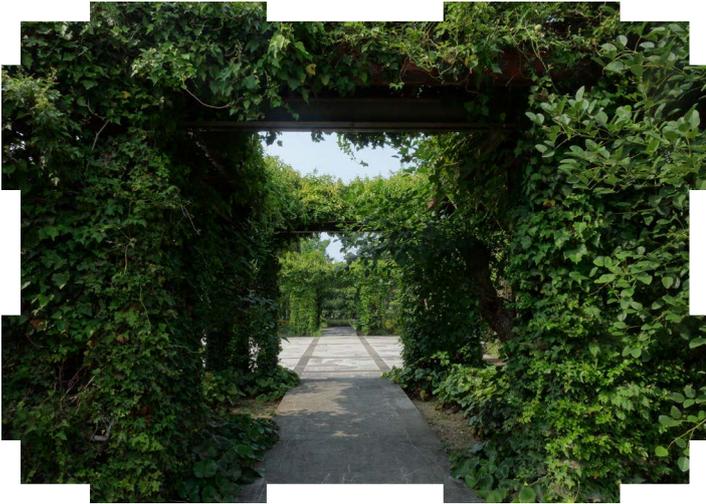


# awa life

September 2017

# 325



**New CIRs in  
Tokushima City!**



**Winning Speech:  
"I Will Call When I  
Can"**

**Awa Shoku: New Queen of  
Mushrooms**

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

As summer slowly transitions into fall, the weather has become cooler in the evening, and we have entered in to the harvesting season. We hope that you were able to have an amazing summer full of dancing Awa Odori, and enjoying the rich nature of our amazing prefecture. From August, our editorial team has increased from two to three. Please give a warm welcome to our new editor Tom! You can read more about him in this month's issue.

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, Franzi, and Tom

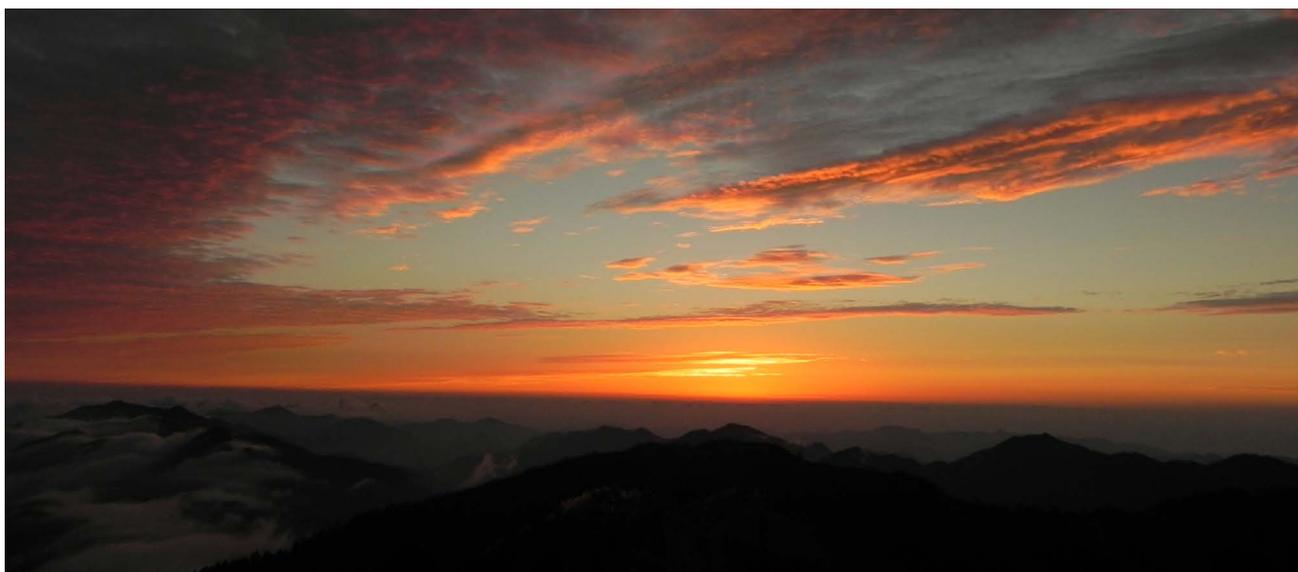
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<http://www.topia.ne.jp/>

