

# awa life

In this issue:

***Giant Kites*** in Naruto  
Japanese Lesson

September 2015  
# 302

*Shamisen and Bells  
and Drums! Oh My!*

**Kamiyama** Artist in  
Residence



## 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)**

Tokushima Prefectural International

Exchange Association (TOPIA)

Clement Plaza 6F

1-61 Terashima Honcho Nishi

Tokushima City 770-0831 JAPAN

<http://www.topia.ne.jp/>

[topia@topia.ne.jp](mailto:topia@topia.ne.jp)

tel: 088.656.3303

fax: 088.652.0616

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Use Tokushima's Free Wi-Fi service anywhere you see these flags! → →

Accessible in 112 places throughout Tokushima!

For more information: <http://tokushima-wifi.jp>



### Editors:

Jenifer Tanikawa & Till Dumke

### Contributors This Month:

David Moreton, Kazue Inoue, Toshiko Yamamizo, Till Dumke, Jenifer Tanikawa, Brandon Bollom, Keizo Konishi



# Contents

Pg. 2-4:	Two Attractions of Naruto City – Whirlpools and Giant Kites
Pg. 4:	A Letter from Suketo Nakayoshi
Pg. 5:	Shamisen and Bells and Drums! Oh My!
Pg. 5-6:	Kamiyama Artist in Residence: A Local Take on Art
Pg. 6:	Tokushima Cable Television Experience
Pg. 7:	Japanese Lesson
Pg. 8-11:	Events and Memoranda

## *Two Attractions of Naruto City – Whirlpools and Giant Kites*

By David C. Moreton

Naruto city, in the north-eastern part of Tokushima prefecture, was formed in 1947 by uniting Muya town, Okazaki port, and some surrounding islands. Today, Naruto has a population of about 60,000. Most visitors to Naruto come to see the amazing whirlpools in the Naruto Strait, either up close from a boat or from a boardwalk called Uzu no Michi that was constructed under the bridge that connects Shikoku and Awaji Island. For hundreds of years people have written about the whirlpools in books or have drawn paintings of it. One of the earliest references was made by a German naturalist and physician, Engelbert Kaempfer (1651-1716) in 1690. He wrote, "...The whirlpool looks frightening, but it is not considered dangerous because with its terrifying sound audible from afar it is easy to

avoid...." Later when Henry Tristram (1822-1906), an English clergyman, visited Tokushima in 1891 he wrote. "One day was spent in a delightful expedition along the coast to Muya, a large straggling town twelve miles off ... to the celebrated Straits of Naruto. A party of six, we started each in a kuruma drawn by two men, pulling tandem. It was a lovely ride.... It was a lively scene ... we found ourselves at Naruto, one of the lions of Japan. Here the tide coming up the Inland Sea meets the tides from the north." Nowadays hundreds of thousands of people from around Japan and around the world come to see the whirlpools and to visit other sites in the Naruto area, including the Otsuka Art Museum, Otani pottery studio, and Temple 1, Ryozenji and Temple 2, Gokurakuji along the Shikoku pilgrimage route.

However, I would like to draw attention to another significant attraction of Naruto, which at its peak in popularity attracts more than 50,000 people every year. This is a giant-kite flying event, which is referenced in some tourist materials published in English. For example, an eleven-page pamphlet entitled "Shikoku", produced by Japan Tourist Bureau in 1936, states, "Apart from the industrial view-point, Muya has an attraction all its own - giant kites borne on the gale in summer at the beaches. The biggest of these



*Whirlpools and Giant Kites*

kites measures more than sixteen meters in diameter and weighs about 4,000 kilograms. It takes 200 adults, it is said, to fly each kite.” In 1947 a similar pamphlet was published with a similar description, “Kite flying is a No. 1



