



## deutschland in japan 2005

by mattias herschfeld  
awa-life@ttias.de

**a**s the only German Coordinator of International Relations (CIR) in Tokushima, I arrived in August 2004. I am appointed to the city of Naruto, but everybody who has seen the city hall will understand my delight for having my workplace in the "Deutsches Haus," a impressive western-style building in the west of Naruto - and a must see for all who have not yet been there!

Besides guiding "foreign" tourists through our exhibition on German POWs in World War I, I am busy translating for the exchange on various levels with Germany and with organizing events.

We are going to have a particularly high number of events from April onward - the reason is the upcoming year of "Germany in Japan" and will be presented in a little more detail in this article.

"Deutschland in Japan (Germany in Japan)" will be launched officially on April 4th in Tokyo and aims in promoting Germany through a number of events in the fields of Culture, Economy, and Science for about one year. These events include art exhibitions, concerts, symposiums and sports and introduce the diversity of Germany, especially to the young generation in Japan.

Since the Meiji period, Japan and Germany have had special ties, kept alive by exchanges rich in diversity, mutual understanding, and substantial cooperation built on these foundations. Today, the aim of German foreign policy in Japan is not only to cultivate

2005  
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this long-standing friendship, but also to engage young people in a relationship which has stood the test of time, and to embed Germany in the Japanese consciousness anew. In concrete terms, this means: strengthening Germany's positive image in Japan, broadening the scope of positive ideas associated with Germany, and gaining new target groups and friends.

"Germany in Japan" consists of an extensive calendar of events built on the pillars of Culture, Economy and Science, and a Japan-wide media initiative. The list of cultural projects already exceeds three hundred. The systematic integration of contributions by the economic and scientific sectors, the Länder, Japanese-German associations and

city partnerships further lengthens the project list.

Here are a few flagship projects of Germany in Japan 2005/2006:

- guest performances by the Bayerische Staatsoper, the Staatskapelle Berlin under conductor Daniel Barenboim as well as other renowned German musical ensembles;
- an exhibition on Berlin's Museum Island (UNESCO World Heritage site) at Tokyo's National Museum, from the archaeology of ancient antiquity to romantic painting;
- an exhibition on art in the second half of the 19th century in Berlin and Tokyo and mutual influences, as well as an exhibition on today's art scenes in Berlin and Tokyo, are currently being considered.
- an exhibition of works from the Art Collections

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## from the editors

**h**ello again from the Awa Life editorial desk! I know I say this every month, but this month's edition of Awa Life is *particularly* full of contributions! It is always an exciting moment for me when people approach me with a piece they've written. The English-speaking community in Tokushima is incredibly diverse, and sometimes it is hard to accurately reflect that within the pages of this paper, but I feel like I am getting closer each month. If you are reading this and feel you have a unique perspective to add to the Awa Life mix and you're interested in writing something for us, please get in touch! We would love to hear from you.

In this issue we bring you the first installment of a new feature from Suketo Hoikuen (p. 10) with information for English-speaking residents with small children.

Love, Claire 

**g**reetings, dear Awa Life readers! I hope you are well. I am unfortunately not in the best of form due to the fact I am suffering from hay fever at the moment. Japan is hit pretty badly when it comes to hay fever due to the fact that there are so many trees in the mountainous areas. This year is especially bad as a record amount of cedar pollen is predicted. Its not bad news for everyone, however, as drug companies hope to cash in with the numerous range of hay fever medicine and products that they are offering. It is estimated that the market for hay fever drugs this year will be 56 billion yen. I haven't bought any hay fever medicine yet but I think it is only a matter of time, so wish me well. Until next time,

Peace, Martin



## awa life

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### Editors:

Claire Kinder & Martin O'Brien

### Contributors This Month:

Jenna Beck, Mattias Herschfeld, Junko Kimura, Claire Kinder, David Moreton, Kaori Sakamoto, Jon Teakle, Sachiko Ozaki, Martin O'Brien, and Don Weiss

**awa life** welcomes announcements, articles, opinions, letters, art and photographs. Please send contributions to the editors at TOPIA. You can also write (or call in!) for a free subscription.

### Tokushima Prefectural International Exchange Association (TOPIA)

Clement Plaza 6F  
1-61 Terashima Honcho Nishi  
Tokushima City 770-0831 JAPAN  
tel: 088.656.3303  
fax: 088.652.0616  
topia@fm.nmt.ne.jp  
<http://www.topia.ne.jp/>

Download a PDF file of **awa life** or view the online version by going to TOPIA's website!

[http://www.topia.ne.jp/e\\_index/e\\_index.htm](http://www.topia.ne.jp/e_index/e_index.htm)

### English Information on FM Tokushima:

"Talk Up Tokushima" Thursdays @ 9:15am  
Tokushima City 80.7 Ikeda 82.3  
Anan 78.4 Hiwasa 77.7

# renewing your driver's license

by david moreton  
dc\_moreton@yahoo.ca

**I**n December 2002, I went through the process of obtaining a Japanese driver's license. The written test and eye examination were easy. However, at that time, Canadians also had to take to the driving test. So one day I drove my car to the driving license center near Omiko beach, took the test on their driving course and failed (about 4,000 yen down the drain), then drove home. I came back on a Monday morning at 6:30am (the only time they allowed) and took a driving lesson for 45 minutes (about 6,500 yen) and drove home. Later that day, I drove back to the center and retook the driving test on their course in their car. Luckily I passed but still had to pay the 4,000 yen again! I was so happy to pass that hurdle and walked away with a 3-year Japanese license! However, I heard of many others and met some other foreigners during this period who were not so fortunate.

