
awa life



"TOPY"

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

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the hikyo iya ohashi bridge

by **claire tanaka**
clairish@gmail.com

the Iya Valley became a little less inaccessible this spring due to the new bypass and bridge that opened there on February 19th. The Hikyo Iya Ohashi bridge is 268 metres long and cost about 1.7 billion yen to build. The total cost for the bridge and bypass was approximately 4.8 billion yen. The new road will make access to the Iya Valley's **kazura bashi** vine bridge easier, and reduce the crowded traffic conditions that tend to happen during touristy times of year. There is also an event centre called Kazura Bashi Yume Butai and a 300 car parking lot planned to open near the vine bridge. Critics of the new route lament the loss of one of Japan's last wilderness frontiers and say it could have been designed with a little more 'flair', while others say it will help keep the region alive by creating jobs in the local tourist industry.



hikyo iya ohashi bridge - photo by josef addleman

inside awa life this month

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awa life

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Editors:

Andrew Dahms & Claire Tanaka

Contributors This Month:

Tom Collins, Andrew Dahms, Kazue Inoue, Andrew Kim, Junko Kimura, Sumika Tamura, and Claire Tanaka

Tokushima Prefectural International Exchange Association (TOPIA)

Clement Plaza 6F

1-61 Terashima Honcho Nishi

Tokushima City 770-0831 JAPAN

tel: 088.656.3303

fax: 088.652.0616

topia@fm.nmt.ne.jp

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

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

from the editors

every morning, one of the first things I do is turn on my kerosene heater. I'm happy to know that in a few weeks I won't have to that any more! Spring is nice because I don't have to rely on machines to control the temperature in my apartment.

Lately, chocolate with 70% or more cacao content is experiencing a boom thanks to reports on TV that it has good health benefits. Suddenly, high quality European chocolate can be had in even my little neighbourhood supermarket! I like this fad better than the agar-agar one from last year. I wonder what's next? How about beets? I've always had trouble getting fresh beets in Japan... and they're very healthful!

Love, Claire.



april has come, and along with it the famous cherry blossoms and the perfect opportunity for some **hanami** (flower-viewing). Not only that, but the fresh spring air and the warmth make it easier and easier to go for a trip and enjoy outdoor activities! Unfortunately, it is also the time for hay fever, but I hope you are all doing well.

In this month's Awa Life, Tom Collins shows us how to prepare tempura, Andrew Kim writes to us about the annual AJET Musical, and Martin takes a look at the classic anime title 'Ghost in the Shell'. I hope you are enjoying the warmer weather, and I hope you enjoy reading this issue of Awa Life as well!

Cheers, Andrew



the cherry blossom - unofficial flower of japan, and appearing in countless songs, movies and poems. Sakura bloom only once a year; and the short lifespan of their flowers (one to two weeks) lends them the common connection with the passing of time and melancholy

cooking - tempura

by tom collins
tom_collins@hotmail.co.uk

a wet, warm spring morning in Chichaimura, Tosa-ken (modern day Kochi), 1616: a middle-aged fisherman innocently admiring his catch on the dockside is killed when hit on the head by a sack of flour falling off the back of a passing market-bound cart. He wasn't found for hours (everyone was shopping), but when he was, it was slumped facedown on top of a thousand writhing decapod crustaceans. The sack had split, coating both he and his shrimp companions in a thick layer of flour that had been transformed into a mushy batter by a persistent rain.

The story goes that the fisherman was found by his wife, who despite being distraught, sought to make the best of a bad situation and in the quintessential Japanese spirit of efficiency dropped the battered **ebi** briefly into a vat of hot oil and served the strange incarnation as a light snack at the poor husband's funeral. The new food was a phenomenal success: the widow opened a shop, accrued a small fortune overnight and was remarried to a local **daimyo** before the autumn leaves had fallen. And, so they say, **tempura** was born.