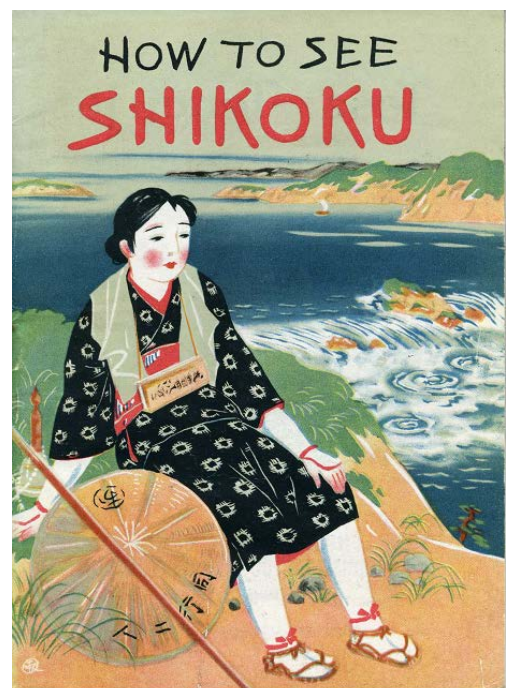
attraction in the annual calendar of Naruto.... The flying season is in July and August when the strong wind prevails.” Then the “Japan – The Official Guide,” published in 1961, states, “An interesting annual kite-flying festival was formerly held in Naruto City. It originated more than 200 years ago at the time of the reconstruction of the main hall of Rengeji Temple.... More than 1000 kites ... were flown.” Unfortunately there is no mention of the event in either the 1966 or 1975 guidebooks on Japan or any time after that.

Fortunately Japanese source materials provide more information about these kites and the history of this event. One reference states that these circular kites called Wan Wan Dako (わんわん凧) originated in 1692 when the framework of the new main hall of Rengeji (蓮花寺) was completed. The master carpenter, to celebrate the work on the temple, made a circular kite like a round (wan) bowl with fifty sheets of paper each

measuring 32cm X 47cm. After this there are no references to the kites until the early 1900s, and later in 1934-1936 when so many people wanted to see the 100+ giant kites flying that a temporary bus service was set up to transport people between Muya train station and Oote beach where the event was held and businesses in town closed for the day in order to allow everyone to go. During World War II the event was not run and despite efforts made after the war to revive the event and despite a surge in interest in kites during the 1960s, interest slowly dissipated and it was stopped. However, in 1999 a 26-meter diameter kite was built as an attempt to get it recognized as the World’s Largest Kite for the Guinness Book of World Records. In 2008 an eight-meter kite was constructed and flown and in 2010, this tradition was designated as an Intangible Folk

Cultural Property. Smaller events have been held since then, for example, on January 1, 2013, 2014 and 2015 a 3 to 4-meter kite was made and flown to celebrate the coming of the New Year, but only about 100-150 people attended.

Then in 2014 students at Naruto high school received help from members of the Naruto Large Kite Preservation Group (鳴門大凧保存会) to create a three-meter kite. While kite-flying events and workshops on how to make mini wan-wan kites are still held by this Preservation Group, the scale of the event continues to decrease because the group members are elderly and there are few who know how to make these giant kites.





## Whirlpools and Giant Kites

Here I have described two very different attractions of Naruto – one tangible and one not; one formed by nature, one formed by man; one that will always exist, one that might not. Both deserve our attention to be preserved for future generations to enjoy.

### References:

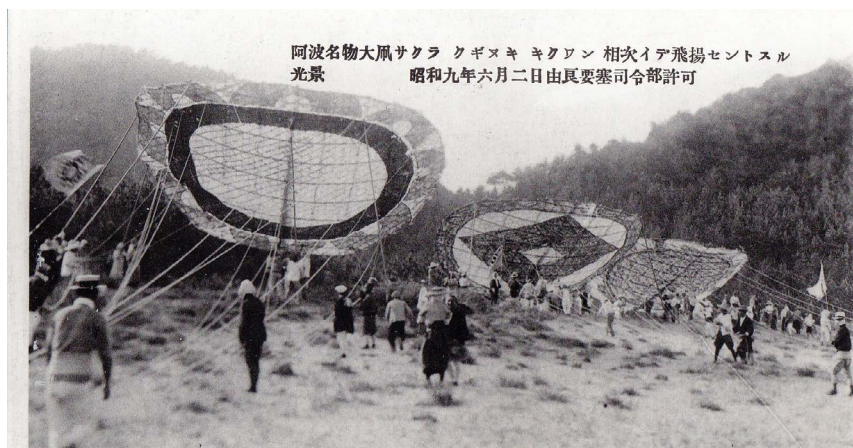
1. Article about tourist sites in Naruto:

[http://japan-magazine.jnto.go.jp/en/1504\\_naruto.html](http://japan-magazine.jnto.go.jp/en/1504_naruto.html)

2. Information in Japanese about the kites:

<http://www.naruto-bussan.jp/jibasan/wanwan/>

[http://www.city.naruto.tokushima.jp/koho/html/2010\\_10/wanwan.html](http://www.city.naruto.tokushima.jp/koho/html/2010_10/wanwan.html)



## Letter from SUKETO NAKAYOSHI

By Kazue Inoue (Center for Early Childhood Education and Care SUKETO NAKAYOSHI)

I hope you are doing well in this hot weather, which will continue on for a while. Have you experienced a lack of appetite or found that you get tired easily because of summer fatigue? Apparently food that is high in vitamin C like summer vegetables (tomato, green pepper, eggplant, pumpkin, etc.) and food high in protein like fish, meat, eggs and soy products will help you recover from exhaustion faster.

As we are approaching autumn, we will soon be able to harvest some delicious autumn crops. For example, autumn is the spawning season for salmon. Salmon is high in protein, lipids and vitamins. I also highly recommend sweet potatoes as they are high in vitamin C which helps build your immune

system and is also great for making your body more resilient against diseases (potatoes will only lose a bit of vitamin when it is cooked). As well, mushrooms are a great source of vitamin B1, which helps increase your appetite, and they are also a great source of vitamin B2, which helps promote growth.

There are many fresh and delicious crops during autumn. I encourage you all to stay energized by eating lots of healthy food.

### \* \* This Month's Craft \* \*

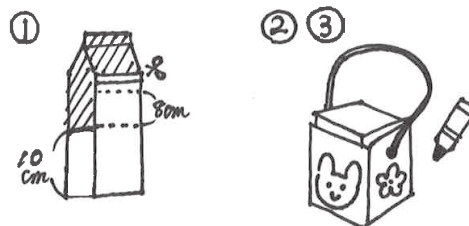
#### Milk Carton Basket

#### Materials

Milk carton  
Scissor  
Strings  
Permanent marker

#### Directions

- 1) Cut off the last 10 cm of a 1000 ml milk carton (but do not cut off it completely, make sure you leave the top portion attached for one side of the carton as it will function as the lid of the basket).
- 2) Cut holes on either side of the carton so that you can attach a handle made of strings on it.
- 3) Draw your very own design on the side of your basket to decorate.



## Shamisen and Bells and Drums! Oh My!

By Jenifer Tanikawa

Along with the warm summer heat comes the wave of anticipation of the long-awaited dance festival, Awa Odori – Japan's biggest and the world's second biggest (after Rio de Janeiro's Carnival) traditional dance festival.

For the 35th year, the Arasowa-ren dance troupe hit the streets of Tokushima on the night of August 14th. Approximately 250 participants from over 15 countries and 2 regions danced through the City Hall Stage and the Aibahama Stage. As with other years, the Yasaka-ren and the NTT West Japan-ren

provided support to Arasowa-ren in terms of music and dancers. This year, Mr. Kumagai, the President of the Tokushima Prefectural International Exchange Association (TOPIA) cum Vice Governor of Tokushima prefecture, also joined us.

The Arasowa-ren participates in this cultural event every year as part of TOPIA's initiative to promote cultural exchange through Awa Odori. Originally

started to promote a peaceful society with no war, the Arasowa-ren has been carrying on this very message for 35 years.



