

# awa life

Mini **Wagasa** Making  
Lesson at Mima  
Wagasa Studio

Tokushima Sakura  
Map

April 2019  
# 343



**Awa Shoku: Tokobushi**  
- Be a Little Shellfish

**Farewell Messages**



---

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

We are in the middle of spring and some of you are probably still enjoying the cherry blossoms which are in bloom until the middle of April in some regions of Tokushima. Others might be looking forward to the 10-day holiday around imperial succession, starting at the end of April. Maybe you could have your first barbeque of the year in a park or at the beach or walk parts of the Shikoku Pilgrimage. Since it is not too cold and not too hot it is one of the best times to enjoy outside activities.

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

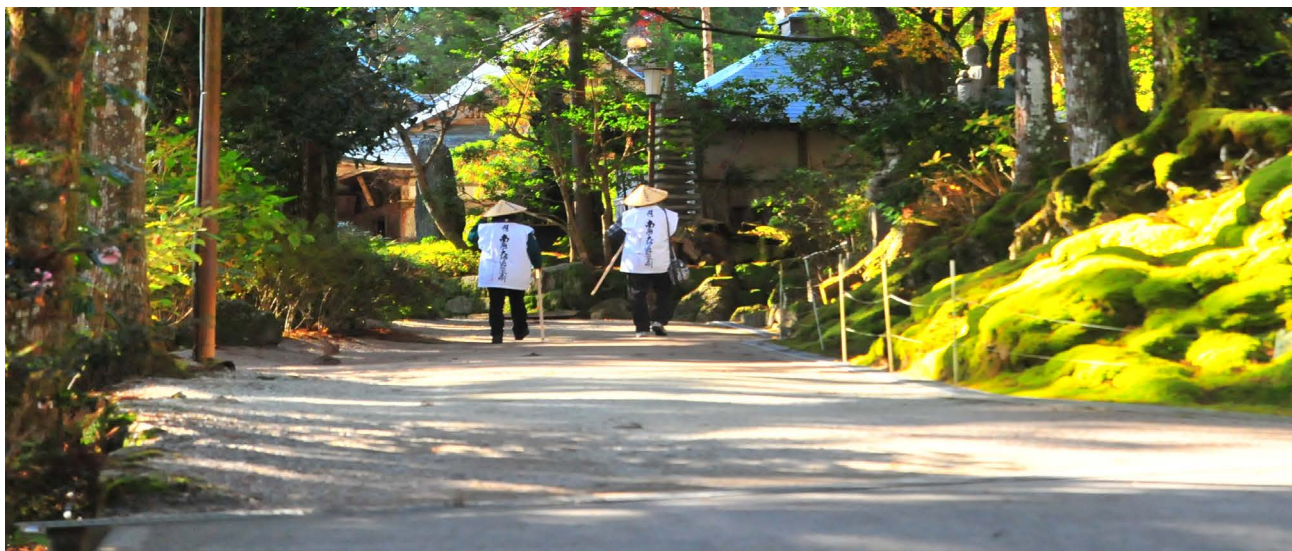
### **Tokushima Prefectural International Exchange Association (TOPIA)**

1-61 Terashima Honcho Nishi, Tokushima City 770-0831 JAPAN, Clement Plaza 6F

Tel: 088-656-3303 Fax: 088-652-0616

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

*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:*

Nan Zhang, Kiyomi Fujii, Kazue Inoue, Lance Kita, and Toshiko Yamamizo

# Contents



Pg. 2-3: Mini Wagasa Making Lesson at Mima Wagasa Studio

Pg. 4: TOPIA Farewell Messages

Pg. 5: Letter from SUKETO NAKAYOSHI

Pg. 6: Awa Shoku: Tokobushi - Be a Little Shellfish

Pg. 7: Japanese Lesson

Pg. 8-9: Events and Memoranda



## *Mini Wagasa Making Lesson at Mima Wagasa Studio*

By: Nan Zhang

While gazing at the oil-paper umbrella (*wagasa*) he just made Mr. Kobayashi, teacher of the Group for Wagasa Production in Mima, asked me “Mr. Zhang, did you know that there is actually a slight difference between Japanese and Chinese oil-paper umbrellas?”. The teachers at the *wagasa* studio explained all the details about *wagasa* in a very kind way, almost as if we were old friends. I heard

about the Mima *wagasa* sometime ago through my work. I wanted to see it with my own eyes and touch it with my own hands so that I really could feel the beauty and attraction of the clever design of the *wagasa*. Through this experience, I was able to understand Japan’s “artisan spirit”.

