Ma Whe August 2016

Awa Odori Tokushima 2016 Poster (Issued by the Tokushima City Tourism Association)

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2016 Tokushima Prefecture Japanese Speech Contest: Winning Speech

Behind the Scenes of the 2016 Tokushima Awa Odori Poster

Awa Shoku: Pike Conger, Summer's Scary-not-scary Delicacy



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

Awa Odori season is here! For the last few months, Tokushima's night air has been colored by the sound of drums, flute, bells and the shamisen as Awa Odori dance groups ("ren" in Japanese), practiced day in and day out for the big event, and now the actual festival is around the corner. In a matter of days, the streets will be filled with the excitement of the dance!

For all of those who like writing, please feel free to submit an article to us at any point in time about basically anything. There are a few limitations though, such as you can't write about religion, politics, commercial activities or businesses or anything that we deem inappropriate. But, other than that, we would be more than happy to receive articles about anything and everything including but not limited to, concerts, lectures, other events, culture, sports, community group information or anything cool that's happening in your local community.

We highly appreaciate all of your articles and we love reading them. So if that writing bug of yours is buzzing about, grab a pen or a computer and write and send away! Please send all submissions to our email:

awalife@gmail.com!

Your editor, Jenifer

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

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



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Tokushima Prefecture Japanese Speech Contest Winning Speech by Lin Lin

The Tokushima Prefecture Japanese Speech Contest was held on Sunday, July 10th at the Awagin Hall. Eleven contestants from four countries, including China, Vietnam, Indonesia and Brazil, took to the stage to present their speeches. The topics ranged from language and cultural differences to realizing one's dreams.

Here is a list of the top five winners of the speech contest:

Grand Prize: Lin Lin (China)

Tokushima Prefectural Assembly International Exchange Federation – Chairman's Award:

Wang Ju Mei (China)

Runner Up Awards: Xu Peng (China), Bruno Ribeiro (Brazil), Chen Yue (China)

This year, Lin Lin from China won the grand prize for

her speech, "Becoming a Mother in Japan." Please read on for a translation of her winning speech.

Becoming a Mother in Japan

ello everyone, my name is Lin Lin. Last year in May, I gave birth to my first child and



became a mother. There may be many mothers out there in the audience today and of course, men who cannot bear a child. But we are all here today because of our mothers. So, please listen to my speech while keeping that in mind. Today, I would like to share with you all my thoughts and feelings since becoming a mother in Japan.

First of all, I would like to talk about the differences that I felt between China and Japan regarding how mother's spend their time after giving birth. When I gave birth, my mother came over from China to help me out. In the northern part of China where I was born and raised, there are a set of beliefs that are followed a month after birth, based on Chinese medicine. For example, you can't go outside, you

can't read for a prolonged period of time, you can't be exposed to the wind, you can't eat anything cold, and so on. Another example is you can't come in contact with water, so it's not all too rare to find mothers who refrain from taking a shower or washing their hair for up to a month after giving birth. In Japan, it's normal for mothers to spend about a week in the hospital then go back to their everyday routine. As for myself, I took a shower the day after I gave birth. There were cold salads and yogurt with the meals served at the hospital. When my mother saw this, she was shocked and told me, "You can't eat that! If you do, you won't be able to produce breast milk," and scarfed down all of my cold food. I pushed these postpartum Chinese beliefs that my mother went on about into the corner of my mind and went with the "When in Rome, do as Romans do" belief and had a nice

and comfortable postpartum

life.

Next, I would like to touch on child rearing. Before coming to Japan, I had always thought that in Japan, women always became a housewife after marrying. In reality, there are more and more women who put their child into nursery schools and work. A recent trend in Japan is "ikumen," or men who help with child rearing, but overall, it is still the women who takes

care of the child. On the other hand, in China a dual income household is the norm; however, as there are not many nursery schools that will look after a child that is under the age of two, many people will either hire a babysitter or have the grandparents look after the child. Once my mother returned home, it was a start of a new life with our child for my husband and myself. I was in the midst of doing research for my doctoral program, so we tried to apply for a nursery school, but we were put on a waiting list. While we were waiting for a spot to open up in a nursery school, with help from the Tokushima Family Support Center, we were able to have our child be looked after.

which helped put our minds at ease. Furthermore, through our child, we were able to make new friends and I am very thankful for that.

