

awa life

DMV Vehicle

August 2022

382



**Introduction to JTM
Tokushima Japanese
Network**

CIR Farewell Letters



**Gairaigo Galore:
ドイツ**

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

After cancellations due to the COVID-19, the Tokushima City Awa Odori will finally be held this year! Along with it, Arasowaren will be coming together once again to dance on August 14th. Arasowaren is a ren (dance group) made up of people of a variety of nationalities who all come together to enjoy Tokushima's famous Awa Odori. Why not take the chance to get out in August and go see the Awa Odori performances for yourself? It will certainly be a fun time.

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

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:

Sydney Bartig and Nico Bohnsack

Contributors This Month:

Zhanna Voznyuk, Joelle Seggert, Samantha Simmons, Mako Kobayashi, Fumiko Kanematsu, and

Yukiko Watanabe

Contents

- Pg. 2-3: DMV Vehicle, Kaiyo Town, Tokushima, Shikoku, Japan
Pg. 4: CIR Farewell Messages
Pg. 5: Japanese Culture and Reading Corner: 山の日
Pg. 5: Gairaigo Galore: ドイツ
Pg. 6: Introduction to JTM Tokushima Japanese Network
Pg. 7: Japanese Lesson
Pg. 8-9: Events and Memoranda

DMV Vehicle, Kaiyo Town, Tokushima, Shikoku, Japan

By: Zhanna Voznyuk

Their designs are in stark contrast to the breathtaking nature of Kaiyo Town, and these bright vehicles running on their routes definitely stand out. At first glance, their appearance could be mistaken for a bus, but there's something just a little off ... Sharp-eyed viewers will notice that it's not only the shape that's a bit different – astonishingly, these compact vehicles run on railroad tracks as smoothly as they do on roads!

In December 2021, Kaiyo Town's Asa Coast Railway Company launched the world's first full-scale commercial operation of the Dual Mode Vehicle (DMV), a new generation of public transport that is both a bus and a train in one. It is capable of running on both roads and railroad tracks, transitioning seamlessly with its ability to switch modes in just fifteen seconds.



The DMV is a revolutionary step in the region's transportation system, making it more convenient and more efficient. DMV operation routes connect southern Tokushima with Kochi's Toyo Town, stopping at local tourist facilities along the way. On weekends and public holidays, the DMV's route even runs as far south as Kochi's Cape Muroto!



The vehicle has been remodeled based on a minibus. When on the road, it runs on rubber tires, while steel guide wheels mounted on the front and rear are hidden in the bonnet and trunk. Switching to train mode is performed with passengers on board at the interchange (MIC), that connects the road and the railway tracks. The steel guide wheels descend from the vehicle body, turning it into a train carriage. The guide wheels lift the front tires off the track while the driving rear tires stay down to propel the DMV onto the railway. Additionally, the steering wheel remains fixed in place while on the railroad track, and the vehicle is operated by the accelerator and brake pedals in the same way as in bus mode.

There are three vehicles in service on the Asato Line:

The blue "Surfing to the future" DMV 931, whose motif is the dynamic waves of the Pacific Ocean. It depicts the mascot of Shishikui Station, the spiny lobster, on his surfboard, as a symbol of effort and the ability to face tough challenges. The green "Sudachi style" DMV 932's light and

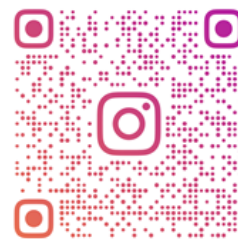
breezy design, together with a soaring white heron known as shirasagi, represents Tokushima Prefecture.

The bright red "Asa Coast Restoration" DMV 933 depicts a source of pride for Shikoku, historical hero Sakamoto Ryoma and the sun shining on his native Tosa. This design alludes to the zeal for regional revitalization.



Check out Deep South Tokushima's Facebook and Instagram!

Southern Tokushima Points of Interest
@deep_south_tokushima



DEEP.SOUTH.TOKUSHIMA



CIR Farewell Messages

Joelle Seggert

As I sit down to write this farewell message, it feels like little to no time has passed since my welcome message in last year's December issue of Awa Life. However, looking back at my life in Tokushima and all of the precious memories and experiences I've made, I realize how connected I feel to this place and its people, despite having only lived here for 9 months. Due to the pandemic, many things didn't go as planned – especially at work. Even though I came here as a CIR to promote intercultural understanding and help with all kinds of exchange events, most of them got either cancelled or postponed, leaving little to no work for me. Nevertheless, this lack of work actually provided me with the opportunity to be creative, come up with my own events, and work within the limitations I had.

