

# awa life

**Awa Shoku:** Nashi,  
Golden Globes of  
Autumn

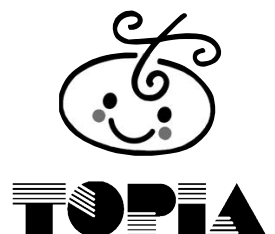
**Japanese Class**  
Schedule

September 2018  
# 336



**New CIRs in  
Tokushima!**

**Tokushima Prefecture  
Japanese Speech  
Contest**



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

First, we would like to welcome our new editor, Nico Bohnsack, to the Awa Life team! You can read more about him in this issue. As summer slowly fades away and autumn rolls in, the weather becomes much more bearable and there are many activities to enjoy. For this reason, autumn has a couple of nicknames here in Japan, such as "**Shokuyoku no Aki**" (Autumn of Appetite) , "**Dokusho no Aki**" (Autumn of Reading), and "**Geijutsu no Aki**" (Artistic Autumn). I (Daralyn) look forward to "**Geijutsu no Aki**", as I haven't gone to an art museum in a long time. What do you look forward to this autumn?

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 Nico

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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 Nico Bohnsack

### *Contributors This Month:*

Jessica Dreistadt, Emily Bernier, Emelue Elizabeth Ugochi, Kazue Inoue, Lance Kita, and Takako Yamada

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## *New CIRs in Tokushima!*

**Nico Bohnsack**



Moin Moin! My name is Nico Bohnsack and I just started working as a Coordinator for International Relations in the Tokushima Prefectural Office as well as at TOPIA, where I work as one of the editors of Awa Life. Moreover, I am one of the JET Programme Prefectural Advisors.

I grew up in a close-to-nature environment in one of the smallest villages in Germany which consists of only six farmhouses and is located about 40 minutes south from Hanover, the capital of Lower Saxony which is also a partner prefecture of Tokushima Prefecture. After visiting Japan about ten years ago, I developed a (rather late) interest in Japan and moved to Hamburg to study East Asian Studies with a focus on Japan and the Japanese language. I also studied at Osaka City University as an exchange student once. In graduate school I was a regular student at the University of Tsukuba (Japan) and the University

of Bonn (Germany), and spent one semester abroad at Korea University (South Korea). Although I traveled quite a lot, my life always brought me back to Japan. After graduate school, I went back to Osaka to work in Japanese-German exchange, while on the quest for the best Okonomiyaki restaurant all over town (well, I tracked down some candidates by now). In total, I have been living in Japan for about four years.

Strangely, I never visited Tokushima before although I was living nearby, knew about the special relationship between Tokushima and Germany, and already visited two other prefectures in Shikoku. That is why I am really happy to have the opportunity to work and live in this beautiful place. I especially look forward to visiting places in nature, such as mountains and the Naruto whirlpools. One of my goals is to complete the whole Shikoku pilgrimage step by step, so living here will definitely enable me to do so. The local cuisine is another element I am really excited about. Besides enjoying nature and food, I am a passionate drummer, so if there are any musicians out there, do not hesitate to contact me!

I am very happy that I will have the chance to connect people, serve as a bridge between cultures, and directly shape the relations between Tokushima Prefecture and my home. Hence, working here will be a matter of the heart for me and I hope that I can also assist others to have the best time possible here in Sweet Home Tokushima!



### ***A Big Hello from Germany!*** **Jessica Dreistadt**

Hello and nice to meet you!  
My name is Jessica Dreistadt – a challenge to pronounce for anybody who is not German – and I will be a Coordinator for International Relations at the Tokushima Prefectural Office, taking over the duties of Franz.

I was born in a small town in the German-French-Luxemburgish border region and later moved first to Berlin, and then Düsseldorf, to study Japanese culture and language in university.

