

# awa life

December 2015

# 305



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## 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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## Multilingual Signage at Bunka no Mori

By Jenifer Tanikawa & Till Dumke

Have you ever stepped foot in a museum, absolutely in awe with everything on display, but not being able to fully appreciate everything because you couldn't read the labels or captions. For museumgoers, visiting museums of the places they are visiting can be an exciting experience as you can often learn about the local history, culture and art. The only catch is if you can't understand the local language, the experience might not be the same as those who can.

The Tokushima Bunka no Mori Park, a multi-purpose facility consisting of a library, museums, park area and more, is providing a creative and modern solution to this problem.

As of October 3, 2015, visitors to the three museums, the Prefectural Museum, the Torii Ryuzo Memorial Museum and the Modern Art Museum,

can now access the multilingual descriptions of the items on display via their smartphones, tablets and feature phones by simply scanning the QR code placed by the exhibit.

How does this system work? It only requires 3 easy steps:

- 1) Connect to the Tokushima Free Wi-Fi service available throughout the entire building.
- 2) Use a QR Code reader on your smartphone, tablet or feature phone to read the codes set by each exhibit.
- 3) Read and gain more insight into each exhibit (available in Japanese, English, Korean, Simplified Chinese and Traditional Chinese).



Unfortunately, not all exhibits have multilingual descriptions but, 44 exhibits at the Prefectural Museum, 10 exhibits at the Torii Ryuzo Memorial Museum and 60 exhibits at

*Bunka no Mori*

the Modern Art Museum have multilingual displays.

Not only can you choose between the five languages, you can also adjust the size of the text that is displayed for easy reading.

Another advantage to this system is that you no longer have to stay glued to the labels and captions to read the information. You can step back and read the descriptions while you take in the exhibit in its entirety.

Other initiatives they are taking to make the museum more accessible are: providing multilingual signage, multilingual pamphlets and tactile



boards. Initially created for those who are visually impaired, the tactile boards provide all visitors with a more interactive experience of each exhibit, by allowing visitors to feel what is on display.

Bunka no Mori is working hard to create a “universal museum” where everyone can have an enjoyable museum experience. If you

get the chance, make your way on over to test out the system for yourself and spend a day immersed in art, culture, history and nature.

## ***KAIR 2015 Exhibition*** By Jenifer Tanikawa

In the September issue of *Awa Life*, we gave a brief introduction of the Kamiyama Artist in Residence (KAIR), an international art project that began in 1999. With 57 participants from 19 countries participating to date, this year four artists from three countries joined the Kamiyama community to become a temporary resident from August through November.

On Saturday, September 26th, I was fortunate enough to have the opportunity to attend the Open Atelier event in Kamiyama, where we had the chance to learn more about each artist and hear about what they were planning to create in Kamiyama. And, I was also able to see their ideas come to fruition at the exhibition that took place from October 25 to November 3.



### ***Quynh Vantu (US)***

Quynh is an artist and architect from Richmond, Virginia. She has a degree in architecture but decided to pursue art as she yearned for the more creative and hands-on aspect of it. Many of her past works have dealt with the

idea of art intersecting architecture and how social interaction is affected by spatial conditions.

For her work in Kamiyama, she was inspired by her trip around Japan before arriving in Kamiyama. In particular, she was drawn to entryways and wood used in Japanese houses. For the project in Kamiyama, she created a structure made of wood, similar to the work she created in Denmark, with an engawa or veranda where people can freely move through the different wooden spaces.

## KAIR

**Claire Healy and Sean Cordeiro (Australia)**

Many of their past works involved the act of taking apart a preexisting structure and putting it back together in a different location, while fitting into a certain parameter, as well as assembling accumulated objects.

For their project in Kamiyama, they decided to take a Honda car apart and package it up in traditional Japanese packaging. Their installation looks at the lifecycle of the object within a consumer culture. Once you set foot in the Yorii-za theater, you will see the various pieces of the chopped up car pieces bundled in natural fiber and laid out on the floor “pointing towards the obsolescence of the automobile and a possible hunter gatherer future trajectory for humanity,” as worded by the artists.

