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# awa life



"TOPPY"

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

January 2005 No. 175

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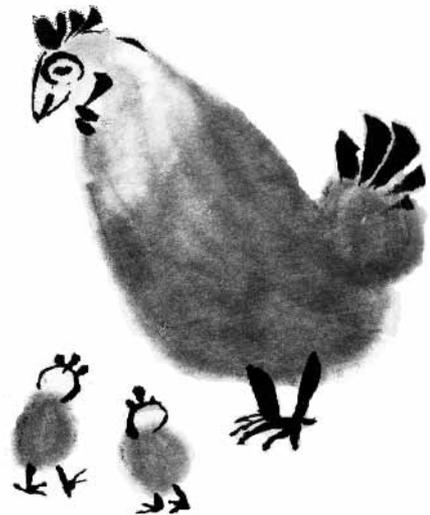
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.....and a happy new year

あけまして

おめでとう

ございます



artwork by Mr. Hisatoyo Murasawa

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## from the editors

**f**or the first time in what seems like a long while, I am not around to see Awa Life off to the printers. Martin has bravely taken the helm while I've gone to Canada to see my family for the holidays. In fact, as I write this, I'm sitting in my mom's kitchen! Since arriving in Canada, I've been having fun making small talk (in English! woo) with storekeepers, walking in the woods around my parents' house, and eating way too much cheese and crackers. I'm also really looking forward to the year ahead in Tokushima. I can already see my schedule filling up with fun events - some of which I am sure will end up between the pages of Awa Life!

I hope everyone has a successful and prosperous Year of the Rooster!

Love, Claire



**a**fter my holiday in Tokyo I am back in Tokushima to bring forth another edition of Awa Life. I am told that in Tokushima things become very quiet in January as people like to hibernate indoors due to the cold. I think I am the opposite, the cold doesn't bother me as much as the blazing heat and torrential downfall that are common during the summer months. I spent part of Christmas week high up the mountains in Kamiyama listening to some great musicians. This was in contrast to last year when I spent the holiday period sitting in front of the television watching MTV, while slowly and methodically decimating the contents of my parent's drinks cabinet. Change is good I guess. Until next time have a happy new year.

Peace, Martin



## awa life

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

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**awa life** welcomes announcements, articles, opinions, letters, art and photographs. Please send contributions to the editors at TOPIA. You can also write (or call in!) for a free subscription.

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**English Information on FM Tokushima:**

"Talk Up Tokushima" Thursdays @ 9:15am  
 Tokushima City 80.7 Ikeda 82.3  
 Anan 78.4 Hiwasa 77.7

# camping, kids, and nenkyuu

by ronald page

ahh, the Japanese winter is now upon us, and for people who like the beach and sun (read: Australians) our thoughts are already longing for summer. For the average single English teacher the summer holidays (and winter ones) mean a chance to vacate Japan for some other exotic locale.

Our summer holiday trip had to meet the criteria of being cheap, inexpensive, good value, and not very expensive. Of course it would also be nice to go somewhere more interesting than the local 100 yen shop. One idea that appealed to us was doing Kyushu by car. For a couple of years I had watched my JHS students go on a school trip to Kyushu. Unfortunately, I was never given the opportunity of going on these jaunts myself. This is despite offering tactful expressions of interest to senior teachers such as "Do you need an English translator on the Kyushu trip?" to "What does one have to do to get on the Kyushu all expenses paid junket?" No problem! I was still going to do this trip, but with my family instead of a hundred or so Junior High School students.

Our plan was to do the basic school trip route. The sights that we wanted to see included Beppu, Space World, Takachiho gorge, and Mount Aso (Volcano). Access to Kyushu is relatively easy. Catch a ferry from Matsuyama, Misaki, or, Yawatahama (near Uwajima). We took a ferry from Yawatahama using the Uwajima Unyu ferry company. They run five services to



*Takachiho gorge.*

Beppu a day with each trip taking about two hours and forty minutes. (See <http://www.uwajimaunyu.co.jp/price/index.html>) Make sure you bring your **shaken** certificate with you as it is needed in order to buy the ticket.

Now being **Australia-jin** we never have much of an opportunity to catch ferries in Australia. Where would we head to? America? Fiji? I know there are some ferries between the mainland Australia and Tasmania, but that is Tasmania and enough said there! The point is that for the average Australian a ferry trip is something of a novelty. And of course the kids enjoyed it...well at least for the first hour! At first, the ferry tracks along the coast of Shikoku, and there are sights such as wind generators and orchards to look at. However, soon the ferry headed off into open water with little to look at, and by the time we got to Beppu and after the children had tried out the toilets on all floors at least

six times we were glad to drive off the ferry into Beppu City. Beppu is one fascinating place. Firstly, the majority of the city is built on a steep hill, with buildings towards the top offering superb views that are reminiscent of coastal Italy or Greece. Secondly, it is built on some geological phenomena that allows for an abundance of geothermal hot springs to exist. According to one source the amount of hot water leaking out of the hillside of Beppu is some 136,212 kiloliters (approximately 36 million gallons) per day. This makes it the second highest output anywhere in the world. Our low budget accommodation at Beppu was the Lake Shidaka Camping ground. This camping ground is scenic, well maintained and dirt cheap at 200 yen a night for a camp site . (see <http://ksoutdoor.cool.ne.jp/family/camp/kyusyu/shidakako/>)

Please note that whilst facilities are adequate (squat toilets) they don't include showers. This is simply because Beppu is **onsen** smorgasbord. We ended up going to a really good **onsen** about ten minutes drive away for 220 yen.

