awa life

245
DECEMBER, 2010



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

TOPPY

A Lot of *Ai* for *Aizome*

Sarah Nelson

The new headquarters for the affectionately named "dye mafia" is in Tokushima, according to Malaysian fashion designer Edric Ong. This is the conclusion he, and many other visiting designers and textile artists, reached after participating in the Awa Natural Indigo Future Style Project in Tokushima last month.

It was a four day program that allowed participants to explore the history and production process of one of Tokushima's cultural jewels, awa indigo dye, or awa aizome, as well as the use of indigo in international textile industries. "Through this seminar we hope to show the beauty and history of aizome, and promote a new prosperity for this declining industry." Said **Prefectural Cultural Promotions** staff leader Junko Fujikawa. The program included lectures given by textile and dye experts assembled from all over the world, workshops of various dyeing techniques, a

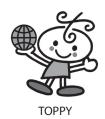


Father and son working on stencil dyeing

panel discussion, and perhaps most exciting of all, a fashion show featuring works by international as well as local Tokushima designers.

The first day of lectures covered topics varying from the history of dyeing, to dyeing methods from different Asian countries, to the use of dyed textiles in the fashion industry. This introduction to the world of dyeing provided an essential background for the next day's activities, in which participants experienced dyeing first hand. They gathered at *Ai no Ie*, the indigo dye studio at Shikoku

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Kazue Inoue

Dearest Awa Life reader,

Welcome to December, when the holiday spirit fills the air and emboldens the heart to brave the cold weather. I hope this issue finds you well and merry this month.

If you like aizome you will love this issue since I have written about the recent indigo festival in depth. We also have a guide to this year's Christmas illuminations from Lance, and a great new short story contribution for Awaglot! Huzzah!

Make sure to spend time with your loved ones this season, or give a call to those far away. I hope you finish this year with grace and triumph, and greet the next one with renewed ambition and a positive outlook. Until next year!

> Sincerely, Sarah

10 **News & Events**

お知らせとイベント情報

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.



Participants practicing pattern dyeing

University, and the pungent smell of fermenting indigo filled the house as we filed into the classroom. I was there primarily to interpret, but I learned a great deal myself as I admittedly struggled to describe to participants in English the processes that instructors were showing us.

Local indigo dye masters gave demonstrations of tiedying, pattern dyeing, waxdrip dyeing and stencil dyeing before participants split up into groups to do workshops in each technique. Gigantic vats of fermented and treated indigo dye were in the ground beneath the house, and though I kept waiting for someone to fall in, thankfully no one did. Participants rolled up their sleeves and got to work on their projects, dipping them inside the mixture for a few minutes at a time and experimenting in gradations. Once they scrubbed off the wax and snipped away the temporary stitches of their

tie-dye pieces, they revealed beautiful works of art. "I can' t wait to take these pieces I' ve made home and exchange ideas with my fellow artists." Said Donna Campbell, a lecturer and designer of traditional Maori fiber arts from New Zealand. "This seminar is a great opportunity for international textile artists to get together and explore different forms of their craft."

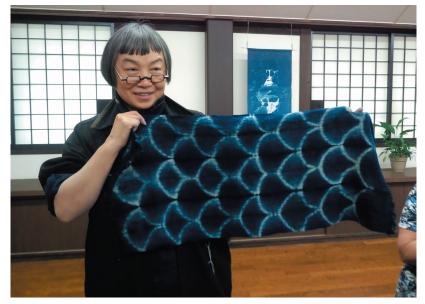
The third day was the main

attraction, the fashion show that included works from over twenty local and international designers. The venue was unusual, with the show being held on the grounds of the Tokushima Castle Museum, and though rain threatened it thankfully held off for the duration of the show. Models strutted across the grass in a variety of garments from every day wear, to kimono, to flowing ball gowns, but all were dyed with gradations of that distinctive indigo color prized by Tokushima. Featured in the show was one of the more successful attempts at revitalizing the popularity of aizome, the "Something Blue" line of wedding gowns and wedding accessories designed by Yukiyo Shimamoto. Inspired by the Western tradition of a bride wearing "something old, something new, something borrowed, and something blue" on her wedding day,



Designer and lecturer Donna Campbell practicing tie-dying

A Lot of Ai for Aizome...continued on page 4



Designer Sophie Hong's completed tie-dye. Beautiful!

