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# awa life



"TOPPY"

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## Japanese speech contest

submitted  
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**t**he 2006 Foreign Japanese Speech Competition was held on Monday 17th July in the Seishonen center in Tokushima, with eleven participants from eight countries. This year's winner was Mr. Tshering Cigay Dorji from Bhutan, and below is an English translation of his speech.



winner of the 2006 Japanese speech competition, tshering cigay dorji

International Understanding ~  
interacting with foreigners

Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen. I am Cigay from Bhutan.

Do you know where Bhutan is? Bhutan is a beautiful Buddhist Kingdom located in the Himalayas. Its area is similar to that of Shikoku and its population is about 600,000. As we consider GNH (Gross National Happiness) to be more important than GNP (Gross National Product), people in Bhutan lead happy lives, although they are not rich economically. In particular,

Bhutan puts emphasis on human values such as family ties, culture and environment while in other parts of the world the motives to make profit and gain more wealth reign supreme.

Today, I am very happy to have this opportunity to talk on the topic of "international understanding". When we meet a foreigner, we often think of the language and cultural barriers. But

overcoming these barriers is not a big problem. The real problem that we need to overcome is the barrier of our prejudice and ignorance. I feel that overcoming our prejudice with true understanding and respect for other peoples and their culture is the most important thing.

In general, people are full of ignorance and prejudice. But at the same time, like a beam of light in darkness, there

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# awa life

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## from the editors

I think the best part of Awa Odori is the distant sounds of people rehearsing in the parks at night in the weeks and months leading up to the festival. That's Awa Odori to me - moreso than the gigantic festival that brings tens of thousands of people to Tokushima from all over Japan. The distant pounding of drums, plucking of shamisens, and calls of the dancers, combined with the sound of the cicadas is the quintessential summer sound of Tokushima to me. I love riding my bicycle at night, smelling the plants and flowers in the air, and listening to these sounds. I think it's the sense of anticipation is what makes it special.

Love, Claire.



August is the month of Awa Odori, and in this month's edition of Awa Life we have some last minute information on stages and how you can join in. There are many ways you can get involved in the year's most exciting event, so make sure to find out about what is going on in your local area so you don't miss out! August is also the time when typhoons start to arrive in Japan, and with all the rain there has been recently, I am rather beginning to wonder if it will ever come to an end. Still, after coming from such a comparatively stable climate in Australia, it certainly is interesting to see all this weather, and I have found myself growing more and more interested in what makes it all tick.

Cheers, Andrew



entrance to the bicycle parking lot in front of tokushima station. the signs say: "scooters not permitted" and "danger! please dismount from your bicycle" (photo by claire tanaka)

# awa odori guide

**a**ugust is here, and along with it Awa Odori! It is going to be held over four days from Saturday, August 12 to Wednesday, August 15, and there are a lot of opportunities for you to join in or view the dance. The map below shows the inner Tokushima City area, with the formal dancing stages marked with stars. The... are paid seating areas, while all other areas are free.

Tickets for paid seating costs from 800 yen to 1800 yen, with an additional cost of 200 yen if bought on the same day. These seats are used during dance displays from 18:00 to 20:00 and 20:30 to 22:30 on each day of the dances. Tickets can be purchased at most convenience stores. All children aged under three years old are free.

In case of rain, you can still enjoy Awa Odori indoors at the Awa Odori Kaikan, the Kyodo Bunka Kaikan and the Bunka Center.

## Awa Odori Displays

You can catch the action of Awa Odori all around the prefecture.

### Wakimachi Udatsu no Michi

August 13, 19:30-22:00  
 Thirteen dancing groups from in and outside the town will come and dance in the historical streets of Wakimachi.

### Ikeda:

August 13 - 16, 19:00 - 22:30  
 Thirty dance groups will dance throughout Ikeda-cho, Miyoshi-shi. Paid and non-paid seating is available.

### Sadamitsu:

August 14 - 16, 19:00 -22:00  
 Awa Odori will be held in the Sadamitsu Shopping Arcade and other places in the city, including various famous dance groups from Tokushima City.

### Katsuura:

August 16, 18:00 - 22:00  
 Awa Odori in Katsuura will be held on Tuesday 16, with performances from dance groups from inside the town, as well as children's groups. Free to watch.

