

awa life



"TOPPY"

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

May 2010 No. 238

pedaling pilgrims

by lance kita

have bike, will temple. While most Japanese **o-henro** (お遍路) make the Shikoku 88 Temple Pilgrimage (四国八十八ヶ所霊場 - **shikoku hachi juu hakkasho reijo**) on foot or by bus tour, some foreigners in Tokushima get around with a pair of wheels and a handlebar.

Denis Smith heard about the pilgrimage from a college advisor in Nova Scotia before coming to Tokushima to teach English at a private school. Seeming like a great way to get out on the weekends, he and an American JET teacher headed out to Temple #1 Ryozen-ji (霊山寺) and grabbed a **nokyochō** (納経帳) - the stamp book that gets signed and stamped at each temple. At that time, he just thought it would be a nice way to keep a record.

With each successive weekend outing, he found himself enjoying the scenery



denis smith by a statue on the grounds of temple number seven, juraku-ji (photo by sarah mobley)

as he pedaled from temple to temple on his **mamachari** - a bike made more for carrying groceries than long-distance sojourns.

Not being bound by bus schedules left him free to explore at his leisure. In fact,

he spent so much time at #6 Anraku-ji (安楽寺) in Kamiita that he had to hoof it to make #7, #8, #9, and #10 in the same day, despite being clustered in the same area. It was Anraku-ji's treasure trove of decorated nooks, crannies, and bamboo groves tucked away in alcoves that piqued his interest. He found each temple had its own charms, from the walled oasis of #19 Tatsue-ji (立江寺) in the middle of Komatsushima to the pitch-black tunnel around the base of the pagoda at #23 Yakuo-ji (薬王寺). His first Kochi temple (visited by public transportation) greeted him with saintly **jizo** (地藏) statues garbed in bibs of vivid hues.

Approaching this journey from the "tourist" point of view, Denis quickly covered eighteen temples in relative order. He found the temples peaceful and serene, a welcome break from his hectic teaching schedule. The turning point would come

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inside awa life this month

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awalife

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from the editor

many people believe the best part of the cherry blossom trees are their flowers, but I tend to disagree. They may be beautiful, but to me the bright green of the new leaves that pop up in late April and early May is a welcome sight. May is a time when everything wakes up from the long winter, the mountains and forests of Tokushima look their best, and it's a joy just to be outside. It's also a popular time for people to hit the road on the Shikoku 88 Temple Pilgrimage, the warm temperature and bright scenery making a wonderful sight for walking along the trails around Shikoku.

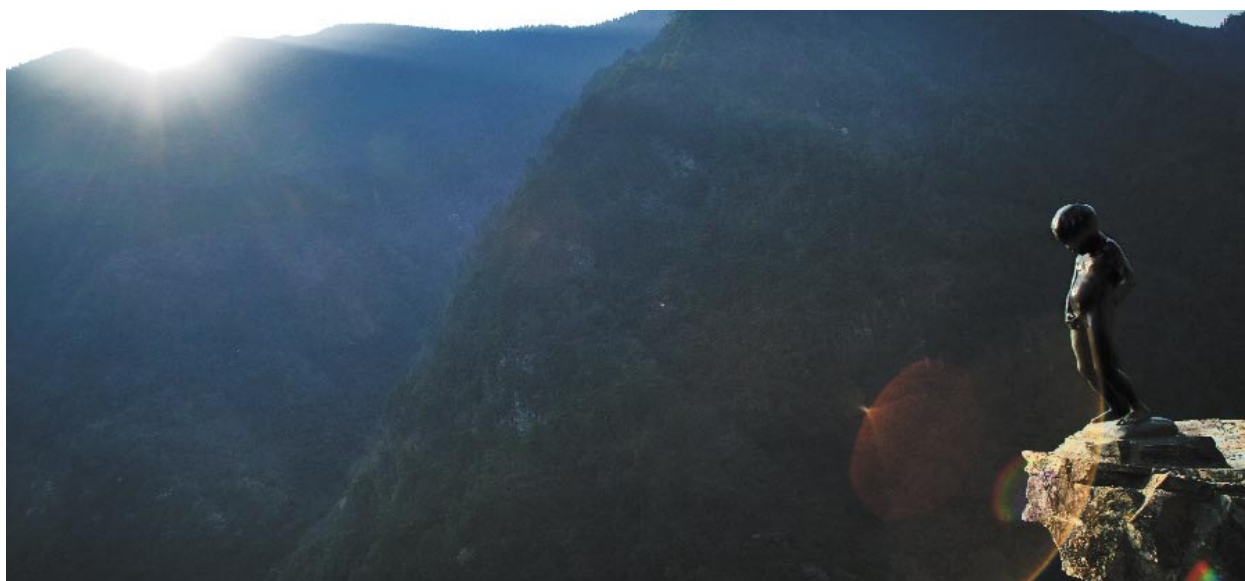
Speaking of which, this month Lance Kita writes to us about an inspiring story of one man's travels on the pilgrimage and what he found along the way. We also take a look at the