Shimamoto used *aizome* to represent the faithfulness and trust symbolized by "something blue".

Awa ai is frequently touted as "Japan Blue", or the indigo color that is representative of Tokushima, the largest producer of indigo dye in Japan, making the word "indigo" nearly synonymous with "awa". Tokushima even has its own research facility that is dedicated to analyzing the entire dye process, and considering the attraction of indigo to attempt greater

stages of development. This was the spirit that propelled the creators of this year's project, the local dye producers and workers from the Prefectural Cultural Promotions Division, who are all striving to bring new life to the awa indigo industry. "Awa ai is precious to Tokushima's cultural heritage, having been a source of trade and a large part of the local economy since the Edo period." Said Assistant **Director of Prefectural Cultural** Promotions Yoshihito Kamada.

However, the industry has suffered a sharp decline since the Meiji era, and where there were once over 2,000 masters of *ai* production in Tokushima, now there are only five. After the success of this program, producers of *awa ai* hope to gather enough support to produce 1,000 bales of *sukumo*, the raw pulp of the indigo plant that is harvested and fermented for three months to create *ai*.

On the last day at the panel discussion participants discussed the future of awa ai, and several artists expressed enthusiasm for future seminars and volunteered their assistance. "If more people on the international scene knew about aizome, I know other designers, textile and dye artists would come, if we just promote it better." Said Edric Ong. With sufficient support and popularity, the ai industry may have a bright future in store.









Let There Be Lights!

Lance Kita

Despite the gloomy and dark economic mood in the prefecture, this year has its bright spots...literally! December is the season for "illuminations," $\overrightarrow{A} \mathcal{N} \subseteq \overrightarrow{\lambda} - \overrightarrow{\nu} \supseteq \mathcal{V}$, which is what the Japanese call light displays, and Tokushima has its share of twinkling, sparkling locations.

Even if you're not into Christmas, the Japanese often regard December 25th and its preceding evening more as a secular winter party or festival, and sales opportunity than as the birthday of Jesus Christ, so anyone can get out and enjoy the festive mood around the prefecture. Most department stores and shopping areas already have garlands of pine, strings of lights and bedecked trees.

Anyone who spends time near Tokushima Station in the evenings may notice several balconies above the police box really getting into it with elaborate light displays. Look up this month and see what they've done this time. Here are some other famous light displays:

Kenchopia f ン f ョ ピア: the boats in front of the Prefectural Office, or Kencho 県 f, run lights from the top of their masts to create twinkling tree-like shapes. December 12-25.

Awa-Ikeda Station 阿 波 池 田 駅: Centered around Hesokko Park へそっ子公園, the theme of Winter Objets 2010 冬のオブジェ 2010 is "Murabito" 夢来人, a newlycoined word that sounds like "villager," but is written as "dream/future/person." Sparkling light sculptures and displays can be found here and around Miyoshi City. December 1 – January 10.

Kamiyama Town 神山町: The townspeople have a competition to see who can create the best lights display. There are prizes for the best, but everyone wins as the Christmas spirit brightens up the streets, from mid to late December.

Bunri University 文理大学: the campus takes on a festive air with blue-white LED lights adorning the avenue of trees in its central courtyard. December 1 – February 14.

Speaking of LEDs (light emitting diodes), Tokushima is a world leader in the development and production of these energy-efficient lights. One company in particular, the Nichia Corporation 日 亜化学, was the first company in the world to develop high brightness

Blue and high brightness Pure-Green LEDs. Tokushima is positioning itself to become an "LED Valley" to encourage the research and use of LED technology to stimulate local businesses.

Anan City, the home of Nichia, is particularly enthusiastic about using LEDs to bring light and hope to the town. The stairs leading to the lookout at the Ushiki Castle Ruins Park 牛岐城趾公 園 is a fantasy-world tunnel of over 100,000 LEDs. This extremely romantic setting is an official "Lover's Sanctuary" 恋人の聖地, and will be a popular spot on December 24th, which most Japanese consider the most romantic evening of the year. Christmas Eve is considered a time for couples to exchange gifts and flowers, have a nice dinner, and enjoy quiet time together.