### Tokushima Airport

August 12, 10:00, 11:40, 14:00  
 On the first day of Awa Odori, there will be a display at the Tokushima Airport to welcome visitors to the prefecture.

### Naruto City

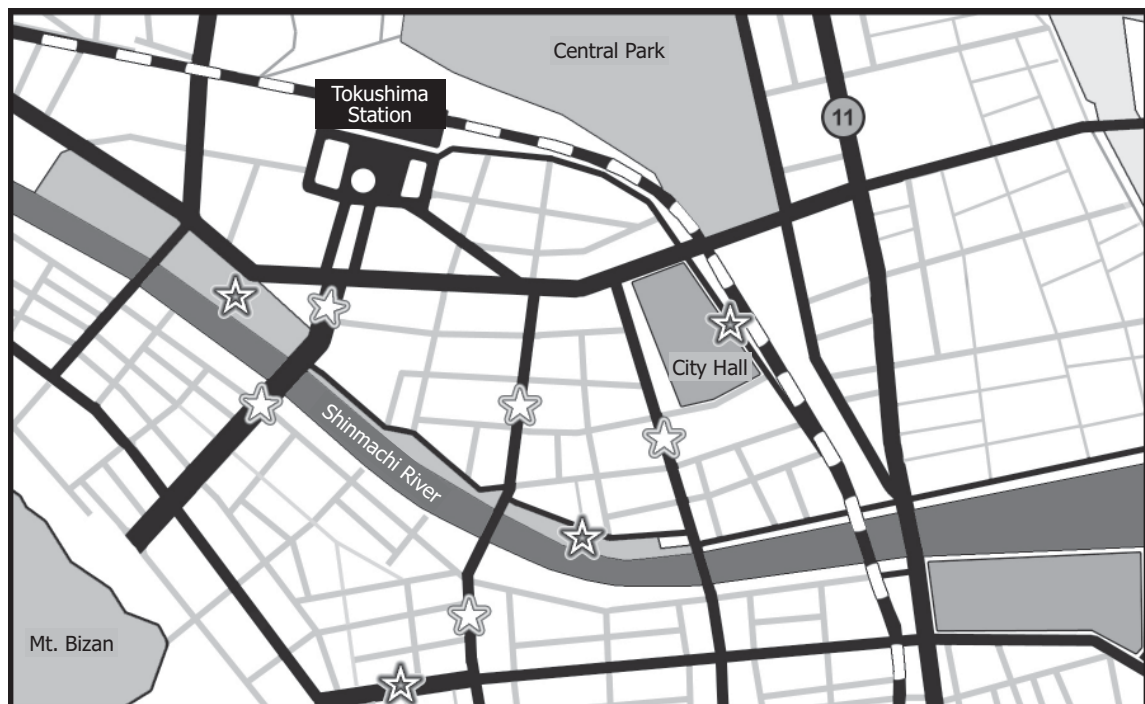
August 9-11, 19:30 - 22:00  
 The Naruto Awa Odori is the earliest in the prefecture, with over 30 dance groups dancing in the city shopping arcards, by the JR Naruto Station West Entrance, and fixed locations each day. Cost is 800 yen, or 700 yen pre-paid.

### East Miyoshi

August 14 - 16  
 Awa Odori will be held all throughout the town. There is no cost for viewing.

### Kamojima

August 14-16, 19:00 - 22:00  
 Over 25 dance famous dance groups and local groups will be dancing each day along the main road through the town of Kamojima. Seating is free.



★ paid seating

☆ free seating

# summer vacation memories

Summer vacation is coming soon! I think everybody is excited for that, and I'm sure that everybody has their own good memories or bad memories. I asked a variety of people how they felt.

## Hiroko - 20 years ago

Summer vacation means "homework" for me. I was always good at planning, so the first thing I did was plan how to finish my homework. But I always gave up straight away, so I kept on changing my plan. Then the last thing I did was ask my mother for some help. So, the work I did at home was always better than the work I did at school.

## Yuzo - 45 years ago

Summer always reminds me of the sound of a bell I heard when I was a kid. When I was young, everybody was poor. There were only a few families who had a TV in their houses. Everytime when the summer vacation started, a middle aged man came to my town by bike once a week to sell ice blocks. He always rang a bell. I really wanted my parents to buy an ice block like the other kids. It cost only 5 yen, but my parents couldn't afford it, so when the sound of the bell came closer my parents pretended that they were taking a nap. I still remember the sound of the bell clearly.

