

awa life

English Camp: An ALT's
First Impression of
Tokushima and Teaching

Awa Shoku:
What is Uirou??

September 2016
314



Picture provided by Jennifer Bach

Introduction of our
New Editors

Tokushima Prefectural
Disaster Prevention
Center **Study Tour**



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

After a month full of fireworks and the vibrant Awa Odori Dance Festival, we have slowly started to enter the harvesting season. All around Tokushima the rice fields are close to being harvested this month. Furthermore, we are awaiting the old tradition of *tsukimi* ("moon viewing"), also related to the harvest in autumn. On September 15th, people will decorate their viewing scene with pampas grass, serve white rice dumplings, and offer *sake* to the moon in order to pray for an abundant harvest.

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 appreciate 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 new editors,
Daralyn and Franz

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



Editors:

Daralyn Yee and Franziska Neugebauer

Contributors This Month:

JTM Tokushima Japanese Language Network, Matt Gozun, Kazue Inoue,
Takako Yamada, Lance Kita, Jennifer Bach

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Our New Editors:

I finally made it! Greetings from the New German CIR

By Franziska Neugebauer

Since the first time I came to Japan, which was 6 years ago, I wanted to travel to Tokushima especially to see the Naruto whirlpools. I never made it, even though I was living in Kobe, it just did not happen. Now I think it was fate, that one day I would have the opportunity to work in Tokushima prefecture and have plenty of opportunities to visit this beautiful landmark. My name is Franzi, I was born in Germany and just started working as a Coordinator for International Relations in the Tokushima Prefectural Office, and am one of the JET Programme Prefectural Advisors here. I grew up in a small village in the Eastern part of Germany, went to Hamburg and Leipzig to study Japanese, and found myself travelling the world extensively. I spent some time in Australia, New Zealand, and Tanzania, only to always come back to Japan in the end.



In my 7 years of studying I had the chance to go to Japan twice, both times as an exchange and research student, once at Kobe University and the other time at Mie University. Altogether I spent one and a half years living here and consider myself lucky to receive that opportunity again.

Some things I'm really looking forward to doing here are definitely walking and hiking through the beautiful mountain and forest areas in Tokushima, and eating some delicious specialties of this region. Besides getting out into nature (maybe something I got from my childhood in a tiny village in the middle of a great landscape) I enjoy drawing and painting, as well as swimming. My weakness is definitely anything sweet. I just can't resist ice cream, chocolate, fruits and desserts, and it gets especially hard when it comes to matcha or kinako flavoured sweets.

Another thing that makes me really happy is when

Our New Editors

I get the chance to help people out, assist them, or just conjure a smile on their face. I'm looking forward to being a prefectural advisor, working at TOPIA and in the prefectural office to deepen and

strengthen the relationship between my home country and Japan. See you soon somewhere around Tokushima!

Howzit and Aloha from your New Awa Life Editor!

By Daralyn Yee



Aloha! My name is Daralyn Yee and along with being the new editor for Awa Life, I am also the new English speaking Coordinator for International Relations and JET Prefectural Advisor in Tokushima Prefecture! I was born and raised in Hawaii and am a Chinese-Japanese American. My mother is a Japanese-American born and raised in Hawaii, while my father was born in Hong Kong and raised in Hawaii. We speak English at home. My mother does not speak very much Japanese, so a good amount of the Japanese that I have learned is from school.

This is my fourth time being in Japan.

I started learning Japanese about 9 years ago in order to learn more about my family's culture. In Hawaii, almost every school has Japanese language as an elective class, so as soon as I was eligible, I started taking Japanese classes. At the time, it was more of a hobby. However, as I met people from around the world, and from Japan, I realized that learning Japanese could help me to communicate different ideas and thoughts between different cultures. Now, as I have been given the opportunity to work as a Coordinator for International Relations, I hope to take away cultural and language barriers, and help Japan and other countries develop positive relations with each other. I am looking forward to the opportunities that this job will bring me.

