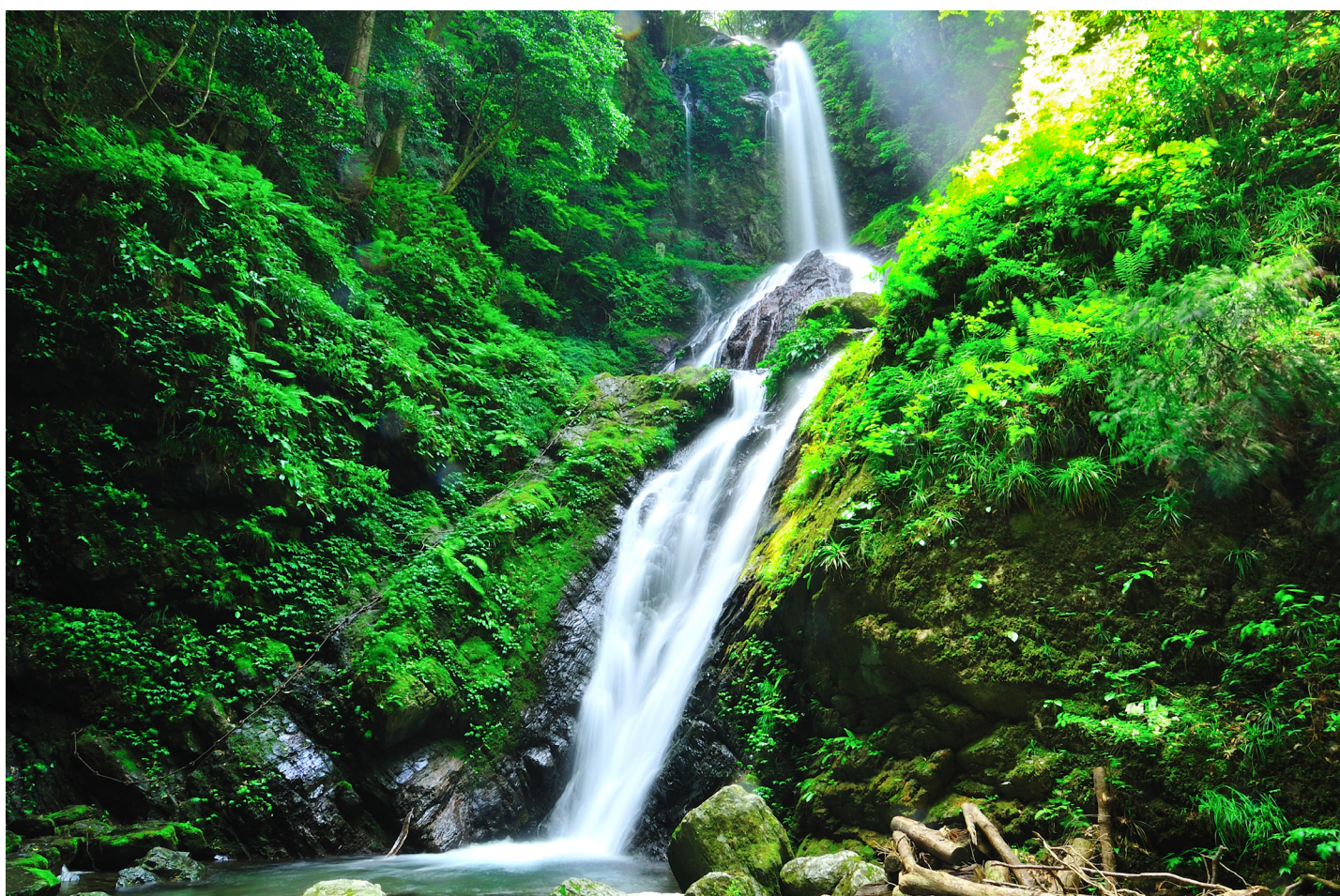


awa life

October 2021

**Olympic and Paralympic
Pre-Game Training Camps
for Germany in Tokushima**

**Ouji Shrine - A Cat Lover's
Purradise (Part 2)** # 372



**Awa Shoku:
Box Lunch on a Scenic
Boxcar**

**Gairaigo Galore:
アニメ**



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

Since the surprisingly short and rainy summer is already over and autumn has begun, this is the perfect time to spend time outside without having to worry too much about heat stroke. Due to the nice temperatures, October is also a very popular month for starting or continuing the Shikoku Pilgrimage, especially the second half of the month. How about visiting a few temples and discovering Tokushima from another point of view? The fresh autumn air and beautiful nature, combined with an intensive spiritual experience, will surely give you new energy.

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:

Your editors,
Sydney and Nico

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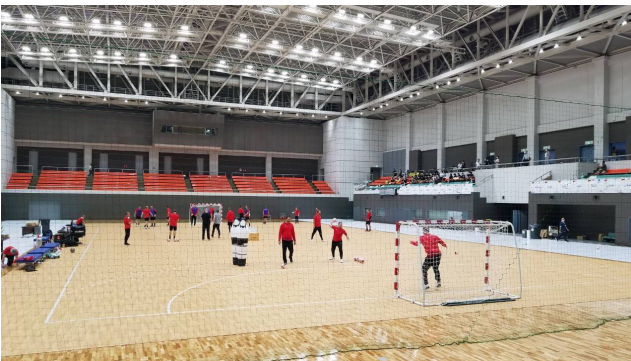
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Olympic and Paralympic Pre-Game Training Camps for Germany in Tokushima

By: Alessa Peters

After the postponement of the Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games, three German National Teams held their training camps in Tokushima: men’s handball, canoe sprint, and para canoe. The German Judo Team was not able to hold their camp here due to entry restrictions.



In July, the Men’s Handball Team arrived at Haneda Airport where we picked them up. The entry process into Japan was long and we had to rush to get on our flight to Tokushima after waiting for the test results. The team stayed in Naruto, where they trained at Amino Value Hall. The restrictions were quite strict, and there was no exchange with locals and no sightseeing. A few years ago, some of the players had already visited Tokushima and had an impression of the

