
awa life



"TOPPY"

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

May 2007 No. 203

the origins of golden week

by hiroko kimura
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golden Week is the longest string of public holidays in the entire year. But where does the name come from? This time I'm going to write about the origins of the name 'Golden Week'.

It originally began in 1951. Everbody assumed that the government was responsible for naming the holiday period, but actually it wasn't. Do you know who it was? It was the executive director of a filming company. In those days, the most popular form of entertainment was going to the movies. In 1951, a movie 'Jiyuu Gakkou' that was originally shown at the time became a greater success than other movies shown during the New Year's Holiday's and Obon. So the executive director, Hideo Matsuyama, hoping that many people would watch movies during these holidays, named them 'Golden Week'. But why 'Golden'?

The times when audience

ratings are the highest are known as 'Golden Times'. Thus the name Golden Week was taken from this. At the beginning it was called **Ougon Shuukan** which means golden week in Japanese. But the name was lacking in impact so it was changed into English. We used to have Silver Week as well, which also had a holiday and some events including Culture Day, but never became firmly established.

Green Day: This day is to respect and give thanks for being blessed by nature. Also, we cultivate warm hearts. April 29 was originally the Showa Emperor's birthday, but it was changed to Green Day in 1989 following his death.

Constitution Day: It is on this day we hope for the nation's growth in honor of enforcement of the Japanese constitution. The Japanese

constitution was introduced on May 3, 1948. Constitution is called 憲法 (**kenpo**) in Japanese, so there were many babies in that year named with the character for 憲 such as 憲司 (Kenji) or 憲子 (Noriko).

People's Day: A holiday set for people of today working too hard. In 1985 the government decided they would make this weekday a holiday between two other holidays and give the people a chance to rest. Now people's day is on May 4. However, in 2009, there will be another people's day on September 22, since the 21st and 23rd are already public holidays (Respect for the Aged Day and Autumnal Equinox Day).

Children's Day: A day when we value children's personality, and hope for their happiness. A long time ago, this day was only for celebrating boys in the family, but in 1948 the

the origins of golden week ... con't on page 3

inside awa life this month

the origins of golden week - 1, 3 ... yellow sands rising - 4
flying fish and holidays - 5 ... staff introductions - 6
martin's manga corner - 7 ... letter from suketo hoikuen / shin mai mama nikki - 8
japanese lesson - 9 ... memoranda - 10, 11, 12

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http://www.topia.ne.jp/e_index.htm

from the editors

after a warm winter and a cold spring, it looks like the seasons are finally getting on track. Pedalling through the city is a joy, with the scent of flowers and the sound of birds in the air. The May edition of Awa Life is always sort of a time for reflection because it's made during April, which is the first month of the new fiscal year. You can see this year's staff introductions on page six. As for me, I am in my fourth year in my position here, and I've only got a few months left until my contract ends at the end of July. With the National Culture Festival happening in Tokushima this year, it looks like there will be a lot of fun events to get involved with in the coming months, so I hope to see some of our Awa Life readers out on the town!

Love, Claire



by the time this May edition has arrived, Golden Week will be over for another year and everything will be back to normal. Did you go someplace interesting this year? I've begun to find that while trying to get out as much as possible, most of my travelling tends to happen long away from the popular holidaying times. I often end up going out for just the day or a weekend, and only rarely outside the prefecture. In another realisation I have found that with all my camera gear I seem to carry more luggage than some do travelling overseas. Perhaps these two things are related? To each their own, however - we all have different ways in which we enjoy spending time, and I hope you've been able to do a lot of that over the past Golden Week.

Cheers, Andrew



a view from the beautiful park area and lookout surrounding kawashima castle (photo by andrew dahms)

the origins of golden week ... con't from page 1

government changed the day to Children's Day and it became a day to celebrate both boys and girls.