When I think about it now, this has probably contributed to my personal growth on many levels and even though a part of me still feels like I could have done much more under different circumstances, I can say with confidence that I gave it my all.

As somebody interested in basically anything

Samantha Simmons

Over half a year has passed since I began working as a CIR in the Sports Promotion Division at the Tokushima Prefectural Office. Although I haven't been here for very long, it has been quite a long, rewarding journey with many ups and downs. I've had plenty of wonderful experiences, overcome many obstacles, and succeeded in many areas that I didn't believe possible before coming here.

Unfortunately, I will have to say goodbye to my colleagues at the Tokushima Prefectural Office at the end of July. I would like to extend my sincerest gratitude to everyone I had the pleasure of crossing paths with since my appointment in December 2021. The immense support and kindness of my superiors, colleagues, and fellow CIRs has been paramount to my ability to settle into my new life in Japan and to prevail in the face of every challenge that came my way.

from crafting to outdoor activities, life in Tokushima has provided me with many opportunities to try and experience new things. Things, I could have never experienced if I had stayed in Germany. But it has also led to many beautiful encounters.



There are so many people I feel thankful to, that I don't know where to start. To all the volunteer members that fill my day with good energy, fun, and warmth every morning before work and on the weekends, to my koto, sado and ikebana teachers who have always been patient and encouraging, to everyone at Musou-ren for allowing me to dance with them in this year's Awa-Odori festival, to my fellow JETs and all my other dear friends here in Tokushima: Thank you. You have made this place feel like home.

I'll be back. Next Stop? Miyazaki!

Though it will be difficult to leave the familiar, friendly environment of the Sports Promotion Division, I am pleased to announce that I have been blessed with the opportunity to continue working as a CIR in Tokushima after July. The next chapter of my journey will take place at Tokushima City Hall, where I aspire to continue down the path of career development and self-improvement.



I am very grateful to all of the wonderful people at the Tokushima Prefectural Office, and I look forward to continuing to live and work in this beautiful city! Cheers!

Japanese Culture and Reading Corner: 山の日

By: Mako Kobayashi

皆さんは「山の日」を知っていますか。8月11日は「山の日」という日本の祝日です。
 この山の日には「山に親しむ機会を得て、山の恵みに感謝すること」を目的としています。
 山の日以外にも3月は「春分の日」、5月は「みどりの日」、7月は「海の日」、9月は「秋分の日」など、日本には季節や自然に関係する祝日が多くあります。

またそれぞれの県ではその県独自の山の日もあるようです。たとえば、富士山で有名な静岡県は、2月23日を「富士山の日」と決めています。そして、8月8日を山梨県は「やまなし山の日」、岐阜県では「ぎふ山の日」と決めています。



皆さんも山へキャンプやハイキングに行き、山での遊ぶ機会を増やしてみませんか。

Vocabulary List

親しむ	Get Familiar With	感謝する	Appreciate	自然	Nature
機会	Opportunity	目的	Purpose	関係する	Be Related To
得る	Get	以外	Except For	独自	Unique
恵み	Blessings	季節	Season	増やす	Increase

Gairaigo Galore



ドイツ (Germany)

By: Nico Bohnsack

In Japan I sometimes get asked why Germany is actually called ドイツ in Japanese since, for example, in French the country is called "Allemagne" and in English people call the country "Germany" which both sound totally different from "doitsu". Moreover, the English expression "Germany" is also sometimes used in the Japanese language. Something that can be seen very often is using it as an adjective, such in ジャーマンポテト, but also ジャーマニー in the meaning of the country name can be seen in rare cases. The usual expression, however, is ドイツ.



Now many of you probably know that Germans call their country "Deutschland" in German and it seems highly likely that the Japanese ドイツ stems from the German word for "Germany". But why isn't it called ドイツチュランド then? One explanation would be that the Japanese just shortened the word a bit. After all, Japanese love abbreviations, as we all know. Another explanation says that the German word for "German" (Deutsch) is the origin of ドイツ. However, there is also a theory which says that the word ドイツ stems from the Dutch word "Duits" (German). Since Japan came into contact with Germany through the Dutch during the Edo period, it would actually make sense that the Japanese took over the Dutch word for "German" and began to use it in the meaning of "Germany".