Spring in Japan is a time, food-wise, most often associated with vegetables, usually wild varieties garnered from the mountain woods: bamboo shoots (**takenoko**), rape blossoms (**nanohana**), bog rhubarb (**fuki**), braken (**warabi**) and knotweed (**itadori**) are common examples. My grandmother

always used to say, "Ahh - you can't beat fresh produce in the kitchen". Well to be fair, if I was going to lean on this false truism in this article it would be a terrible fabrication of sentiment, simply because a lot of these things taste, well, UN-pleasant. But that probably won't stop a lot of well-intentioned people making gifts of these "lovely vegetables" to you in the coming weeks (if your village is anything like mine). If you're the sort of person who can't bear the thought of throwing away perfectly good food, then I can offer you only one possibility of culinary happiness in the near-future: the deep-fried goodness that is the (now) legendary tempura.

There are few things simpler to make than **tempura**. First assemble and prepare your ingredients: the vegetables, fish, meat (pretty much anything will work) you wish to use - wash, cut to size, etc

Tempura Batter

Ingredients

1 cup of cold water
40g of potato starch
130g of plain flour
1/4 teaspoon of baking powder
1/4 teaspoon of salt

Directions

Pour the water into a bowl, sift the other ingredients on top and then lightly whisk (with **hashi**) into a lumpy batter. Prepare at the last possible minute; keep cool. Dip ingredients into the batter immediately before cooking.

- then dip them in plain flour. Prepare one batch of batter (see below), whilst heating a saucepan approximately one-third full of vegetable oil until a cube of bread dropped in browns in 15 seconds. Dip each ingredient into the batter and carefully lower it into the oil. Cook batches of three or four pieces for 2-3 minutes or until it looks like something you want to eat. Drain excess fat off with a paper towel and keep warm in an oven. Add ice cubes to the batter if it gets too thick. Serve with individual bowls of dipping sauce (see below), to which you can add grated ginger and/or daikon (or ketchup, perhaps, if you're frying the seasonal fare). Personally, I think **shiitake** mushrooms, aubergine and capsicum peppers make the best ingredients for **tempura**. But as I always tell my priest: you never know 'til you've tried it.

Tempura Dipping Sauce

Ingredients

1 cup of **dashi** stock
1/4 cup of **mirin**
1/3 cup of soy sauce

Directions

Put all the ingredients together & boil over a high heat, then reduce heat and simmer until serving.

The sauce should be served in a small side-bowl along with the tempura itself.



ajet musical - peter pan

by andrew kim
 ajk96@u.washington.edu

a tale of pirates, indians, and lost kids lead by a flying boy in green tights, only one story fits that description, and that of course is Peter Pan. From the 1924's Paramount Pictures silent movie version to the 2004's Finding Neverland, the Tokushima 12th AJET Musical adaptation of Peter Pan by far surpassed its predecessors. Directed by Josef Addleman, Tokushima's Peter Pan combined a taste of the west and east to produce a magical performance that brought Peter Pan's adventure to life!

Fusing together humor and references from both western and Japanese culture, the musical tailored to a variety of audiences ranging from cute Japanese elementary students to western English teachers. The acting, dancing, and singing were pure works of art and the energy put into its preparation truly showed. Tokushima's Peter Pan was an all out breathtaking act that will forever go into the Tokushima history books as the best musical yet!



peter pan and friends

As I first stepped into the Fureai Plaza in the town of Mikamo, I was welcomed by a large cast of Pirates, Lost Kids, and a certain girl dressed in green that I quite couldn't recognize, maybe a Sudachi promoter? Soon after shooting a couple of scenes during the dress rehearsal, nostalgic memories of watching Disney's cartoon version of Peter Pan during my elementary days came to mind and then it clicked! That Sudachi Queen was none other than the cute green-clothed fairy, Tinkerbell

(the ringing of the bell also helped). Although it was only a dress rehearsal, the energy I felt put life and excitement back into the optical-lens of my Sony camcorder. Overall, watching the practice gave me a lot of laughs, and getting a sample of it sparked a hunger for more!

A couple weeks later and back in the Fureai Plaza, but now in the town of Higashi-Miyoshi, I was greeted once again by the same cast of Pirates, Lost Kids, and the Sudac... Tinkerbell. After the audience entered and settled down, the opening scene began. My Sony and I felt something, a lively atmosphere flowing from both the audience and performers, fusing into what would later become an all out awesome performance!

