

awa life



February 2013

raise a glass to miyoshi's breweries **TOPIA**

by lance kita

"Booze and smokes" - hardly an

illustrious way to describe Miyoshi City 三好市 in western Tokushima, but both of those things play a role in its prosperity. A recent stroll around JR Awa-Ikeda 阿波池田 Station revealed peeks into the town's past and hopeful signs for its future.

Walk through the nostalgic shopping arcade and hang right onto Motomachi Street 本町通り. Many of the houses have distinctive plaster eaves called udatsu 卯建 topped with ornate roof tiles, which are not only decorative but also serve as a firebreak. The fancier the udatsu, the richer you appeared. Though Wakimachi's udatsu-lined street is more famous, Ikeda's udatsu are also fine examples of this late Edo-period architectural status symbol.

So what was the source of this wealth way up in the mountains? Ikeda and the surrounding communities were producers of tobacco. Awa Tobacco was highly regarded and a bustling



Thirty-eight breweries from around Shikoku will show off their libations at the Shikoku Sake Matsuri. Those who like sweeter, heavier sake will enjoy this region's

merchant trade grew from the 18th century. Today, the Awa Ikeda Tobacco Museum 阿波池田たばこ資料館, in an old udatsu residence, illustrates the process of preparing the tobacco from drying to shredding the leaves and packaging.

The Meiji government cracked down on tobacco monopolies,

and many Ikeda merchants started to look for other business opportunities. Some, like Hosui 芳水 and Ima Komachi 今小町, looked to another adult indulgence: rice wine, or sake 酒. Ikeda soon became a hotbed for breweries. Unlike the Naruto area which sold their product in bulk to larger labels in

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inside awa life this month

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show tokushima some love: awaglot

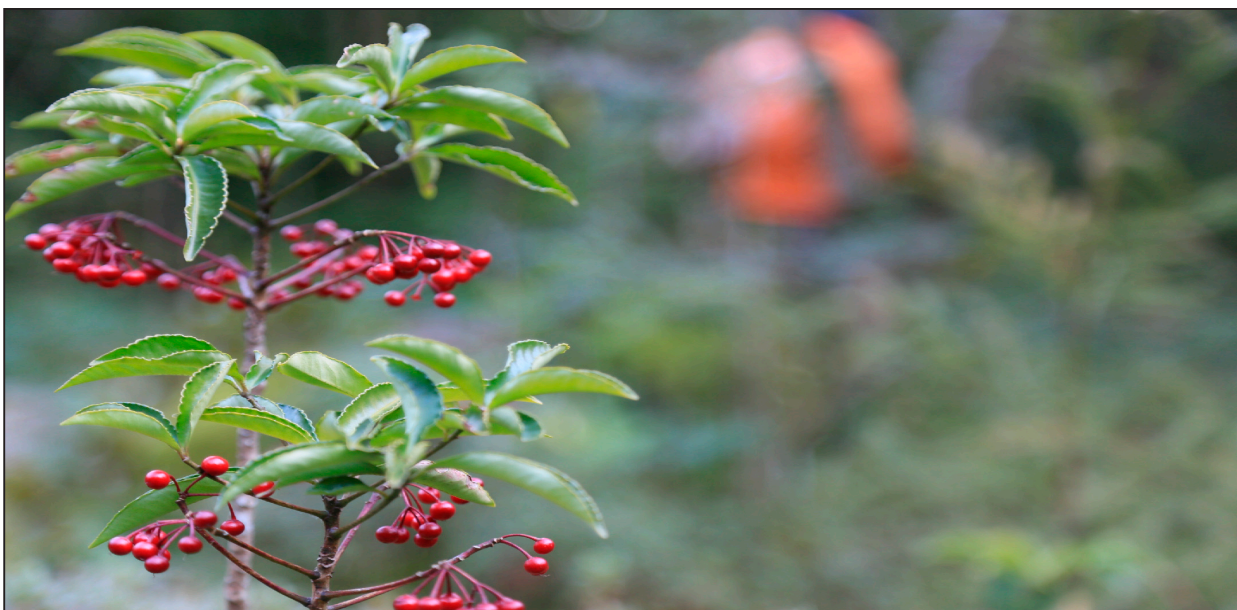
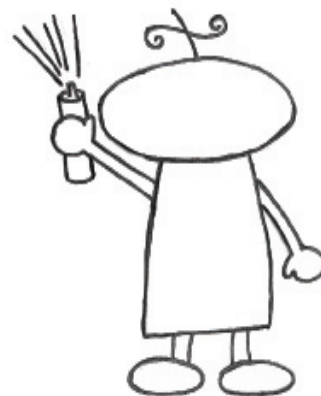
The literary corner of Awa Life, Awaglot, is a combination of the words "awa" and "polyglot", which means multilingual. Be it fiction, non-fiction, prose or poetry; funny, sad, long or short, we want your submissions! If you like to write, then express yourself!