Then in the fall of 2004, I received a postcard notice from the Driving License Center stating that it was time to renew my license. So, at the end of January I went in (they allow you to apply a month before or after your birthday between 8:30-9:30 or 13:00-14:00, Monday to Friday). A woman asked, "Are you here to renew your license?" I replied, "Yes." She said, "Okay, write your name here, here, and here. Then answer these questions. Can you understand Japanese?" (All forms and questioning are in Japanese). "Okay, now



*the turnoff to the driving centre*

take them to window No. 3." I did so and was told to wait. Moments later, I was called and asked to pay the fee (3,950 yen). The woman there waved some papers and said, "Can you read Japanese?" (They were an advertisement for something) Then I was told to go upstairs where I handed the forms to someone else, sat down a few minutes, was called and told to go get my photo taken. After that was done, I was told to follow the blue line on the floor (there are about 4 colours. I wonder they all mean?) and go up to the fourth floor where the lecture would be held. (What! A lecture...!) After entering the building about 20 minutes had passed and now I sat in an empty classroom thinking, "Ok, what is next?" I looked at the board and there written in Japanese is the lecture time – from 9:40 to 11:40. (Oh my... it is just past 9am!) I pulled out the book that I brought and started reading. By lecture time, only two other people had come in and there we sat for the next two hours listening to the 'teacher' talk about driving safety etc. etc. as well as watching a couple of 10-20 minutes videos on driving. There was a 5-minute break

halfway through! I don't think the teacher even realized there was a gaijin sitting amongst his audience. He just blabbered on as if he has done this class a thousand times. He ended right on time, asked if there were any questions (There were none), and then called someone on the phone saying that the class was over. Soon afterward, a woman appeared with our new driver licenses. We had to sign or stamp a form certifying that we had received them and then we could go! YAHOO! However, I stayed for a moment and asked the teacher, "What happens if there are foreigners who do not understand Japanese? Do they still have to go through this same class?" In short, his answer to the first question was, "Nothing" and to the second question, "Yes." One must sit through that lecture to get your new license at the end. Now my license is blue and it is good for another three years. What will happen then? Do I have to go through that same class again? Hmm...



**A reminder: Your international driver's license is only good for the first year you spend in Japan, or until one year after you acquire the license - whatever comes first. So, if you are approaching the start of your second year in Japan, you'd better get that Japanese license or suffer the consequences!**



# vrksana - tree pose

by jon teakle  
yogatokushima@yahoo.com

**f**rom standing position (Tadasana), bend the right knee, reach down and grasp the right ankle with the right hand. Place the sole of the right foot as high as possible on the inner left thigh. Keep the left foot firmly down trying not to lose weight on the inside of the left standing foot. The heel of the right foot should come toward your groin with the toes pointing down. Pull the right heel as high as possible on the inside of your left leg with your right hand. Press the sole of the foot into your standing leg. The muscles of the left thigh should be flexed, this helps the right heel to get a better grip on the inner left leg muscles and helps keep the right heel from slipping down the left leg.

Keep your head straight but focus your gaze at a point on the floor in front of you, looking down at a 45 degree angle, this is important as it will really help your balance. Keep your hips aligned (i.e. don't stick your butt out), and your left knee should be straight while your right knee is pushing back, so that it is in line with the right hip, (but don't push it, go as far as you can without pulling the left hip forwards).

Extend your arms overhead as high as you can, place the palms together and keep the elbows straight. Stretch the sides of the body as you focus on extending your torso upwards. The toes of the grounded left foot should be spread and the sole of the foot should be firmly planted with the weight spread evenly.



*Jon demonstrates the tree pose*

Breathe evenly and be careful not to hold the breath, which often happens if you are new to balance poses, as you tend to be focusing too much on your balance. Hold the pose for 30 seconds to a minute, longer if you feel comfortable. Exhale as you bring the arms and right leg down. Then repeat the above with the right leg down and raising the left foot.

## Variations for beginners:

Practice the pose against the wall until your balance improves. (Also helps with alignment of the pelvis)

Parallel arms, reaching

straight up without the palms touching.

Hands in front of the chest in prayer position (balance is easier and this should be done if you suffer from high blood pressure).

Wrap a strap around the ankle of the bent leg and use it to raise the foot. Also good if you have trouble keeping the foot in place.

Don't worry if you have trouble with the balance at first, with practice this will improve. You can always imagine that you have roots extending out from the sole of your foot into the ground like a tree, weird as it may sound, this can help.



# tastes of awa - miso madness

**m**iso is a paste of soybeans and (usually) rice or barley that has been partly digested by a mold. Simple, right?

Well, actually, no, it's far from simple. In fact, less is known for certain about the development of miso than almost any other essential ingredient of Japanese cooking. And the emphasis should be on the word essential. A few decades ago (he fudges, lacking recent statistics) Japanese made and consumed about 700,000 tons of miso per year.

$700,000 \times 1,000 \text{ kg} = 700,000,000 \text{ kg} \div 120,000,000 \text{ Japanese} = 5.8 \text{ kg per person per year.}$

That includes babies and other individuals who don't eat miso, so those who do eat plenty of miso soup.

Of course, miso is used for much more than soup. Sometimes I'll top my morning tofu with a teaspoon of miso. Sometimes I'll put yuzu miso on my breakfast tofu or on vegetables at dinner. And, like you, I'll sometimes eat miso mayonnaise at a restaurant, especially restaurants in Kyoto, served with a meal that looks too beautiful to eat.

Supermarket shelves usually have at least a dozen different kinds of miso, but the main ones fall into three general categories, white miso, red miso, and "regular" or brown miso. All are made from soybeans, rice or barley, rice mold, salt and, unfortunately, lots of other stuff, most of which we don't want to know about because it has long,



*a miso rainbow*

scientific names and probably shouldn't be in our food anyway. But there it is, in almost all the miso you'll find on supermarket shelves, and in such small quantities that the companies that make the miso are certain it won't hurt us at all.

Most miso soup is made with regular (brown) miso, though you can make the same soup with any miso. Around the cities of Okazaki, Toyota (where the cars come from) and Nagoya, miso made from soybeans only (no rice or barley) is used for most soups and sauces. It's called hacho miso. You can buy it in many supermarkets.