Ultimately, the 12th AJET Musical defines perfection and even more, setting a new standard for the next 13th musical. If you didn't catch this year's musical, be sure to watch the next, you won't regret it!



director josef addleman recieves a bouquet at the final performance



staff farewells

april staff changes at TOPIA this year have us bidding farewell to Chinese Coordinator for International Relations (CIR) Li Zhiyang, and self-declared "soccer mom for travellers" Junko Kimura. We wish them the best with their future endeavours. Here are their farewell messages to *Awa Life* readers:

Li Zhiyang

For the past year, I have been working as a CIR for Tokushima prefecture. I came to Tokushima in April last year when the **sakura** were in bloom. When I think about it now, however, it seems like it was almost yesterday. I have come to love Tokushima, ever since I stepped into this city enveloped in pink and white flowers. Tokushima is a place not only gifted by natural wonders such as the Naruto Whirlpools and the Iya Valley, but also with culture such as the Awa Odori and the 88 Temple Pilgrimage. I feel very keenly how much joy it has given me to live here.

One year seems a very short time, but the time I have spent with the people from the Cultural and International Division and at TOPIA, as well as everybody, is a treasure to me. The casual conversations I had with everyone ended up giving me the biggest hints for my life in Japan. Not only has my understanding of international exchange activities increased, but it has also allowed me a different perspective on my life to come. During the year, I will not only take



junko kimura on the left and li zhiyang on the right

with me the treasures I have seen and experienced here in Tokushima, in Japan, but I would like to show these things to more and more people in China. In his memoirs, entertainer Piko wrote that "there is nothing I can do for those that taught me so much, except to pass on the kindness and thoughtfulness I learned from them to the next person. Is this not, too, a form of gratitude?"

Junko Kimura

I still cannot believe that my work at TOPIA is going to be finished in a few days. This was my second year here and I must say that I enjoyed working here a lot with TOPIA staff and other people whom I met through my work. I met a lot of people who were from all over the world by just being in this office. I often asked how they ended up being in Tokushima or Shikoku Island, their travel stories, their countries, etc... Each traveler was unique and sometimes I

was amazed how they were traveling all over Japan. I was happy that I could be a part of their trip. Even my friends in Tokushima email my mobile phone to ask about the train schedule or other information.

I've mainly been writing articles for *Awa Life* about Japanese culture in English. Writing articles helps me to keep up my English ability plus I also learned a lot about Japanese cultural history that I didn't know. The happiest thing about this is that you read my articles and enjoy them. I get good compliments from friends; some of them use my articles in their English classes. I am planning on writing some more articles in the future - I hope I can introduce something interesting about Japanese culture to you!

You will probably still see me at TOPIA since I am planning on going to be a volunteer in Japanese classes on weekends.



travel tokushima - boardwalk

by andrew dahms
 until_eternity@hotmail.com

Tokushima city is well-known for the waterways that run through it and connect with the surrounding rivers. In fact, it was chosen as having one of the top 100 water-based town-planning sites in all of Japan by the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport. And the symbol of this achievement, and of the city itself, it is the Shinmachi Boardwalk and Water Park area.

Completed in August of 1989, the entire boardwalk area covers a total of some 7,200 square meters along the banks of the Shinmachi river as it passes through the middle of Tokushima City. It has recieved a number of awards in several events, including the 6th City Park Contest and the 1990 Environmental Art Grand Prix.

The boardwalk is host to a variety of things. First and foremost is a free boat ride that takes you on a 30 minute circuit around the center of

town. It makes for a wonderful ride, and is a good way to see a new angle on the city. You can catch it by the Ryogoku bridge a short way along the boardwalk. Take care, though, as the boat passes under quite a few bridges, and you will have to duck in under to pass by during high tide!

Second, there is a stage area used as a place to take a rest and for live music events. The boardwalk area connecting to it is also a very popular location for markets on the weekends, and the entire area fills with stalls during times such as the yearly Awa Odori.

