Uno, they then take the ferry to Takamatsu city. After that they head in towards the interior of Shikoku, firstly to the station of Kotohira in Kagawa, which is according to Naoe somewhat like a pachinko parlor in its exterior design. However Kotohira doesn't hold much interest for the **tetsu taku** duo and they soon head off down the line towards the line into Tokushima where they find the piece de resistance of Tokushima **tetsu taku** miscellany. The station of Tsubojiri, you won't find it in any tourist guides, but for Hirohiko and Masaki it's a place of wonder and awe. Tsubojiri is by their expert reckoning probably one the most isolated and rural stations in Japan due to the fact that it is deep in the mountains, surrounded by the beautiful countryside and not near any access roads. The rest of the comic is full of other places like this, such as the station in Tosa-Kitagawa which is built over the river. It might seem strange to fixate on these innocuous places in a travelogue, but there is always a certain wonder in going off the beaten path. Tetsuko no Tabi proves that old adage, that its not always about the destination, but the journey itself.



**Becky's Awa-ben!**

This month we'll be talking about some words which are just really fun to say. Here are a couple really fun Awa-ben words.

ごつい・ごっつい - Gotsui / Gottsui - Extremely  
 Standard Japanese: Sugoi - すごい

It is used as an adjective and as an adverb. Similar to the Standard Japanese word Sugoi/Sugoku すごい・すごく (the same word exists in Kansai-ben):

この坂は急やなあ、ごっつい疲れるなあ！（この坂はすごいな、とても疲れる！）  
 This is one really steep climb - I'm flat out!

あばばい - Ababai - Bright  
 Standard Japanese: Mabushii - まぶしい

You may not hear these words in daily conversation, but they are out there!



**letter from suketo hoikuen**

by kazue inoue  
 suketo hoikuen staff

The other day, the head of the day care center here came up to me and said 'Hey, I've got this good book here...' and lent it to me. It was called 'how to practice holding your child' - a book written by the head of a day care center in Sapporo, up north in Hokkaido. The theme of the book was to introduce ways in which to hold your child at various stages of its development to encourage his or her growth and make them feel safe and loved.

Here are some good ways to hold your child when it reaches four to seven months of age (when your baby can support the weight of its own head):

**1: Hold them in your lap and wrap them in your arms.** If you hold them this way while still giving them freedom to move in their upper body, the muscles there and in their backs will slowly grow stronger.

**2: Hold them facing**

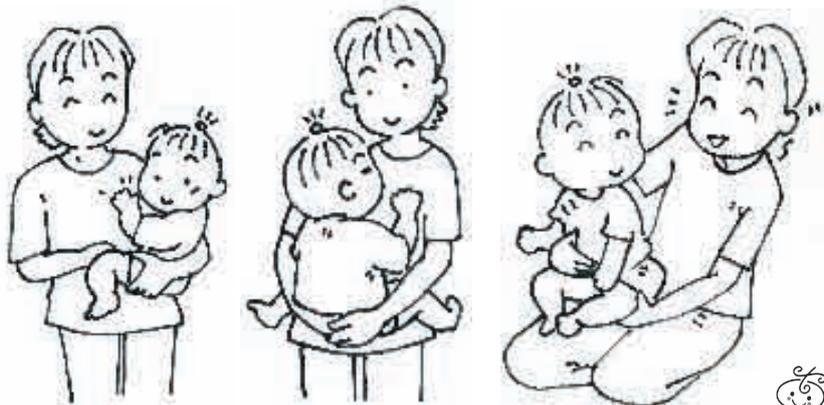
**towards you.** If you hold your child facing yourself, they will have lots of practice holding on to things and keeping their balance. It is important to talk to them face to face. Also, by holding them with their legs out and away, you can help developing the muscles around their waist.

**3: Helping develop your child's ability to look and turn about.** Around six months after birth, children become able to recognise when their name has been called and look to the person calling. Holding your baby on your lap, call their name whilst

alternating from their left and right hand sides.

**Using a hugging band:** Once your child can support the weight of its own head, this is the perfect way for them to practice and get stronger, rather than simply supporting their head from moving about.