There is also a classifieds section for you, our readers, to post ads in, but a few rules do apply!

The following will not be posted: Religious, political, or commercial activities, businesses searching for clients or employees, things the Awa Life editors deem inappropriate.

BUT, you can totally submit this stuff: offers to sell or exchange personal goods, concerts, lectures, and other event information, cultural, sporting, and other community group information, etcetera.

If you have something you would like to share with the Tokushima community, email the editors at **awalife@gmail.com!**



Coralberry in the Zuiganji Temple Gardens, Tokushima City (photo by Taku Mori)

Kansai, Miyoshi's breweries were too far upriver and relied on their own brand power to sell. As a result, many of the recognized Tokushima sake labels come from this area.

Why sake? Mr. Mamiya, president of Miyoshikiku 三芳菊 Brewery, says that weather was a big factor. With a crisp cold winter similar to sake mecca Niigata, Miyoshi's climate is ideal for controlled fermentation. Western Japan is also a major producer of sake-specific rice, and clean spring water is plentiful in this mountainous region of the prefecture. Many breweries in Shikoku use soft water, so the sake generally has a sweet overtone. From smokes to sake, Ikeda's economy shifted at the start of the 20th century and rice wine boomed after the war.

However, the recent popularity of shochu 焼酎 (a distilled liquor made of rice, barley, or potatoes) and changing drinking habits among younger people (more wine and cocktails) have hit the sake industry hard. Sake sales and consumption are only 1/3 what it was in the 1960s.

Two breweries are taking very different directions. Hosui Brewery is sticking with what it does best: making a slightly dry sake from the hard water that flows in its wells, using traditional methods. According to chief of production Yasuharu Takeuchi, trends will come and go, so it's best to work on his core product and wait for the market to recover. Reacting to trends does not ensure long-term stability for the company.

On the other hand, Miyoshikiku is experimenting with a wide range of sake flavors. They use softer water



From harvest to drying to packaging, the Awa Ikeda Tobacco Museum displays tools and artifacts including this tobacco slicer

to develop the sweetness in the sake and create varieties reminiscent of fruit liqueurs and wine. Their labeling incorporates pop art and are even working on a sparkling sake. Mr. Mamiya says he wants to "reach out to people who don't usually drink sake."

With Miyoshi centrally located, the "bellybutton of Shikoku" will be hosting its annual Shikoku Sake Matsuri 四国酒まつり on Saturday, February 23. For a one time fee, you can freely sample from 38 Shikoku breweries. The three breweries mentioned in this article will also have special open houses, including tours and free samples of fresh sake. Winter is the peak of

production, so explore Ikeda and savor its libations before the pine leaf ball turns brown!

Information on Miyoshi City:

- www.miyoshinavi.jp:
[An extensive English page with downloadable maps]

- www.awanavi.jp :
[Check the English page for info on the Tobacco Museum]

Many thanks to Mr. Ryoichiro Mamiya of Miyoshikiku and Mr. Yasuhiro Takeuchi of Hosui for their invaluable insights and information about the history and process of sake brewing in the Miyoshi area!



Hello again! In January's issue of Awa Life, I told you all about the cultural exchanges between Tokushima Prefecture and Germany's Lower Saxony that occurred last Spring and August. The Winter was equally busy, so I'd like to share a little bit about that with you too!

The winter was constantly busy, and full of many different events. First of all, there was a Judo Exchange spanning 9 days with 9 German Judo athletes. Historically, Tokushima and Lower Saxony have already conducted numerous Judo exchanges. Last year the Tokushima Judo Association went to Germany, (a trip which I also attended) and this year Tokushima hosted guests from Germany. The focus was the study of Judo practice in Japan, seemingly different to our European approach. These differences concern not just technique, but also

the way of thinking. Our German guests learned a lot and engaged in plenty of dialogue with Japanese residents and athletes - especially over a beer in the evening!

Last but not least, the 27th National Culture Festival was held in Tokushima. The National Culture Festival is the biggest culture festival in Japan, held in Kyoto in 2011, and scheduled to be held in Yamanashi in 2013. Tokushima is the only prefecture to have hosted of this big event twice. The first time was 2007, after signing the friendship agreement with Lower Saxony and the second time was last year, 2012 (the 5th anniversary of the official friendship). This shows the importance of Japanese-German relations as a deciding factor in venue selection.