**Kriss Salmanis (Latvia)**

He employs many art mediums and forms, such as animation, video, photography, objects and many more. As an example of his past work, he created a time lapse video of a barn being built from scratch in the countryside of Latvia. The video follows the barn from its beginning to its end, where it eventually co-



llapses to the ground. He has also worked on music videos before for a Norwegian band.

When he first arrived in Kamiyama, he was faced with a major problem – everything was just too exciting! Every new item or place he saw and experienced was more interesting than the other and so he just couldn’t stick to one location to work on his art project. He eventually settled on Ski Land as his filming location. In the film about time, you can see a monster walking through different spaces in Ski Land. For this project, he collaborated with the puppet theater folks to make the puppet.

The 2015 KAIR exhibition is now over, but there are many permanent exhibitions on display in and around Kamiyama all year round, so if you are

interested, stop on by Kamiyama to see some interesting art and spend some time in a warm and welcoming community. Kamiyama is accessible by car or bus, or if you are feeling extra ambitious you can bike there as well. KAIR takes place around the same time each year, from August to November, so jot it down in your calendar so you don’t miss it next year!

**Letter from SUKETO NAKAYOSHI**

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

**D**espite the drastic drop in temperature lately, I hope you are all still doing well. The flu and cold season will soon be upon us so make sure you fight against the flu and cold bugs by properly washing your hands and gargling.

This month, I wanted to talk about chewing. Chewing involves the process of breaking food down into small pieces so that it is easier to swallow, and by allowing the food pieces to mix with saliva, it will help with digestion. Furthermore,

as more saliva is released, the cleaner your mouth will be. Chewing is also interlinked to other development processes, such as the development of the chin, which is linked to language development. By chewing properly, it will help with the development of taste buds. Moreover, chewing will help stimulate the brain.

Especially for children between the ages of 1 1/2 and 2 years old, it is considered to be the “critical period for chewing”, where it becomes even more



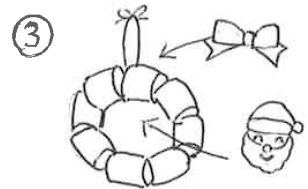
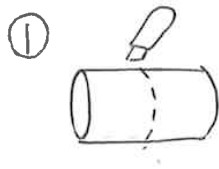
important to obtain proper skills for chewing and swallowing food. For children who are having a hard time learning how to chew properly, a good tip is to figure out the right amount of food that they can swallow in one go and give them food little by little. Another tip would be to vocally say "chew, chew and swallow" as your child is in the midst of it. So overall, the best thing to do is to eat together with your child and foster a proper chewing habit.

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

#### Christmas Wreaths

##### Materials

- 4 toilet paper rolls (just the cardboard core portion)
- Utility knife or scissors
- Colored paper, cloth, ribbon, etc.
- Glue



- String
- Other decorative materials

##### Directions

- 1) Cut 4 toilet paper rolls in half, width-wise.
- 2) Wrap colored paper, cloth, ribbon or any other material of your choice around the toilet paper rolls that you cut in half and glue it on.
- 3) String all 8 pieces of the roll together and form a big loop (make sure you leave enough of the string at the top to hang on a wall).
- 4) Decorate the center of the wreath by adding a handmade Santa Claus figure or decorate with a ribbon.

## A Whirlwind Tour of Naruto

### By Niall Higgins

In October I got the chance as a foreign resident to go on a free Tokushima Prefecture guided tour to Naruto. The purpose of the tour was to promote tourism by getting feedback on the tourist experience from a fresh perspective. I was itching to go to Naruto so I jumped at the prospect of a free guided tour with lunch provided (did I mention it was free?). One hastily scribbled in application form completed and sent in just before the deadline later, I was waiting to get on the tour bus on a sunny Sunday morning. Upon getting on the bus we were given a tour package which included our schedule for the day.