The tourist attractions at Beppu include the 'Hells', some cable car up to the top of a mountain, and a Safari Park. The 'Hells' are eight **jigoku** (hell) ponds. These are bubbling, steaming hot springs that are for viewing, not bathing. Temperatures in these ponds range from about ninety degrees Celsius to boiling (one hundred

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# j-league here we come

by martin o'brien

Local team Otsuka FC have won their final game of the season and are champions of the Japanese Football League (JFL) and will now be promoted to the J-league Division 2. Otsuka is the name of the pharmaceutical company that are the teams sponsors and for most of the teams history the company name has been incorporated into the actual name of the team. However the team will play under the name "Vortis Tokushima" when they start participating in the J-league. I was lucky enough to be able to attend the second last game of the season which was won by Tokushima. The second last match of the season was the first time I attended one of Tokushima`s games. It was a home game played in their Naruto stadium. Tokushima played against neighboring team Ehime F.C. The influence of Otsuka pharmaceuticals in regard to the sponsorship and organization of the team was obvious. The companies` factories loomed in the background and there were many sales persons promoting the companies` products outside the stadium. We even parked in a car park that was owned by the companies` factory. The strong corporate influence on every aspect of the team is somewhat unique to Japanese sports teams. Otsuka FC is no exception. The atmosphere in the stadium was very friendly (someone gave us free tickets for next weeks match) but at the same time it lacked the atmosphere of a soccer match in my own



*Otsuka FC in action*

country. People seemed very relaxed and didn't really get excited about the match unless there was an attempt on one of the goals. This relaxed state of affairs could however be a result of the fact that Otsuka have won nearly every one of their games this season, victory it would seem has become passé. That might change when Tokushima start playing in the J-league where they will face much stiffer competition. In the future is likely that we will see more varied performances from Otsuka FC as they will be playing teams that contain more hardened professionals. The teams that they will be facing are all I think you will agree are interestingly named. Among their rank are FC Mito Hollycock who hail from Ibaraki prefecture, Kyoto Purple Sanga and Shonan Bellmare. These teams are more likely to have a more numerous hardcore following than most Japanese Football League teams so Tokushima`s home games should be more

atmospheric.

Otsuka FC have been on winning form right from the opening game of the season on the 28th of March against Sagawa Insatsu SC. Right from the beginning of this opening match both teams appeared to be a match for each other however it wasn't long until Otsuka pulled away to dominate proceedings with an excellent opening goal that gave Otsuka their first three points. After half time Sagawa fought back vigorously only to concede another goal. Otsuka's 4-0 opening victory would set the pace for the rest of the teams historic season.

Otsuka's second game on the 4th of April against Yokogawa Musashino FC was held in the unusually named Amino Vital Field. Despite the rainy conditions victory was achieved. The result was 3-2 to Otsuka. On the 11th of November Otsuka played against The Spa Kusatsu. This team hailing from Gunma prefecture would also be promoted to J-league division 2 as they ended up runners up with Otsuka FC in the Japanese Football League. The Spa Kusatsu were one of the stronger teams in the league however in this match at least Otsuka were firmly in control, having most of the possession throughout. The final result Otsuka FC 2, The Spa Kusatsu 1.

Otsuka's fourth match of the season against Hokuriku AIO's marked yet another victory. It was however to be their most closely fought match so far. At

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## j-league here we... con't from page 5

half time the score was 0-0. However in the second half success returned again in the form of a single goal. After four matches and four victories Otsuka were firmly on top of the league and had become the team to beat in 2004.

Brimming with the confidence that an all-perfect record brings, Otsuka proceeded to soundly thrash Denso 7-1 on the 24th of march. Unfortunately for Denso this would not be the only time this season that they would be humiliated by Otsuka. In the next match against Kokushikan University, Otsuka were finally brought back down to earth not such with a bang but rather a gentle thud in the form of a their first draw of the season. Otsuka 1 Kokushikan University 1. Against such a humble college team one might argue that this was their worst result of the season.

On the 4th of may after having humbly realized that they couldn't win them all they predictably returned to winning ways again. In a tough fought match against Sagawa Insatsu SC nobody scored until the second half, however in the second half Sagawa would tire giving Otsuka the chance to score 2 goals. Otsuka were back in the black again.

Otsuka's composure was maintained against Guma FC another one of the leagues stronger teams. Otsuka scored the first goal but Guma came back in the second half, alas they couldn't hold it together for long enough and Otsuka got the winning goal in the dying moments of the game.

Otsuka FC 2 Gunma FC 1. Having seen off another one of the leagues stronger teams Otsuka started gearing up for another wining streak.

Otsuka's next five matches would be victories. On the 16th of May they won 2-1 over Sony Sendai FC. On the 23 of May they won a 4-0 victory over Tochigi SC. On the 30th of May they had a 4-0 win over YKK AP. YKK incidentally being the manufacturer of 90% of the worlds zippers. On the 5th of June they won 2-0 against Sagawa Tokyo and on the 12th of June 3-0 against Sagawa Osaka.

As the summer began to get hot Otsuka seemed to momentarily lose their composure. In a hotly contested match against on the 16th of July against neighbors Eihme FC they drew 0-0. This match would be the only match in which Otsuka failed to score. Dissappointly this poor result was followed by another draw against Honda FC on the 26th of July. The score was 1-1. Had Otsuka's winning streak come to an end? Were they becoming a normal football team who didn't win every match going? The answer to that question was a very definite "NO". After this brief lull Otsuka went on to win all of their matches in July. They are as follows: July 4th Otsuka FC 3 Hokuriku AIO's 0. July 11th Otsuka FC 3 Kokushikan University 1. July 19th Otsuka 2 Sagawa Osaka 1. July 24th Otsuka FC 1 Guma 0. July 31st Otsuka FC 3 Sony Sendai FC 2. August 7th Otsuka FC 2 Tochigi SC 1.