During my studies, I had the chance to visit Japan as an exchange student twice for about a year each time, the first time in Kyoto, the second time in Minoh,



Osaka. During these stays as well as during private vacations, I managed to visit all prefectures of Japan. It has however been 6 years since I last came to Tokushima!

While I honestly was a little surprised that I have been placed in Tokushima prefecture for JET, I am thrilled to find out what life here is like. Having worked with Japanese people for Japanese companies in Germany before, I am also eager to see what it feels like to actually work in Japan, especially in a role as challenging and diverse as CIR.

In my spare time you will probably find me at a book store browsing Manga or at Karaoke. If you want to join me, let me know!

### ***Emily Bernier***



Hello, my name is Emily Bernier, I come from Indiana, USA, and I'll be working as the CIR at the Tokushima City Hall. I'm very excited to have the opportunity to work in Tokushima, and I

hope that I can learn a lot and be of good help!

Indiana is located in the "Mid-West" part of the US (where I live is about a 4-hour drive away from Chicago), and is filled with lots of farms, nature, and cornfields. This May, I graduated from Earlham College with a degree in Japanese Language and Linguistics. One interesting fact about me is that I was homeschooled before going to college--from preschool all the way until I graduated high school.

I have been to Japan a few times before, (I studied abroad in Iwate for 4 months, interned in Tokyo for 2 months, and researched the Ainu culture in Hokkaido for 3 weeks), but I have never been further south than Kanagawa. Therefore, I'm excited for the chance

to explore and experience a new part of Japan. If you have any recommendations of interesting and/or beautiful places to visit in Tokushima or in other nearby prefectures, please let me know!

I have a lot of small hobbies, but some of my favorite things to do in my free time are cook and bake, do outdoor activities (especially things like kayaking and biking), and explore different places. My favorite cuisines to cook and eat are Japanese (of course), Korean, and Mediterranean. I also love to try new foods, and I'm excited to try Tokushima's famous foods—like Tokushima-style ramen. I'm also looking forward to learning a lot of new Japanese recipes while I live in Tokushima, and if you have any favorites, please feel free to share them!

When I was in high school, I was part of a Scouting program called Venturing, and through that program I was able to try many outdoor activities like rock-climbing, waterskiing, sailing, and zip-lining. With my college, I also went on a 14-day canoeing trip in Canada. I heard that Yoshino is a good place to try rafting, so I hope to try that while I am here.

Once again, I am really looking forward to working and living in Tokushima-shi. I would love to meet and get to know many people, so please feel free to say hello if you see me around!

## Tokushima Prefecture Japanese Speech Contest

Winning Speech by Emelue Elizabeth Ugochi



The Tokushima Prefecture Japanese Speech Contest was held on Sunday, July 22nd at Awagin Hall. 13 participants from 8 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:** Emelue Elizabeth Ugochi (Nigeria)  
**Tokushima Prefectural Assembly International Exchange Federation-Chairman's Award:**

Chaojin Li (China)

**Runner up Awards:** Trần Thế Anh (Vietnam),  
 Jing Wei (China), Zin Min Paing (Myanmar)

This year Emelue Elizabeth Ugochi (Nigeria) won the grand prize for her speech "My Challenges and Dreams in Japan". Please see the translation below for her award winning speech.

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### **My Challenges and Dreams in Japan**

Good afternoon everyone, my name is Emelue Elizabeth Ugochi. I am from Nigeria, Africa and I am a teacher training student at Naruto University of Education. From October of last year, till March of this year, I studied in the Japanese Training Course at Tokushima University. Since completing the course, I have been conducting research at Naruto University of Education. My hobbies include reading, cooking, baseball, and watching movies.

My country Nigeria is a very large country located in Western Africa. Nigeria has a population of approximately two billion and has the largest population in Africa. The official language of Nigeria is English. This is because it was a former colony of England. However, there are actually about 200 languages in existence and within those languages, there are three main languages used. They are Hausa, Igbo, and Yorba. I am a part of the Igbo ethnic group, and thankfully can speak all three of the main languages.