First up were the Naruto whirlpools. I was really looking forward to finally seeing them in the flesh; they were one of the few things I knew about Tokushima before I arrived here. They didn't disappoint. We took a double deck sightseeing boat, the Wonder Naruto, out onto the sea, getting as close as we could possibly get. The whirlpools were incredible. All around were massive swirls of water and great white foam as far as the eye could see, crashing and rising. You wondered how the boat could avoid being swept up in the roaring vortex below. At one point we were all ushered onto

## Tour of Naruto



one side of the boat, presumably for health and safety reasons. We even saw what looked like a pirate ship! Thankfully no-one fell in and our boat returned safely to the harbour.

Next we took the tour bus to a seaweed processing plant to learn how they process seaweed. Our guide showed us how to cut seaweed and told us all about his operation; from how seaweed is planted to how it gets to market. The seaweed farmers in that region not only farm but also handle the processing, distributing and selling of the seaweed. We got to try the cutting part ourselves, using our hands to remove the stems from the seaweed. It was a very interesting experience. Coming from Ireland, where we have lots of seaweed but don't particularly use it, I was amazed to learn how seaweed in Japan is a veritable industry, with multiple products made from the same crop. The plant itself looked like any other small scale food processing operation; crates, refrigerators and farm machinery were scattered about. We bid goodbye to our guide, and he gave us a bag of wet seaweed to take home with us.

The bus drove on to the Uzu no Michi Walkway, which is an enclosed walkway underneath the Onaruto Bridge directly overlooking the whirlpools. There we got another chance to see

the whirlpools and take pictures (as well as use the free Wi-Fi). You can see the straits by looking out from both sides and the 'pools can be seen through glass windows set in the floor, which is really cool. There's also an observation room at the end of the promenade.

We stopped nearby for lunch, which was a tasty bento with miso soup and tea. After lunch we visited Ryozenji Temple, which is the first temple in the 88 temples pilgrimage trail. Our tour guide told us that she felt close to our group, for one of her children was currently studying abroad and she understood how our mothers felt. She explained many things to us, such as why people wash their hands before entering the temple and the meaning of various statues. It's a beautiful temple with a calm, serene atmosphere. I'd love to visit it again as our time there was short.

Next up was a visit to a temple of a different kind; a sake distillery. Leaving the non-believers and conscious objectors behind, we entered an old building which was used for brewing in times gone by. Inside it was cold and dark with industrial style lighting. Crates and tankers lay on the ground while there were metal pipes running along the ceiling. Our guide told us about the history of the building and showed us how sake is made. We even got a glimpse of the fermentation in progress. At the end of the tour we got the chance to sample some of the sake made there, of both the alcoholic and non-alcoholic variety. I tried the non-alcoholic amazake myself, which has a deliciously nutty taste.

Our final stop was to the Otani Pottery Drawing Experience. We entered a shop jam-packed with pottery bowls and vases and made our way to the back of the store, where the pottery is made. Here we drew a design of our choosing on a pottery plate, first in pencil and then in dyed pen. The plates were later finished in one of three shades. Being not particularly artistic, I spent a lot of time panicking over what to draw before eventually deciding to engrave my name with a simple pattern.

Overall I thoroughly enjoyed the experience and would highly recommend Naruto! There's lots to do and the whirlpools in particular are a must see.

## Speech Constests - Winning Speeches

By Lexie Githinji and Hiroya Sakurama



The High School English Speech Contest run by the Japan Association for International Education was held for the 35th time this year on August in Chiba Prefecture. Lexie Githinji, a third year student from Tokushimakita Senior High School came in second place in this national competition and took home the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports and Technology Award.

Content with her results, she also mentioned that the competition was truly a great experience as she was able to enter such a high level competition and hear so many different speeches. In the future, she hopes to be able to assist those who are in need of help around the world, including tackling the issue of global food problems.

Here is her winning speech:

### ***Don't Judge a Book By Its Cover***

Lexie Githinji

Have you ever been judged based on your appearance? Skinny, fat, black, white, and so on. Have you ever been told you fit a certain stereotype or that you don't? I have. And today I would like to share some of my experiences.

Growing up I was the only foreign kid in my neighborhood, which led people around me to assume a lot of things about me. My friends assumed I was a fast runner, I was, so, my friends would call me "lady Bolt" as in the lady version of Usain Bolt, which wasn't so bad, except there

were faster kids in my school. But one day a girl told me that I looked "very hard to approach" because I looked like a gangster which I thought was odd since I was only twelve. I believe all these assumptions were made based on what the media portrays as "black people culture"; like rappers and basketball players. I felt sad that people could be led to believe something about somebody so easily.