So whether you're Christian, a romantic couple, or just looking for something to brighten up your cold wintry nights, take time to enjoy the illuminating experiences while the season is here. See you next year!



Photo taken by Sarah Nelson

Awaglot

Sarah Nelson

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 and live in Tokushima, then express yourself! Send submissions to awalife@gmail.com

Story with Snakes

If you give me a flute (I prefer bamboo to brass), I can charm the snakes out of the trees. Look! See them? Before I came here, I didn't know snakes could slither up bark (in spite of all that happened in the Garden of Eden). But there they are, hanging like tails of pine.

Until recently, there were many things I didn't know about snakes. In my childhood, my brother captured garter snakes and imprisoned them in glass jars with punctured lids. I had other interests. I played with my imaginary friend, Pam. I became a master of hopscotch.

I didn't pay much attention to snakes until my twenty-fourth year when I met a man from halfway around the world.

"In my country," he said,
"It is the year of the snake."
This long legless reptile was

featured in the zodiac every twelve years. I did a simple calculation and determined I had been born under the sign of the serpent.

We went to the zoo, this man and I. He was eager to see the fauna of his native country because he was a little homesick, as well as the animals of the new country he had chosen to live in.

When we entered the reptile house, I approached the encased exhibits with new interest. I marveled at the leopard-spotted corn snake. I admired the French-flag stripes of the Indian Cobra. How beautiful they are, I thought. Why had I never noticed before? I turned to my companion, but he was no longer beside me. He stood at the center of the room, staring at the scuffed floor.

"Come here," I said.

He shook his head. "I don' t like snakes."

"Why not?"

"When I was a boy, I had a pair of canaries. They were as bright as daffodils and hearing their song cheered me when I was sad. I kept their cage on the floor near the back door. One day, when I came home from school, there was no flash of yellow, no greeting twitter. I thought they had flown off somehow, but then I saw the snake at the bottom of the cage. It had gotten through the slats, but couldn't get

out again because of the two bulges in its body."

Although I wanted to smile at this image, I saw how the memory distressed him and I guided him out of the room.

When, several months later, he asked me to marry him, I said, "But I was born in the year of the snake. Are you sure you don't mind?"

He smiled. "They say snake people attract money. Maybe we'll be rich."

We were wed in the year of the dog.

At first, we were very happy, but we did not become wealthy. Instead of shopping for presents, we gave each other gifts we made by ourselves. On my birthday, my husband gave me a flute he had fashioned from the bamboo that grows in the forest. He taught me how to play a song after we'd eaten cake and ice cream. I loved its sharp sweet notes, like the voice of nature. I could join in the orchestra of crickets, cicadas, frogs and birds.

The very next day, when I found myself alone, I went behind our house and plopped down on the carpet of pine straw. I brought the slim cylinder to my lips and blew a few notes. It was as if I'd been born to play this instrument. Without thinking, almost instinctively, I composed a tune. My mind was caught in the melody and I didn't notice, at first, the

snakes dropping from above. They landed on the cushioned earth, then propelled their bodies toward me.

I continued playing, fascinated. I wondered what would happen next. My song went on and I was soon surrounded by rattlers, copperheads and coral snakes. They began rising and swaying in synchronization. My music held them entranced. I tried to play on but, at last, out of breath, I took a break. Released by silence, the serpents slowly returned to their bellies and slithered away.

I didn't tell my husband about my strange new powers. He didn't like the creatures that hung suspended, that sometimes appeared on our porch. For the rest of the summer and into fall, I called my friends whenever I could. Although

my melodies varied from fast to slow, sad to sweet, the snakes always came. They liked all of my songs.

In the winter, they went into hibernation, as snakes do, and I was suddenly lonely. Not even my husband could alleviate this solitary feeling. At night in bed, he jerked away from my body. "Your skin is so cold," he said, when I tried to coil around him.

"It must be my reptile nature."

He rolled to the edge of the bed and tried to warm himself with blankets. He trembled like a frightened rabbit.

When warm weather returned, my heart was filled with a sense of celebration. I greeted the robins with a happy song. I saluted the flowers that bloomed in abundance. I danced on the new grass. As soon as I found myself alone, I brought

out my flute and began to play.