After their victory against Tochigi SC, Otsuka lost their first match of the season against YKK AP (those tricky zip makers) who soundly beat Otsuka 3-0 on the 19th of September. After their amazing 6 match winning streak Otsuka suffered a shocking defeat. With Otsuka however this state of affairs couldn't last however and they sized victory in their next match on October 2nd against Sagawa Tokyo winning 1-0. They also won their next match against Sagawa Osaka on the October the 17th winning 3-1.

On the 24th of October they won their greatest victory of the year destroying Denso by an amazing 11 goals to 0. They followed this with 4-0 win over Hokuriku AIO's the on 31st of October. They would be defeated for the second and final time of the season in their game against The Spa Kusatsu on the 5th of November. The Spa showing fellow promotees what they could expect next season. However in regard to this season it was too little to late for the Spa Kusatsu.

Otsuka won their final three matches. The results are as follows November 21st Otsuka FC 2 Honda FC 0. November 28th Otsuka FC 2, Eihme FC 1. December 5th Otsuka 2 Yokogawa Musashino 1. What a season it had been for Otsuka. 2 losses, 3 draws and 25 victories. An amazing year an amazing team.

I can't wait until next season when Tokushima will officially become part of the big league. See you next season in Naruto!



# raku-on raku-jitsu

by martin o'brien

This Christmas I decided to do something different. Seeing as Christmas is not really celebrated in Japan, that wasn't exactly difficult. Nevertheless, I believe that for me personally this Christmas will go down on record as the one of the most interesting and exciting holidays that I have enjoyed. On Christmas Eve I headed up to Kamiyama to participate in the Raku-On Raku-Jitsu festival held in the Kamiyama Skiland Hotel. The hotel is in a very remote location high up in the mountains. When I arrived I had my doubts spending my Christmas in such a remote location with people I didn't know very well. Such fears were put to rest when I bonded with everyone during the opening ceremony where we danced around a campfire and played a variety of drums. Two professional musicians Masato and Kenji from Hokkaido kept the tempo. These guys have played around the world usually at world music events such as WOMAD. The campfire was beneath three long bamboo



*Some of the percussion instruments used*

poles, which were arranged in a wigwam shape. The opening ceremony where everyone was meant to participate was intended to imitate the Shaman rituals of Native Americans. According to someone I spoke to, this ritual allowed everyone to take part in the ritual as opposed to just watching. At the same time playing your own drum is a solitary act so you are given the opportunity to think things over in your own head while at the same time enjoying the company of others. People couldn't communicate by speaking to each other but

instead expressed themselves by eye contact and smiles. I found it to be an incredibly warming experience - but then again that warm feeling I felt might just have been from the big-ass bonfire. We will never know. I enjoyed the opening ceremony and discovered that (don't mean to boast) I have an incredible sense of rhythm. If the CIR thing doesn't work out I guess I could go on the road with Masato and Kenji. I am sure that they wouldn't mind. Good job I got their business card. After every one had finished their self-introductions and the throb of the drums had died down thus ending the opening ceremony of Raku-on Raku-jitsu, everybody went back to the hotel to check out the musicians who were playing that night. The evenings were the most enjoyable part of Raku-on Raku-Jitsu experience. After a hard day playing music it was nice to lie down on the **tatami** and watch someone else play. The evening concerts were held in a large room that was designed for events of



*Local artist turns a cement mixer into a spaceship*

**...con't on page 9**

# tastes of awa : goma dofu

by don weiss

**W**hen is a rotted bean neither a bean nor rotten? When it's **goma dofu**.

**Goma** = Sesame

**Dofu** = Tofu (**tofu**, usually pronounced **dofu** if it's the second part of a compound word)

**Goma Dofu** = Ambrosia of the Gods

**Natto** = Rotted Beans

As some of you may remember from a much earlier column, I think **natto** is one of the truly terrible Japanese foods. **Natto**, it seems to me, deserves to be called "rotted beans." But in what seems to be a rare example of humor in the selection of kanji, **natto** means "stored" or perhaps we should say "aged" beans. You may note that the **kanji** for stored seems to be made out of the radicals meaning "thread" and "inside." It's the slimy threads connecting the beans that I object to.

So tofu is rotted beans! Actually, of course, there's (usually) nothing at all rotten about tofu. But perhaps the most delicious kind of **tofu** isn't made from beans at all. It's made out of sesame seeds.

**Shojin ryori**, vegetarian temple cooking, is famous for making good use of **tofu** in all its myriad variations, but the crowing achievement of **shojin ryori** is **goma dofu**. In fact, in many ways it's the

symbol of **shojin ryori**. A few years ago there was a TV drama series about a young woman who goes to a temple to learn **shojin ryori** from the abbess. Her training centered around the preparation of this deceptively simple recipe:

1. Take one cup of white sesame seeds. Toast them lightly, or not, depending on which way you prefer. Toasted seeds will yield a **goma dofu** that is very light gray in color with a slightly nutty flavor. Untoasted seeds will make a light cream colored **goma dofu** with a milder flavor. Both have a creamy texture unlike true **tofu** but not as firm as **tamago-dofu** (egg tofu, really a kind of savory custard).
2. Grind the seeds with some water, by hand if you want perfect **goma dofu**. Use a food processor if you don't have anyone to show you just how much to grind them by hand. They should make a very, very smooth paste.
3. Put the seeds in several layers of muslin cheesecloth and squeeze to get most of the water out.
4. Combine the paste with a cup of **katakuriko** or **kuzu**. **Katakuriko** used to refer to starch extracted from the root of the dog-tooth violet (a kind of lily -- *Erythronium dens canis*) but now potato starch is sold under that name. **Kuzu** (or **kudzu**) is a legume (*Pueraria lobata*) which also has starchy roots. Mix the sesame paste and