Brown miso is a good base for yuzu miso, which the kids at Kitagawa Elementary School made to sell at the school festival last year. I still have a little in my fridge, though soon it will go the way of all miso, eaten with tofu or vegetables.

## Yuzu Miso

100 g. brown or red miso  
2 Tablespoons yuzu juice (2 or 3 yuzu)  
2 Tablespoons sugar  
Yuzu peel from the 2 or 3 yuzu you squeezed to get the juice

Slice the peel as thin as you can. The ideal is to end up with shreds about 2 – 3 cm long but as thin as possible.

Mix the juice and peel into the miso. Let it sit for at least a week. Eat it on top of anything.

## Miso Mayonaise

That's a modern name for a variety of sauces, all based on the idea that white miso, thinned with sake or mirin plus other flavorings, is one of the best of all possible food toppings. When I make it, I usually just thin out the miso with a little mirin and add a dash of vinegar. You can get much fancier, using tomato juice or green vegetable puree to produce red or green miso mayo.

## Sesame Miso Dressing

3 Tablespoons white sesame seeds  
1 1/2 Tablespoons white miso  
1 Tablespoon sake  
1/4 teaspoon Japanese mustard

Toast the sesame seeds in a dry pan until they start to pop. Grind them in a suribachi (a Japanese mortar and pestle.) Mix everything together. Serve over vegetables. It might work as a salad dressing, too. I've never tried it that way.

## Vinegar Miso Dressing

100g white miso  
2 Tablespoons mirin  
3 Tablespoons sugar  
2 Tablespoons vinegar

Mix everything together. Serve over wakame, negi (the Japanese onion that is often called a leek, though it's only a leek cousin) or salad. (This one I have used as salad dressing – it's great.)





# 11th annual AJET musical

by jenna beck  
jenna.beck@gmail.com

The 11th AJET musical rocked. Twenty-five English speakers from around the ken came together and gave Tokushima residents just what the flyers promised—A Night of Fantasy.

The narrator Claire Kinder kicked off the evening with a “**ganbatte**” to the audience for listening to an entire play in English. The kids in the crowd certainly kept up, and even participated with shouts of “goodnight” to the ill-fated Goldilocks. “Our target English



**above:** “we must... get the bears” - the three bears (Dan Bentley, Audrey Yap, and Rory Dyck) face the bear catchers (Joe Mochnick and Martin Weyman) photo by Junko Kimura.



**left:** “why grandma! what big teeth you have!” - little red riding hood (Jane Fleming) approaches the big bad wolf (Brian Wright) photo by Claire Kinder

**below:** “hey big spender, spend a little time on me” - Cinderella’s ugly step-sisters (Joe Mochnick, Elliot Green, and Jody McCarthy) dream about the Prince, while Mother (Dea Mochnick) looks on. photo by Claire Kinder

ability was that of 13-14 year old Japanese students,” says director Sarah Poole. “We took some of the phrases straight out of the Sunshine textbook.”

The players performed three classic tales; Goldilocks, Little Red Riding Hood, and Cinderella. “We wanted something that would entertain children and amuse the adults as well.” (Poole) The result? Audience members saw bears singing karaoke, Red Riding Hood dancing with salarymen on the train to Higashi Iya, and some quality cross-dressing from Cinderella’s step sisters.



# topia farewells

**T**his April, two of TOPIA's staff will be leaving not only TOPIA, but they will be leaving Japan altogether! Our Chinese Coordinator of International Relations, Wan Xiao Jiang will be returning to his home in China, and longtime staff Nomizu Shoko will be moving to Indonesia after 12 years of working at TOPIA! Here are their final words to the Awa Life readership:

## Wan Xiao Jiang

The long winter has ended and spring has come; the season of the cherry blossoms is here. They say cherry blossoms are popular because the sight of them in full bloom, and then their sudden end moves the hearts of all who see them. They also say that March is the season of parting in Japan. Towards the end of March and the beginning of April, at schools, government offices, and businesses, everyone is feeling unsettled. Graduates leaving school, students entering school, new employees... so many people start a new life at this time of year. During this season, there is the sadness of parting, as well as the excitement of meeting new people.

My year in Tokushima as a Coordinator of International Relations has come to an end, and it's finally time to go home. My daily life in Tokushima has become a collection of unforgettable memories. Thanks to all the friends I made in Tokushima, I was able to really enjoy my time here. During my year in Tokushima, I rode my bicycle all the way

to the dynamic whirlpools of Naruto, and to the coastline of Anan. I was able to climb with my friends the two tallest mountains in Western Japan: Mt. Tsurugi and Mt. Ishitsuchi. I ran in both the Ogawara Kogen Marathon and the Hiwasa Turtle Marathon. Last summer, I participated in the world famous Awa Odori, and this winter, I was able to experience downhill skiing for the first time. These experiences feel like just yesterday for me now. They have been burned into my memory so that I will never forget my experiences here. Most importantly though, I want to treasure all the friends I have made in Tokushima and keep in touch with them even after I go home.

Thank you, Tokushima! Thank you, friends! If you have the chance, please come to Guangdong, China. I'm waiting for you there.

## Shoko Nomizu

"Pray for the courage to have a wish" – this is what I told myself when, seventeen years ago, I decided to take the exam to join the Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers, and when I passed the exam and had to face heavy objections from my parents, and then when I was stationed in Ghana to teach dressmaking as a JOCV member.

This time, I decided to leave my job on March 31 to bring my two children with me and join my partner where he is posted for work in Indonesia. This decision took a lot of courage for me. I can't count all the worries I have:

terrorism, earthquakes, my children's education, and what will happen after we return to Japan. At the same time, it's also very hard for me to leave my beloved job and friends. However, because I think it's important for my family to be together, I mustered all my courage and made this decision.

During my time working at TOPIA, the number of long-term foreign residents has increased, and the content of my work has changed from running events, to working towards laying the groundwork for a multicultural . I'm not sure what I have accomplished during this time, but I was able to really feel how hard it can be for people living in a foreign culture, with a different system than they are used to. I think that more than ever, a support system is necessary for these people.

