

阿波ライフ

258

January

# 阿波ライフ



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

Topsy - new year, new game

あけましておめでとうございます！



happy  
new  
year!

*Tortuga* by Erin Lamoreux

258

January



Toppo - new year, new game

# Awa Life

## editor's page

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Howdy Tokers,

Welcome to 2012! In case you didn't know, this happens to be the Chinese astrological year of the dragon, hence the amazing dragon illustration on the front of this month's issue, so kindly donated by my good friend Erin. I am excited to see what this means for the coming year...third degree burn injuries?

Anyway, we first have a delightful article from Adam about the recent Shikoku Field Day event, in which my team actually won the dragon animus. Coincidence? If this confuses you, as I think it must, then read his article to learn more!

We also have a report from Martin on his adventures with the recent influx of German delegations in Tokushima, as well as a commentary from Austin on changes in Japanese nomenclature. Eat your heart, and have a happy new year!

Best,  
Sarah

## awa life

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

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An electronic version of Awa Life is also available for download from the TOPIA homepage.

# are you a falcon or a fox?

Shikoku JETs come together for some Field Day fun

Adam Black

## “ROCK, PAPER, SCISSORS, SHOOT!”

Time, for a moment, is frozen. Two teams face off across a central line, staring at their hands. I, for one, am thinking, *We threw scissors. They threw rock. That means...we won? Wait, that's not right. Wait, NO NO NO—*

And then my teammates and I are running, nay, *sprinting* to avoid the grasping arms of our opponents, desperate to reach our safe zone before we can be tagged. For to be tagged is to be converted, *conscripted* to serve in the unholy army pursuing us. Never mind that some of us started out on that team—now we're on *this* team, dammit, and we're not going to let this *other* team absorb us just because we threw the wrong symbol. So we run.

Rock-Paper-Scissors was just one of nine games that comprised Shikoku Field Day, held on November 26th on the fields at Shikoku Saburo no Sato. Almost a hundred people, some from the JET community and some not, showed up from all four prefectures of Shikoku (plus a few from outside our lovely island). The participants played games in the afternoon, barbecued in the evening, and partied in the cabins once the night got chilly.



*Explaining the rules of Rock, Paper, Scissors...with a twist, photo by Harry Stoneley*

Some of us even managed to squeeze in a few hours' sleep.

Shikoku Field Day was conceived out of two desires: to create an event that would bring together JETs from all over Block 8 (or “Shikoku,” if you're not into the JET Program's dystopian naming conventions), and to hold a sporting event that wouldn't punish people (like me!) for being mediocre at sports. Instead of soccer or rugby, we played the above-mentioned Rock-Paper-Scissors, Hunker (tug-of-war, on stools, with just two people), Human

Pyramids, Catch the Dragon's Tail (a mix between flag football and a conga line), Sumo, Capture the Flag, Slaughter (more aptly-named than I'd intended), Stand-Off (a shoving match with rules), and Knots (like holding hands, but more stressful). Instead of choosing a winning team based on the number of victories, I assigned each team a spirit animal—falcon, monkey, tiger, dragon, wolf, or fox—based on which games it won and which it lost. After the games, each player was presented with an Animus Stone inscribed with the kanji character for their team's animal. To casual observers, it probably looked



“I didn’t want anyone to walk away from Field Day feeling like they had ‘lost’—I wanted people to recall the joy of physical activity, decoupled from the stress of structured competition.”

like I was trying to start a cult.

In a way, I suppose I was. Shikoku Field Day was heavily inspired by the New Games Movement of the 1970s. The aim of the movement was to provide alternatives to traditional, zero-sum sports, which tend to hand out adulation and shame in equal measure. I didn’t want anyone to walk away from Field Day feeling like they had “lost”—I wanted people to feel like they did when they were kids, after a day of running around outside. I wanted people to recall the joy of physical



*The Blue Team, a.k.a. the Foxes*

activity, decoupled from the stress of structured competition.

