

awa life

Japan Made Me Happier
Than Ever

April 2022

Farewell Messages

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Gairaigo Galore:
ナイター

Introduction to Tokushima
International Association



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

The beginning of the new school year and fiscal year in April is typically accompanied by a change in personnel (人事異動^{じんしいうどう}), and hence, new colleagues. TOPIA, as well, will have to say goodbye to a few people. You can read their messages on the following pages.

April is also the month that welcomes the beginning of Golden Week^{しやうわ}, which actually consists of two weeks including four public holidays, namely Showa Day (昭和の日^{しやうわ}), Constitution Memorial Day (憲法記念日^{けんぽうきねんび}), Greenery Day (みどりの日^{みどりの}) and Children's Day (こどもの日^{こどもの}). While Golden Week is most famous as a time to take a longer vacation, why not take the chance to also learn about the backgrounds of each public holiday?

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



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Farewell Messages

Yasuo Kuroishi, Chief Director of TOPIA

Five years ago, I began working in the international exchange field for the first time in about 30 years. Looking back over these past five years, I have many thoughts to share...

I began my independent study of English shortly after taking office. I signed up for an online English website and began learning English from a Filipino instructor via Skype. This was partially for the purpose of daily communication, but also because, at the time, there had been earthquakes in Kumamoto and Osaka, and there was talk of conducting disaster drills at TOPIA for foreigners to prepare for the Nankai Trough Mega Earthquake. I barely used English in my ordinary work, but I thought it might be helpful if I could speak English in the event of a disaster, so I would be able to make calls to confirm safety or correspond with evacuation centers. Thankfully, there haven't been any major disasters in Tokushima over these past five years! I took English conversation classes about three times a week for two and a half years, but I still have a ways to go.

Next, in my second year in office, I took the Japanese Language Teaching Competency Test, and for the first time in a long time, I had to study hard for an exam. Since I had to travel all the way to Osaka to take the test, I gave my best effort to pass it. When I finished the exam, I thought I

had failed, but it turned out that I had passed! However, it is definitely not an exam I would like to take again. After passing the exam, I began helping with the Japanese language classes at TOPIA.



When I first took office, there was talk of reconstructing the Awa Odori "Arasowa-ren" dance troupe, but they did not have a troupe leader, so the way it was operated had to be changed. Even though I am from Tokushima, I had never actually participated in Awa Odori before, however, as my duty as the chairman of TOPIA, I decided to take on the role of troupe leader. In May, I began participating in weekly evening practices at the Marine-Pier with the "Nonki-ren". In my first year, I danced on the pier at the front of the Arasowa-ren, but after suffering a serious ankle injury in the following winter, I was no longer able to dance.

Three years ago, there were major changes made to the Immigration Control Act, and it was decided that we would be accepting a large number of foreign workers into the country. With this, the government decided to establish one-stop consultation centers in each prefecture, TOPIA being designated as one such location. Through everyone's hard work, we successfully handled the situation by installing counters, desks,

and chairs, introducing multilingual translation services, and increasing our staff.

Two years ago, the COVID-19 pandemic began, and most events were cancelled, foreign tourists were no longer able to visit Japan, overseas exchange was interrupted, and the number of passports issued reduced drastically.

At TOPIA, thanks to the determination of our staff, we have been able to continue conducting meetings and Japanese language classes through Zoom, as well as hosting Japanese speech contests at a limited capacity.

Now, with Russia's invasion of Ukraine at the end of last month, the world is currently in the midst of chaos. We have yet to see whether this situation

will end in peace or have a turn for the worse, but I pray that world peace will be restored.

There were many things I hoped to do over the past five years, but I can't say that everything went exactly as planned. Nevertheless, I would like to express my gratitude for the understanding of all of the staff at TOPIA, the many volunteers, and all of the foreign residents who have helped me to make it through this time.

I will be starting a new job in April, and I am looking forward to making use of all of the different experiences I had at TOPIA in order to succeed in my future endeavours. I sincerely wish you all good health and continued success. Thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Isao Kobayashi, Coordinator for Local Internationalization

It has already been almost one year since I began working at TOPIA. Looking back, this year has been majorly affected by COVID-19. The entry of technical intern trainees and exchange students into Japan was restricted, and the movement between Japan and other countries was greatly reduced. At TOPIA, the Awa Odori exchange project (Arasowaren), Japanese language classes, and other projects were forced to be cancelled or scaled down, and the number of foreign nationals visiting Japan, as well as general consultation services for foreign residents decreased considerably.