The government considered which day would be best, and the ideas came forth to put it on March 3rd, April 1st or May 5th. In the end they chose May 5th as March 3rd is too cold in Hokkaido and April 1st is also set aside already for April Fool's Day.

During Golden Week many people go abroad or to tourist spots and collectively contribute over one trillion yen to local economies. That means some people have days off but some people have to work even harder during Golden Week.

Memories of Golden Week

We all have memories of the holidays, and the adventures we sometimes find ourselves in. Here are a few of those...

Noriko: I often used to spend the entire GW at my grandma's old house in Miyoshi-shi (west Tokushima). All my cousins would gather and we enjoyed fishing eels and crabs in the small river. They were eventually doomed to turn into delicious tempura by grandma. Tokushima is blessed with beautiful nature and scenery, and I hope you enjoy staying here in Tokushima for the whole Golden Week as much as you can.

Tetsuo Onishi: Everytime we come to Golden Week there is a moment our family looks back on with a good laugh. A long time ago we went with the whole family to a pretty



writer hiroko (left) with her elder sister on the fateful walk

town by the sea. At the time our eldest son was five years old, and he wanted to go fishing so much, so we took him to a nearby fishing pond.

After a while without any bites, all of a sudden there was a loud splash and I turned around thinking a fish had struck the boat. But there in the water was our son! We quickly tried to pull him in, but the distance to the water was too long to reach so we had no choice but to try and pull him in with the fishing line back to the shallows, where we got him safely.

And I have to say, he's the biggest catch I've ever had! We gave him some food and now he's grown up to be an adult. Everyone, take care if you go out on the water this Golden Week!

Hiroko Kimura: When I was a child, my family decided to do a walk from #13 to #12 in the 88 temple pilgrimage (#12 is known as being of the highest altitude for the entire pilgrimage, and a difficult

climb). My dad told my sister and I that it would be a long day but it would be fun. So my sister and I were very excited. We left home early in the morning. I guessed we could get there at least around noon, but around noon we were still walking. My sister and I began to wonder when we would get there. At some point we saw some signs saying how long we had to go in kilometers, but we were too young to understand. My dad kept encouraging us so we kept walking, but then it started getting darker and darker. On the way we made walking sticks from what we found by the roadside, and I almost cried. We couldn't make it and ended up eating riceballs we had brought in the wood.

Yesterday I took a look at the walk on a map and it said 10km just to get there, but over an eight hour walk. I wonder if my dad did any research beforehand? But it was an adventure for me, for sure.



yellow sand rising

by smitha prasadh
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The night before my friends and I left for Seoul, South Korea during spring break, I went online to double-check the weather forecast there—and I was shocked to see that the current weather condition was listed as “widespread dust”.

It’s this time annually that Korea, Japan, and much of east Asia are subjected to strong bouts of the weather phenomenon known as **kousa** (黄砂) in Japan, which translates directly to “yellow sand”, but is known in English as Asian Dust. This phenomenon occurs most frequently in spring, starting in March. It originates in China and central Asia, in regions such as the Gobi Desert and Loess Plateau. Springtime weather creates strong wind systems that kick up dust particles from these arid regions, sweep them into the atmosphere, and carry them across the Asian continent. These eventually arrive in eastern Asia, and they have annual effects on China, Korea, Japan, and sometimes Russia. With especially strong systems, these clouds move on to affect the US.

Over the last few decades, human actions have aggravated this phenomenon. Poor agricultural practices have ruined the land, to the point that now 18% of China is a desert. China burns a lot of coal but has not been filtering it properly, and the dust clouds pick up the pollutants released by this process. Industrialization has also increased greatly, at the expense of the environment.



kousa obscures an overhead view of seoul, south korea

There are some very telling photos online of Chinese cities during severe dust storms from the past 10 years—the air was reddish-brown and astonishingly thick, with very little visibility.

Additionally, besides just dust, these clouds can also carry bacteria, germs, and a variety of pollutants and carcinogens. On especially bad **kousa** days, it’s probably best to stay indoors if possible, since people can catch colds, have sore throats, or even experience asthmatic symptoms.