I believe that it is fate that has brought me here to Tokushima. My favorite musical artist, Angela Aki, is from Tokushima. The first ramen shop I ate at while studying abroad was Tokushima's famous ramen shop, Toudai. Lastly, I also was able to see Awa Odori when I traveled to Osaka with my family. I hope that I will have the opportunity to take in Tokushima to its fullest extent. If you see me around, please feel free to say hello!



Above: Signs of Hawaii in Tokushima: Passion Orange juice.

Left: Rabbit Island and Makapu'u light house area on Oahu, Hawaii.

English Camp: An ALT's First Impression of Tokushima and Teaching

By Daralyn Yee and Franziska Neugebauer

Every year, TOPIA holds an English Camp soon after the new JET Programme participants arrive in Tokushima. During this camp, the students communicate only in English with their native English teachers and experience intercultural exchange. At the same time English Camp functions as an orientation for the new Assistant

Language Teachers (ALT) of the Japan-wide JET programme placed in Tokushima. Awa Life spoke with one of the new ALT's, Matt Gozun, about his experience at English Camp playing with and teaching Japanese students and about his general goals while participating in the JET programme.

Q: Please tell us a few things about yourself.

A: My name is Matt Gozun and I am from Mililani, Hawaii, a town on the island of Oahu north of Honolulu. I am 23 years old and a recent graduate of Marquette University in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, where I double majored in Biology and Economics. I studied Japanese in high school and college, but never exceeded an intermediate level of fluency. Now that I am in Japan, I hope to increase my level of understanding, though it may take some time since Awa-ben can be confusing at times!

I decided to apply for JET during my final year at Marquette having heard about it from my Japanese teachers in college and high school. I also had a friend who was a JET for five years in Ehime prefecture and so I was able to learn about the specifics of the program from him. Growing up in Hawaii, with its large Japanese-American population, I have always been fascinated by Japanese culture. In college, I participated in an international exchange program in which students from other countries would come to Marquette and lived with local students. Having become friends with people from all over the world, I knew that I wanted to travel after I finished college, and because I had studied Japanese and was familiar with Japanese culture, I knew the JET Programme would be the right fit for me.

Q: What was your first impression of Tokushima?

A: I actually didn't know Tokushima existed until I found out my JET placement! Since coming here, I

have been impressed by the prefecture's natural beauty and the friendliness of its people. I think most Westerners picture Tokyo or Osaka when they think of Japan, and so Tokushima was a nice change from the Japan often seen on TV. What really struck me was the energy and excitement that filled the streets during Awa Odori with what appeared to be the entire prefecture coming together to put on such an amazing display of local culture. It was obvious to me that everyone, from the performers to the street vendors, held such a deep amount of pride for their home and were eager to show it off to the rest of the world.



Q: Is there anything that you are look forward to doing specifically in Tokushima?

A: I am looking forward to enjoying Tokushima's natural and cultural heritage. Although some may view living in a more "inaka" part of the country as a challenge, I view it as an opportunity to experience the elements of "old Japan" that may not be found in places like Tokyo and Osaka. I hope to explore Tokushima's hidden forests and valleys while experiencing the beauty of traditional Japanese architecture. As a hiker, I want to climb Tokushima's many mountains, including Mt. Tsurugi and Mt. Bizan. At the same time, I want to learn about Japan's unique culture and spirituality,

English Camp: An ALT's First Impression of Tokushima and Teaching

whether it be through learning traditional arts like papermaking or through visiting some of the 88 temples on the Shikoku Pilgrimage.

Q: What was the best part about English Camp?

A: The best part of English camp was developing a bond with the students who attended. Since I arrived in the middle of summer vacation, I did not have many opportunities prior to English camp to spend time with students and get a feel for what my job as a new ALT would entail. Having had time to test my ability to teach and communicate with students, I now feel better prepared to tackle the challenges I know I will experience in the coming year. Like I told the students at the camp, the key to doing well in anything is confidence, and I believe that same



principle can be applied to teachers as well as pupils.

Q: What are you looking forward to as an ALT?