## Shigeharu - 50 years ago

When I was a kid, there weren't any special events or things to do during the summer vacations. So I went to the Yoshino river to



*my last day of summer vacation (hiroko)*

swim with my friends almost everyday. We caught many kinds of fish, like sweetfish, catfish, eels and others by using fishing spears. We picked tomatoes and watermelons from the fields near the river. Of course you're not supposed to, but nobody cared if we did. When we were cold, we jumped into the rice fields because the water was warm there. Even though my body was all covered with mud, it felt very warm.

## Milton - 35 years ago

When I was a kid, the summers in South Waikato were hot and sticky. The roads were dry and dusty and you could tell that cars were coming over the rolling hills in the distance by the plume of dust they threw up behind them. The roads weren't tar-sealed in those days. On our farm it was the time of nodding thistles. There were lots of other thistles but we

only dug out the noddors, chopping off the heads and burying them or taking them home in sacks on our backs to be burnt. It was hot and sweaty work for kids carrying the sacks up the steep hills. The school pool, a few miles away, was a welcome respite. We went down there often, mostly with Mum or Dad in the Mark III Zephyr or later the Ford Falcon, but sometimes on our bikes. There were often long droughts through January and February broken only by autumn rain, and then there were mushrooms everywhere. My dad called it eczema season.

## Charlene - 15 years ago

I remember the summers in elementary school. Most of the summers, my mom and dad were working - so it was just me and my bro at home. We would just stay in our P.Js all day, watch cartoons and eat microwavable food. I would

**summer memories ... con't on page 5**

# keeping cool in summer

**h**ere are a few ways to help keep you and your home cool during this hot time of year.

1: Avoid using electronic appliances such as computers and television. These produce a lot of heat, which will contribute greatly to the overall temperature in your home if used for a long period of time.

2: If you have pets, you can try giving them water with ice cubes in it to keep the water cooler longer and help them stay cool as well.

3: At home, make sure you keep the air inside your apartment or house moving. Electric fans can be

inexpensive to use over a long time, and can not only help keep you cool but reduce the humidity slightly as well. If you use air conditioning, then make sure you clean the unit regularly to ensure it works effectively and doesn't use excess electricity.

4: Wearing light clothing, open-toed shoes and other such clothing is preferable to heavy shoes and other wear that will trap heat. Pay special attention to your feet - keeping your feet bare at home can make a world of difference.

5: When at home, you can use a cool facecloth or towel to stay cool. Ice packs and frozen bottles of water can also be effective.

6: If you have long hair, keep it tied up and off your neck.

7: If you have a room that gets a lot of sun, drawing the curtains during the hotter parts of the day will help reduce the heat in the room.

8: Try and take care of all tasks that create heat in the cooler times of the day, such as cooking and ironing.

9: By closing doors to rooms you aren't using, you can keep heat from these rooms from spreading to other parts of your home.

10: Bathroom and kitchen exhaust fans can be used to reduce heat and humidity, as well as helping to increase the airflow through your home.



## summer vacation memories ... con't from page 4

talk on the phone with my friends for hours and I also really liked to clean and organize my room and the house. But, for the most part my parents would be at work from around 7am until 5pm. When they would get home, we would eat dinner. It seems boring, but it was really carefree. The summers here were so hot, like almost 100°F (38°C)! Also, I played a lot with my neighbours. Their parents were at work also so we played a lot together. We would make games and be creative.

### **Zhao - 23 years ago**

When I was a kid, I used to play outside during summer vacation. Sometimes with my friends, and sometimes alone. I'd wear a straw hat and sling a water canteen

over my shoulder and walk on the paths between the rice fields and in the woods. I used to go fishing and catch bugs and pick fruit, and steal sweet potatoes and carrots from the farmers' gardens. I also used to play in the stream. The smell of nature and the free feeling of abandoning my homework - that's my image of summer vacation.