When you hear "Nigeria", what do you think of? Nigeria is abundant in wildlife and natural resources. Some wildlife that can be found include alligators, gorillas, and elephants. Also, Nigeria is one of the largest exporters of oil, and a large producer of natural gas and iron ore.

The capital city of Abuja is located in the country's center. The relocation of the capital from the former capital Lagos to Abuja took place in 1991, and is the only planned community in Africa and a very safe and beautiful city in Nigeria. In fact, the architect who designed Abuja was the well-known Kenzo Tange who is Japanese. My family also lives in Abuja. My husband is an engineer. My daughter turned five and my son turned three this year. Right now, my mother is taking care of them.

Before I came to Japan, I taught biology at a high school for about seven years. After that, I passed an exam and managed to get a scholarship to study in Japan. Since I didn't understand much Japanese when I came to Tokushima University in October last year, I spent ten hours every day to studying Japanese, while at the same time acquiring effective teaching methods from my teachers.

It was one of these rare days when it was snowing in Tokushima. As always, we went and looked forward to the morning lecture of Ms. F. But on that day, Ms. M entered the classroom and said "Good Morning" with a cheerful voice. She told us that the morning class would be taught by her and that Ms. F would take over the afternoon

lesson. We were informed about the reason afterwards. Ms.F's car did not move due to the snow and she got stuck on the way. However, both classes were carried out in a very smooth and warm atmosphere as if nothing happened that day. At that time, I really felt that my teachers were true professionals.

The teachers at Naruto University of Education have inspired me a lot, and I hope to continuously challenge myself to improve as



an educator. I am very thankful for the opportunity of being able to study in Japan.

In March next year, I will complete my program in Japan and will return to my home country. Since I like Japanese, it is my dream to teach at a school where Japanese can be studied after my return. Last but not least, I would like to thank everybody for listening to my speech. Thank you very much.

## Letter from SUKETO NAKAYOSHI

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

What kind of book have you read recently? A book is not just full of words and knowledge but also a fantastic resource for your heart as well as a base for good health. It would be great if children began to enjoy books from a young age through the experience of joyful picture books.

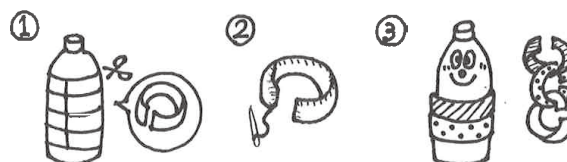
One trick to make children enjoy picture books is to first let the adults read it. If the reader is joyous, the joy will also make the child excited to read. Since children enjoy reading books they like over and over again, we should fulfill that wish as much as we can (having a favorite book is a wonderful thing!). Let's enter the world of picture books together! It is completely fine to talk about things not written as well. Opportunities for communication between parents and children will arise, through the joy of picture books.

When choosing books for children less than one year old, it is advisable to look for books with distinct colors and contours, as well as faces looking forward since their eyesight is still developing and such books are easy to recognize. After the age of one, picture books with repetitive and daily life contents, interactive picture books and cloth picture books would be a good choice. Children

from the age of two start to become highly interested in picture books which contain lifestyle topics or even easy stories. After the age of three, curiosity and imagination increases and picture books containing tales, science or fantasy can be recommended. In Japan the best time for reading (*dokusho no aki*) has just begun, and it would be a good time for parents and children to find some favorite books and picture books, don't you think so?

\* \* \*

### Pet Bottle Rings



1. Cut the middle part of the pet bottle in round slices, just like in the picture.
2. Wrap each slice one by one with cloth and close it with a thread.
3. Play with is by wrapping it around your arm or a pet bottle or connect different rings!