From pregnancy to birth, I can truly say that I felt protected by the Japanese society. For example, during my early stages of pregnancy, I received a maternity sticker and a parking pass, which were both very helpful. I was also able to get check-ups for free and was given financial assistance for the fees incurred at childbirth. All of the assistance I received were so kind and helpful. I was also met with a lot of warmth from the strangers around me. A clerk at a supermarket helped pack all my purchases into a bag and helped carry it to my car. The words the clerk said to me in parting, "It might be tough, but keep going," made me really happy. Other happy words that I received were

> from my neighbor. Everytime she saw me, she would tell me, "If you ever need help, let me know, I'll come running over." All of these experiences put me at ease knowing that I could raise my child in such a great environment and it made me feel really happy.

> Tokushima will continue to be my home and I will continue to be a part of this society for years to come. My Japanese husband and I are hoping to raise our child so that he

is familiar with both the Japanese and Chinese culture. In the future, I do hope that children from intercultural marriages, like with my husband and I, will grow up to be globally-minded individuals that will act as a bridge between Tokushima and the rest of the world. Only after becoming a mother, did I begin to hold dreams like this. So, I have a favor to ask all of you. Please create a good environment in Tokushima where we can all accept people from a variety of backgrounds and learn to respect and help each other and ultimately create a place where we can all live and grow together. This is what I think is of utmost importance in Tokushima.





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Behind the Scenes of the Awa Odori Poster An Interview with Atsushi Nii and Takaaki Fujimoto

Lassociation creates a poster to promote the Awa Odori (Awa Dance) Festival held from August 12th to 15th annually. This month, I sat down with Atsushi Nii (N), a professional copywriter, and Takaaki Fujimoto (F), a professional designer, both of whom have been involved in the creation of the poster for many years.

How and when did you get involved with creating the Awa Odori posters?

N: From the poster that was created in 2011.

F: So from 5 years ago.

N: The poster design changed from around the same time as well. We have been helping out here and there for a while now but 2011 is when it really changed.

F: Up until 2003, the posters were all made internally by the Tokushima City Tourism Association. In 2003, they decided to enlist the help of designers and so that's when I started to get involved. When we were discussing what to do the following years, I suggested getting JAGDA, the Japan Graphic Designers Association, involved, and they agreed. Two years after, we got a group of creators for the purpose of promoting and supporting the Awa Odori. That's when Mr. Nii got involved. So this group was in charge of creating the posters for a while. From about 2011, the tourism association began using photos chosen from a photo competition.

N: So the competition was open to the public. During the time the posters were made internally, the tourism association used photos taken by professional photographers. From 2011 onwards, we began using photos from the public that was chosen through a competition. So, the individuals who submit photos could be anyone from a complete amateur who just loves awa odori to a professional photographer.

So what are the exact processes of making this poster?

N: We're both involved from the part where they select the photo. The Awa Odori Planning Committee makes the final decisions, but we do have a bit of input as well. Once the photo is



Atsushi Nii and Takaaki Fujimoto

chosen, I write the slogan for it and Mr. Fujimoto designs the poster.

Where do you get the ideas for your slogans?

N: It's a very logical process. Anyone who sees the poster can see that it's a photo of awa odori. I want the slogan to act as an extra push for those people who knows what awa odori is and make them want to see the dancers more or make them want visit Tokushima more.

For the longest time, the Awa Odori posters didn't have a slogan. That's probably because it didn't need a slogan. So, from my standpoint as a copywriter, I thought about what purpose the slogan should serve. The slogan shouldn't be an explanation of the photo, but the words should make it stand out more and entice people more to awa odori. So I basically consider the photo and the given theme and run with it. Of course part of it is instinctual but it's more or less a logical process.

How is the layout put together?

N: He (Mr. Fujimoto) has to work with the entire space and figure out the layout. Of course we normally only see the end product where the photo and the words are laid out in place already. But there's a long process and well calculated thought behind every detail that goes into the placement of the items in that space. For example, the words can be arranged anywhere on the page and in any way like vertically or horizontally, the size can be different, and it can be arranged in any possible combination. But in a good design, everything falls perfectly together when you see the final product.

original.

Awa Odori Poster

Anything you are particular about in terms of design?