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



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*Contributors This Month:*

Coal Chris, Kazue Inoue, Lance Kita, Akiko Tsuji, Annie Woldman

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## *New CIRs in Tokushima City!*

*By Tom Wehrmann and Annie Woldman*

### ***A Friendly “Guten Tag” from the New German CIR in Tokushima*** *By Tom Wehrmann*

**G**uten Tag! My name is Tom Wehrmann and since August, I have started working as the second German Coordinator for International Relations at the Tokushima Prefectural Office. My main task will be the coordination of various exchange projects between Tokushima Prefecture and the partner state in Germany, called Niedersachsen (Lower Saxony). Besides that, I am also grateful for having the opportunity to join Franzi and Daralyn and work as an editor for “Awa Life”. I am already really excited, because I want to know, what kind of stories will be covered each month. Please share your interesting stories with us!

But back to myself. I studied Japanese studies and media/communication for five years both at the Leipzig University and the Free University of Berlin. My first experience as an exchange



student in Nagoya changed my view of Japan, because before I had so many stereotypes in my head about the Japanese. To improve my Japanese, I spent an additional year in Tokyo and I'm really proud to call Japan my second home. However, there are still some places in the country left that I wanted to visit, and one of them is Shikoku. I can't wait to see the beautiful nature in Shikoku, like the whirlpools of Naruto and to participate in Tokushima's really famous “Awa Odori”. I already went out with my bike along the river, while gazing at the stunning beauty of “Bizan” in the background.

If I would write about all of my hobbies here, I think I could fill another three pages, so I will just mention that I like mountain climbing, playing badminton and tasting the regional specialties of places I visit for the first time. One of my “special powers” is the ability to eat really spicy food, so if anyone knows of a good restaurant that offers spicy ramen, please tell me.

I still struggle with the local dialect (Awa-ben), but at the same time that's also a great thing of Japan. No matter how long you lived here, there are always some things that still surprises you. Let me just say at the end, that I will put all my effort in working for this newsletter, so you guys can enjoy some interesting articles every month. If you see me on the streets, just feel free to say hello!



### ***New CIR at Tokushima City Hall:***

*By Annie Woldman*

Hello everyone! My name is Annie, and I am the new CIR (coordinator for international relations) in the Tokushima City Hall. I am from Austin, Texas in the United States, but I just graduated from Mount Holyoke college in Massachusetts in May. I started studying Japanese in my first year of high school. I quickly fell in love with the language and the culture. After three years of study, I had the opportunity to study abroad in Nagoya for a year. I lived with a host family who is still like a real family to me. I fell in love with Japan during that time. In March of that year, I experienced my first big earthquake. I didn't realize until days later how devastating it was to the people more directly affected by it in Tohoku. My life changed after that. All of our activities in my study abroad program after the earthquake were to raise money to help the affected regions. It was during that time that I learned the value of helping others. Even not in times of disaster, there are always people who need our help, and there are always ways in which we can help, even when we feel helpless.

When I studied abroad in Osaka in college, I started doing research on the Japanese foster care system. I stayed in Nagoya the following summer to do a research internship, during which time I was able to volunteer at three different children's homes. After returning to the U.S., I decided to take a year off from school to serve with AmeriCorps. I spent that year working in a

low income elementary school in my hometown and teaching struggling Kindergarten, first, and second grade students how to read.

I feel so honored to be back in this country that taught me the value of service. I am really excited to be in Tokushima, and to be working in city hall, where I can continue to try to make a difference and help people. I hope to get involved in the community while I am here, and to find ways to volunteer and contribute to this community, as well as to the global community at large. I look forward to getting to know all of you! Please contact me if there is anything I can help you with, and say hi if you see me around Tokushima!