### **Jaymie - 15 years ago**

I went to a lot of camps when I was a kid. Brownie Camp, Girl Guide Camp, Explorer camp... I was quite the camper. But perhaps the most memorable camp would have to be the two summers of band camp. Yes, being the geek that I am, I attended the International Music Camp located in the

Peace Park on the border between Canada and the US. I was a flautist and piccoloist. Other young band geeks just like me came from all over to beat, pluck, strum, or blow into their instruments under the direction of many talented and famous musicians. We practiced together. We ate bad cafeteria style camp food together. We performed for our parents and loved ones on our last day together. Then had a crazy outdoor dance to end the intense week of hearing nothing but Mozart and Brahms. The best part was the American candy which we could buy super cheap at the camp store! Yes, band camp was definitely a memorable part of my life. I don't play the flute much anymore, but it's like riding a bike... you never forget.



## speech contest ... con't from page 1

appear those who are filled with love and understanding. First of all, I would like to tell you the true story of one such man. His name was Nishioka Keiji. Have you heard of him? He was Japanese, of course.

In Bhutan, almost everyone knows his name. It is due to this man that Bhutanese knew about Japan since a long time ago and even today Bhutanese have a very good impression of Japan and the Japanese.

In 1964, the year of the Tokyo Olympic Games, Nishioka left a fast developing Japan behind and came to Bhutan. At first, besides not understanding the Bhutanese language, life in a village with no electricity, roads or telephones would have certainly been very hard for him. But he soon made friends with the Bhutanese farmers, tilled the land with them, sowed the seeds of various crops with them, and began to teach them the Japanese techniques of agriculture. After his two-year assignment period as a volunteer was over, he continued to stay in Bhutan until his death in 1992. By then he had lived and worked for Bhutan for 28 years.

In 1980, in honor of his dedication to the development of Bhutan's agriculture, His Majesty the King of Bhutan awarded him the honorable title of "Dasho" which means "the best one". This title is bestowed only rarely on people who contribute extraordinarily to the country's development. So far, he is the only foreigner to receive that title. Since then, Bhutanese respectfully referred to him as Dasho Nishioka. When he died, a

state funeral was held and many people attended it.

People like Nishioka are respected in life as well as death. Their memories live on in the minds of the people long after they are gone. Doesn't this story make us think about how to make our own short lives meaningful too?

After completing my high school in Bhutan, I have lived and studied in Australia, India and now, here in Japan. From all my interaction with foreigners, I have learnt this: "everyone regards himself as a descendent and heir of a great race and a great cultural heritage". Even a person from a poor and war-torn country has great pride in his or her race, culture and land. Indeed, every country or people are great in many different ways. We need to understand this and respect these feelings for every person we meet. If we do not have genuine respect for others' culture, and if we think that only our own country and culture are great and their's is hopeless, true international understanding and friendship will never result.

Once I had an interesting experience with a friend from Nepal. He started to praise how great Nepal was, and how developed their capital city Kathmandu was. I told him that it was good that they are developing very fast. But he did not stop there. He began to talk about how backward Bhutan was compared to Nepal. This hurt my sentiments, and I told him that Bhutan was better than Nepal in some ways while Nepal may be better in others. So there

was no need to condemn any one of them.

In my friend's case, he expressed directly what he felt about Bhutan. In many cases, people might hold misinformed ideas about other peoples and cultures although they may not say so out loud. Even holding these misinformed ideas that some countries are superior and some others are inferior will affect international understanding adversely.

I love my own country and culture. Having lived in Japan now for nearly one and half years, my love and respect for Japanese culture has been growing day by day. I especially admire Japanese courtesy. For me, Japan is like a precious lotus flower drifting between the vast mainland of Asia and the boundless Pacific Ocean. It continues to bloom and contribute remarkably to the world and its civilization.

Today, there is far greater interaction between the people of the world. Yet, there are still a lot of wars, disputes and threats. For instance, at this very moment, Israel and Lebanon are firing missiles at each other. I feel that increased understanding will increase trust among nations and peoples and better the chances of resolving differences and reaching agreements.

Lastly, before I leave the podium, I have one request to make to everybody. From now onwards, when we meet a foreigner, let us approach him with a true understanding that he is also from a great race, country and culture just as we ourselves are. This approach will definitely give rise to true international understanding.



# martin's anime corner

by martin o'brien  
martinobrien2004@gmail.com

**Title:** Metropolis (メトロポリス)  
**Director:** Rintaro  
**Creators:** Sony Pictures  
**Released:** Japan (2001),  
US (2002)  
**Running Time:** 107min

anime filmmakers have always excelled at fantasy architecture, creating visually stunning examples of cityscapes in far off planets or in technologically complex futures. This week's film "Metropolis", as its name would suggest, is no exception. The stunningly lavish design of the endless metropolis in which the action is set are among some of the most opulent and visually imaginative created.