Was the tournament a success? Yes and no. I had never actually played many of the games I brought to the event, and while some, like Rock-Paper-Scissors, were a blast, others suffered from rules that were too vague, and still others just weren’t that much fun. I also underestimated how deep-seated the competitive spirit is in us; even if a victory won’t yield any tangible result, people still want to win, and badly. Tempers flared a few times, and that was my fault for misjudging the degree to which I needed to define the

rules for each game. But there were plenty of moments, for me at least, of pure, unadulterated *fun*, and the barbecue and subsequent carousing completely erased any hard feelings. If the other attendees experienced even half of the joy that I did, I consider it a day well spent.

I’d like to take this opportunity to thank Lisa Cross for the initial idea for a Block 8 event, and for the incredible amount of support she provided. She essentially handled all of the non-fun portions of the planning while I fuffed about, painting rocks and trying to decide whether a falcon would be good or bad at Sumo (answer: bad). I’m extremely grateful for everything she did. I’d also like to thank Mari Rueter and Mary Parker for ~~extorting~~ collecting money from the Tokushima attendees.

This is my last year in Tokushima, but I sincerely hope that somebody will organize another Field Day next year. Just...leave out Slaughter. And put in restroom breaks.



*A rousing game of Catch the Dragon's Tail*

# 150 years of friendship

Tokushima takes part in Japan's celebration of its long relationship with Germany

Martin Rathmann

Last August I started working at the prefectural government in Tokushima. Even though it has been almost six months, the time has flown by really fast. As one of the two German Coordinators for International Relations in Tokushima, I am in charge of Tokushima's partnership with the German federal state of Lower Saxony; the other German CIR (Robert) is working at the German House in Naruto. 2011 was the 150th anniversary of Japanese-German friendship and diplomatic relations, so a lot of events were going on in Germany and Japan last year. That also means there was a lot of work to do, for our prefecture and me.

Unification Day was in October, so the embassy in Kobe invited all German JETs in West-Japan and many other people to come together for music, food and drinks in Kobe. During this nice dinner more events for the anniversary of Japanese-German friendly relations were introduced, such as the German Festival on October 23rd. The German Festival in Tokyo was one of the main events of the 150th anniversary, and the German federal president Christian Wulff himself and the crown prince of Japan Naruhito were present. At the festival there was everything you need to have a great day: German food (sausages, etc.), modern music (German rock and AKB48), as well as other traditional performances, and last but not least, booths for Tokushima and

Lower Saxony, as representatives for German-Japanese relations.

The two booths were side by side, and both presented posters and information about their region. They also tried to promote themselves and raise visitors' interest by handing out *sudachi* and caramels from Tokushima, and fries from Lower Saxony. I did my best to promote our prefecture, but in the end the fries were more popular, but only by a margin!

In connection with the German Festival in Tokyo the German federal president decided to visit his old friend, the governor of Tokushima, on October 28th. During President Wulff's time as the minister president of Lower Saxony, he and Governor Iizumi concluded the partnership between their respective regions, so they have known each other for some time. For the Tokushima prefectural office and especially the German House in Naruto, this visit meant

“Perhaps it wasn't necessary for me to be dieing of nervousness... but when else does a normal human being and non-professional interpreter have the chance to meet the German federal president?”

we had months of preparation to do. Creating a schedule on minute based units, double-checking all the places the federal president wanted to go, and consulting with the metropolitan and prefectural police, the German Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and other involved organizations. The schedule was so strict that there was no room for unexpected changes. In such



Governor Iizumi and President Wulff getting their Awa Odori on





*Martin and President Wulff!*

“...you try explaining centuries-old clothing and dances to young children in Japanese and see how easy it is (it’s not!).”

cases, the thing that you want not to happen the most, will happen. If the federal president changed his plans then the complicated schedule had to be adjusted, whether it was possible or not.

My job was “just” to interpret for Governor Iizumi, when he spoke with his old friend and gave a speech to the audience. Perhaps it wasn’t necessary for me to be dying of nervousness the day before, but when else does a normal human being and non-professional interpreter have the chance to meet the German federal president? Anyway, somehow I did it, and nobody fired me, so I guess it went okay at least. As a reward for this I was able to get my picture taken with President Wulff, and also one with Governor Iizumi. All in all it was a great day.

