



TOPPY

247
FEBRUARY

阿波ライフ

AWA ILIIE

Searching for Treasure?

Mari Rueter

photos by Alison Davis

*Every year AJET puts all it's heart into the musical - this year for the 17th time*

Title: "Treasure Island"
(トレジャーアイランド)
Script by: Christine Clifford, Nikolina Hatton
Directed by: Michael Gemmel

Another year has gone by and we are already getting ready for another musical production! I'm Mari Rueter, a second year JET in Anan, Tokushima and I brought you the article about the musical last year. I will now introduce you to the development of the

17th production of the AJET musical: Treasure Island.

I will have to start back in the summer of 2010, when we were unsure of what story to write. Many of our past musicals played off of Disney stories due to their familiarity and fun musical numbers. We had tossed around a

few ideas, when the image of pirates had formed in our heads. Many people in Japan loved Pirates of the Caribbean, recognized the image of Jack Sparrow, and the popularity of pirates has been increasing since the creation of One Piece. For us JETs personally, one movie came to mind when thinking about pirates back in our childhood: Muppet Treasure Island. After much discussion and a vote, Treasure Island was decided as our musical. The two writers went to work on the script and the final script was completed in early December (good job Christine and Nikolina!) We had a lot of new faces show up at the auditions and I think we chose a good cast.

I was originally hoping to try out for a main character, but an overlap in my schedule occurred. I found out that my best friend from college was getting married the first weekend of performances and as fun as the musical is, this wedding was first priority. But



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AWA LIFE

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Dearest Awa Life reader,

I hope you are all doing well despite the long and cold winter in Tokushima. This month Mari Rueter introduces to you the new musical that will be performed in March. "Treasure Island" is currently in the making and you can look forward to the performances. Please take a look at the flyer on the back and please also tell your Japanese friends.

Other articles include Michael Gemmel writing about the devil masks that you find in all the stores around the New Year, Matthew King telling us about the Masked Tiger and myself giving you a short impression of my strolls around Tokushima city.

I hope you enjoy this month's issue. If you have any criticism or suggestions for the upcoming issues, feel free to mail us to awalife@gmail.com.

Best regards,
Kim

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.

I still wanted to be involved in the musical. So I applied to be the assistant director.

It has been a wonderful experience working with Mike, this year's director. And it is nice to know that the cast will listen to my ideas and follow my directions. Even though I'm not in the main cast, I was still able to sneak my way into the dances.

The first challenge we faced was introducing a story that the Japanese audience was unfamiliar with. There is a story called Takarajima (translates to Treasure Island) in Japanese folklore, but it is quite different from the American version. We will rely on the Japanese narration, which we try to include in



Musical Fever

most of our productions, to introduce the story. Treasure Island will be narrated by a grandfather who is telling the story to his grandson Ken.

Rehearsals have been going really well so far! Every rehearsal starts with a warm-up exercise to loosen us up, get us awake and motivated. Then we jump into scenes, to work out blocking (movement accompanying dialogue or occurring in scenes) and saying our lines. My favorite

part of the day is when we learn and practice the dance numbers. Like I said in my last article, it is amazing to watch how each individual movement creates one big piece of art. This year, we have a lot of dance numbers and I hope you are especially blown away by our opening number!

I believe that this musical will be just as awesome as our past productions and we hope you guys come out and watch our show in March! Please look for a poster with locations and times (e.g. in our memoranda section - the editor). And did I mention the admission is FREE?



Not even the cold weather keeps the musical team from practicing all day long

Behind the Devil Mask

Michael Gemmell

As a foreigner in Japan it is already scary enough sometimes going to the grocery store. Foods you do not recognize line the shelves, jingles play repeatedly so that you can sing along if you are there often enough (I can even do some of the dances in the videos) and now there are devil masks staring at you from different spots throughout the store.

I first took notice more closely when one sneaky mask crept off the shelf and

grabbed my leg. "Whha?!" I jumped the little boy behind the mask cried "Ahhhh!", as he jumped higher when he realized he had scared me and not his father. The mask fell at my feet as the boy rushed off to the arms of his chuckling father who witnessed the innocent mistake. I was left in the dried goods aisle with the devil staring up at me. Had my little shopping trip happened upon misfortune? These masks will be worn in homes across Japan because of the

misfortune they represent. This is all part of the festival of *setsubun*, which happens this year on the third of February.