Things are beginning to look up, however, as starting in March, the COVID-19 border measures

will be eased, and the government is considering expanding the acceptance of exchange students!

I look forward to seeing all of your continued work toward the revitalization of overseas exchange and the formation of a multicultural symbiotic society.

Lastly, I would like to thank all of the agencies and organizations involved in supporting foreign nationals, as well as everyone from TOPIA, for your immense support over the past year. Thank you very much from the bottom of my heart.



Japan Made Me Happier Than Ever

By: Tinn Puttheavy

My name is Tinn Putheavy, I am from Cambodia, and I am a participant of the Asia Kakehashi Project 2021. Thanks to Japan, I am happier than ever! Japan has granted me so many first-time experiences, all of which I have been keeping as memories in my diary.

High school is a very emotional time. There have been many exciting times, but also times that have made me question my actions, especially during my first month at Joto High School. I

was truly grateful for the principle, teachers, and classmates who tried their best to give me the warmest welcome, but as time went by, I realized that my relationship with my

classmates was not as strong as it could be. Japanese students are known to be quite shy, and they weren't showing any signs of interest or affection towards me. However, I began to open up to them first and share my own culture as an exchange student, and not long after my second month here, my classmates and I became the best of friends. We have studied, eaten, played our traditional games and sports, and talk about almost everything together. This is my first time having so many international friends, and I truly adore them so much.

The Japanese educational system has absolutely amazed me. I have noticed that school is not just a place to learn, but also a place where students can have lots of fun with their friends. One major difference from Cambodian school is the club activities. Rather than going back home after school, Japanese students are given so many options to join any club they are interested in. With that, students can have fun learning

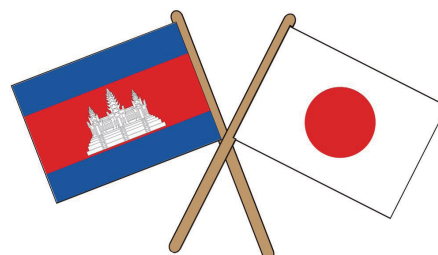
new skills, making new friends, and especially, relieving stress from their studies. The best decision I made was to join the tea ceremony club. Not only have I learned so much about Japanese culture, but I have also met the most caring friends through it.

When I came here, I was placed with the kindest, most loving host family. They have put so much effort into helping me experience the best of Japan, and with their help, I was able to quickly

adapt to Japanese life. I've been able to try so many Japanese foods, and take part in many customs, such as going to onsen, saying "itadakimasu" before eating,

and many more. This is my first time experiencing so much warmth and love from another family.

My experience of coming to Japan for 5 months will always be a great story for me to share. I have come to meet the sweetest people and experience the most elegant culture. Before I came to Japan, I had never smiled until my cheeks hurt or been amazed every single day while spending the most beautiful time with my friends and host family. I will always look back on this time fondly. Thank you, Japan!



Japanese Culture and Reading Corner: 遊山箱

By: Shoko Nomizu

遊山箱とは、美しい模様が書かれた小さな三段重ねの弁当箱のことです。昔、徳島では、旧暦のひな祭りである、4月3日になると、近くの山や海、河原などへ遊山箱を持って、家族や友だちと遊びに出かけていました。遊山箱の中には、巻き寿司やようかんなどの手作りのごちそうがたくさん詰められました。江戸時代から徳島にあったこの風習は、農業が始まる春に、田んぼの神さまをむかえる祭りだったと考えられています。しかし、この風習は次第になくなっていきました。最近になり、徳島の伝統文化を復活させようと遊山箱が注目を集めています。春です。お弁当を持って、出かけたいですね。



Vocabulary List

模様 Pattern 三段重ね Three-tiered 旧暦 Lunisolar Calendar 河原 Dry Riverbed
 出かける Go Out 手作り Hand-made ごちそう Feast 江戸時代 Edo Period
 風習 Custom 農業 Agriculture 田んぼ Rice Field 次第に Increasingly 最近 Recently
 伝統文化 Traditional Culture 復活 Revival 注目を集める Gather Attention

Gairaigo Galore

ナイター (night game)

By: Nico Bohnsack

Night games are sporting events held after sunset, which come with a very special, lively atmosphere, thanks to the use of floodlights and the general nighttime vibes. They are very popular in many countries, Japan being no exception, where baseball and soccer matches often take place in the evening.