Another thing in connection with the German Festival was a visit from a traditional German dance troupe, who performed at the festival and were invited to Tokushima for the 28th, or the day after our big to-do with the

president. The group arrived on the evening of the 27th in Naruto, so I had the chance to welcome them, despite being exhausted from the day’s activities. They visited an elementary school then next day and performed German dances from the early 19th century for the students, and they were great, but you try explaining centuries-old clothing and dances to young children in Japanese and see how easy it is (it’s not!). But the kids loved it and even got to try the dances themselves. After this school visit

the troupe went to different places in Naruto, where my German colleague was their guide.

So the German festival and all things having to do with it have finally ended. For me it was quite a busy time, but it was worth it and I am really looking forward to next year, when Tokushima and Lower Saxony’s partnership will have its 5th year anniversary, which also means a lot of different events and work to do. Being a CIR in Tokushima is quite an adventure.



*Traditional German dance troupe*

Austin Smith

They call me スミス, they call me 先生, they call me イギリス人, they call me 外人, but that's not my name...

As an ALT working in Tokushima city, I interact with thousands of junior high and elementary school pupils and I am visible to thousands of people in the city every day. Due to the amount of classes I cover, I find myself still giving self-introduction lessons and, as a result, I am conscious of people's initial perception of me. I perform a slightly different function at each of my placements. My name even varies, from "*sumisu sensei*" to "Austin" and every linguistic variation in between. The pupil's reaction to me is always vocal or visible: a laugh, a scream, a smile, even an uncertain glance. However, despite being placed with some of the less privileged children in this prefecture, I can count on one hand the number of times they have called me a *gaijin*, and it has never been used as a term of abuse or discrimination. Instead, I usually hear them shout *kakkoii*, whatever that means...

However, as I cycled my *kakkoii* bicycle past Tokushima station on a lazy Sunday morning I was shouted at, sneered at, and pointed at by two distinctly American-looking parents "educating" their two young children: "*gaijin*, *gaijin*, *gaijin*". This was in front of many bystanders who just so happen to pay my wages. For a second, I cycled on, laughing at their understandable cultural ignorance...but then calmly


turned around to concisely correct their use of nomenclature.

Forgive me if I take exception to two "adults" considerably older than myself teaching their pre-school children to point and shout at 'others' as they themselves are 'just passing through' the most crowded area of the city I live and work in. Most people who travel through or even come to live and work in Japan may not realize that the term *gaijin* is being actively and officially phased out of Japanese society. This has been the case for some time. The biggest barrier to its eradication is ignorance—the ignorance of foreigners themselves, even those who are employed to promote international understanding.

I am sure most of you are aware of the literal translation of this word and why it has been replaced in general use by another—*gaikokujin*. The literal translation is irrelevant, I am sure that no matter which country you are from you can think of labels that are

used to identify 'others'—to mark people who are 'different'. You can no doubt identify such words that are no longer socially acceptable in the country you are from. In the UK we have as many of these words as anywhere else in the world.

There is no place in the 21st century for any form of discrimination. If the Japanese people have made a conscious effort to phase out a Japanese word in line with international standards of decency, I think we should encourage this rather than continue to publicly justify its use. I may stand out but this does not make me an 'outsider'.  
*Douzo yoroshiku onegaishimasu.*

Austin Smith graduated from Newcastle University in 2010 with an MA in East Asian History on how the outside world perceives Japan and vice versa. If you would like to discuss this topic or any other aspect of modern Japan further you can contact him at: [austin.alt@ezweb.ne.jp](mailto:austin.alt@ezweb.ne.jp) 

## WRITE FOR AWALIFE!

SHOW TOKUSHIMA SOME LOVE...