The *wagasa* was introduced to Japan from China through the Korean peninsula during the Kinmei Era and has a history of about 1500 years. *Wagasa* used in everyday life are generally larger than folding umbrellas or European umbrellas and are more focused on design and colors. This is a result of considering both effectiveness and



compatibility with traditional clothing. Moreover, the production process of *wagasa* is very complex and time consuming, it can take several months to finish one umbrella once time is added to improve the design or dry the umbrella. At the Mima Wagasa Studio you can choose from different workshop options, such as lampshades, mini *wagasa* or *wagasa* for everyday use. Considering the time and costs, I chose the mini *wagasa*

workshop, using indigo silk as my umbrella fabric. In just half a day I learned about *wagasa* and its production process while creating a beautiful indigo craftwork.

Ms. Fukumi, who used to work with me at TOPIA until April last year, is now responsible for indigo-dyeing at the Mima Tourism Exchange Center. She knew that I would come for the mini *wagasa* workshop and kindly prepared three indigo umbrella fabrics which varied in pattern.

1. Spreading glue onto the frame: It is not easy to spread glue onto the 24 long and narrow parts of the frame. When adding one round of glue while

## Mini Wagasa Making Lesson at Mima Wagasa Studio

adjusting the quantity and taking care of the balance, it is necessary to look closely if there are any missed parts.

2. Gluing the umbrella fabrics: Speed, balance and concentration, along with the use of tools, are vital to glue the silk umbrella fabric onto the frame smoothly. If everything goes fine, it should be perfect when the frame is pressed down by the palm of your hand while making the umbrella fabric fit exactly.

3. Attaching the umbrella fabric: Gluing the umbrella fabric is still insufficient. While carefully pressing it down from top to bottom the 24 parts of the frame are fastened down using a thin hollow bamboo stick which is about the same width of the frame.

4. Closing the umbrella and adding a crease: The *wagasa* are well-planned in order for the shape to be perfect in a closed and opened state. The umbrella fabric is placed between the frames into the inner part. The whole umbrella fabric is folded to the right to make a clockwise spiral.

5. Adding the umbrella tip: Umbrella tips are made out of two squares of Japanese paper (*washi*).



After covering the round tip of the central stick with two pieces of *washi* laying on each other, two thin cords for fixation and one thick cord for decoration are tightly fastened.

After completing the *wagasa*, Mr. Kobayashi asked, "Do you have time now?" He continued "Now we will enter a very interesting step. Why don't you take a look?" Around the tips he added long and narrow pieces of *washi* carefully with a tweezer and a beautiful circle appeared. Then Mr. Kobayashi whispered "It is really magical. The *wagasa*. The artisans put their blood, sweat and tears into the materials and process. The traditional craft and culture of both countries, Japan and China, are being passed on and will continue to develop into the future." Looking around, I realized that this mere 20m<sup>2</sup> small studio produces colorful *wagasa* in different shapes and sizes and sends the beauty of this traditional Japanese craft to people in Japan and the whole world. If you ever visit Wakimachi or Udatsu Townscape, have a look at this *wagasa* studio. You might be able to encounter both beautiful *wagasa* and friendly locals.

## Farewell Messages from TOPIA Staff

### Huge Thanks to My TOPIA Friends

By: Kiyomi Fujii



I'm finishing my two-year work as an education trainee at TOPIA. The TOPIA staff members have been helping me, taking me by hand and teaching me step by step. Thanks to their great guidance and coaching, I could come through even in my clutches.

To realize a multi-cultural society in Tokushima, TOPIA has been engaging in a series of educational activities. This is indeed developing a workforce that "Opens Tokushima's doors to the world", an educational goal set forth by our prefecture.

