
awa life



"TOPPY"

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

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take the fall

by matt lindsay
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There is something alluring about waterfalls. Their purity is reflected in their location, often close to the source of streams or rivers. As you approach them, their power becomes apparent as the silence of the forest is broken by the booming sound of cascading water. Personally, I like to think of waterfalls as a symbol for the flow of energy that we can receive from nature.

There are a number of myths associated with waterfalls. One of the best known of these is the Chinese legend that says dragons inhabit some waterfalls. These falls are said to have 'dragon gates' at them. If a carp can manage to leap over one of these gates it will metamorphose into a dragon. (This myth serves as an allegory of the determination required to



todoroki waterfall - up loud (photo by yoko kohara)

overcome obstacles in life.) The dragon's affinity with waterfalls is apparent from examination of the Chinese characters for both: just add water to dragon (龍) and you have waterfall (瀧)!

In Japan small Shinto shrines

or **torii** gates can often be found by falls. According to this ancient animist belief system, gods or spirits (known as **kami**) manifest themselves in nature. A waterfall therefore actually represents a god or spirit.

With the co-existence of Buddhism alongside Shinto, it's perhaps not surprising that Buddhist deities are also present at some waterfalls. The most commonly found deity is the ferocious-looking Buddhist fire divinity, Fudo-myou. Many waterfalls are in fact named after this deity - there are numerous 'Fudo no Taki' located around Japan.

There is also a modern-day myth pertaining to waterfalls that minus ions are contained in the atmosphere around them. These minus ions supposedly give us energy and

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

from the editors

I have been putting off writing this until the last minute, but I can't wait any longer.

This is my last issue as editor of Awa Life!

After four long years at the helm, as of July 28th I am no longer working for TOPIA and the Prefecture's Cultural and International Affairs Division. I'll be sticking around Tokushima though and I'm sure I'll be making the odd contribution to Awa Life as well so you haven't seen the last of me. I would like to thank Awa Life for teaching me how to use Adobe InDesign, how to deal with it when people can't stick to deadlines, how to brutally edit others' work without feeling guilty, how to learn from my mistakes, and best of all, for teaching me to think hard about the English-speaking residents of Tokushima, and what they need in a newsletter. Thank you all! love, Claire 🎵

Dear awa life readers, how are you spending the summer weeks? The beaches are open, Awa Odori is here and the weather is perfect for getting outdoors. To tell the truth, though, I've always found summer in Tokushima to be a funny old thing. The weeks before Awa Odori are filled with dancing practice, firework festivals and the sound of cicadas, and everything is wonderful and exciting. But as soon as the clock ticks August 16, the streets empty and you could fire a canon through the streets without hitting a soul. It's almost as though those few days from August 12-15 are the true Tokushima summer, and everything else in the year is relative to those few days. From then on autumn is on the horizon and so Tokushima starts recharging for another year. Cheers, Andrew 🎵



awa odori dancers burning up the streets of tokushima in the mid-august heat (photo by andrew dahms)

awa odori guide

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august is here, and along with it Awa Odori! It is going to be held over four days from Saturday, August 12 to Wednesday, August 15, and there are a lot of opportunities for you to join in or view the dance. The map below shows the inner Tokushima City area, with the formal dancing stages marked with stars. The seats in front of City Hall and at Aibahama Park are paid seating areas, while all other areas are free.

Tickets for paid seating costs from 800 yen to 1800 yen, with an additional cost of 200 yen if bought on the same day. These seats are used during dance displays from 18:00 to 20:00 and 20:30 to 22:30 on each day of the dances. Tickets can be purchased at most convenience stores.

In case of rain, you can still enjoy Awa Odori indoors at the Awa Odori Kaikan, the Kyodo Bunka Kaikan and the Bunka Center.

Regional Awa Odori Festivals

You can catch the action of Awa

Odori all around the prefecture.

Wakimachi Udatsu:

August 13, 19:30-22:00

Thirteen dancing groups from in and outside the town will come and dance in the historical streets of Wakimachi.

Ikeda:

August 13 - 16, 19:00 - 22:30

Thirty dance groups will dance throughout Ikeda-cho, Miyoshi-shi. Paid and non-paid seating is available.