Young children who are frequently held by their mothers feel loved and grow up to be healthy in both mind and body. (*Notes taken from 'Dakko Renshu Noto' by Machiko Yokouchi, Hankyu Communication*)



# Japanese lesson

by yoshie motoki  
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**G**etting started - when you first start living in Japan, what kind of things do you need to do in order to get yourself started? What things are you required to do? Let's take a look at some useful Japanese phrases for getting started in your new life in Tokushima.

## Scene 1: 外国人登録をする

1. 外国人登録はどこでできますか。  
Where can I undertake alien registration?

2. 役場はどこにありますか。  
Where is my local municipal office?

3. 電話番号は何番ですか。  
What is its telephone number?

## Scene 2: 日本語教室を調べる

5. 日本語教室は何曜日ですか。  
What day are Japanese classes on?

6. クラスは何時から何時までですか。  
At what time do the classes start?

7. 参加費/テキストは いくらですか。  
How much does it cost to join / buy the textbook?

## Scene 3: 休みを知る

8. 役場の休みはいつですか。  
When is the office closed?

9. 4月29日は祝日です。  
April 29 is a public holiday.

10. 土曜日、日曜日、祝日は、役場は休みです。  
The office is closed on Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays.

どこ： Where **N = Noun**

★ Nはどこでできますか  
Where can I do N?

登録： Registration  
申し込み： Application  
日本語の勉強： Japanese lesson

★ Nはどこにありますか  
Where is / can I find N?

スーパー： Supermarket  
ディスカウントショップ： Discount shop  
輸入食品の店： Imported food shop

いつ： When  
何月： What month  
何日： What day  
何時： What time  
何曜日： What day of the week

★ Nは何曜日ですか  
What day is N?

★ Nは何時から何時までですか  
When does N start and finish?

学校： School  
銀行： Bank  
病院： Hospital  
仕事： Job

月曜日 (げつようび)	Monday
火曜日 (かようび)	Tuesday
水曜日 (すいようび)	Wednesday
木曜日 (もくようび)	Thursday
金曜日 (きんようび)	Friday
土曜日 (どようび)	Saturday
日曜日 (にちようび)	Sunday
今日 (きょう)	Today
昨日 (きのう)	Yesterday
明日 (あした)	Tomorrow

### Correction

A mistake was made in the printing of the answers for the Japanese Lesson in the March edition of Awa Life. The correct answers are printed below.

1: Incorrect 2: Correct

We offer our sincere apologies for the mistake.



## Aizumi-cho Japanese Classes

**When:** Every Thursday from April 10, 19:00 - 20:30  
**Where:** Aizumi Welfare Center 2F  
**Lecturer:** Akiko Tsuji and Kaori Tamada  
**Cost:** 1,000 yen  
**Textbook:** "Minna no Nihongo 2" from Chapter 26  
**Contact:** Call Aizumi International Exchange Association at 088-692-9951  
**E-Mail:** aizumi\_kokusai@garnet.nmt.ne.jp

## I's (藍住町国際交流協会) 日本語教室

**時間:** 4月10日から 毎週木曜日 19:00 ~ 20:30  
**場所:** 藍住町福祉センター 2F  
**講師:** I's (藍住町国際交流協会) 辻暁子 / 玉田香織  
**参加費:** 1,000円  
**テキスト:** 「みんなの日本語初級II」(2,500円) 26課～  
**問合せ:** 藍住町国際交流協会まで電話 088-692-9951  
**メール:** aizumi\_kokusai@garnet.nmt.ne.jp

## Mt. Benten Display

During the event the area around Mt. Benten will be lit up with large spot lights, and there will be displays of awa puppet theatre (4/9 - 10:00-15:00), tea and local stalls on offer, and much more!