I received many educational hints while engaging in my service. These hints include realizing the value of giving international exchange and cross-cultural experience to young children through

coordinating international education programs, understanding and supporting children and parents with a foreign background, promoting "simple Japanese phrasing" and empowerment through Japanese language education, making considerations to problems in daily life and issues caused by literacy levels, raising awareness of life-saving disaster prevention education, and helping students understand and take pride in their own culture in order to introduce Awa Culture to the world.

Above all, I have seen myself change and grow through this position. With a growing sense of wonder and respect for every culture during my time here, I became more interested in learning languages. After rediscovering the depth of Japanese culture and Awa Culture, I actually started to take part in some. I also deepened my interest on tourism in Tokushima. Most of all, I have improved my Awa Odori. *Sekai wa Hitotsu! Arasowa-ren!* (Unite the world! Do not fight!: the cheer of *あらしわ<sup>ら</sup>連*; TOPIA's international dancing team)

I would like to thank all the people who have been supporting me. I hope to stay connected with all of my TOPIA friends. ☺

### Growing with the Community as an "Outsider"

By Nan Zhang

When I read the job requirements to become a Miyoshi City Regional Revitalization Officer, the word "outsider" caught my eye, and the memories I made in Tokushima these past two years flooded my mind. I came to Tokushima having no acquaintances, but thanks to the help from my coworkers I was able to get used to my new job and life in a foreign land right away. Coincidentally, I joined Musouren with my fellow CIR, and it truly gave me a kick start to my Awa Life.

I became passionate about Awa Odori. The more I danced it, the more I learned and experienced, and I was



able to deepen my understanding of Japan's traditional culture, Tokushima's cultural climate, and the nature of the people. The summer nights in the beginning of tsuyu (the rainy season) were difficult, but after sweating, it was refreshing to feel the ocean air against my skin. When standing at the entrance of the stage during the summer Awa Odori festival, the feverish excitement in the atmosphere and feeling of nervousness gave me a sense of thrill. However, even after dancing for four days straight I still felt it wasn't enough. I became immersed in my life in Japan and Tokushima, and made a lot of friends. Thanks to Awa Odori, the people of Tokushima have recognized and accepted an

“outsider” like me, and shared joy and excitement with me.

Of course, I was able to experience more than just Awa Odori, such as Tokushima’s rich and beautiful nature, fresh and delicious seafood, vegetables and fruits, the historical Shikoku Pilgrimage, and charming indigo dye. I was enthralled and fascinated by it all, but I was most impressed by the local people of Tokushima. The local people who are always hardworking, the local people who are kind to all customers from around the country and around the world, the local people who have pride and preference in Awa Odori and Awa culture. I want to use this opportunity to thank everyone who has helped me along the way

### *Farewell Messages from TOPIA Staff*

in these past two years including my colleagues, friends, and fellow group members.

In Japan, April marks the full bloom of the sakura, and it also marks a season of departure for me. This April will mark a special time in life for me. As I finish my job as a Coordinator for International Relations, I will become a Miyoshi City Regional Revitalization Officer. It is a result of getting to know people around me and build relationships with them. In this new job and life, I will grow by joining forces with the local people of Tokushima. I will take in Tokushima’s local charms and Awa Culture and share it with the world while continuing to enjoy the Awa Odori.

### **Letter from SUKETO NAKAYOSHI**

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

The beautiful cherry blossom season has finally arrived! I’m sure that many of you who have started a new chapter in life are pushing forward with this new start.

With the beginning of the new term there might be children faced with uncertainty but adults around them can actually help children to relax step by step, by understanding their feelings. Let’s have a look at some methods on how to address children’s feelings.

#### 1. Physical contact is the most effective

It is said that through physical contact, the intracerebral hormone oxytocin (which is also known as the “love hormone”) is released in both parts of the brain.

#### 2. Listen closely to children who are at the talking stage

When you listen to children, they come to understand that somebody responded to their thoughts. This encourages them to do their best.

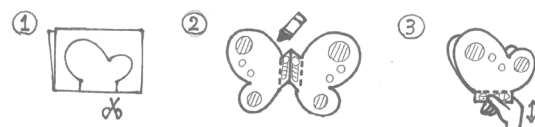
#### 3. Praise children for their accomplishments

Children feel much better when getting told that

they did a good job after accomplishing something, rather than being told “Do your best!” for something they can’t do. Through this, their willpower become stronger as well.