Sadamitsu:

August 14 - 16, 19:00 -22:00

Awa Odori will be held in the Sadamitsu Shopping Arcade and other places in the city, including various famous dance groups from Tokushima City.

Katsuura:

August 16, 18:00 - 22:00

Awa Odori in Katsuura will be held on Tuesday 16, with performances from dance groups from inside the town, as well as children's groups. Free to watch.

Tokushima Airport:

August 12, 10:00, 11:40, 14:00

On the first day of Awa Odori, there will be a display at the Tokushima Airport to welcome visitors to the prefecture.

Naruto City:

August 9-11, 19:30 - 22:00

The Naruto Awa Odori is the earliest in the prefecture, with over 30 dance groups dancing in the city shopping arcards, by the JR Naruto Station West Entrance, and fixed locations each day. Cost is 800 yen, or 700 yen pre-paid.


Higashi Miyoshi:

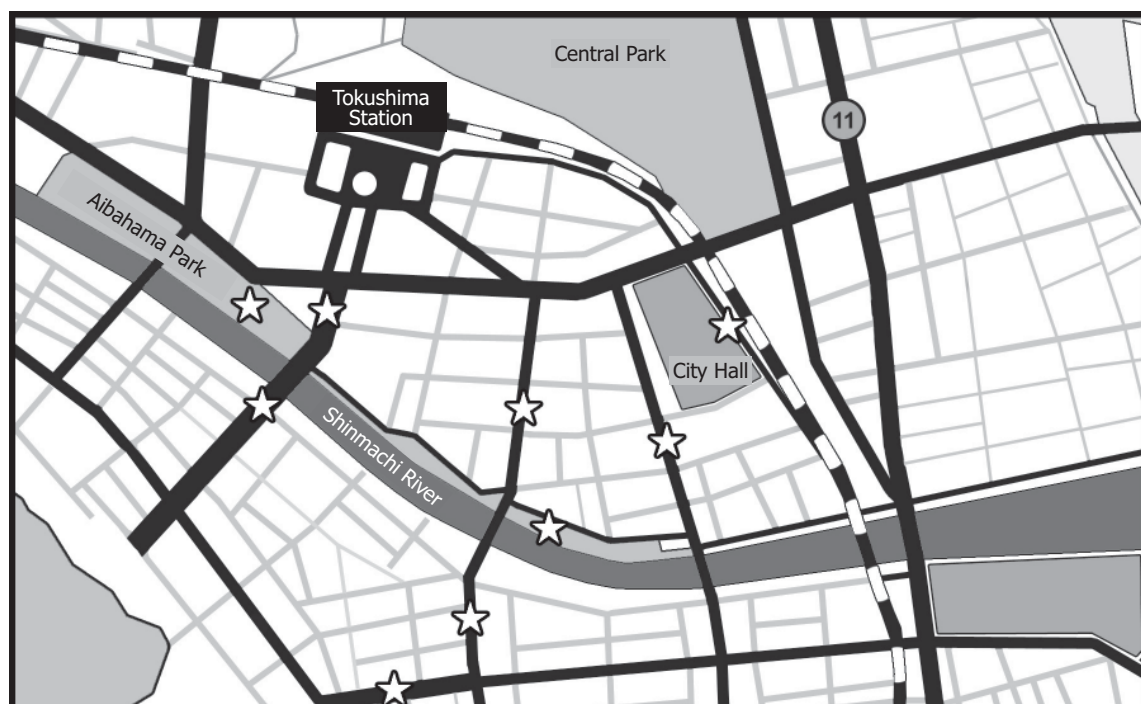
August 13 - 16

Awa Odori will be held all throughout the town. There is no cost for viewing.

Kamojima:

August 14-16, 19:00 - 22:00

Over 25 dance famous dance groups and local groups will be dancing each day along the main road through the town of Kamojima. Seating is free. 



ow, my tax obligation!

by eiji towatari
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If you have worked in Japan for more than one year, you might have been surprised to receive a bill for municipal tax from your local government this June. If you have been here for more than two years, you were probably upset to find out how much the tax has increased compared to the previous year! You might have suspected that there was some kind of miscalculation, and tried to query your town's tax department or your co-workers? I figured you must have. I work for Tokushima City's tax department, and we have been swamped with calls and visits from people asking questions since the bills went out in June. Actually, the Japanese tax system changed significantly this year, with a shifting of the cost burden between central and local governments. Here is a short summary of the municipal tax system and the main revised points.