"Accept the parts that are different, and take care of the parts that we share" – this is not something we can say about the relations between Japanese people and foreigners, but something we can say about the relationships between individuals. After I go to Indonesia, I want to remember this feeling, and be optimistic in my life there. After my experience in Ghana, my time in Indonesia will be my second experience living as a foreigner. I'm sure I will have a lot of difficulties, but I will continue to be myself, living in my own way. I had the help of a lot of people in the past twelve years. Thank you all so much from the bottom of my heart. Terima kasih!





## deutschland... con't from page 1

Dresden in Tokyo and Kobe;  
- an exhibition with works by sculptor Ernst Barlach in several Japanese museums.

The Goethe-Institut is planning festivals, some of which are open-air, with themes such as dance, theatre, film, light and sound installations, design and other exhibitions, which will aim chiefly at reaching Japan's young generation and raising their interest in Germany.

Apart from cultural events in the strict sense of the word, Germany will present itself in Japan with events in many fields, such as: business, science and technology, environment, and special exchange programmes for citizens.

### Special Events in Tokushima

Toei Co. plans to make a film featuring the defunct Bando Prisoners' Camp in Tokushima Prefecture, where German prisoners during World War I played Beethoven's Ninth Symphony, for the first time in Japan.

According to sources close to the movie production company, the film will depict the friendship that emerged between people of Oasa town near Naruto City, where the Bando camp was located, and the German prisoners of war led to the first playing in Japan of 'Choral' in the last movement of Beethoven's Ninth Symphony. The Tokushima Prefectural Government, the Naruto City Office and businesses in the prefecture have decided to contribute a total of 100 million yen towards costs of the film making.

Since the German Government will hold 'Germany in Japan' events in 2005, Naruto City and the Naruto Society for Singing the Ninth Symphony, which is a Naruto-based nonprofit organization, plans to hold on June 5 a concert at Naruto City Festival Hall, in which Naruto citizens and German people residing in Japan will sing the Ninth Symphony's Chorale together as an event for further promoting exchanges between Naruto citizens and German people. The German participants will be chosen from among officials of the German Embassy in Tokyo and the German consulates in the Kansai region as well as German business people and students residing in the region.

The Ninth Symphony concert, to be held at the Naruto City Festival Hall, is an annual affair hosted by the city since 1982, which brings together some 600 people from various parts of the prefecture and other parts of the country.

In the "Deutsches Haus" (German House) in Naruto – basically a museum on the POW Camp Bando, but featuring also a store with German products like beer, toys etc. and a concert hall – we are planning a wide range of events, starting with an Easter Sunday for Kids, including wine seminars, exhibitions, and concerts. Watch out for announcements in Awa Life or contact me directly:

Mattias Hirschfeld, CIR in the "Deutsches Haus" Naruto  
awa-life@ttias.de



## new prefectural disaster preparedness plan

The Tokushima Prefecture Nankai Earthquake Countermeasures Division has implemented their new system for supporting people in the event of a major natural disaster. This system engages the help of a variety of local businesses, including gas stations, supermarkets, and convenience stores. These businesses will display a logo in their front window, indicating



that they are prepared to supply information to evacuees in the event of a natural disaster. While these businesses can not provide money or supplies in an emergency situation, they will be equipped to direct citizens to the nearest evacuation centre, and provide other guidance in the event of a disaster. These shops will also be equipped with handy multi-lingual cards in order to communicate with residents who speak languages other than Japanese. These cards will have information printed in: English, Chinese, Korean, Portuguese, and German.

for more information,  
call: 088.621.2297  
(in Japanese)





# martin's anime corner

by martin o'brien  
martinobrien2004@gmail.com

**Title:** Lupin the Third:  
The Castle of Cagliostro  
(ルパン三世 - カリオストロの城)  
**Directed by:** Miyazaki Hayao  
**Creators:** Studio Ghibli  
**International Distribution:**  
Palm Pictures/Manga Video  
**Released:** Japan (1979) U.S. (1991)  
**Length:** Approx. 100 minutes

Lupin the Third is one of the most well known and well established anime franchises having remained popular for over 35 years. It has spawned over 228 TV episodes, 6 theatrical films, 5 Original Animation Videos, and 16 TV specials not to mention three Playstation games. Many of these have been dubbed and shown on TV channels in Europe and the US. Due to the prolific output and success of the franchise, it could easily be said that Lupin the Third constitutes a genre in its own right. Lupin was shown on TV channels in the Western world before the anime genre ever became popular. Its early and continued success overseas is probably due to the fact that there are very few difficult Japanese cultural references. The characters come from various countries and the action takes place in glamorous locations throughout the world.

Lupin is a globe-trotting master thief, the direct descendant of gentleman thief Arsène Lupin. Lupin with his sidekicks, the moody beatnik Jigen and stoic samurai Goemon travel around the world in search of loot to pilfer. On their tail is the irrepressible but usually unsuccessful Inspector Zenigata of Interpol

and the beautiful Mine Fujiko; a fellow thief and sometimes rival. The various episodes and films which Lupin had been in have often caused some mild controversy as Lupin is seen by many as a rather politically incorrect character; he is a thief, for one, who chain smokes, drinks and hits on (usually unsuccessfully) every woman he meets. As the animation has had a mainly male teenage audience, the nature of the character and his adventures have often resulted in complaints from Japanese parents' associations. There is very little controversy in "The Castle of Cagliostro" and it is definitely suitable for all ages. In this respect the character of Lupin is dramatically different compared to other Lupin the Third films. Although "The Castle of Cagliostro" is an excellent film, it is not in many ways a typical Lupin the Third film.