They came, at once. From the fields, from under the porch, from the branches of trees, they sinuously slid and began their circle dance. This time the higher the notes I blew, the closer they came until they were swaying against me. They twined their smooth-scaled bodies around my limbs like hungry cats.

I was not scared. I knew they would never sink their fangs into my flesh and inject their poisons. We were all of a kind. When I lowered the flute from my lips they went back to wherever they'd come from.

The snakes seemed to have accepted me as never before. In the following days they would crawl up my body, drape themselves around my neck and over my shoulders. Sometimes they wound around my waist like a belt. Always, I felt their benevolence.

My husband returned home once, unexpectedly, when I was in the backyard enjoying the sun.

"Yikes!" he screamed.
"There are snakes growing
out of your head!" He turned
at once and ran away. I tried
my best to lure him back with
my flute.

I hear he has gone back to his faraway country. I haven' t seen him since.

Suzanne Kamata



Contribute to
Awa Life!
~share your stories~



Japanese Lesson

今月の日本語

Takako Yamada

How to state one's inclinations: There are several expressions to state your inclinations. Depending on the strength of your will or decision, you can choose a proper one.

Strength of will or decision:

strong ます form +ます

↑ dictionary form +つもりです

↑ volitional form +る/う/ようと思っています
weak ます form +たいと思っています

For example:

来 週 東京へ行きます I will go to Tokyo next week. (It's decided)

東京へ行くつもりです。I am going to go to Tokyo. (I've made up my mind to do so) 東京へ行こうと思っています。I am thinking of going to Tokyo. (but not decided yet) 東京へ行きたいと思っています。I would like to go to Tokyo.

* Be careful when you use 「~つもりです」 to make an invitation or request. It may sound too forceful and offend the person whom you are asking, especially if it's your senior. For example:

(to your senior) 「1 0時(じ)から会議をするつもりなんですが、ご出席いただけますか?」
"We are planning to have a meeting at 10. Would you please attend it?"

(to your senior)「今晩みんなで飲みに行くつもりなんですが、いらっしゃいませんか?」
"We are going out for drinks tonight. Would you join us?"

(to your friend, junior, etc.)「今晩みんなで飲みに行くつもりなんだけど、一緒に行かない?」
"We're going out for drinks tonight, why don't you come along?"

*「~たいです」is used to express a desire, but「~たいと思っています」can be used to state an inclination in a modest manner.

For example: 今年の冬休みは、スキーに行きたいと思っています。

I would like to go skiing during this winter vacation.

Exercise: Add the expression in < > to each phrase and make a sentence stating the inclination.

- ①年末に海外旅行する(travel abroad at the end of the year): 〈う/ようと思っています〉
- ② 新しい車を買う (buy a new car): 〈つもりです〉
- ③ 30歳までには結婚する (get married by 30): 〈たいと思っています〉
- ④ 来年、国に帰る (go back to my country next year) : 〈う/ようと思っています〉
- ⑤ 外国で日本語を教える (teach Japanese abroad): 〈たいと思っています〉

Answers:

- ①年末に海外旅行をしようと思っています。②新しい車を買うつもりです。
- ③30歳までには結婚したいと思っています。④来年、国に帰ろうと思っています。
- ⑤外国で日本語を教えたいと思っています。

出典:「日本語ジャーナル」3月号より

Letter from Suketo Hoikuen

Kazue Inoue

In 2007 the Japan Pediatric Association's Board for Children and the Media made a proposal, saying "Let's limit infants exposure to television and video!" In recent years there have been television shows and DVDs geared towards infants, and the number of households that let their children watch t.v. has been increasing. Is it the same in your country?

The television is convenient for parents who are busy with household chores, but if you rely on it too much your child will have a decreased ability for communication, and will have a hard time focusing on things other than the t.v. Their creativity and development of brain func-

tions will also suffer.

Therefore this month I will introduce a few toys that your child can have fun with all on their own.

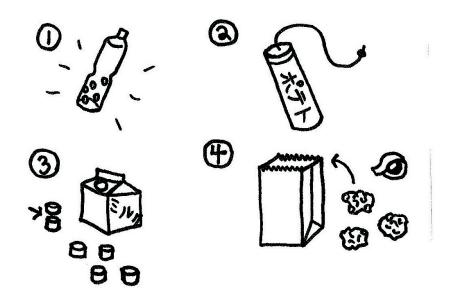
Maracas: In an empty plastic bottle, insert beads or nuts, and screw the cap on tightly. Your infant will have a grand time shaking the bottle and making a delightful racket.