staff line-up for TOPIA over the coming year, and Sarah Auffret in Naruto offers a few tips on how to organise a beach cleaning and look after the natural beauty that makes this time of year so enjoyable.

Whatever you're up to this May, I hope you have the chance to make the most of the warmer temperatures and extra sunlight. But if you do have plans to enjoy the outdoors, you might have to get a move on! The end of May signals the beginning of the rainy season and what will be another large slump in dry weather until the heat of mid-summer and Awa Odori rolls around.

For now, all the best and I hope you have had an enjoyable Golden Week.

Cheers, Andrew



the famous peeing boy statue by the steep sides of the iya valley (photo by andrew dahms)

pedaling pilgrims ... cont'd from page 1

with the next temple.

On a solo outing to #11, he spotted a sign saying "Temple #12 – 23 km" and vowed to visit it one day. That trip took four hours of cycling into the mountains from Tokushima City, plus another hour to hike up to the gates of #12, Shosan-ji (焼山寺) in Kamiyama. Sweaty and exhausted, he clambered up to the main hall to bow and give an offering, as he had done at each temple just out of courtesy. This time, however, he remembered that two of his friends were about to give birth, and took the opportunity to pray for safe deliveries. Stepping away from the hall, a sudden wave of relief washed over him and a tension in his chest was lifted, as if releasing claws that he himself wasn't even aware were there. Denis has used other temple visits to pray for the safe delivery of his friends' children, and found it a source of inspiration.

He completed the circuit in Tokushima in less than a year (this writer has lived here for six years and only seen five or six), and has decided to go the full length, albeit by quicker forms of transportation. Fellow teachers have joined him on road trips to Ehime and he has recently finished the Kochi leg, though he laments that driving didn't give him much time to enjoy the cherry blossoms or rugged wave-washed coastlines along the way like his bicycle allowed. His next goal is to finish up the Ehime temples and move on to Kagawa. Ultimately, he would like to make the trip to Koyasan (高野山), the traditional



(above) sunlight peaks through the clouds in a beautiful view over the nearby river on the pilgrimage trail, (below) at the temple gates (photos by denis smith)



ending to the pilgrimage.

Surprisingly, he hasn't visited too many temples outside of Shikoku, save an outing to Kyoto's Kiyomizudera (清水寺). He found the famous temples lacked purpose for him, with its train station-sized crowds leaving little atmosphere to pray. Shikoku's temples offer a smaller, quieter, more personal

experience overall.

An English guidebook about the 88-Temple circuit notes that "Tokushima's section is where you discover your faith." One Canadian teacher certainly did find a simple spirituality in his weekend wanderings. Seems to be where there's a "wheel," there's a way. Have will, bike temples!



staff introductions

The coming of April signals time for staff transfers across the country, and once again there are new faces in TOPIA. Let's take a look at the staff behind the counter for the coming year.