\* \* \*

#### **Fluttering Butterfly**



1. Fold a drawing paper in half and cut it in to the shape of a butterfly as seen in the diagram.

2. Open the paper and draw your favorite patterns on both wings of the butterfly.

3. Fold it as seen in the picture and use glue to stick the inside of the body portion together.

Hold the body portion with your hand while moving it up and down, and the wings will flutter.



## Awa Shoku: Tokobushi - Be a Little Shellfish

By Lance Kita

As the weather warms up, people flock to the river flats and rake the sand or mud, looking for tasty shellfish. This spring tradition is called **shiohigari** 潮干狩り and is a great way to enjoy the outdoors even though it's still too cold to actually swim. Although most people end up with a bucket of clams



*Tokobushi are found on seafood restaurant menus during spring months or in cans at souvenir shops around Tokushima.*

Tokushima takes it to the next level. In Mugi Town 牟岐町 and other coastal communities, families and friends take a picnic out to the seaside on April 3 for a special day called **Hamazekku** 浜節句, and among all the tasty dishes they bring are some tiny shellfish that just started their season in mid-March.

**Tokobushi** トコブシ (also called **nagareko** ながれこ in Tokushima) are mini-abalones, but a different species from the large ones you find in Chinese restaurants. Their shells remind me of a magic talisman, flat oval domes formed by spiral growth, punctured by a row of breathing holes, and with an inner lining of mother-of-pearl that swirls in rainbow pearlescence like their abalone cousins. Found under rocks in shallow waters, their outer shell color or brown, green, or red is affected by the seaweed that they feed on.

Harvested when they are just 4-6 cm long, the bite-size mollusks are most commonly simmered in soy sauce, sake, and mirin and then the heat is turned off and the pan is brought to room temperature naturally, which allows the food to absorb the flavors of the cooking liquid in a technique called **fukume-ni** 含め煮. You can find simmered **tokobushi** in cans at many souvenir shops in Tokushima, especially in the south, and it's a chewy side dish to a glass of sake or a hot bowl of rice.

Since this is the season, you might be able to try

it as sashimi in a local eatery in Mugi, Yuki, or Minami Towns, or sautéed with vegetables and scrambled with half-cooked egg over rice in the style of **oyako-don**. Its small size makes it more tender and easier to eat than regular abalone, and also tends to be more affordable.

To ensure that **tokobushi** can continue to be harvested, the local fishery

cooperative raises juveniles until they're 2 cm long and releases them in the bay in the fall so that they'll be ready to harvest in spring. They also establish strict harvest seasons and even harvest times (only three hours in the morning) to regulate yields. Fishermen aren't allowed to harvest anything smaller than 3.5 cm either. Divers go out twice a year and cull sea stars from the area, which are the natural enemies of the **tokobushi**. They also control the sea urchin populations that compete with abalone and tokobushi for the same seaweed. All this to guarantee that every **Hamazekku** will be a seafood-rich picnic, and that their harvests will always be abundant.

In 2002, Mugi Port had the 4th largest harvest of regular abalone in Japan, so the reputation of this town for its shellfish is well-known. Every year, there is an Abalone Festival where people can buy seafood at discounted prices and feast on it freshly-made at the port. This year, the Mugi Awabi Matsuri 牟岐アワビまつり is on April 27 and 28 (Sat. and Sun.), and get there early for the best deals and maybe even some free samples. Whether it's the tiny **tokobushi** or the meaty abalone, spring is a great time to head south and try some tasty shellfish.

(Most of the information for this article comes from the Mugi East Fisheries Cooperative website <http://www.mugi.or.jp/tokusan/tokobusi/tokobuisi-annai.htm>)

## Verbs and とき

Today we will study the difference between usage of dictionary form and ta-form verbs when placed before 「～とき」.

(パーティー会場で) (At a party)

A: そのバック、いいですね。

That bag is nice.

O B: これですか。これは、東京へ行ったとき買いました。

This? I bought this when I went to Tokyo.