However, there are efforts underway to combat the **kousa**. The Chinese, Japanese, and Korean governments have been doing much research and implementing plans to reverse this desertification by planting trees to prevent soil erosion through reforestation, and neighboring countries have been sending groups to China to help, including a non-profit group from Tokushima.

We experienced the **kousa** firsthand on our last full day in Seoul. When we left our hostel in the morning, we

were greeted with a khaki-colored sky. It resembled smog: it totally obscured faraway buildings and made everything very hazy. When we went to the top floor of the 63 Building, one of the tallest buildings in South Korea, we had barely any view at all.

The dust had a tangible impact on everything. The air quality felt different—I could actually taste the dust on the air. I also found it tough to breathe deeply after climbing a long flight of stairs outdoors—this had nothing to do with physical fitness—but I was fine after I went inside. In general, the quality of the air felt still and heavy, like the calm before a storm, and the sunlight felt like it was coming through a faint filter. All my photos from that morning looked as if I’d applied a slight sepia tint to them.

As memorable and interesting as the **kousa** phenomenon was, we were relieved when it dissipated by mid-afternoon. We were able to finish the day, and our trip, with a really nice view of the Seoul cityscape under real sunlight.



flying fish and holidays

by andrew dahms
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may 5th in Japan is a public holiday, and third in the string of public holidays that makes up the famous Golden Week. It is called **Kodomo no Hi** (Children's Day) and is closely related to the tradition of **koi nobori** - carp-shaped windsocks.