**Yes, yes y' all!**

**Put pen to paper**

**and submit articles**

**about the cool stuff**

**you get up to, or**

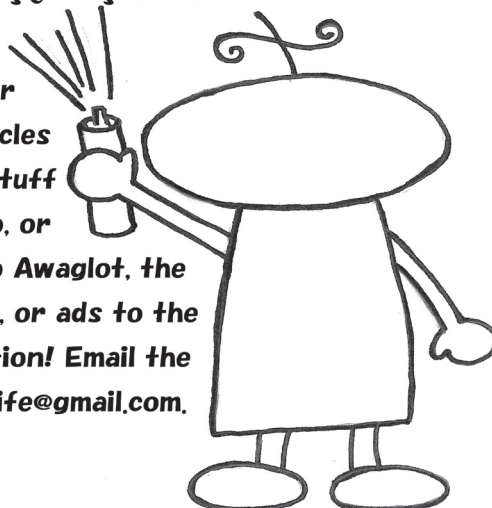
**submit pieces to Awaglot, the**

**literary corner, or ads to the**

**classifieds section! Email the**

**editors at [awalife@gmail.com](mailto:awalife@gmail.com).**

**Peace!**



This month let's study the location particles 「に」 and 「で」.

(1) Which of these two particles, 「に」 and 「で」, go in the parentheses below?

1. 私の会社（ ）外国人がいます。
2. 家（ ）車が2台あります。
3. 家（ ）宿題をする。
4. 公園（ ）バドミントンをする。
5. ここ（ ）荷物を置いてください。
6. 駅の改札口を出たところ（ ）待っていてください。
7. (タクシーの運転手に)「すみません。あの店の前（ ）止めてください。
8. 大学の寮（ ）住んでいます。
9. 兄は銀行（ ）働いていますが、私は病院（ ）勤めています。



こたえ (answers): 1. に 2. に 3. で 4. で 5. に  
6. で 7. で 8. に 9. で・に

How many did you get? What is the difference between verbs that go with 「に」 and 「で」?

\* Verbs that indicate existence ( いる、ある ), movement that comes to a stop ( 座る、着く、入る、置く、入れる ), and conditions or status ( 住む、勤める ) use the 「に」 particle.

\* Verbs that indicate movement and actions ( する、遊ぶ、買う、会う、食べるなど ) use the 「で」 particle.

(2) Are the following uses of 「に」 and 「で」 correct?

1. このいすで座ってもいいですか。
2. これ誰のもののかわからないから、そこにそのまま置いといてください。
3. まっすぐ行ったところでコンビニがある。
4. 徳島に住んでもう2年になります。
5. ここにサッカーをしないでください。

こたえ (answers): 1. × 2. ○ 3. × 4. ○ 5. ×

How did you do?

Reference: 日本語誤用辞典 スリ-エ-ネットワーク





# letter from suketo hoikuen

Child care advice  
from our friends at  
Suketo Daycare!

Kazue Inoue


**A**t Suketo Daycare, there are many kids who come with their mothers to play who are in the midst of the so-called "terrible twos". They repeatedly shout "No, no!" in rapid-fire succession, and go into complete meltdowns when they don't like something, causing quite a bit of trouble for their poor mothers.

The age of one and a half to three years is frequently characterized by childrens' burgeoning desire to do things for themselves, and do them well, but when things don't go the way they want, they often take out their frustration on their parents. This rebellious stage is a path that every child must go down during their development, so try not to worry too much, and have patience with your child. Eventually they will develop the ability to express themselves, gain perspective and a better understanding of their environment, and they will naturally begin to settle down. Until then, make sure you take time to talk about your feelings with others, eat good food, and relieve your stress.

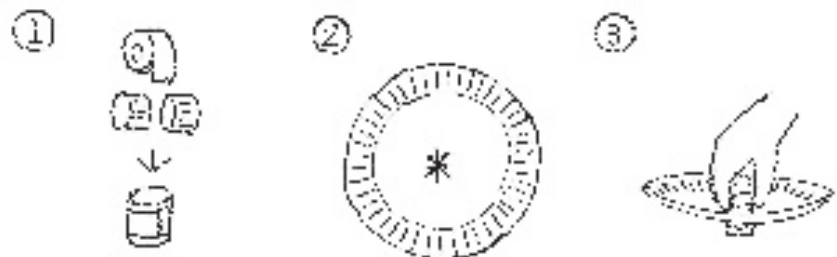
## This month's craft:

### Paper Plate Top

The spinning top is a toy that many Japanese play with at New Year's time.