Setsubun literally means "seasonal separation" and has its roots in the lunar calendar of Japan. It originally referred to the eve of any of the twenty-four divisions of the solar year. However, the *setsubun* that falls at the end of the period defined by the solar principal term *daikan* (severe cold) and one day before the sectional term *risshun* (spring begins) has gained the official title and is the one most celebrated. The beginning of spring in the lunar calendar is a symbol of *toshi koshi* (year passing) or *jyo jitsu* (accepting the old year) by marking the completion of the cycle of the twenty-four divisions of the solar year. Since the change to the new calendar was made, only the *setsubun* before spring remains officially marked. This *setsubun* achieved the status of an imperial event because of its symbolic and ritual significance from its association with prospects for a "returning sun", associated change in weather, renewal of body and mind, expulsion of evil, symbolic rebirth, and preparation for the coming planting season.



Photo by Kim Daempfling

Customs surrounding this day apparently date as early as the Ming Dynasty in China, and in Japanese form, began to take shape in the Muromachi Era (1392-1573), the era of Japanese history in which the country saw little internal peace, but in which customs such as tea ceremony and other genteel arts so often associated with Japan developed. *Setsubun* has been celebrated in many ways, but perhaps the most common custom found throughout Japan is the traditional *mame maki* or the scattering and throwing of beans (*mame*) to chase away the evil *oni* (ogres and evil spirits, as depicted in the illustration which heads this article). In some ritual forms, the *toshi*

otoko (literally "year man" but referring either to the "man of the house" or to men who are born in the animal sign of the coming year, such as rabbit for the year 2011) will throw *mame* within the house or at someone perhaps dressed as an *oni* and repeat the saying "*Oni wa Soto! Fuku wa Uchi!*" (Get out Ogre! Come in Happiness!) After the ritual throwing of the beans, family members may then pick up the number of beans corresponding to their age; eating these brings assurance of good fortune in the coming year. These days, of course, it is not uncommon to see children dressed in *oni* masks, others madly throwing beans, and

all gleefully shouting for evil to hit the road. Prominent temples in Japan may also find monks or celebrities showering large crowds of people with *mame* to ward off spirits and welcome the renewal of the coming New Year.

So as I replace the mask on the shelf I think about the year ahead, and instead of putting it back I hold on to it and also pick up a bag of *mame*. May we all find a little escape from the demons we face and have just a little more happiness this year. Two eyes poke around the end of the corner and I put the mask on to hear the child giggle.



The Vine: To Kochi!

Hiroshi Oe

Introducing another new corner to Awa Life, *The Vine*, contributed by our good friend Hiroshi Oe, who runs a wine bar in Tokushima.

Hello Awa Life readers, and thanks for reading! What have I been up to this week? I had a meeting with the Sommelier Association in Kochi prefecture. We talked about our business plans for the coming year, but rather than boring you with that stuff I will just say that the wine party we had that night was all kinds of awesome.

First they brought out three

different champagnes, from the years '88, '89, and '90, and we all tasted them and tried to guess which was which. Then we had four different kinds of red wine, and tried guessing their region, what kind of grapes they were made from, and what vintage, or year, they were. These are all actually quite difficult to get right, but the process of debating and judging before they tell you the answer is what makes it fun:

"With this strong acidity, and light red berry taste... It's gotta be a Pinot!" I

thought this as I savored what I was sure had to be a Syrah grape from Côtes du Rhône in the South of France, and impatiently awaited the reveal. One close guess someone had was a Bourgogne Pinot from Beaune in eastern France. I ventured to make my guess and was pleasantly surprised when I hit the nail on the head.

Next week I'll be out of town at my friend's wedding in Tokyo, so I might fill you in on the wine action there next month.

Till then!



Tokushima City's Unknown Charm

Kim Daempfling

I've been living in Tokushima City for almost six months now, but I never really got to explore the city. I was usually just going to work everyday, not noticing much of the things around me. Therefore I didn't know much about what Tokushima has to offer. That changed when my mother came to visit me in January. Even though it was terribly cold outside for most of the time, we ended up strolling around the city for hours, discovering new places, be it shops, restaurants or temples.

