

awa life

August 2021

Gairaigo Galore:
チケット

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**Omatsu Daigongen
Shrine - A Cat Lover's
Purradise**



**Everyone, join the
Disaster Prevention
Center Study Tour!**



**Awa Shoku: To Eel
or not to Eel... Unagi
Myths and Reality**



TOPIA

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

August in Tokushima usually means Awa Odori, but this year as well the big festival won't take place due to the current situation. A smaller festival with pre-sale tickets, however, is planned and will mainly take place at Awagin Hall. We hope that you are able to get some tickets for yourself! Another highlight will be the Paralympic Games and the training camps for the German and Georgian teams in Tokushima. By the way, the Paralympics has its own torch relay and the celebrations will take place between August 12th and 14th. Maybe the torch bearers will also pass by where you live? Have a wonderful August!

For all of those who like writing, please feel free to submit an article to us at any point in time about basically anything. There are a few limitations though, such as you can't write about religion, politics, commercial activities or businesses or anything that we deem inappropriate. But, other than that, we would be more than happy to receive articles about anything and everything including but not limited to concerts, lectures, other events, culture, sports, community group information or anything cool that's happening in your local community.

We highly appreciate all of your articles and we love reading them. So if that writing bug of yours is buzzing about, grab a pen or a computer and write and send away! Please send all submissions to our email:

awalife@gmail.com

Your editors,
Sydney and Nico

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Omatsu Daigongen Shrine - A Cat Lover's Purradise

By: Sydney Bartig

There is no shortage of cat lovers around the world, especially in Japan. In fact, there are so many cute cat items to be found in Japan that it's like a paradise for cat lovers. It should then be no surprise that there are also many tourist locations centered around cats. I personally love finding and visiting these places, such as the Aoshima cat island in Ehime or Gotokuji Temple, the origin place of the maneki neko (beckoning cat), in Tokyo. However, one of my absolute favorite places has to be Omatsu Daigongen Shrine in Tokushima's southern region. There are quite a few cat shrines scattered around Japan, but this is one of the most interesting ones I've visited so far!

Located in Kamocho of Anan City, Omatsu Daigongen Shrine is a bit separated from Tokushima City, but it's certainly worth a visit. The first thing you'll notice when you arrive at the

shrine is, no surprise, all the cat-related items! At the entrance you will be greeted by an incredibly large, chubby white cat statue. He's so cute you'll just want to hug him! On the shrine grounds are multiple cat statues, such as a sasuri neko statue that is said to cure illness when you rub the part of the cat that responds to where you are feeling unwell, cat versions of the seven lucky gods, and



a cat Acala statue. There are also over 10,000 maneki neko figures of a wide array of colors that are dedicated on the shrine grounds, there to

greet you with their cute faces and raised paws wherever you go. Cats are even featured on the ema (wooden plaques) and omamori charms that are for sale. For those who are so inclined, you can also purchase a maneki neko for yourself. Wherever you look there are cats to be found! I've visited this shrine multiple times, and I always feel like I notice something new or different each

Omatsu Daigongen Shrine - A Cat Lover's Purradise



time. Make sure to keep an eye out for the little details, like the tiny pawprints at the entrance of the shrine!

By the way, I'm sure many of you may have heard about this already, but did you know that the color of a maneki neko and which paw it has raised actually have different meanings? A raised left paw is to attract customers while a raised right paw is to attract money. The traditional maneki neko color is the calico one, which is considered to be the luckiest. However, there are also white ones for happiness, black for warding off evil, pink for love and romance, gold for wealth, etc. You can find maneki neko of all colors around Omatsu Daigongen Shrine!

While all the cat statues and cute cat items are certainly enough to satisfy any cat lover on their own, this shrine also has a very interesting legend attached to it. Long ago the village experienced a poor harvest, and in order to save the village, the village headman took a loan from a wealthy man. He faithfully repaid the loan, but the wealthy man



was corrupt and claimed he hadn't received any such repayments. The village headman ended up dying in despair, and it was his wife Omatsu who sought justice for this unfair event. However, when the case was heard, the wealthy man had bribed the magistrate who then naturally ruled in his favor. Omatsu tried repealing the case to the daimyo, but that was a forbidden act in those times and she was sentenced to death. Before her execution, Omatsu told of her woes and anger to her beloved pet cat who, after its owner's unrightful death, transformed into a bakeneko (lit. 'changed cat') and brought ruin to the corrupt wealthy man and magistrate. (You can find a room with pictures and an explanation of this legend on the shrine grounds!)