The boardwalk is also home to a flower garden and park area with jungle gyms installed for children to play with. Used as a stage in Awa Odori each year, the park area is wide and spacious, and makes for a nice place to stop by and eat lunch or go for a walk. Also, the Hana Haru Festa in Tokushima is held here in April each year, providing the chance to

see some Awa Odori without having to wait until August.

Otherwise, you can find a lot of interesting things along the boardwalk. From a small stage near the end of the Shinmachi arcade commonly used for dance practice, an artwork of several fish held suspended in the air, and the lights decorating the trees along the side of the river that give it a beautiful glow in the nighttime.

The boardwalk is also home to rows of **sakura**, as well as a range of other flowers as well. It is also a common sight to see ducks and other birds by the side of the river, and a set of glass windows underneath the Shinmachi bridge provides a view underwater. There are even signs showing what kind of fish can be found there!

So if you're ever on a trip through town, take a walk by the river - you're sure to find something that will take your interest.



the view along the shinmachi water park area

martin's anime corner

Title: Ghost in the Shell
(攻殻機動隊)
Director: Mamoru Oshii
Creators: Bandai Channel
Released: Japan(1995), US
(1995)
Time: 82 min

based on an original **manga** by Masamune Shirou and directed by Mamoru Oshii, Ghost is the Shell ranks along with Akira as one of the most influential and genre-defining anime productions to have ever been created. Although it has never managed to gain mainstream popularity like many of the Studio Ghibli films, Ghost is the Shell was hugely popular among fans of the genre and its DVD release was one of the top ten best selling releases ever.

The film is set in the near future, in an era where mega-corporations dominate nations and where everything and everyone is connected to a vast interactive computer network. The picture it paints of the future is probably not that fanciful when you think about it. In this brave new world we are soon introduced to "Section 9", a covert division of the Japanese police whose role is to investigate cybercrime on the network. The story is based around Major Motoko Kusanagi of Section 9 and her partner Bateau in their investigation of a master hacker known as the "Puppet Master". Both Major Kusanagi and Bateau are cyborgs. Kusanagi especially is almost completely mechanized apart from her brain and spinal cord. The specialised

technology that defines her physical body allows her super human abilities that ordinary cops simply cannot match.

The Puppet Master is a master hacker who hacks into people's brains in order to use them to carry out various acts of espionage or terrorism, leaving his puppets no memory of their infiltration. While conducting her investigations, Kusanagi, who is a cyborg, questions the search for her identity. Kusanagi is part of a world where flesh and machine have come together as one, where cyber-brains are able to tap into vast networks of information. In such a world she ponders how is possible to understand the presence of a soul and the relationship between the individual and a higher power.

The film juxtaposes weighty philosophical elements with skilfully rendered chase and fight scenes, a formula to which the Wachowski brothers of The Matrix fame obviously paid close attention. Even the signature green text that appears at the beginning and the end of The Matrix film was taken from Ghost in the Shell. Much like in The Matrix, the dominant theme of Ghost in the Shell is in considering the possibility of what happens once the machines begin to think? As Section 9's investigation progresses, it soon becomes apparent that the entity is not a human or cyborg but an autonomous artificial intelligence project (Top Secret Project 2501) created by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA), also

known as "Section 6". The Puppeteer escapes the servers of Section 6 in order to evolve, and this evolution, it seems, involves Kusanagi herself.

Although Ghost in the Shell is a very innovative film, it hasn't aged significantly, despite being released more than 10 years ago. It fails in its efforts to develop a truly satisfying, thought-provoking conclusion. In this sense, the philosophical musings are a little bit dry and pretentious at times. The film fails to finish what it starts, so to speak, and the ending sequence is actually a little bit disappointing. Nevertheless, it's obvious that Ghost in the Shell excels in its aim to try and make sense of the possible implications that our ever increasing dependency on technology will have. In this respect, it is more than a mere science-fiction film. Nowadays a great deal of human interaction is mediated by technology such as by the internet and mobile phone technology. The inherent limitations and inadequacies of the human body are being overcome as a result of newly developed technology such as genetics and nano-science. In a similar vein to what was achieved with The Matrix and Space Odyssey 2001 the great achievement of this film is that along with these two movies it manages to articulate how rapid technological progress may break down the boundaries between time and space and even body and soul in a manner that is somewhat believable.



letter from suketo hoikuen

by kazue inoue
 suketo hoikuen

Invited out by the warmth of spring, flowers are blooming everywhere. That's spring in Japan. Japan's four seasons: warm spring, hot summer, refreshing autumn, and cold winter. The children of Japan grow up big and strong by feeling the seasons with their bodies. This month is the best time of year to get outside with your kids. Why not pack a lunch and head out to the park as a family? I'm sure there will be a lot to discover there.