Masao Otake

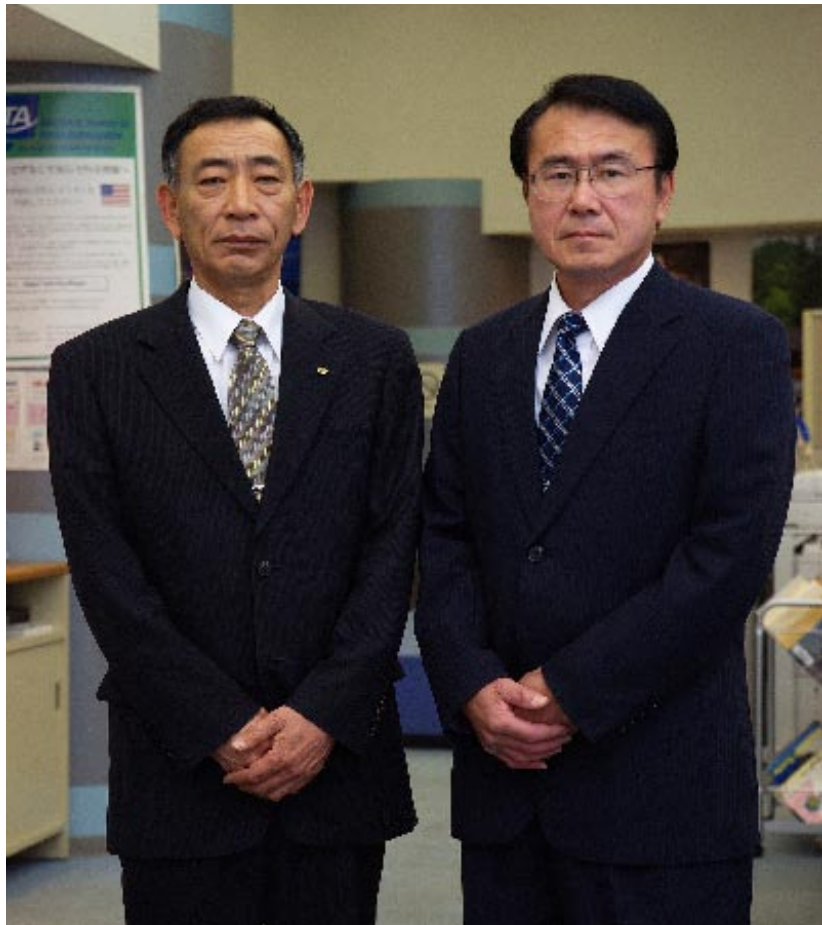
Greetings, dear Awa Life readers. My name is Masao Otake, and I became the president of TOPIA starting this April. TOPIA has played a large role in the promotion of international relations here in Tokushima, and this year sees our 20th anniversary. We are planning on offering an even wider range of services in the times to come and I hope that through our activities we can increase exchange between all residents of the prefecture.

Akihide Sato

Hello, everyone. I was assigned here to TOPIA from April 1, and while there are lot of things I still don't understand regarding the workings of the office, everything is moving along smoothly. During my time here I want to help support the foreign residents of Tokushima in their daily lives as well as promote international understanding and cooperation. If you are ever nearby, please drop by and say hello to us here in TOPIA.

Akira Harada

Hi, everyone! As of this April I have entered my 11th year at TOPIA. On paper it seems like quite a long time, but to



director of topia, akihide sato (left), and president, masao otake (right)

me it has just flown by. I'll be in charge of Arasowa-ren once more this year, so if you have any questions about it then don't hesitate to ask. Please say hi next time you come to TOPIA - I'm looking forward to meeting you all!

Fumie Murasawa

Hello, everyone! This year marks the 20th anniversary since the establishment of TOPIA, and we are planning an anniversary event in honor of the occasion. I hope this event will be an opportunity to broaden multiculturalism within the prefecture and help make the prefecture a happy place

for all to live.

Sumiyo Fukuda

Hi, my name is Sumiyo Fukuda and I work for the Japan International Cooperation agency. My work is in the promotion of international cooperation projects and related contact here in Tokushima. Looking on at all that happens in TOPIA, from the Japanese classes to the activities of the volunteers who aid foreign residents, and the many people who come in and out on their way along the pilgrimage, I always feel a little more genki. Please say hi next time you come to TOPIA!

staff introductions ... cont'd on page 5

staff introductions ... cont'd from page 4

Keiko Fujisawa

This is my third year at TOPIA, but this year I've got some new responsibilities so I guess I'm kind of a new employee. There are lots of things I don't know, and it might take me a long time to learn the ropes. To tell the truth, I feel worried about it. On the other hand, I'm excited to challenge myself to learn new things. If you ever feel homesick or something in a foreign country, why don't you come to visit us at TOPIA!