When I entered junior high school, I met an Australian girl – Anna; my best friend. At that time, we were learning about the South African apartheid. "Whites can never get along with Blacks" someone wrote. So I had this image of her that was based on other people's perception. But once we started talking I came to realize that we had so much in common. We both liked playing sports and listening to the same kind of music. We understood each other. The sad part about this was, now I was the one making assumptions. With so many people brought up in different environments, we are bound to have differences.

In today's world there are so many people who have different beliefs, religions, life styles and customs. Sometimes these lead to misunderstanding and conflicts. Everybody is different and unique in their own way. In order for us to live in harmony, we need to avoid making these assumptions. Without doing that we will never truly be able to understand each other. And if we can't understand each other, it will surely lead to persecution and war, and not a peaceful world.

For, "If all the wild flowers were the same kind, would we have Roses, Sunflowers or Daisies?" But they are not, and that's a good thing. It's what makes the nature beautiful."

What if we all sang the same song, in the same tune, in the same words, would you regret never having heard Beethoven, Enka or The Opera?

Imagine all the world was made up of one race, one people, one culture. We'd miss out on knowing the fun Americans, the happy-go-lucky Italians, the hardworking Japanese. But variety, diversity is what makes the world interesting. We travel to other countries to experience their way of



## Winning Speeches

living. Why? Because, it enriches our lives.

No, the world is better not because of what we know, what we are comfortable with, but, because of the unknown, and our willingness to learn.

It is our human responsibility to stop judging, to stop presuming, to stop being afraid. We need to open the book and read, not why Christians and Muslims or Buddhists are different, but why their similarities make us stronger. One People, One World. United; not in fear of the unknown, but despite it. For as Aesop said "Divided we fall,

Senior high school students from around Tokushima Prefecture recited their English speeches at the 69th Tokushima Prefectural Senior High School English Speech Contest held on October 11th at the Education Hall in Tokushima City.

Coming in at first place was Hiroya Sakurama, a 2nd year student at Wakimachi Senior High School. Within his winning speech titled, "Embracing Differences," he spoke about the need to "keep challenging ourselves to always learn more and to abolish our preconceptions so that we will see the world in a truer, more positive light." As the world becomes more and more globalized, interactions will increase with people from all walks of life around the world. To prepare the future generation he says that young generations need to take initiative and educate themselves, accept values and to embrace the differences.

He will be representing Tokushima at the Shikoku round of the competition on December 5th. With the help of his teacher, Noriko Kanaoka and Stephanie Sherman, we had a chance to talk to Hiroya about the speech contest.

**How did you feel when your name was called? Were you nervous during your speech?**

I was excited when my name was called. I wasn't nervous while giving the speech because that was my 3rd time joining a speech contest.

**What helps you relax before a competition?**

I usually go to a convenience store to get relaxed.

**Are you superstitious? Did you do anything for luck before the competition?**

I ate tonkatsu, meaning "to win," on the day before the competition.

United we conquer."

As I look into the future, I hope that, my experiences will drive me forward to be a better person, a better human being. One willing to open the book and read and not judge a book by its cover.

Ladies and gentlemen, judges and fellow students, thank you for giving me this opportunity to stand here before you and share this experience with you.

**How did you prepare for the Tokushima competition and how are you going to prepare for the competition in December?**

I practiced after school every day for about a month. My teacher, Stephanie, helped me with pronunciation. For the Shikoku competition, I will practice harder so that I can pronounce like Stephanie.

**Have you ever been abroad? Is there anywhere you would like to visit?**

No, I have never been abroad. I'd like to visit many countries.

**What are your future aspirations?**

I haven't decided what exactly I want to do in the future yet, but I'd like to work internationally with people from different countries.

**How do you feel going into the Shikoku Speech Competition?**

Thanks to the support from a lot of people around me, I was given the chance to join the Shikoku Speech Competition. So, I will try my best to go on to the National Competition.