local culture and nature. Some of the training units were open to local schools and handball teams, and the children waved flags and cheered. The team was sad that they weren’t able to see more of Tokushima, but they focused on training, getting used to the time difference, and the hot and humid weather. They greatly enjoyed the food



at the hotel, often made with local ingredients, and the view of the ocean from their rooms.

At the end of July, the Canoe Sprint Team spent five days in Naka. The weather was sunny and ideal for training and getting used to the Japanese climate. Due to the restrictions, no direct exchange or sightseeing was possible, but many people lined the visitor’s zone, waving flags, cheering, and taking photos. They received

postcards and amulets from a local shrine, and were happy to wave to visitors from the water. The Canoe Center at the Kawaguchi Dam Lake



in Naka had been built only a few years prior for the various canoe exchanges with Germany. A few athletes had already visited Naka before, and were happy to have returned.

The Para Canoe Team spent ten days in Naka at the same facilities. One athlete and two coaches



had already visited Naka two years prior and were excited to be back. The first few days were influenced by heavy rainfall, but the team nevertheless conducted their training, and the weather cleared during the last few days. The team was excited to be in Japan, as it was the first time for many of them, and they enjoyed eating Tokushima Ramen as well as sushi at the hotel. Local Awa Bancha was also popular, as well as bathing in the onsen. The two year old son of one athlete brought smiles to everyone on the team and the people who came to visit the

training. The team planted a cherry tree in front of the Canoe Center, an experience they said was



unforgettable. They also did an online exchange with students from Wajiki Middle School.

Despite the restrictions, I am happy that the training camps for the German national teams were successful and that I got to experience them. It has been a lot of fun to work with the athletes and to answer their questions about Japan. I hope that they will visit Tokushima again once the pandemic is fully over.