A: As an ALT, I hope to make a difference in the lives of the Tokushima community, but most importantly, my students. Going off to teach so soon after being a student myself can be a bit intimidating, but I think that this gives me an advantage in being able to relate with the high schoolers I will be working with. I look forward to a year of new memories and self improvement and hope to see how much I will have changed after a year abroad. Besides getting better in Japanese, I also hope to travel extensively and see what every corner of Japan has to offer.

TOPIA Summer School for Kids

By JTM Tokushima Japanese Language Network

Right before 10 o'clock on August the 4th, many children gathered in the lobby of TOPIA on the last day of this year's Summer School, even though it was early in the day. All of them had a big smile on their face. It is hard to believe that they looked nervous on the first day when they came with their parents and anxiously waited for Summer School to start at 10 o'clock.

This year, the Summer School was held for the 12th time during the period of July 22nd and August 4th. A total of 29 children participated, which includes 20 elementary school students and 9 middle school students who hold roots in 10 foreign countries. Besides the 21 staff, university and high school students also took part in this year's Summer School to assist and support with the great number of children as they did last year. With the one-to-one friendly assistance, the students were able to complete summer homework among other things.



Above all else, a sense of unity was born during the group learning sessions since all participants did things together like word games, folded origami and completed one map. After every session, the children displayed their personality and all of them seemed to be playing around with their new acquaintances like they had been friends from before. During the session where they read aloud to one another, some children presented what they read between the lines. I once again realized how important Japanese language learning was for them.

TOPIA Summer School for Kids

Lastly, the children communicated their individual thoughts and dreams and wrote these down in a picture diary. A great variety of future dreams were mentioned, including, “scientist”, “cartoonist”, “police officer”, “English teacher”. I hope that they



will achieve these dreams and make the most of their life in Japan after this. Also, I hope that since the children now know they have friends who are doing their best just like them, that they will be able to work with self-confidence during the second semester.



Letter from SUKETO NAKAYOSHI

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

After the Obon season, Japan slowly gets cooler and you will be able to hear the crickets chirping from the grass fields in the evening. Autumn has finally arrived.

This month, I would like to introduce ways to increase the amount of food your children like. First, you'll want to gather the whole family together and create an enjoyable atmosphere. If the rest of the family says something like “Yum, it's tasty (^_^)”, your child will want to try the food as well. (It is best to do this even before you start with baby food.) While your child is eating, it is important to encourage them. Let's try to scold less, and encourage them more. When your child gets older, I recommend doing things like cooking or growing vegetables together as a starting point. Other methods include arranging a life rhythm or giving the child enough time to play. After spending a long time playing, their hunger will make the food taste even more delicious.

Autumn is also called the harvesting season, when many different delicious produce are available. Furthermore, it is the best time of the year to partake in sport activities, sports festival events, and hiking. I hope that you eat a lot of

seasonal products packed with the necessary energy for this period and are able to enjoy autumn!

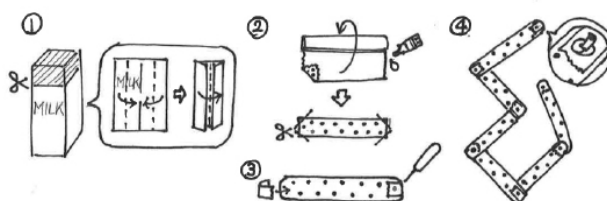
Handmade Toys: Flexible Stick

Materials

Milk Carton, Scissors, Colorful Cloth, Glue, Tape

Directions

1. Take a 1 liter milk carton. Cut the top off and cut one side along the edge so that you can unfold it into one sheet as shown in the picture. Fold it to the middle.
2. Wrap a cloth with a nice pattern around the stick (for looks) and glue it together. Then cut the four corners round.
3. Stick each end together with a tape and put a little whole in each end.
4. After you have put together 6 sticks, tie them together with an elastic band. Now you can enjoy transforming the sticks into different shapes.



ていねいたい ふつうたい
丁寧体と普通体 (2)

This month, we will be learning how to use the informal style.