F: Because of the way that the older posters were made, the font size for the word "Awa Odori" was quite large. When I really thought about it, I wondered why the word "Awa Odori" was so large when it was pretty obvious just by looking at the picture that it was of awa odori. That's why I decided to make that smaller and make the slogan bigger so there's more of a contrast with the "Awa Odori" text and the slogan. A poster is only a single sheet of paper but it's a powerful communication tool. I really thought about things like, what words were the first to jump into your sight when you looked at the poster. I can understand Mr. Nii's thoughts and feelings put behind the slogan as well, so I also try to respect that.

Do they give you any guidelines of what they want?

N: No, we are more or less free to do what we want. But, there is one thing that they ask us to keep in mind. Awa Odori has been catching fire around Japan, and various areas have developed their own Awa Odori, like in Koenji and Koshigaya. In Tokyo, there may be people who believe that the Awa Odori in the kanto area is the real one and the one in Tokushima isn't. From the point of view of the organizing committee in Tokushima, they want us to promote the fact that the Awa Odori in Tokushima is the original. For example, they tell us they want it to say "Tokushima Awa Odori" just like the other places are "Koenji Awa Odori" and "Koshigaya Awa Odori." But from how we see it, because we don't write anything in conjuction to "Awa Odori," we are the original. We sell it for what it is because we are the original. Just like how the font for the text "Awa Odori" is

small as well, we don't need to go out of our way to say that its awa odori because it's obvious when you see it and it proves that we are the

F: If you look at the 2013 poster, you can see the outline of the mountains. Nowhere else in Japan can you close off major streets to do this festival like we do in Tokushima. It's not an explanation, we just want people to see it and feel it.

N: My top priority is to think about how the



2013 Poster

audience will perceive the poster. We really think about the poster from the citizen's point of view to think about what makes it good and what doesn't.

Putting our attention onto this year's poster (see cover photo), can you tell me more about it?

N: So a direct translation of the slogan would be "beautiful two-beat." But that's not exactly what I'm trying to say. Back in the days, "beppin (別 品)" used to refer to a high-quality, extraordinary item, different from everything else. But overtime it became an adjective associated with beautifl woman (別嬪). Looking at the root of the word, it refers to both men and women and was used to describe something that was extraordinary and unlike anything else. For the layout, I asked that the word "beppin" and the "nibyoushi" (two-beat) be in one line. I didn't want people to read it and think that it meant a beautiful woman. I wanted to refer to the beauty of the beat or the rhythm of the dance, so it's not just about a beautiful woman dancing.

Letter from SUKETO NAKAYOSHI

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

In Japan, summer is pool season! The kids at our nursery school go out and play their hearts out in the pool almost every day. Spending time in a nice and cool pool, away from the hot summer heat has its perks as well – kids can get just the right amount of exercise and they can get a good

night's rest! With all this sleep and exercise, I'm sure that they will have grown a lot bigger and stronger by the end of summer.

This month, I would like to introduce some good tips for getting your kids to go to the bathroom on





Suketo Nakayoshi

their own (potty training).

- 0 to 1 years old: If your child is crying out of discomfort, make sure you quickly tend to them! A great tip is, when you are changing their diapers, say things like "so nice and clean" or "doesn't it feel good" in a gentle voice. By expressing to your child how great it feels to have a fresh new diaper, you can help them remember the feeling as well.
- 1 to 2 years old: Once they start going to the washroom every 1 1/2 hours to 2 hours, you can start potty training! Start by getting them to sit on the toilet more often. A great tip for this is, try putting up things like your child's favorite picture on the wall they are facing when they sit on the toilet. If they get the timing right and go to the toilet while they are sitting on it, try showering them with praise.
- 2 to 3 years old: Once your child can start going to the washroom when they feel the urge to go, they will begin telling you that they need to go and start going by themselves. Once they can successfully do this a few times, it's time to make the changeover from a diaper to wearing underwear! As kids get easily distracted and immersed in playing, they will accidentally go in their pants from time to time. Around this age, they will also begin developing a strong sense of not wanting to fail and shame. If your child or a child around you accidentally wets themselves, try

to be understanding and deal with it in a very calm manner, so as not to make the child feel bad.

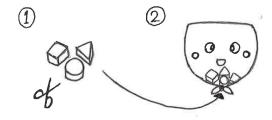
Handmade Toys: Ghost Balloon

Materials

Colorful sponges, scissors, clear plastic bag, and circle stickers.