Pull-string toy: In an empty tube of potato chips, insert a string. Poke a hole in the lid, pull the string through and put the lid on. Tie a knot at both ends of the string so it doesn't get pulled out. Pull on the string and swing it around!

Hole in one: In an empty milk carton, cut a hole in

the lid area the size of a 500 yen coin. Gather a bunch of plastic bottle caps and tape two of them together. Do the same with the rest, and your child can play by inserting the taped caps into the carton!

Volleyball: In an empty paper bag, insert several bunched up plastic bags and tape the paper bag closed. Let your child practice for their future volleyball career by bobbing it around!



newsevents

December 1 -January 2

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*.

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

電話 088-656-3303

Tokushima YouTube Channel

YouTube 徳島県チャンネル

Tokushima prefecture has created its own channel on YouTube, and put up a new video made by TOPIA promoting awareness of Tokushima's international community and understanding of multiculturalism. Go check it out!

Website:http://www.youtube.com/user/
tokushimakouhou/

YouTube の徳島県チャンネルでは、徳島県国際交流協会が多文化共生の理解促進のために、在県外国人の現状や多文化共生の理念などを紹介するビデオを載せたので、是非ご覧ください!

サイト: http://www.youtube.com/user/tokushima kouhou/

Happy X'mas in Asutamu Land

Happy X'mas in あすたむらんど

This year Asutamu Land has stepped it up and is aiming to be the number one spot for Christmas illuminations in Tokushima. Whether with your friends, family, or your that special someone come enjoy the romantic light displays at Asutamu Land. Below are a few events that will be going on:

Solsora Sky Circus, Fantasy Christmas Night, Christmas Science Show, Snow Fantasy Live Performance, Holy Night Concert (entry 500 yen)

When: December 16 - 25 (Thursday - Saturday),

2010, 5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Where: Itano-gun, Itano-cho, Asutamu Land

Tokushima

Cost: Free (some events require entrance fee)

Info: Asutamu Land Tokushima

TEL: 088-672-7111

今年のクリスマスは、"徳島ナンバー1" クリスマススポットを目指して、イルミネーションもボリュームUP。家族と、恋人と、友達と、ロマンティックな雰囲気に囲まれたあすたむらんどをお楽しみに! その他、イベントについても多数開催していきます。

SOLSORA空中サーカス

ファンタジー・クリスマス・ナイト

クリスマス・サイエンス・ショー

スノーファンタジーライブ

Holy Night Concert (入場料 500円)

日時: 2010年12月16~25日(木~土)

17:00 ~ 20:00

場所: 板野郡板野町 あすたむらんど徳島 入場料: 無料(イベントによって料金あり)

間合せ: 徳島県立あすたむらんど

TEL: 088-672-7111

Kenchopia Christmas Illumination

ケンチョピア クリスマスイルミネーション

At the Yacht Harbor in the middle of town, the boats anchored there will be decorated with Christmas lights for the holiday season. This extraordinary display has been held every Christmas for 20 years, and once it begins your Christmas spirit will really kick in!

Where: Tokushima Kenchopia (Yacht harbor in front of

the Prefectural Government Office

Cost: Free!

Info: Tokushima Yacht Club

TEL: 088-664-0087

街中のヨットハーバー「ケンチョピア」に係留するヨットにイルミネーションがほどこされ点灯します。今ほどイルミネーションが一般的でなかった 20 数年前から始まったイベントで、このイルミネーションが始まると、クリスマスムードは一段と盛り上がります。

日時: 2010年12月12~25日(日~土)

17:00 ~ 23:00 時

場所: 徳島市 ケンチョピア(県庁前ヨットハーバー)

入場料: 無料!

問合せ: 徳島ヨットクラブ TEL: 088-664-0087

Christmas Illumination Competition

クリスマス・イルミネーション大賞

There will be a Christmas illumination contest in Kamiyama for the citizens to design the best light display. Entries will be judged and the winner will receive a prize. Come out and enjoy the lights!

When: Mid-late December, 5:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Where: Myouzai-gun, Kamiyama-cho

Cost: Free!