## Tokushima Prefecture Japanese Speech Contest

Winning Speech by Enkhtur Enkhzaya; Translation by Annie Woldman

The Tokushima Prefecture Japanese Speech Contest was held on Sunday, July 23rd at Awagin Hall. 13 participants from eight different countries presented their speeches to members of our community.

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

**Grand Prize:** Enkhtur Enkhzaya (Mongolia)

**Tokushima Prefectural Assembly International Exchange Federation – Chairman’s Award:**

Nguyễn Thị Hồng Yến (Vietnam)

**Runner up Awards:** Wei Yani (China), Zhang Jinxia (China), Rosalie Gunawan (United States of America)

This year Enkhtur Enkhzaya (Mongolia) won the grand prize for her speech "I Will Call When I Can". Please see the translation below for her award winning speech.

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### "I Will Call When I Can"

Everyone in this hall, I think, has accumulated successes in their lives both big and small. Overcoming various obstacles to achieve your dream and become the president of your country is a success, but so is working hard to wake up early when you really want to sleep in. I wonder what kind of successes we all have had in our lives. And I wonder who made them happen.

Ever since I was in middle school, I have wanted

to study abroad in Japan, but at that time it was just a dream to me. However, when I worked with all my effort, before I knew it, my dream had been realized. When it was decided that I would be studying abroad, I felt that I had achieved this by my own strength. Because I had studied so hard for so many years, I thought this was the result of my hard work and was so happy. But after coming to Japan, I realized that I had been completely wrong.

Last year I studied Japanese in Tokyo for one year. I came to Tokushima prefecture this year to study at the National Institute of Technology, Anan College for three years. People from different countries all over the world came to my Japanese language school. As I studied together with other students and got to know them, my world view became wider and allowed me to see a world that I didn't used to know existed. An Indonesian student at my school had become my friend because of how much we talked to each other. We have so many things in common, and just as many differences. We never ran out of topics to talk about, and it was never boring.

One day, my friend asked me "Are you not going to call your family?" I replied without thinking: "No, I won't. My parents always call me, so there is no need for me to call." Actually, I hadn't called my parents even once since I came to Japan. My friend, on the other hand, would call their family every day, even during lunch time, to tell them about their day and ask how they were doing.

After that, I started to think: Who is it that has made my life until now possible? Who made sure that I was raised healthily and without suffering? Who worked so hard for my education to the detriment of their own health? My mother who always helped me with my homework, and my father who made me go to piano and swimming lessons. Even when I said "Enough! I don't want to do it anymore! Leave me alone!" my parents kept pushing me. Because they didn't let me give up, I now have the confidence that I can do these things better than anyone.

What I learned most from studying abroad is the importance of my family and the value of my home country. Our parents won't be by our sides forever. No one can say when they will leave this world. So, no matter how far apart we are, no matter how busy I am, while I still can, I will call to hear my parent's laughing voices. My parents and I are all in good health, and though that may seem unimportant, it is enough for my happiness.

Studying abroad in Japan is the biggest success in my life so far. Participating in this speech contest and standing here in front of you was a way to test myself, and I have succeeded. What is behind my successes? Who? I have finally realized. It was the family that has always been supporting me. I

think all of you have arrived at this point in your lives safely because of the support of your family. My parents and my home country are waiting for me. When I go back to my country, I will feel the responsibility to put what I learned in Japan to good use. No matter how difficult this road is, I cannot quit. Dad, Mom, home country, Mongolia, please wait a little longer.