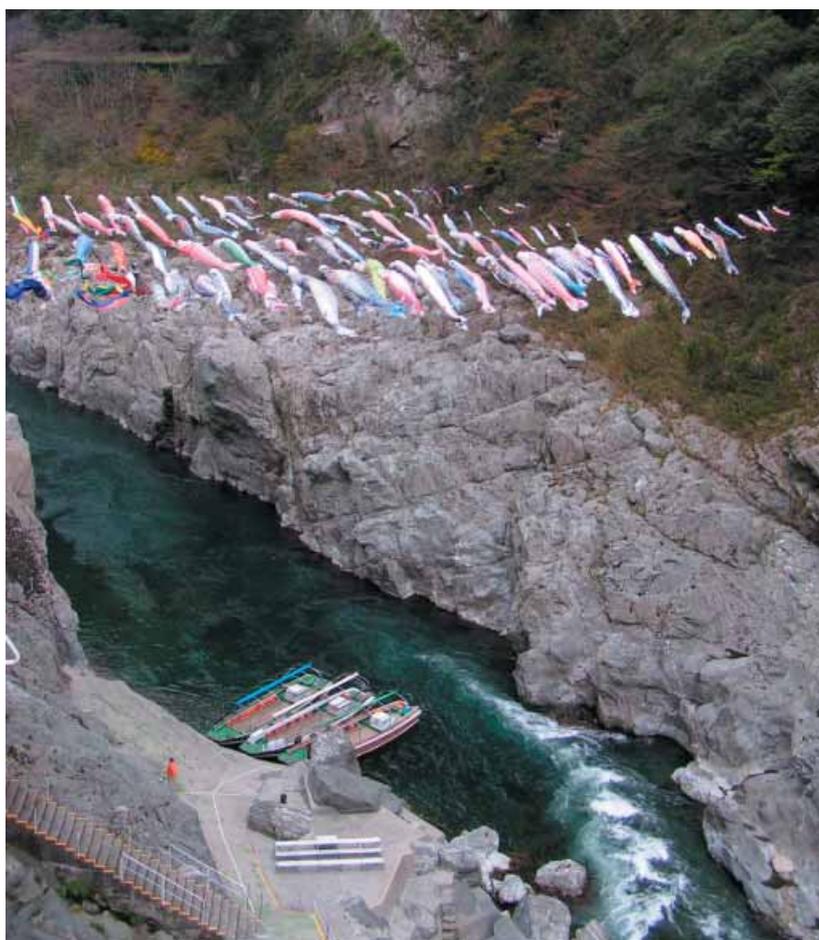
Kodomo no Hi

May 5 was originally a day to wish for the wellbeing and prosperity of young boys, and was known by the name of 端午の節句 (**tango no sekku**). In this it is often paired with the **hina matsuri** on March 3, for celebrating girls. However, shortly after the end of WWII in 1948 the holiday was changed to Children's Day and while many traditionals of the old festival still remain it is in fact slightly different.

One thing **Kodomo no Hi** has in common with the **Hina Matsuri** is the displaying of dolls and other objects. More specifically, families with young boys bring out dolls wearing traditional warrior's attire and also helmets (called **kabuto**) to put on display. And, last but by no means the least, there are the **koi nobori**.

Koi Nobori

When set alongside dolls in armor and samurai helmets, a fish may seem a strange bedfellow in celebrating this tradition. However, the reason behind this is that **koi** are a popular symbol of strength, admired for their ability to swim upstream in even strong currents. Taking after this, families with young



koi nobori over the oboke gorge, miyoshi city (photo by jody godoy)

boys in them sport colourful windsocks in the shape of carp on the roof of their house for the duration of the festival. In Tokushima you can even see a large collection of these **koi nobori** flying over many rivers in the prefecture, such as the Yoshino River pictured above.

The Koi Nobori Song

Many traditional events in Japan and Tokushima have accompanying songs, such as the Hina Matsuri, the Tanuki Matsuri and many others. Koi Nobori are no exception to the rule, and around mid-April onwards you can hear the song being played in many different places, from town

streets to supermarkets.

A short song of only four lines in length, the lyrics are as follows:

屋根より高い 鯉のぼり
 大きい真鯉は お父さん
 小さい緋鯉は 子供達
 面白そうに 泳いでる

Koi Nobori fly higher than the rooftops, the large black carp is the father, the small red carp are children, enjoy swimming in the sky.

If you get the chance, why not try and see if you can find any **koi nobori** in your local area! Take a snap, write down the location in the prefecture and send it on in to awalife@gmail.com!



staff introductions

submitted
awalife@gmail.com

As April comes and goes for another year, once again TOPIA welcomes new members to its staff. Here is our annual page of staff introductions.

Noriko Osaka

Hello everyone, my name is Noriko Osaka. I'll be working as a trainee here at TOPIA for a year, starting this April. I like pilates and flamenco. Please come by TOPIA for a chat - I'll be waiting!

Chiho Miyagi

I'm the advisor in charge of foreign residents so if you have any questions about life in Japan, please feel free to come talk to me.

Kawakami Toshiyuki

Hello, I'm the director of TOPIA. This spring Mr. Noguchi left us to go work at a local Elementary School, and Ms. Osaka joined us from Tokushima Chuo High School. We'll have some adjustments to make with our

staff changes, but I have the feeling this is going to be a good year.

Yukie Matsumura

A poem, inspired by a present I got from China: "Always with a peaceful heart, and a lucky life!" That's what I'll use for my motto for this year's work.

Fumie Murasawa

One year passes by so quickly! This year I will be in charge of TOPIA's Japanese lessons and the volunteer training program. I'm looking forward to chatting with you all!

Akira Harada

I've been at TOPIA for eight years now. Lately, my work has been shifting to management of the internal workings of the organisation, so I have less and less opportunity to talk with visitors, but please, give me a holler! And if you have any ideas or thoughts about TOPIA, please tell me about them!!

Hiroko Kimura

Hi everyone! Are you enjoying your time in Tokushima? Is everything OK? When I went to America on study a lot of people helped me out, and now I'd like to think it's my turn to be the one to lend a helping hand. If you ever have any worries then don't hesitate to ask me!