Ouji Shrine – A Cat Lover’s Purradise (Part 2)

By: Sydney Bartig

A little while ago I introduced Omatsu Daigongen Shrine, a shrine that is packed with cat statues and cat-related items sure to please any cat lover. At the end of the article, I briefly mentioned another cat shrine called “Ouji Shrine”. While Ouji Shrine is certainly a bit smaller than Omatsu Daigongen Shrine, it still has its own unique charm and is certainly worth a visit for any of you cat lovers out there (and even for those who aren’t!). Compared to Omatsu Daigongen Shrine, Ouji Shrine is also quite a bit easier to access, making it a nice choice for those who don’t live in the southern part of Tokushima or who don’t have a car.



Ouji Shrine is located in Bunka no Mori at the top of a long flight of stairs. It’s like a mini Omatsu Daigongen – you are greeted with adorable maneki neko cat figurines as well as some other cat related goods. Also similar to Omatsu Daigongen Shrine, Ouji Shrine is home to a “sasuri neko” cat statue. It’s said that if you touch the part of the cat that responds to where you are feeling unwell, you will get better. The shrine is also affectionally known as “nekogami-san”, or “cat god” in English.

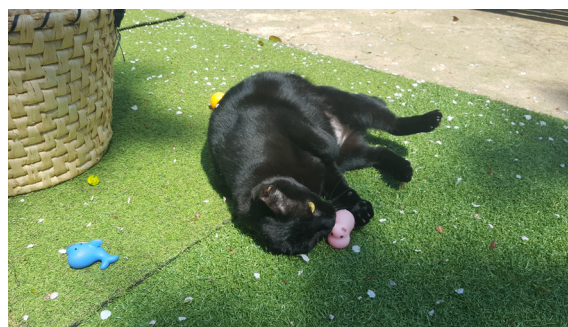


There are also ema (wooden plaques) featuring cats, as well as a plethora of mamori charms that you can choose to purchase if you are interested.

I can’t help but want to buy all of them as they are just so cute! I have also heard that the shrine has “goshuin” red stamps featuring cats. The next time I go I’d like to check them out!



One of the best things about Ouji Shrine, however, is the real cats that you can find there! While there are indeed countless maneki neko statues on the shrine grounds, you can also sometimes find real cats prowling around the shrine. One of the times I went I was greeted with an adorable black cat who was so friendly he let anyone pet him. That same day as I was leaving the shrine, I noticed a different brown cat just lazing about on the steps to the shrine. Some children spotted him as well and rushed to give him some cat snacks, which he seemed to quite enjoy.



While I would say Omatsu Daigongen Shrine is my favorite of the Tokushima cat shrines, there isn’t really much else around the shrine, and you’ll be waiting quite a while for a bus to come if you don’t want to use a taxi to get back to the station. One of the other plusses of Ouji Shrine is that it is located in Bunka no Mori. Bunka no Mori is home to not only this cat shrine, but also a museum, restaurant, library, and more. Sometimes there are various events held there too, so it’s always worth keeping an eye out!

Japanese Culture and Reading Corner

なるときんとき かんしょ
鳴門金時 (甘藷・さつまいも)

By: Akira Harada

徳島で 秋に穫れる 農作物に「鳴門金時」という「甘藷 (さつまいも)」があります。
 鳴門金時は、主に、鳴門市、松茂町、北島町、徳島市川内町など、徳島北東部の 砂地で作られます。
 表皮が赤く、中が黄金色ですので「金時」と名付けられたと いわれて います。(中国
 四国農政局)
 焼いたり 蒸したりして 食べたり、お菓子や 焼酎の 原料としても 使われて います。
 秋から冬にかけて、スーパーで よく売られて います。是非、鳴門金時を 味わって ください。
 おいしいよ。



