

awa life

**Transformation in the
Summer**

**2022 Tokushima
Prefecture Japanese
Speech Contest**

September 2022

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Introduction to Tico

Gairaigo Galore:
プラスα



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

Did everyone have fun at the Awa Odori last month? It was certainly hot, but it was great to see the event being held after being cancelled for the past years! If you missed it then make sure to check it out next year. In this month's issue you can also find a short piece about TOPIA's ren (Awa Odori group) Arasowaren, so make sure to check it out!

Now that we've entered September it should start to slowly cool down. I'm personally looking forward to the cooler temperatures. How about you?

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

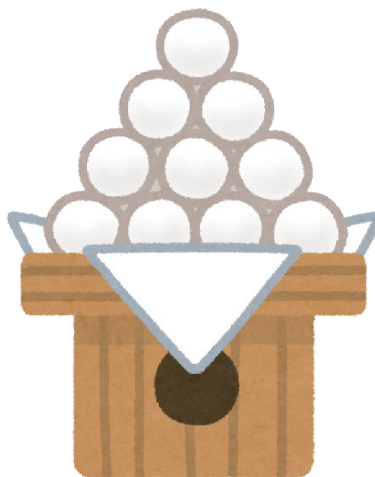
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Download a PDF file of awa life or view the online version by going to TOPIA's website!



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2022 Tokushima Prefecture Japanese Speech Contest

On July 24th, the Tokushima Prefectural International Exchange Association held the 33rd Japanese Speech Contest for Foreign Residents at the Awagin Hall. 13 participants from 7 different countries and 1 region spoke on topics such as understanding different cultures, differences between Japan and their country, and their life here in Japan.

The grand prize winner was Li Cian Jing, a participant from Taiwan. The winner of the Tokushima Prefectural Assembly's Federation of International Exchange Assembly Member Chairman's

Award was QUÁCH THỊ THUỶ DUNG a participant from Vietnam.

Due to the current situation with COVID-19, we put in place many preventative measures and limited the number of people. However, you can watch the speech content on YouTube. We hope that the situation with COVID-19 will settle down and the speech contest can be held as normal next year.

You can find a translation of the winning speech on the next page!



How I Live**~Connections Between People~**

By: Li Cian Jing (*Grand Prize Winner*)



In April 2014, with the sakura blooming, my heart beating, and full of excitement, I boarded the plane for the 3 hour ride from Taiwan. My fun-filled days in Japan then begun.

I chatted with the people at my school, went to karaoke after school, and went to stylish cafes... everyday was extremely fun. At least that's what I'd like to say, but this isn't the truth. Whether at school or at home I was alone. My life in Japan was completely different than how I had imagined it. I couldn't keep up with what the Japanese people around me were saying, and I just couldn't fit in. A report that would take Japanese people 3 hours to finish would take me 3 days. I was also laughed at in front of people because my name is "Sensei". When I talked to other study abroad students in Chinese, I was also told to "go back to my country" by someone I didn't even know. It was extremely painful, and I would cry alone at home. I was disheartened and thought many times about returning home.

However, at that time I had people who supported me. They were my host family from when I was a senior high school student, and my landlord who would always send me off and welcome me home every day. My host family still cares for me today and comes to meet me. When I, as a foreigner, was having trouble finding housing, my landlord told me "You can stay here". She then helped me, who couldn't speak much Japanese, by taking me to the city hall office. We also ate yokan bread

together and I went to the zoo with her and her grandchild. Such kindness made me so incredibly happy, so much so that I can't express it in words. Without a doubt this gave me energy. I was helped by so many people: my host family, my landlord, those from the Japan-Taiwan Friendship Association, etc. At that time, I realized it. I realized just how blessed I was. Then I was able to try my best again. I studied Japanese more, participated in a lot of events, and interacted with the local people. In order to learn more about Japan's traditional culture, I entered the sadou (tea ceremony) club. There I learned about the principles of sadou: "caring for others, respect, and being hospitable".

By talking with many people, I noticed one thing – that I can change my way of thinking. My name "Sensei" certainly makes some people laugh, but now I think of it as a name that's easy for people to remember. When everyone returns home today, I bet you'll remember my name. "Sensei".

I also found a dream for myself in Japan. I want to become a clinical psychologist. Moving forward, there will be more foreigners coming to Japan, not just study abroad students. Among them will be those who, due to language and cultural barriers, have no one to talk to and continue to keep their worries to themselves, eventually becoming sick. Therefore, I want to become a psychologist so that I can help those people and be their strength. At graduate school I am currently studying professional counseling. The classes are certainly not easily, in fact they're quite difficult, but I've never thought about giving up. The reason for that is my family supporting me in Taiwan, as well as my teachers and classmates, who have helped me be where I am today.