The main event was the world dance festival. 4

groups from 4 countries had been invited to this event, a Spanish flamenco team, a Korean traditional dance group and a Awa Dance group. From Germany there were 2 groups with 24 people. One was a traditional folkdance group and the other was electro hip-hop group, and so there was the opportunity to see modern and traditional German dances.

Both groups had an unforgettable experience as they performed their dances in front of so many people, (around 2000 guests) and were able to dance the Awa Odori with all the other groups. Culture exchange was achieved not through language, but through dance, and it truly was a wonderful, once in a lifetime experience.

All in all 2012 was a busy, but very nice year!



The German Judo Delegation does some hands-on learning at Awa Jurobe Yashiki

interactive cultural exchange: the kimono

by Yukari Sakabe



Models display kimonos from different eras (photo by Yukari Sakabe)

"The Kimono is a reflection of the Japanese lifestyle, culture, and aesthetic sense"

On December 8th 2012, Tokushima University's International Salon held an event introducing the history of the Japanese kimono. The event was held in Japanese, and welcomed approximately 60 participants, including local residents and international students from regions such as The Americas, Europe, and Asia.

The first half of the event saw Mrs. Seo, Director of the Seoshizuko Kimono School, discussing the history of the kimono, and models donned a variety of period outfits rarely worn today. Explanations were offered for each of the respective attires, and the chance to see the outfits from different eras side by side gave the audience a great insight into how the style of the

kimono has changed throughout its history.

In the past, clothes and hairstyles were carefully styled to reflect one's age, job and more. Individual circumstance and status could be identified at just a glance. It is said, that so important was fashion in identifying one's position, that worker's sporting an 'Eboshi', (an old style Japanese hat), had to leave the hat on from the moment they woke up, until they went to bed at night - even when they bathed! Long hair was considered to be a sign of beauty, and some women are said to have boasted locks of 5 meters in length.

The second half of the event brought with it the chance for participants to actually try on a kimono. Director Seo and her students made quick work of helping the international students into the traditional garments. For many participants it was their first

time, and they awaited their turn with great interest. The experience of actually wearing the kimono - feeling the fabrics weight and texture, the craftsmanship of the outfit, and the shapes and feel of the footwear - deepened their understanding of the outfit. Once dressed, they enjoyed posing for photographs.

The event ended with participants asking questions to the teachers who had assisted at the event, conversing with local residents, and sharing their thoughts on the kimonos they had worn with their friends. It was a high note to end on, and it seemed like the local residents and the international students had grown closer because of the experience. The event provided a truly engaging platform in which to learn about the history of the kimono.



What's your plan for Valentine's Day? Many of you know that Valentine's Day in Japan is the day that a girl gives a chocolate to a boy whom she likes. It was such a nervous day for me when I was in the 5th grade. I wonder if school kids are still like that nowadays? In Western Culture, as far as I remember, a boy gives presents such as cards, flowers, or chocolates to a girl. When I found that out, I knew I preferred Western style without a doubt. Even the same event, such as Valentine's Day, differs greatly between Japan and Western styles. **So how about other events?**

I was invited to friends' weddings in the Bahamas and Australia last year. Luckily I was able to attend both. The weddings were amazing and I was happy to see my friends getting married. I had been to several weddings in Japan before, but I made sure to find out about western weddings manners, rules, and customs before attending.

"It struck me that many foreign Awa Life readers may get a chance to attend a wedding in Japan, and I thought I could



introduce you to some wedding manners, rules and customs in Japan."

I went shopping to get my dress for the wedding in the Bahamas. I picked up a black dress. As soon as I bought it, I told my friend in the Bahamas that I bought a black dress. She was "Oh No. You cannot wear any black dress to my wedding. If you wear that, it means that you are saying 'NO' to my wedding." **In Japan,**

women often wear black dresses to weddings, and men wear black or dark colored suits.

My dress color ended up being purple. I asked at least 5 of my friends from overseas if purple would be ok for wedding, to make sure not to be rude.

Wedding gifts were also something I had to research on the Internet and from friends. **If you are invited for a wedding in Japan, you bring 30,000yen as a wedding gift.** It is important that you put

the money in a special envelope called ㊿ 祝 儀 袋 (go shugi-bukuro) that you can get at stationary stores. It's customary to give new, un-creased bills. You can get new bills at the bank. If it's ㊿ 費 制 披露 宴 (a reception where the guests foot their own bill), then you can just bring the amount indicated on your wedding invitation. For that, you do not need to get shugi-bukuro or new bills.

I heard about wedding registry in the U.S. Wedding couples make a list of what they want to get and guests check the list and gives something from the list. My Australian friends told me that now it's popular for young couples to ask for donations for their weddings/honeymoons.