Tokushima Prefecture is known for it's huge sightseeing spots like the Naruto Whirlpools, the Naruto German House or the Wine Bridges in Iya. The city

itself doesn't have such big attractions to offer. But it is the small things that make Tokushima City a nice place to do some sightseeing.

For example, has any of you ever made use of the small open air library" at the Hyotanjima Boat Tour? Even if you are not riding the boat, where else outside can you find a bookshelve, offering free books to read? Or have you seen the many sculptures along the riverside? You can find a bunch of small frogs made of stone, racoon figures, Awa Odori figures, even a stone pile which could have been taken from Stonehenge and many more.

Not to speak of the wide

selection of palm trees which make the scenery appear as if Tokushima was a tropical island.

Of course Tokushima City by night is also worth a visit. Some of the bridges around the city center are lit up by LEDs. These beautiful lights alone would be enough of a reason to me to visit Tokushima's riverside in the evening. It creates a romantic atmosphere which you could enjoy with your boyfriend/girlfriend or husband/wife.

For those living outside the city you should give a stroll around Tokushima a try. I bet you'll be surprised at what an enjoyable walk it will be.



Masked Tiger Sparks Philanthropy

Matthew King

An anonymous donation to a Child Welfare Centre (CWC) in the name of a popular manga character has sparked a wave of philanthropy across Japan.

Tiger Mask (タイガーマスク) was a popular manga series written by Ikki Kajiwarra which started in the late 60s.

The titular character is a professional wrestler who donates his winnings to the orphanage in which he was raised.

On Christmas day of last

year a Child Welfare Center in Gunma prefecture received an anonymous gift of ten backpacks. The gifts were accompanied by a note signed by Naoto Date, Tiger Mask's true identity.

The story was picked up by the media and there have since been well over a hundred reported copycat donations. The donations have primarily been school bags but other gifts have included stationary, toys, DVDs and cash.

This style of anonymous

charity calls us to remember those less fortunate than ourselves. I would encourage people to be charitable where they can.

In Tokushima members of the English teaching community organize visits to Child Welfare Centers every Christmas. If you would like to help with this year's orphanage visits you can contact the editors of Awa Life for more information. Mail to awalife@gmail.com



Letter from Suketo Hoikuen

Kazue Inoue

I've recently come across many mothers who tell me "My child still cannot speak. I am worried about that." It seems that parents become impatient when they see that children of the same age as theirs start speaking in their vicinity, due to the fact that there are big individual differences in when a child speaks its first words. In Japanese childcare books you can find "standards" of how speech develops. At around the age of 1 year children are able to speak one word that has a meaning, like "mama" → With 18 months the child knows "mama", "papa" and three other words → at the age of 2 it can speak two connected words. But that is only the average and it often

happens that children start speaking after they turn 2.

If you think that your child is late, you should check whether the "preparations for words to come out" have been made.

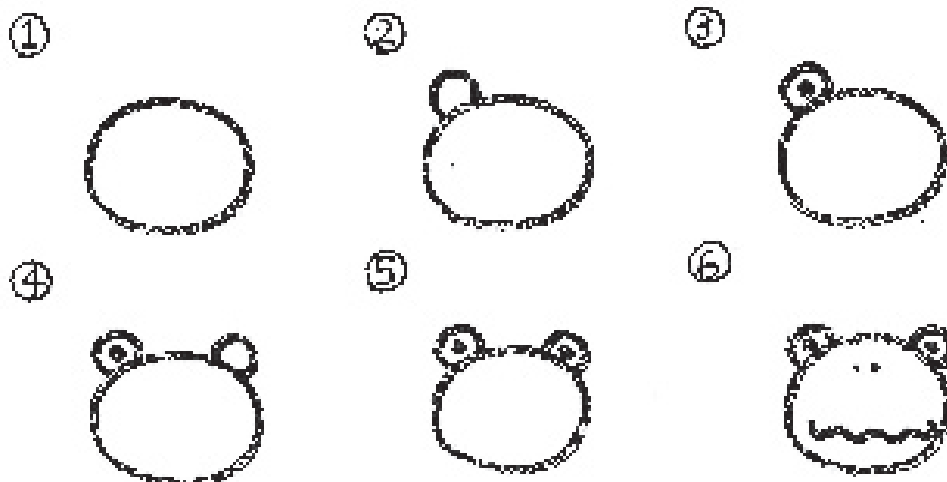
1. hearing ability: how does the child react when it hears a voice?
2. language understanding: does the child understand what the adults are saying?
3. personal relations: does the child like playing with adults? Does it go to adults when it wants something or has problems?
4. speaking: does the child often try to speak?
5. imitation: does the child imitate the adult's movements and voice?

