

# awa life

**Wiping Out With Style  
in Kaiyo**

**Gairaigo Galore:  
アンチ**

July 2022

# 381



**Japanese Culture and  
Reading Corner:**

暑中見舞い

**Introduction to the Minami  
Multicultural Coexistence  
Network (Harmony)**



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

It's now that time of year where you hear your coworkers exclaim “暑い!”<sup>あつ</sup>. I'm especially a winter-type of person, so the summer months can be tough. However, this month we have a pretty interesting article regarding surfing in Kaiyo! I've never tried surfing myself, but it seems like a great way to cool off in these summer months. For those that have the chance, why not try out one of the many water sports that Tokushima has to offer? There's not only surfing, but also SUP, rafting, etc.

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

**[awalife@gmail.com](mailto:awalife@gmail.com)**

### **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/>

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*Editors:*

Sydney Bartig and Nico Bohnsack

*Contributors This Month:*

Samantha Harris, Junko Kimura, Mie Yuuki, Naoko Yoshida, and Kazue Inoue

# Contents

Pg. 2-4: Wiping Out With Style in Kaiyo

Pg. 5: Japanese Culture and Reading Corner: 暑中見舞い

Pg. 5: Gairaigo Galore: アンチ

Pg. 6: Minami Multicultural Coexistence Network (Harmony)

Pg. 7: Japanese Lesson

Pg. 8 Events and Memoranda

Pg. 9: Letter from SUKETO NAKAYOSHI



## *Wiping Out With Style in Kaiyo*

*By: Samantha Harris*

On my first trip to Kaiyo, the little town on the southern edge of Tokushima certainly lived up to its name. The sun ("yo") and the sea ("kai") combined with the cerulean sky in a picture straight out of a desktop screensaver. Sandy beaches punctuated the green hills and rocky cliffs. I felt transported to a whole different side of Japan.

But I wasn't here to sit back and enjoy the view. Instead, I'd come to attempt a feat of human arrogance called surfing--for the first time.

Despite growing up by the ocean, I'd never surfed. On the small barrier island off the coast of North Caroline where I lived, surfing made you a surfer. This identity clashed with my semi-goth Drama Club aesthetic. I'd taken a longboard out once or twice, but only to lounge in the gentle waves of the Atlantic. Standing up always seemed like too much work. I'd never looked at an enormous wave and thought, "I've gotta get on that!" More like, I'll watch from the safety of the shore, thank you very much.

And yet, sitting in the surf rental van on our way to catch some waves, I didn't feel anxious. No fears circulated in the ordinarily anxiety-plagued washing drum of my mind. I was too excited to get back in the saltwater and too overwhelmed by the beauty of my surroundings.

By the time we got to the beach, I felt like a dog on a road trip, aching to jump out and run. Let me in that ocean, let me in!!



But something was wrong. The sea here was a glossy mirror without a wave in sight. After a few phone calls, our surfing guides moved on, taking us somewhere promised to have good waves. I watched the ocean glide by as we drove, the waves growing more turbulent as we neared the border between Tokushima and Kochi.

We stopped at a sandy parking lot and piled out, a group of eight men and three women, including myself. Time for the first challenge: carrying our surfboards to the shore.

This would require more effort than I'd anticipated. The boards were clunky and awkward to hold with my short arms. Did I consider how it might feel if, after a wipeout, one of these big boys hit me in

the head? Well, I'd find out soon enough.

After we'd landed at the shore and had the chance to look around, my first thought was, "wow, there's a lot of surfers here!" My second thought was that they all seemed like they knew what they were doing. We were definitely the only surfing newbies here. Even the kids were riding waves with no problem.

My third thought—those were some big freaking waves.

Did I feel nervous yet? Maybe a little. I watered it down by reminding myself I was, first and foremost, a woman of the ocean. A Pisces, raised by the water; someone who'd once snorkeled alongside barracuda in the Philippine

Sea, lived through countless hurricanes, seen her neighbor's house destroyed by a water spout. Waves didn't scare me!

We practiced on the sand first. Lay down, elbows in, then jump! into stance. Left-handed and always opposite, I naturally stood goofy. "Like yoga," I said, reminding myself to keep my elbows tucked in like in cobra, then lift from my core like in vinyasa.