Municipal tax is calculated based on the total income of the previous year, so you are first subject to full taxation from after you've lived in Japan for two years. This year, 3 trillion yen of tax revenue was transferred from national taxes (income tax) to local taxes (inhabitant tax). This is a part of the "三位一体改革" three-part-reform (integrated reform of subsidies, local allocation tax and transfer of tax revenue sourced from national to local governments). Consequently, the progressive rate structure of inhabitant tax (it used to be a three bracket structure with tax ranging from 5% to 13%) was reformed into a flat 10%

regardless of income.

If you earned 200,000 yen per month, your "総収入" gross income of the previous year (12 months) will have been a total of 2.4 million yen. Your "総所得" net income will automatically be calculated as 1.5 million yen. Then, your "基礎控除額" basic deduction will be 330,000 yen from your net income, resulting in a "課税所得" taxable income of 1,170,000 yen. If you have a spouse, children, dependents, or paid social insurance, life insurance, or casualty



*tokushima city tax department
(photo by eiji towatari)*

insurance premiums, or had large medical expenses last year, you have a chance of added allowable deduction. Until last year, taxable income less than 2 million yen (most salaried workers are often in this range) remained within the 5% tax rate. You can imagine how everyone felt when their tax was increased to 10% this year! Tax was doubled, whew!!

Municipal tax consists of two parts, "所得割" income rate, identified above, and "均等割" per capita rate (4,000 yen). Basically, everyone is charged the total amount of both, but as a transitional measure to buffer this year's sharp tax hike, "調整控除"

deduction from the tax amount was added to take some of the burden off of taxpayers. It depends on the individual, but around 2,500 yen is the average deduction. As a result, most taxpayer's bills are higher than last year, even if they didn't get a salary increase. Instead, the progressive rate structure of National income tax was reformed into new structure with tax rates ranging from 5% to 40% (it used to be from 10% to 37%) as well. Under the revised law, taxable income less than 1.95 million yen will fall within the 5% category which used to be a minimum of 10% up until last year. Different from local inhabitant tax, national income tax is imposed on earnings of the current year, and has different amount of deduction. According to the national tax agency, the tax burden for income tax and inhabitant tax combined basically will remain unchanged. The actual amount of individual people's tax burdens, however, may increase depending on other factors, including abolition of "定率減税" the fixed-rate tax reduction measures (10% of national income tax up to 125,000 yen and 7.5% of local inhabitant tax up to 20,000 yen) enacted to stimulate economic recovery. That is true, but do you agree with this explanation? Someone may say that the tax rate just became normal again and that it had been unrealistically low up until now, however one thing is certain; many taxpayer's burdens (including the author's) got larger compared to last year.



take the fall ... con't from page 1



*ogama waterfall - into the pot
 (photo by matt lindsay)*

vitality. Who knows? Maybe this rumour is true- I always feel refreshed after visiting a waterfall.

Japan's mountain ascetics, known as **yamabushi**, also attest to the energizing nature of waterfalls. These practitioners of the hybrid Shinto-Buddhist religion, Shugendo, devote themselves to nature for personal and spiritual development. Part of their training involves meditating under waterfalls, (**taki-shugyou**). They are even known to perform this practice in the height of winter!

Being such a mountainous and well-watered nation, there is no shortage of waterfalls in Japan. And with the strong Japanese penchant for categorizing and ranking, it's no surprise that there is a 'Top 100 Falls', (Hyakumeitaki).

Eight of these falls are found on Shikoku, with three of them in Tokushima Prefecture.

The tallest of Tokushima's three chosen falls, Todoroki-no-Taki, is located in the south of the prefecture in Kaiyo (previously Kainan). Todoroki means 'roar or boom resound'. Approaching the fall you will hear its roar for sure. If you're game, take a swim through the crevice into the cavernous pool at the base of this mighty cascade and

the boom resound will soon become apparent.

Ogama-no-Taki is the most remote waterfall of Tokushima's 'chosen three'. Located deep in the mountains of Kisawa, the scale of the surroundings here is sure to impress. (Check out the funky tunnel next to the fall that's just a hole blasted through the rock.) Ogama means 'a pot or cauldron' - a fitting description for how this majestic fall has carved the landscape beneath it.