## KAIR: A Local Take on Art

By Jenifer Tanikawa

As with many rural towns in Japan, Kamiyama, located amongst the mountains in the center of Tokushima Prefecture, is dealing with the problem of a shrinking and aging population.

Much spotlight has been shone on regional revitalization as a possible solution to such problems. In particular, Kamiyama has been taking on many creative initiatives to fight against the ever decreasing and aging population and these new projects have been breathing in new life into

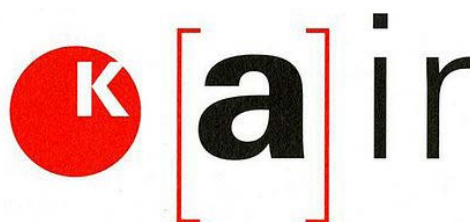
this humble town of about 6,000 people.

All of the new initiatives taken have one thing in common – they capitalize on the fact that Kamiyama is located in a beautiful natural surrounding and on the warmth and hospitality of the local people.

And with these new initiatives, whether you are an IT specialist

or an artist, there is something for everyone.

Many large companies located in metropolitan areas are opening up satellite offices in Kamiyama. The appeal being, a peaceful environment to work in without the busy commute yet still having access to services pertinent to their work such as a high-speed Internet network.



Another major project that is being undertaken in this little town is the Kamiyama Artist in Residence (KAIR) Program. KAIR is a self-

## KAIR

supported, volunteer-run program focused on creating art and culture in this town. The program was established in 1999 with the hopes of inviting artists to Kamiyama to experience rural living and working with the locals to create art projects. Since its establishment, 57 participants have been invited to Kamiyama from both inside and outside of Japan. This year 4 more participants from three different countries will be joining this beautiful town as a temporary resident for two months from September to November.

Since the start of the program to now, KAIR has been joined

by artists from 19 countries and regions, and this year Krišs Salmanis from Latvia, Claire Healy and Sean Cordeiro from Australia, and Quynh Vantu from the U.S were chosen out of 160 applications and will be making art in Kamiyama over the next few months.



Not only are they there to create their own art, but they will also be working closely with the

local community by holding workshops, participating in cultural events and holding open studios.

Through the artists' close interaction with the local people and by being fully immersed in the natural environment, we hope that their unique work will be infused with a taste of Kamiyama. Their finished artwork will be displayed during early November.

Access: 60 minutes by local bus from JR Tokushima Station or 40 minutes by car.

For more information, please visit: <http://www.in-kamiyama.jp/en/art/>

## *Watch Me Being Awkward on TV (Tokushima Cable Television)*

By Till Dumke

Last month I was asked by Cable Television Tokushima to appear in their show "A World" to experience Tokushima from my (foreigner's) perspective while being filmed and interviewed. I decided to explore was the famous Awa-Indigo dying technique. So I went to the so called Ai no Yakata (The House of Indigo), where I learned about the rich history of the indigo dying tradition and also had a hands on experience of dying something as well. After hearing about the history of indigo I advanced to dying a piece of cloth myself. I chose a pattern and continued to dye



my handkerchief according to the instructions of the nice lady onsite. By submerging the crumbled up cloth into the indigo bath repeatedly I created a nice pattern on it. During the process of dying it appeared more brownish green than blue which is due to the residue of the outside of the leaves in the solution. After rinsing it

out under clean water only the beautiful deep blue dye remains on the textile.

If you feel like seeing me awkwardly fumbling around trying to figure out what to do with my hands while talking and struggling to not look weird in front of the camera please tune in on one of the following airing dates.

Cable Television Tokushima (111ch, the 11 on your remote control)

**September 6th – October 3rd**  
**Mondays** 11:30 – 11:45, 18:00 – 18:15, 22:30 – 22:45  
**Saturdays** 19:15 – 19:30  
**Sundays** 13:30 – 13:45



# Japanese Lesson

By Toshiko Yamamizo

This month's Japanese lesson will teach you how to use the grammatical form “～そう”.