During a wedding reception in Japan, the married couple sits on a stage and enjoys the guests' speeches and performances. Usually the couple's friends do performances. I believe that many of them sing songs that relate to weddings, or love songs. **If bride or groom belongs to an Awa dance group in Tokushima prefecture, they usually invite them to the wedding to perform the Awa Odori.**

The wedding reception

usually takes three hours. During those 3 hours, **the couple changes outfits 2-3 times.** Checking out what my friend picks out for her outfits is always fun. Japanese people usually rent wedding dresses from stores.

Only people who get an invitation can go to the wedding in Japan – **there is no “plus 1”.** Usually the bride invites her female friends, the groom invites his male friends, and both the bride and groom invite colleagues and relatives.

After the wedding and the reception there is usually a second party to which they invite their friends who they couldn't invite to the reception. The second party usually is for friends rather than relatives or colleagues. The dress code is usually smart-casual.

Being able to attending weddings not just in Japan but abroad was good a life experience. The customs may differ, but my wish to see my friends live out their lives in happiness remained the same.



a gift for you

"On Valentine's Day, we think of those people who have cheered and encouraged us, those who've gone out of their way to be kind and caring, those who have enriched our lives - the people that we love and adore.

If Valentine's Day did not exist, there would be no flowers, gifts or cards, but I'd still find a way to show you my appreciation. On Valentine's Day, I come bearing gifts because you color my life."



Happy Valentine's Day!

old fashioned cookies

Ingredients:

(makes 3 dozen)

- 1 cup of unsalted butter
- 1 cup of sugar
- 2 eggs
- 1 tsp of vanilla
- 3 cups of flour
- 2tsp of baking powder
- 1 tsp of salt

Preparation:

1. In a bowl, cream butter and sugar.
2. Beat in the eggs and vanilla.
3. In another bowl, sift the

flour, baking powder and salt.

4. Stir flour into the butter mixture 1 cup at a time. For the last cup use hands to knead softly to a ball.
5. Chill dough for 2 hours or overnight.
6. Roll out dough on a lightly floured surface. Use cookie cutters and cut to desired shapes.
7. Brush with milk.

Baking:

1. Bake on an ungreased

sheet pan for 8-15 minutes (depends on thickness and size of cookies) at 170 degrees.

2. Cool for about a minute on the sheet pan then transfer onto a wire rack and cool completely. Store remaining cookies in a cookie jar or any container with a tight lid. **Enjoy!**

Note: Sift 3/4 cup cocoa powder and 2 1/4 cups flour for chocolate cookies.



英国文学紀行

2013 年 3 月 20 日 (水・祝日); TOPIA

英字新聞デイリー読売元編集長、那須省一氏が 2012 年に 6 ヶ月間に渡って英国の有名作家ゆかりの地を旅した文学紀行を英語で講演します。(シェークスピア、ルイス・キャロル、グラハム・グリーンなど 20 名)。

詳しくは <http://www11.plala.or.jp/hiroba/>

Travelogues on UK Literature

March 20 (Wed. national holiday); TOPIA

This event features lecturer Shoichi Nasu, former chief editor of the English Daily Yomiuri, who traveled around the U.K. for six months last year visiting locales related to 20 great artists of English literature such as William Shakespeare, Lewis Carroll, Emily Bronte, Graham Greene, etc. He will be sharing his insights (in English!) gained from his trip & his experience.

Details: <http://www11.plala.or.jp/hiroba/>

The seasons roll on,
and the last day
of winter marks
the emergence of
spring.

February 4th is considered the first day of spring in Japan, yet February remains a bitterly cold month, and brings with it allergies and colds. Runny noses brought on by these ailments may be unavoidable, but the redness around your child's nostrils (brought about by repeated wiping) can be prevented.

With the correct technique you can help your child avoid this irritation and contribute to their defense against viruses. Why not engage them in some fun activities to teach them how to blow their own noses, and how to do it correctly?

Children become conscious of - and experimental with - inhaling and exhaling around the age of 1. At this age they are also able

to imitate adults. Turn this imitation into a fun activity by placing a strip of tissue on your nose (dampen the end so it sticks to the tip of your nose, hanging down over the nostrils), and blow in and out to make the tissue dance up and down with the movement of the air. This movement of the tissue should engage your child's interest and in doing so, encourage their imitation of your actions.

Individual circumstances may vary, but children generally become able to blow their own nose at around the age of 3. Be sure to lend them a helping hand in the meantime. Once they have become able to breathe through their nose, repeat the task with one nostril closed, and have them try each nostril individually,

Note: Blowing too forcefully can lead to nosebleeds, ear infections and other problems, so take care to not overdo it!

