

awa life

May 2015
298

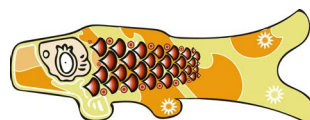


*Rain, Flower
and Music:*
Chimanaco
Band Interview

Kamikatsu's
Hidden Surprises



Japanese Lesson
& Recipe Corner



TOPIA

Awa Life is a Monthly Publication of the Tokushima Prefectural International Exchange Association

Every article you send us is appreciated so please consider becoming a writer! A few rules will apply though so please look below to see what content we encourage you to write about and what kind of stuff we cannot publish.

You can totally submit articles about concerts, lectures, and other event information, cultural, sporting, and other community group information, etcetera.

BUT, the following will not be posted: Religious, political, or commercial activities, businesses searching for clients or employees, things the Awa Life editors deem inappropriate.

If you have something you would like to share with the Tokushima community, email the editors at:

[awalife@gmail.com!](mailto:awalife@gmail.com)

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



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Wander-ful Tabi: Kamikatsu's Hidden Surprises

By Lance Kita

What wonders (and wanderers) can a little town of 1,823 villagers hold? Kamikatsu Town (上勝町) is tucked in the mountains about 45 minutes by car from Tokushima City, and if you travel up there and do a little digging, you'll unearth some great gems. Here are five facets that make Kamikatsu shine.

1. Tsukigatani Hot Springs (月ヶ谷温泉)

Kobo Daishi actually trained up here, and it's said that Yakushi Nyorai Buddha appeared to him and said, "the water that gushes from this rock will cure all ailments. May this be a blessing upon the people of this area." You can bathe in this sulfur and salt-rich water that is heated by a biomass wood chip furnace. The minerals are said to be especially effective on skin problems,

recovery and rehabilitation, and fatigue. There are public baths, lodgings, a restaurant and event room, and a riverside camping area. In late April to early May, huge carp banners are flown over the river.



2. Kashiwara Terraced Fields (柏原棚田)

Kamikatsu's steep, mountainous terrain presents a challenge to daily life. To plant rice and vegetables, the villagers devised networks of terraced paddies and fields called tanada (棚田). The most famous is listed on Japan's Top 100 terraced fields and was designated as one of several dozen Important Cultural Landscapes (重要文化的景観). Come in spring when the clouds roll through the valley and reveal the curved contours in misty layers.

3. Waterfalls

With steep valleys come waterfalls, and every hillside will have a small one to cool you down in summer. My favorite is Kanjogataki (灌頂ヶ滝), the "Baptismal Falls," whose gentle spray of mist showers down 80 meters and often sways in the wind like a dragon's

Kamikatsu's Hidden Surprises

tail. Combine that with huge boulders strewn along the lower falls and rainbows that form in the morning sunlight...awe-inspiring.

4. Log art

Forests rule Kamikatsu, and people live in sync with the woods. Logging is a major industry, and even the older women gather leaves to sell to high-class restaurants and ryokan to garnish kaiseki dishes. In 2007, the National Culture Festival was held in Tokushima, with Kamikatsu pairing artists with districts in the town to create massive wooden art sculptures. A spiraling log dragon, a giant wooden boat, a log stage...as you drive around, keep your eye out for these surprises.



So drive up, smell the fresh forest air as you gaze upon terraced fields, followed by a soak in the bath and a fine Italian lunch and an afternoon hike to a waterfall...and stay the night to enjoy a drink by the hearth and a sunrise over the mountains.

And I forgot to mention the moss-covered forest, soon-to-open soba shop and beer brewery, citrus ice cream, award-winning recycling program, holy training temple, kayaking...oh, you'll just have to spend the day (or weekend) and discover your own Kamikatsu treasures.

