

# awa life

Summer Edition

Introduction of **New**  
**TOPIA Staff**

June 2017  
# 322

**Enjoying Summer**  
in Tokushima



**Awa Shoku: Fish Katsu**

Check out the **Events**  
**for this Month!**



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

We are back from our hiatus! Did you enjoy the beautiful flowers and greenery of spring? Though we are entering the rainy season, we can use this time to make plans for the beautiful sunny days of summer ahead of us!

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](mailto:awalife@gmail.com)**

Your editors,  
Daralyn and Franz

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## *Enjoying Summer in Tokushima*

By Daralyn Yee

Being from a tropical atmosphere, summer has been one of my favorite seasons since I was a child. The long sunny days and beautiful scenery seems to make life more joyful than

usual. Though the humidity can be much to handle, here are some of the many ways unique to Japan and Tokushima to make this summer a memorable one!

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### Hang a *furin* Outside of your House



A *furin* (風鈴) is a wind chime. Most are made with glass, and can also be made from other materials like metal, ceramic, wood, etc., each giving off a unique comforting sound. As the wind blows, the chime gives off a melodic high pitch sound that makes one feel

cool. The glass *furin* that is common today dates back to the Edo Period. Though the sound of the *furin* can be delightful, if you live in an apartment or a condominium, it can easily become a nuisance to your neighbors so be sure to take it down in the evening and on stormy/windy days.

### Light Up Your World with Fireflies

Going out to see the fireflies light up in the evening is one of the popular beginning-of-summer activities here in Japan. This month there are a couple of viewing spots in Tokushima where you can see the fireflies including Yoshinogawa City, Naruto, Katsuura, and Miyoshi! The two main types that can be seen in Tokushima and

throughout Japan are the *genji-botaru* and *heike-botaru* (it is said that they are named after the famous Japanese literature piece *Tales of Heike*). Many of the events to see them run until the 18th. Check the event section for more information.

### Find out What's SUP in the Oceans and Rivers of Tokushima



Have you heard of SUP (Standup Paddleboarding)? SUP is a new sport where people stand on boards that look similar to surfboards while paddling on the surface of a flat body of water. You can spot people practicing and enjoying SUP on their boards in the rivers

*Enjoying Summer in Tokushima*

and beaches in Tokushima. I've done SUP sitting down back home. It was a unique way to travel on water, but maybe one of these days I will manage to actually "stand-up" as its name implies!

**Raft your Way through the Prefecture**

Tokushima offers the ideal conditions to partake in rafting. In fact, the 2017 World Rafting Championships will be held in Miyoshi City in October. While rafting you can experience the beauty of the pristine waters of the Yoshino River. Why don't you try to enjoy this sport before watching the championships?

**Cool Off Near a Waterfall**

Keep cool in the humidity by visiting a waterfall

within the prefecture. There are many to see in each region of the prefecture. Here are a few of the top places to visit: 1) Ogama Falls 2) Todoroki Falls 3) Amagoi Falls. All three waterfalls are listed under the distinction of "Top 100 Waterfalls in Japan". Ogama Falls and Todoroki Falls are in the same vicinity, while Amagoi Falls is in Kamiyama Town. Though you can't swim in them, be sure to embrace the cool breeze that the waterfall produces!



I hope that you can integrate these ideas in to your summer plans and have a great summer! More ways to enjoy your summer are coming soon, so stay tuned.

*Warm Welcoming: New TOPIA Staff*

**M**y name is Yasuo Kuroishi and from this year on April 1st, I took office as the chief director of TOPIA. I was selected at the Regent's meeting for this position in March. I look forward to working here.

Before I came to work in my current office located on the top floor of Clement Plaza inside of Tokushima Station, I worked at the Prefectural Office about 24 years ago in the general affairs office doing budget work. At the time, I remember that there was international related work in the office and I was able to be involved through creating budgets for those activities. Also, I belonged to an international exchange organization, and throughout the year we did activities such as a Christmas Party, sakura



viewing party, bamboo picking, beach events, exchange events with those from foreign countries, and also courtesy visits when foreign ambassadors to Japan visit Tokushima. It was quite a while ago, but these are the activities that I have done so far in the field of international exchange.

As I have been employed as the executive director for TOPIA, I feel a considerable connection with international exchange.