The nearest and most easily accessible of the chosen three falls is Amagoi-no-Taki in

Kamiyama. This fall is actually the culmination of a series of falls, located in a picturesque, shady valley. Amagoi means 'to pray for rain', an appropriate activity you could say, since Kamiyama literally translates to 'Spirit Mountain'.

During summer a visit to one of these falls can be a great way to beat the heat. You might like to enjoy a shower, courtesy of Mother Nature, or just cool off with a dip in a base pool. You may even be lucky enough to spot a rainbow in the dissipating mist, if the light is right. Enjoy nature's wealth - a waterfall is the pot of gold at the end of the rainbow.

For extensive information on Tokushima's waterfalls (in Japanese):

<http://www.ne.jp/asahi/photo/takeno/>



*amagoi waterfall - jet to stream
 (photo by matt lindsay)*

getting married in japan

by **chris riedl**
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I married the most wonderful woman in the world in March this year. We had a beautiful ceremony in an open air chapel in Hawaii, followed by a reception with our family and friends in a traditional Hawaiian banquet hall on the grounds of the Bishop Museum.


Actually, that's not entirely true. I did marry the most wonderful woman in the world, and we did have a wonderful ceremony and reception in Hawaii. However, the actual documents verifying our union were completed in October 2006.

The reason for this is that as an American wanting to marry a Japanese, the paperwork was much easier in Japan. In fact, it wasn't just easier, it was downright simple. Granted, there were a few hiccups in the process, such as when the town office workers could not figure out where to put my middle name. There were only two spaces for names on the application for marriage: given and family. We eventually worked out that I should squeeze my first and middle names into the one box.

There were a few other bureaucratic hoops we had to jump through, including taking a day off work to go to Osaka to the US Consulate to obtain an affidavit proving I was single. But on a bright and sunny Sunday we nervously walked into a darkened town office to hand our forms over to the only person in attendance, a slovenly dressed man in track pants and a dirty t-shirt smoking a cigarette and looking half-asleep. He accepted the papers and we left legally married.

We were giddy, of course, but I felt a bit let down. We just got married and I didn't even have to put my **hanko** on anything. I was sure we had missed a step. But no, that was it. I realized later that we didn't even need both of us to be there. But that was just the paperwork, THE WEDDING was five months away. And there is a world of difference between 'getting married' and 'having a wedding'. Those whom are married and had a wedding ceremony will know what I'm talking about. And an international wedding held in a neutral site added several extra wrinkles as well.

We chose Hawaii because geographically and culturally it was almost perfectly in between America and Japan. It was also more fair than asking one side or the other to cross the entire ocean. We really wanted it to be a coming together, not just of two people, but of two families and two different cultures. Hawaii was perfect. And come on, do you really need another excuse to take a trip to Hawaii?!

The wedding did require a lot of time, planning, and a whole lot of help from our friends and family, but in the end we were able to enjoy the moment. Of course, we do have a problem when people ask us, "So when is your anniversary?" We can say October 22nd, the day the marriage was made official in the eyes of the government. But we prefer to say March 29th, the day we came together with our two families to celebrate our union; the day Akiyo wore a white wedding dress, I wore a hauri hakama, we force-fed each other slices of wedding cake and danced till they kicked us out. In other words, the day we came together in our hearts. 

august fireworks

by **andrew dahms**
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As firework displays continue this August, here is a quick rundown of some of the hot places to be:

Kamojima Fireworks: This displays is set to be held on Monday, August 6 from 8:00-9:00pm at the Kamojima Undo-jo in Yoshinogawa

City. A total of nine hundred fireworks are planned.

Naruto City Fireworks: Three thousand fireworks are set for this display in Minamihama, Muya-cho Naruto City from 8:00-9:00 pm, Tuesday August 8. Five hundred paid car parking spots are available.