Things you can learn
 from nature:

Have fun harvesting and eating

Learn the preciousness of life

Develop a sense of balance
 and an adventurous spirit

Experience the changing
 of the seasons



Meet lots of different people

Stimulate the five senses

Let's play with dandelions! Dandelion Whistle

1. cut the stem to about 5cm and squish one end.
2. put the squished end in your mouth and blow!

Dandelion Watch

1. split the stem down the middle and tie it around your wrist. with a shorter stem, you can make a ring for your finger!

shin-mai mama nikki

by claire tanaka
 clairish@gmail.com

March was Sofie's last month at home with her dad before starting daycare on April 4. We went to the **setsumei-kai** (orientation) for daycare on March 15. I was interested to note that the gender representation in attending parents was about 3:7 fathers and mothers. The main message I got from the orientation was that we are going to have to write Sofie's name on everything she brings to daycare, including each individual diaper. I'm getting high on magic marker fumes just thinking about it. For those wondering, daycare will cost us 55,000 yen per month.

With Sofie's foray into solid foods looming on the horizon, I have started looking into getting organic vegetables delivered. I used to get veggies delivered when I lived in Canada, and

I had the impression that this service wasn't available in Japan, but once I started looking, I found a ton of companies, including Radish Boya, Chikyu-jin Club, Daichi, and others. I wrote away to a few of them and requested pamphlets. One company sent me a free box of vegetables to sample! Unfortunately, over here on Shikoku, the delivery fees are more expensive than they are on Honshu, but it still seems worth it to get organic vegetables (as well as free range eggs, milk, meat, and organic processed foods like tofu) delivered to the door. No more impulse purchases! No more taking the baby along to the grocery store at 7pm! And we'll all get more variety of vegetables to eat. Maybe I'll finally learn how to cook gobo, too.

Speaking of getting things for free, Sofie got a letter from the library the other day

telling us to drop by and pick up her complimentary Book Start kit! Book Start (www.bookstart.co.uk - Japanese site is www.bookstart.net) is an initiative started in the UK that gives away books to babies to encourage parents to read to their children. It was my first step inside the Tokushima City Library (next door to the Seishonen Centre.) The second floor is all kid's books, and they even have a section of foreign books! Most are English, but there are some Spanish, German, Thai, French, and other language books as well. The Book Start kit had two books in it, a schedule for the book bus that visits a new neighbourhood in the city every day, a pamphlet about reading to babies, and a form for making a library card. So now Sofie has her own library card!



japanese lesson

What is the most difficult thing about studying Japanese? Quite likely, a lot of people with answer 'it's the use of particles!' In spoken language, particles are sometimes left out of the sentence. For example, the sentence in the example below often appears in the second form in spoken language:

1. わたしは ゆうべ テレビを みました。
watashi wa yubue terebi o mimashita
 2. わたし ゆうべ テレビ みました。
watashi yuube terebi mimashita

I watched television last night.

The second sentence is not a grammatically correct sentence, but it is acceptable in spoken language. In spoken language, the particles 'wa', 'ga', 'o', (as well as others, like 'ni' and 'to') are often left out of the sentence. Because they are main particles in the text, they can be cut-out.

On the other hand, other particles such as 'kara', 'made', 'de' and 'yori' cannot be left out. This is because it makes it almost impossible to understand the meaning of the sentence when they are removed. For example, if you take the example sentence 3 below and turned it into the form in 4, it becomes difficult to tell what the person is trying to say.

3. 徳島から 札幌まで 飛行機で 2時間 かかります。
tokushimakara sapporomade hikokide nijikan kakarimasu
 4. 徳島 札幌 飛行機 2時間 かかります。

It takes two hours to get from Tokushima to Sapporo by plane.