The film is directed by Miyazaki Hayao (who would later go on to direct "Spirited Away" and "Howl's Moving Castle"). In the film Lupin and Jigen successfully rob a casino but soon discover that the money is counterfeit. They head to Cagliostro, a small European country, where they believe the counterfeit money originated. In Cagliostro, they witness the kidnapping of a young woman and see her being taken by boat to the massive castle of the Count of Cagliostro. Lupin and his cohorts followed closely behind by Inspector Zenigata and Mine Fujiko attempt to rescue the woman from the clutches of the count and discover the

secret behind the castle in which he resides. It isn't long before the locals discover Lupin nosing around not to mention Inspector Zenigata and his less-than crack team of dedicated Interpol operatives. The film is a James Bond-esque adventure with a plot that displays more intelligence and wit than the average Bond film. Miyazaki Hayao's touch can be seen throughout and although it is one of his early films the attention to detail in regard to the animation and plot and the easy going warmth that his characters display is very much in evidence. The film makes for an excellent action adventure animation and there are many memorable scenes throughout. "Lupin the Third: The Castle of Cagliostro" is a classic piece of animation and is considered by many to be the best Lupin the Third feature length film. There are a myriad of Lupin the Third anime episodes and films out there on DVD/video, and in my opinion The Castle of Cagliostro is probably the best place to start.

The DVD version of "Lupin the Third: The Castle of Cagliostro" that I watched was the Japanese version, unlike most of the Japanese version Lupin the Third feature films it has English subtitles. It might be advisable to get the dubbed versions released for the US and European markets. Other Lupin the Third theatrical films include Strange Psychokinetic Strategy (1974), Lupin Vs. the Clone (1978), Legend of the Gold of Babylon (1985), To Hell with Nostradamus! (1995), Dead Or Alive (1996)



# japanese in the news

by claire kinder  
clairish@gmail.com

**a**pril is a time of new beginnings in Japan; the start of a new school year, and a new fiscal year as well. This is the time of year when many people are transferred to different positions within their jobs, which means just about everyone in the country is experiencing something new this month, be it new co-workers, a new school, a new job, or even a new town! The thrill of the new combined with the long-awaited spring weather means everyone is working hard for the month of April. Then May hits and everyone reaches a sort of slump. There is a name for this - 五月病 - **gogatsu-byō** - May sickness. After a month of everyone trying their hardest to fit into their new environments, May is when it all falls apart.

Luckily for everyone, just as the **gogatsu byō** is starting to kick in, Golden Week comes along and saves the day! Golden Week, often abbreviated in print to GW, is a convenient cluster of holidays that occurs around the end of April and beginning of May. First, we have みどりの日 - **midori no hi** - Green Day (formerly the Showa Emperor's Birthday - there is a proposal to change the name of this holiday to **showa no hi**), on April 29, followed soon after by 憲法記念日 - **kenpō kinenbi** - Constitution Day on May 3, the rather unimaginatively named 国民の休日 - **kokumin no kyūjitsu** - People's Holiday on May 4 (this day would be the new **midori no hi** if the 29th becomes **showa no hi**), and

finally こどもの日 - **kodomo no hi** - Children's Day on May 5. If you play your cards right and take a couple extra days off, you could have a whopping ten days of holiday in a row this May! Sounds like a good time for a holiday overseas, right? Too bad everyone else in the country has the same idea as you and I! Air ticket prices, as well as hotel fees are at their absolute peak during this national week of freedom. For many people in Japan, this is one of the only chances all year they will have to take a long holiday, so they wind up swallowing the costs and counting their blessings.

So why is it called **Golden Week**? This term was originally coined by movie theatres soon after this holiday period came to be, after 1948. It was a sort of marketing catch-phrase to remind people that it was an ideal chance (a '**golden**' opportunity!) to go see a film. Incidentally, what is known as 'prime time' (7pm - 10pm) television in English, is referred to as the '**golden time**' or '**golden hour**' in Japanese. Could there be some relation?

While people's senior years are referred to as the 'golden years' in English, the term '**silver**' is more common in Japan. For example, the seats on the train reserved for people with mobility issues are called the '**silver seats**' and '**silver sangyo**' refers to businesses which target senior citizens, such as retirement homes, medical products, and entertainment facilities geared towards an older crowd. 

## letter from suketo hoikuen

**S**uketo Hoikuen (Suketo daycare) holds a free international children's salon day every Thursday starting at 10:30. International parents and children are welcome to come and participate at no charge.

Starting this month, Awa Life will begin featuring a monthly "letter from Suketo Hoikuen" featuring information on childcare and related topics from the staff of Suketo Hoikuen.

*The bright sunlight, the softly blowing wind, the scent in the air... tells us that spring is here! Children are busy at this time of year, entering a new Nursery School or Kindergarten, or moving up a grade. A lot of new things happen in spring! There are a lot of expectations and worries during this time as well. When Mom and Dad are feeling worried or uneasy, they pass those feelings on to their children. Try to let your children know, "I'll take care of you, so don't worry!" There is a lot of fun waiting at daycare, pre-school, or other local activity groups for your children! I have a feeling that this spring has plenty of good things in store!*

*Until next time,*

*Kaori Sakamoto,  
Suketo Hoikuen*

for more information:  
call: 070-5681-1230  
or see: [www.suketo.jp](http://www.suketo.jp)



# japanese lesson: koto ga arimasu

by sachiko ozaki

jtmtoke-lesson@mbk.nifty.com

**t**his time, let's take a look at 'Verb (dictionary form) + koto ga arimasu' and 'Verb (nai form) + koto ga arimasu' which imply an idea that actions or occurrences expressed by verbs sometimes or occasionally are done or happen.

Note: In this 'Verb (dictionary form) / Verb (nai form) + koto ga arimasu,' pattern, adverbs for high frequency occurrences (ie. always, often, usually) are never used. Only adverbs for low frequency occurrences are used (ie. sometimes, occasionally, etc.)

Japanese Frequency Words:

×いつも ○○○○○○○○○○  
×よく ○. ○○.. ○.. ○○  
×たいてい ○... ○.. ○..  
○ときどき ○..... ○.....  
○たまに ..... ○.....