Nouryou Fireworks Festival: A total of 600 fireworks are set for this festival on Tuesday, August 14 from 9:00pm, at Shibo, Mino-cho in Miyoshi City. You may need some extra time getting there, however, as there is no parking available on the grounds where the festival will take place. 

martin's manga corner

by martin o'brien
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Title: Natsuko no Sake
(夏子の酒)
Manga-ka: Oze Akira
Publisher: Kodansha
First published: (1994)
No of volumes: 12

Natsuko no Sake is a much loved manga which concerns the life of Natsuko, a young woman who comes from a family of sake makers in Niigata. Traditionally, the business of sake brewing is strictly reserved for men, however when Natsuko's brother dies she decides to break with tradition and take charge of the family brewery. This is not an easy decision for Natsuko as it involves leaving her high-paying job as a copy writer in Tokyo and come back to a rural community whose ways and conventions she is sometimes at odds with.

Natsuko's main problem is trying to get local farmers to try out more traditional methods of farming, which would enable her to make a more superior sake. Natsuko is determined to brew sake the way her brother would have wanted. Her brother had decided to forgo modern methods after hearing about the unsurpassed excellence of sake made from an old, now little-used strain of rice known as Tatsunishiki rice.

Her mission is an uphill battle; she struggles to grow the rice seeds, and then to get the crop cultivated in large enough amounts, not to mention the back breaking labor that is associated with traditional methods of farming. One example of this is when

tiny bugs infest the rice crop, Natsuko has to painstakingly remove them all by hand as she has decided that using agricultural pesticides would be detrimental to the sake.

Despite all these hardships, she perseveres and realizes her dream. This form of fighting against all odds theme is not uncommon in manga and drama in Japan, but what sets Natsuko no Sake apart is its use of a strong female role model challenging perceived notions of how things should be done. It also offers a great deal of insight into the hardship and conformity of rural life, the conflict between traditional and modern ways of farming, not to mention the complex traditions and practices that are involved in this ancient brewing tradition.

After the success of Natsuko no Sake, its author Oze Akira wrote a prequel series called Natsu no Kura (Natsu's Brewery). In Natsu no Kura, Oze introduces us to Natsuko's grandmother, Natsu. Like her granddaughter, she must struggle to gain acceptance in the sake making business, which she manages to achieve despite the taboos, due to her excellent nose for sake and understanding of what makes a quality sake. Natsu does not come from a sake-making family but instead marries into one, which makes her an outsider in more ways than one. Like her granddaughter, Natsu never expected to be making sake as her husband Zenzo had been studying in Tokyo, and in similar fashion to Natsuko, a death in the family brings the couple back to

rural Niigata. Zenzo and Natsu revive the family's sake-making business by introducing modern methods of production and bringing in new technological advances like electricity into the production process. The background of Natsu no Kura is very similar to Natsuko no Sake in the sense that they are both women trying to make the best of what they have and overcome the obstacles that are part of their profession. The difference between the two stories is largely defined by the eras in which they are set. Natsu no Kura is set in the early part of the 20th century while Natsuko no Sake has a modern day setting. Both depict the challenges that face women in Japanese society. In Natsu no Kura, we see a portrayal of the conservative nature of the extended family structure and the difficulties that can arise when one challenges one's role in it. Conversely, Natsuko no Sake depicts the freedoms and opportunities that women enjoy in modern day society and how these often come at the expense of relationships and family. This novel strives to show that no matter what change brings there will always be those with the will and determination to face their trials and tribulations with courage while still maintaining values and traditions.

Natsuko no Sake was serialized in Weekly Morning magazine between 1988 and 1991 and is now available in a 12 volume set. It was made into a TV drama of the same name in 1994.



letter from suketo hoikuen

by kazue inoue
 suketo hoikuen staff

Typhoons have always been a part of life in Japan, but it seems that in recent years they have been getting stronger and more frequent. September is always a big month for typhoons, so please take care.

This month I want to introduce some ways to respond to children's sudden injuries.

1. Head Injuries

-if they get a lump... apply a cold pack to the area and keep an eye on it. If you are worried, take your child to the hospital.

-if there is blood... apply pressure to stop the blood. If there is a lot of blood, call an ambulance (dial 119).

-if there is repeated vomiting, seizures, or loss of consciousness... call an ambulance.

2. Burns

-cool the area with running water or ice for more than ten

minutes.

-if the burned area is larger than a 500 yen coin and it seems serious, take your child to the hospital while keeping the area cool.

3. Nosebleeds

-lean forward slightly while pinching the base of the nose tightly, or plug the nose with balled-up tissue.

-if a nosebleed continues for more than ten minutes after a blow to the head, go to the hospital.