## Awa Shoku: Nashi, Golden Globes of Autumn

By Lance Kita

Crisp and juicy, **Japanese pears** (nashi 梨) herald the coming of autumn and the start of the fall fruit harvest season. These fruits are called Asian pears, Korean pears, Chinese pears, sand pears, or apple pears in English, and are popular all over East Asia. *Nashi* seeds have been found in Yayoi Period settlements, and even the **Nihon Shoki** (日本書紀) mentions them as a major crop, so this fruit may have come over with some of the first waves of continental culture.

Tokushima's *nashi* crops are mainly grown in the northern part of the prefecture, with

Naruto City, Matsushige Town, and Kitajima Town harvesting the majority of the fruit. In the orchards, the tree branches are tied to trellises and spread out like an umbrella to promote ample sun exposure and to ensure the fruit stays low enough for easy harvest. To prevent sunburn and bird damage, the fruits are often covered with paper packages as they mature.

Before WWII, the **Nijisseiki** (二十世紀) and **Chojuro** (長十郎) varieties were the most popular, but since then other newer varieties have gained momentum. Tokushima mainly grows **Kosui** (幸水) and **Hosui** (豊水) pears, although some late-season types like **Niitaka** (新高) and **Nijisseiki** can also be found. Most of *Kosui* and *Hosui*'s harvest happens around August to coincide with the summer gift-giving tradition of **O-Chugen** (お中元), but you can still find *Hosui* pears in markets through September, and *Niitaka* pears until October.

If you're more familiar with creamy, soft Western pears, you'll enjoy the unique texture of *nashi*. The translucent white flesh is crispy and very juicy, with a simple sweet flavor or a hint of tartness. There is a slight grittiness (hence the name sand pears), but it adds to the crispy texture. Most



*Nashi (Japanese pears) are sold in small packs, loose, or in gift box sets.*



*Nashi (Japanese pears) have a green-yellow skin and white juicy flesh.*

Japanese peel the skin, cut the fruit into wedges, and cut out the seeds, similar to what they do with apples. (Personally, I like to scrub the fruit to remove some of the fuzz, then bite right in, leaving only the core when I'm done.)

Really, the best way to enjoy *nashi* are as is, but recently, some farmers have been developing products like *nashi* jam, *nashi* gelato, and *nashi* tarts to use the bruised and damaged fruit. Like its pear counterparts in the West, *nashi* goes well with ham and other salty meats, so try some prosciutto-wrapped *nashi* slices or add some julienned slices to your cold noodle garnishes next to the ham and shredded omelet.

Although *nashi* are mostly water and sugars and low in nutritional content, they do have protease, an enzyme that breaks up proteins, usually found in acidic fruits like kiwi and pineapple. Grated *nashi* in your barbecue meat marinades will tenderize the meat and add a pleasant sweetness without the sour edge.

Try a ginger pork recipe (beef works too) with a marinade made from 1/2 *nashi* (grated), a few tablespoons of soy sauce, a teaspoon of fresh grated ginger, and salt/pepper. Let the meat sit in the marinade for 10-30 minutes. Sauté some sliced onions in a small frying pan. When they are softened, add the meat and the marinade. Sauté until the meat is cooked and the sauce thickens to a glaze. Garnish with minced green onion and/or sesame seeds and serve with rice.

*Nashi* are great sources of rehydration for fall sports festivals, and are a crisp sweet treat on a cool evening after an autumn dinner. Look for cheaper bruised fruits or smaller fruits in bulk bags at farmer's markets. This is the refreshing start of fall's fruit season, with chestnuts, persimmons, and mandarin oranges to follow. Enjoy!

## Polite Style and Plain Style

In this month's lesson, we will learn about the polite style and plain style. Usually, when you start learning Japanese, you begin with the polite style. This is used when talking to a person you do not know very well, someone older or higher in status or in formal occasions. However, in our daily lives, we use the plain style when we talk with friends or family members or when we write diaries, papers, reports, etc. Let's look at the difference between the two styles of Japanese.