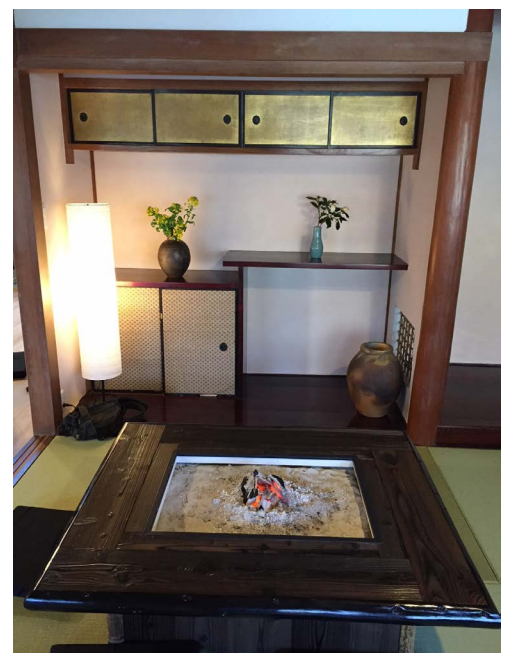
Get more information about Kamikatsu (in Japanese only, sorry) at: <http://www.kamikatsu.jp/kankou/>

for Japan as less children are born and many young people seek urban areas for job opportunities. Kamikatsu is no exception, but a revolution may be underway. Many people are making a "U-turn" (returning to their rural hometowns) or an "I-turn" (seeking the rural areas, for a simpler life), and are finding new ways to use old houses. Just above Tsukigatani Onsen, one house is an Italian restaurant with a young chef who trained in Italy at a shop that serves the Pope. Another house creates chair-shaped toy blocks from Kamikatsu's wood. Another hosts music events and a secret bar around a traditional charcoal hearth (with bees in the backyard producing honey). One man reformed his family's store into a coffee shop thrown back into the past, where you can sip a cup while listening to old records.



5. Transformed Houses

Depopulation and aging of rural hamlets is a pressing problem



Letter from Suketo Hoikuen

By Kazue Inoue

With the weather warming up and the sun coming out, the fresh verdure is starting to adorn the city. As Tokushima is blessed with an abundance of mountains and rivers, it is truly full of beautiful natural surroundings! Why not take advantage of this beautiful season and go explore the great outdoors with your child and find a special place just for the two of you.

This month, I will be introducing how to make the most of a very commonly used toy for children, the building block.

★ Timeline and how children should play with wooden blocks

① Infants (when they begin to sit up on their own): At first they will begin by feeling the texture of the blocks by grabbing them and licking them. They will eventually begin to even roll the blocks on the ground.

② 1 year and a half: As they gain more control over the movement of their fingertips, they will be able to grab the blocks with their thumb, index finger, and middle finger. They will be able to pile about 2 to 3 blocks on top of each other. (Around this age they will also be able to be more aware of their actions so they don't knock over the blocks they have built.)

③ 2 years: They will be able to involve blocks into their

pretend play or when they imitate others.

④ 3 years and older: This is the age when they will begin to have more interactions with other children, and so they will be able to build one single object with the blocks while working together with other children.

* Building blocks are great for fostering imagination and creativity, along with the ability to initiative things independently. As well, as you can play with the blocks with friends, it will help with social development and will help foster cooperation. Considering all of these benefits, I highly encourage all of you to let your children play with building blocks.

This Month's Craft

Hide and Seek with Animals

Materials

Envelope
Scissor
Cardboard or any thick paper
Pens, pencil, etc.
Duct Tape
Wooden Chopsticks
Glue

Directions

1) Cut an envelope in half and

cut a hole at the bottom that is big enough for a wooden chopstick.

2) Draw two animals on two sheets of cardboards. Make sure that the cardboard will fit inside the envelope.