Directions

- 1. Cut up sponges of various colors into different shapes, like triangles and circles. (Make sure it's big enough so your child doesn't accidentally swallow it.)
- 2. Decorate a clear plastic bag with circle stickers to create a face. Fill the bag with five to ten pieces of the sponge that you cut in step 1 then tie up the end of the bag at the handles to close.
- *There's lots of different ways to play, such as throwing and hanging the bag, taking the sponges out and putting it back in and etc.!



Goodbye Message By Jenifer Tanikawa

Three years in Tokushima has come and gone in the blink of an eye. When I first learned that I would be moving to Tokushima Prefecture to work for the Tokushima Prefectural Government as a Coordinator for International Relations (CIR), I had no idea where Tokushima was, or even Shikoku for that matter. I hurriedly looked it up on Google map and was both surprised and horrified that I would be living on a small, rural island, away from the mainland. But I soon realized that I was oh so wrong, as Tokushima was not small nor that rural, and was connected relatively well to many parts of Japan via ferry, train, bus and plane. I instantly fell in love with this prefecture and its people, and Tokushima is a place where I can call home.

As a CIR in Tokushima, I had the chance to experience and learn so many things and, I met so many people from all over the world and all walks of life. One of my most memorable experiences as a CIR was creating a promotional video for Tokushima with The Foundation for Kansai Region Promotion. I had the chance to plan the entire itinerary with the help of my colleagues and scripted the entire video (video can be seen here: www.youtube.com/watch?v=IV2uc_AQodM). Overall, this job was a highly gratifying and interesting one as a lot of the materials I helped translate or check would actually be used, such as on a poster or in a pamphlet and so on! I have gained so many valuable skills on this job and am

(Continued on page 8)

Japanese Lesson By Takako Yamada

^{ていねいたい ふっうたい} 丁寧体と普通体(1)

This month, we will be learning how to use the polite style and informal style. 今月は、丁寧体と普通体について学習しましょう。

The polite style is what you usually learn when you start Japanese lessons. It is used when writing or talking to someone older, superior, or unfamiliar to you, or in formal occasions. Meanwhile the casual style is used when talking to close friends or family, or writing diaries, etc.

Casual style is used which taiking to close interiors of fairing, of whiting dialies, etc.

にほんご &た かたちっか ていねいたい ふっうたい
日本語には2つの形を使った丁寧体と普通体という2つの文体があります。日本語の勉強を始めると、
さいしょ
最初は「~です」「~ます」などを使った丁寧な表現を学習します。丁寧体は、手紙、目上の人やあま
した いた かいわ つか ふっうたい にっき か しんぶん き じ した
り親しくない人などとの会話などで使われます。普通体は、日記などを書くときや、新聞の記事、親 しい人との会話、引用文などで使われます。

Let's practice changing the word from formal style to casual style. Please refer to the graphs for help. ひょう きんこう ていねいたい ぶん ふっうたい なぉ 表を参考に、丁寧体の文を普通体に直してみましょう。

	ていねいけい 丁寧形 (Polite form)	ಕ್ರಾಕ್ರೀ 普通形 (Casual form)	
動詞 Verb	行きます	行く	辞書形 (dictionary form)
	行きません	行かない	ない形 (nai-form)
	行きました	行った	た形 (ta-form)
	行きませんでした	行かなかった	なかった (nakatta)
い形容詞 i-adjective	大きいです	大きい	려書形 (dictionary form)
	大きくないです	大きくない	ない形 (nai-form)
	大きかったです	大きかった	た形 (ta-form)
	大きくなかったです	大きくなかった	なかった (nakatta)
な形容詞 na-adjective	静かです	静か (だ)	辞書形 (dictionary form)
	静かじゃありません	静かじゃない	ない形 (nai-form)
	静かでした	静かだった	た形 (ta-form)
	静かじゃありませんでした	静かじゃなかった	なかった (nakatta)
名詞 Noun	休みです	休みだった	辞書形 (dictionary form)
	休みじゃありません	休みじゃない	ない形 (nai-form)
	休みでした	休みだった	た形 (ta-form)
	休みじゃありませんでした	休みじゃなかった	なかった (nakatta)

	10000 F0000 C	0/-		Total of (Hallatta)	
I didn't eat b 多 今日はとても	7 a.m. this morning. ミませんでした。 reakfast. らあついです。	→ → →			
It is very hot たなか 田中さんは親 Mr. Tanaka is きのういちにちじゅ 昨日は一日に It rained all c	覚切です。 s very nice and helpfu 中雨でした。 day yesterday.	→ _ . → _			