「雨が降りそうです。」と「雨が降るそうです。」の違いが分かりますか。  
この二つの言い方の違いについて学習しましょう。

- A (空を見上げて)「わあ、ずいぶん曇ってきましたね。」  
B「あっ、ほんとう、雨が降りそうですね。」
- A「明日、海へ泳ぎに行くんだけどいっしょに  
行きませんか。」  
B「ええ、でも明日は、天気予報では雨が降る  
そうですよ。」  
A「そうですか。じゃ、来週の日曜日に行き  
ましょう。」  
B「ええ、ぜひ。」



A B

The “～そう” in the first sentence is used to describe what the speaker has seen or felt or to state their predictions while stating their own opinion as well. (Situation)

The “～そう” used in the second sentence is used when the speaker is trying to relay something he/she has heard about or learnt about to a third person. (Heresay)

動詞「～そうです」の文の作り方

( 様態 ) Vます形+そうです

- 例文 1、あつ、荷物が落ちそうです。  
2、一番上のボタン、今にも取れそうですよ。

( 伝聞 ) V普通形+そうです

- 例文 1、天気予報によると今日の夕方ごろ、台風が徳島に近づくそうです。  
2、うわさでは、田中さんは来月結婚するそうです。

練習問題：内容を考えて、適当なものを選んでください。

- 天気予報によると、今年の夏は、猛暑が(A. 続き B. 続く) そうです。
- あの木見て。風で(A. 倒れ B. 倒れる) そうですよ。
- おにぎり一つしか食べて来なかったの、お腹が(A. すき B. すく) そうです。
- 今、電話があつて、田中さんは30分くらい(A. 遅れ B. 遅れる) そうです。
- この様子では、仕事は5時に(A. 終わり B. 終わる) そうもありません。



# Events & Memoranda

## Tokushima Prefecture Disaster Prevention Center Study Tour

The importance of preparing for the Great Nankai Trough Earthquake expected to hit Tokushima is only increasing. If the earthquake occurs, what will you do? The Tokushima Prefectural Government, in conjunction with the Tokushima Prefectural International Exchange Association (TOPIA) is proud to announce a study tour for foreign residents at the Tokushima Prefectural Disaster Prevention Center to provide information on what to do in case of a natural disaster.

During the tour you can experience earthquakes, strong winds and more via simulation, as well as learn about what to do when a disaster occurs.



**Date** : Sunday, September 13, 10 : 30 ~ 13 : 00

10 : 30 – Leave Tokushima Station by bus for the center

13 : 00 – Arrive back at Tokushima Station by bus

**Location** : Tokushima Prefectural Disaster Prevention Center (Kitajima-town, Tainohama Aza Onishi 165)

**Target** : Foreign Residents in Tokushima Prefecture

**Details** : Disaster prevention guidance via video, simulation of strong winds / earthquakes, fire fighting and disaster control exercises (English and Chinese Interpreting)

**No. Places** : 30 people

**Cost** : Free

**Applications** : Please fill out the form below and send in by fax to the address at the bottom of the form. You can also apply by sending the same information by email or postcard.

**Deadline**: September 8th (Tuesday)

Name			Gender	M · F
Address				
TEL		Nationality		
E-Mail Address				
Name of Union/Occupation				
Workplace Address				

Applications to:

**FAX**: Tokushima-ken Kokusai Koryukyokai FAX (088) 652 – 0616

**Email**: coordinator1@topia.ne.jp

**Postcard**: 〒 770-0831 Tokushima-shi Terashima Honcho Nishi1-61 Clement Plaza 6F  
Koekizaidan Hojin Tokushima-ken Kokusai Koryukyokai (TOPIA)

**Contact**: TOPIA (Kimura) TEL (088) 656-3303



# Events & Memoranda

## Japanese Classes 2015 Term 2 Schedule

- ◇ Classes are from 10:30-12:00 and will be held in the meeting rooms at TOPIA
- ◇ We will be using the "Minna no Nihongo I" or the "Minna no Nihongo II" (2<sup>nd</sup> edition) textbooks (2,700 yen for the book and audio CD). As well, there will be themed lessons on various topics such as seasons and life in Tokushima.