In the year 2020, Japan will host the Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics. Also, it will soon be TOPIA's 30th Anniversary. The amount of foreigners from overseas has sharply increased at a speed greater than expected, and I believe that the importance of the work at TOPIA has

## Warm Welcoming: New TOPIA Staff

been raising increasingly. Also, the occurrence of the predicted Great Nankai Trough Earthquake has grown a sense of urgency and being able to support residents and visitors from overseas is a pressing challenge. We hope to be able to strengthen our efforts looking forward to the year 2020.

Lastly, I hope that through internationalization we are able to put towards efforts in the development of regional revitalization, and that we are able to expand our work in order to be able to grow as the core of regional level internationalization. I ask for your guidance and cooperation as I enter in to my new position as Executive Director.

Nice to meet you. My name is Nan Zhang and from April I started working as a Coordinator for International Relations. During this year, as a staff of TOPIA, I will be involved in the editing of "Awa Seikatsu" (TOPIA's Chinese Newsletter) and international exchange. At the same time, I would like to challenge myself, without hesitation, in the things that I want to try and face and tackle many different challenges. In my day-to-day life I also hope to be able to see and experience many things, and be active outside of work.

Up until now, I have come to Japan many times for travel and to participate in events, but unfortunately I was not able to fully experience the charms of Japan because my time here was short. This time, it has been less than one week since I have arrived in Tokushima, and I have already eaten Tokushima Ramen, have watched a

performance of Awa Odori. I felt deeply that it is such an amazing town filled with life.

I hope during my time here that I will be able to taste delicious foods, experience new sceneries, and dance the Awa Odori with the local people. Through deepening my understanding of the history and culture of Tokushima, I hope to be able to tell the people of Hunan Province and in China of the charms of Tokushima. At the same time, I also hope to be able to tell the people of Japan about the charms of Hunan Province and my hometown Anhui Province and that I will be able to bridge two countries together through grass root exchange.

I will try my best in hopes that I can be useful as a personnel in the international exchange field right away. I look forward to working with you all.

Nice to meet you. My name is Kiyomi Fujii. I have been mainly teaching English at junior high schools, but from this year I have been added to TOPIA as an interning staff member. I will mainly be in charge of the International Understanding Lecturers and Workplace Experience Program, and will be the liaison between the education field.



L to R: Takahashi, Zhang, Fujii

through international exchange. Furthermore, the fulfillment of a career education to help develop children's future visions are being established.

Within that, in the English education field, it is hoped that the ability to promote multi-cultural understanding through language learning,

development of identity, and communication ability can be fostered at a higher level. Looking forward to 2020, the English education curriculum at elementary schools will be transformed in ways such as teaching English as a formal subject from 5th grade and by creating activities involving English from 3rd grade. Along the same lines, middle schools, high schools, and university entrance exams are also slowly changing to adapt

Now, school education is at a new stage. In order to raise up global personnel, efforts that aim at deepening intercultural understanding, heightening a sense of human rights in order for a diverse group of people to live together, and the mastering of communication skills in order to accomplish those efforts, are being developed



to this new curriculum. From now on, English skills that have been mastered will not be utilized just as a tool for written communication, but as a way to build up personnel who will be able to deepen the connection with other people. That foundation can develop a rich international sense from a young age. Lessons about international

understanding in the classrooms are important learning opportunities.

At TOPIA, I hope to support the development of new learning while being able to acquire more professional skills and apply them to the educational field. I am looking forward to working with you all.

Nice to meet you. My name is Yoko Takahashi and I have started working at TOPIA since April. One month has passed since I have worked at TOPIA, and there are still a lot of things that I do not know. Though I may cause some inconvenience in the office, I am trying my best.

My hobbies are driving, taking pictures, performing the guitar, cooking, and of course traveling. In addition to traveling domestically, I also go to Korea often. The first time I went, I didn't know anything and just followed my friends, but after travelling there numerous times, I wanted to speak more and know more about the culture,

and began to study Korean. I still can't have a conversation, but I want to study more to be able to give information to those who come to TOPIA.

I had a vague image of "International Exchange" up until now. I thought "One day", "If I have the chance", but never thought that I would be able to become involved up until now. I hope to see, hear, and take in various experiences during my time working here.

I am still not used to things, but I will try my best every day. I look forward to working here with everyone.