I definitely won't forget how many people in Japan have helped support me. Moving forward, I won't forget these connections and experiences, and I'll work hard to become a clinical psychologist who can support the hearts of many people.

Transformation in the Summer

By: Qing Liu

I don't particularly like noisy places, and I'm not a fan of sweating either. When I arrived in Tokushima, I happily spent my first summer Obon as a couch potato with the air conditioner on. However, a few days after Obon everyone was asking me the same question: "Did you see the Awa Odori?"

The next year I joined the Arasowaren practices as an interpreter. I felt a bit out of place when everyone was practicing their dancing and I was just standing there. Additionally, the members of Arasowaren were people from a wide array of countries who each danced with their own kind of style, which helped put me, who can't dance at all, at ease. I ended up transforming from a "watching fool" to a "dancing fool". You don't really need many words to be able to dance, but you'll definitely be sweating a lot! When it felt like my calves were about to give out a voice would shout "Sekai wa hitotsu! Arasowaren! (Translation: The world is one! Arasowaren!)", and I could feel that the tension in the room would immediately rise again.



On August 14th, I wore a kimono for the first time and put on my tabi socks. I was busy taking a bunch of pictures of myself and sending them to my friends and family. While waiting at the entrance of the stage area, people I didn't know passed through and asked to take pictures together.



It was finally time for us to perform. The lights and lanterns on the stage were so dazzling, and I realized I couldn't hear our team's music (the lines were long and I, standing at the front of the line, could only see the team in front of us). For an instant my mind went blank, but then I heard the "yattosa, yattosa!" and adjusted to the rhythm. Dancing with my left hand and left foot and then right hand and right foot, I ended up exiting the stage and blending in with the sounds of the taiko, flute, and shamisen that floated in the air. There I also encountered free-spirited dancers.

If you've never been to a summer festival in Japan, then you would never be able to guess that Japan can have such spirited times! If you haven't participated in the Awa Odori, then you would surely just think of Tokushima as peaceful, just like the blue Yoshinogawa River.

Why not come visit Tokushima's Awa Odori that takes place every year from August 12th to the 15th? Would you like to dive into the transformed Tokushima with Arasowaren?



Japanese Culture and Reading Corner: 防災グッズ

By: Yukari Nagata

日本は地震や台風などの災害が多い国です。最近、異常気象によってゲリラ豪雨や土砂災害など予測が難しい災害も起こっています。災害に遭わないことが一番ですが、もしものときに備え、普段から防災グッズ（用品）を用意しておくことが大切です。

防災グッズは、避難するときに持ち出すものと、災害のために家に置いておくものの、2種類があります。前者は、食料や水、毎日の生活に必要なタオル、着るもの、救急用品、貴重品などです。後者は、3日分以上の食料や水、毛布、カセットコンロなどです。

みなさんも、防災グッズについて見直してみませんか？ TOPIAの「防災ハンドブック」も見て下さい。



<https://www.topia.ne.jp/docs/2013031800059/>

Vocabulary List

災害	Disaster	防災グッズ	Disaster Goods	後者	Latter
異常気象	Abnormal Weather	避難	Evacuate	3日分	Three Days
ゲリラ豪雨	Strong Rain	救急用品	Emergency Goods	見直す	Re-examine
土砂災害	Landslide	前者	Former	防災	Disaster Prevention
予測	Predict	貴重品	Valuables		

Gairaigo Galore



プラス α (Plus Alpha)

By: Sydney Bartig

When I first started working at the prefectural office and TOPIA, there is one word in particular that I would often hear. One of the people in the division next to mine would especially use this word a lot, and despite it being a katakana word, I couldn't quite figure out the meaning. That word was “プラス α” (also written as “プラスアルファ”).



Plus alpha? Like the math symbol? What could that possibly be, and why is it used so much? Essentially it means something that is extra or would be nice to have happen, but that is not a requirement of the main plan. Naturally you can expect to hear it a lot in business situations.

This is another case of wasei eigo, as of course we don't use this phrase in English. This word apparently comes from a simple mistake. Apparently at a baseball game a foreigner scribbled an x on the back of a baseball scoreboard and it was misread as the Greek letter α. This was later fixed to be x. In English there is the expression +x that is used to mean something extra (although I haven't personally heard this very often), which is likely where the expression plus alpha comes from.

Introduction to TICO

By: Yoji Fukushi

The Specified Corporation TICO (below written as TICO) was founded in 1993 as the “Conference for Thinking About International Cooperation in Tokushima”. The goal of TICO is to think about our place in Tokushima, Japan in the world and what we can do to aid in international cooperation as a global citizen. We conduct international cooperation projects both abroad and within Japan.