◆ Verb (dictionary form) + koto ga arimasu

わたしはたいてい<sup>がっこう</sup>学校の<sup>しょくどう</sup>食堂で<sup>ひる</sup>昼<sup>はん</sup>飯<sup>た</sup>を食べます。

I usually have lunch at the school cafeteria. ('koto ga arimasu' can not be used)

でも、たまにお<sup>べんとう</sup>弁当<sup>も</sup>を持っていきます。

But, I sometimes bring a lunch from home. ('koto ga arimasu' can be used)

→ わたしは<sup>がっこう</sup>学校<sup>べんとう</sup>にお弁当<sup>も</sup>を持っていくことがあります。

◆ Verb (nai form) + koto ga arimasu

わたしは<sup>あさはや</sup>いつも朝<sup>お</sup>早く起きます。

I get up early every morning. ('koto ga arimasu' can not be used)

でも、<sup>よふ</sup>夜更<sup>あさはや</sup>かしすると、たまに朝<sup>お</sup>早く起きられません。

But, I sometimes can't get up early the next morning after staying up all night. ('koto ga arimasu' can be used)

→ わたしは<sup>あさはや</sup>朝<sup>お</sup>早く起きられないことがあります。

Practice transforming the sentences below into ones which use 'koto ga arimasu.' The first sentence is an example.

(例) この<sup>き</sup>機械<sup>かい</sup>はたまに故障<sup>こしょう</sup>します。 → この<sup>き</sup>機械<sup>かい</sup>は故障<sup>こしょう</sup>することがあります。

This machine occasionally breaks down.

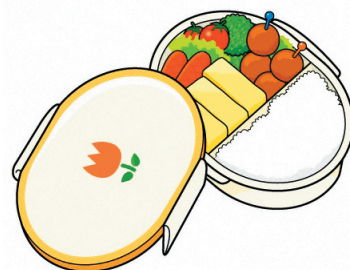
1. トムさんはときどき<sup>にほんご</sup>日本語<sup>やす</sup>のレッスンを休みます。 →

Tom sometimes skips his Japanese lesson.

2. <sup>やまもと</sup>山本<sup>べんとう</sup>さんはときどきお<sup>いえ</sup>弁当<sup>わす</sup>を家に忘れます。 →

Mr. Yamamoto sometimes forgets his lunch at home.

3. <sup>ぐすり</sup>かぜ薬<sup>ねむ</sup>をのんだあと、たまに眠くなります。 →



I occasionally feel drowsy after I take a cold remedy.

4 <sup>かれ</sup>彼は<sup>やくそく</sup>ときどき約束<sup>まも</sup>を守りません。 →

Sometimes he doesn't keep his promises.

5. この<sup>じてんしゃ</sup>自転車<sup>は</sup>たまにブレーキがききません。 →

This bicycle sometimes has trouble with its brakes.

[Note]

'Verb (ta form) + koto ga arimasu' expresses someone's experience in the past

A : <sup>なっとう</sup>納豆<sup>た</sup>を食べたことがありますか。

A: Have you ever eaten nattō before ?

B : ええ、もちろん。<sup>あさ</sup>朝<sup>ひる</sup>、<sup>ばん</sup>昼<sup>た</sup>、<sup>た</sup>晩と<sup>た</sup>食べることもありますよ。

B: Yes, of course. I sometimes eat nattō for all three meals.

A: それはすごいですね。

A: That's amazing.





# memoranda

## New Law

### 新しい法律ができました

A new law comes into effect on April 1, 2005, which states that people who hold foreign citizenship and who have a foreign address (ie. who live overseas) must present their passports to be copied when they check into a Japanese hotel. This law does not apply to foreign nationals who are registered as living in Japan.

**when:** starting April 1, 2005

## Koi Nobori Over the Rivers of Tokushima

### 徳島の川で鯉のぼり

May 5th is Children's Day - a day when colourful flags shaped like carp (**koi nobori**) are traditionally flown outside houses of families who have sons living at home. Accompanying this tradition, many riverside towns in Tokushima fly long strings of carp flags over their local rivers during late April and early May. Here are just a few of the many places these **koi nobori** can be viewed:

**where:** Kamikatsu near Tsukigaoka Onsen

**when:** April 25 - May 9

**where:** Miya River in Donari

**when:** April 17 - May 8

**where:** Naka River in Anan City, near Kamodani Bridge

**when:** Late April - Early May

## Tastes of Awa

### 阿波の味

Finally exhausted your supply of treats from home? Looking for something new to eat? Ask Don! Don Weiss, author of 'Tastes of Awa,' (page 5) is looking for reader's suggestions for future columns. What aspects of Japanese food interest you? What would you like to know how to cook? Send Don a message with your questions and ideas:

**e-mail:** woosongdonald@yahoo.com

## Germany in Japan

### 日本におけるドイツ年

The opening ceremony of the year of Germany in Japan will be held at Doitsu-kan with a piano recital and choral performance. For more information about the year of Germany in Japan, see this month's cover story written by the Doitsu-kan's Mattias Herschfeld.

**when:** April 17, 14:00 ~

**where:** Naruto's Doitsu-kan, 1F Hall

**cost:** ¥500

**for more info:**

tel. 088.689.0099 (in Japanese)

fax. 088-689-0909

email: doitukan@city.naruto.lg.jp (in English)

<http://www.city.naruto.tokushima.jp/germanhouse/>

## Submit!

### 記事を募集しています

Would you like to write for Awa Life? We are always looking for new articles to publish. In particular, those which serve some kind of use to the English-speaking population of Tokushima. We can not pay for submissions, but we can offer the kind of glory that can only come from seeing your own name in print.

**for more info, and detailed submission guidelines,**

**e-mail:** awalife@gmail.com

**write to:** Awa Life

c/o TOPIA

1-61 Terashimahoncho-nishi

Tokushima City, 770-0831

## Origami Class

### おりがみクラス

Create Japanese traditional symbols of Children's Day (May 5) such as the **kabuto** helmet, with coloured paper!