Keiko Kasai

Hello, I'm Keiko Kasai, and I am facing my second year at TOPIA. Last year I met many people and learned a lot of new things about the world. I am grateful for that. Thank you very much. This year, TOPIA will have an important 20th

anniversary. I will do my best as a member of TOPIA to help it develop more over the year ahead.

Jin Yanling

Hi! My name is Jin Yanling, and I come from Shanghai in China. From this April I am pleased to start work here at TOPIA as a Coordinator for International Relations. After graduating from university in my hometown of Yanji City in Jilin Province, I started work at Shanghai Commercial University as a Japanese teacher. This is my second time in Japan, and the first time I was only here briefly as a language student, so this is my first time to really live in the country. so I'm still not used to much yet, but I feel ready for anything.

Coming to Tokushima with its quiet and beautiful nature, I feel as though I have gained a sense of peace and, far from the hustle and bustle of Shanghai.

Keiko Murakami

Hello! Nice to meet you. I am one of the new staff members at TOPIA from this April. My hobbies are reading books, listening to music and watching cargo vessels. My favorite author is Michimasa Tsurui. My favorite musicians are Leo and Mai, Eminem and Jaycho. I am interested in imports and exports, and thus my interest in cargo vessels, trains and planes. Because of them I went to Mizushima, Kobe, Osaka, etc. It was very fun. Thanks, and regards.



from left - akira harada, sumiyo fukuda, keiko kasai, jin (jin yanling), fumie murasawa, keiko murakami, and keiko fujisawa

beach cleaning

by sarah auffret

In April, a group of students from Naruto High School, language assistants, foreign exchange students and local people gathered three times on Shimada Island, Naruto to pick up rubbish. So far, we have collected about 300 bags of cans, pet bottles, Styrofoam, glass bottles, etc., but also tyres, electrical appliances and other surprising things! The rubbish was then transported and dealt with by the local recycle centre.

However, there is still plenty of rubbish along the coast and more is on its way. So we will be going again next month. Join us on May 15th at Naruto High School at 9am!

Simple steps to organise your own beach cleaning:

(1) Take pictures of the place and talk about the situation with your friends




april 25, eight volunteers and a weekend load of rubbish bags!

and/or students.

- (2) Contact the city office to discuss your plan.
- (3) Secure the help of the local recycle centre.
- (4) Set up a date for cleaning and find volunteers
- (5) Pick up volunteer bags from your local city office (according to the number of volunteers and rubbish

you are hoping to pick up)

The city office and recycle centre are vital in this operation as you will need them to take the rubbish away and deal with it. Cleaning is only one aspect of the operation!

If you would like some more information about beach cleaning, please contact me at sarah.auffret@gmail.com. 

letter from suketo hoikuen

by kazue inoue
suketo hoikuen staff

I am sometimes asked by mothers of one year olds whether children of this age can understand what is said to them. Children around one to two years of age can often understand, but it is also an age when they cannot always comply. Children of this age often say 'no' to a lot of things, so it is important to repeat instructions several times and offer them a demonstration. Most of all, patience is very important at this age.


At two to three years, children learn how to tell others their feelings, but they still won't comply to instructions all the time. It's important that

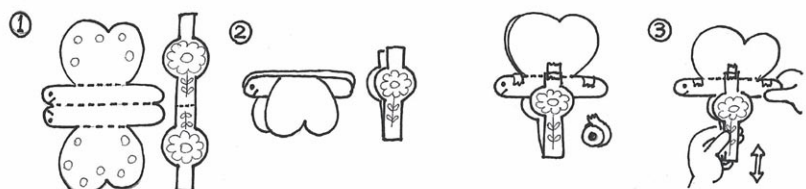
parents help them in borrowing or sharing toys with other kids. From around three they begin to be able to follow simple rules, but their desire to follow them sometimes depends on their mood. But, this is an important time when they begin to understand right and wrong, so it is important to teach them the difference.