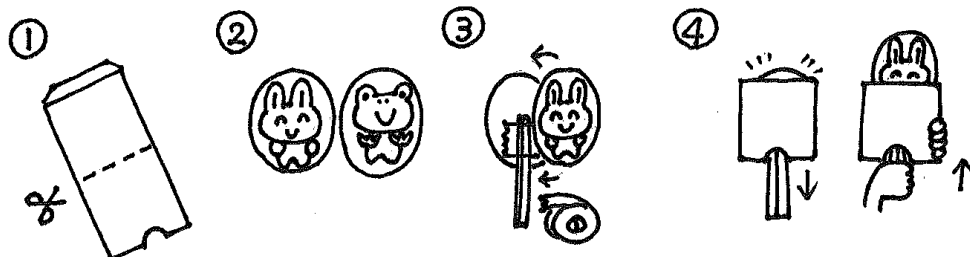
3) Flip the picture over, and tape on chopsticks on the backside of one of the picture. Take the other picture and glue it on the picture with the chopstick, back to back.

4) Stick the chopstick through the hole so that the animal pictures are hiding in the envelope.

How to Play

You can hide the animals then pop them out or you can turn it into a quiz.

*With our official recognition as a "Nintei Kodomo-en (officially recognized childcare center)," starting April Suketo Nursery School has been operating as both a kindergarten and a nursery school under our new name, "Suketo Nakayoshi Nintei Kodomo-en." We will do everything we can to provide childcare support so we look forward to your ongoing support.



Japanese Lesson

By Fusa Tamaki

In Japanese, there are words that hold a completely different meaning depending on the context it is used in, such as the word, 「いい」.

(1) 「よい」という意味

A : 友達の結婚式に着る服を探してるんだけど、このワンピースどう？

B : きれいなブルーだね。とてもいいと思うよ。

(1) To say something is good or nice

A : I'm looking for a dress to wear to a friend's wedding.

What do you think of this dress?

B : It's a beautiful hue of blue. I think that's a good choice.

(2) 「OK」という意味

A : バイトが終わったら、ご飯食べに行かない？

B : いいよ。ピザが食べたいな。

(2) To give permission or approval

A : Do you want to get dinner after work?

B : Sure, I'm craving pizza.

(3) 「いらない」という意味

A : Bさんが探してた本が、駅の本屋にあったよ。

B : ありがとう、でももういいの。

きのう、主人が買ってきてくれたから。

(3) Declining an offer

A : I found the book you're looking for, it's at the bookstore in the station.

B : Thanks, but I don't need to buy it anymore.

My husband bought it for me yesterday.

(4) 「うらやましい」という意味

A : 鈴木さん、宝くじが当たったんだって！

B : ほんと、いいなあ。

(4) To express envy

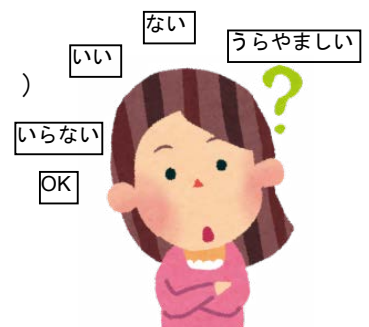
A : Did you hear about Mr. Suzuki? He won the lottery!

B : Really? ! He's so lucky.

Exercise

How is the 「いい」 used in the following sentences? Please pick the correct answer from the following, and fill in the brackets () with your answer: (1) Good, (2) Approval, (3) Declining an offer, and (4) Expressing envy.

1. いいですねえ、やさしい息子さんが二人もいらっやって。()
2. わざわざ来なくていいよ。一人でできるから。()
3. 来月の出張ですが、田中さんが忙しいんだったらぼくが行ってもいいですよ。()
4. 先生にはお世話になったから、なにかいいものをプレゼントしたいな。()
5. 彼女ができたんだって。いいなあ。()
6. なんでもいいから、食べるものを買ってきてください。()



1. You're so lucky that you have two caring sons.
2. You don't have to come all the way, I can do it myself.
3. Mr. Tanaka, if you are too busy, I can go to the business trip for you next month.
4. I'm really thankful for everything my teacher did for me, so I want to buy him a nice gift.
5. I heard he has a girlfriend now, lucky guy.
6. Could you go and buy me some food, I don't mind what you get.