こんげつ ふつうたい かいわ がくしゅう
今月は普通体の会話について学習しましょう。



Last month, we learned about the difference between formal and informal style. It is basically the same during conversations, although there are some points we must pay attention to.

せんげつ ていねいたい ふつうたい ちが がくしゅう かいわ とき きほんてき おな き
先月、丁寧体と普通体の違いを学習しました。会話の時も、基本的には同じですが、いくつか気をつけなければならない点があります。

① When asking questions the「か」at the end will generally be omitted and the intonation is raised at the end of the sentence to signify a question.

ぎもんぶん さいご つうじょうしやうりやく ご び あ ぎもん あらわ
疑問文の最後の「か」は、通常省略され、語尾を上げて疑問を表します。

* あした会社へ行きますか。→ あした会社へ行く？ (↑) (Are you going to work tomorrow?)

② Not only the「か」but also the「だ」is omitted when asking questions with nouns or adjectives like「元気だ」「何時だ」.

げんき なんじ けいようし ぎもんぶん しょうりやく
「元気だ」「何時だ」のような、な形容詞や疑問文のときは、「か」だけでなく、「だ」も省略します。

* 元気ですか。→ 元気？ (↑) (How are you?)

* 今、何時ですか。→ 今、何時？ (↑) (What time is it now?)

③ 「だ」is also omitted when answering and instead ending particles like「よ」or「わ」are used. But these are different for men and women.

* はい、元気です。Yes, I am fine. → うん、元気だよ。(男性) (Men)

→ うん、元気よ。(女性) (Women)

④ Phrases like「はい」「いいえ」「こちら」「あちら」「どちら」transform into「うん」

「ううん」「こっち」「あっち」「どっち」. But these words should not be used when talking to a superior since they are extremely impolite. Please be careful when using them.

「はい」「いいえ」「こちら」「あちら」「どちら」などは「うん」「ううん」「こっち」「あっち」「どっち」のように変わります。これらの言葉は、目上の人に対して使うととても失礼なので、気をつけてください。



⑤ Particles like「は」「が」「へ」「を」are also often omitted.

「は」「が」「へ」「を」などの助詞は省略されることが多いです。

* 田中さんは来ますか。→ 田中さん (は) 来る？ (Is Tanaka coming?)

* このケーキを食べますか。→ このケーキ (を) 食べる？ (Are you going to eat this cake?)

* 今から TOPIA へ行きますか。→ 今から TOPIA (へ) 行く？ (Are you going to TOPIA now?)

Japanese Lesson

⑥ The informal styles 「ている」「ていない」 of 「ています」「ていません」 are often changed into 「てる」「てない」 during a conversation.

「ています」「ていません」の普通形「ている」「ていない」は、会話では「てる」「てない」に変わることが多いです。

* 毎日勉強していますか。(Are you studying every day?)

いいえ、していません。(No, I haven't been.)

→ 毎日勉強して(い)る? ううん、して(い)ない。



⑦ The 「が」 in 「～が、……」 is changed into 「けれど」 during an informal conversation, and can furthermore be omitted into 「けど」. In addition, 「しなければ」 transforms into 「しなくちゃ」 and 「では」 into 「じゃ」.

「～が、……」の「が」は、普通体の会話では「けれど」に、更に省略して「けど」にかわります。

このほか、「しなければ」は「しなくちゃ」に、「では」は「じゃ」にかわります。

* 私は明日来ますが、山田さんも来ますか。→ 私、明日来るけど、山田さんも来る?

(I will come tomorrow, but is Yamada also coming?)



Let's practice changing the following conversation into a conversation between friends.