DAY	TEACHER	LEVEL	CLASS DESCRIPTION	
TUE	Ms. Motoki	Elementary 2, 3	We will study various forms and expressions such as potential, volitional, imperative, prohibitive, conditional, reasoning, passive, causative, and honorific expressions. Text: Minna no Nihongo II – from Chapter 26~50	From 9/8 (25 times)
WED	Volunteers	Group Lesson	This is a flexible group study class split up in different levels. *For parents of young children, a childcare worker will be on hand to look after your child during the lesson (please inquire in advance). Due to unforeseen circumstances, the rooms may change.	From 10/7 (20 times)
THU	Ms. Yamada	Beginner	We will take the first step towards learning basic expressions. Text: Minna no Nihongo I – from Chapter 1	From 10/1 (20 times)
FRI	Ms. Aoki	Elementary 1	We will study various verb forms and sentence patterns using those verb forms. Text: Minna no Nihongo I – from Chapter 14	From 10/2 (20 times)
SUN	JTM	Elementary 3	We will study reasoning, passive, causative and honorific expressions. Text: Minna no Nihongo II – from Chapter 38	From 10/4 (20 times)
	Volunteers	Group Lesson	This is a flexible group study class split up in different levels.	

\* Please register for Group Lessons at least a day before class (if you do not sign up in advance and show up on the day of class, we may not be able to find you a group to study with). As the number of groups are limited we may not always be able to form a group that fits your level.

\* If you are unable to attend class, please call and let us know.

THU	Ms. Kimura, Ms. Miyamoto	Special Beginners Class	A class for those who cannot read or write hiragana or katakana. We will study the basics such as, the Japanese alphabet, greetings, numbers, and items. We will also be learning about Tokushima.	You may join at anytime
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2 sessions during October/ November	Ms. Motoki Ms. Aoki	Intensive (2 days)	A 2 day intensive class to review materials covered in the elementary and intermediate level. The class will focus on conversational Japanese needed for daily life so you can better communicate with your coworkers and neighbors. We will post more details around October on our official website.
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1. Location Tokushima Prefectural International Exchange Association (TOPIA)  
6F Clement Plaza, 1-61 Terashima Honcho Nishi, Tokushima City 770-0831  
TEL: 088-656-3303 FAX: 088-652-0616

2. Fee All classes are **free** this year (we would like to provide Japanese lessons to as many people as we can).  
Classes may be cancelled due to inclement weather such as typhoons, heavy rain, or snow. Please confirm by calling TOPIA at 088-656-3303.

- ◇ Japanese classes are also available at the Anan International Association, Aizumi Town International Exchange Association, Yoshinogawa International Exchange Association, and NPO Mima no Sato
- ◇ Please visit TOPIA's Japanese Classes page on our official website for more information (available in Japanese, English and Chinese).

## Events &amp; Memoranda

## Ningyo Joruri Tokushima-za with Tomosuke-kai 人形浄瑠璃とくしま座 with 友輔会

Seminar: Continuing on the tradition – Thinking of Awa-naru

Performance: Keisei Awa no Naruto – Pilgrimage Song Scene

For more information: <http://joruri.info/jurobe/>

When: September 13 (Sun) 15:30-17:00

Entrance fee: General admission 410 yen, high school/university students 300 yen, elementary/middle school students 200 yen

Venue: Tokushima Prefectural Awa Jurobe Yashiki  
TEL: 088-665-2202

Organizer: Tokushima Prefecture General Local Traditions and Culture Promotions Committee

○ セミナー：伝統の継承「阿波鳴を考える」

○ 公演：「傾城阿波の鳴門 順礼歌の段」

浄瑠璃の言葉の美しさや、リズムカルな語りと三味線に、人形の繊細な動きが合わさって実現する「人形浄瑠璃」の世界！一緒にたのしみませんか。

詳細：<http://joruri.info/jurobe/>

日時：9月13日（日）15:30 - 17:00

入場料：一般 410 円、高大 300 円、小中 200 円

会場：徳島県立阿波十郎兵衛屋敷

TEL：088-665-2202

主催：徳島県地域伝統文化総合活性化委員会ほか

## Kitagawa Outdoor Puppet Stage 北川農村舞台

This outdoor Ningyo Joruri puppet theater stage is located in Kito, Naka-cho, which is on the border of Kochi and Tokushima. With its location in the deep reaches of the mountain, there is an air of mystery and magic surrounding the stages. There will also be a small local products market.