Wang Xuan

Hello everyone. I'm Wang Xuan, from Guangzhou, China. I'm a Coordinator for International Relations. If you have anything you'd like to ask me, please contact me anytime.

Isao Matsushita

Hello everyone. I work in the passport center next to TOPIA, and am now in my third year. My work is in issuing passports that have come to the center, and I hope that through this I will have the opportunity to contribute to international relations in Tokushima.



the staff at topia, left - from the left: noriko osaka, andrew dahms, chiho miyagi, toshiyuki kawakami, yukie matsumura, akira harada, hiroko kimura, and fumie murasawa, right - wang xuan and claire tanaka (absent: isao matsushita)

martin's manga corner

by martin o'brien
 martinobrien2004@gmail.com

Title: Darren Shan ダレン・シャン
Author/Illustrator: Darren Shan / Takahiro Arai
Publisher: Shonen Sunday Comics
First published: Japan (2007)
No of volumes: 2

The Darren Shan saga is one of the more curious manga releases in recent times as the series is a collaborative work between manga author Takahiro Arai and Darren Shan, a successful Irish writer of popular children's horror novels. Such collaborative work between western authors and Japanese manga authors, has been traditionally somewhat rare, however these days there appears to be a number of successful children's books that have been adapted. It's likely that the Darren Shan series appealed to its Japanese publisher primarily because of its potential for success. With sales in the millions, the Darren Shan books are popular with teenagers all over the world. This manga adaptation is mainly aimed at capturing the attention of the Japanese youngsters whose recreational reading time is solely devoted to manga comics. The writing style employed by Shan is in many ways similar to the conventions that exist in the manga world. In much the same way that a manga story will be available in several volumes, The Darren Shan Saga series is spread over twelve books. Shan presents the narrative in a way that will be familiar to readers of

manga, with an emphasis on short chapters used to keep the action rolling forward at a breakneck pace.

The first comic Darren Shan: Cirque du Freak is set in a small village in Ireland. Darren is a normal soccer obsessed teenager whose world is changed forever when he sets foot into the dark world of the supernatural that exists in the Cirque du Freak, a traveling freak show cum circus which has set up shop in an old mansion outside Darren's home town. Being curious teenagers, Darren and his best friend Stephen go to great efforts to sneak out and see this Cirque du Freak, where they are amazed by the performances of a host of terrifying characters such as the wolf-man, the snake-boy and the mysterious Larten Crepsley and his giant spider, Madame Octa. After the show Darren witnesses a discussion between Mr. Crepsley and Stephen. Darren overhears Stephen professes his desire to join the Cirque du Freak and become a vampire. Later that night the spider-obsessed Darren also manages to steal Madame Octa's Spider so he can keep her as a pet, an act that will have deadly consequences for Darren and his friends.

Shan's macabre vision of a young teenage vampire has gained a great deal of attention worldwide much in the same way as that other supernatural preteen, Harry Potter. Like the Harry Potter series, the Darren Shan Saga is popular among young people as it provides readers with a sophisticated,

complicated setting and fills it with characters embodying many of the hopes and dreams that youngsters usually have. The need to stand out and be special but at the same time be a normal school kid with lots of friends is something that is evident throughout the Darren Shan books. Arai's adaptation doesn't distract from this in the slightest.

Arai depicts the characters in the typical Moe drawing style most commonly used by Japanese manga authors. This means that the characters are a little too cute and friendly for a horror series, but their realization in this way does obviously make it very accessible for a mainstream Japanese audience. Arai's backdrops are excellent however; he manages to capture adequately some of the detail of the particular setting of a small Irish town, yet nevertheless there is nothing too culturally specific that might confuse or alienate the Japanese readership.