**katakuriko** very, very, very, VERY thoroughly by hand.

5. Now put the goma dofu in a mold the size and shape you want it -- usually square, about 5 cm. by 2 cm. high. Press it into the mold and tap the top repeatedly with a wooden spoon to make sure the corners get filled and there are no bubbles. Then quickly chill it in the mold under cool running water. Serve the same day -- it doesn't keep.

I've had several different sauces with **goma dofu** but I prefer just soy sauce with a touch of **wasabi**.

You can buy **goma dofu** at any supermarket, but don't bother. It's not worth it. Probably you can get really fine **goma dofu** at Sogo. But for the full **goma dofu** experience, go to Osaka or Kyoto and take the train to the top of Koyasan, the mountain-top headquarters of Shingon Buddhism. Stay in a temple and wait for breakfast. You'll see how "rotted beans" can be the most ambrosial of treats.

"Shojin Ryori Girl," as I came to think of the character in that TV drama, went through a variety of emotional and spiritual crises in her life, all reflected in her attitude towards making perfect goma dofu. Sometime perhaps I'll talk about cooking and Buddhism but for now, just keep this in mind. How many hours do you want to spend cooking for each minute of eating?



## camping, kids and ...con't from page 3

degrees). Each **jigoku** has a little park built around it, with additional attractions such as fancy gardens, a zoo, an aquarium, and even a crocodile farm. Our first day at Beppu was spent wandering around these 'Hells,' and to put it very tactfully, there are only about four or five 'Hells' worth seeing. Seeking some relief from the touristy stuff we decided to check out some less known ponds that are used for public **onsens**. This plan was soon cancelled after finding a rather large Japanese man swimming around naked in the first pond that we looked at. We also went to the safari park near Beppu. This is worth doing if one has children, likes looking at animals, or wants to do a dodgy insurance claim for a scratch on their car. The safari park has a good quantity of well fed animals in what is a relatively large park area.

The next stop on our agenda was Space World at Kitakyushu. Problems arose on the first ride that we tried to get on. My son was too short they said. When the staff had said that he was too short they were talking millimetres, not centimetres. Thinking that they had been a little pedantic we headed off to try our luck on another ride. 'Hmm', the first staff said, 'he is maybe too short.' A senior measurement staff member was called in. He then called in further staff in with some high tech measuring equipment (a tape measure). By now we had completely held up the ticket line and with 12 serious looking staff with tape measures in attendance we had attracted considerable

attention from a large crowd of spectators (with blond haired children we tend to stand out). Finally the most senior measuring official pronounced Josh high enough to go on the rides, the crowd of fifty spectators enthusiastically applauded, and Josh was given a yellow armband to prove his height. After that we had a fantastic day and Josh was not measured again! For those interested in going, Space World is more of a fun park than of being an educational facility concerning space matters! Just make sure you are high enough for the rides.

Most of the accommodation on our trip was camping, however for one night we bought a night's hotel accommodation at the Yutaka business hotel near the railway station. The staff there treated us like royalty. However, our room turned out to be a two bed room. No problem, in what looked like something from a Faulty Towers episode, the staff went to great efforts to set up another bed in the room for us. Even more funny was the staff sneaking in early next morning, removing the bed and telling us to keep it a 'secret.'

Tired of the cities we headed off toward the Mount Aso region. Mount Aso is an active volcano that is surrounded by twenty-four kilometre wide caldera. You can walk, take a cable car or drive your car to the top of the actual crater. We chose the latter and paid 1500 yen for the privilege. There is a volcano museum, and of course associated **omiyage**

shops located near Aso. The area around Mt. Aso is quite scenic, with little industrial or suburban development. We set our tents up at a camp ground that was only occupied by one other couple, some Americans from Hiroshima. Whilst not minding paying money for what was a quality campground (great views), we and the other couple were a little disappointed with the cleanliness of the toilet and shower block. We pointed out this issue to the Japanese official and he nodded his head in agreement with us and immediately started to clean it up.

From the Aso region we went to Takachiho gorge. This beautiful gorge with its brilliant and colourful greenery has been carved out of volcanic rock and is worth making the trip to see. You can take one of the many walks along the gorge, or hire a row boat for a closer look. The only negative aspect is the number of bridges built over the gorge. It seems a shame that the Japanese have destroyed the beauty of this region due to their love of construction projects. My advice would be to go and see this gorge before someone gets the really bright idea of building hotels on the sides of the gorge.

In conclusion, our summer trip was cheap, easy to do, a lot of fun, and we saw some really nice spots of Japan. If we were to do the trip again we would leave out Space World and spend more time poking around Aso, and exploring the beaches on southern Kyushu.



# raku-on raku-jitsu ...con't from page 6

this kind. There was a stage but it wasn't used, instead the musicians played on a designated place on the tatami at the back of the room on the same level as those viewing the concert. On Friday night, Shigehara Sawamura played. He sang acoustic guitar driven songs. He reminded me of Ron Sexsmith, another guitar-playing singer songwriter. Shigehara played his own percussion instruments between songs. This toned things down and bridged the gap between songs creating a nice mellow mood.