では、練習してみましょう。下の丁寧体の会話を、友達との会話に直してみてください。

① マリア：えみこさん、もうお昼ご飯を食べましたか。 (Emiko, did you eat lunch already?)	→	
② えみこ：いいえ、まだです。 (No, not yet.)	→	
③ マリア：では、いっしょに食べに行きませんか。 (Well then, will you go to lunch with me?)	→	
④ えみこ：はい、いいですよ。 (Yes, that sounds good.)	→	
⑤ マリア：田中くんは、どうですか。 (Tanaka what about you?)	→	
⑥ 田中：わたしは今メールを書いていますから、終わってから行きます。 (Since I'm writing an e-mail right now, I will go as soon as I finish it.)	→	



- Answers:
1. えみこさん、もうお昼ご飯、食べた? (Emiko, did you eat lunch already?)
 2. ううん、まだ。(No, not yet.)
 3. じゃ、いっしょに食べに行かない? (Well then, will you go to lunch with me?)
 4. うん(ええ)、いいわよ。(Yes, that sounds good.)
 5. 田中くんは、どう? (Tanaka, what about you?)
 6. (ぼくは)今メール、書いてるから、終わってから行くよ。(I'm writing an e-mail right now, I will go as soon as I finish it.)

Awa Shoku: What is Uirou??

By Lance Kita

Ask even a Japanese person to explain what “**uirou**” (外郎、ういろう) is, and you may get some furrowed brows. They’ll know that it’s a Japanese sweet with a simple flavor and chewy texture, but anything more will stump them.

Though places like Nagoya City, Odawara City, and Kyoto are more famous nationwide for their uirou, Tokushima’s **Awa Uirou** (阿波ういろう) has a history of its own, thanks to the prosperity of the province during the mid-Edo Period. The production of cane sugar flourished, leading to the export of high-grade refined **wasanbon sugar** (和三盆糖). In celebration of this new cash crop, the lord of Awa and merchant families ate uirou made with wasanbon sugar on the 3rd day of the 3rd month of the lunar calendar (today celebrated as Girls’ Day or the Doll Festival). So uirou is entrenched in the sweets history of Tokushima.

But what is it? Well, it’s a cross between glutinous rice cakes (**mochi** 餅) and jellied sweet bean paste (**yukan** 羊羹). In very general terms, flour and sugar are mixed with warm water to form a paste, then placed into a mold and steamed. In Awa Uirou is regular sugar, wasanbon sugar, and a pinch of salt is mixed with smooth sweet bean paste. After that, glutinous rice flour (**mochiko** 餅粉) and rice flours (**komeko** 米粉) are added, then water until the mixture is of the right consistency. This runny paste is poured into a pan and steamed for about an hour. Finally, it is cut into blocks and wrapped for sale.

In the last couple of years, there has been a push to increase the brand recognition of this simple, understated sweet. Instead of large bars, uirou is shaped into little sticks or balls and wrapped individually. Some shops use other flavors like Naruto Kintoki sweet potato, matcha, or sudachi instead of sweet bean. As we head into autumn, you’ll find uirou embedded with whole or chopped marron glace (sweetened chestnuts). I even saw fried uirou at a farmer’s market this year. The crispy crust on the outside of the uirou contrasts wonderfully with the soft, chewy inside.

Personally, I like the simple texture and sweetness of uirou. It’s a good way to be introduced into the world of Japanese sweets. It goes well with both coffee and tea, and is a gateway for Japan newcomers to get acquainted with the world of Japanese sweets. This unassuming lumpy dessert harkens back to the economic heyday of Tokushima, and with recent innovations, will find ways to stay in the hearts of Awakko for generations to come. I hope you’ll try it and expand your **wagashi** (和菓子) repertoire.

Some of the information in this article comes from <http://tokushima-bussan.com/foods/awa-uiro/>.



Uirou is usually cut into large bars. Some have candied chestnuts in them.



These bite-size stick uirou are perfect for snacking.