He has a very bright future ahead of him so a big congratulations to Hiroya and the very best of luck!



If you were to be in a situation where you have to make a request to someone who is in a higher position than you, how would you proceed? Especially if your request is giving the person receiving the request more work to do, you need to be careful with the expressions that you use. This month we will be looking at how to smoothly make a request. Please look at the example below.

Mr. A has finished writing up a report (報告書) that he has to submit to the higher ups but just to make sure there are no mistakes, he wants to ask Mr. B (who is in a higher position than Mr. A) to check it for him (間違いがないか見てもらいたい). However, Mr. B looks like he's got a bit of work to do.



Get their attention	A: あの、すみません。
Preamble	A: ちょっとお願いがあるんですが、今、お時間よろしいですか。
	B: はい、いいですよ。何ですか。
Reason	A: 明日報告書を提出しなければならぬのですが、ちょっと自信がないので、
Soften the request	もし可能でしたら、間違いがないか見ていただけないでしょうか。
	B: いいですよ。じゃ、ちょっと見せてください。
Apologize	A: お忙しいところすみません。
Thank	ありがとうございます。
Emphasis	よろしく願います。

So what did you think? To reiterate, Mr. A wants to ask Mr. B to check his report to ensure there are no mistakes (間違いがないか見ていただけないでしょうか). In order to smoothly make a request, you can cushion the request between phrases that show Mr. A's consideration for Mr. B or by explaining exactly why he needs the request done.

### Exercise

あなた (A) は今、会社にいます。熱が出て体調が<sup>とても</sup>悪くなったので、お昼休みに<sup>早く</sup>退社することにしました。しかし、午後、お客さんが大事な書類を持ってきます。( ) の中に言葉を入れて、先輩の B さんに、代わりに書類を預かって<sup>おいて</sup>くれるよう頼んでください。

You (A) are at work. You are starting to get a fever and you are not feeling well so you want to leave work early from about lunchtime. However, a client will be bringing over important documents in the afternoon. You need to ask Mr. B to receive the documents on your behalf, so fill in the brackets ( ) to complete the request.

A: ① ( ) 。

B: はい。

A: ちょっと体調が悪くて早退しようと思います。

B: それはいけませんね。お大事に。

A: はい。それで、午後、お客さんが書類を持ってくるので、(②) 、 。

B: わかりました。いいですよ。

A: (③) 。

Reference 『中上級学習者のためのブラッシュアップ日本語会話』

③ ありがとうございます。お忙しいところすみません。  
② もし可能でしたら、代わりに書類を預かっていただけないでしょうか。  
① あの、すみません。今、お時間よろしいですか。

Answer (Example)

# Events & Memoranda

## International Understanding Support Forum 国際理解支援フォーラム

今回のフォーラムでは、海外の日本企業での勤務経験をもつ後藤隆三氏の講演、また、当協会に登録している在県外国人国際理解支援講師（ケニア・カナダ）によるプレゼンテーション、その後の交流会を通して、さらに多文化への理解を深めましょう。入場は無料です。

日時：12月6日（日）13時30分～16時20分

場所：徳島県国際交流協会（TOPIA）会議室、クレメントプラザ6F

\*The lecture and presentations will be conducted entirely in Japanese; however, if you would still like to join in just for the networking and socializing event, you are more than welcome to. For more information please check: <http://www.topia.ne.jp>.

## Let's Go to Imabari! 今治へ行こう！

The Tokushima International Association (TIA) is taking a one-day bus trip to Imabari City in Ehime. We will visit the Asahi Breweries Shikoku Factory, then to a perfect spot to look out over the Imabari Shipbuilding site, then lastly the Towel Museum Ichihiro. Please apply by telephone or e-mail to the TIA office. Only the first 45 applicants will be accepted.

Date & Time: December 13 (Sun), 8:30 (meet at TIA) - 19:00 (finish at TIA)

Fee (adults and children): TIA members and foreigners - 1,500 yen; Non-members - 3,000 yen

\*A separate entrance fee of 800 yen is required for some facilities at the Towel Museum, so visiting those areas is optional.

Lunch: Bring lunch (recommended) - food can be purchased at the Ishizuchi-yama Service Area (SA).