A: そうなんですか。その靴も、、、

Really? And those shoes?

◎ B: あっ、この靴ですか。この靴は、東京へ行くときに買いました。

Oh, these shoes? I bought these shoes before going to Tokyo.



What did B purchase in Tokyo? Was it the bag or the shoes?

B purchased the bag in Tokyo. The timeline of events that happened in the case of O B were 1. B went to Tokyo and 2. B bought a bag. The bag was bought in the place they went to (B's destination was Tokyo).

The order of events for ◎ B were 1. B bought the shoes 2. B went to Tokyo. Thus, B purchased the shoes before going to Tokyo.

In this way, when using verbs that express movement between locations such as 「行く、来る、帰る」 in the dictionary form or ta-form, the location where you do/did the action will change.

れんしゅうもんだい  
練習問題

次の ( ) a, b の、正しいのはどちらですか。

- このサンドイッチは、ここに (a 来る、b 来た) とき、家の近くで買いました。
- 日本へ (a 来る、b 来た) ときは、日本語が話せなくて困りました。
- 家に (a 帰る、b 帰った) とき、家族はみんな寝ていました。
- 国に (a 帰る、b 帰った) とき、家族へのおみやげは、どこで買いますか。
- A 会社に (a 行く、b 行った) とき、その会社で、友達に会いました。
- パリへ (a 行く、b 行った) とき、ルーブル美術館で、モナリザを見ました。
- 道を (a 渡る、b 渡った) ときは、左右をよく見て渡ります。



7. a

6. b

5. b

4. a

3. b


2. b

Answers: 1. a



# Events & Memoranda

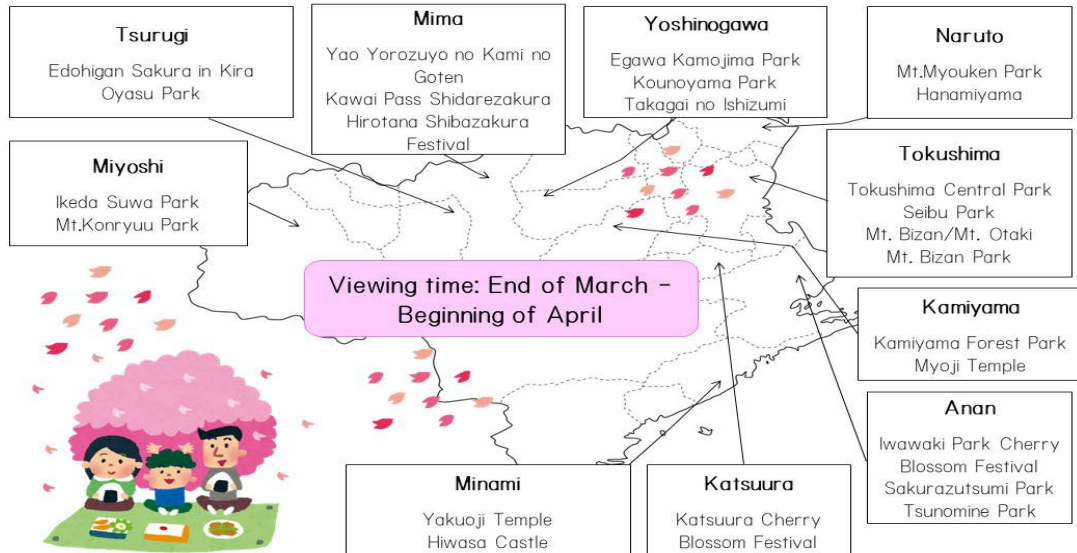
## Tokushima Prefecture 2019 Japanese Speech Contest - Apply Now!