## Letter from SUKETO NAKAYOSHI

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

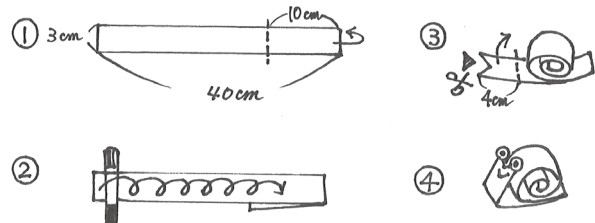
This spring, two guinea pigs have come to the Suketo Nakayoshi Center for Early Childhood Education and Care. The children are filled with excitement and take care of and give the guinea pigs grass every day. In the beginning of April, new infants were separated from their mothers for the first time, and this calmed the feelings of anxiety that they had. We don't only have guinea pigs, but also raise other small animals such as turtles, goldfish, and Japanese rice fish. We aim to create an environment where the children can grow an interest in living animals.

When children are infants, they are full of curiosity. They love to play and search for a variety of insects and creatures such as pill bugs, frogs, and lady bugs when playing in the yard or at the park. However, sometimes they commit mischievous acts such as step on and smash ants, and pick the wings of butterflies. This is not meant to be inhumane, but it is due to a lack of experience and an undeveloped sense of judgement. Use those moments as a opportunity to think together about the importance of life,

and how to interact with animals. For children, an interaction with a small animal can become a chance to learn how precious and how transient the life of an animal is. What about trying to raise a small animal in your home with your children?

\* \* \*

### Let's Make a Snail!



1. Cut a strip of colored paper in the dimensions of 3cm x 40cm. Fold the strip 10cm in from the edge.
2. Curl the paper on top of the fold with a felt pen.
3. Cut the bottom strip as shown in the diagram, and fold it upwards 4cm from the edge.
4. On the portion that was cut out in the last step, stick on some eyeballs and draw a mouth, then your snail will be complete.

# Japanese Lesson

By Kyoko Kamura

Verb in -te form + くれます

We will learn how to express when someone has done something for us that made us happy.

今月は「他の人にしてもらって、うれしかったこと」の表現を学びましょう。

例文：

A: 日曜日、何をしましたか。

B: 買い物に行きました。

A: そうですか。

B: その時、携帯電話をなくしてしまって、大変でした。

A: えっ？

B: でも拾った人が交番に届けてくれました。

A: そうだったんですか。よかったですね。



Example:

A: What did you do on Sunday?

B: I went shopping.

A: Is that right?

B: At that time, I lost my phone and it was awful.

A: What?

B: But, the person who picked it up took it to the police box for me.

A: Is that true? I'm glad.



① How to make the sentence pattern:

<Person> が / は + Verb in -te form + くれます

<人> が / は + 動詞て形 + くれます



② Definition:

Used when Speaker B is saying that another person did something with good intentions for Speaker B. As an example, the good intentioned act done for Speaker B is the fact that someone took their cell phone to the police box. Speaker B feels that this was a kind action, and is telling Listener A.

③ Practice Questions:

1. 道に迷いました。(I got lost on the street.)

→ 警官が道を（教えます） (The police officer showed me the way.)

2. 先週、引っ越しました。引っ越しは大変でした。(Last week I moved. It was a difficult task.)

→ 友達が（手伝います） (My friend helped me.)

3. 徳島に初めて来ました。(I came to Tokushima for the first time.)

→ 友達が町を（案内します） (My friend showed me around.)

4. 自転車が壊れました。(My bicycle broke.)

→ 友達が（修理します） (My friend repaired it for me.)

5. 雨が降りました。傘を持っていませんでした。(It rained. I did not have an umbrella.)

→ 友達が傘を（貸します） (My friend lent me an umbrella.)

6. 荷物がたくさんありました。(I had a lot of bags.)

→ 友達が（持ちます） (My friend held it for me.)