Finally, I had the foundation down. Even if I couldn't stand once, I'd be in that magical, crystal blue water for several hours. Nothing else mattered.

We paddled out, a herd of awkward amateurs

joining the speckled mass of wetsuit-clad surfers. The water felt amazing, even in October.

I almost forgot we weren't there to relax. We had work to do. Namely, conquering the enormous waves that seemed to grow tenfold in size once we'd reached the Surf Zone.

"Okii.... Okii... very big..."

Our surf instructors looked worried, but we plowed a h e a d , focused solely on our goal.

Then the first monster wave appeared.

I'd been in rough waters before. I'd felt my body toss against the current, tumbling through the sand, coming up with scrapes and

sometimes even blood. But it'd been a while.

"Oh, no no no no no."

I shook my head as if my own disapproval could will the massive wave approaching us into nonexistence.

The wave didn't care. It devoured the sky, a mountain of water puffing itself up like an angry snake.

Time for an anecdote.

My first time in Tokyo, my little sister and I ventured alone into Akihabara. We roamed through a Sega station until we reached the





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## *Wiping Out With Style in Kaiyo*

realm of dim lighting and cigarette smoke. We ran straight to a familiar game called Street Fighter.

I fed the machine a few coins. Our slight confidence came from our history playing the game in our local movie theater arcade. Yeah, we knew how to hit the jump and punch buttons! We connected with another player in the dark room and immediately struck the controls as fast as we could. Our first opponent was a freaking panda bear. Less than thirty seconds passed. "K.O.!" We were knocked out before we'd gotten a single punch in.

No way. We tried again. As soon as we entered the battle, our competition assaulted us with more combos than the human eye could register. We were entirely out of our league. So, we let go of the controls and laughed. This was nuts! This was absurd! We were a couple of noobs getting our butts handed to us on a silver platter by people who lived and breathed Street Fighter. We were a couple of American teenagers let loose on the streets of Tokyo with no clue what we were up against. This made no sense! This didn't matter! Losing had never been so much fun.

I didn't recall all this as I watched the wave approach. The only thought in my mind was, "Wow, this is going to hurt." But I laughed, just as my sister and I had laughed all those years ago. I laughed about how ridiculous and wonderful the world was at that moment. I was in the most beautiful place on Earth. I was attempting to stand on a polystyrene board and ride a wave, and who in the world was the first person who looked at a wall of saltwater and thought, "I'm gonna ride that?"

The wave crashed, as all waves do, no matter how much you yell at it. I swallowed a generous amount of saltwater as the world flipped inside and out. At some point, board and skull collided, and I gained a cartoonish knot on the top of my head.

Did it hurt? Yes. A lot. Was I sore the next morning? More than I'd been in as long as I could

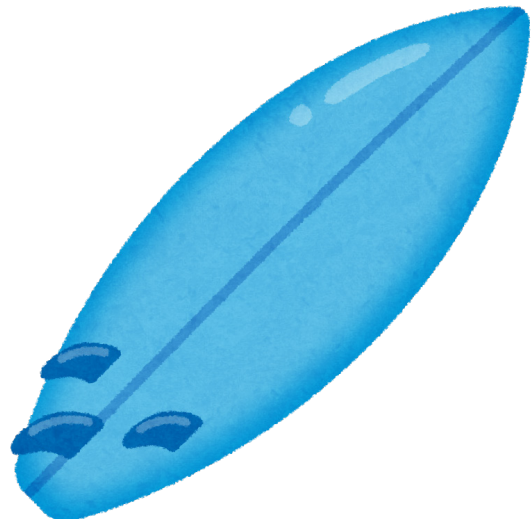
remember, but a trip to an onsen with an outdoor bath and an incredible ocean view soothed some of the aches.

As for actually surfing, I managed to stand up a grand total of seven times with the help of my patient teachers, who reminded me to stay "high and low!" in a hodgepodge of Japanese and English.

One embarrassing video posted on Facebook captures me managing to ride on a wave for a handful of seconds before losing my balance and capsizing. I reemerge from the water and throw up my hands like an Olympic gymnast, howling a cry of achievement.