## Letter from SUKETO NAKAYOSHI

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

In recent years you would often hear about dangerous living creatures in the news. Recently, little creatures like fire ants and ticks can cause serious diseases by stinging or biting and sometimes even menacingly lead to death. Especially children are interested in small living creatures and love to play outside, that's why it is necessary that adults pay attention to them. Until July, it couldn't be confirmed whether fire ants had already invaded the Tokushima Area but because they were already spotted in the Osaka and Hyogo area, you do not want to be in direct contact with them. Fire ants are between 2.5 and 6mm long, have ginger colored bodies, have a strong will to fight, and possess a poisonous stinger on their back. If you get stung, it will cause an intense pain. In that case, please keep calm and if you notice any bodily changes, please hurry and see a doctor. Some people may show some signs of an allergic reaction. If this is the case please call an ambulance immediately. Ticks are about 3-8mm long and can grow even larger by up to 1cm by biting people or animals, and feeding on their blood. They live in mountains and bushes, and if a person gets bitten by them, it can cause serious diseases which can also lead to death. If you are planning to go to the mountains,

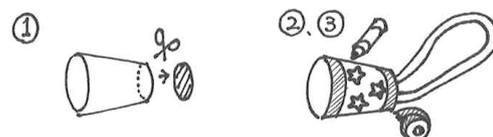
please embrace your skin as less as possible. Bug spray is also very effective. In case you have been bitten, it is important to remove the tick quickly, but please be aware that one part of the tick could remain in your skin and a disease-causing agent could invade the body. If possible, please leave this to a doctor. For your safety, watch your condition, and if there are any signs of disease, like fever, vomiting or diarrhea, please visit a doctor. Autumn is the best season to travel in Japan, so if you go in to the mountains, please be careful.

\* \* \*

### Handmade Toys: "Paper Cup Megaphone"

#### Directions:

- 1) Cut the bottom of the cup and take it out.
- 2) You can draw some pictures or put some stickers on the sides. Make it colorful.
- 3) Attach a ribbon at the bottom of the cup, so you can hang it around your neck.



# Japanese Lesson

By Akiko Tsuji

じょうず  
上手です。

「上手ですね。」 You can use this expression if you want to praise somebody for something. But be careful, if you use it wrong it could be misunderstood as impolite. Let us practice this time when you can use 「上手です」 and when not.

<問題> 日本語の先生と学生が話しています。休み時間に学生は先生にわからないところを教えてくださいました。学生の答え方はどちらがいいですか。

先生： どうですか？わかりましたか？

学生： a) はい、よくわかりました。先生は教え方が上手ですね。

b) はい、よくわかりました。ありがとうございました。



The right answer is b). Do you understand why a) is incorrect? The rules are as follows.

1) It is impolite, if you praise somebody who has a higher position than you, especially if it is related to his or her work. It is also considered impolite when praising a professional as a non-professional. Even if you met someone for the first time, you could hurt his or her feelings.

2) In case you want to praise a professional or a higher person, please don't use 「上手だ」 but use 「ありがとうございました」「助かりました (it helped a lot)」 or other expressions of gratitude or emotions like 「素晴らしいです (how wonderful)」.

3) If your praise is not related to somebody's usual work you can use it also for people in higher power. But please add an 「お」 to it so it becomes 「お上手ですね」.

(例)：日本語の先生：これ、私がつくったケーキです。どうぞ。

学生：わあ！いただきます。おいしいです。先生、ケーキを作るのが上手ですね。

<練習> 次の言い方がいい場合は○、よくない場合は×を( )に書いて、いい言い方を考えてください。

① 日本語教室で ( )

A (学生)：先生の字はとてもきれいですね。複雑な漢字も読みやすいです。

(Teacher, your handwriting is really beautiful. Even difficult kanji characters are easy to read.)

B (先生)：そうですか。それはよかったです。(Really? Thank you.)

② プロのカメラマンに ( )

A (プロでない人)：写真の撮り方がとてもお上手ですね。私はこんな写真が撮れませんよ。

(You are really good at taking pictures. I could never take pictures that beautiful.)

B (カメラマン)：ええ。30年ずっと取っていますから。

(Yes, it is because I have been taking pictures for 30 years.)