Teaching children manners requires an understanding of what they can and cannot do

at certain ages. It is also important to listen to what they have to say and praise them when they get something right.

This Month's Toy - Butterfly

- 1: Cut out a body and handle from thick card such as from a box of sweets.
- 2: Tape the two parts together.
- 3: Hold the body and move the handle up and down to flap the butterfly's wings. 



martin's manga corner

by martin o'brien

Title:	Dororo (どろろ)
Manga-ka:	Tezuka Osamu
Publisher:	Shogakukan
First published:	1967
No of volumes:	4

In this column I have reviewed several comics created by the acclaimed **manga-ka** Tezuka Osamu. One of the more recent was the manga Blackjack, a hugely popular character that has sold in large quantities since it was first published in the 1970s. Blackjack was proceeded by a similar, less popular but perhaps more culturally significant manga in the form of Dororo. Dororo is similar to Blackjack in some sense, but it has a historical setting in a more classical era of sword and samurai, not to mention ghost and goblin.

The story begins with a power hungry aristocrat who forges a pact with a number of legendary demons whose entities are sealed in statues in a Buddhist temple; in return for absolute power over the land he pledges to grant the demons any wish they desire. The demons' bizarre request is to obtain various pieces of the body of the warlord's unborn child. This pact enables them freedom from their prison in the temple. Forty-eight demons in exchange for 48 body parts is the bloody pact, and when the child is born in the malformed, pitiful form that one can imagine he is set afloat in a river, abandoned without hope. But as luck would have it, he is rescued by a healer, who is out gathering herbs along the river bank. The healer

adopts the boy and raises him, helping him to overcome his deformities by building various prosthetic devices which give him a semblance or normality, further enhanced by his superhuman intuitions that allow him to see and feel. As he grows into manhood he comes into the knowledge of the nature of his condition and how if he vanquishes 48 demons, he will one by one regain his body parts. Thus Hyakkimaru, as he is called by his father, wanders ancient Japan battling demons and other ghosts and monsters of the supernatural underworld.

On his travels, Hyakkimaru is not alone, having befriended a cunning young drifter named Dororo who was orphaned at a very young age and like Hyakkimaru, is bravely fending for himself in the roughshod territory of warring states Japan. The presence of Dororo gives the story a more charming buddy feel that is not present in Blackjack and offsets the blood and blades action with a lighthearted humorous touch that greatly adds to its appeal.

Every time Hyakkimaru kills a demonic entity, one of his body parts pops back. For example, in the first volume he comes across a mysterious stranger who demands to fight him in a sword fight because of a mysterious sword he possesses that demands blood. Essentially he is possessed

by the sword that embodies a malevolent spirit. In the fight, the victor is undecided but the sword is discarded. Despite the inhibitions of Hyakkimaru, Dororo picks it up and subsequently becomes possessed by the demonic spirit and runs away from Hyakkimaru with a desire to shed the blood of anybody that crosses his path. He enters a village and attacks some people but he becomes trapped in a storehouse and surrounded by the villagers. By this time the warrior whom Hyakkimaru fought earlier returns to the village which happens to be the same place that his family comes from, however as he is now not possessed he has little idea of the situation at hand. Hyakkimaru manages to rescue Dororo from the villagers, and in doing so the sword ends up back in the possession of the warrior, whereupon he resumes cutting down people at random including members of his own family. Having no choice, Hyakkimaru manages to fight him for a second time and kills him, and the cursed blade that is possessed by one of the 48 demons dissolves. In return, an eyeball magically pops back into his face.

There is very little lacking in Dororo, as it combines many of the devices of action hero narratives with a semblance of humour in a classic setting that borrows from various facets of Japan's rich supernatural folklore tradition. In Dororo, all these elements come together to create a most rewarding manga.



loanwords in japanese

by anja hankel

Spring in Japan is a time of changes - especially in the Japanese working environment. The Japanese working world is imbedded in an entrenched system that includes the annual rotation and transfer of staff within a company or institution such as schools, local government offices or kindergartens. For most Japanese employees, the time of leaving fellow colleagues and rotating to another position at the end of March is a quite sad period of the year. But when entering a new department in the beginning of April - accompanied by the beginning of the new business year - they can also get to know new staff members and get the chance to become acquainted with new topics and tasks, which can sometimes be helpful not to get professionally blinkered, I guess.