If most of the points mentioned here can be answered with yes, you don't have much to worry about. But if there is something that you are worried about, it is important to consult a specialist.

*Drawing Song: let's have fun drawing a picture matching the song's words.

1. On the other side of a big pond.
2. in a round mountain
3. one hole
4. in the mountain next to it
5. also one hole
6. there's a snake slithering

It's a frog! (finished)



This month let's learn expressions that show you how to pick up a conversation that has been interrupted once. Haven't you experienced a situation where a conversation with friends or family or co-workers was interrupted for different reasons (the phone rang, a delivery came, somebody called you, etcetera)?

If the previous conversation was finished then you do not to worry about returning to it, but what do you say when you want to pick up where you left off? The following exchanges will show you some Japanese expressions that can be used to smoothly return to an interrupted conversation.

Example Conversation 1: At a cafe A: College upperclassmate B: You

A: 来週、みんなでカラオケに行こうって話してたんだけど。

A: We were just talking about going to Karaoke all together.

B: そうなんですか。

B: Oh, really?

A: でも、みんな忙しいでしょう。いつ行くかって話していたら（電話が鳴る）あ、ちょっとごめん。

A: But everyone seems busy. When we were talking about when we should go... (telephone rings) Ah, just a second.

B: はい。どうぞ。

B: Sure, go ahead.

A: （電話が終わって）ごめんね。

A: (After the phone call) Sorry.

B: いいえ。それで、いつ行くことになったんですか。

B: It's ok. And, when are you going?

In this way, we often use 「それで」 and 「で」 when our conversation was interrupted. This can be used not only for returning to your partner's story, but also when you want to return to your own. However 「で」 should only be used when speaking informally with those close to you.

例 1) 佐藤さん、転勤することになってね・・・（中断）・・・それで、東京に引っ越すんだそうですよ。

Ex. 1) Mr. Sato, I've been moved to another branch...(interruption)...So, I'm moving to Tokyo.

例 2) もしもし、私。今日、体調が悪いって聞いたけど・・・（中断）・・・で、熱もあるの？

Ex. 2) Hello? It's me. I heard you weren't feeling well today...(interruption)...So, do you have a fever?

When you want to speak formally, you can use the following phrases:

Example Conversation 2: At the office A: Office Manager B: You

A: 3月の送別会のことなんだけど、どこかいい店を知らないかな。

A: We have that farewell party in March, do you know any good restaurants?

B: さあ。わたしはちょっと。部長はどんな料理がお好きですか。

B: Let's see, not particularly. What kind of cooking do you like, sir?

Reference: 『日本語ジャーナル』「すらすら会話術（第11回）」

A : そうだね・・(電話が鳴る) あ、ちょっと失礼。

A : Well...(phone rings) Sorry, excuse me.

A : (数分後、取引先との電話が終わって) どうも。

A : (a few minutes later, the phone call with a customer ends) Sorry about that.

B : いいえ。それで、さっきの件ですが、どんな料理がお好きでしょうか。

B : Not at all. About the farewell party, what kind of cooking do you like?

The phrase 「それで、さっきの件ですが」 can be used when your conversation was interrupted for a considerable length of time. Also, when you are returning to an exchange with a customer, a particularly formal phrase to use would be 「さきほどの件ですが」.

例 3) ・・ (中断) ・・ さきほどの件ですが、もう少し詳しく説明していただけますか。

Ex. 3)...(interruption)...Pertaining to what we spoke of before, could you please explain in more detail?

【Let's try】 Which phrase is best?

(1) At a friend's house A : You B : Friend

A : このデジカメ、新しく買ったの？

A : Did you buy this digital camera new?