③ 会社で ( )

A (部下)：この資料は部長が作られたんですか？上手ですね。

(Did you make these documents, departmental manager? You made them really well.)

B (上司)：そのうち君もできるようになるよ。(You will also be able to do it after some time.)



○ 日本語教室で ( ) × ①  
 ○ プロのカメラマンに ( ) × ②  
 ○ 会社で ( ) × ③

## Awa Shoku: New Queen of Mushrooms?

By Lance Kita

Autumn is the season for mushrooms, so versatile and meaty. Luckily, Tokushima is a treasure trove of Japan's most representative mushroom, **shiitake** (椎茸).

You can actually find *shiitake* all year, and that is thanks to some advances in the way they're grown. Traditionally, they were cultivated on tree trunk sections, but it limited the harvesting season and yield. Recently, Tokushima has started growing them on blocks of sawdust and nutrients in enclosed warehouses, so conditions can be closely controlled. Not only do the mushrooms grow faster, but can be harvested year-round. Tokushima Prefecture is the #1 producer of house-cultivated fresh *shiitake*, with 80% of the harvest sent to supermarkets and restaurants in Kansai.

Whether it's a summer beach barbecue or a simmering hot pot in the winter, *shiitake* are a welcome addition, and that's also no accident. Thanks to high concentrations of amino acids, it's one of the top three umami sources in Japanese cooking along with dried bonito and kelp. But you need to apply heat to bring out the flavor, hence the grilling or simmering.

Autumn is an extra busy time for *shiitake* growers, and that is good news for us Awa locals. As the mushrooms are harvested, there are many that are too small, too big, or too misshaped for normal distribution, so they are sold in bulk at reasonable prices at local farmer's markets, *Michi-no-eki* roadside shops, and even supermarkets. The tiny ones are great in pasta or a quick stir-fry with chicken. The large ones are perfect as vegetarian burger patties. The odd-shaped ones can be disguised in tempura, or sliced and sautéed in garlic herb butter. The flavor is as wonderful as the perfectly-shaped ones, so take advantage of this bargain.

But the best is yet to come in October... I introduce **Tenkeiko** (天恵菇), the queen of *shiitake* mushrooms. Only a select few of a select

hybrid pass the test and can be sold as *Tenkeiko*. These are jumbo mushrooms the size of your fist, 10 times the size of a regular *shiitake*. They are thicker than a steak, and contain three times the umami. I had some at a local bar last fall, and when they arrived, grilled with butter and splashed with sudachi...they still looked like chunks of meat. *Tenkeiko* don't shrink or lose their moisture, and retain their firm texture. This is the Kobe beef of *shiitake*, and I hope you'll look for them at your favorite *izakaya* or restaurant. This fall, kick up your mushroom experience, whether on the cheap or as a splurge. Have fun, guys, with your fungi!



These *Tenkeiko* mushrooms aren't just bigger, they're better. (Note: beer crate is a miniature toy.)



*Tenkeiko* mushrooms are so thick and meaty, grill or fry them just like pieces of steak.

# Events & Memoranda

## Japanese Classes 2017: Term 2 Schedule



Hour: 10:30-12:00

Location: Meeting rooms at TOPIA

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 prepare the textbooks on your own. As well, there will be themed lessons on various topics such as seasons and life in Tokushima.

Fee: All classes are free.

DAY	TEACHER	LEVEL	CLASS DESCRIPTION	
TUE	Ms. Tamaki	Beginner	We will take the first step towards learning basic expressions. The Japanese language supporters will assist with conversation. Text: Minna no Nihongo I – from Chapter 1	From October 3 (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 4 (20 times)
THU	Ms. Yamada	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 12 (20 times)
FRI	Ms. Aoki	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 October 6 (25 times)
SUN	JTM	Elementary 2	We will study various verb forms and complex expressions. Text: Minna no Nihongo I – from Chapter 26	From October 1 (20 times)
	Volunteers	Group Lesson	This is a flexible group study class split up in different levels.	