**when:** April 29 (Holiday Friday) 13:30 - 15:30

**instructor:** Kazuko Yoshida

**where:** TOPIA, Clement Building 6F

**cost:** free, but register in advance at TOPIA or

**call:** 088.656.3303

# memoranda

## Join a Women's Basketball Team!

女性バスケットをしませんか？

**when and where:**

Tuesdays 20:00 - 22:00

at Kami-Hachiman Elementary School, Tokushima City

Fridays 20:00 - 22:00

at Takagawara Chomin Gym, Ishii-cho

**cost:** 2000 per month

**for more info:** Coach Masami Matsuda

090.8972.3281

mmatsuda@js2.so-net.ne.jp

## JET Programme Postcard Collection

JET プログラム葉書コレクション

Booklets of postcards created from photographs taken by members of the JET Programme are now available for free at TOPIA. Each set includes fifteen different cards with photographs of Japanesque scenes from all over the country.

## TOPIA's Library

トピアの図書室

If you are a Tokushima resident (regardless of nationality) you can get a library card for TOPIA's library, and borrow books free of charge! The library has mostly English, Chinese, and Japanese books, with a small section of novels written in other European languages.

Books that have been culled from TOPIA's library are available for people to take home for free. Come to TOPIA anytime and take a look in the big boxes marked **free**. Donations of books are also accepted year-round!

## Your Message Here

このスペースを使ってください

Submit your event information, garage sale, etc. to be printed in next month's Awa Life!

**contact:** awalife@gmail.com

## Car For Sale

車を売ります

1995 Toyota Corolla - **shaken** until April 2006, white, 4 door, 4WD, automatic, good condition, 1.6L engine, new CD player, snow tires, 95,000km

Asking ¥250,000.

Negotiable.

**for more info:** wriba@hotmail.com

**tel.** 0883-67-2361

**mobile.** 090-5145-0476

## Awa Life Free Subscription Service

阿波ライフ無料郵送サービス

How many copies of Awa Life do you get in the mail each month? None? One? More than one?? Is it addressed properly? Is your name spelled right? Please notify us of any corrections you'd like made to your subscription information or if you would like to have Awa Life sent to you each month at no charge.

**e-mail:** awalife@gmail.com

**post:** Awa Life

c/o TOPIA

1-61 Terashimahoncho-nishi

Tokushima City, 770-0831

**or:** come to TOPIA in person

## Court Interpreters Wanted

法廷通訳者募集中

The Tokushima District Court is looking for people with high fluency in both Japanese and another language who are interested in becoming paid court interpreters.

**for more info, contact:** Tokushima Chihō Saibansho

Keijibu Shōtei-gakari

088.652.3141 ext. 331

**or see:** <http://www.courts.go.jp>

# memoranda

## 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 Thursday

10:00 - 17:00

**tel.** 088.656.3303 or 088.656.3320 (allows three way conversations with an interpreter)

## Pop Art & Co.

### 流行するポップ・アート

Eighty pop art works on loan from Portugal's Sintra Museum of Modern Art are on display at Kochi's Prefectural Museum of Art. Featuring works by Andy Warhol, Roy Lichtenstein, Jean-Michel Basquiat, and more!

There will be a special English guided tour on May 15 (Sunday) from 14:00 - 15:00 at no extra charge.

Workshops on making your own Pop Art will be held April 29 - May 5 from 10:00 - 16:00 at no extra charge

**when:** April 3 - May 22

9:00 - 17:00 (closed Mondays)

**where:** The Museum of Art, Kochi

**cost:** ¥850

**tel.** 088-866-8000

**web:** <http://www.kochi-bunkazaidan.or.jp/~museum>

## Jomon-era Art

### 縄文の美

A display of black-burnished pottery artifacts from Japan's ancient 'Kamegaoka Culture' at Bunka no Mori's Museum.

**when:** April 26 - May 29, 9:30 - 17:00 (closed Mondays)

**where:** Bunka no Mori

**cost:** ¥200 for adults, with discounts for students

**for more info:** 088.668.3636

## Hana Haru Festa

### はなはるフェスタ

You don't have to wait until August to experience Awa Odori in Tokushima! Hana Haru Festa features Awa Odori dancing, food stands, live performances, and lots of other fun events in downtown Tokushima City.

**when:** April 29, 30, and May 1

**where:** Aibahama Park in downtown Tokushima City

**cost:** free

**for more info:** the Hana Haru Festa Committee

088.655.7331 (in Japanese)

## The Chiiori Project

### チイオリ・プロジェクト

#### April

8-10 Wood crafts

15-17 Mountain vegetable picking and hiking

22-24 TBA

**April 28 - May 8** Golden Week open house

#### May

13-15 Hiking (Mt Tsurugi to Mt Miune, staying overnight on the mountain)

20-22 Iya River Fishing

27-29 Country Cooking

\* designates long weekend/ public holiday

**Basic rate:** ¥6000 per night,

¥7000 during Golden Week.

Extra charges apply for weekend events.

**for more info:** [www.chiiori.org](http://www.chiiori.org)

[reservations@chiiori.org](mailto:reservations@chiiori.org)

**tel.** 0883.88.5290

## Your Message Here

### このスペースを使いきださい

Submit your event information, garage sale, etc. to be printed in next month's Awa Life!

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



# memoranda

## Japanese Cooking Class

### 日本料理のクラス

This time, the menu includes: **maki** (roll) **sushi**, **sumashi jiru** soup, and **mizu yokan** for dessert. The menu can be individually adjusted to suit a vegetarian diet.

**instructor:** Michie Hamamoto

**who:** foreign residents, and Japanese assistants can participate

**when:** May 22 (Sunday)

Doors open: 9:30

Cooking and eating: 10:00 - 13:00

**where:** Uchimachi Community Centre (near City Hall)

**cost:** ¥500

**for more information, or to register:**

**e-mail:** kuy@usuzumi.ok1.jp

**fax:** 088.692.6289

Write your name, nationality, and contact information. Please be sure to apply well in advance, as places are limited! We can not accept unregistered participants on the day of the event.