The script for "Metropolis" was written by Katsuhiro Otomo, and was based on a manga comic written in 1949 by the progenitor of the Japanese comic book and animation style Osamu Tezuka. Tezuka invented many of the genres and styles that have become popular throughout the years. He was also responsible for the large eye style of character that is now ubiquitous in manga and anime. He was hugely influenced by the Disney style of animation. "Metropolis" is in many ways a tribute to Tezuka - the characters in the film are accurate portrayals of the the manga ones.

There are also other noticeable influences in the film is the original "Metropolis" film made by Fritz Lang in 1929. Although the name is the same, the original

"Metropolis" manga had very little in common with Lang's film, indeed Tezuka claimed never to have seen it before writing the comic. The theme of class struggle in a dystopian futuristic society that made up the original is prevalent in this anime. The class struggle this time is between robots and their human masters.

Robots are a fundamental part of society in the city of Metropolis. Although they possess a rudimentary intelligence, they do not have the same rights as humans. The divisions are maintained by laws that prevent robots from having names and restrict them to particular zones in the city. Beneath this backdrop, a Japanese detective Shunsaku Ban and his nephew Kenichi arrive in Metropolis to fulfill their mission.

The detective and his nephew and their robot Pero are searching for a man known as Dr Laughton, who is believed to be involved in the illegal trading of human organs. Dr Laughton is secretly working with a wealthy plutocrat known as Lord Red to create a super android, which can be connected to a computer network. With this in place he will be able to dispose the current leaders and, y'know, take over the world.

The super android in question comes in the guise of a young girl known as 'Tima'. The character of Tima allows the director to explore the question often posed by anime film makers, of where do we draw the lines between what is human and what is robot, between what is real and what

is artificial.

Ultimately though the story is somewhat tedious and it is difficult to actually care about the characters and their eventual fates.

The really exciting part of the film is the actual city itself. Metropolis is a retro futuristic city that is composed of four very different zones. Zone one is the underground zone. Zone two is the energy production area. Zone three is the waste disposal zone. The wealthy people live above these zones in towering skyscrapers. Metropolis is a feast for the senses with scenes of towering skyscrapers penetrated by monorails to the luxurious elaborate art deco interiors all brought to life and accompanied by a magnificent jazz soundtrack.

The final scene of the movie is the most rewarding, with the beautifully depicted battle in the city being contrasted with the Ray Charles song "I cant stop loving you". It's just a pity you have to endure the tedious, protracted action scenes to get to it. Tezuka himself never wanted "Metropolis" to be made into a film, as he felt that it was a mediocre story due to the fact that he wrote it as an inexperienced 21 year old. Nevertheless, a story such as this set in a massive futuristic city held such rich visual potential, that I suppose that the current generation of leading anime artists couldn't pass up the chance to try and make it into a film.



# letter from suketo hoikuen

by kazue inoue  
 suketo hoikuen staff

I hope you are all doing well amidst all this hot weather. Do you get fatigued by the heat? Summer in Tokushima is very lively, with lots of events such as summer festivals, fireworks and especially Awa Odori, which draws the most tourists to the prefecture during the whole year. While it may not be quite as large in scale as the Rio Carnival, you can enjoy a very lively and fun time here in Tokushima.

This month, I am going to show you some ways to let your kids play and get fit at the same time!

1: Rolling about, and turning around - becoming used to looking at things from different angles. This helps to build an

understanding of objects and a child's view of them.

2: By holding onto things, grasping them and putting your strength into it, you can build up your muscles.

3: Jumping and hopping helps to build up muscles in the legs and form a good base for running.

4: By moving about on all fours, you can build up muscles around the waist, as

well as in your arms.

5: Moving your body in tune with a beat or rhythm helps to build your sense of rhythm.

6: By throwing balls, catching them and so forth, you can build up your coordination.

**Pet Bottle Rockets:** If you cut off the bottom of a 1.5l pet bottle and place a rubber band as below, you can fire smaller bottles from it like a rocket!