**When:** Tuesday, April 1 to Thursday, April 10  
**Where:** The area around Mt. Benten, south of the city  
**Cost:** Free!  
**Contact:** Call the Mt. Benzen Preservation committee at 088-699-1163

## 弁天山桜まつり

弁天山周辺及び山頂がライトアップされ、地元農産物の販売や人形浄瑠璃上演、おてい茶などいろいろな催しが予定されています。

**日時:** 4月1日(火)～4月10日(木)まで  
**場所:** 弁天山周辺  
**料金:** 無料  
**問合せ:** 弁天山保存会まで電話 088-699-1163

## Wanted: Haiku!

The Aizumi International Exchange Association is holding a competition for haiku on the theme of international relations & understanding in honour of its 5th anniversary. Submissions about experiences overseas or interaction with foreign residents, as well as thoughts about international understanding in your daily life are welcome!

**Period:** Friday, February 15th to Thursday, May 15.  
**Submissions:** Postcards, fax, email (multiple submissions are also accepted).  
**Prizes:** Awards will be announced at the association. First prize is 10,000 yen or an equivalent book token, and three follow up prizes will also be chosen for 5,000 yen or an equivalent book token.  
**Submissions to:** Aizumi International Exchange Association. 771-1203 Aizumi-cho, Okuno Aza Yakami-mae 32-1. **Tel:** 088-692-9951 **Fax:** 088-692-1626  
**E-mail:** aizumi\_kokusai@garnet.nmt.ne.jp

## 俳句・川柳の募集

藍住町国際交流協会(I's)では、今年、協会設立5周年を迎えるにあたり、国際交流や国際理解に関する俳句・川柳を募集いたします。海外での体験や外国の方々との触れ合い、普段の生活の中で考える国際理解など、俳句・川柳にしてご応募ください。

**募集期間:** 平成27年2月15日～5月15日  
**応募方法:** はがき、Fax、E-mail (一人複数句可能です)  
**表彰:** 平成27年度、藍住町国際交流協会総会にて表彰します。最優秀賞1点(1万円、若しくは1万円相当の図書カード) 優秀賞3点(5千円、若しくは5千円相当の図書カード)  
**応募先:** 藍住町国際交流協会事務局(社会福祉協議会内、担当:松田) 〒771-1203 藍住町奥野字矢上前32-1  
**電話:** 088-692-9951 **ファックス:** 088-692-1626  
**メール:** aizumi\_kokusai@garnet.nmt.ne.jp

# memoranda

## The Akui River Amego Festival

There will be a fishing competition on the Akui River in the area around 2km up and downstream from the Kamibun Kominkan in Kamiyama. Over 5000 amego fish will be released into the river the night before in preparation for the festival. There will also be a free amego catching tournament for children in primary school and below, with over 1000 amego to be caught by hand!

**When:** Tuesday, April 29 from 4:00 to 14:00

**Where:** Kamibun Kominkan, Kamiyama-cho

**Cost:** 3,000 yen - 3,500 yen if bought on the day.

**Contact:** Call the Industry and Construction Division of Kamiyama at 088-677-1118

## 鮎喰川 あめごまつり

神山町にある上分公民館の上下流 2km の鮎喰川では、アメゴ 5000 匹を放流して、29 日夜明けから同日午後 2 時まで釣り大会を行い、13:00 時からは小学生以下を対象にした 1000 匹のつかみ捕り大会が開催されます。

**日時:** 4 月 29 日 (火)

4:00-14:00

**場所:** 名西郡神山町上分字川又

**料金:** 前売り 3000 円、当日 3500 円

**問合せ:** 神山町産業建設課まで電話  
088-676-1118

## Hana Haru Festa

Come for a variety of events, including local markets, dance and music displays, and the rare chance to see professional Awa Odori dancing groups perform during the day time.