Reference : 場面別表現 205 アルク

Answers 1-1-④ 2-③ 3-② 4-① 5-④ 6-②

Resident Card Information For Permanent Residents By Immigration Bureau, Ministry of Justice

A new residency management system began in July 9, 2012, where resident cards are now required. You need to exchange your alien registration certificate for a resident card no later than the following dates, irrespective of the period for the exchange stated in your alien registration certificate.

Persons aged 16 and over as of July 9, 2012 -> By July 8, 2015
Persons younger than 16 as of July 9, 2012

Persons 16 years of age before July 8, 2015 -> By the 16th

birthday

Persons 16 years of age on or after July 9, 2015 -> By July 8, 2015

Applications are open so please try and visit your closest Immigration bureau as soon as you can. For more information please visit the official website of the Immigration Bureau of Japan or the following PDF:

<http://www.immi-moj.go.jp/english/keiziban/pdf/150331-3.pdf>

**For Permanent Residents
(Immigration Bureau, Ministry of Justice)**
You need to exchange your alien registration certificate for a resident card no later than the following dates, irrespective of the period for the exchange stated in your alien registration certificate.

- Persons aged 16 and over as of July 9, 2012
→ **By July 8, 2015**
- Persons younger than 16 as of July 9, 2012
 - Persons 16 years of age before July 8, 2015
→ **By the 16th birthday**
 - Persons 16 years of age on or after July 9, 2015
→ **By July 8, 2015**

Offices are expected to be very crowded immediately before July 8, 2015.

Exchange applications are already being accepted.

* Persons younger than 16 as of July 9, 2012 whose 16th birthdays fall on the deadline for the exchange must file applications for renewal of the validity period during the 6 months preceding their 16th birthdays.

Applications should be filed at the relevant Regional Immigration Bureaus or their branch district immigration offices (excluding those at airports).

Further information is available on the Immigration Bureau's website:

<http://www.immi-moj.go.jp/keiziban/pdf/kirikaenoosirase.pdf>

Recipe Corner By Aparna Matale

Now spring has started. Let's cook something healthy and easy. Here's another way to use tofu and wheat flour to add amazing taste and extra proteins into your diet. It is delicious and satisfying.

Tofu Paratha or Chapatti

Preparation time: 45 min.

Ingredients:

Silken Tofu – 200 gram
Salt – 1/2 tsp.
Cumin powder – 1/2 tsp.
Red chili powder – 1/2 tsp.
Oil – 1 tbsp.
Wheat flour – 1 1/2 cup (250 gram)
Curry powder – 1/2 tsp.
Butter

Method:

1. Drain the liquid from the tofu and put it in a bowl.
2. Mash well with hands.
3. Add salt, cumin powder, red chili powder, oil and mix well together.
4. Add in wheat flour little by little and make a nice soft dough.
5. Smear a couple of drops of oil and coat the dough and allow to rest for 30 minutes.
6. Divide the dough into small balls and roll them by using a rolling pin and make a small chapatti.
7. Put the chapatti on a frying pan and roast them properly. Each chapatti will take 2 minutes to roast.

8. Apply butter on each chapatti.

Tip:

While rolling the Chapatti use some dry wheat flour for dusting so the dough will not stick to the pin, which makes it easier to roll them.



Rain, Flower, and Music: Interview with Chimanaco

By Jenifer Tanikawa

Formed in August 2012, Chimanaco, a three member all-girls band, has been steadily gaining momentum. On October 2013, they released their self-produced CD, "Ame, Satsuki" (雨、五月) and last month, on April 8th, they released their first-ever mini album, "whiteout," nationwide under a record label in Tokyo.

At the end of last year, I met up with these girls to talk about their experiences and life as a band.