1. Take the caps from two pet bottles and tape them together, with the inside edges facing each other.
2. Cut a hole in the center of a paper plate as shown below, large enough to fit the taped caps in the center.
3. Fix the taped caps inside the hole securely and spin it with your fingers, as shown in the third illustration. Color the plate or draw pictures on it to make a cool image when it spins! 

“[The terrible twos] is a path that every child must go down during their development, so try not to worry too much, and have patience with your child.”



## awaglot and classifieds

**T**he 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! Send submissions to [awalife@gmail.com](mailto:awalife@gmail.com).

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

**The following will not be posted:** Religious, political, or commercial activities, businesses searching for clients or employees, and 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](mailto:awalife@gmail.com)!

## Shikoku Snowball Fight Tournament

### 国際雪合戦四国大会

It may be too late to join, but why not come and cheer on the teams of the Shikoku International Snowball Fight? This competition, held as a sport with strict rules on snowball fighting, is the deciding match for the Shikoku representative in the national competition!

**When:** January 28, 29 (Sat, Sun), 9:00 - 17:00

**Where:** Grounds of Iyashi no Onsen-kyo  
Miyoshi-shi, Higashi Iya Sugeoi

**Info:** Miyoshi City Tourism Division

**TEL:** 088-372-7620

**Cost:** Free!

大人から子どもまで、雪があれば誰でも雪合戦をやったことがあるでしょう。この雪合戦は日本雪合戦連盟公認の大会で、公式ルールに則りスポーツとして開催しています。このため、北海道で開催している昭和新山国際雪合戦の四国ブロック予選も兼ねています。

**日時:** 1月28, 29日(土、日) 9:00~17:00

**場所:** いやしの温泉郷グラウンド  
三好市東祖谷菅生

**問合せ:** 三好市観光課

**TEL:** 088-372-7620

**入場料:** 無料!

## Taisan Temple *Mochi* Competition

### 大山寺の力餅

Come and see as participants compete to see who can carry large barrels of *mochi*, or pounded rice, the farthest! Men carry 169 kg and women carry 50kg. This is a traditional event of the temple that is held every third Sunday in January.

**When:** January 15 (Sun)

**Where:** Kamiita-cho, Kanyake Oyama 4  
Taisan Temple grounds

**Info:** Taisan Temple

**TEL:** 088-694-5525

**Cost:** Free!

正月の初会式の行事として毎年1月第3日曜日に大山寺境内で行われます。男 169kg・女 50kg の餅をかつぎ、歩いた距離を競います。見物する方も思わず力が入る名物行事です。

**日時:** 1月15日(日)

**場所:** 上板町神宅字大山4 大山寺境内

**問合せ:** 大山寺

**TEL:** 088-694-5525

**入場料:** 無料!

## Japanese Lessons at Suketo Hoikuen (free)

### 助任保育園の日本語教室 (無料)

**When:** Every Thursday, 11:00 - 12:00

**Cost:** Free, and child care is also available!

**Info:** Call TOPIA at  
TEL 088-656-3303

**日時:** 毎週木曜日、11:00 ~ 12:00

**金額:** 託児付き (無料)

**問合せ:** トピアまで  
TEL 088-656-3303

# African Music Concert!

## アフリカ音楽を楽しもう！

Come enjoy authentic African music, dances, and hear talks on African human rights. This African music group will be performing at two venues in Tokushima. They have visited and performed at over 1300 schools around the country, and have also done several charity concerts.

\*If you would like to participate, bring pet bottles with items inside that when shaken make noise like maracas. Almost any items will do!

**When:** January 14 (Sat) 14:30 - 16:00

**Where:** Ishii-cho Chuo Kominkan Ishi Fuji Hall

**When:** January 15 (Sun) 10:00 - 11:30

**Where:** Tokushima City, Okinohama Higashi  
Fureai Kenkoukan Hall

**Info:** Kitaoka

**TEL:** 090-3180-9356

**Cost:** Free!

本物のアフリカ音楽に親しみながら人権についてのトークやダンスを楽しんでみませんか。アフリカ音楽に親しむ会が徳島県の二つの会場で上演します。学校などでの音楽出演は全国 1300 校以上、現在も全国各地でチャリティーコンサートを開催しています。

\* 簡単手作りマラカスを作って参加しましょう！（ペットボトルに音が出る物なら何でも入れるといいですよ！）

**日時:** 1 月 14 日 (土) 14:30 ~ 16:00

**場所:** 石井町中央公民館 いしい藤ホール

**日時:** 1 月 15 日 (日) 10:00 ~ 11:30

**場所:** 徳島市沖浜東 ふれあい健康館ホール

**問合せ:** 北岡

**TEL:** 090-3180-9356

**入場料:** 無料！

# Sagicho

## 左義長

Come and see as all the decorations from the end of the new year festivities are burned in a huge bonfire to ward off bad luck for the coming year.