B : うん、そう。安かったんだ。

B : Yeah, it was pretty cheap.

A : 薄くて、便利だね。どこで買ったの？

A : It's slim and convenient. Where did you get it?

B : これはね、(宅急便が来る) あ、ちょっとごめん。・・ (すぐもどる) ・・

B : I got this...(delivery service comes) Sorry, just a second...(returns soon)...

A : ①さきほどの件ですが、どこで買ったんですか。

②それで、どこで買ったの？

③それから、どこで買ったの？

(2) Electronics store A : You B : Store employee

A : すみません。このプリンターが欲しいんですが、家に送ってもらえますか。

A : Excuse me. I would like this printer, could you deliver it to my house?

B : はい、ありがとうございます。大丈夫です。

B : Yes, thank you, that would be no problem.

A : いつ、送ってもらえますか。早いほうがいいんですが。

A : When could you deliver it? Sooner would be better...

B : 少々お待ち下さい。配送センターに確認いたしますので。

・・ (数分後もどる) ・・ 大変お待たせいたしました。

B : Please wait one moment, I will check with the delivery center...(returns a few minutes later)

Sorry to keep you waiting.

①で、明日にはお送りすることができます。

②それで、明日にはお送りすることができます。

③さきほどの件ですが、明日にはお送りすることができます。

㊤ (2) ㊦ (1) ㊧

Reference: 『日本語ジャーナル』 「すらすら会話術 (第 11 回)」



For the most recent news and event information, check Living in Tokushima at our.pref.tokushima.jp/e_living/. To post an event of your own, send the details via email to Awa Life at awalife@gmail.com.

Miyoshi-shicho Cup - Ski and Snowboard Contest

三好市長杯スキー・スノーボード大会

Giant slalom skiing contest. The fastest person wins. We prepared nice prizes for the best three of each class and age. The contest is held at the panorama course at night using floodlight. On the day of the event, you can only ride the course if you take part in the contest.

When: February 20, 2011 (Sun.), from 5:30 p.m.

Where: Miyoshi City, Ikawa Ski Area Kainayama

Info: Miyoshi City Tourist Division
TEL 088-372-7620

ジャイアントスラロームの1本勝負の早い者勝ち。各クラス・年齢別で上位3名様に素敵な賞品を差し上げます。大会はパノラマコースを使用し、ナイターで行ないます。当日のナイターは、大会参加者のみ滑走可能です。

日時: 2011年2月20日(日)、17:30～

場所: 三好市、井川スキー場腕山(かいなやま)

問合せ: 三好市観光課
TEL 088-372-7620

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
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

Community Interpretation Workshop

コミュニティ通訳研修

In Tokushima many people with different cultural backgrounds are living together and internationalizing the region. But due to differences in the language and system many people need support in everyday situations. With this workshop we are targeting not only interpreting volunteers but also others who are interested in this kind of work and practise community interpretation for e.g. medical, law, political or disaster situations and perform a roleplay.

When: February 26, 2011 (Sat.), 1 p.m. - 5 p.m.

Where: TOPIA, Clement Plaza 6 F

Cost: free (but you need to sign up)

Deadline: February 15

Info: TOPIA TEL 088-656-3303
E-mail: coordinator1@topia.ne.jp

徳島県には様々な文化的背景を持つ人々が共に暮らしており、地域の国際化が進んでいます。しかし、言葉や制度の違いにより、毎日の生活の中で様々な支援を必要としている人もたくさんいます。本研修では、ボランティア通訳として活動している方や外国人支援をしている方のみならず、これらの活動に関心のある全ての方を対象に、医療、司法、行政、そして災害時等を含めた社会生活の様々な場面で必要なコミュニティ通訳について、ロールプレイをまじえて研修を行います。

日時: 2011年2月26日(土)、13:00～17:00

場所: 徳島県国際交流協会、クレメントプラザ6階

参加料: 無料!(申し込み必要)

締切り: 2月15日(火)

問合せ: 徳島県国際交流協会 TEL 088-656-3303
E-mail: coordinator1@topia.ne.jp

Friedensfest (4th Peace Festival)

第4回フリーデンスフェスト

A charity event supported by the "German International Peace Town". We want to help as many children as possible! "Hoping for peace..." the German house formed an executive committee. The profits will be sent to the "German International Peace Town" in Germany as a financial aid.