Bandou (B) – Bass guitar, backing vocals

Setsuco (S) – Lead guitar, lead vocals

Kyamada (K) – Drums, backing vocals

How did the 3 of you come together?

S: Well I was already in a band with Kyamada, I only provided the vocals then and Bandou was in her own band. When we graduated high school, both bands disbanded. I went off to university in Kyoto but dropped out after 2 months. I came back to Tokushima but I literally had nothing to do. That's when I was asked to join a band, but at that point it was just Kyamada and I. We even practiced in a

studio once, but we didn't do live performances or anything. Actually, now that I think about it, around that time we used to just hang out at a friend's house, playing around with instruments, and that was about it. The band we were in then was called "Shizen ni Kaere" (自然にかえれ returning to nature).

K: Brings back memories.

S: And it was that friend who taught me everything about guitar (I didn't know how to play the guitar before that). I borrowed their guitar and practiced, but eventually we really did return to nature. After that, Bandou joined the band and the three of us came together.

Why did you decide to start a band?

S: I've always wanted to be in a band for one. But since junior high school I've always wanted to do something different, or rather, I wanted to become successful, whether it was a band or not, I just wanted to do something big. But, it wasn't like I could play an instrument or anything and I was really in turmoil about what to do, and in the end I realized being in a band is what I really wanted to do. And I've felt that way since high school.

K: I've always played an instrument so I've always wanted join a band.

B: Well I was in a band that did covers and had never done anything original so that's why I wanted to be in a band where we made our own music and I slowly began to aspire to reach a higher level.

Did you meet any opposition in regards to your decision?

S: Well for myself, I had dropped out of university and had nothing to do so I told my parents, "I want to play in a band for the rest of my life." My parents had paid for my university education and all, and I was indebted to them, but it wasn't like I could do anything, so that's when



Interview with Chimanaco

I told my parents that I'll join a band and succeed. My parents encouraged me and told me that if I was gonna pursue this, that I would have to give it my all. It was almost like they were telling me they wouldn't accept anything but success when it came to the band.

K: I'm actually currently working as a hairdresser. My parents want me to pursue a normal life but I've been really thinking about things lately, and I really just wanted to do what I really wanted to do. I don't want to regret anything. So I'm in

the midst of persuading them.

B: My parents didn't quite disapprove but they told me to do the band as a hobby on the weekends and otherwise to

find a job where I would have a steady monthly income as a full-time employee and receive a bonuses at the end of the year. Up until now, I had just followed a safe path my parents had



paved for me and I had believed that if I followed this path, things would go well. My desire to be in a band was the first time I really expressed what I really

wanted to do. But my parents told me, if I really want to be in a band, I had to live alone. So I moved out and told them I'll do what I can for myself. But it's not like they are mad at me or anything, if I go home to visit they'll still give me lots of vegetables to take home. It was more like, if there was something I really wanted to pursue, I didn't want to cause them any trouble because I would be coming home at 2 or 3 am in the morning and might wake them up.

K: I guess the reactions from our parents are quite

different.

The interview will be continued in next month's Issue.

Great Actors and Actresses

By Shinobu Watari

To our dear native English teachers,

The musical, "Anna and the Snow Queen," was performed exceedingly well and you brought pleasure to the people of Tokushima at six theaters and towns. Your performances were wonderful. All of the young people and their parents enjoyed the play and was able to learn English in a fun way. Tokushima

Shimbun praised, "we cannot praise AJET's selflessness enough. The performance was commendable." The musical incorporated locations and things unique to Tokushima into their scenes, including Mt. Tsurugi and tanuki (raccoon dog). People felt a sense of closeness to the play and the familiarity made it easier to understand the English. AJET's musical has contributed much

to the English education in Tokushima Prefecture. All of you spent much time preparing the play, creating the different scenes and the theatrical costumes. We really felt like we were watching a professional production in the theaters. We are looking forward to watching the musical next year.