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

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

TUE	Ms. Kimura Ms. Fujii	Special Beginners Class	A class for those who cannot read or write hiragana or katakana. We will study the basics such as, the Japanese alphabet, greetings, numbers, and items. We will also be learning about Tokushima.	You may join at anytime
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★ Contact Info: Tokushima Prefectural International Exchange Association (TOPIA)  
6F Clement Plaza, 1-61 Terashima Honcho Nishi, Tokushima City 770-0831  
TEL: 088-656-3303 FAX: 088-652-0616 E-mail: [topia@topia.ne.jp](mailto:topia@topia.ne.jp)

★ Classes may be cancelled due to inclement weather such as typhoons, heavy rain, or snow. Please confirm by calling TOPIA at 088-656-3303.

\*Japanese classes are also available at the Anan International Association, Aizumi Town International Exchange Association, Yoshinogawa International Exchange Association, and NPO Mima no Sato.

\*Please visit TOPIA's Japanese Classes page on our official website for more information (available in Japanese, English and Chinese).

# Events & Memoranda

## White Horse Theatre

### ホワイト・ホース・シアター上演実行委員会

The "White Horse Theatre" Group is coming to Tokushima! The group is performing mainly in front of English-learning Audiences, to show them that language learning doesn't have to be boring. This time, they will perform two pieces: "Lizzie and the Pirate" for English beginners and for Advanced English Learners the "Twelfth Night". Don't miss your chance to see them!

イギリスのプロ劇団 "White Horse Theatre" を徳島に迎えることになりました。この劇団は、英語を外国語として学ぶ人たちに見せる劇団であり、劇を通じて見る人に英語で楽しめたという自信をつけます。今回、小・中学生向けの「リジーと海賊」と高校生・大人向けの「十二夜」という劇作品を上演する予定です。ぜひご覧ください。

When: October 1st (Sunday)

11:00 Lizzie and the Pirate  
(Doors Open 10:30), 60 minutes  
15:00 Twelfth Night  
(Doors Open 14:30), 90 minutes

Where: Tokushima Kenritsu Bunka no Mori, 21 Seikikan Event Hall

Cost: Lizzie and the Pirate: 2,000 yen  
(2,200 yen at the door),  
Students: 1,800 yen  
Twelfth Night : 2,500 yen (2,700 yen  
at the door)  
Students: 2,300 yen

Tel: 090-9452-8798

E-mail: masamimt.alley@gmail.com

日時: 2017年10月1日(日)

11時 リジーと海賊 (10時半開場)、60分  
15時 十二夜 (14時半開場)、90分

場所: 徳島県立文化の森  
21世紀間イベントホール

料金: リジーと海賊  
一般 2,000円 (当日2,000円)  
学生 1,800円  
十二夜  
一般 2,500円 (当日2,700円)  
学生 2,300円

TEL: 090-9452-8798

Email: masamimt.alley@gmail.com

## World Rafting Championship 2017

### ラフティング世界選手権 2017

From October 3rd until October 9th, top athletes from all over the world will gather at Yoshino River in the Miyoshi City area to participate in the World Rafting Championship 2017. Watch the spectacle live and cheer for your favorite athletes!

10月3日から9日まで世界レベルの激流が流れる三好市の「吉野川」に、世界のトップアスリートが集結します！好きな選手達を応援しに来てください。

When: October 3rd - 9th (Opening Parade 15:30-)

Where: Around Awa Ikeda Station (Miyoshi City)

Cost: Free

Info: kankou@city.tokushima-miyoshi.lg.jp  
(English available)

Tel: 0883-72-7628

日時: 2017年10月3日～9日

(オープニングパレード開始15時30分)

場所: JR阿波池田駅周辺

料金: 無料

情報: kankou@city.tokushima-miyoshi.lg.jp

TEL: 0883-72-7628

## 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)