Vocabulary List

| | | | | | | | |
|----------------------------|---|--------------------|-----------------|---------------|--------------------|-----------|------------|
| なるときんとき 鳴門金時 | Naruto Kintoki | と 穫れる | to be harvested | のうさくぶつ 農作物 | crops | おも 主に | mainly |
| かんしょ 金時 | red | かんしょ 甘藷 (さつまいも) | sweet potato | ほくとうぶ 北東部 | north-eastern part | | |
| すなち 砂地 | sandy soil | ひょうひ 表皮 | epidermis | こがねいろ 黄金色 | golden color | | |
| ちゅうごくし くのうせいきよく 中国四国農政局 | Chugoku-Shikoku Regional Agricultural Administration Office | | | や 焼く | bake | | |
| むす 蒸す | steam | かし お菓子 | sweets | しょうちゅう 焼酎 | shochu | じき 原料 | ingredient |
| すーぱー スーパー | supermarket | う 売られる | get sold | ぜ ひ 是非 | definitely | あじ 味わう | taste |
| | | | | | | おいしい | tasty |

Gairaigo Galore



Anime (アニメ)

By: Sydney Bartig

Whether you are interested in it or not, I'm sure most of you have heard of the word "anime" before. In fact, it's not too unusual for anime to be many people's first experience with Japanese culture, or for it to be one of the primary reasons why they choose to study or work in Japan. The word アニメ of course stems from the word "animation".

However, what's interesting is what people end up considering to be "anime". In the west it's not uncommon to use the word anime to refer exclusively to Japanese-specific works of animation, such as Studio Ghibli Films and other favorites that have won over western audiences. They then often used the word "cartoons" for other types of western animation, although this may differ depending on where you are or who you ask. For a while the word "Japanimation" was used to describe Japanese animation, but it seems that the word has, for the most part, died out, and with more people becoming interested in anime, this word has only grown stronger in usage.

In Japan, the word "anime" is often used to refer to animation not just produced within the country itself, but also from animation media from other countries. It's interesting to see just how much a word can differ depending on who/where it is being used!



Awa Shoku: Box Lunch on a Scenic Boxcar

By: Lance Kita

Brisk wind through your hair, as mountains and rivers sail past to the rhythm of steel wheels on iron rails... there's nothing quite like a train ride in autumn, and even better when enjoyed from an open-air torokko traincar トロッコ列車. Originally used for mining, lumber, and industrial transport, these cars are fitted with a roof and simple benches and repurposed as sightseeing trains. The first such torokko car in Japan actually started operating in Shikoku in 1984 along the Yodo Line (Ehime <—> Kochi).

Tokushima recently debuted the newest member, the Ai Yoshinogawa Torokko 藍よしのがわトロッコ. It runs between JR Tokushima and JR Awa-Ikeda Stations (once a day, each way) every Friday-Sunday and national



holiday in October /

November, and every Saturday-Sunday in December. You sit inside the main diesel car between Tokushima and Ishii Stations, and then move to the open-air torokko between Ishii and Awa-Ikeda Stations. All seats are reserved, and the fare is 2190 yen one way (Tokushima <—> Awa-Ikeda), higher than the local train but cheaper than the express. You can also get off at Anabuki and Awa-Kamo Stations.

The scenery from the train is gorgeous, with views of the Yoshino River and the Asan Mountains beyond. I rode it in summer, but I imagine that the fall foliage will add bursts of color to the landscape. A local guide will explain the sights and history of the area in Japanese. There even is time at Sadamitsu Station to get out and take pictures with the train, painted in shades of indigo blue.

But this is a food column, what does this have to do with food?!?!? It just so happens that this train affords the rare chance (in Tokushima) to enjoy an ekiben 駅弁 for lunch. Ekiben are lunch boxes (bento) bought at a station (eki) to be eaten on a train.

Unlike more popular areas with ekiben kiosks in the station lobby, the ekiben for this train must be ordered in advance. There is an Awa Odori chicken bento for the trip to Awa-Ikeda, and a grilled eel bento available for the return trip. These ekiben spotlight regional foods and ingredients, so not only can you enjoy the trip with your eyes, but with your tastebuds as well.