On Saturday I decided to check out some workshops. The first one I found was Moto-kun's dragonfly balls workshop. I used wands of colored glass, pressed together over a flame to create a cool bead (which can be viewed at TOPIA if any one is interested). It took me at least 15 minutes to make one bead so as you can imagine making a decent sized necklace takes some time. Taking part in the workshop gave me a lot of respect for the craftspeople that take the time to make

such unique objects. I guess its worth the extra expense to purchase something such as a piece of pottery or jewelry where a human being has been responsible for its creation as opposed to something which has been produced by a machine. After lunch I went to Mr. Bear's (Kuma-san's) wooden sculpture workshop. Mr Bear normally works with stone but decided to hold a wooden sculpture workshop because wood is a less time-consuming medium than stone so such workshops are perfect for events like Raku-on Raku-jitsu. I really enjoyed the workshop and found it very therapeutic unlike the glass balls workshop, which made my arms sore. I planned to carve a kitchen fork but I think that I was a little bit ambitious because I ended up with a kind of wooden egg thingy. Not very useful but it looks nice. After my hard work I retired back to the hotel for a well-deserved meal of wild boar stew (**inoshishinabe**). It was absolutely delicious. **Inoshishi** tastes a lot different and a lot better than normal pork. Saturday Yuri Yoshimoto and Makoto Shimomura provided night's music. The songs were very personal and spiritual. Makoto sung about her life in America



*Dragonfly balls workshop*

where she had lived for a number of years. She spoke about how she felt God had helped her through difficult times there when she was pregnant and unemployed. In contrast to Friday nights concert this performance was more emotionally charged.

On Sunday, everybody made mochi. For the uninitiated, making mochi is when you get to pound cooked rice repeatedly with gigantic hammers. Three people hammer the rice while another person moves it around. Later on everybody watched a DVD about September 11th. It showed how that a plane could not have been responsible for the attack on the Pentagon because the width of the building destroyed was far shorter than the wingspan of the plane. There was footage that showed how the roofline of the building was still intact only to collapse soon after the attack. Watching the film left me in a very pensive mood and I wanted to research what I had watched about further. I guess even in the mountains of Kamiyama far you can't leave the rest of the world behind.



*Making Mochi*



# Japanese in the news - new year

by Claire Kinder

At the end of each year, the people at the Kanji Kentei association ask people to write in with their suggestions for 'Kanji of the Year.' The winner is usually a character which contains nuances or meanings that reflect a variety of current events as well as the overall 'feel' of the past year.

1st place: 災 (**sai**, or **wazawai**) - this is the first character in the word 災害 (**saigai**) - disaster, or calamity - was chosen by a strong margin to be the single kanji character that most represented the year 2004. The Niigata earthquake and countless typhoons which occurred this autumn, as well as record-breaking temperatures this summer resulting in massive crop failure made this an obvious choice.

2nd place: 韓 (**kan** or **kara**) - this is the first character in the word 韓国 (**kankoku**) - Korea - reflecting the 'Korea Boom' of the past year, with popular actor Bae Yong Joon, star of the Korean television drama, Winter Sonata, making a huge impact on the fantasy lives of middle-aged Japanese women, spreading to replace David Beckham as a spokesman for such varied consumer products as chocolate almonds, digital cameras, and cars.

3rd place: 震 (**shin** or **furueru**) - this is the second character in the word 地震 (**jishin**) - earthquake - a reference to the Niigata earthquake. The character used on its own can be used to spell the verb 'furueru' which means to tremble or shake,

referencing various things that moved people emotionally in the past year, be it olympic victory, events in Iraq, or the ongoing typhoons.

As well as Kanji of the Year, there is also a yearly award for the 'Phrase of the Year' presented by Jiyukokuminsha publishing company. This year, the most popular phrase was チョーきもちいい! (**chō kimochii**) - I feel great! - which was how swimmer Keisuke Kitajima answered the media's question about how he felt after winning the gold in the 100m breaststroke at the Athens olympics. After days of watching female judo athletes breaking down in tears in front of the television cameras, virtually apologising for their olympic victories, it was refreshing to hear Kitajima's self-confident reaction.

Other popular phrases included:

気合いだ! (**kiaida!**) - let 'em have it! - The trade mark phrase of wrestler "Animal" Hamaguchi which came back into the spotlight when his daughter, Kyoko Hamaguchi, competed as a Judo athlete in the Athens Olympics, and he enthusiastically supported her from the sidelines, often having to be held back by security guards.

残念! (**zannen!**) - Too bad! - Entertainer Hada Yoku (aka. The Guitar Samurai) has brought this common phrase to new heights of popularity as the kicker in his formulaic dittys which comment on current events and mock fellow pop stars. In his song about Korean actor Bae Yong

Joon (aka. Yon-sama) - he sings "If you marry Yon-sama, well, his last name is Bae, so... Too Bad!"

自己責任 (**jiko sekinin**) - personal responsibility - When three Japanese people - two journalists and an aid worker - were taken hostage in Iraq this past April, the Japanese government spent a fortune to rescue them and fly them back to Japan. Upon their arrival they were scolded by politicians and media alike for putting themselves in danger and costing the government so much time and money for their rescue, and the phrase "personal responsibility" became a buzzword. Another four-kanji phrase, 自業自得 (**jigō jitoku**) - you reap what you sow - was often bandied about with regards to this incident.