## ① Verbs

Polite style	行きます	行きません	行きました	行きませんでした
Plain style	行く	行かない	行った	行かなかった
Verb form	Dictionary form	ない form	た form	ない form + かった

## ② い -adjective: delete です from the polite form

Polite style	おお 大きい <u>です</u>	おお 大きくない <u>です</u>	おお 大きかった <u>です</u>	おお 大きくなかった <u>です</u>
Plain style	おお 大きい	おお 大きくない	おお 大きかった	おお 大きくなかった

## ③ な -adjective

Polite style	しず 静か <u>です</u>	しず 静か <u>じゃありません</u>	しず 静か <u>でした</u>	しず 静か <u>じゃありませんでした</u>
Plain style	しず 静か <u>だ</u>	しず 静か <u>じゃない</u>	しず 静か <u>だった</u>	しず 静か <u>じゃなかった</u>

## ④ Noun

Polite style	やす 休み <u>です</u>	やす 休み <u>じゃありません</u>	やす 休み <u>でした</u>	やす 休み <u>じゃありませんでした</u>
Plain style	やす 休み <u>だ</u>	やす 休み <u>じゃない</u>	やす 休み <u>だった</u>	やす 休み <u>じゃなかった</u>

## ⑤ Questions: In the plain style, the particle か at the end of a sentence is usually omitted and a rising intonation is used instead. In affirmative answers, a falling intonation is used.

Polite style	ひるごはんを <sup>た</sup> 食べましたか Did you have lunch?	はい、 <sup>た</sup> 食べました Yes, I did.
Plain style	ひるごはん (を) <sup>た</sup> 食べた <sup>?</sup>	うん、 <sup>た</sup> 食べた <sup>!</sup>

## ⑥ Nouns and な adjectives: In questions and affirmative answers in conversation, だ (plain form of です) is often omitted because it sounds a little harsh.

Polite style	たなかさんは <sup>げんき</sup> ですか。 Is Mr. Tanaka fine?	はい、 <sup>げんき</sup> です。 Yes, he is.
Plain style	たなかさん (は) <sup>げんき</sup> <sup>?</sup>	うん、 <sup>げんき</sup> <sup>!</sup>

## ⑦ Certain particles such as は が を へ can be omitted in plain style conversation.

Polite style	<sup>なに</sup> 何 <sup>を</sup> を <sup>たべ</sup> たべますか	<sup>とうきょう</sup> 東京へ <sup>い</sup> 行きます	たなかさんは <sup>すい</sup> すいかが好きですか
Plain style	<sup>なに</sup> 何 (を) <sup>たべ</sup> たべる <sup>?</sup>	<sup>とうきょう</sup> 東京 (へ) <sup>い</sup> 行く	たなかさん (は) <sup>すい</sup> すいか (が) <sup>す</sup> 好き <sup>?</sup>

## ⑧ Different words or expressions are used in these two styles.

Polite style	はい	いいえ	こちら	しますが	んです	しましょう
Plain style	うん	ううん	こっち	するけど	の	しょう (いこう <sup>けい</sup> 形 volitional form of verb)

Now, let's practice. Please change the conversation on the next page into the plain style.



<p>木村：田中さん、毎日暑いんですね。 今週の土曜日、友だちと海水浴に行きま すが、田中さんもいっしょにいきませんか。 田中：海水浴場ですか。いいですね。 どこへ行くんですか。 木村：鳴門です。10時に徳島駅から車で行き ます。来られますか。 田中：はい、大丈夫です。 じゃあ、9時50分に駅で会いましょう。</p>	<p>Kimura: Mr. Tanaka, it is hot every day, isn't it? I'm going swimming in the ocean with some friends this Saturday. Won't you come with me? Tanaka: Swimming in the ocean? It sounds nice. Where are you going? Kimura: We are going to Naruto. We leave Tokushima Station at 10 and go by car. Can you come? Tanaka: Yes, I can. Then, let's meet at 9:50 at the station.</p>
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参考文庫：みんなの日本語初級 I : 翻訳・文法解説英語版、書いて覚える文型練習帳