By the way, the average working time of the Japanese is about 39.2 hours a week, while in Germany it is three hours less. In return the Japanese are granted an average holiday amount of 18 days, whereas the Germans get about 30 days. In total this means about 1803 working hours a year in Japan facing 1557 hours in Germany.

So, working seems to be a quite Japanese thing, yet the Japanese use a German loan word when talking about work: the German word 'Arbeit', which means 'work' is commonly used as the Japanese loan word アルバイト (**arubaito**) or バイト (**baito**), meaning 'part-time job'. In Japan this word is often considered to be of English origin. Furthermore it is a good example of the fact that oftentimes the exact meaning of a word has changed in Japanese.

But those rotations do not start only with entering the business world – the Japanese get used to this annual rhythm from their childhood on. For example, the school year in Japan ends in March and starts in April again. Even in kindergarten those kids, who change to a pre-school in April, are being bidden farewell and given their kindergarten reports at a quite solemn ceremony held at the end of march. And again, when entering pre-school or school, a solemn ceremony is held to welcome the new kids.

By the way, the Japanese also borrowed the German word 'Kindergarten' (Japanese: キンダーガーテン **kindaagaaten**) during the Meiji Era, when Japan oriented it's educational system to those of Western countries and adopted the German kindergarten system. Admittedly, it is not used very often any more.

Other German loan words used in Japanese are:

アウトバーン	autobaan	German:	Autobahn (highway)
エネルギー	enerugii		Energie (energy)
カテゴリー	kategorii		Kategorie (category)
ゲバルト	gebaruto		Gewalt (violence)
シュプレヒコール	shupurehikouru		Sprechchor (speaking choir)

For those, who want to read more about the Japanese society in general, I highly recommend the book Japanese Society by Nakane Chie, which is an analysis of the structure of the Japanese society and very interesting to read.

tv schedule for may

Date	Time	Channel	Nation	Title
Fri. 07	21:00	1 - Shikoku	USA - 1999	Star Wars - Episode I
Sun. 09	21:00	6 - ABC	USA - 2007	300
Mon. 10	21:00	4 - Mainichi	USA - 1990	Die Hard 2
Fri. 14	21:00	1 - Shikoku	USA - 2007	Ghost Rider
Sat. 15	21:00	8 - Kansai	USA - 2005	Charlie and the Chocolate Factory
Sun. 16	21:00	6 - ABC	USA - 2005	Fantastic Four
Fri. 21	21:00	1 - Shikoku	USA - 2005	Flightplan

japanese lesson

by sumika tamura

This month we will continue on from last month's lesson about **awa-ben** and discuss how to make past-form negative constructions in the dialect of Tokushima. There are many ways to make negative constructions in **awa-ben**, but let's look at 「～なんだ」 and 「～んかった」. Words underlined below denote **awa-ben**, and those in brackets are standard Japanese.

例1 「飲まなかった」 → 【飲まなんだ、飲まんかった】

お母さん： 昨日、かぜ薬、飲んだで？
(昨日、かぜ薬、飲んだ？)
子ども： 飲まなんだ／飲まんかった。
(飲まなかった。)
お母さん： どうして飲まなんだん？
(どうして飲まなかったの？)
飲まなんだら、治らん／治れへんよ。
(飲まなかったら、治らないよ。)

Example 1 - Didn't drink/take

Mother: Did you take your medicine yesterday?
Child: No, I didn't.
Mother: Why not?
You won't get better if you don't take your medicine.

例2 「しなかった」 → 【せなんだ、せんかった】

キム： 去年、新型インフルエンザの予防接種、
したん？
(去年、新型インフルエンザの予防接種、
したの？)
リュウ： せなんだ／せんかった。
(しなかった。)
わたしの友達、だれもインフルエンザに
ならなんだ／ならんかったよ。
(わたしの友達、だれもインフルエンザに
ならなかったよ。)

Example 2 - Didn't do

Kim: Did you get a shot for swine flu last year?
Ryu: No, I didn't.
None of my friends got the flu.