Originally serialized in weekly comic Shonen Sunday, the series is now available in two compiled volumes of manga. These are Darren Shan: Circus du Freak and Darren Shan: The Vampires Assistant. As there are 12 books in the series it's likely that more Darren Shan manga adaptations will be released in the months ahead. Hopefully the success of this series will pave the way for more works of this nature, which combine the talents of Japanese and Western writers and comic book artists.



letter from suketo hoikuen

by kazue inoue
 suketo hoikuen staff

hello everyone! This is a great season for playing outside, isn't it! Golden Week is the perfect time for parents and children to spend time together out of doors. In Japan, May 5th is Children's Day, a day where carp flags and warrior dolls are displayed in the wishes that the children grow up strong and healthy. We all hope that our children can grow to be strong like the carp swimming in the blue sky. The National Ministry of Culture, Science, and Education recommends following these three points to raise a healthy child: 1. Early to bed, 2. Early to rise, and 3. Eat a good breakfast.

1. Growth hormones are

produced while children sleep, so it is important to go to bed early.

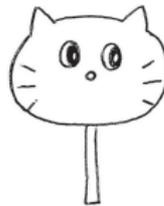
2. It is sunlight which helps to reset the brain and body every morning. By getting up early and taking in the morning light, the body's rhythm can be regulated.

3. Breakfast helps to wake up a child's brain in the morning. It's important to eat a good breakfast in order to play well and learn well.

I hope this information is helpful to you.

This month's toy: Spinning Cat: Make two round cutouts of a cat's head, and tape them together, putting a chopstick between the two sheets and stabilising it with tape.

Draw a cat's eyes and nose on one side, and the mouth on the other. Spin the paper with your hands to animate the face.



shin-mai mama nikki

by claire tanaka
 clairish@gmail.com

Finally made the leap and got the childrearing accessory that seems ubiquitous to every family in Japan - the bicycle-mounted child carrier. Now I have to ride my bike bow-legged to make room for the child seat clamped to my handlebars. Sofie likes it most of the time, but it is scary trying to ride when she has made up her mind that she wants to disembark NOW, twisting and squirming in the seat.

Now that we are free to travel further afield without the assistance of an automobile, I have had to learn an important lesson about naptime. Last weekend I tried to take Sofie along to all my favourite shops and it was going fine until we hit 1:30 or so, and then she

went into core meltdown and we had to take a little tantrum break in the greenhouse of the local gardening center. As if my neighbours didn't notice me enough already, now they all know for sure I am a crazy foreign woman who can't control her child. Well, since my newly implemented policy of being at home for naptime between the hours of 1:00 and 3:00, the weekend shopping has gone a lot more smoothly.

I had the unpleasant experience the other day of having to select three of my fellow daycare moms for PTA committee duty. The names of all the kids in the class are listed on a ballot and each family chooses three kids whose parents they would like to elect for the PTA and

puts the anonymous ballot in a box. It's not a matter of volunteering - it's more like a conscription system. I'm hoping I will escape thanks to Sofie's name being written in hard-to-read kanji - people tend to think it says "Saki" - so maybe I won't be singled out out of sheer virtue of being hard to identify on the list. Our kanji last name helps to camouflage me even further.

We went up to the Doitsukan recently to check out their Easter celebration and I was really most interested in the little play area up the hill - there is a tree fort, a home-made basket swing, and an old van to play in! It reminds me of the kind of rough and tumble places I used to play in when I was a kid.



Japanese lesson

by isao nishitani

In conversation, the expression **～じゃないですか** is used to seek confirmation from another person about the speaker's opinion, or to ask for agreement. In this usage, the end of the sentence always carries a rising intonation.

Male usually use this expression as follows. 君たちは新入生じゃないか。

Female use this as follows. あなたたち新入生じゃない / じゃないの

These expressions are often used among young people as an colloquial alternative to **～ではないですか**. For example, **あなたたちは新入生ではないですか**.

If this expression is used when a speaker talks to himself, this means it is his guesswork. And **～かなあ** (Male) **～かしら** (Female) would be added. In this case intonation after **～かなあ・～かしら** usually goes flat. → But some people make it go down.