In this manner, particles that detract from the sentence's meaning when removed cannot be left out. These particles can also be combined with others to form phrases such as 'kara wa', 'made wa', or 'kara mo' and 'made mo'.

5. 徳島からは 2時間 かかりますよ。
tokushimakarawa nijikan kakarimasuyo
 6. 徳島からも 2時間 かかりますよ。
tokushimakaramo nijikan kakarimasuyo

It takes two hours from Tokushima.

Example sentence 5 holds the nuance that from a certain place, eg. Osaka, it takes 1 hour to get somewhere. Example number 6 has the nuance that it takes 2 hours from other places, Takamatsu for example, **as well**.

Particles that can be left out are unable to be combined in a similar fashion as those that must be made explicit, such as phrases like 'ga wa', 'o wa', or 'ga mo' and 'o mo'. In this way, there is a difference even between different types of particles.

Let's Practice: Which of the particles in the following sentences can be removed in spoken speech?

1: 明日、私はデパートに行きます。
ashita watashiwadepaatonikiimasu

2: 私はケーキを食べるのが好きです。
watashiwakeekiotaberunogasukidesu

3: 日本語のテストは何時から始まりますか。
nihongonotesutowananjikarahajimarimasuka

Answers:

3: 日本語のテストは何時から始まりますか。
nihongo no tesuto nanjikararahajimarimasuka

2: 私はケーキを食べるのが好きです。
watashi keeki taberunogasukidesu

1: 明日、私はデパートに行きます。
ashita watashi deparato ikimasu



Rose Festival

Come along to the rose garden to see over 1,000 roses of more than 270 different species come into bloom in this wonderful spring display. There will also be seedlings and special products on sale.

when: Early to Mid May, 9:00 - 17:00

where: Itano-gun, Aizumi-cho, Rose Garden

cost: Free

for more info: Call the Aizumi-cho Construction and Industry Division at 088-637-3120

春のバラ祭り

藍住町のバラ園では、270種類・1,000株のバラが咲きます。バラの苗木の販売も特産品等の販売も行います。

いつ: 5月、上旬から中旬まで
9:00時から17:00時まで

どこ: 板野郡藍住町、藍翠苑

金額: 無料

詳しく: 藍住町建設産業課まで
電話 088-637-3120

Bando Movie Set Open to the Public

Visit the set used to film the movie "Baruto no Gakuen" - travel back in time to World War I.

when: open every day 9:30 - 17:00

where: 5 minutes taxi ride from Bando Station, across the river from Oasa Hiko Jinja

cost: ¥500 for adults, ¥200 for Elem. & Jr. High students

for more info: Contact the Naruto Chamber of Commerce and Tourism Division: 088-684-1157

板東ロケ村オープン

映画「バルトの樂園」のロケ村を見に行こう。第一世界大戦の時代に戻ろう。

いつ: 9:30 ~ 17:00 年中無休

どこ: 板東駅からタクシーで5分。大麻比古神社の川の向こうにある。

金額: 大人 500円、小中学生 200円

詳しくは: 鳴門市商工観光課: 088-684-1157

Awa Connection Hanami Potluck Party

when: April 9 from 12:00

where: Tokushima Central Park - look for our signs!

bring: - some food to share

- your picnic plates, cups, drinks, etc
- your family and friends
- any portable musical instrument you can play

Mr. Kume (a magician) will entertain 2:00 - 3:00

if it rains, we'll move to the outdoor covered area on the 3rd floor of the Amico Building

for more info: awaconnect@yahoo.com

homepage: www.geocities.com/awaconnect

阿波コネクション ポットラック 花見会

いつ: 4月9日(日) 12:00 ~

どこ: 徳島中央公園

持参物: 食べ物(みんなでわけあえるもの)

各自のお皿、お箸、カップ等

家族、友達も連れてきてね!