**presented by:** HIROBA International

## Jam Camp

### ジャム・キャンプ

Your kids can have fun learning to play a variety of musical instruments and songs while practicing their English at the same time! Canadian instructors in co-operation with Kamiyama Board of Education are coming to lead this three-day workshop in the mountains of Kamiyama! Children will be able to stay at the Kamiyama Junior High dormitory or commute from home. At the end of the three-day workshop, everyone will record original songs they have written for a CD that will serve as a souvenir of their experience.

Jam Camp is looking for volunteers to lead games and help with onsite English classes. We are especially looking for people who can speak both Japanese and English, in order to help our international facilitators communicate with the kids.

**when:** May 3-5

**where:** Kamiyama O-Awa Jinja

**cost:** ¥15,000 for students staying overnight,

¥10,000 for students commuting from home

**for more info:** register@jamcamp.org

www.jamcamp.org

## tv movie schedule • april

Japanese television broadcasts most foreign movies in their original language as well as in Japanese. Bilingually equipped TVs can be flipped between these two audio channels by selecting the 音声切替 button on the remote control.

Date	Time	Place	Nat.	タイトル	Title	
Sat. 9	9:00	⑧ 関西	USA '92	アラジン	Aladdin	☺
Sun. 10	9:00	⑥ ABC	USA '01	ハムナプトラ 2	The Mummy Returns	☺
Sat. 16	9:00	⑧ 関西	FRA '03	Taxi 3	Taxi 3	☺
Sun. 17	9:00	⑥ ABC	USA '94	マスク	The Mask	☺
Fri. 22	9:03	⑩ 読売	JPN '92	紅の豚	Porco Rosso	☺
Sat. 23	late night	⑥ ABC	UK '54	アナザー・カントリー	Another Country	☺
Tue. 26	late night	⑩ 読売	FRA '54	フレンチ・カンカン	French Cancan	☺
Fri. 29	late night	⑩ 読売	USA '01	ソードフィッシュ	Swordfish	☺
Sat. 30	late night	⑥ ABC	HK '93	必殺処刑コップ	Extreme Justice	☺

☺ horror ? mystery ☺ suspense ☺ comedy ☺ drama ☺ action ♥ love & romance SF science fiction

This schedule is subject to change.

TOKUSHIMA HALL 徳島ホール (Saiwai-cho - near the Central Post Office) 088.653.1802	Bridget Jones 2 - The Edge of Reason 【USA】 ブリジット・ジョーンズの日記 きれそうなたしの 12 か月	until 4/15
	Hibi 【JPN】 火火 (in Japanese)	from 4/16
	Regular tickets → ¥1800 1st of each month → ¥1000 Ladies' day / Tuesday → ¥1000 Men's day / Friday → ¥1000	
TOKUSHIMA TOHO 徳島東宝 (Kagoya-machi - in Higashi Shinmachi Arcade) 088.625.5311	Lorelei 【JPN】 ローレライ (in Japanese)	until 4/15
	Crayon Shin-chan 【JPN】 クレヨンしんちゃん	from 4/16
	Regular tickets → ¥1800 1st of each month → ¥1000 Ladies' Day / Wednesday → ¥1000 Men's Day / Thursday → ¥1000	
TOHO CINEMA 東宝シネマ (Kagoya-machi - in Higashi Shinmachi Arcade) 088.625.5311	Shark Tale 【USA】 シャーク・テール	until 4/8
	Detective Conan - Strategy Above the Depths 【JPN】 名探偵コナン / 水平戦場の陰謀	from 4/9
	Regular tickets → ¥1800 1st of each month → ¥1000 Customer Appreciation Day / Wednesday → ¥1000	
ATTACK HEIWA アタック平和 (Kuramoto 2 cho-me - near Kuramoto Station) 088.631.6490	National Treasure 【USA】 ナショナル・トレジャー	
	Jersey Girl 【USA】 世界で一番パパが好き！	until 4/15
	Constantine 【USA】 コンスタンティン	from 4/16
	1st of each month → ¥1000 Customer Appreciation Day/ Wednesday → ¥1000	
HEIWA DOLBY 平和ドルビー (Kuramoto 2 cho-me ) 088.631.6490	The Aviator 【USA】 アビエイター	
	Regular tickets → ¥1800 1st of each month → ¥1000 Customer Appreciation Day / Wednesday → ¥1000	
KITAJIMA CINEMA SUNSHINE *FUJI GRAND*  北島シネマサンシャイン (Kitajima-cho Tainohama) 088.697.3113 088.697.3111 (24 時間テープ案内 - 24 hour recorded message)  Regular tickets → ¥1800 The 1st of each month → ¥1000 Ladies' Day / Wednesday → ¥1000	Eternal Sunshine Of the Spotless Mind 【USA】 エターナル・サンシャイン	until 4/15
	Lorelei 【JPN】 ローレライ (in Japanese)	from 4/16
	Pretty Cure 【JPN】 ふたりはプリキュア マックスハート	
	Crayon Shin-chan 【JPN】 クレヨンしんちゃん	
	Infernal Affairs 3 【HK】 インファナル・アフェア III	
	Son of the Mask 【USA】 マスク 2	
	Constantine 【USA】 コンスタンティン	
	Ashurajo no Hitomi 【JPN】 阿修羅城の瞳	
	National Treasure 【USA】 ナショナル・トレジャー	
	The Aviator 【USA】 アビエイター	
A Very Long Engagement 【FRN】 ロング・エンゲージメント (in French)		
Racing Stripes 【USA】 レーシング・ストライプス (in Japanese)		

## coming soon:

At Kitajima Sunshine Cinema in Fuji Grand this May:

Shall We Dance - starring Richard Gere and Jennifer Lopez

人権守って  
輝く明日