Nowadays, it is known as a shrine for victory and luck for passing entrance exams for schools. It's not unusual for students to visit and purchase one of the shrine's cute omamori before entrance exams start in the hopes that it will bring them some luck. The shrine is also affectionately known as "nekogami-sama", which literally means cat god in Japanese.

For those interested in visiting this purrfect shrine, it can admittedly be a bit difficult if you don't have a car. However, luckily it is possible, and there is actually a bus that stops directly in front of the shrine that runs from Anan Station! There's also another cat shrine located in Tokushima, albeit a bit smaller than Omatsu Daigongen, for those who are interested. It's located at Bunka no Mori and is called Ouj Shrine. You can even find some real cats wandering about that shrine!

Everyone, join the Disaster Prevention Center Study Tour!

By: Shiho Sano

Recently, when I watch the news and hear about earthquakes, heavy rains, etc. I often think, "There really is no place in Japan where you are safe from natural disasters." Aftershocks from the Great East Japan Earthquake of 2011 and the Kumamoto Earthquake in 2016 continue to occur even in present day. Moreover, from the beginning to the middle of July, Japan has been sustaining damage due to floods, overflowing rivers, and landslides in the past years. These disasters affect all of us and can occur at any time, even in Tokushima. One such risk is the Nankai Trough Earthquake along Japan's Pacific coast where it is estimated that Tokushima will face huge damage. It is said that the probability of a big earthquake occurring in the Nankai Trough in the next 30 years is about 70-80%.

The Disaster Prevention Center Study Tour is an event where you can learn through first-hand experiences what earthquakes, tsunamis etc. (which can occur at anytime) are actually like and what actions we have to take in the event of a disaster to protect our lives. Last year I also participated in the Disaster Prevention Center Study Tour which is organized by the Prefecture and TOPIA, and I was able to join



in various disaster simulations together with foreign residents living in Tokushima. I found the earthquake simulation to be particularly impressive. We got on a special machine which was designed like a kitchen and which simulated a shaking earthquake. During the shaking we had to hold onto a handrail. The shaking was so strong that I actually couldn't stand without holding onto the handrail. The earthquake

simulation included withstanding the quake while protecting your head with a pillow, turning off the gas of the stove immediately after the shaking stopped, and opening the door to evacuate. Through the earthquake experience I really



learned what to do to secure my safety during a large-scale earthquake. Furthermore, I realized the importance of fixing your room's furniture to the wall. Since desks and racks in the earthquake simulator were firmly fixed to the wall to withstand the shaking, I felt very safe during the simulation. However, reality is quite different. The book shelves and closets in my room were not fixed to the wall to resist earthquakes, so I wasn't sure if I would really be safe if these tumbled over during an earthquake. That's why I fixed all my furniture to the wall after the tour in a way that they would not tumble over in the event of an earthquake. How about the furniture in your room? Have you already taken appropriate action to make your apartment earthquake safe?

Apart from the earthquake simulation, you will be able to experience other situations related to disasters you might have to face in the future, such as extinguishing a fire, and smoke and storm simulations. It's also a great chance to gain knowledge about various disasters. Since a Disaster Prevention Center Study Tour is planned for September this year, why not join in?

*Check out page 8 for more information!

Japanese Culture and Reading Corner: 風鈴

By: Isao Kobayashi

8月^{がつ}は、1年^{ねん}のうちで 気温^{きおん}が 一番^{いちばん}高^{たか}くなる月^{つき}です。あまり^{あつ}の暑^{なつ}さに、「夏バテ^{なつばて}で しんどい。」という^い 人^{ひと}が、多^{おほ}くなります。そして この時期^{じき}になると、涼^{すず}やかな 風鈴^{ふうりん}の音色^{ねいろ}が 恋^{こい}しく なってき

ます。

風鈴^{ふうりん}は、中国^{ちゅうごく}の風鐸^{ふうたく}がもとになったと 言^いわれています。その風鐸^{ふうたく}が仏教^{ぶつぎょう}とともに日本^{にほん}に伝^{つた}わり、お寺^{てら}の屋根^{やね}に 吊^{つる}すようになりました。そして 鎌倉時代^{かまくらしだい}には 魔除^{まよ}けとして 家^{いえ}の軒先^{のきさき}に 吊^{つる}すようになり、風鈴^{ふうりん}と 呼^よぶようになりました。