Introduction to JTM Tokushima Japanese Network

By: Fumiko Kanematsu

“Convey the Importance of Japanese, Share Our Work from Tokushima”... 25 Years of Connections

The JTM (Japanese Teaching Methodology) Research Association was founded in June 1997 as a study group for teaching foreigners Japanese, and the group has now reached its 25th anniversary.

At the time of our founding there were approximately 2,500 foreign residents living in Tokushima. In 2002, just a mere 5 years later, that number increased to 4,996. Afterwards, the number then peaked in 2004 at 5,911 and remained at around 5,000 until June 2018. It then showed signs of increase just before April 2019 when the revised Immigration Control Act came into effect at the end of 2018, exceeding 6,000 for the first time at 6,073. The COVID-19 pandemic then swept the world, and restrictions on foreigners entering the country continued. The number of foreign residents in the prefecture now remains at about 6,500.

Along with the continual increase in foreign residents, JTM's activities have also developed. In 1999, along with the creation of the textbook “Konnichiwa Tokushima”, we held a course on how to teach the text, and many of today's core members took part in said course and grew to be friends. In 2001, under the concept of “Convey the Importance of Japanese, Share Our Work from Tokushima”, our group's name was changed to “JTM Tokushima Japanese Network”. Since then, our volunteer activities have also spread, including a “Japanese salon”, “summer vacation Japanese classes for children”, “haiku exchange meeting”, etc. After forming a teacher's group in 2003, we aimed to increase our knowledge in specialized fields including Japanese for technical intern trainees and local Japanese classes.



In 2005, immediately after taking on the role of representative and attending a Japanese speech contest held by TOPIA, I was

shocked to hear a speech by a Japanese spouse who called for more Japanese education by stating, “I want a chance to learn Japanese, demonstrate my abilities, and be of use to my family and society.” This was a big turning point for me. “Just how much do I really understand about what foreign residents are feeling?” Throwing away our preconceptions, we learned

from awareness surveys and opinion exchange meetings that those who live in Japan for a longer time had more worries, and noticed that it was connections with others that made them want to make the most of their abilities. This led to the unchanging direction of JTM, which is to challenge the possibilities of Japanese education and aim for “realizing a society where foreigners can live together with locals”.



As a cumulation of the knowledge and practice we have had for the realization of a local society, we have implemented many initiatives, including a “mid-level Japanese class” started in 2006, a “Japanese terakoya” started in 2009, the “Country Pride and Potluck Party” held every March since 2010, a “skill development class for Japanese instructors” as commissioned by the Agency of Cultural Affairs, creation of a textbook “Konnichiwa Tokushima for Living Together With Your Children” for parents and guardians, a “Japanese course for parents and guardians”, a “career advancement Japanese course for obtaining beneficial skills for job seeking”, and more. The spread of COVID-19 has severely limited Japanese learning opportunities, so in order to create a sustainable learning environment, we have held study sessions on how to utilize online platforms for Japanese instructions, as well as hold online Japanese classes and round-table talks.

Looking back, in addition to our regular activities, our organization has had countless chances to participate in projects with the cooperation of TOPIA, including the “summer school” that we were commissioned for by TOPIA, seminars and workshops with experts in the field of Japanese education, opinion exchange meetings and panel discussions with foreign residents, courses to experience and learn about Japanese culture, etc. Through this our knowledge, exchange experiences, and activities have accumulated. From the bottom of my heart, I am truly grateful.

With a declining population, the opportunity for foreign residents to play an active role will continue to expand and diversify. With this in mind, we hope that we can continue to challenge the possibilities of Japanese language education through our ties with TOPIA and other related institutions and organizations. We ask for your continued guidance and encouragement.

ひらがな カタカナ 漢字

Did you know that hiragana and katakana were made from kanji? In the past, Japan had a spoken language, but not a written one. They then borrowed kanji from China and began to write with them.

However, kanji have many stroke counts, and they take a lot of time to write. In order to write quickly, lines were erased to form hiragana. Katakana was formed by writing just a portion of the kanji.

Hiragana was mainly used by women who served in the imperial court. Katakana was first used by monks in order to read sutras. Both date back to the 8th ~ 9th century.

Remembering many kanji is difficult, right? However, thanks to the different kinds of characters in Japanese, it is easy to tell the breaks in sentences. It's also convenient that you can see a katakana word and immediately recognize it as a foreign word.