参考：できる日本語

Reference: Dekiru Nihongo

1. 教えてくれました。2. 手伝ってくれました。3. 案内してくれました。4. 修理してくれました。5. 貸してくれました。6. 持ってくれました。

Answers:

## Awa Shoku: Something's Fishy, and Soooo Satisfying

By Lance Kita

After 12 years, I can say that if you live here long enough, you fall in love with...**fish katsu** (フィッシュカツ). Many locals, especially in the eastern part of the prefecture, don't think of "katsu" as the abbreviation for the deep-fried breaded pork cutlet "tonkatsu". Around here, it's short for "fish katsu," a flat oval of fish paste, flavored with a hint of curry and chili powder, breaded and deep-fried. Supposedly created by a fish paste store in Komatsushima, it's only sold in supermarkets and souvenir shops in Tokushima, though a few supermarkets and specialty stores in Kansai and Kanto carry it for homesick expats. What makes fish katsu so beloved? First of all, the value. Fish katsu (also called **katsu-ten** カツ天) checks in at around 90 yen for a 100 gram oval (also can be rectangular or round, depending on the maker). That's cheaper than most meats and seafoods by weight. It makes an economical snack for kids, and a simple yet versatile meal.

Since fish katsu is pre-cooked and flavored, this can be used in a variety of ways. You can eat it as is, enjoying its irresistible spiced flavor and chewy texture. Crisp it up in a dry frying pan or the toaster oven, then cut into slices for a quick snack or a side dish alongside a cold beer. It goes well with any sauce, like ketchup, worcestershire sauce, mayonnaise, ponzu, or just a squeeze of sudachi. A friend recommends melting cheese over the top.



*Fish Katsu comes in flat oval pieces, but snack size packs are also being sold.*

It's a great protein addition on top of curry rice, or with a bowl of udon or soba noodles. I like to

make a breakfast (or lazy dinner) sandwich with a fried egg, fish katsu, cheese, mayonnaise, and Sriracha sauce between toast. Another quick dinner idea is to sauté sliced fish katsu with Asian chives (**nira** ニラ or onions, then pour beaten eggs over it until half-set, and serve over rice. You can also find it in okonomiyaki (order **katsu-tama** カツ玉 and you will be in with the locals).



*My favorite way to eat fish katsu, as a breakfast sandwich with a fried egg and mayo*

The invention of fish katsu in the mid-1950s coincided with the opening of Nankai Ferry's line between Komatsushima Port and Wakayama Port, a crucial link to Kansai in the days before the Akashi Straits Bridge. Many of my older Japanese friends have memories of eating fish katsu and **take chikuwa** (竹ちくわ fish paste molded around a bamboo tube and roasted) while on the boat, as both can be eaten without warming up. This nostalgia could be another reason for these foods' continued popularity. Though ferry service has been reduced and moved to Tokushima City, shops near train stations and express bus terminals also stock these two products in single-serving portions for travelers.

I encourage you to travel with a few packs of fish katsu and spread the word about Tokushima's not-so-secret but oh-so-yummy soul food. Better yet, make it a pantry staple in your refrigerator and save some money at the same time. You'll be cooking and snacking like an **Awakko** in no time!



# Events & Memoranda

## 2017 Tokushima Prefecture Japanese Speech Contest 徳島県日本語弁論大会

Foreign residents whose native language is not Japanese will be giving a speech in Japanese on various topics such as cultural differences, their experiences with life in Tokushima, and more. Please come watch and cheer on the participants!

When: July 23 (Sun) 13:30 - 16:30  
Where: Awagin Hall (Tokushima Prefecture Kyodo Bunka Kaikan) 5F  
Info: 088-656-3303 TOPIA  
Admission Fee: FREE

## 36th Beethoven Ninth Symphony Concert 第36回ベートーヴェン「第九」交響曲演奏会

When: June 4 (Sun), 13:30 - 15:30  
Where: Naruto City Culture Hall  
Admission Fee: 1) Advance tickets: General Admission 2,000 yen; Students 500 yen,  
2) Tickets at the door: General Admission 2,500 yen; Students 500 yen  
Info: NPO Hojin Naruto Daiku wo Utau Kai Office  
TEL: 088-686-9999

日時: 6月4日(日)  
13時30分～15時30分  
場所: 鳴門市文化会館ホール  
入場料: 前売: 一般 2000円 学生 500円  
当日: 一般 2500円 学生 500円  
問合せ: NPO 法人鳴門「第九」を歌う会事務局  
TEL: 088-686-9999



## Hahagawa Firefly Festival 母川ほたる祭り

You'll be able to catch a glimpse of the fireflies dancing across the surface of the Hahagawa River. There will be lots of events planned for this festival, such as a boat cruise down the river or a bamboo leaf boat making class. Please note, depending on the condition of the river, the festival may be cancelled, so please inquire about it before heading down.