Japanese Lesson

丁寧形 (Polite form)	क्षेत्रहोसाः 普 通形 (Casual form)		
行きたいです	行きたい		
はたら 働いています	動いている		
が 行かなければなりません	行かなければならない		
行かなくてもいいです	行かなくてもいい		
行くことができます	行くことができる		
行ったことがあります	行ったことがある		

Let's practice other sentence patterns. 次のような語尾の練習もしてみましょう。

- ⑤ 夏休みに東京へ行きたいです。I want to go to Tokyo during the summer holidays.
- ⑦ ABC 銀行で働いています。 I work at ABC Bank.
- ® 市役所へ行かなければなりません。→ I have to go to the city hall.
- ⑨ 北海道へ行ったことがあります。 → I have been to Hokkaido.

We will practice casual style conversations next month.

まいげつ ふつうたい かいわ がくしゅう 来月は、普通体の会話を学習します。

Goodbye Message (continued from page 6)

so happy to have been placed here. I also had the chance to appear on local television a few times and on the radio on a weekly basis.

Scarecrows in the small town of Nagoro is a mustsee! There are literally hundreds of dolls strewn throughout the town.

I also met a few famous Japanese people, including an actor from Tokushima who played the role of Tsukushi's younger brother in the drama version of Hana Yori Dango (As a fan of J-dramas, that was pretty cool).

Furthermore, during my time in Tokushima, I had the chance to visit most of Tokushima's beautiful locations, from Kamikatsu to Naruto and all the way west to Oku-Iya. Every area in Tokushima has its own character

and I have been wowed by its beauty time and time again. My favorite spot by far is Kamikatsu and the Iya Valley. The Valley of the Dolls or



I really had a great three years and wouldn't change it for the world.

More than anything, I want to thank every single person from the bottom of my heart that I have met here in Tokushima. Also, a big thank you to all the readers of Awa Life for your support. Without you all, I wouldn't be the person I am now and wouldn't have had the same amazing experience. Saying goodbye is hard and I will miss everyone

and everything tremendously, but I'm also looking forward to my next stage in life. Thank you and see you again somewhere on this planet.

TOPIA



Awa Shoku: Pike Conger, Summer's Scary-not-scary Delicacy By Lance Kita

Who would think that a fearsome, fish could transform into blossoms of delicate meat? Pike conger (hamo 無) is a silvery, toothsome, eel-like fish well-known in the Kansai and Shikoku regions. Averaging a meter in length and sporting a gaping fanged mouth, catching one is fraught with peril. Yet, hamo is a quintessential summer ingredient in Kyoto's kaiseki menu, so much so that its famed Gion Matsuri in July is sometimes nicknamed the Hamo Festival.

To tame this wild beast requires the skilled hand of a master chef. The long body is filleted, revealing pale flesh riddled with thin bones. These make the flesh quite inaccessible to the amateur, and hamo is often used to make steamed fishcake (kamaboko 蒲 鉾 or tempura 天 ぷ ら) since grinding up the meat is the easiest way to make it edible.

Here's where the Japanese culinary genius comes into play. Chefs take a special flat knife and slice across the fillet, 0.5 millimeters apart, quickly and precisely as not to smash and damage the meat or cut through the skin. After 2 dozen slices, the bite-size piece is sliced off and the process repeated for the rest of the fillet. This is called *honekiri* 骨切り (literally, "bone cutting"), a technique developed just for hamo. Such a tedious task is what allows us to enjoy the texture and flavor of hamo meat without sticking ourselves in the throat.

The finely-sliced pieces are blanched in boiling water for seconds, causing the skin to curl and the flesh to "bloom" like a baby white chrysanthemum, then quickly cooled in ice water. Hamo yubiki 鱧の湯引き is accompanied by salted plum paste (bainiku 梅肉) or a miso-vinegarmustard sauce (sumiso 酢みそ). Its light fluffy texture matched with these tart sauces makes for the perfect summer dish. The blossoming meat is sometimes marinated with cucumbers and ginger or simmered in a light stock. It can also be fried

tempura-style or breaded like a katsu cutlet.

What many people don't know is that Tokushima is a major supplier of hamo to Kyoto, and recently a branding campaign ensures that "Tokushima Hamo" is clearly labeled in Kyoto's famed Nishiki Market. It's also readily available here, so look for *hamo yubiki* or hamo fishcake in local supermarkets. Enjoy this fearsome, yet delicate taste of summer...gourmet fare at hometown prices.