# shin-mai mama nikki

by claire tanaka  
 clairish@gmail.com

In last month's article, I mentioned that I had just paid my city resident's tax and I'd decided I was going to try and get my money's worth. Well this month, I found a great way to do just that. The city has a program to subsidise the purchase of electric compost systems! And what a coincidence, I was just starting to think how I'd like to be able to dispose of my food waste in a more effective manner. So I sent in my postcard requesting that I be subsidized for a compost system. They will pay half the cost up to 30,000 yen! I'm looking forward to making good use of our food scraps. I hope Gramma Tanaka doesn't mind bringing bags of fertilizer home with her

after she comes to visit her grandchild! We can tell her it's our way of showing our appreciation for all the fresh vegetables she is always giving us.

It seems that many other towns in Tokushima also offer the composter subsidy - Yoshinogawa City and Naruto City do for sure. If you are thinking of getting a compost system, find out if your town has this program - you've got to apply for the subsidy before you purchase it, then get the store to fill out a special receipt. Most town offices call the subsidy a 電気式生ゴミ処理機購入補助 (**denki-shiki nama-gomi shoriki konyu hojo**) - financial aid for the purchase of an electric composter.

In Sofie news, she sprouted

two bottom teeth a couple weeks ago. Almost as soon as they came in, she was suddenly interested in food! What a relief. I thought she would never come around. It's good timing too, since there is so much tasty fruit in season now - I love being able to share my morning peaches with her. She has also started pulling herself up on things (**tsukamari dachi**) and trying to move around by holding on to things and walking (**tsutae aruki**). This means she is also falling down a lot! We can't turn our backs on her anymore. She loves to hunt around the house for the most dangerous and dirty places to play. All our wastepaper baskets are above ground level now! Soon she'll be walking.





# japanese lesson 「～ています」

**W**hen you are asked,
   
 ① ジョンさん、いま、何をしていますか。 **John san, ima nani o shiteimasuka.**
  
 what do you say? You may say,
   
 ② 音楽を聴いています。 **Ongaku o kiiteimasu.** I'm listening to music.

③ コーヒーを飲んでます。 **Kohi o nondeimasu.** I'm drinking coffee.

① means 'what are you doing now?'. However, it can also mean 'what do you do now?'. In the latter case, your answer may be,

④ 英語を教えています。 **Eigo o oshieteimasu.** I teach English.

⑤ 美術を勉強しています。 **Bijutsu o benkyoshiteimasu.** I study art.

For the habitual action which is related to one's identity, such as occupation or major, 「～ています」 is used and 「～ます」 form cannot be used.

\* ④' 英語を教えます。 **Eigo o oshiemasu.**

\* ⑤' 美術を勉強します。 **Bijutsu o benkyoshimasu.** (\* means ungrammatical)

However, for every day habits, both forms are acceptable. For example,

⑥ 毎朝ジョギングをします。 **Maiasa joggingu o shimasu.** I jog everyday.

⑥' 毎朝ジョギングをしています。 **Maiasa joggingu o shiteimasu.**

Thus, 「～ています」 means not only an action in progress but also a habitual action including occupation, habit, etc. It is also used for verbs that describe the state lasting long such as to live or to work for.

⑦ 大阪に住んでいます。 **Osaka ni sundeimasu.** I live in Osaka.

⑧ TOPIAに勤めています。 **TOPIA ni tutometeimasu.** I work for TOPIA.

When 「～ています」 is used with (1) motion verbs (**iku, kuru, kaeru**, etc.) (2) verbs of wearing (**kiru, kaburu, haku**, etc.) and (3) verbs which indicate instantaneous action (**kekconsuru, shinu, hairu, aku**, etc.), it indicates a state which resulted from an action. For example,

⑨ 母が日本へ来ています。 **Haha ga nihon e kiteimasu.** My mother came to Japan and is still here.

⑩ 私は結婚しています。 **Watashi wa kekkon shiteimasu.** I got married and am married.

In these cases, words which show the duration, such as 3 nenkan (for three years), cannot be used together with 「～ています」. Therefore, you cannot say,

\* ⑪ 私は3年間結婚しています。 **Watashi wa sannengan kekkonshiteimasu.**

We'd rather say as follows, using 「～て、・・・になります」 pattern.

⑪ 私は結婚して3年になります。 **Watashi wa kekkonshite sannan ni narimasu.**

I have been married for three years

## Practice:

How do you change the following sentences using the same pattern?