I did it! I did something I never even imagined I could. I am here, bruises and all. Each mistake I make only gives me more experience. I am living, loudly and colorfully.

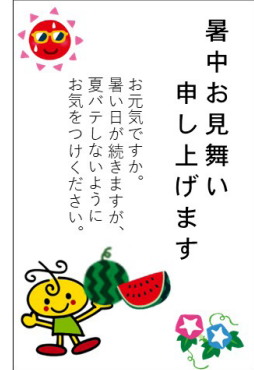
If you have the ability, try surfing in Tokushima. Actually, give anything you previously thought you could never do a genuine chance. Go into it with no expectations. Leave with the knowledge you're granted. Stand wide and low, awaiting the next opportunity. And know that there's plenty of adventure to be had in the seas and sands of Tokushima.



## Japanese Culture and Reading Corner: 暑中見舞い

By: Junko Kimura

し こく ち ほう が つ つ ゆ あ なつ あつ か あつ いちばんきび おく  
 四国地方では 7月に 梅雨が 明けて、夏の 暑さに 変わっていきます。暑さが 一番厳しいときに 送  
 る 季節の 挨拶に「暑中見舞い」が あります。はがきに 書く 短い 挨拶です。「毎日 暑いですが、  
 からだ たいせつ してください」などと 書きます。暑中見舞いは、なかなか 会えない 家族や 友達、  
 そして いつも お世話に なっている方たちに 送ります。昔は、お盆に 里帰り  
 する時に、祖先の 霊に 品を 供えていました。江戸時代になると、お世話に なっ  
 ている人たちに 贈り物を する様になりました。しかし、明治6年に 郵便の  
 制度が 発達してから、はがきを 送るようになりしました。今は、スマートフォ  
 ンなどで すぐに 連絡が できますが、今年の 夏は 暑中見舞いを 大切な人に  
 か 書いてみてください。



## Vocabulary List

つ ゆ 梅雨	Rainy Season	さとがえ 里帰り	Returning Home	おく もの 贈り物	Present
ち ほう 地方	Area	そ せん 祖先	Ancestor	ゆうびん 郵便	Post
きび 厳しい	Intense	れい 霊	Spirit	せい ど 制度	System
き せつ あいさつ 季節の挨拶	Seasonal Greetings	しな 品	Item	はったつ 発達	Development
お盆	Obon	そな 供える	Offer	スマートフォン	Cellphone

## Gairaigo Galore



アンチ (Anti)

By: Sydney Bartig

Have you ever seen the word “アンチ” come up when studying or speaking Japanese? The word アンチ comes from the English word “antipathy” (a feeling of strong dislike), although it is often just translated as “anti”. It can be used in a variety of words in essentially the same way it is used in English. Just like in English, it is added the beginning of the word. Some of these words include: アンチテーゼ (antithesis), アンチウイルス (anti-virus), アンチエイジング (anti-aging), etc.

In a completely different use of the word, 安地 (あんち) is used in video games to describe a safe zone. It comes from the 安全地帯 (あんぜんちたい), which means “safety zone”.

However, the word アンチ can be used in a much more malicious way as well. Especially on the internet, it can be used to describe someone who is an “anti-fan” or, more commonly used in English, a “hater”. It can be used for someone who is against a certain group, individual, company, product, sports team, idol group, etc., and doesn't have a good connotation attached to it.

Perhaps you'll come across this word being used on the internet?



## Introduction to the Minami Multicultural Coexistence Network (Harmony)

By: Mie Yuuki

The Japanese volunteer group “Harmony” was established in Minami Town as part of the Agency of Cultural Affairs’ “Local Japanese Classes Startup Program” that was adopted for 3 years from fiscal year 2016. The goal of our group is to teach foreigners living in the area essential Japanese for their everyday lives, make sure they are not isolated, and ensure that they can lead a smooth life in society. As well, we aim to create a multicultural town where both foreigners and new residents can live in coexistence. Japanese classes, one of the goals of Harmony, began in the second year of the project (2017), and have been continuing for 6 years. There was once a time where there were participants from Kaiyo Town, putting the Japanese classes at approximately 20 people. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, these numbers have decreased, and at the community center where the in-person Minami Japanese classes are held, there are about 4~6 people when including students and supporters. The aim is to create fun classes that take advantage of the small number of students and to meet their needs, focusing on pair work that utilizes games, picture books, etc. As a COVID-19 countermeasure, we also hold an online Japanese class once a week that utilizes the “Irodori Nihongo” textbook. Penguin Japanese classes are also available for pre-school age children of foreigners.