The grammar for past-form negative constructions is broken down as follows:

	きょうつう ご 共通語	→	とくしま 徳島のことば		きょうつう ご 共通語	→	とくしま 徳島のことば
I	ならなかった	→	ならなんだ ならんかった	II	寝なかった	→	寝なんだ 寝んかった
	か 書かなかった	→	か 書かなんだ 書かんかった		の 飲まなかった	→	の 飲まなんだ 飲まんかった
				III	来ない	→	来なんだ 来んかった
					しない	→	せなんだ せんかった

It's interesting to see that the Japanese language is different in the east and west of the country. 'Standard' Japanese is commonly accepted as the language spoken in Tokyo.

Reference : 岸江信介 2005 「近畿周辺圏にみられる方言の打消表現」『日本語学』第 24 巻
第 14 号 12 月号、pp32-43、明治書院。

awaodori airport open to public

thursday, April 8 saw the opening of the brand new Awaodori Airport in Matsushige. Built on the grounds of the former Tokushima Airport, the new airport boasts an extended runway capable of accepting jumbo jets and a brand new terminal building 2.5km down the road from the former.

Arriving at the three-level airport terminal, visitors are greeted by exquisite indigo-dyed wall scrolls and a large-scale LCD screen showing tourist attractions from across the prefecture. The new terminal building also sports a number of new stores and facilities, and visitors can even enjoy several of Tokushima's local specialities, such as Tokushima Ramen, the Tokushima Burger, and Tokushima-don. As for access, have no fear as the old airport shuttle is still available and the new parking lot puts the old one to shame.

Promotional poster used with permission from the Tokushima Airport Usage Promotion Committee (徳島空港利用促進協議会).



memoranda

Speech Contest

Participants Wanted!

2010 Tokushima Prefecture Japanese Speech Contest For Foreign Residents

Around 10-12 contestants will be selected based on country of origin, ensuring that a wide variety of nationalities are able to participate. There will be an event following the contest, where contestants will be available to answer questions from the audience.

Date: Monday, July 19 (a public holiday)
13:30 - 16:30

Place: Awagin Hall

For: Foreign Residents of Tokushima

Theme: A topic of your choice relating to Japan, international affairs, international cultural exchange, and cooperation.

Length: Under seven minutes per speech

Applications: TOPIA (applications accepted until Friday, May 28 or as long as places are available)

Contact: TOPIA

TEL: 088-656-3303

FAX: 088-652-0616

Email: coordinator1@topia.ne.jp

日本語弁論大会

出場者募集!

平成 22 年度外国人による徳島県日本語弁論大会。10-12 名程度の出場者を募集します。国際色豊かにするため 1 カ国 1 名程度。応募者が多い国については 2 名程度を書類審査にて選考します。大会当日は、多数の応援・声援をお待ちしています。発表者との意見交換もお楽しみに!

日時: 7 月 19 日 (月、祝日)
13:30 ~ 16:30

場所: あわぎんホール

対象: 徳島県在住の外国人

テーマ: 国際理解・国際交流・協力に関するものなら自由

時間: 7 分以内

申込: (財) 徳島県国際交流協会まで。所定の申込用紙をお渡しします。詳細は当協会までお問合せ下さい。

申込締切: 2010 年 5 月 28 日 (金)

問合せ: (財) 徳島県国際交流協会 (TOPIA)

TEL: 088-656-3303

FAX: 088-652-0616

Email: coordinator1@topia.ne.jp

memoranda

HIROBA Lecture - South Africa

The 2010 FIFA World Cup host country and the setting of the movie "Invictus"

Presented by Mr. Stephan van der Watt who came to Tokushima last spring. His presentation will be given in English with brief Japanese interpretation.