手持ちできる楽器

マジックショー (2:00 ~ 3:00)

雨天の場合はシビックセンター (アミコ3F) 屋上へ

メール: awaconnect@yahoo.com

ホームページ: www.geocities.com/awaconnect

memoranda

I's Aizumi Japanese Class

First term, 2006

when: Starting April 13, every Thursday 19:00 - 20:30

where: Aizumi Welfare Centre 2F

cost: ¥1,000

text: "Minna no Nihongo I" from Chapter 1

instructors: Akiko Tsuji and Kaori Tamada

for more info: Aizumi International Association
Aizumi Welfare Center

32-1 Aza, Yagamimae, Okuno, Aizumi-cho, Itano-gun
771-1203

tel. 088-692-9951

fax. 088-692-1626

aizumi_kokusai@garnet.nmt.ne.jp

I's 藍住町国際交流協会日本語教室

2006 年度前期

いつ：4月13日から毎週木曜日 19:00 - 20:30

どこ：藍住福祉センター 2F

参加費：1000円

テキスト：みんなの日本語初級Ⅰ（1課～）

講師：辻暁子と玉田香織

詳しくは：I's 事務局

〒771-1203 板野郡藍住町奥野字矢上前 32-1

藍住町福祉センター

tel. 088-692-9951

fax. 088-692-1626

aizumi_kokusai@garnet.nmt.ne.jp

Hey International Families!

Tokushima City's Suketo Hoikuen and TOPIA present International Child-rearing Salons. Please come and meet other international families like yours! There is no fee for participation.

at TOPIA

(Tokushima City, Clement Building 6F)

when: every 3rd Sunday from 13:30 - 15:00

cost: free

for more info: 088-656-3303

at Suketo Hoikuen

(Tokushima City, Nakayoshino-cho 1-61)

when: every Thursday from 10:00 - 14:00

cost: free

for more info: 070-5681-1230

also...

Contact Ms. Murasawa at TOPIA for information regarding Japanese lessons for parents with small children, and Chinese and English language child-rearing consultation services.

やあ、国際家族たち！

徳島市の助任保育園と TOPIA で国際子育てサロンが開催されています。あなたのような国際家族に色々出会える機会です。加費無料！

トピアで

(徳島市クレメントプラザ 6階)

日時：第三の日曜日、13:30 から 15:00

金額：無料

詳しく：088-656-3303

助任保育園で

(徳島市中吉野町 1-61)

日時：毎週木曜日 10:00 から 14:00

金額：無料

詳しく：070-5681-1230

それで・・・

小さい子供のいる方向けの日本語教室や、中国語と英語での子育て相談サービスの案内は、トピアの村澤さんまで問い合わせください。

memoranda

Doitsu-kan Events

German Easter Festival

There is going to be a piano concert for children by Misa Awata (entry free). And from 15:00-16:00 there will be an Easter Quiz (in Japanese). First prize is a teddy bear, made in Germany. (entry free)

When: April 16th
13:30-14:30 egg painting (500 yen)
14:30-15:00

for more info: Call the Doitsu-kan at 088-689-0099

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

ドイツのイースター祭り

子供向けのピアノ・コンサートも開かれます (入所無料)。15:00時から16:00時まで日本語でのイースタークイズが行われ、1位にドイツ産のクマのぬいぐるみが当たります。

日時: 4月16日
13:30時から14:30時
14:30時から15:00時

詳しく: ドイツ館まで電話 088-689-0099

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>

Hana Haru Festa

Tokushima's annual spring festival featuring Awa Odori dancing, outdoor musical performances, booths selling local products, and a chance to try your hand at local traditional crafts.

when: Friday, April 28 to Sunday, April 30
10:00 - 17:00 (12:00 - 16:00 on Friday)
where: At the Aibahama Park near Tokushima JR Station
cost: Free
info: Call the Hana Haru Festa Executive Committee Office at 088-655-7331

はな・はる・フェスタ

徳島の毎年の春まつり。阿波踊り、野外コンサート、名産品売り場、屋台、手作り体験などなど、楽しいことたくさん!

日時: 4月28日(金)～4月30日(日)
10:00～17:00 (金曜は12:00～16:00)
どこ: 藍場浜公園(徳島駅の近く)
金額: 無料
詳しく: はな・はる・フェスタ実行委員会事務局まで
電話 088-655-7331

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