Special thanks to Masami, Kumiko, and Miwa Nishimoto for allowing me to photograph the fish and preparation at their restaurant.



Don't let the pike conger's toothy grin intimidate you from eating it.



Thin cuts across the bony flesh to prepare the fish for blanching.



Hamo yubiki, fish "flowers" served with tart sauces



10

Events & Memoranda

Dance With the Niwaka-ren! にわか連で、踊ろう!

People who want to experience Awa Odori firsthand, can dance freely with the Niwaka-ren. No experience is needed as members from famous dance groups will be teaching you the steps before you enter the big stage.

When: August 12 (Fri) – 15 (Mon) From 18:30 or from 20:30

Where: Meet in front of the Tokushima City Hall or

the Motomachi dance area

Cost: Free*

Info: Tokushima City Tourism Association

TEL: 088-622-4010

*Optional: 3000 yen deposit fee to rent a happi. When you return the happi, 2500 yen will be returned to you (500 yen will go towards dry cleaning fees).

本場徳島で阿波踊りを体験したい人は、にわか連で自由に踊れます。阿波踊りを全く知らなくても 大丈夫。有名連の手ほどきを受けて、演舞場へレッ ツゴー!参加自由。

日時:8月12日(金)-15日(月)

18:30 ~, 20:30 ~

場所: 集合場所

徳島市 徳島市役所前、 元町おどり広場

参加費:無料*

問合せ:徳島市観光協会 TEL: 088-622-4010

* はっぴの貸出時に預かり金として、1 枚当たり 3000 円が必要、返却時にクリーニング代 500 円

を除いた 2500 円をお返しします。

Naruto City Summer Fireworks Festival 鳴門市納涼花火大会

5000 fireworks will be lighting up the night sky!

5000 発の打ち上げ花火は迫力満点です!

When: August 7 (Sun) 19:45-20:50

Where: In and around the Naruto Culture Center

& Muya River Park

Info: Naruto City Uzushio Tourist Association

TEL: 088-684-1731

URL: http://www.narutocci.or.jp/awaodori/

日時:8月7日(日) 19:45-20:50

場所:鳴門市 鳴門市文化会館・撫養川親水公園

周辺

問合せ:鳴門市うずしお観光協会

TEL: 088-684-1731

URL: http://www.narutocci.or.jp/awaodori/

"Shikoku no Migishita" Road Ride 2016 四国の右下ロードライド 2016

Date: November 13 (Sun)

Venue: Anan City, Naka-cho, Mugi-cho, Minami-cho,

and Kaiyo-cho

Start/Finish: Maze-no-Oka auto-camping site

Course: 160km, 95km, or 43km

Application deadline: October 16 (Sun)

Please apply online (www.sportsentry.ne.jp) or by

phone (0570-550-846).

For more information, please see:

shikokunomigishita.jp/docs/2016070500010/

開催日:11月13日(日)

開催場所:徳島県阿南市、那賀町、牟岐町、美波町

海陽町

スタート・ゴール:まぜのおかオートキャンプ場

コース: 160km、95km、43km

申込期間:10月16日(日)まで

インターネット: www.sportsentry.ne.jp

電話申込:0570-550-846

詳しくはホームページをご覧ください: shikokunomigishita.jp/docs/2016070500010/

Events & Memoranda

Tokushima Prefectural 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 11, 13:00-15:30

13:00 - Leave Tokushima Station by bus for the center

15:30 - Arrive back at Tokushima Station by bus

Location: Tokushima Prefectural Disaster Preventaion Center

165 Onishi, Tainohama, Kitajima Town, Itano-gun

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 available)

Capacity: 30 people

Cost: Free

How to Apply: Please send in the following information by fax to the address below. You can also apply by sending the same information by email or postcard.

① Name

② Gender

3 Address

4 Nationality

(5) Phone number

6 E-mail address

7 Occupation

Deadline: September 8th (Thursday)

Send Applications To:

FAX: (088) 652-0616

E-mail: coordinator1@topia.ne.jp

Postcard: Koekizaidan Hojin Tokushima-ken Kokusai Koryukyokai (TOPIA)

Clement Plaza 6F, 1-61 Terashima Honcho Nishi, Tokushima City,

770-0831

For more information please contact Ms. Kimura at (088) 656-3303.



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)