Kaleidoscope

Materials:

- Toilet Paper tube
- Aluminum Foil
- Transparent plastic bag (cut into a square)
- Permanent Markers (assorted colours)
- Sellotape
- Wrapping paper

Instructions:

1. Scrunch up the aluminum foil, and then open it back up. It should be creased. Use this to line the inside of the toilet paper tube. Fold the excess foil over the outside at both ends.

2. Use the permanent markers to create a colourful pattern on your square piece of transparent plastic bag

3. Cover one end of the toilet paper tube with the decorated square of transparent plastic (Step 2), and holding it tightly around the tube fasten it in place with sellotape.

4. Wrap wrapping paper or a similar product around the outside of the tube, and secure this with sellotape.

How to Use:

Face a bright direction (i.e. towards a window, facing outward), and look through the tube whilst rotating it. The colours from the transparent film at the opposite end will refract off the foil to create a beautiful pattern.



さそ 誘う・もう 申し出る Invitations; Offers

V + ましょう／ませんか／ましょうか

- V = the ます stem
- ex. いきます→ いき

I. Invitations

1. Making invitations

How to invite someone to engage in an activity with you.

(1) is a direct invitation, whereas (2) and (3) allow more scope for the invitee to decline. They acknowledge that circumstances (other plans etc) may make it difficult for the invitee to accept the invitation.

(1) Vましょう [Let's do(verb)]

あした、徳島駅で 7時に 会いましょう。

(2) Vましょうか [Shall we do(verb)?]

3時ですね。お茶に しましょうか。

(3) Vませんか [Won't you do(verb) with me?]

あした ゆめタウンに 行きませんか。

2. Responding to invitations

◆ Accepting;

れい 1 A: いっしょに 帰りませんか。

B: ええ、帰りましょう。

れい 2 A: スケートに 行きませんか。

B: いいですね。行きましょう。

◆ Declining;

れい 3 A: 日曜日の 午後、フットサルを しませんか。

B: すみません。日曜日は ちょっと。。

II. Invitations; Recommendations

How to suggest an action to someone

(4) Vませんか [Won't you do(verb)?]

A: トピアの 日本語クラスに 来ませんか。

B : そうですね。^{なんようび}何曜日に ありますか。






III. Offers

How to offer to do something for someone

(5) Vましょうか [Shall I do (verb) ?]

A : ^{いそが}忙しいそうですね。てつだいしましょうか。

B : すみません。おねがいします。

Invitations	Invitations; Recommendations	Offers
(1) Vましょう (2) Vましょうか (3) Vませんか	(4) Vませんか	(5) Vましょうか
Do together  speaker  Listener	listener' s acts  speaker  Listener	speaker' s acts  speaker  Listener

* 参考図書 『どんな時どう使う日本語表現文型 200』 アルク

「みんなの教材サイト」 <http://minnanokyoza.jp/kyozai/home/ja/render.do>

memoranda

災害時ボランティア研修

災害時、避難所では様々な情報提供があります。しかし、外国人の方たちは、言葉の壁により、適切な情報を得られないことがあります。災害弱者になってしまいます。そんなとき、情報提供者と外国人を「言葉」でサポートをしたり、掲示物をわかりやすく翻訳したり、わかりやすい日本語にするのがボランティアの方々です。ワークショップをしながら研修しませんか。(ただし、語学研修ではありません)

★本講座は徳島県総合大学校「まなびーあ徳島」の生活環境学部の講座です。(3単位)

日時:平成25年2月17日(日) 13:30～17:00

開催場所: (財)徳島県国際交流協会

参加料: 無料

参加予定人数: 30名

内容: 講演・ワークショップ

講師: 特定非営利活動法人多文化共生

リソースセンター東海

代表理事土井 佳彦 氏

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■E-mailでのお申込み先

coordinator1@topia.ne.jp

郵便、FAX、E-mailのいずれかで、2月12日(火)までにお申し込みください。

第19回徳島AJET英語ミュージカル
人魚姫 - *The Little Mermaid*
 入場無料！ぜひご覧ください



3月2日 石井町中央公民館	18:00 - 20:00
3月3日 松茂総合会館	14:00 - 16:00
3月9日 日和佐公民館	13:00 - 15:00
3月10日 徳島県総合教育センター	14:00 - 16:00
3月16日 吉野川市アメニティセンター	18:00 - 20:00

中学レベル英語で行なわれます。（日本語の解説あり） 詳細：<http://www.ajetmusical.com>
 お問い合わせ：TOPIA（徳島県国際交流協会）まで (088) 656-3303

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