\* ⑫ 5年間日本に来ています。 **Gonenkan nihon ni kiteimasu.**

↓

I have been in Japan for five years.

\* ⑬ 彼は3年間亡くなっています。 **Kare wa sannengan nakunatteimasu.**

↓

He has been dead for three years.

Answers ⑬' 日本に来て5年になります。 Nihon ni kite gonnen ni narimasu.
   
 ⑭' 彼が亡くなって3年になります。 Kare ga nakunatte sannan ni narimasu.



## Awa Odori With Niwaka-ren

If you're looking to take part in the action with Awa Odori in Tokushima city, why not join up with Niwaka-ren, a dance group open to all comers and totally free!

**When:** Saturday, August 12 to Tuesday, August 15  
Reception is at 18:30 and 20:30 each evening

**Where:** Reception will be held in two places - at the entrance to the East Shinmachi Shopping Arcade by the Shinmachi Bridge, and out front of Tokushima City Hall.

**Info:** Call the Tokushima City Tourism Association at 088-622-4010

## にわか連で阿波踊り参加しましょう！

徳島市で阿波踊りに参加したい方にはにわか連に参加してみませんか。参加は自由で服装もなんでもいいです！

日時：8月12日～15日

毎晩 18:30 と 20:30

場所：市役所前 又は 東新町商店街の西出口

問合せ：(財)徳島県国際交流協会

TEL：088-656-3303

FAX：088-652-0616

## Exciting Summer in Wajiki 2006

Come along to this free summer concert, with music from a variety of modern music artists, including Angela Aki, Bennie K, UVERworld and many more.

**When:** Sunday, August 13  
Venue opens at 10:00, performances begin at 11:30 and run to 16:30

**Where:** Naka-gun, Naka-cho, koniu Otsuka Seiyaku Tokushima Wajiki Factory Outdoors Stage

**Info:** Call the Exciting Summer in Wajiki Executive Committee Office at 0884-62-2700, or take a look at the concert homepage at <http://www.whk.ne.jp/~exciting/>

## エクサイティング・サマー・イン・ワジキ'06

若者に大人気のアーティスト（アンジェラ・アキ、ベニー・ケイ、UVERworld など）による野外コンサート。

日時：8月13日（日）

開場 10:00 時、開始 11:30 時から

場所：Naka-gun, Naka-cho, koniu Otsuka Seiyaku Tokushima Wajiki Factory Outdoors Stage

詳しく：エクサイティング・サマー・イン・ワジキ'06 実行委員会まで電話 0884-62-2700、またはコンサートのホームページまで：<http://www.whk.ne.jp/~exciting/>

## Disaster Study Tour

TOPIA and the Tokushima Prefectural Government presents a trip to the Disaster Centre! You can experience simulated earthquakes, strong winds, and more! Learn what to do when a natural disaster occurs.

**when:** Saturday, September 23, 13:00 - 16:30

**where:** meet at Tokushima Station at 13:00 and travel together by bus to the Disaster Centre in Kitajima.

**cost:** free

**for more info and to register:** Call TOPIA 088-656-3303

## 防災センター スタディツアー

徳島県と TOPIA では県内に在住する外国人の方に災害に対する備えを学んでもらうための「徳島県立防災センター スタディツアー」を開催します。スタディツアーでは、地震は暴風を疑似体験できる！災害が起きたらどうすればいいかを学ぶことができます。ぜひご参加ください。

日時：9月23日（土）13:00～16:30

場所：13:00 に徳島駅で待ち合わせ、バスで北島の防災センターに移動。

参加費：無料

申し込み、問い合わせ：TOPIA まで 088-656-3303

# memoranda

## Anan Marine Festival

The Anan Marine festival is the perfect way to get out to the sun and sand and enjoy some summer fun, with beach volleyball, surf and bodyboarding workshops, a flag race, yacht tours, kid's attractions and much more.