風鈴^{ふうりん}は、ガラス^{てつ}や鉄^{どう}などでできていて、形^{かたち}も音色^{ねいろ}も 様々^{さまざま}で、飾^{かざ}りとしても 人^{にん}気があります。暑い夏^{あつ なつ}を 少^{すこ}しでも 涼^{すず}しく 過^{すご}せるように、皆^{みな}さんも 風鈴^{ふうりん}を 飾^{かざ}ってみませんか。



Vocabulary List

風鈴 ^{ふうりん}	wind chime	夏バテ ^{なつばて}	heat illness	時期 ^{じき}	season	涼やかな ^{すず}	cool	音色 ^{ねいろ}	timbre
恋しい ^{こい}	longed for	風鐸 ^{ふうたく}	bronze wind chimes	hanging from eaves of temple towers or halls					
仏教 ^{ぶつぎょう}	Buddhism	伝わる ^{つた}	be handed down	お寺 ^{てら}	temple	屋根 ^{やね}	roof	吊す ^{つる}	hang
鎌倉時代 ^{かまくらしだい}	Kamakura period	魔除 ^{まよ} け	amulet to ward off evil spirits	軒先 ^{のきさき}	eaves				
鉄 ^{てつ}	iron	銅 ^{どう}	copper	様々 ^{さまざま}	various	飾り ^{かざ}	ornaments	人 ^{にん} 気	popular

Gairaigo Galore



チケット (ticket)

By: Sydney Bartig

This month's gairaigo is a very simple one to guess the meaning of – チケット This is of course from the word 'ticket', and the meaning should be pretty clear. However, what's interesting about this word is its differences between words like 切符^{きっぷ} and 券^{けん}. If you look in a dictionary or in your textbook, they will all be translated as 'ticket', with no real distinctions between their usage. I didn't really think about their differences either until I happened to go with a coworker to a soccer game. I happened to call the tickets she had purchased 切符^{きっぷ}, but was quickly corrected and told that I should use チケット instead. However, I didn't really understand why because in my mind they were all 'tickets'.



Although all of these things mean 'tickets', what they are used for does actually differ. The katakana word チケット is now often used for tickets such as concert tickets, sports tickets, plane tickets, etc. However, interestingly the word 切符^{きっぷ} is still used for train tickets. Additionally, there is also 券^{けん} which you may hear for words such as 乗車券^{じょうしゃけん} (a train or bus ticket) or 入場券^{にゅうじょうけん} (an entrance ticket). With words like this one of the best ways to know which 'ticket' to use is to listen to others and try and copy what they use!

Awa Shoku: To Eel or not to Eel... Unagi Myths and Reality

By: Lance Kita

Filletts of eel, grilled over charcoal with juicy meat and crispy luscious skin, glazed with a sweet soy glaze... unagi 鰻 grilled kabayaki 蒲焼き style is one of my favorite Japanese foods. There are specialized unagi restaurants, and the standard order is una-ju うな重, grilled eel over rice in rec-tangular boxes. The price changes depending on how much eel you'd like. Try sprinkling some Japanese pepper (sansho 山椒) for a tingling aromatic accent to the rich sweet eel. With a set meal, you will often get kimosui 肝吸い (clear broth with a piece of eel liver), and sometimes you might get a side dish like umaki 鰻巻き (rolled omelet with grilled eel in the center) or uzaku うざく (slices of grilled eel and cucumber with a vinaigrette and ginger). Many connoisseurs will order shirayaki 白焼き, grilled eel without the glaze, served with wasabi and soy sauce.

Many Japanese will tell you that grilled eel is perfect for summer because it relieves fatigue, and should be eaten on a special day called Doyo ushi no hi 土用丑の日, the Day of the Ox during Doyo (18 days between seasons). In 2021, it was on July 28 (some years have two days). The origins of why eel is eaten is unclear, but the most popular story has Shikoku roots. Hiraga Gennai 平賀源内, a famous Edo period inventor from Kagawa, is said to have helped an unagi restaurant owner to drum up sales during the slow summer season. He posted a sign that said "Today is the Day of the Ox" and customers rolled in, possibly because people believed foods starting with "う u" should be eaten on Ushi no hi. And the rest is (urban legend) history.