This year's Kanji of the Year Top Ten:

1. 災 - **sai, wazawai** - disaster, calamity
2. 韓 - **kan, kara** - first kanji in 'kankoku' (South Korea)
3. 震 - **shin, furuu, furueru** - shake, tremble
4. 金 - **kin, kon, kane, kana** - money, gold
5. 新 - **shin, atarashii, arata, nii** - new, first kanji in 'Niigata'
6. 風 - **fuu, fu, kaze, kaza** - wind, second kanji in 'taifu' (typhoon)
7. 嵐 - **ran, arashi** - storm
8. 乱 - **ran, midareru, midasu** - riot, disorder, disturb
9. 揺 - **you, yureru, yuragu, yusaburu** - tremble, vibrate
10. 命 - **mei, myou, inochi** - life, destiny



# japanese lesson: polite speech

by tamura sumika

The endings 「です」 and 「ます」 are used to make sentences more polite. These forms are used to make sentences more polite. They are often used when talking to superiors or people you don't know.

述語に「です」や「ます」をつけると ていねいな 言い方になります。よく 知らない人や 目上の人に 使います。

The more polite ways of speaking known as Sonkei-go and Kenjō-go can be used when talking to people such as teachers and company bosses.

Honourifics - **Sonkei-go** - 尊敬語

Verbs and Adjectives:  
動詞と 形容詞には

The speaker uses **ga** before verbs and adjectives which the speaker uses to describe the person s/he wants to show respect to.

話して手が「が」がつく人を 高くいいます。

Verbs can be modified to make them more polite as shown in the three ways below:

The teacher will speak

先生がお話になります。  
(use **o** and add **ni narimasu**)

先生が おっしゃいます。  
(use the irregular verb form)

先生が話されます。  
(use the passive form of the verb)

The teacher is well  
先生が お元気です。

The teacher is busy

先生がお忙しいです。

2. **o** and **go** are placed before nouns  
名詞には「お」「ご」をつけます。

(The teacher's) name / 先生のお名前  
(The teacher's) address / 先生のご住所

Modest Language - **Kenjō-go** - 謙讓語

The speaker uses **o** or **ni** to elevate people, and **ga** to speak humbly about people.

話し手が「を」がつく人や「に」がつく人を 高くいい、「が」がつく人を 低くいいます。

Verbs  
動詞

Here are three different ways of transforming the verb in order to make the sentence into **kenjō-go**.

I will advise the teacher.  
わたしが 先生をご案内します  
(put **go** before the **suru** verb)

Suzuki san spoke to the teacher  
鈴木さんが 先生に お話します。  
(put **o** before the **suru** verb)

Suzuki san will tell the teacher  
鈴木さんが 先生に 申し上げます。  
(use the humble irregular form of the verb)

Here are some common verbs and their humble irregular counterparts:

いる	→	おる (to be)
行く、来る	→	参る (to go, to come)
する	→	いたす (to do)
言う	→	申す (to say)
食べる	→	いただく (to eat)
見る	→	拝見する (to see/look at)



# memoranda

## JET Programme Postcard Collection

### JETプログラムのポストカード・コレクション

Booklets of postcards created from photographs taken by members of the JET Programme are now available to members of the public. Come to TOPIA and pick one up for free.

**when:** Now (until they run out)

**where:** TOPIA

**cost:** free

## Japanese Lessons in Aizumi-cho

### 藍住町 日本語講座

This class uses the textbook "Minna no Nihongo I." Classes are taught by Aizumi International Exchange Association Members Akiko Tsuji and Kaori Tamada.

**when:** ongoing - Thursday nights 7:00 - 8:30pm

**where:** Aizumi Welfare Center, near Aizumi Town Office

**cost:** ¥1000

**for more info:** e-mail: aizumi\_kokusai@garnet.nmt.ne.jp  
tel. 088.692.9951  
fax. 088.692.1626

## TTC21 Ping Pong 卓球クラブ

Come join this casual table tennis club and meet Tokushima residents and local University students! Bring indoor shoes and wear comfortable clothes - if you don't have a racket, there are extras available.

**where:** Tokushima City Gymnasium (**taikukan**)

**when:** Monday and Friday, 6:00 -9:00pm

(first timers: come at 7:30 and ask for Mr. Okayama - participation fee is waived until the second visit)

**cost:** ¥1000 to join, ¥1500 per month

**homepage:** [http://www.geocities.jp/tokushima\\_ttc21](http://www.geocities.jp/tokushima_ttc21)

## On Sale at TOPIA

### トピアで買えます

Postage stamps, revenue stamps, and postcards can be purchased at TOPIA. Please inquire at the counter. Receipts available upon request.

## Japanese Lessons in Anan City

### 阿南市 日本語講座

If you live in southern Tokushima and are looking for a way to study Japanese without coming all the way to Tokushima City, try Anan's Japanese class for foreign residents. They use the textbook "Minna no Nihongo I." Classes are taught by Madoka Mori.

**when:** starts Nov. 21 - Sunday mornings 10:00 - 12:00am

**where:** Tomioka Kominkan

**cost:** ¥1000

**for more info:** Anan City International Association  
e-mail: etonne@stannet.ne.jp  
fax: 0884.23.6323

## Aiding Foreign Nationals during a Natural Disaster Lecture

### 災害時の外国人支援についての講演

A talk will be hosted by Mr Taro Tamura on how foreign residents might be assisted during a natural disaster. Mr Taro Tamura participated in the establishment of the foreign resident information centre in Kobe. The talk will be in Japanese.

**when:** Jan. 21 (Friday) 2:40pm - 4:00pm

**where:** TOPIA

**cost:** Free. Please apply to TOPIA before January 18. If you neglect to apply in advance it is still possible to attend.