In Japan, night games are usually called ナイター ("nighter"), which is often categorized as wasei eigo (Japanese-made English). However, since the word "nighter" is also used in some English-speaking countries to describe night games for certain sports, some argue that the Japanese expression is not "self-made". Interestingly, the public broadcaster NHK often uses the word ナイトゲーム ("night game"), and there are also other common expressions, such as ナイトマッチ ("night match"), which is frequently used by Japan's soccer league, J1, or ナイトセッション ("night session"), which is used in tennis. ナイター ("nighter") is most commonly used in Japanese baseball, but can also be seen as a general expression to describe a night game.

By the way, the Japanese professional baseball league's first night game took place between the Chunichi Dragons and the Yomiuri Giants on August 17th, 1948 in Yokohama Stadium. How about visiting a ナイター and cheering for your favourite team?



Introduction to Tokushima International Association

By: Tokushima International Association

The Tokushima International Association was established in 1981 to "contribute to world peace and prosperity by promoting mutual exchange between citizens of Tokushima City and various foreign cities based on understanding and friendship". Below is an introduction to the main activities of TIA.

* International Friendship & Exchange Projects

We host several events throughout the year as an opportunity for exchange between citizens of Tokushima City and foreign nationals residing in the prefecture or people visiting Tokushima from overseas. This includes New Year's parties, hanami (cherry blossom viewing), cycling, barbecues, Awa Odori, climbing Mount Tsurugi, walking the Shikoku Pilgrimage, etc.

* Educational Programs

We conduct foreign language classes (English), as well as Japanese/foreign cultural understanding classes.

* Volunteer Programs

We host "English Discussion" study meetings for volunteer interpreters, as well as the "Enjoy English: Fun with Picture Books" event, where native English speaking volunteers can read English picture books to children. We also arrange volunteer interpretation delegations upon request.

* Information Gathering & Transmitting

The "TIA NEWS" periodical is published 4 times per year (featuring articles regarding event information, the necessary rules of everyday life

for foreign residents, etc.). We also operate a lounge with free WIFI.

* Consultation & Support Programs for Foreign Nationals & Exchange Students

We have established the Tokushima City One-stop Consultation Center to provide foreign nationals with consultation services for everyday living (multilingual consultations are also available using a translation device). We also offer Japanese language courses, and lend household items to international exchange students.

* Sister City Exchange Programs

Tokushima City currently has sister city partnerships with Saginaw (USA), Leiria (Portugal), and Dandong (China). Tokushima organizes friendship missions by visiting each sister city, as well as hosting and welcoming people from each city to Tokushima. In Saginaw, a Japanese

garden and a tea house, which has been named "Saginaw An", have been built, and every 5 years, members of TIA, the Tokushima Branch of Urasenke Tankokai, and other associations coordinate joint visits to the city.

We hope our continued efforts will inspire more people to be interested in international exchange, and in turn, foster mutual understanding, cooperation, and peaceful coexistence.

URL: <http://www.tia81.com>

E-mail: info@tia81.com



「依頼」／「許可を求める」

When asking someone for a favour, how would you phrase it?

Please see the following conversation. What is wrong with what "A" says?

1. (先生に文法を教えてもらいたいとき)

A : 先生、この文法を教えてもいいですか。

先生：？？？

2. (机の上にあるペンを使いたいとき)

A : このペンをちょっと使っていただけませんか。

B : ？？？

3. (熱があるのでアルバイトを休みたいとき電話で)

A : 店長、すみません。熱があるので、アルバイトを休んでいただけませんか。

B : ？？？



1. "A" is asking the teacher to do something for him. Since this is a request, 「依頼」, you should use the following expression:

A : 先生、この文法を教えていただけませんか。



2. "A" is asking someone if he can use the pen himself. This is an expression asking for permission, 「許可を求める」. When asking permission to do something simple, you can say it as follows:

A : このペンをちょっと使ってもいいですか。

3. "A" is asking someone if he can take the day off. This is also an expression asking for permission, 「許可を求める」. When asking permission to do something a bit more complicated, you can say it as follows:

A : 店長、熱があるので、アルバイトを休ませていただけませんか。

The sentence structures for 「依頼」 expressions, when asking someone to do something for you, and those for 「許可を求める」 expressions, when asking to do something yourself, are different. Try to memorize the correct sentence structures, and you will be able to use them well!