When: Sunday, May 16, from 14:00 - 16:00

Where: TOPIA, 6F of Clement Plaza

Cost: Free

Info: Call Ms. Yamada at 090-2787-3597 or send an Email to welcometokushima@yahoo.co.jp

国際交流懇話会 HIROBA 講演会

2010 年サッカーワールドカップ開催国そして映画「インビクタス」の舞台

「南アフリカを語る」

1 年前に南アフリカから家族で徳島にやってきたステファン・ヴァン・デル・ワットさんに、母国の歴史や文化、現状などについてお話しいただきます。講演は英語で行いますが、手短に通訳をいれます。

日時: 5 月 16 日 (日)、14:00 ~ 16:00

場所: 徳島県国際交流協会 (TOPIA)、会議室

問合せ: HIROBA の山田まで電話 090-2787-3597

または welcometokushima@yahoo.co.jp

HIROBA Lecture - Moraes & Portugal

In commemoration of the 150th anniversary of the signing of the Japanese-Portuguese Treaty of Amity and Commerce in 1860.

When: June 20, 2010

14:00 - 16:30

Where: Nichia Kaikan, Tokushima University (Shinkura-cho, Tokushima-shi)

Lecturer: Kuwahara Shinogi, President of the Tokushima and Japan - Portugal Association, and Dulce Matsuo, Portuguese Teacher.

MORAES is featured in the March issue of Awa Life. For further information, call Ms. Yamada at 090-2787-3597, or send e-mail to welcometokushima@yahoo.co.jp. Lectures will be given in Japanese.

国際交流懇話会 HIROBA 講演会

1500 年代に初めてポルトガル人が日本を訪れ、その後江戸時代に途絶えていた国交が幕末の 1860 年に再開してから今年で 150 年を迎えます。徳島に馴染みの深いポルトガル人モラエスと彼の母国について再び振り返ってみませんか。講演は日本語で行われます。

日時: 2010 年 6 月 20 日 (日)

14:00 ~ 16:30

場所: 日亜会館 (徳島市新蔵町徳島大学本部横)

講師: 桑原信義さん 徳島日本ポルトガル協会会長、松尾ドウルシさん (Dulce Matsuo)、ポルトガル語講師

問合せ: HIROBA の山田まで

電話: 090-2787-3597

メール: welcometokushima@yahoo.co.jp

Japanese Lessons at Suketo Hoikuen

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

Cost: Free for nursery students!

Info: Call TOPIA at 088-656-3303

助任保育園の 日本語教室

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

電話 088-656-3303

memoranda

The 29th Beethoven's 9th Symphony Concert

Come along for a concert featuring Beethoven's 9th Symphony, a tradition celebrating the first performance of the symphony in Japan, begun here in Tokushima in Naruto City. June the first in Naruto is designated as a day in celebration of this event, and each year on the first weekend in June a performance of the symphony is held, drawing over 500 choralists from in and outside the prefecture.

When: Saturday, June 6, from 16:00 - 18:00
 Sunday, June 7, from 13:00 - 15:00

Where: The Naruto-shi Bunka Kaikan

Cost: Tickets are 2,000 yen for adults, and half price for students and below. However, the cost is an extra 500 yen if bought on the day.

Info: Call the event's executive committee at 088-685-7088.

第29回 ベートーヴェン「第九」 交響曲演奏会

鳴門の「第九」といえば周知のとおり、鳴門市の板東俘虜収容所での演奏会がアジア初演の第九というのが定説となっています。そこで鳴門市では演奏された6月1日を第九の日と定め、6月の第1日曜日に、県内外から500余名の合唱団員が合流して国際色豊かに第九のふるさと鳴門ならではの演奏会を開催しています。

日時: 6月5日(土)、16:00～18:00
 6月6日(日)、13:00～15:00

場所: 鳴門市文化会館

入場料: 一般 2,000 円(当日 500 円増)
 学生 500 円(当日 1,000 円増)

問合せ: NPO 法人鳴門「第九」を歌う会事務局まで
 電話 088-686-9999

Fireflies in Misato

Come and see the beautiful light of the fireflies as they light up the riverways throughout the town of Misato.

When: Saturday, May 29 to Sunday, June 16

Where: Misato Village, Yoshinogawa City

Cost: Free!

Info: Call the Misato Chamber of Commerce and Industry at 0883-43-2505.

美郷ほたる祭り

期間中は獅子舞や模擬店の出店のほか、ホタル観察ツアーなどが行なわれます。

日時: 5月29日(土)～6月16日(日)

場所: 吉野川市美郷

入場料: 無料!

問合せ: 美郷商工会まで
 電話 0883-43-2505

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