**for more info:** 008.656.3303 [topia@fm.nmt.ne.jp](mailto:topia@fm.nmt.ne.jp)

# memoranda

## Shikoku "Yuki Gassen" (snowball fight) Tournament 四国雪合戦大会

Teams of 7 to 10 people, Adult and Junior Categories.  
Fun! Easy! Everybody welcome!  
Winning adult team gets ¥25,000 and FREE trip to Hokkaido to play in National Tournament! (Feb 26-27)  
Junior team wins ¥10,000

**when:** January 23 (Sun) 8:30 - 15:30  
**where:** Iyashino Onsen, Higashi Iya Village  
**cost:** free to participate, free to watch too!  
**for free entry form and rulebook,**  
**contact:** Mr. Nakanishi  
tel. 0883.88.2211  
fax. 0883.88.2166  
Entry deadline is January 14 (Fri).  
Team numbers are limited, so act fast!

## Photography Exhibition 写真展

An exhibition of photographs by Ed van der Elsken entitled "Love on the Left Bank" will be on exhibition.

**when:** December 5 (Sun) to January 30 (Sun). 9:00 -17:00 (Admission until 16:30) Gallery closed on Dec 7,13,20,27,28,29,30,31 and on January 11,17,24  
**where:** The Museum of Art, Kochi, 353-2, Takasu, Kochi City.  
**cost:** General Admission ¥700  
**for more info:** tel. 088.866.8000

## Man Ray Exhibition マン・レイ展

"I am an enigma."  
**when:** January 15 - March 21  
**where:** Tokushima Modern Art Gallery at Bunka no Mori  
**cost:** adults: ¥600, students: ¥450 / ¥300  
**for more info:** 088.668.1088  
<http://www.art.comet.go.jp>

## Your Message Here

このスペースを利用しせんか？

Let the International Community know about your event or announcement! Submit your text (in Japanese or English) by the 20th of the month to get it printed in next month's edition. Drop off your message in person at TOPIA or write to: [topia@fm.nmt.ne.jp](mailto:topia@fm.nmt.ne.jp)

## For Sale 販売します

Workout bench for sale. Curved bench for situps, back lifts, push ups. Compact size for smaller rooms.

**cost:** ¥3000  
**for more info:** Please contact Luisa on 09091141025 or [lulu\\_plf@hotmail.com](mailto:lulu_plf@hotmail.com)

## Tastes of Awa 阿波の味

Wondering what to do with all that brick-like **mochi** that seemed like such a good deal when you bought it? Trying to come up with new, inventive ways of eating **mikan**? Curious about how **natto** came to be thought of as a food? Ask Don! Don Weiss, author of 'Tastes of Awa,' (page 7) is looking for reader's suggestions for future columns. What aspects of Japanese food interest you? What would you like to know how to cook? Send Don a message with your thoughts and impressions:

**e-mail:** [woosongdonald@yahoo.com](mailto:woosongdonald@yahoo.com)

## Japanese Chess 囲碁将棋

Participate in the traditional game of Go (Japanese Chess)

**when:** April 4 to March 31  
**where:** Mino-cho Public Office Miyoshi-gun, 15 mins from Eguchi Station  
**cost:** Tournament Fee ¥1200  
**for more info:** 088.377.3865

# memoranda

## Japanese Salon

土曜にほん語サロン

A free Japanese conversation salon is now available at the Seishonen Center in downtown Tokushima City, near City Hall. Volunteers will help students of Japanese to improve their conversation skills

**when:** Every Saturday from 7.00pm to 8.30pm

**where:** Seishonen Center 青少年センター (5F)

**cost:** free

**for more info, contact:** Minami-san 090.4506.5296

## Naruto German House Exhibition

ドイツ館企画展

There will be an exhibition of everyday objects donated by German prisoners of war at Naruto German House. A collection of letters written by deceased POW's are on display.

**when:** December 11 to January 30, 9:30 - 16:30

**where:** Naruto German House

## 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 Thursday

10:00 - 17:00

**tel.** 088.656.3303 or 088.656.3320 (allows three way conversations with an interpreter)

## TOPIA's Library

トピアの図書室

If you are a Tokushima resident (regardless of nationality) you can get a library card for TOPIA's library, and borrow books free of charge! The library has mostly English, Chinese, and Japanese books, with a small section of novels written in other European languages.

Books that have been culled from TOPIA's library are available for people to take home for free. Come to TOPIA anytime and take a look in the big boxes marked **free**. Donations of books are also accepted year-round!

## Video/Digital Photography Contest

ビデオ / デジタル写真コンクール 作品募集

Take part in this exciting contest. Themes can be the nature of Tokushima or your own home and personal life. Whatever takes your fancy. Contact Bunka no Mori for more details.

**when:** December 1 - January 31

**where:** 21st Century Building, Bunka no Mori

**cost:** free

**for more info:** tel. 088.668-1111 fax. 088-668-7196

## Postcard Design Exhibition

小学生によるデザインはがき展

An exhibition of Elementary school children's postcard designs, at Yamakawa's fascinating traditional Japanese paper factory, Awagami Factory

**when:** January 19 (Wed) - February 1 (Tue)

**where:** Awagami Factory, Kawahigashi, Yamakawa-cho, Yoshinogawa City

**cost:** free

**for more info:** 0883.42.6120.

# memoranda



## 災害時の外国人支援について、一緒に考えてみませんか 講演「多様な人々が暮らすまちと災害時対応～阪神・中越の経験から学ぶこと～」

日時： 平成17年1月21日（金）午後2：40～4：00  
 場所： 財団法人徳島県国際交流協会（TOPIA） 大会議室（クレムプラザ6F）  
 講師： 田村太郎氏  
 特定非営利活動法人 多文化共生センター 理事  
 人と組織と地球のための国際研究所（IHOE）研究主幹