4. Swallowing a foreign object

-help the child to expel the

object. With babies, turn the baby face down on your lap and hit the upper back. With older children, grasp them around the waist from behind and apply pressure to the solar plexus.

-take your child to the hospital immediately if cigarettes, batteries, detergent, or other items like that are ingested.

Accidents can happen, even when we take precautions. The most important thing is to stay calm and take appropriate action when an accident happens.

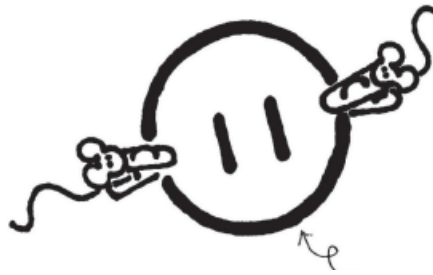
This Month's Toy: Clothespin Sumo

-paste paper faces onto two clothespins and attach strings to them.

-cut out a sumo ring from cardboard

-clip the pins on and each player pulls a string.

-the first clip to fall off is the loser.



shin-mai mama nikki

by claire tanaka
 clairish@gmail.com

This will be my last shin-mai mama nikki for a while. I hope I will be able to contribute to the English-speaking childrearing scene in Tokushima in the future with the occasional special feature, but this will be my last regular column.

Pool season has started at daycare, so that means the daycare yard is covered with different sizes of toy pools - the 5 year-olds get a relatively large waist-high pool, while the littler kids get wading pools. Parents have to put a circle (meaning healthy) or X

(meaning not healthy) next to their child's name on a list every morning, indicating whether their child is healthy enough to go in the pool or not. Kids with stomach upsets, runny noses, or slight fevers are not allowed in the pool. Also, if the parent forgets to mark a circle or X, the child is not allowed in the pool.

Lately they have been playing the Awa Odori music on CD at daycare, getting the kids ready for the Awa Odori Festival. There is a little mini-festival for the kids in a park near the daycare a day before

the main festival starts. That's nice - they can dance and play without having to worry about being tripped over or getting lost in the crowd of the main festival. I would have been roped into volunteering at this school festival since I am on the PTA, but we will be out of the country then! Oops. I guess I will have to volunteer extra-hard at the Sports Day event this fall. Long-time readers will remember the crawling race for babies at last year's Sports Day. I wonder what the littlest kiddies will be doing this year?



Japanese lesson

by sachiko muramatsu

This month we will discuss the usage of phrases like 「それに」「それなら」 and 「それで」.
Lee tanaka san wa konokai shanihaitenaga i n desuka
 李：田中さんは、この会社に入って長いんですか。

(Lee: Tanaka-san, have you been in this company long?)
tanaka i e gonennmedesu sonomae wa juu nengura i tsutomemashita
 田中：いえ、5年目です。その前は10年ぐらい勤めました。

(Tanaka: No, it's my fifth year. Before that I worked for ten years.)
Lee toi u kotowa i zenhokanokaishani tsutomete i ta n desuka
 李：ということは①、以前外の会社に勤めていたんですか。

(Lee: So you mean you worked for another company?)
tanaka e e daigaku w o dete sugu ginkou ni hairimashita ga sono ato ni kaitenshokushite i ru n desu
 田中：ええ。大学を出てすぐ銀行に入りましたが、その後2回転職しているんです。

(Tanaka: Yes. I started working at a bank after I graduated from university, but I have changed jobs twice since then.)
maenokaishawako n pyu ut a a tokaishadeshita
 前の会社はコンピューターの会社でした。(My last job was at a computer company.)
sou i u wakede imanokaishawa san kaimenokaishana n desu
 そういうわけで②、今の会社は3回目の会社なんです。(So that makes this my third job.)

① 「toi u kotowa ということは」 Commonly used when confirming the correctness of a conclusion or opinion reached based on what the other person said.

A: ジェームズさんからメールがありました。今鳴門の橋を渡っているそうですよ。(I got an e-mail from James. He says he's crossing the Naruto Bridge right now.)
toi u kotowa a to yonjuppun gura i de kochi rani tsuki ma su ne

B: ということは、あと40分ぐらいでこちらに着きますね。(So that means he'll be here in about 40 minutes.)