Events & Memoranda

地域日本語指導ボランティア養成講座
in 阿南

～外国人の方への日本語の教え方を一緒に
勉強しませんか？～

日程：(全土曜日)10:00～16:00(昼休憩を含む
ためお弁当・軽食・飲み物などをご持参ください)
前期 青木洋子先生 10/15・29・11/12・19・26
後期 山田多佳子先生 1/14・21・28・2/18・25
場所：阿南市富岡公民館1階小会議室
TEL：0884-22-1028(受講人数により羽ノ浦公民
館に変更する可能性あり)

使用テキスト：スリーエーネットワーク出版
*各自でご購入ください。

前期『みんなの日本語初級Ⅰ第2版本冊』
後期『みんなの日本語初級Ⅱ第2版本冊』
(各2,700円)

受講料：無料

申し込み：氏名・住所・連絡先を下記まで。

主催・問合せ：阿南市国際交流協会 担当：小野
TEL：0884-44-6652

E-メール：himawari_aia_2012@yahoo.co.jp

詳細：TOPIA ホームページをご覧ください。

Assistance for Foreign Citizens
Who Would like to Acquire a Japanese Driver's License

Learn Japanese traffic rules and how to get your
driver's license so that you can get to work and
take your kids around!

① Japanese Lecture on how to raise your reading
comprehension (27 sessions):
Start Date: September 27 (Every Tuesday and
Friday, 10:30 - 12:00)

② Subject Lecture (14 sessions): October 5
(Every Wednesday, 9:30 - 12:30)

Where: Work Pia Tokushima 2nd Floor

Capacity: 12 people

Fee: Free (Purchase text books on your own)

Sponsor: Tokushima Labor and Welfare Council

TEL: 088-625-8387

★ Please see the TOPIA Website for more details.

Enjoy the moon and flowers
月花遊々「煌めき和みと癒し」

In occasion of the full moon, delicate woodwork
and seasonal flowers will adorn the buildings of
the mansion of former village headmaster Nagai.
Two-layered short pillars with paper lanterns will
line the streets and food stalls will offer Ohagi,
Buckwheat soup and much more.

When: September 16 (Fri) - 18 (Sun)
From 18:00 to 21:00

Where: Nagai estate (Mimangu Sadamitsuaza
Nishiura 37); lanterns along Sadamitsu
Kita-machi and Minami-machi

Info: Tsurugimachi Chamber of Commerce and
Industry

TEL: 088-362-2222

名月にちなんだ飾りつけがされます。旧永井家庄
屋敷では、精巧な木工細工や、季節の花々が建
物いっぱいに飾られます。二層うだつの町並み
には手作りの行燈が並び情緒豊かです。おはぎやそ
ば米雑炊などの出店も並びます。

日時：9月16日(金) - 18日(日)
18:00 - 21:00

場所：永井屋敷(美馬郡つるぎ町貞光字西浦
37); 二層うだつの町並み(美馬郡つるぎ
町貞光北町～南町)

問合せ：つるぎ町商工会

TEL: 088-362-2222

Events & Memoranda

Japanese Classes 2016: Term 2 Schedule



When: 10:30-12:00

Where: Meeting rooms at TOPIA

Fee: All classes are free.

Textbook: We will be using the "Minna no Nihongo I" or the "Minna no Nihongo II" (2nd edition) textbooks (2,700 yen for the book and audio CD). Please purchase the textbooks on your own. As well, there will be themed lessons on various topics such as seasons and life in Tokushima.

DAY	TEACHER	LEVEL	CLASS DESCRIPTION	
TUE	Ms. Miyoshi	Elementary 1	We will study various verb forms and sentence patterns using those verb forms. Text: Minna no Nihongo I – from Chapter 14	From October 4 (20 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 October 5 (20 times)
THU	Ms. Yamada	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 September 15 (25 times)
FRI	Ms. Aoki	Beginner	We will take the first step towards learning basic expressions. Text: Minna no Nihongo I – from Chapter 1	From October 14 (20 times)
SUN	JTM	Elementary 3	We will study reasoning, passive, causative and honorific expressions. Text: Minna no Nihongo II – from Chapter 38	From October 2 (20 times)
	Volunteers	Group Lesson	This is a flexible group study class split up in different levels.	
THU	Ms. Kimura Ms. Mori	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

* Please register for Group Lessons at least one 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.

* Contact Info: Tokushima Prefectural International Exchange Association (TOPIA) 6F Clement Plaza, 1-61 Terashima Honcho Nishi, Tokushima City 770-0831

* 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). (この日本語教室は文化庁事業です)

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)