From grounded to gourmet, ekiben lunches always feature local ingredients from along the train line.

Ordering ekiben is

not mandatory, and you are welcome to bring your own food and drink on the train. There are also locally-made sweets, snacks, and alcohol available for purchase. Awa-Ikeda Station is a center for sake production in Tokushima, so grabbing a bottle could make the return train sway a little bit more.

A delicious ekiben, crisp breezes, and vibrant scenery are the perfect way to enjoy a fall day, so add this torokko train to your list of things to do. For more information (Japanese only), check out the following link: https://www.jr-shikoku.co.jp/01_trainbus/event_train/yoshino_torokko.html

Keigo 2

前回、敬語は大きく分けて3つあることを学びました。「丁寧語」「尊敬語」「謙譲語」です。それぞれ、誰に対して使うかを練習しました。今日は、敬語を使うときの大切なルールと、「丁寧語」の形を学びましょう。

□ 3つの敬語

- ① 丁寧語…「～です」「～でございます」「～ます」をつけていう言い方（目の前の人に丁寧に話す）
- ② 尊敬語…相手（部長）を持ち上げる言い方（相手がすることを言う）→ 相手（部長）が…**なさいます**
- ③ 謙譲語…自分（わたし）を下げる言い方（わたしがすることを言う）→ わたしが…**いたします**

□ 敬語の大切なルール

「ウチ」と「ソト」という関係覚えましょう。

「ソト」の人に「ウチ」の人のことを話すときは、敬語は使いません！

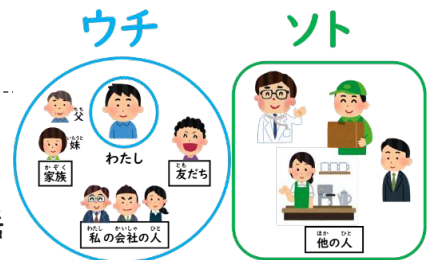
例：

他の会社の人：田中社長さん、いらっしゃいますか。

わたし：すみません。田中は出かけていますので、戻りましたら電話
させます。（社長に対して敬語は使いません）

×田中社長は出かけていらっしゃいますので、お戻りになりましたら、お電話していただきます。

ソトの人（他の会社の人）と話するとき、ウチの人（自分の会社の社長）に対して敬語は使いません。



□ 「丁寧語」とは、文の最後を「～です」「～ます」「～でございます」で話し、話している人に対して礼儀正しく、丁寧に伝える気持ちを表わす言葉です。では下記の友達との会話文と、初めて会った警察官との会話文を比べてみましょう。

<友達と話す>

わたし：ねえ、このレストランって、ここの近くだよ。どこかわかる？

友だち：うん、あのビルの一階にあるよ。有名だよ。



<警察官と話す（丁寧語を使う）>

わたし：すみません、このレストランは、ここの近くですよ。どこか、わかりますか。

警察官：はい、あのビルの一階にありますよ。有名ですよ。



【問題】

次の会話文の下線部①～⑥を丁寧語を使って言い換えてください。

A：この間の旅行、①どうだった？

B：天気が悪くて、計画していた山へ登れなかったのが、②残念だった。

A：③そう、それで違う山に④登ったの？

B：山登りはやめて、旅館でのおんぼろ温泉に⑤入った。

A：それも⑥いいじゃない。



① どうだったか ② 残念だった ③ そうで、それで ④ 登った ⑤ 入った ⑥ いいじゃない

Farewell Messages

Alessa Peters

I spent the last 2 years working as a CIR at the Tokushima Prefectural Government. I don't think it's an understatement to say that many unexpected things have happened in the world since then and that neither Japan nor my home country of Germany are the same as they were before I came here.

But let's start at the beginning: The first five months were filled with new experiences at work – I was able to work with the German Judo U21 & NT, the German Para Canoe NT and the German Women's Handball NT, as well as delegations from Niedersachsen (Lower Saxony) and the Georgian Rugby NT. I attended these team's training camps as an interpreter, and I was able to meet many people and see lots of sights in Tokushima.