② 「sou i u wakede そういうわけで」 Followed by a statement expressing a conclusion or result. The preceding sentence explains the circumstances of or reasons that brought about the conclusion or the result. A detailed explanation is usually given in the preceding sentence.

A: Bさん、大阪に転勤するそうですね。ご家族も一緒に行くんですか。(I heard B-san is being transferred to Osaka. Will his family go too?)
b san o osaka ni tenkin suru sou desu ne gokazokumoi sshoni i ku n desuka

B: いえ、妻は徳島を出たくないと言っているし、息子は今年高校受験なんです。そういうわけで、一人で大阪へ行くことにしました。(No, his wife says she doesn't want to leave Tokushima, and his son is in the middle of high school entrance exams. So that means he's decided go to Osaka alone.)
i e tsuma wa tokushima w o detakuna i to itte irushi musukowakotoshikokojukenna n desu sou i u wake de hitoride o osaka he i kukoto nishimashita

sono hokan o setsuzokuhyougen renshuumondai
 そのほかの接続表現～練習問題～ More connecting phrases - practice questions

Complete the sentence by filling in the appropriate phrase from the list below.

- 李さんは日本語が話せる。() 英語も上手だ。
Lee san wa nihongo ga hanaseru eigo mo jouzuda
- 道がとてもしんどい。() 20分遅刻した。
michi ga tote mo konda i ta nijuppun chikokushita
- A: 今日の会議は疲れましたね。
so u desu ne
 B: そうですね。() Aさんは、夏休みはいつ取るんですか。
san ji juugo funnoba suninorita i n desuga natsuyasumi wa i tsutoru n desuka
- A: 3時15分のバスに乗りたいたんですが・・・
san jini kokow o dete mo mania i masuyo
 B: () 3時にここを出ても間に合いますよ。

tokorode ところで (by the way) sorenara それなら (if that's the case) soreni それに (in addition) sorede それで (and that is why)

Answers:

1. それに	2. それで	3. それに	4. ところで
soreni	sorede	soreni	tokorode

Reference materials used: 「新日本語の中級」スリーエーネットワーク



memoranda

Awa Odori at Tokushima Airport

Come along to the Tokushima Airport terminal to see displays of Awa Odori as dancers greet visitors and home-comers in preparation for the event!

When: Sunday, August 12
10:00, 11:45, 14:00

Where: At the entrance to the Tokushima Airport terminal, in Matsushige-cho

Cost: Free

Contact: Call the Tokushima Airport at 088-699-2831

徳島空港で阿波踊り

この機会に徳島空港を出る観光客や出張・旅行から帰る県民を迎える阿波踊りのディスプレイをご覧ください！

日時： 8月12日（日）

場所： 10:00, 14:00, 14:00

金額： 無料

問合せ： 徳島空港ビルまで電話
088-699-2831

Exciting Summer in Wajiki 2007

Once again this year in Wajiki you can enjoy the sounds of several popular artists in this outdoors concert. This year's performers include Chatmonchee, Otsuka Ai and more!

When: Monday, August 13
Grounds open at 9:30, and performances at 11:30. The event is set to end at 16:30.

Where: The Otsuka Seiyaku Wajiki Factory outdoor stage, in Naka-cho, Naka-gun.

Cost: Free!

Contact: Check out the festival homepage (in Japanese) at the following address: <http://www.whk.ne.jp/~exciting/>

エキサイティング・サマー・イン・ワジキ 2007!

このイベントでは、若者に人気のあるアーティストによるコンサートが開かれます！今年は大塚愛、チャットモンチーなど、様々なアーティストの演出を予定しています！

日時： 8月13日（月）

9:30 開場、11:30 から開始（終演予定時間
16:30）

場所： 大塚製薬野外ステージ、那賀郡那賀町

金額： 無料！

問合せ： イベント・ホームページをご覧ください：
<http://www.whk.ne.jp/~exciting/>

Anan Water Swim

Water swim is a new sport which involves holding swimming races in natural locations such as rivers and ocean beaches.

This race features a 1.5km and 3km course, an elite 6km course, and a 400m junior and team course.