Eel farming started in the Meiji Period (1868-1911) by harvesting young elvers from river mouths and raising them to maturity over 6-18 months. In 1960, lotus root farmers in Matsushige Town and Naruto City suffered crop blight, and some converted their flooded fields into eel farms with elvers from the nearby Yoshino and Imagine

Rivers. Even today, you can see small boats floating in pools of bright yellow light roaming around the mouth of the Yoshino River in winter, searching for elvers that can fetch up to 200,000 yen per kilogram! From the 1970s, imported eels from Asia supplemented a growing nationwide demand, peaking in the 1990s and 2000s.

Unfortunately, there has been a severe drop in the amount of elvers harvested in Japan, and the Japanese eel is considered an endangered species, yet consumer pressure by convenience stores and supermarkets for Day of the Ox sales is spurring more eel imports, further straining populations here and elsewhere.

So are the days of eating eels over? Eel restaurants are important because of the specific set of skills needed to properly filet and grill the eels, and they usually limit the amount they sell and set a higher price discouraging mass consumption. A simple moratorium would put these sustainable shops out of business, leading to mass-consumption production if populations recover.

There have been some major advances in farming recently, including the raising of elvers from eggs. So if you love unagi like me, I recommend:

① Avoid the consumerized Day of the Ox (actually, unagi in autumn taste better because it has higher fat content); ② Limit your unagi meals to one or two a year; ③ Choose domestic eel over imported eel; ④ Eat at a specialized restaurant (many good ones are in Naruto City, Matsushige Town, Anan City, and Naka Town) and avoid unagi at kaiten sushi, convenience stores, and other places that sell imported eel.

Unagi is truly a delicacy worth saving for future savoring. I want to continue to eat my favorite Japanese dish well into the future, so I encourage everyone to make sustainable choices to allow that to happen.



Unagi... the sweet, smoky flavor of summer

Casual Japanese Expressions 2

2. 縮約形
しゆくやくけい① ておきます → ときます ておく → とく② てしまいます → ちゃいます てしまう → ちゃう③ てはいけません → ちゃいけません / てはいけない → ちゃいけないではいけません → じゃいけない / ではいけない → じゃいけない* 運転中、でんわをかけてはいけません → かけちゃいけない
うんてんちゆう* 運転中、よそ見をしててはいけません → しちゃいけない
うんてんちゆう* 運転中、お酒をのんではいけません → のんじゃいけない
うんてんちゆう④ なければなりません → なきゃ・なくちゃなりません / なければならぬ → なきゃ・なくちゃないといけません → ないといけない → ないと* あしたテストだから、勉強しなければなりません → 勉強しなきゃ / 勉強しなくちゃ。
べんきよう

* もっとがんばらないといけません → もっとがんばらないと

Let's practice. Try converting the following sentences into ていねいな形 (polite form).

1. テキストは、本棚に、返しといて。
2. あしたまでに、この資料、読んどいて。
3. ごめん、おかし、全部食べちゃった。
4. どこかにさいふをおとしちゃった。
5. ここで、写真を撮っちゃいけないよ。
6. 夜遅くまで 外で遊んじゃいけない。
7. 会議が始まるから、はやくいかなくちゃ。
8. あしたまでに、レポートをださないといけません。



Answers

1. テキストは、本棚に、返しておいてください。
2. あしたまでに、この資料、読んでおいてください。
3. すみません、おかしを全部食べてしまいました。
4. どこかにさいふをおとしてしまいました。
5. ここで、写真を撮ってはいけませんよ。
6. 夜遅くまで 外で遊んではいけません。
7. 会議が始まるから、はやくいかなければなりません。
8. あしたまでに、レポートをださないといけません。



Events & Memoranda

Tokushima Prefectural Disaster Prevention Center Study Tour

The chance of the Great Nankai Trough Earthquake occurring increases every year. If the earthquake occurs, what will you do?

Tokushima Prefecture Government, in conjunction with the Tokushima Prefectural International Exchange Association (TOPIA) is proud to announce a study tour for foreign residents at the Tokushima Prefecture Disaster Center to provide information on what to do in case of a natural disaster.

During this study tour you will be able to experience simulated earthquakes, strong winds, and learn how to extinguish a fire. Let's learn about the importance of disaster prevention.