Another goal of Harmony is to transform Minami Town into an open, multicultural town. 3 years ago, before the start of COVID-19, many events were held to give foreigners and Japanese locals a place and time to interact. These events included a “Sakura & Old-style House Tour” to coincide with the Hiwasa Sakura Festival in April, a “Yukata Wearing” event to coincide with the Sea Turtle Festival in July, a “Town Walking Event to enjoy the Festival” to coincide with the Autumn Festival in October, setting up a cultural exchange booth at the Hiwasa/Nico Nico Human Rights Festival in November, and holding the “Disaster Prevention Workshop Minami” for foreigner residents in January.



*Chatting Café*

Due to COVID-19, the town’s events have been cancelled, and we’ve had to cancel Harmony’s events as well. For the past 2 years, members of Harmony have been holding informal events without PR, such as handicraft classes and outdoors walking events. Work for the “Chatting Café” and “Harmony Garden” has been continued by volunteers. We hope that the COVID-19 situation will improve soon, and that this year we will be able to plan a variety of events. We hope to show foreigners living in Minami Town and Tokushima Prefecture in general the charm of Hiwasa. We believe that participating in multicultural exchange and getting to know and understand each other’s culture is tied to multicultural coexistence.

Moving forward, Harmony plans to cooperate with a variety of organizations, groups, and the local people to conduct a variety of activities and aim for multicultural coexistence.

### **Harmony Website:**

<https://hearmony.amebaownd.com/>

### **Harmony Blog:**

<https://ameblo.jp/southernwind33/>

We also have a Facebook page, so if you search for “ハーマニー” you can check us out.

### **Harmony Contact Information:**

yukishoka33@mc.pikara.ne.jp

「～ほしいです」「たいです」「てほしいです」

This month, let's study 3 ways to express the speaker's desires.

「～ほしいです」「～たいです」「～てほしいです」

Conversation between a child and parent.

A: 大学に合格しましたね。お祝いは何がいいですか。

B：パソコンがほしいです。<sup>たか</sup>高いレストランに行きたいです。



Both「～ほしいです」and「～たいです」express the speaker's desires. The forms are as follows.

(わたしは) Nが ほしいです

(わたしは) N **を** Vます形 + たいです

※ Particles other than を can also be used.

例 京都 {に/へ} 行きたいです。      おいしいすし {を/が} 食べたいです。  
 外国で働きたいです。

「～てほしいです」 expresses a desire you would like from another person. The forms are as follows.

(わたしは) (人) に Vて形 +ほしいです

A: 携帯電話を使いたいです。でも、難しいです。

Bさん、ちょっとおし教えてほしいんですが……。

B : いいですよ。



「～ほしいです」 is a bit of a pushy way to express your desires, so when addressing a superior or when you want to be polite, use 「～ていただきたいんですが……」 instead.

例 ペンを貸<sup>か</sup>してほしいんですが……。→ペンを貸<sup>か</sup>していただきたいんですが……。

## Practice Questions

Change the word inside of the ( ) to the correct form and write it on the \_\_\_\_\_.

Write the correct particle inside the  $\langle \quad \rangle$ .

- ① 荷物<sup>にもつ</sup>がとても重<sup>おも</sup>いです。ちょっと\_\_\_\_\_んですが。(手<sup>て</sup>伝<sup>つ</sup>います)
- ② アルバイトをして車<sup>くるま</sup>く \_\_\_\_\_たいです。(買<sup>か</sup>います)
- ③ 忙<sup>いそが</sup>しいです。休<sup>やす</sup>みく \_\_\_\_\_ほしいです。
- ④ 学<sup>がく</sup>生<sup>せい</sup>く \_\_\_\_\_この本<sup>ほん</sup>を \_\_\_\_\_と思います。(読<sup>よ</sup>みます)



# Events & Memoranda

## Hiwasa Umigame Matsuri (Sea Turtle Festival) 日和佐うみがめまつり



A summer festival held in the town of Minami. There will be an "Umigame Appreciation Festival" to pray for the sea turtles (umigame) to come ashore and lay their eggs, as well as a fireworks show at the end of the festival that will light up Minami Town's night sky.