Info: Kamiyama Commerce and Industry Association

TEL: 088-676-1232

神山全町民を対象にイルミネーションの設置を呼びかけ、 応募したイルミネーションを審査し、最も優秀なイルミネーションに大賞を与えます。 是非見に来てください!

日時: 2010年12月中旬~下旬 17:00~21:00時

場所:名西郡神山町 入場料:無料!

問合せ:神山町商工会 TEL: 088-676-1232

Station Front Labor Consultation

駅前労働相談会

If you have employment grievances, take advantage of this consultation! The Tokushima Labor Association is offering free assistance from a lawyer or member of the Association for unfair dischargement, non-payment of wages, job rotation, and other grievances. No application necessary, either make an appointment or come directly. Everyone is welcome! Those with no Japanese ability must please bring an interpreter.

When: December 12 (Sunday) 1:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Reception from 12:30 - 4:00 p.m.

Where: Tokushima Toukyu Inn

Cost: Free!

Info: Tokushima Labor Association (Kencho, FL 11)

TEL: 088-621-3234

労使間のトラブルがあれば、是非こちらで相談してください!徳島県労働委員会の委員は相談会を開催します。解雇、賃金未払い、配転などの労使関係のトラブルについて弁護士や徳島県労働委員会の委員から解消のお手伝いをもらうためにお越しください。申し込みの必要はありません。事前予約をするか直接会場に来てください。どなたでもお気軽にどうぞ!日本語が分からない方は通訳者とお越しください。

日時: 2010年12月12日(日)13:00~16:30時

受付は 12:30 時から 16:00 時まで

場所:徳島東急イン

相談料:無料!

問合せ: 徳島県労働委員会 (県庁 11階)

TEL: 088-621-3234

10th Tokushima Cultural Festival for Disabled

第10回全国障害者芸術・文化祭とくしま大会

Disabled people from all over the country will be participating in this festival featuring an art gallery and performances, held over three days. This event is held to promote understanding and awareness of what it is to be handicapped, and empower the disabled to be independent and socially active. Features include:

- •Art gallery and on-stage performances
- •Booths selling wares made by the disabled
- •The 42nd "Spiritual Health You Can See" Mental Health Fair

Schedule:

Dec. 10 (Friday)

- •Song Man Yuzo Imai's family concert
- "Barrier Free" Awa Ningyou Joruri puppet theater

Dec. 11 (Saturday)

- •Bline singer and piano player Kosuke Kitada talk show and concert
- Yamabiko mini concert

Dec. 12 (Sunday)

- "We are each only one" Inclusion Fashion Show
- •Singer and songwriter Ai Kawashima Heartful Live

When: December 10 - 12, 2010 (Friday - Sunday

Where: Tokushima City, Yamashiro-cho,

Higashihamawakiji 1, ASTY Tokushima

Cost: Free

Info: Planning Committee for the 10th Tokushima

Cultural Festival for the Disabled (Tokushima Disabled Welfare Division)

TEL: 088-621-2248

全国の障害のある方々の美術・文芸作品の展示をはじめ、舞台芸術の発表など、多彩な催し満載の3日間です。この催しへの参加を通じて、全国の皆さんに「障害への理解と認識」を深めていただくとともに、障害のある方の自立と社会参加の促進を図ります。

- ○美術・文芸作品の展示や、舞台芸術の発表
- ○障害者施設の皆さんによる製品即売
- ○第42回「目で見る精神保健展」心の健康フェア

10日(金)

- ●歌のおにいさん 今井ゆうぞうファミリーコンサート
- ●バリアフリー阿波人形浄瑠璃

11日(土)

- ●全盲の歌手&ピアニスト 北田康広トークコンサート
- ●やまびこミニコンサート

12日(日)

- ●ひとりひとりがオンリーワン ~インクルージョンファッションショー~
- ●シンガーソングライター 川嶋あいハートフルライブ

日時: 2010年12月10~12日(金~日)

場所: 徳島市山城町東浜傍示1アスティとくしま

入場料: 無料

問合せ: 第 10 回全国障害者芸術・文化祭とくしま大会実行

委員会事務局 (徳島県障害福祉課内)

TEL: 088-621-2248

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)

正しい知識で差別解消