Date: September 26th, Sunday 13 : 00 ~ 16:00
 13:00 — Leave Tokushima Station by bus for the center
 13:30 — Disaster Prevention Center Experience
 16:00 — Arrive at Tokushima Station by bus



Location: Tokushima Prefecture Disaster Center (Kitajima-town, Tainohama Aza Onishi 165)

Target: Foreign Residents in Tokushima Prefecture

Details: Disaster prevention lecture, disaster prevention guidance via video, simulation of strong winds / earthquakes, fire fighting, etc
 (English interpretation is provided. Chinese/Vietnamese interpretations may be provided.)

No. Places: 20 people

Cost: Free

Applications: Please send in the following information by email to the address below. You can also apply by sending the same information by fax or postcard.

- | | | | |
|----------------|------------------|--------------|---------------|
| ① Name | ② Gender | ③ Address | ④ Nationality |
| ⑤ Phone number | ⑥ E-mail address | ⑦ Occupation | |

Deadline: September 16th (Thu.)

Attention: Please make sure to wear a mask.
 There is a chance that this study tour may be cancelled due to COVID-19.

Send Applications To:

E-mail: coordinator1@topia.ne.jp
 FAX: (088) 652-0616
 Postcard: Koekizaidan Hojin Tokushima-ken Kokusai Koryukyokai (TOPIA)
 Clement Plaza 6F, 1-61 Terashima Honcho Nishi, Tokushima City,
 770-0831



For more information, please contact Ms. Kimura at (088) 656-3303.

Events & Memoranda

Pencil-Drawn Art Exhibition of the Haba Mini Shikoku 88 Temple Pilgrimage by Yasumasa Sue 端四国八十八箇所霊場 須恵泰正鉛筆画展～結願～

An art exhibition by Yasumasa Sue, an artist born and currently residing in Tokushima, will be held at the Naruto German House this year for the 5th time. His illustrations, which are both detailed and delicate, are all done in pencil, and they look just as beautiful as a real photograph. The “Haba Shikoku 88 Temple Pilgrimage” is an approximately 80 km miniature pilgrimage between Mima District, Tsurugi Town and Higashi Miyoshi Town. He began sketching the temples in June of 2014, and finally finished after 7 years and 2 months! The exhibition will feature all the temples from number 1 to number 88.

When: August 1st (Sun.) – August 31st (Tue.)

*Closed on August 23rd (Mon.)

9:30 – 17:00 (Last entrance is at 16:30)

Where: Naruto German House

2nd Floor Exhibition Room

Fee: Adults 400 Yen / Children 100 Yen

Inquiries: Naruto German House

TEL: 088-689-0099

URL: <http://doitsukan.com/info/>

徳島県出身・在住の画家、須恵泰正氏のイラスト展を開催。ドイツ館では今年で5回目となる。繊細かつ精密なタッチで描かれたイラストは、すべて鉛筆で描かれており、まるで写真のように美しい。「端（はば）四国八十八箇所」とは、徳島県美馬郡つるぎ町と東みよし町にまたがる全長80kmのミニチュア版霊場。2014年6月からお堂の鉛筆画をコツコツと描き続け、7年2カ月の月日を経てついに結願！会期中は、1番から88番まで全ての作品を展示する。

日時：8月1日（日）～ 8月31日（火）

※ 8月23日（月）は休館日

9:30～17:00（入館は16:30まで）

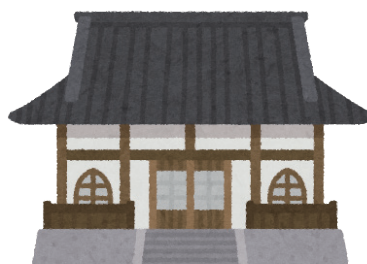
場所：鳴門市ドイツ館 2階企画展示室

料金：大人 400 円 小人 100 円

問い合わせ：鳴門市ドイツ館

TEL：088-689-0099

URL: <http://doitsukan.com/info/>



Counselling Service at TOPIA・トピアの相談窓口

TOPIA provides consultation on everyday life, education, labor, medical institutions, and disaster prevention; and information on sightseeing spots to overseas residents and visitors. When necessary, we will refer you to the appropriate organization that can assist with your needs. Counselling is available in English, Chinese, Vietnamese, 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: 088-656-3312 or 088-656-3313 (allows for three-way conversations with an interpreter)