母川の水面を乱舞する幻想的な蛍の光を見ることができます。高瀬舟の遊覧や笹舟づくり教室などのイベントも行われます。  
※天候・河川状況により中止する場合がありますので、必ず事前にお問い合わせ下さい。

When: June 3 (Sat) - 10 (Sat), 20:00 - 21:30  
Where: Hahagawa Riverbanks Takazono, Kaiyo Town, Kaifu-gun  
Info: Kaiyo Town Tourism Association  
TEL: 0884-76-3050

日時: 6月3日(土)～10(土)  
20時～21時30分  
場所: 海部郡海陽町高園 母川河川敷  
問合せ: 海陽町観光協会  
TEL: 0884-76-3050



## Hisayabu Hydrangea Festival 久葦あじさい祭り

This festival is held at the Hisayabu Amida Hall every year during June when the hydrangeas are in full bloom.

毎年、あじさいが咲く6月に、久葦阿弥陀堂であじさい祭りが行われます。

When: June 18 (Sun), from 9:00  
Where: Amida Hall Hisayabu, Ichu, Tsurugi Town  
Admission Fee: Free  
Info: Tsurugi Town Commerce and Tourism Division  
TEL: 0883-62-3111

日時: 6月18日(日)9時～  
場所: つるぎ町一字久葦 久葦阿弥陀堂  
お問合せ: つるぎ町商工観光課  
TEL: 0883-62-3111



# Events & Memoranda

## 31st Misato Hotaru Festival 第31回美郷ほたるまつり

In 1970, Misato area in Yoshinogawa City was designated as a national monument, and the fireflies in the area became a protected species. It is known nationally as a prominent area for the size of the basin area where the fireflies fly, amount of fireflies, and period that the fireflies can be seen.

When: Runs until June 11 (Sun)  
Where: Yoshinogawa City, Misato,  
Kawata River Area  
Contact: Misato Hotaru Museum  
TEL: 0883-43-2888

吉野川市美郷地区は1970年に地区全域が「美郷のホタル及びその発生地」として国の天然記念物に指定されており、ホタルが飛ぶ流域面積、数、期間とも全国でも有数の地域です♪

日時: ~ 6月11日(日)  
場所: 吉野川市美郷 川田川周辺  
お問合せ: 美郷ほたる館  
TEL: 0883-43-2888

## Digital Art: Team Lab Tokushima Prefecture Bunka no Mori デジタルアート: チームラボ 徳島県文化の森

You can enjoy different exhibits of digital art:

### ① Graffiti Nature - Still Mountains and Movable Lakes

When: Runs until June 30 (Fri), 9:30 - 17:30  
Where: Bunka no Mori Park  
Admission Fee: Adult 300 yen, Elementary-High School Students 100 yen, Infants Free

### ② Crystal Universe

When: Runs until June 30 (Fri), 9:30 - 17:30  
Where: Bunka no Mori Park  
Admission Fee: Adult 200 yen, Elementary-High School Students 100 yen, Infants Free

### ③ Universe of Water Particles on Bunkanomori Park

When: permanent exhibition, 19:00 - 21:00  
Where: Bunka no Mori Park  
Admission Fee: Free

Contact: Tokushima Prefectural Office Commerce, Industry, Labour and Tourism Department; Corporate Support Division  
TEL: 088-621-2147 (Weekdays 9:00-17:00)

デジタルアート作品に関する様々な展示を楽しむことができます:

① Graffiti Nature - 動かない山、動かせる湖  
日時: ~ 6月30日(金) 9時30分~17時30分  
場所: 徳島県文化の森総合公園  
料金: 大人 300円, 小中高生 100円, 幼児 無料

② クリスタルユニバース  
日時: ~ 6月30日(金) 9時30分~17時30分  
場所: 徳島県文化の森総合公園  
料金: 大人 200円, 小中高生 100円, 幼児 無料

③ 文化の森に憑依する滝  
日時: 常設 19時~21時  
場所: 徳島県文化の森総合公園  
料金: 無料



お問合せ: 徳島県商工労働観光部企業支援課  
TEL: 088-621-2147 (平日: 9時~17時)

## 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)