The Sakura Clinic, founded by the TICO director Osamu Yoshida, is the most trusted medical institution in an area that is facing depopulation and an aging society. Sakura Clinic actively accepts medical experts who wish to participate in international cooperation, and while practicing local medical care, has been participating in international cooperation in the medical care field for 20 years, mainly in the countries of Zambia and Cambodia. In Zambia, we train locals to become “community health volunteers”. This has allowed those in Zambia at the only clinic in the area to support nurses, manage and operate the clinic, and create an environment where the local citizens can access the clinic at any time. Additionally, in Cambodia we have worked to give first aid training to medical personnel, train local medical volunteers, and worked with the Ministry of Health of Cambodia and other organizations to create a first aid guidebook. This guidebook is used as a textbook for various training. Within Japan in our home of Yoshinogawa City, Tokushima, we hold seminars and lectures known as “Global Citizen College”. Due to COVID-19, which has made it so that people can’t gather in person, we have begun doing courses online.

Those who gather at TICO and Sakura Clinic are those who desire to live as global citizens and who give back to the community by utilizing their experiences and thoughts on international cooperation, while tackling the challenges faced by developing countries. These activities have gained attention as a way to tie together local activities and international cooperation, and as a model for international cooperation and exchange by citizens.

[Activities Within Japan]

- In our local Tokushima, we publish a newsletter and also hold seminars and lectures called “Global Citizen College”. This “Global Citizen College” holds seminars and



lectures to report on TICO’s experiences and successes regarding international cooperation overseas to local citizens and TICO supports, as well as those who are engaged in local or overseas activities.

- TICO staff members serve as international understanding instructors at elementary, junior, and senior high schools, as well as give classes at universities. Director Yoshida opens his house as a camp for university students to learn about international cooperation, and TICO accepts medical students from Zambia across the country. They work locally for international cooperation and exchange.

[Activities Abroad]

- TICO’s international cooperation activities are characterized by their empowerment of locals via health staff that have plenty of experience abroad and have specialized knowledge. Currently they are teaching local doctors, nurses, and other medical personnel in Zambia about cardiovascular surgery techniques.
- Beginning after the 2002 drought in Zambia, the WAHE (water, agriculture, health, and education) Project is multi-sectoral cooperation project. In addition to our specialty of medical care, we help local citizens with organic agriculture, small-scale loans, and building schools so that they can be independent. We are working towards securing people’s safety and creating a sustainable society.

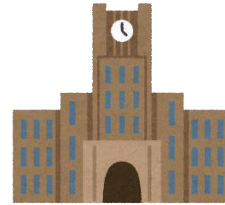
[Emergency Support Measures]

- During wars and large-scale disasters such as the Great Hanshin Earthquake, the Tohoku Earthquake, and the current situation with refugees from Ukraine, TICO has partnered with other NGOs and made use of its network to dispatch medical staff and provide necessary goods.

This month we will study 「～^{おも}と思っています」 and 「～つもりです」 which express the speaker's intent or plan to the person they are speaking with, as well as 「～^{よてい}予定です」 which expresses something that is already decided.

Aさんは、^{がっこう}学校を^{そつぎょう}卒業するBさんに^き聞いています。

A: もうすぐ、^{そつぎょう}卒業ですね。^{そつぎょう}卒業したら^{なに}何をしますか。



B: ^{くに}国へ^{かえ}帰ろうと^{おも}っています。

「V意向形＋と思っています」is used to answer. You can also use the following expression.

B: ^{くに}国へ^{かえ}帰る^{じしょけい}つもりです。

「V辞書形＋つもりです」is used to answer. Its meaning is nearly the same as

「V意向形＋と思います」, but it's a bit stronger. Additionally, you can use 「Vない形＋つもりです」 to make 「^{くに}国へ^{かえ}帰らないつもりです」 Now what about the next sentence?

B: ^{くに}国へ^{かえ}帰る^{よてい}予定です。^{そつぎょうしき}卒業式の3日後に^{ひこうき}飛行機を^{よやく}予約しました。

Using 「V辞書形＋予定です」, you can convey that the schedule is decided. Additionally, just like in 「^{ごご}午後から^{かいぎ}会議の^{よてい}予定です」, you can use 「Nの＋予定です」 to convey the schedule.



Practice Problems

Change the words in parentheses to the correct form.