When: September 27 (Sun), 13:00~

Where: Hachiman Shrine, 18 Funadaniguchi, Kito-Kitagawa, Naka-cho, Naka-gun

Admission Fee: Free

Info: Naka Town Office – Kito Branch

TEL: 0884-68-2311

高知県との県境に位置する那賀町木頭にある農村舞台。人里から高く離れた山奥で見る農村舞台は神秘的であり、幻想的です。ミニ物産コーナーもあります。

日時：9月27日（日）13:00 ~

場所：那賀郡那賀町木頭北川字船谷口 18  
八幡神社境内

入場料：無料

問合せ：那賀町役場木頭支所

TEL: 0884-68-2311

## Shishikui Hachiman Shrine Festival 宍喰八幡神社祭り

On Saturday, there will be various stalls set up at night. On Sunday they will be doing ceremonial events involving portable shrines at 10:30, and danjiri carts and small boats from 14:00.

When: September 26-27 (Sat-Sun)

Where: Shishikui Hachiman Shrine  
Kubo, Kaiyo Town, Kaifu-gun

Fee: Free

Info: Kaiyo Town Tourism Association

TEL: 0884-76-3050

日時：9月26-27（土日）

9/26（土） 夜店

9/27（日） 午前 10:30 ~ お神輿お浜出、14:00 ~  
だんじり・関船が出ます。

場所：海部郡海陽町久保  
宍喰八幡神社周辺

料金：無料

問合せ：海陽町観光協会

TEL: 0884-76-3050



# Events & Memoranda

## Oki Shrine Festival (Motonei Fireworks Festival) 沖神社祭（元根井花火大会）

2000 fireworks will light up the sky by Motonei Fishing Harbor.

When: September 12 (Sat)

Where: Oki Shrine, Motonei, Komatsushima-cho,  
Komatsushima City

Info: Komatsushima Fisheries Cooperative  
Motonei Branch

TEL: 0885-32-3521

元根井漁港より約 2000 発の花火が夜空を美しく彩ります。

日時：9月12日（土）

場所：小松島市小松島町字元根井 沖神社

問合せ：小松島漁協元根井支所

TEL：0885-32-3521

## Information Regarding Japanese Classes 日本語クラスのお知らせ

Japanese Classes for Caretakers (will be held in Tokushima City) and Japanese Classes for Individuals Seeking Employment (held in Anan City and Mima City) will begin in September. Come and join our classes!

For more information, please check either <http://tokushima-rofuku.net/> or the Japanese Classes page on TOPIA's official website.

Organizer: Tokushima Prefecture Labor and Welfare Council

介護の日本語講座（徳島市）と就職のための日本語講座（阿南市＆美馬市）が9月より始まります。ぜひ一緒に勉強しませんか？！

詳細：<http://tokushima-rofuku.net/> か TOPIA ホームページの日本語教室サイトをご覧ください。

主催：公益社団法人徳島県労働者福祉協議会  
TEL 088-625-8387

## Information on the National Population Census 国勢調査のお知らせ

As of October 1, 2015, the Japanese government will be conducting a Population Census. All people residing in Japan, regardless of nationality are required to complete this survey.

Your responses will not be used in any way for immigration control, police investigations or other such purposes.

From around the beginning of September, Population Census Workers will be visiting all households to distribute information on how to fill out the Census forms.

The forms will be available online as well.

*Statistics Bureau, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications Tokushima Prefecture*

## 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)