彼らは新入生じゃない かなあ→・彼らは新入生じゃないかしら→。



山田：あれは田中さんじゃないかなあ。→

He would be Mr. Tanaka. I presume.

鈴木さん、あの人田中さんじゃないですか。Say, Suzuki, Isn't he Mr. Tanaka?

鈴木：田中さんはもうちょっと背が高いんじゃないかしら。→

Well, I think Tanaka is a little bit taller?

石田さんじゃないですか。Isn't he Ishida? What do you think?

In case this expression is used with falling intonation **～じゃないですか**. Meaning changes to affirmative expression. Connotations also are changed to criticizing others, forcing your opinion to others and your surprise. Sometimes **～ですか** is abbreviated.



いいのよ、私がおごるって言ったじゃない (Female)

いいよ、僕がおごるって言ったじゃないか。 (Male)

Don't worry; I said I will pay for you. I meant it.

まあ、この携帯電話、テレビが見られるじゃないの。 (Female)

うわー、この携帯電話、テレビが見られるじゃないか。 (Male)

What? We can watch T.V. on this mobile phone? Cool!

Let's practice: are the next questions... ① Asking agreement/confirmation ② Guesswork, or ③ criticizing/pushing your opinion? Are they female or male (F/M)? And is the accent rising flat → or dropping ? Mark each with a circle.

1, 山田：今度の金曜日残業があるんじゃないかなあ Your answer (① ② ③、M F、 →)

2, 岡野：あらそう、でも皆手伝ってくれるんじゃないかしら Your answer (① ② ③、M F、 →)

3, 岡野：ねえ、鈴木さんは手伝ってくれるんじゃない Your answer (① ② ③、M F、 →)

4: 山田：なあんだ、この日残業はないじゃないか Your answer (① ② ③、M F、 →)

Answers

1: ② M →, 2: ② F →, 3: ① F →, 4: ③ M →



Speech Contest

Participants Wanted!

2007 Tokushima Prefecture Japanese Speech Contest For Foreign Residents

Around 10-12 contestants will be selected based on country of origin, ensuring that a wide variety of nationalities are able to participate. There will be an event following the contest, where contestants will be available to answer questions from the audience.

Date: Monday, 16 July, 2007 (a public holiday)
13:30-16:30

Place: Tokushima-ken Kyodo Bunka Kaikan

for: Foreign Residents of Tokushima

Theme: A topic of your choice relating to Japan, international affairs, international cultural exchange, and cooperation.

Time limit: under 7 minutes

Applications: TOPIA

Applications accepted while places are available.

For more info: TOPIA.

TEL: 088-656-3303

FAX: 088-652-0616

日本語弁論大会

出場者募集!

平成 19 年度外国人による徳島県日本語弁論大会

書類審査にて 10-12 名程度を選考します。国際色豊かにするため 1 か国 1 名程度。応募者が多い国については 2 名程度とします。大会当日は、多数の応援・声援をお待ちしています。発表者との意見交換会もお楽しみに!

日 時 : 平成 19 年 7 月 16 日 (月・祝日)
13:30-16:30

場 所 : 徳島県郷土文化会館

対 象 : 徳島県在住の外国人

テーマ : 国際理解・国際交流・協力に関するものなら自由

時 間 : 7 分以内

申 込 : (財) 徳島県国際交流協会まで。

所定の申込用紙をお渡しします。

詳細は当協会までお問い合わせ下さい。

問合せ : (財) 徳島県国際交流協会

TEL: 088-656-3303

FAX: 088-652-0616

Joruri & Gagaku Performance

See a display of traditional puppetry and Japanese gagaku music in an outdoor theatre located at Katsuura-cho's Imamiya Shrine.

When: May 19
Starts at 2pm

Where: The Katsuura-cho Imayama Noson Butai
(Will not be cancelled in the event of light rain.)

Cost: Entry is free.