When: February 20, 2011 (Sun.)

Where: Naruto German House

Cost: Free!

Info: Naruto German House

TEL 088-689-0099

「ドイツ国際平和村」支援チャリティーイベント。一人でも多くの子供たちを助けたい！「平和を願って・・・」ドイツ館は実行委員会を立ち上げました。収益は支援金としてドイツにある「ドイツ国際平和村」（戦争や内紛で傷ついた子どもたちを治療、教育するボランティア団体）に送ります。

日時: 2011年2月20日（日）

場所: 鳴門市ドイツ館

入場料: 無料！

問合せ: 鳴門市ドイツ館

TEL 088-689-0099

12th Shikoku Sake Festival

第12回 四国酒まつり

Awa Ikeda is the hidden drinking place. At the venue an "Regional Sake Sampling" is held with sake collected from all the four prefectures on Shikoku. Also there will be a sake tasting contest and a wine cellar tour.

When: February 26, 2011 (Sat.)

Where: Miyoshi city, Ikeda-cho Machi 2191-1
Awa Ikeda Chamber of Commerce and Industry,
3F Hall

Info: Awa Ikeda Chamber of Commerce and Industry
0883-72-0143

「阿波池田（三好市）」は、隠れた酒処。会場では、四国4県の銘酒を一堂に集めた「地酒試飲会」が開催されます。利き酒大会や酒蔵開放見学会も実施されます。

日時: 2011年2月26日（土）

場所: 三好市池田町マチ 2191-1
阿波池田商工会議所 3階ホール

問合せ: 阿波池田商工会議所
0883-72-0143

Tokushima/Kaiyo Kaifugawa Furu Marathon

徳島・海陽究極の清流海部川風流マラソン大会

At the moment, the application procedures are currently being discussed. As soon as the requirements for the marathon are decided, we will inform you about how to apply on our homepage or at our office.

When: February 20, 2011 (Sun.), from 9 a.m.

Where: Kaiyo-cho, Kaifugawa Furu Marathon Course

Cost: 5000 Yen

Info: Kaiyo-cho Town Hall, Office for the
Kaifugawa Furu Marathon

TEL: 0884-73-1234

Site: <http://www.town.kaiyo.lg.jp/info/kikaku/marathon2011/index.html>

招待選手及び申込方法等大会開催の詳細については、現在調整中です。

大会要項等については、出来しだい、大会HPや大会事務局等にてご案内いたします。

日時: 2011年2月20日（日）、9時から

場所: 海陽町海部川清流マラソンコース（日本陸連公認）

参加料: 5000円

問合せ: 海陽町役場内 海部川風流マラソン大会事務局
TEL 0884-73-1234

サイト: <http://www.town.kaiyo.lg.jp/info/kikaku/marathon2011/index.html>

AJET Musical 2011 "Treasure Island"

A poster for the musical "Treasure Island" featuring a large, stylized title in Japanese (宝島) and English (TREASURE ISLAND). The background is a textured, aged parchment map with a sailing ship in the center. The text "Tokushima AJET Presents" and "トレジャーアイランド" is visible above the English title. Below the ship, there is Japanese text about the performance.

宝島
Tokushima AJET Presents トレジャーアイランド
TREASURE ISLAND

入場無料
このミュージカルは簡単な英語と日本語で行われます。初心者大歓迎！

第17回徳島AJET英語ミュージカル

3月5日	石井町中央公民館	18:00-20:15
3月6日	美波町コミュニティホール	18:00-20:15
3月12日	あわぎんホール	13:00-15:15
3月13日	徳島県立総合教育センター	14:00-16:15
3月20日	脇町劇場/オデオン座	18:00-20:15

Counselling Service at TOPIA

トピアの相談窓口

TOPIA offers a counselling and advisory service to all foreign residents to help with issues involving accidents, working conditions, housing, visas, international marriage, and more. Counselling is available in English and Japanese. Please note that although every effort will be made, we may not be able to deal with all cases.

Monday to Friday, 10:00 - 16:30

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

人権守って輝く明日