※ A portion of this year's festival will be held on a reduced scale.

When: July 23rd (Sat.)

Where: Ohama Beach, Minami Town,  
Kaifu District

Inquiries: Minami Town Industry Promotion  
Division (Umigame Matsuri  
Steering Committee)

TEL: 0884-77-3617

URL: [https://www.town.minami.lg.jp/foreign\\_country/jp/sightseeing.html#inline-wrap\\_fes6](https://www.town.minami.lg.jp/foreign_country/jp/sightseeing.html#inline-wrap_fes6)

美波町で行われる夏祭りです。うみがめの上陸・産卵を祈願する「うみがめ感謝祭」や、お祭りのフィナーレに打上花火が美波町の夜空を彩ります。

※ 2022 年は一部規模を縮小して開催予定。

日時：7月23日（土）

場所：海部郡美波町 大浜海岸周辺

お問い合わせ：美波町産業振興課  
（うみがめ祭り運営委員会）

TEL: 0884-77-3617

URL: [https://www.town.minami.lg.jp/foreign\\_country/jp/sightseeing.html#inline-wrap\\_fes6](https://www.town.minami.lg.jp/foreign_country/jp/sightseeing.html#inline-wrap_fes6)

## Komatsushima Minato Matsuri (Port Festival) 小松島港まつり

Approximately 2,500 fireworks will be set off during this fireworks display. ♪

※ Due to a reduced scaling of the event, the Awa Odori event has been cancelled.

When: July 17th (Sun) 20:00 (Fireworks)

Where: Shinkou Port Area, Komatsushimacho,  
Komatsushima City

Inquiries: Komatsushima Minato Matsuri Steering  
Committee Secretariat (Within the  
Komatsushima City Commerce, Industry,  
and Tourism Division)

TEL: 0885-32-3809

URL: <https://www.city.komatsushima.lg.jp/komatsushima-navi/>

花火大会（約 2500 発）等が予定されています♪

※規模縮小のため阿波おどりは開催中止。

日時：7月17日（日）20:00 花火

場所：小松島市小松島町新港地区一帯

お問い合わせ：小松島港まつり運営委員会事務局  
（小松島市商工観光課内）

TEL: 0885-32-3809

URL: <https://www.city.komatsushima.lg.jp/komatsushima-navi/>



## Letter from SUKETO NAKAYOSHI

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

Children love to play in the water, sand, dirt, and mud. Children can play with these types of materials and freely change their shape, increasing their creativity. They often play with them at the center. In the hot summer months, it will also be a fun time to cool down by playing with water or in the pool. Coming in contact with water can also have a large influence on a child's emotional and physical growth. For example...

- Immersing themselves in water allows them to exercise their entire body without any strain.
- The difference in water and air temperatures trains the skin, allowing children to become more resilient to colds.
- Being in water increases their risk perception.
- Such open and free play allows for children to refresh both their minds and bodies.

While keeping a watch on the COVID-19 situation, why not head out to the ocean, river, or a pool? You can also get creative and create a space for playing in the water, such as a plastic pool or tub.

### Handmade Sweets: Ice Cream (For 1 Person)

1. Pour 100 ml of milk, 1 egg yolk, 2 tablespoons of sugar, and a small amount of vanilla extract (this can be left out if you wish) into a jar with a lid (such as an empty jam jar) and mix.
2. Place (1) into a metal bowl and fill with 500g of large crushed ice. Evenly sprinkle 200g of salt.
3. Every 15 minutes, scrape off the ice cream that has hardened with a spoon. Put on the lid and turn. Repeat this for 30~60 minutes until it is done.

\*The bottom of the bowl will be extremely cold, so please be careful.



## 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.

Japanese, English, Chinese: Everyday, 10:00 - 18:00 (closed during the New Year's holidays)

Vietnamese: Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays, 10:00 - 14:00

Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays, 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)