【漢字→ひらがな・カタカナ】

安→あ→あ

阿→ア→ア

以→い→い

伊→イ→イ

宇→う→う

宇→ウ→ウ

衣→え→え

江→エ→エ

於→お→お

於→オ→オ

※The original kanji are slightly different when becoming hiragana and katakana.

【Quiz】 Try to guess what I wrote. Try to imagine the hiragana from the cursive-style characters.

己 无 仁 知 波

己 无 仁 知 波

↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓

--	--	--	--	--



위하리니【景】

Events & Memoranda

徳島市阿波おどり Tokushima City Awa Odori

Taking into account the COVID-19 situation with the spread of the variants and the fact that it cannot be predicted if the situation will be fully under control, this year's Awa Odori will be held on a smaller scale than usual. While monitoring the COVID-19 situation, the event will be held based on the "2020 Awa Odori Next Model" as well as the "2021 Awa Odori New Normal Model" that were held during COVID-19 with anti-infection measures taken into place.

Festival Eve (Asty Tokushima)
Senbatsu Awa Odori (Awa Gin Hall)
Paid Stages: Aibahama, Minamiuchimachi
Free Stages: Ryogokuhoncho, Shinmachibashi Bridge
Dancing Squares: Shinmachibashi higashi,
Ryogokubashi minami,
Amico Dome,
Civic Center Sakura Hall

When: August 12th (Fri.) – 15th (Mon.)
*August 11th (Thur.) is the festival eve
Inquiries: Awa Odori Mirai he Tsunagu Executive Committee Secretariat
(Within the city's Festivities and Exchange Department)
TEL: 088-621-5233
URL: <https://www.awaodorimirai.com/>

*The event may be cancelled based on the Tokushima Alert level.

新型コロナウイルス感染症の変異株が拡大し、その収束も十分見通せない状況にあること等を踏まえ、「2022 阿波おどり」は、コロナ禍において万全の感染防止対策を講じ開催した「2020 阿波おどりネクストモデル」や「2021 阿波おどり～ニューノーマルモデル～」を参考に、感染状況に注視しつつ、通常より縮小した規模で開催いたします。

前夜祭（アスティとくしま）、
選抜阿波おどり（あわぎんホール）
有料演舞場（藍場浜、南内町）
無料演舞場（両国本町、新町橋）
おどり広場等（新町橋東、両国橋南、
アミコドーム、
シビックセンターさくらホール）

日時：8月12日（金）～15日（月）
※8月11日（木・祝）は前夜祭
お問い合わせ：阿波おどり未来へつなぐ
実行委員会事務局
（徳島市にぎわい交流課内）
TEL: 088-621-5233
URL: <https://www.awaodorimirai.com/>

*とくしまアラートレベルによっては中止になるかもしれません。



Events & Memoranda

四国酒まつり～夏の陣～ Shikoku Sake Matsuri ~Summer Version~

The “23rd Shikoku Sake Matsuri” that was postponed due to COVID-19 will be held this summer as a “summer version”.

*Depending on the COVID-19 situation, the contents of the event may change. Thank you in advance for your understanding.

When: August 13th (Sat.) 13:00 – 17:00

Where: 2175-3 Ikedachō Machi, Miyoshi City
Flat Square
(2 minute walk from JR Awa Ikeda Station)

Fee: Only day-of tickets are available.

You will get 5 drink tickets for 1,000 yen.

Inquiries: Shikoku Sake Matsuri

Executive Committee Secretariat
(Within the Awa Ikeda Chamber of
Commerce and Industry)

TEL: 0883-72-0143

URL: <http://www.shikoku-sakematuri.com>

新型コロナウイルス感染拡大の影響を受け、開催を延期していました「第23回四国酒まつり」を“夏の陣”として今夏開催いたします。

※ 新型コロナウイルス感染状況により、開催内容が変更になる場合がありますのでご了承ください。

日時：8月13日（土）13:00～17:00

場所：三好市池田町マチ 2175-3

ふらっとスクエア

（JR阿波池田駅より徒歩約2分）

料金：当日券のみの販売

1000円で5杯試飲できます

お問い合わせ：四国酒まつり実行委員会事務局（阿波池田商工会議所内）

TEL: 0883-72-0143

URL: <http://www.shikoku-sakematuri.com>



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)