Schedule: TIA (8:30) --> Asahi Breweries (10:30-12:30) --> Lunch at Ishizuchi-yama SA (12:00-13:30) --> Imabari Shipbuilding (14:15-15:15) --> Towel Museum Ichihiro (16:00-17:00) --> TIA (19:00)

For more information please contact the Tokushima International Association:

TEL: 088-622-6066; E-mail: [info@tia81.com](mailto:info@tia81.com)

## Bizan, the Nightscape and LED Christmas Lights 眉山と夜景とクリスマス LED イルミネーション

LED Christmas lights will be adorning Mt. Bizan, where you can enjoy both the illumination and the Tokushima City nightscape. Night fees for the ropeway is 610 yen for a return ticket.

LED クリスマスイルミネーションが点灯されます。徳島市の夜景と、イルミネーションのコラボレーションをお楽しみください。ロープウェイ夜間運転の期間中は、往復 610 円でご利用いただけます。

When: LED lights December 1 (Tue) to 25 (Fri) from 17:00-21:00

Ropeway (night service) December 19 (Sat) to 24 (Thu) from 17:30-21:00

Where: Mt. Bizan (Tokushima City)

開催期間: LED イルミネーション点灯 12 月 1 日 (火) から 25 日 (金) 17:00-21:00

ロープウェイ夜間運転: 12 月 19 日 (土) から 12 月 24 日 (木) 17:30-21:00

場所: 徳島市 眉山山頂



# Events & Memoranda

## German Christmas Market ドイツクリスマスマーケット

Christmas markets are a winter tradition in Germany. There will be lots of sweets, wine, sausages, knick-knacks and many other items on sale that you would normally find at a Christmas market in Germany.

When: December 12 (Sat) 14:00-20:00

December 13 (Sun) 14:00-19:00

Where: Multi-purpose Hall

Asutamuland Tokushima

Admission fee: Free

Info: L-mnd

TEL: 088-679-8850

ドイツでは冬の風物詩として知られるクリスマスマーケット。会場には、実際にドイツのクリスマスマーケットで親しまれるお菓子やワイン、ソーセージ、雑貨などがたくさん並び、販売されます。

日時：12月12日（土）14:00-20:00

12月13日（日）14:00-19:00

場所：多目的ホール

あすたむらんど徳島

入場料：無料

問合せ：L-mnd（エルムンド）

TEL: 088-679-8850

## Exhibition: Things that Connect Germany and Japan ドイツと日本を結ぶもの

This exhibition will be showing you everything about the 150 year friendship between Japan and Germany.

When: December 9 - January 24

Where: Naruto German House

**Admission: 400 yen for adults, 100 yen for elementary to middle school students\***

\*There was a mistake in the fee in the paper-version, we apologize for any confusion.

日独修好 150 年の歴史。この企画展示では、政治や外交面だけでなく、文化や学問なども含め、幅広い観点からあなたの知らない日独関係をひもといてみたいと思います。

場所：鳴門ドイツ館 **※入館料：大人 400 円、小・中学生 100 円\***

日時：12月9日～1月24日

\*紙媒体に記載しておりました入館料に誤りがありました。上記のとおり訂正いたします。

## J.TEST: Test of Practical Japanese 実用日本語検定

Test Date: January 17 (Sun)

Test Sites: Tokyo, Nagoya, Osaka, Kobe, Fukuoka

Application Information

You can sign up online, by mail or at select bookstores in Tokyo or Osaka.

Application deadline: December 16 (Wed)

Test Fee: 3,600 yen

\*The January test date is for the A-D Level Test (intermediate to advanced level) and E-F Level Test (beginner level)

For more information visit: <http://j-test.jp/>

試験日：1月17日（日）

開催地：東京、名古屋、大阪、神戸、福岡

申込み手続きについて

お申込みはインターネット、郵便、書店（大阪、東京）のどちらかで。

締切：12月16日（水）

受験料：3,600 円

\*1 月には A-D レベル試験（中上級向け）・E-F レベル試験（初級向け）を実施します。

詳しくは：<http://j-test.jp/>

## 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)