1. **PURPOSE** True internationalization cannot be achieved without first coming in touch with other cultures and ways of life, fostering a sense of international awareness and gaining mutual understanding with people of the world to create a society in which we can all work and live together in harmony. This speech contest seeks to give a voice to the international residents of Tokushima Prefecture and engage them in a dialogue to further discourse on cross-cultural understanding and fostering multiculturalism.
2. **DATE & PLACE** July 21st, 2019 (Sunday), 13:30 - 16:30  
Awagin Hall (Tokushima Prefecture Kyodo Bunka Kaikan), Small Hall (5F)
3. **ELIGIBILITY** Only foreign residents whose native language is not Japanese are eligible to apply. (However, foreign residents who have had over three years of compulsory education in Japan and those who have previously won the Grand Prize or the Tokushima Prefectural Assembly's Chairman of the Federation of International Exchange Assembly Members Award are not eligible to apply.)
4. **SELECTION** Application will be open to all foreign residents of Tokushima Prefecture that fulfil the eligibility requirements. We will ask all applicants to submit an outline of their speech (about 800 characters), and after reviewing all of the applications, roughly 10 or so applicants will be chosen to proceed to the final contest.
5. **THEME** The topic is left to your discretion, but it should relate to the event's purpose of fostering cross-cultural understanding and multiculturalism.
6. **LENGTH** Speeches should be no more than 6 minutes in length.
7. **AWARDS**


Grand Prize, one person (Prize: 50,000 yen gift certificate)  
 The Tokushima Prefectural Assembly's Federation of International Exchange Assembly Members Chairman's Award, one person (Prize: 30,000 yen gift certificate)  
 Awa Bank Award, one person (Prize: 30,000 yen gift certificate)  
 Tokushima Bank Award, one person (Prize: 30,000 yen gift certificate)  
 Tokushima Chamber of Commerce and Industry Award, one person (Prize: 30,000 yen gift certificate)  
 Tokushima City International Association Special Recognition Award, three people (Prize: 10,000 yen gift certificate)  
 Special Effort Award, to be decided (Prize: 5,000 yen gift certificate)  
 \*All participants will receive a participation award.
8. **HOW TO APPLY** Submit your application form by mail or fax. Alternatively, you may submit your application in person.
9. **DEADLINE** May 27th, 2019 (Monday)  
Applications must be turned in by 17:00.
10. **ORGANIZED BY** Tokushima Prefectural International Exchange Association (TOPIA)
11. **CO-ORGANIZER** Tokushima Regional Conference for Promotion of Student Exchange
12. **SPONSORS (TBA)** The Tokushima Prefectural Assembly's Federation of International Exchange Assembly Members, Awa Bank, Tokushima Bank, Tokushima Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Tokushima International Association (TIA), Otsuka Pharmaceuticals, Nichia Corporation
13. **WITH THE SUPPORT OF (TBA)** NHK Tokushima, Shikoku Broadcasting, Tokushima Shimbun, Cable TV Tokushima, FM Tokushima, FM Bizan
14. **WHERE TO APPLY** Tokushima Prefectural International Exchange Association (TOPIA)  
〒 770-0831 1-61 Terashima Honcho Nishi, Tokushima City, Clement Plaza 6F  
TEL: 088-656-3303 FAX: 088-652-0616

# Events & Memoranda

## Tokushima Hanami Map 2019 徳島花見案内図 2019



## Hana Haru Festa 2019 はな・はる・フェスタ 2019

You will be able to enjoy fantastic performances of famous Awa Odori groups indoors and outdoors. This event will be jam packed with a food street with specialties from Tokushima, stage events, and traditional culture booths.

When: April 20 (Sat), 21 (Sun)  
10:00 – 17:00 (Additional hours on April  
20 18:00 to 21:00)

Where: Aibahama Park (Tokushima City),  
Shinmachi Boardwalk

Info: Hana Haru Festa Executive Committee  
TEL: 088-655-7331  
URL: <https://ameblo.jp/hanaharu-f/>

阿波おどり有名連の豪華競演を屋内外でたっぷり  
とご覧いただけるほか、徳島のおいしいものが並  
ぶグルメストリートや、ステージイベント、伝統  
文化の体験コーナーなど、楽しいイベントが目白  
押しです！

日時：4月20日（土）、21日（日）  
10：00～17：00  
※20（土）は18：00～21：00も開催

場所：徳島市 藍場浜公園、  
しんまちボードウォークほか  
問い合わせ：はな・はる・フェスタ  
実行委員会事務局

TEL: 088-655-7331  
URL: <https://ameblo.jp/hanaharu-f/>

## 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)