**When:** Sunday, August 27, 9:00 to 15:00  
**Where:** Anan-shi, Nakabayashi-cho Kita no Waki Bathing Area  
**Info:** Call the Anan City Industry and Tourism Division at 0884-22-3290

## 阿南マリンフェスティバル

夏の気候を楽しむためにぴったりのイベント、阿南マリンフェスティバル。ビーチバレー大会・シーカヤックショートツアー・サーフィンボディーボード教室・ビーチフラッグ大会などが行われます。

日時： 8月27日 9:00 から 15:00  
 場所： 阿南市中林町脇の海水浴場  
 詳しく： 阿南市商工観光労政課まで  
 電話 0884-22-3290

## The Japanese Language Proficiency Test

Take this annual test to see how far you've progressed in your language study, or to improve the contents of your resume! Application packs are available at Kinokuniya Books in Sogo and at Koyama Books in front of Tokushima Station.

**application period:** July 3 - September 5  
**test date:** December 3 (Sunday)  
**test locations:** Kobe, Takamatsu, Hiroshima, and other big cities nearby  
**cost:** application pack costs ¥500, test fee is ¥5,500  
**for more info:** [www.jees.or.jp](http://www.jees.or.jp)

## 日本語能力試験

自分の日本語能力を確認してみませんか？この試験は毎年の12月に開かれています。就職などにつながる貴重な資格。勉強のやりがいにもなるこの試験にチャレンジしよう！

出願受付期間：7月3日～9月5日  
 試験日：12月3日（日曜日）  
 試験地：神戸市、高松市、広島市等全国の都会（徳島では受けられません）  
 願書：500円（徳島市では紀伊國屋書店と小山助学館本店で買えます）  
 受験料：5,500円  
 詳しく：[www.jees.or.jp](http://www.jees.or.jp)

## Disaster Prevention Exercise

Come along to this exercise in preparedness for large-scale disasters such the Nankai earthquake, which is predicted to occur sometime in the near future.

**when:** September 1 (Friday) 10:00am-12:00pm  
**where:** Tokushima-shi, Ojin-cho Higashi Sadakata Aza Minami Kawabuchi, Tokushima Shimin Yoshinogawa Kitagan Undo Hiroba  
**applications to:** the counter at TOPIA  
**for more info:** contact TOPIA at 088-656-3303

## 徳島市総合防災訓練について

近未来に起こるといわれている南海地震を想定した総合的な防災訓練が実施されます。

日時：9月1日（金）10:00から12:00まで  
 会場：徳島市応神町東貞方南川洲、徳島市民吉野川北岸運動広場  
 申し込み先：トピアのカウンターまで  
 問い合わせ：トピアまで電話 088-656-3303

# memoranda

## Doitsu-kan Events

August 13 - 14

German Beer and Wine Fest 10:00-16:00

Entry is free.

**for more info:** Call the Doitsu-kan at 088-689-0099

Take a look at the Doitsu-kan homepage for more seasonal event information and other details, here at: <http://www.city.naruto.tokushima.jp/germanhouse/index.html>

## ドイツ館イベント

8月13日～14日

ドイツのビールとワインの祭り 10:00～16:00

入場無料

詳しく：ドイツ館まで電話 088-689-0099

ドイツ館のウェブサイトにも季節のイベント情報などがあります：<http://www.city.naruto.tokushima.jp/germanhouse/index.html>

## Toastmasters Meet

**when:** August 6 (Sunday) from 1:30

**where:** TOPIA (Clement Plaza 6F)

**what:** Workshop on Humorous Speech. A lecture and discussion led by Brent Rogers (English instructor at Tokushima Uni. CUE) Both native and non-native speakers of English are welcome.

**contact:** Ms. Seo: 090-7570-7370

## 徳島トーストマスターズ例会

日時：8月6(日) 午後1時30分より

場所：徳島県国際交流協会 (クレメントプラザ6階)

内容：ユーモラススピーチについてのワークショップ。講師はブレント ロジャーズさん (徳島大学開放実践センター)。使用言語は英語。日本人及びネイティブスピーカー歓迎。

\* 問い合わせ：瀬尾佳子 電話< 090.7570.7370 >

## Katsuura Awa Puppetry Festival

**When:** Sunday, August 21  
starts 13:00

**Where:** Katsuura-gun Katsuura-cho, Agriculture and Environmental Center

**Info:** Call the Katsuura Town Board of Education at 08854-2-2515

## 阿波人形フェスティバル勝浦

日時： 8月21日(日)  
13:00時から

場所： 勝浦郡勝浦町農村環境改善センター

詳しく：勝浦町教育委員会まで  
電話 08854-2-2515

## 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