**When:** January 15 (Sun), 17:00 - 18:00

**Where:** Kaifu-gun, Mugi-cho, Nishi no Hama

**Info:** Mugi-cho Industry and Construction Division

**TEL:** 088-472-3420

**Cost:** Free!

毎年 1 月 15 日の早朝、正月の飾りものを燃やして無病息災や豊漁や豊作・家内安全を祈願します。

**日時:** 1 月 15 日 (日) 17:00~18:00

**場所:** 海部郡牟岐町 西の浜

**問合せ:** 牟岐町産業建設課

**TEL:** 088-472-3420

**入場料:** 無料！

# Momote Shinji Archery

## 百手神事

Each January this event is held to ward off bad luck for the coming year. Ten archers dressed in ceremonial dress fire arrows into a target in a display of traditional archery.

**When:** January 9 (Mon, holiday), 8:00

**Where:** Yoshinogawa-shi, Yamakawa-cho

**Info:** Yoshinogawa Commerce and  
Tourism Division

**TEL:** 088-322-2226

**Cost:** Free!

古来より王子神社に伝わる魔よけの祭りです。10 人の射手が袈裟で的に矢を射ます。

**日時:** 1 月 9 日 (月、祝) 8:00

**場所:** 吉野川市山川町

**問合せ:** 吉野川市商工観光課

**TEL:** 088-322-2226

**入場料:** 無料！



## JTM とくしま第2回特別研修会

「初級から中級へ～『みんなの日本語中級Ⅰ』を使って」初級の日本語学習を終了した人に中級の日本語を教えるための指導力の充実を図ります。「みんなの日本語中級Ⅰ」を使った具体的な指導の方法や、初中級から中級の学習についての質疑応答を行います。

**開催時期：**2012年1月28日（土）13:30～16:00

**開催場所：**徳島県国際交流協会 (TOPIA) （徳島市寺島本町西 1-61 クレメントプラザ 6 F）

**対象：** JTMとくしま日本語ネットワーク会員  
日本語指導・支援の経験者

**定員：** 50人

**参加費：** 無料！

**問合せ・申し込み：**JTM とくしまネットワーク TEL 088-625-8387

## 多文化共生フォーラム

南海地震や三連動地震が危惧される徳島県。数々の災害時に活動されてきた経験をお持ちの日比野氏から、在住外国人が災害弱者にならないためのまちづくりについてお話を伺いませんか？ぜひご参加下さい！！

**テーマ：** 在住外国人が災害弱者にならないためのまちづくり

**講師：**日比野 純一氏

（特定非営利活動法人たかとりコミュニティセンター 専務理事）

**日時：**平成24年1月24日（火）14:30～16:30 参加無料

**場所：**（財）徳島県国際交流協会 会議室

**問合せ・申し込み：**当協会まで（当日参加も可）TEL 088-656-3303 FAX 088-652-0616

## Purple Hotline - Women's Shelter Network

The Purple Hotline is a free telephone counseling and consultation service provided by the All Japan Women's Shelter Network for women and children faced with problems due to the Tohoku disaster, or domestic violence and other types of abuse. These counselors can provide support and necessary information, so don't hesitate to call. English-speaking counselors are available Mondays through Thursdays from 13:00 to 19:00.

Dial 0120-941-826, and non-Japanese callers may press 1 for other language options including Chinese, Thai, English, Tagalog, Spanish, and Korean.

## 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.

Every day, 10:00 - 18:00

**Tel:** 088-656-3320 (allows three-way conversations with an interpreter) or 088-656-3303

## 受け止めていますか人権の重み