Contact: Call the Hozon-kai Jimukyoku at 0885-42-3275

浄瑠璃 & 邦楽公演

阿波の人形浄瑠璃と邦楽のディスプレイが勝浦町の今宮神社境内にある農村舞台で開かれます。

日時 : 5 月 19 日
14 : 00 ~

場所 : 勝浦町今宮神社境内にある農村舞台
(少雨決行)

金額 : 無料

問合せ : 保存会事務局まで電話 0885-42-3275

memoranda

Doitsu-kan Events

German Wine Festival

Come along to see a concert and a fair of various German wines!

When: Friday, May 4 to Saturday May 5
10:00 - 16:00

Cost: Free!

For more details and information on the Doitsu-kan, take a look at the Doitsu-kan homepage for more seasonal event information and other details, here at: <http://www.city.naruto.tokushima.jp/germanhouse/index.html>

ドイツ館イベント

ドイツのワイン祭り

コンサート、ドイツワインフェアなど、楽しさいっぱい!

日時: 5月4日(金)～5月5日(土)
10:00-16:00

金額: 無料!

ドイツ館のウェブサイトにも季節のイベント情報などがあります:
<http://www.city.naruto.tokushima.jp/germanhouse/index.html>

Awa Connection Japanese Classes

When: Every Wednesday

- 1) Beginner's Class (5:00-6:00 p.m.)
Approx. JLPT Level 3-4, J-Test Level E-F
- 2) Advanced Beginner - Intermediate Class (6:45 - 8:15 p.m.)
Approx. JLPT Level 2-3, J-Test Level A-D

Where: Tokushima Communication Center for People with Disabilities ("The Plaza")
3F, Awa Connection Office
Take the City Loop Bus (Shimada Ishibashi-bound), get off at Kougyou Koukou-mae JR Kuramoto station, walk 15 min.

Fee: 2000 yen for 4 lessons

**Now taking reservations for the J-Test (June 10) - deadline: May 15

More Info: Awa Connection Office

088-633-2242 (FAX)
HP:www.geocities.jp/awaconnection2005
e-mail: awaconnection2005@yahoo.co.jp

あわコネクション 日本語教室

日時: 毎週水曜日

- 1) 初級クラス (5:00～6:00)
日本語能力試験 4～3級程度・J-test E-F レベル
- 2) 初級後半～中級クラス (6:45～8:15)
日本語能力試験 3～2級程度・J-test A-D レベル

場所: 徳島県立障害者交流プラザ 3F あわコネクション事務所徳島市営バス(循環バス)島田石橋行き 工業高校前下車 JR 四国 蔵本駅 下車 徒歩15分

参加費: 4回、2千円

★★J-TEST 申し込み受付中 6月10日予定(申込締切5月15日)

★詳しくは あわコネクション事務局まで

088-633-2242 (FAX)

<http://www.geocities.jp/awaconnection2005>

(e-mail) awaconnection2005@yahoo.co.jp

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Rose Festival in Aizumi

Come for a display of over 1,000 roses from more than 270 varieties in this festival, as well as markets, sale of rose seedlings and more.

When: Early to mid-May

9:00-17:00

Where: The Rose garden in Aizumi-cho,

Cost: Free.

Contact: Call the Aizumi-cho Construction and Industry Division at 088-637-3120

藍住町の春のバラ祭り

藍住町のバラ園では 270 種類の 1,000 株のバラが咲き誇ります。その他、バラの苗木の販売や特産品等の販売なども行われます。

日時： 5月上旬から中旬

9:00-17:00

場所： 藍住町バラ園

金額： 無料

問合せ： 藍住町建設産業課まで電話 088-637-3120

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.

Available from computer and mobile phone alike!

Living in Tokushima Computer Website

http://our.pref.tokushima.jp/e_living/index.php

Living in Tokushima Mobile Website

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、徳島県がホストしている「Living in Tokushima」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、イベント情報などがの情報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

携帯サイト

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