	依頼	許可を求める ～(さ)せて＝使役
ていねい 	～ていただけませんか。 ～てもらえませんか。 ～てくれませんか。 ～てください。	～(さ)せていただけませんか。 ～(さ)せてもらえませんか。 ～(さ)せてくれませんか。 ～(さ)せてください。 ～てもいいですか。
↑	～てほしいんだけど。 ～てくれない？	～(さ)せてほしいんですが。 ～(さ)せてくれない？
ともだち 	～てもいい？	

<練習> よいほうに○をつけてください。

- 私「今日は私に払わせてください。」→お金を払うのはだれですか。(私・相手)
- 私「ごめん、私の分も払っておいてほしいんだけど。」→お金を払うのはだれですか。(私・相手)
- 私「ちょっとこれ、コピーしてきてくれない？」→コピーするのはだれですか。(私・相手)
- 私「ここに荷物を置かせていただけませんか？」→荷物を置くのはだれですか。(私・相手)

Events & Memoranda




TOKUSHIMA PREFECTURE 2022 JAPANESE SPEECH CONTEST


1. 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 24th, 2022 (Sunday), 13:30 - 16:30
Awagin Hall (Tokushima Arts Foundation for Culture) Small Hall (5F)

Based on the COVID-19 situation, this event may be held so that it is open only to related parties (staff, participants, supporters, etc.)
 We will notify everyone once the details have been decided.
 Thank you for your understanding. Previous year's contests →

2020



2021


3. ELIGIBILITY Only foreign residents whose native language is not Japanese are eligible to apply.
(Additionally, foreign residents who have had over three years of compulsory education in Japan, or 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 Applications 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. (Speeches must not include political or religious content, and must not criticize a particular person or group.)
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 Taisho 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 24th, 2022 (Tuesday) Applications must be turned in by 5:00 PM.
10. ORGANIZED BY Tokushima Prefecture & Tokushima Prefectural International Exchange Association (TOPIA)
11. CO-ORGANIZER (Planned) Tokushima Regional Conference for Promotion of Student Exchange
12. SPONSORS (Planned) The Tokushima Prefectural Assembly's Federation of International Exchange Assembly Members, Awa Bank, Tokushima Taisho Bank, Tokushima Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Tokushima International Association (TIA), Otsuka Pharmaceuticals, Nichia Corporation
13. WITH THE SUPPORT OF (Planned) 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 EMAIL: coordinator2@topia.ne.jp

※Based on the COVID-19 situation, there may be changes made to the speech contest. Any changes will be posted on TOPIA's website, so please confirm.

Letter from SUKETO NAKAYOSHI

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

The warm spring weather, the colourful flowers and little insects... we are met by an abundance of nature in spring. Why not spend your days off enjoying the spring nature with your family? Playing outside has many benefits for children! For example:

1. It stimulates the five senses, which activates the brain and fosters a strong sensibility.
2. It stimulates the frontal lobe, which improves concentration.
3. Outdoor exercise and play increase physical strength and immunity.
4. Exposure to sunlight resets the body's internal clock, improving sleep and regulating one's daily rhythm.
5. Spending time outdoors offers the opportunity to engage with others and learn the importance of following rules.

Getting outside and moving is a great way to refresh the mind and body, not only for children, of course, but for adults as well! Try to make each day a productive, refreshing, and enjoyable day for you and your family!

Okara Cake Recipe (1 serving)

1. Finely chop 2g of dried prunes
2. Sift together 12g of flour, 0.3g of baking powder, and 7g of brown sugar
3. Mix 13g of okara, the chopped prunes, 1.5g of white sesame seeds, and 18g of soy milk into the

flour mixture

4. Add a small amount of salad oil to the mixture, and combine
5. Pour the mixture into a mold or an aluminum foil cup, and bake in the oven at 170°C for about 20 minutes
6. Once it is cooked all the way through, it is ready to enjoy!

* This is a moist cake with a delicious, crunchy texture from the sesame seeds and okara.

* "Okara" is a high fiber food created during the process of making tofu from soybeans. It is often used in dishes such as "nimono" (simmered dishes) and "hambāgu" (Japanese hamburger steak), and can be purchased at the supermarket.



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)