When: August 25, 11:00 to 16:00

Where: Kita no Waki Long Beach near Yuki Station

Contact: Anan Open Water Swim Tournament Office
03-3465-2444

阿南ウォータースイム

ウォータースイムとは川や海の自然の中で行う水泳のことです。

競技種目：一般男女：1.5km、3km、エリート男女ペア
6km、ジュニア・一般チーム400m

日時：8月25日 11時から 16時

場所：由岐駅の近くにある北の脇ロングビーチ

問合せ：あなんオープンウォータースイム大会事務局
03-3465-2444

memoranda

Awa Odori With Niwaka-ren

If you're looking to take part in the action with Awa Odori in Tokushima city, why not join up with Niwaka-ren, a dance group open to all comers and totally free!

When: Sunday, August 12 to Wednesday, August 15
Reception is at 18:30 and 20:30 each evening

Where: Reception will be held in two places - at the entrance to the East Shinmachi Shopping Arcade by the Shinmachi Bridge, and out front of Tokushima City Hall.

Info: Call the Tokushima City Tourism Association at 088-622-4010

にわか連で阿波踊り参加しましょう！

徳島市で阿波踊りに参加したい方にはにわか連に参加してみませんか。参加は自由で服装もなんでもいいです！

日時：8月12日～15日
毎晩 18:30 と 20:30

場所：市役所前 又は 東新町商店街の西出口

問合せ：(財)徳島県国際交流協会

TEL：088-656-3303

FAX：088-652-0616

Disaster Study Tour

TOPIA and the Tokushima Prefectural Government presents a trip to the Disaster Centre! You can experience simulated earthquakes, strong winds, and more! Learn what to do when a natural disaster occurs.

when: Saturday, September 29, 13:00 - 16:30

where: meet at Tokushima Station at 13:00 and travel together by bus to the Disaster Centre in Kitajima.

cost: free

for more info and to register: Call TOPIA 088-656-3303

防災センター スタディツアー

徳島県とTOPIAでは県内に在住する外国人の方に災害に対する備えを学んでもらうための「徳島県立防災センター スタディツアー」を開催します。スタディツアーでは、地震は暴風を疑似体験できる！災害が起きたらどうすればいいかを学ぶことができます。ぜひご参加ください。

日時：9月29日(土) 13:00～16:30

場所：13:00に徳島駅で待ち合わせ、バスで北島の防災センターに移動。

参加費：無料

申し込み、問い合わせ：TOPIA まで 088-656-3303

22nd National Culture Festival: Odoru Kokubunsai

The 22nd National Culture Festival will be held in Tokushima this year. There are exciting cultural events happening in every corner of the prefecture, from modern art in Kamiyama, to flamenco in Mugi, to noh in Mima!

When: October 27 to November 4

Where: at locations all over the prefecture

Cost: most events are free, but some require application in advance.

Contact: the National Culture Festival office at 088-621-2114 (some English spoken) or see the homepage at <http://www.odoru-kokubunsai.jp/>

おどる国文際 第22回国民文化祭 徳島県

第22回の国文際が徳島県で行われます。わくわく、どきどきさせるイベントが県の各地で続々登場。神山の現代美術から牟岐のフラメンコから美馬での能、県の隅々まで文化が広がる！！

日時：10月27日から11月4日まで

場所：徳島県の各地

金額：無料なイベントが多いが、申し込みが必要なところもあります

問合せ：国文際実行委員会：088-621-2114

<http://www.odoru-kokubunsai.jp/>

memoranda

The Japanese Language Proficiency Test

Take this annual test to see how far you've progressed in your language study, or to improve the contents of your resume! Application packs are available at Kinokuniya Books in Sogo and at Koyama Books in front of Tokushima Station.

application period: July 2 - September 11
test date: December 2 (Sunday)
test locations: Kobe, Takamatsu, Hiroshima, and other big cities nearby
cost: application pack costs ¥500, test fee is ¥5,500
for more info: www.jees.or.jp

日本語能力試験

自分の日本語能力を確認してみませんか？この試験は毎年12月に行われます。就職などにつながる貴重な資格。勉強のやりがいにもなるこの試験にチャレンジしよう！

出願受付期間：7月2日～9月11日
 試験日：12月2日（日曜日）
 試験地：神戸市、高松市、広島市等全国の都会（徳島では受けられません）
 願書：500円（徳島市では紀伊國屋書店と小山助学館本店で買えます）
 受験料：5,500円
 詳しく：www.jees.or.jp

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

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をアクセスできます。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)

受け止めていますか人権の重み