Best wishes,
Shinobu Watari

TOPIA Staff Welcome Messages

By Liu Dian, Naoko Miyamoto, Naomi Fukumi

Naomi Fukumi

Hello everyone, my name is Naomi Fukumi and I am the new multilingual support staff at TOPIA. I've lived in Shanghai, Beijing, Nantong, and Qiqihar in China. While I was living there, I was faced with various day to

day problems, but despite these problems, I was lucky enough to be surrounded by really nice and helpful people. And because of them I was able to enjoy my life in China and I gained many valuable experiences.

the people around me, I want to try and provide all the help I can give to everyone so that they can fully enjoy their life in Tokushima. Whether it be in Japanese, Chinese or English (I'm really sorry but English isn't my strong suit), please feel free to come by and chat with me!

Naoko Miyamoto

Hello everyone, my name is Naoko Miyamoto. I'm a junior high school teacher, but I had the chance to start working as a trainee at TOPIA. The main

Just as I was supported by all part of my job is to dispatch lecturers to school to foster international understanding. I'd like many students to learn about other foreign countries, cultures, and the endemic folkways. I would be honored

if I could learn many things while providing support I'm very excited to work here and I'm looking forward to learning and meeting many wonderful people. Nice to meet you!

Liu Dian

Hello everyone, my name is Liu Dian (刘 点) and I am the new Coordinator for International Relations from Xiangtan, Hunan Province, China. I am honored to have the opportunity to work for Tokushima Prefecture and at the Tokushima Prefectural

deeply ingrained in my memory and are all things that I will treasure forever. I decided to apply for the JET Program as I wanted to see more of Japan and experience more of its nature and culture and that is what brought me to Tokushima Prefecture, a prefecture blessed with the beauty of nature. It's my first time visiting Tokushima,

so I am very much looking forward to my new job and life here. I hope that I can meet and get to know many local people through international exchange events and I would also like to experience some of Tokushima's unique traditional cultural heritage, like the world-famous and very passionate Awa Dance. I truly believe that

International Exchange Association (TOPIA) from April onwards. When I was in university, I studied overseas in Shizuoka Prefecture, Japan for 2 years. All of the nice people I met and everything that I have learned in school and from my part-time job in Japan, are all



From left to right: Naoko Miyamoto, Naomi Fukumi and Liu Dian

interactions with various cultures is what really enriches cultures. I will do all that I can to help deepen the ties Japan has with China through the sister city exchange Tokushima has with Hunan Province.