参加費： 無料（人数把握のため、1月18日頃までにTOPIAにお申し込みください。ただし、当日参加も大歓迎です）

田村先生は、阪神・淡路大震災直後に、「多文化共生センター」の前身である、「外国人地震情報センター」設立に参加。1997年から2004年4月まで、「多文化共生センター」代表を務め、その後、IHOE研究主幹として、NPOのマネジメントサポートや自治体との協働をテーマに、非営利民間の立場から地域社会を変革する仕組みづくりに取り組んでいます。平成16年の東日本大震災の際には、新潟に何度も足を運び、外国人支援に取り組まれました。

問い合わせ： 村澤 088-656-3303

## tv movie schedule ・ december

Date	Time	Place	Nat.	タイトル	Title	
Wed. 12	8:00	④毎日	USA '01	A. I.	A.I.: Artificial Intelligence	SF
Fri. 14	9:03	⑩読売	USA '01	ドリヴン	Driven	⊗
Fri. 14	late night	④毎日	USA '93	ジェロニモ	Geronimo	⊗
Sat. 15	9:00	⑧関西	USA '01	オーシャンズ 11	Ocean's 11	🔥
Sun. 16	9:00	⑥ABC	USA '97	ジャッカ	The Jackal	🔥
Fri. 21	9:03	⑩読売	USA '96	マキシマム・リスク	Maxium Risk	🔥
Fri. 28	9:03	⑩読売	USA '01	PLANET OF THE APES/ 猿の惑星	Planet of the Apes	⊗
Fri. 28	late night	④毎日	USA '90	グッドフェローズ	Good Fellas	⊗
Sun. 30	9:00	⑥ABC	USA '99	ブーン・コレクター	The Bone Collector	⊗

🔥horror ? mystery 🔥suspense ⊙comedy ⊗drama 🔥action ♥love & romance SF science fiction

This schedule is subject to change.

# cinema guide

<b>TOKUSHIMA HALL</b> 徳島ホール <b>(Saiwai-cho - near the Central Post Office)</b> <b>088.653.1802</b>	<b>The Terminal 【USA】</b> ターミナル	
	1st of each month → ¥1000 Ladies' day Tuesday → ¥1000 Men's day / Friday → ¥1000	
<b>TOKUSHIMA TOHO</b> 徳島東宝 <b>(Kagoya-machi - in Higashi Shinmachi Arcade)</b> <b>088.625.5311</b>	<b>Finding Neverland 【USA/UK】</b> ネバーランド	
	1st of each month → ¥1000 Ladies' Day / Wednesday → ¥1000 Men's Day / Thursday → ¥1000	
<b>TOHO CINEMA</b> 東宝シネマ <b>(Kagoya-machi - in Higashi Shinmachi Arcade)</b> <b>088.625.5311</b>	<b>Howl's Moving Castle 【JPN】</b> ハウルの動く城 (in Japanese)	
	1st of each month → ¥1000 Ladies' Day / Wednesday → ¥1000 Men's Day / Thursday → ¥1000	
<b>ATTACK HEIWA</b> アタック平和 <b>(Kuramoto 2 cho-me - near Kuramoto Station)</b> <b>088.631.6490</b>	<b>Windstruck 【KRN】</b> 僕の彼女を紹介します (in Korean)	<b>until 1/21</b>
	<b>Ocean's 12 【USA】</b> オーシャンズ 1 2	<b>from 1/22</b>
	1st of each month → ¥1000 Customer Appreciation Day/ Wednesday → ¥1000	
<b>HEIWA DOLBY</b> 平和ドルビー <b>(Kuramoto 2 cho-me )</b> <b>088.631.6490</b>	<b>The Incredibles 【USA】</b> Mr. インクレディブル (in Japanese)	
	1st of each month → ¥1000 Customer Appreciation Day/ Wednesday → ¥1000	
<b>KITAJIMA CINEMA SUNSHINE</b> <b>*FUJI GRAND*</b>  北島シネマサンシャイン <b>(Kitajima-cho Tainohama)</b> <b>088.697.3113</b> <b>088.697.3111</b> (24 時間テープ案内)  The 1st of each month → ¥1000 Ladies' Day / Wednesday → ¥1000	<b>Ocean's 12 【USA】</b> オーシャンズ 1 2	<b>from 1/22</b>
	<b>The Incredibles 【USA】</b> Mr. インクレディブル	
	<b>Man on Fire 【USA】</b> マイ・ボディガード	
	<b>The Terminal 【USA】</b> ターミナル	
	<b>Howl's Moving Castle 【JPN】</b> ハウルの動く城 (in Japanese)	
	<b>Kung Fu Hustle 【USA/China】</b> カンフーハッスル (in Chinese)	
	<b>The Incredibles 【USA】</b> Mr. インクレディブル	
	<b>Tokyo Tower 【JPN】</b> 東京タワー (in Japanese)	
	<b>House of Sand and Fog 【USA】</b> 砂と霧の家	
	<b>Kita no Reinen 【JPN】</b> 北の零年 (in Japanese)	
	<b>Windstruck 【KRN】</b> 僕の彼女を紹介します (in Korean)	

## coming soon:

At Kitajima Sunshine Cinema in Fuji Grand this Spring

Japanese Anime:

The Prince of Tennis

One Piece - Baron Omatsuri and the Secret Island

受け止めていますか  
人権の重み