- ① 来月中国へ_____予定です。(出張 します)
- ② 夏休みに友達と旅行に_____と思っています。(行きます)
- ③ 今年の秋に_____つもりです。(結婚 します)
- ④ たくさん宿題がありますので、遊びに_____つもりです。(行きません)
- ⑤ A: 出張はどのくらい行きますか。
B: _____予定です。(2週間)

Events & Memoranda

Term 2 TOPIA Japanese Classes Schedule

Time: 10:30-12:00 Location: Meeting rooms at TOPIA (Or online via Zoom) Fee: Free

Textbook: We will be using the "Minna no Nihongo I" or the "Minna no Nihongo II" (2nd edition) textbooks (2,750 yen for the book and audio CD). Please prepare the textbooks on your own. Additionally, there will be themed lessons on various topics such as seasons and life in Tokushima.

**Due to the spread of COVID-19, the classes may change to an online format (Zoom, etc.). Please confirm class status by phone or by checking TOPIA's website. TEL: 088-656-3303 Website: <https://www.topia.ne.jp/english/>*

DAY	TEACHER	LEVEL	CLASS DESCRIPTION	START DATE
TUE	Ms. Tamaki	Beginners	We will take the first step towards learning basic expressions. Text: Minna no Nihongo I from Chapter 1~13	October 4 (20 times)
WED	Volunteers	Group Lesson	This is a flexible group study class split up into 3 different groups. *For parents of young children, a childcare worker will be on hand to look after your child during the lesson. <i>(Please inquire in advance. Depending on the current COVID-19 situation, this service may not be offered.)</i>	October 5 (20 times)
THU	Ms. Yamada	Elementary 1	We will study a variety of verb conjugations such as te form, nai form, and dictionary form. Text: Minna no Nihongo I from Chapter 14~25	October 6 (20 times)
FRI	Ms. Aoki	Elementary 2	We will study various forms and expressions such as potential, volitional, imperative, prohibitive, conditional, reasoning, passive, causative, and honorific expressions. Text: Minna no Nihongo II from Chapter 26~50	September 30 (25 times)
SUN	JTM	Elementary 1	We will study a variety of verb conjugations such as te form, nai form, and dictionary form. Text: Minna no Nihongo I from Chapter 14~25	October 2 (20 times)
	Volunteers	Group Lesson	This is a flexible group study class split up into 3 different groups.	

* Please register for Group Lessons at least a day before the class. (If you do not sign up in advance and show up on the day of the class, we may not be able to find a group for you to study with.) Additionally, as the number of groups are limited, we may not be able to find a group that suits your level.

* If you are unable to attend class, please call and let us know. (TEL: 088-656-3303, Email: topia@topia.ne.jp)

* The Volunteer Classes on Wednesday and Sunday will be cancelled if no students show up within the first 30 minutes.

TUE	Ms. Kimura Ms. Kimoto	Special Beginners Class	A class for those who cannot read or write hiragana or katakana. We will study the basics, such as the Japanese alphabet, greetings, numbers, and items. We will also be learning about Tokushima.	You may join at anytime.
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*Classes may be cancelled if there is a typhoon, heavy rain, heavy snow, etc. Please call and confirm if classes will still be held.

Japanese classes are also available at the Anan International Association, Aizumi Town International Exchange Association, Yoshinogawa International Exchange Association, Mima no Sato, Minami Multicultural Coexistence Network "Harmony", the Club for Thinking about Multicultural Coexistence "Tomoni" in Tsurugi Town, Awa International Exchange Association, and the NPO "Attakaiyou" in Kaiyo Town.



Events & Memoranda

Sue Don's Station Stops ~Pencil Drawing Exhibition by
Yasumasa Sue~ [Naruto German House]
すえドンの各駅停車 ー須恵泰正鉛筆画展ー
【鳴門市ドイツ館】

An exhibition will be held of Yasumasa Sue's, an artist who is active in Tokushima, pencil drawings. Following after his exhibitions on the "Haba Shikoku Pilgrimage" and "autobikes", this time he will exhibit works of station buildings from the prefecture's western JR line "Dosan Line". Stations from Tsubojiri Station to Awa-Handa Station will be featured. Additionally, sketches of gourmet locations around the stations and people will also be featured.

When: September 3rd (Sat.) – October 2nd (Sun.)

*The German House is closed on

September 26th (Mon.)

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

Where: Naruto German House

Fee: Adults: 400 Yen Children: 100 Yen

Inquiries: Naruto German House

TEL: 088-689-0099

URL: <https://doitsukan.com/>

県内で活躍中の鉛筆画家・須恵泰正さんによるイラスト展。

「端四国」、「オートバイ」と続き、今回は「駅舎」を題材に県西部の JR 土讃線「坪尻駅」から「阿波半田駅」まで展示。あわせて駅周辺のグルメイラストや描きためてきた人物スケッチも同時に展示します。

日時：9月3日（土）～10月2日（日）

※9月26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

お問い合わせ：鳴門市ドイツ館

TEL: 088-689-0099

URL: <https://doitsukan.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)