Events & Memoranda

Participate in the Japanese Speech Contest 2015

1. **PURPOSE** True internationalisation cannot be achieved without first coming in touch with other cultures and ways of life, fostering a sense of international awareness and gaining mutual understanding with people of the world to create a society in which we can all work and live together in harmony. This speech contest seeks to give a voice to the international residents of Tokushima Prefecture and engage them in a dialogue to further discourse on cross-cultural understanding and fostering multiculturalism.
2. **DATE & PLACE** July 20th, 2015 (Monday/Holiday), 13:30 - 16:30
Awagin Hall (Tokushima Prefecture Kyodo Bunka Kaikan)
Small Hall (5F)
3. **ELIGIBILITY** Only foreign residents whose native language is not Japanese are eligible to apply. (However, foreign residents who have had over three years of compulsory education in Japan and those who have previously won the Grand Prize or the Tokushima Prefectural Assembly's Chairman of the Federation of International Exchange Assembly Members Award are not eligible to apply.)
4. **SELECTION** Application will be open to all foreign residents of Tokushima Prefecture that fulfil the eligibility requirements. We will ask all applicants to submit an outline of their speech (between 800 words), and after reviewing all of the applications, roughly 10 or so applicants will be chosen to proceed to the final contest.
5. **THEME** The topic is left to your discretion, but it should relate to the event's purpose of fostering cross-cultural understanding and multiculturalism.
6. **LENGTH** Speeches should be no more than 6 minutes in length.
7. **AWARDS** Grand Prize --- one person (Prize: 50,000 yen gift certificate)
Runner Up Awards --- two people (Prize: 30,000 yen gift certificate)
Special Awards --- to be decided (Prize: 10,000 yen gift certificate)
Special Effort Award --- to be decided (Prize: 5,000 yen gift certificate)
*All participants will receive a participation award.
8. **HOW TO APPLY** Please fill out the application form available at TOPIA and mail it to the above address or fax it to the above number. Alternatively, you may submit your application in person.
9. **DEADLINE** June 1st, 2015 (Monday)
Applications must be turned in by 17:00.
10. **SPONSORED BY** Tokushima Prefecture International Exchange Association (TOPIA)
11. **CO-SPONSOR (TBA)** Tokushima Regional Conference for Promotion of Student Exchange
12. **WITH THE SUPPORT OF (TBA)** Tokushima International Association (TIA)
Awa Bank
Tokushima Bank
13. **ADDITIONAL SUPPORT FROM (TBA)** NHK Broadcasting, Tokushima Bureau, JRT Shikoku Broadcasting, FM Bizan, FM Tokushima, Tokushima Newspaper
14. **WHERE TO APPLY** Tokushima Prefectural International Exchange Association. (TOPIA)
〒770-0831 Tokushima-shi, Terashima-honcho, Nishi, 1-61,
Tokushima Clement Plaza 6F
TEL: 088-656-3303 FAX: 088-652-0616
Application forms can be found online at:
<http://www.topia.ne.jp/english/docs/2015031600035/>



Events & Memoranda

Workplace Japanese Course Japanese for Those Seeking Employment 就職のための日本語講座

期間： 5月18日（月）～7月13日（月）

週5回（月曜日～金曜日）

時間： 9:30 - 12:30

場所： ヒューマンわーくぴあ徳島 4階（徳島市
昭和町 3-35-1）

内容： 中級日本語講座、仕事のマナー講座

受講料： 無料

※但し、テキスト代は別途必要

定員： 12名（定員になるまで受け付けます）

詳細： URL <http://tokushima-rofuku.net/>

主催： 公益社団法人徳島県労働者福祉協議会

TEL： 088-625-8387

Kamiyama Onsen Festival 神山温泉まつり

There will be many fun events at the annual Onsen Festival, including a rice cake making event, Ningyo Joruri Puppet Theater performance, Amego fish catching event for children, and much more!

When: May 24 (Sun) 10:00-16:00

Where: Kamiyama Onsen Resort Center/Hotel Shiki no Sato Honuetsuno Jinryo, Kamiyama-cho, Myozai-gun

Fee: Free

Info: Kamiyama Onsen Festival Planning Committee

TEL: 088-676-1117

毎年恒例の温泉まつりです。餅つき体験・人形浄瑠璃の上演・あめごつかみ取り（対象：小学生以下・無料）など、多種多彩の催しがあります。

日時： 5月24日（日）

10:00-16:00

場所： 神山温泉保養センター・ホテル四季の里
名西郡神山町神領本上角

料金： 無料

問合せ： 神山温泉まつり実行委員会

TEL: 088-676-1117

Mt. Tsurugi Big Clean-Up Event / 剣山クリーンアップ大作戦

Just as we did last year, we will be cleaning up Mt. Tsurugi! Last year, Mt. Tsurugi celebrated 50 years since it was designated as a Quasi-National Park and considered to be one of Japan's top 100 mountains.

When: May 17 (Sun)

Starts at 11:00

Where: Meet at the parking lot near the chairlifts at Minokoshi

Fee: Free

Info: Mima City Tourism Association

TEL: 0883-53-8599

※ On April 29th (Wed), Mt. Tsurugi had their official opening ceremony for the year. Now that the hiking trails, chairlift, and businesses are open, enjoy a fun day of hiking and take in the beautiful view as you climb to the top.

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.

Everyday, 10:00 - 18:00 (closed during the New Year's holidays)

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