木村：田中さん、毎日暑いんですね。今週の土曜日、友だちと海水浴に行きませんが、田中さんもいっしょにいきませんか。田中：海水浴場ですか。いいですね。どこへ行くんですか。木村：鳴門です。10時に徳島駅から車でいきます。来られますか。田中：はい、大丈夫です。じゃあ、9時50分に駅で会いましょう。

## Japanese Classes 2018: 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" (2<sup>nd</sup> 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 : Free

DAY	TEACHER	LEVEL	CLASS DESCRIPTION	
TUE	Ms. Tamaki	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 2 (25 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 3 (20 times)
THU	Ms. Yamada	Beginner	We will take the first step towards learning basic expressions. Text: Minna no Nihongo I – from Chapter 1~13	From October 18 (20 times)
FRI	Ms. Aoki	Elementary 1	We will study various verb forms and sentence patterns using those verb forms. Text: Minna no Nihongo I – from Chapter 14~25	From October 5 (20 times)
SUN	JTM	Elementary 3	We will study reasoning, passive, causative and honorific expressions. Text: Minna no Nihongo II – from Chapter 39~50	From October 14 (20 times)
	Volunteers	Group Lesson	This is a flexible group study class split up in different levels.	
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

For more information see TOPIA's homepage: <http://www.topia.ne.jp>

(この日本語教室は文化庁事業です)

# Events & Memoranda

## Machi ★ Asobi Volume 21 マチ★アソビ vol. 21

After the first Machi Asobi anime event in 2009, many anime fans from all over the country got attracted by the event held in the heart of Tokushima City which gives people the chance to tour the center of the town at the same time. There will be famous voice-over artists hosting talkshows and cosplay performances featuring colorful outfits, filling the whole city with the spirit of anime. For more details visit the official homepage.

When: September 22nd (Sat) – October 5th (Fri)  
Climax Run: October 6th (Sat) – 8th (Mon)  
Where: 1 Chome-7 Aibacho, Tokushima  
Info: Tokushima Event Planning Division  
Tel: 088-621-2146  
URL : <http://www.machiasobi.com/>

2009 年秋の第 1 回開催以来、徳島市の中心市街地周遊型アニメイベントとして全国から多くのアニメファンを呼び込んでいる「マチ★アソビ」。有名声優によるトークショーや、色とりどりの衣装が印象的なコスプレショーなど、徳島の街がアニメ色に彩られます！詳しいイベントの情報は「マチ★アソビ」HP にて随時発表されますのでご覧ください。

日時： 9 月 22 日（土）～ 10 月 5 日（金）  
クライマックスラン：10 月 6 日（土）～ 8 日（月・祝）  
場所： 徳島市内中心部および藍場浜公園  
お問い合わせ：徳島県にぎわいづくり課  
TEL: 088-621-2146  
URL : <http://www.machiasobi.com/>

## Kitagawa Butai Performance 北川舞台公演

A farm village stage in Kito, Naka District located at the border to Kochi prefecture. The stage in the mountains far away from the village appears in a mysterious and marvelous way. There will be also a small corner where you can most probably buy the local specialties of Naka Town.

When: September 30th (Sun.)  
Where: Hachiman Shrine, Funadaniguchi Kitokitagawa, Naka, Naka District  
Info: Naka Town Board of Education  
Fee: Free  
Tel: 0884-62-1106

高知県との県境に位置する那賀町木頭にある農村舞台。人里から高く離れた山奥で見える農村舞台は神秘的であり、幻想的です。ミニ物産コーナーもあり、那賀町の特産品等が販売される予定です。

日時： 9 月 30 日（日）  
場所： 那賀郡那賀町木頭北川字船谷口 18 （八幡神社境内）  
お問い合わせ：那賀町教育委員会  
入場料：無料  
TEL: 0884-62-1106

## 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)