**When:** Friday, April 25 to Sunday, April 27  
10:00 - 17:00

**Where:** The Aibahama Park in Tokushima City, next to the Shinmachi Bridge

**Cost:** Free

**Info:** Call the Hana Haru Festa Executive Committee at 088-655-7331

## はな・はる・フェスタ

はな・はる・フェスタの三日間に渡って様々なイベントが徳島市藍場浜公園で行われます。ダンスや音楽だけでなく、年にたった一回だけの、昼間に有名連によるディスプレイが見られる機会があります。ぜひご覧ください！

**日時:** 4 月 25 日 (金) ~ 4 月 27 日 (日)

10:00 ~ 17:00

**場所:** 徳島市藍場浜公園

**金額:** 無料

**問い合わせ:** はな・はる・フェスタの実行委員会まで  
電話 088-6755-7331

## Announcements

A new birth in the family? Have you recently gotten married? Then good news! Awa Life is looking for submissions from readers to help you get the word out! Send us the details and a short blurb, accompanied by a picture if you have any on hand, and we will post it for you in the next issue of Awa Life!

Send any submissions to the awalife email address at:  
[awalife@gmail.com](mailto:awalife@gmail.com).

## お祝いメッセージ

最近、結婚・出産などのおめでたいニュースがあった方、阿波ライフではあなたの家族のお祝い事を読者の皆さんに発表したいと思います！100文字程度の文章と（もしあったら）写真を阿波ライフまで送っていただけたら次号の阿波ライフに掲載いたします。

阿波ライフのメールアドレスまでお送りください：  
[awalife@gmail.com](mailto:awalife@gmail.com)

# memoranda

## Kitajima Tulip Fair

The town of Kitajima, one of the largest tulip producing regions in Japan, is holding a fair in the Kitajima Tulip Park. In this park area, over 40,000 flowers from over 50 different varieties will be in bloom, covering 2,000m squared! There will also be mini-events held each Sunday for the duration.

**When:** Sunday, April 1 to Friday, April 27 (however, end date depends on length of flowers' bloom)  
9:00 - 17:00

**Where:** The Kitajima Tulip Park, on the south side of the Kitajima Central Park, Kitajima-cho, Itano-gun

**Cost:** Free

**Info:** Call the Kitajima Lifestyle and Industry Division at 088-698-9806

## 北島チューリップフェア

チューリップ大生産地である北島町では、大規模チューリップフェアが開催される予定です。北島町チューリップ公園にて、約 50 種類のチューリップが 4 万 3 千本以上も咲き誇ります。また、期間中の毎日曜日にミニイベントが行われます。ぜひこの機会にご覧ください！

**日時:** 4月1日(火)～4月27日(日)。

ただし花が終わり次第に終了とさせていただきます。毎日 9:00～17:00

**場所:** 板野郡北島町、北島チューリップ公園(北島中央公園の南方面にある)

**金額:** 無料

**問合せ:** 北島町生活産業課まで電話 088-698-9806

## Living in Tokushima

In need of information for daily activities? Come and take a look at the Living in Tokushima website hosted by Tokushima Prefecture, home to information such as earthquake and typhoon-related messages, tv and movie guides, events, contact numbers and more.

**Living in Tokushima Computer Website**  
[http://our.pref.tokushima.jp/e\\_living/index.php](http://our.pref.tokushima.jp/e_living/index.php)

**Living in Tokushima Mobile Website**  
[http://our.pref.tokushima.jp/e\\_living/m](http://our.pref.tokushima.jp/e_living/m)

## 徳島県生活情報ウェブサイト

日常生活において情報をお探しですか。ぜひ、徳島県の生活情報ウェブサイトをご覧ください！このウェブサイトから地震・台風についての情報、テレビや映画のガイド、イベント情報などにアクセスできます。パソコン・携帯版両方提供しています！

**パソコンサイト**  
[http://our.pref.tokushima.jp/e\\_living/index.php](http://our.pref.tokushima.jp/e_living/index.php)

**携帯サイト**  
[http://our.pref.tokushima.jp/e\\_living/m](http://our.pref.tokushima.jp/e_living/m)

## Counselling Service at TOPIA

### トピアの相談窓口

TOPIA offers a counselling and advisory service to all foreign residents to help with issues involving accidents, working conditions, housing, visas, international marriage, and more. Counselling is available in English and Japanese. Please note that although every effort will be made, we may not be able to deal with all cases.

Monday to Friday, 10:00 - 16:30

**Tel.** 088-656-3303 or 088-656-3320 (allows three-way conversations with an interpreter)

# 人権守って輝く明日