After the postponement of the Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics due to COVID-19, I found myself stranded. My parents were unable to visit, which would have been their first time ever in Japan, and no delegations came from abroad. I started an online German class, through which I was able to have a little bit of exchange with locals

interested in learning the language.

This summer, I finally worked at the training camps for the German Men's Handball NT and Para Canoe NT, and visited the Canoe Team's camp as well. Despite the restrictions, it was a once-in-a-lifetime experience and I had a lot of fun. Before the camps, we visited local primary and middle schools, and it was great to be able to do exchange events again.

I am grateful for Tokushima because, while I couldn't travel a lot, I lived in a nice

city with many local sights and nature, there were relatively few cases, and I could walk or ride my bike to most destinations. During my time here, I enjoyed exploring the many hiking trails and shrines at Mt. Bizan and watching the sunset at the Yoshino River. I will greatly miss all the fresh and local fruits and vegetables, especially mikan and sudachi.

Thank you to everyone I met in Tokushima, who supported me and who made my time here worthwhile. I will definitely visit again one day!



Anne-Marie Marker

After two exciting months of training camps for Tokyo 2020, my time as a CIR of Tokushima Prefecture came to an end in September and I moved back to Germany. People who know me may also know that I have a hard time talking or writing about myself, so I decided to turn this farewell-message into a thank you-message to all the wonderful and kind people I met during my two years living in Tokushima Prefecture. Beginning with the people working at my office, who always helped me out generously and with patience at the office and in daily life, I received lots of support and invaluable insights into Japanese culture. The teachers and fellow members at the Ikebana circle showed me some skills and introduced me into the world of Japanese flower arrangements. At tea ceremony club, one of my wishes came

true: I was kindly taught all the difficult aspects of the way of tea. Furthermore Musouren, one of the famous Awa Odori groups, gave me the opportunity to be a member of a real dancing group - although I never came to learn it correctly due to suspension of practice. At a monthly language exchange event, I met so many interesting people living in and around Tokushima, who kindly shared their stories with me and helped me practice



Japanese and English. Last, but not least, my fellow CIRs were always reliable colleagues, friendly neighbors, true friends, and perfect travel companions for excursions around Tokushima.

hardships caused by the current crisis. It was really hard for me to leave all this behind, but you assured me that I can always come back and I will!

I want to thank everyone who made this an unforgettable experience for me, despite all the

Events & Memoranda

日本語支援ボランティア養成講座 in とくしま (オンライン【ZOOM】開催)

あなたのまわりの外国人住民の皆さんに日本語支援をしてみませんか

現在、約 6600 人、約 80 の国や地域から外国人住民の皆さんが、この徳島で暮らしています。彼らが、この徳島で、安心して過ごすための第一歩は、なんといっても言葉です。日本語の支援や教え方のポイントを一緒に勉強して、講座受講後は、日本語支援ボランティアとして地域日本語教室で活動しませんか？

●日時：前期 11/13・20・27, 12/4・11 後期：1/15・23・29, 2/5

土曜日 1:30pm ~ 4:30pm (1/23 のみ日曜日:実習)【受講できなかった日は、録画視聴可】

●テキスト:「日本語教育 文法講義ノート」を事前にご購入下さい。(アルク出版・第2版・2200 円)

●申込み:①名前 ②郵便番号 ③住所 ④電話(携帯可)⑤メールアドレスを記入の上、メールにて下記までお申し込み下さい。

●定員：最大 50 名程度 ●受講料：無料 ●締切：10 月 31 日

●主催 / 申込先：徳島県国際交流協会 Tel : 088-656-3303 Mail : coordinator2@topia.ne.jp

*この講座は、文化庁「地域日本語教育の総合的な体制づくり推進事業」を活用し、徳島県からの委託を受けて実施するものです。

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