

awa life

**Tokushima's
Machi ★ Asobi**

November 2022

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**Letter from SUKETO
NAKAYOSHI**



**The Possibilities
of International
Understanding
Supporters**

**Gairaigo Galore:
ユニバーサルデザイン**



TOPIA

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

Now that it's November, it's the perfect time to see the autumn leaves! There are plenty of beautiful spots in Japan, and in Tokushima as well. It's also a season with a lot of delicious foods, and you should be on the look out for tons of sweets and foods featuring chestnuts or sweet potatoes. Hopefully you can have a great autumn!

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:

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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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The Possibilities of International Understanding Supporters

By: Mari Kimoto

I am in charge of coordinating the dispatch of international understanding instructors at TOPIA. I feel extremely grateful to all of the foreign resident instructors who give lectures

about international understanding to children at schools in Tokushima, and to us citizens who are living in Tokushima.

Although foreign languages like English are taught in schools, I believe it is important

for students to learn about a variety of cultures, languages, and traditions, not just those from English-speaking countries, as well as to have a chance to actually experience other cultures firsthand through these international understanding courses. These instructors teach about things that cannot be found in a textbook, and by learning

about other cultures, students are able to realize what makes Japanese culture unique. It also allows for children to learn new values and to broaden their perspectives.



I've also personally made new discoveries and had new realizations, and I always find listening to the classes to be extremely interesting. I also feel that cultural exchange through songs and games from that country helps to build a fun atmosphere that cultivates

the basis of international understanding. I definitely can't forget everyone's bright smiles. When talking about other cultures, it's inevitable that people tend to focus on the differences that exist between countries. However, if they listen to conversations about other countries, then they will also find that there are many similar and shared

aspects of culture. I think that those realizations are essential for all of us who are living in a multicultural society.

From the international understanding classes I felt how connected the world was, and I have faith that it will be connected to the actions that the children take in the future. In Japan, approximately 1 in 40 people is a foreign resident, and in Tokushima, about 1 in 110 people are. I hope that the children will grow up to be adults who can form good relationships with the foreign residents who live here, and build a good society together. I look forward to continue to work with all of the instructors.

Everyone, how about becoming an international understanding instructor yourself?



Letter from SUKETO NAKAYOSHI

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

When a child turns 2, one thing that many parents worry about is language development. There are many parents who are concerned when they are having their child enter preschool and are told at the child's medical check-up that the child's speech development is delayed. Of course, participating in a group setting will have a good influence on language development, however, there are also things that parents can do with their child on a daily basis. For example...

- Look children in the eyes, listen when they are speaking, and respond to them.
- Put the child's feelings into words. For example, "It's delicious, right?" "That's so great, right?"
- Have fun playing together... This will lead to the child wanting to tell their mom and dad how much fun they had playing together. Of course, it is also stimulating to play with friends' children and it is important to have a place where parents and children can get together and play.

When it comes to words, once a child understands them, they will start speaking with them. It's recommended to take a walk outside and talk to

the child while viewing the beautiful flowers and scenery.

Handmade Sweets Recipe: Kinako Rusk (1 Serving)

- ① Spread a fair amount of butter on half a slice of bread. (It is easier to spread the butter if the bread is slightly toasted.)
- ② Mix 1 tablespoon sugar and 1 tablespoon kinako and spread over the bread.
- ③ Place into the toaster for approximately 3 minutes and then cut into sticks.

*Kinako is made from soybeans and is often used in snacks for children. It is a nutrient rich food that contains dietary fibers, protein, calcium, isoflavone, etc.



Tokushima's Machi ★ Asobi

By: Qing Liu

The Machi ★ Asobi is an entertaining event with multiple side events held for the goal of allowing those to enjoy (asobi) the town (machi) of Tokushima.

Various entertainment companies and popular voice actors come together to put on stage shows, exhibitions, etc. at this large event, with events taking place on the top of Mt. Bizan, the symbol of Tokushima City, the Boardwalk along the Shinmachigawa River, the Awa Odori Kaikan, PoPo Gai, and around the Tokushima Station.

This year, in preparation for the 2025 Osaka Kansai Expo, foreign residents were invited to try out cosplaying as a way to promote the wonder of "Tokushima: The Land of Anime" through the Machi ★ Asobi. Shikoku University and Tokushima Prefecture teamed up to hold the event, allowing participants to participate in a photo shoot, e-sports events, and taking a ride on the Hyotanijima Cruise. Afterwards, everyone enjoyed some of Tokushima's

warm and delicious obanyaki at the Riverside Park.



When Janel was in South Africa, she enjoyed cosplaying, but the clothes were quite expensive there. She says that the materials to make clothes are much cheaper and easier to find in Japan. On the 15th, she participated in the event with a costume of the character "Utau Hoshina" that she had made herself. With a long, blonde wig and shiny pink dress, she was transformed into her favorite character and had entered the world of manga.



Participants from Belgium, Spain, South Africa, Trinidad and Tobago, Kyrgyzstan, Canada, and Vietnam dressed up as the characters Utau Hoshina, Shinobu Kocho, Mitsuri Kanroji, Nezuko Kamado, Tanjiro Kamado, and Kyojuro Rengoku and took to the streets, blending right in.



The Machi ★ Asobi is held in spring and autumn in Tokushima, so make sure to visit and check it out!

Japanese Culture and Reading Corner: 千歳飴

By: Mari Kimoto

毎年1月15日頃に神社やお寺にお詣りをして、子どもの成長を祝う行事を七五三といいます。そのお祝いに欠かせないお菓子が、千歳飴です。千歳飴は、米と麦芽を組み合わせて作られ、同じ大きさの紅白の飴が2本セットで袋に入れています。日本では、紅白の2色は、縁起の良い色として知られています。

千歳飴の起源は江戸時代で、「千年」、「長い年月」の意味があります。当時は、砂糖は貴重なものでした。甘くて美味しい千歳飴は、祝い菓子として喜ばれました。千歳飴は、細長く、引っ張ると、どこまでも伸びることから、いつまでも健康で長生きしてほしいという意味が込められています。11月頃に神社に行くとたくさんの親子が七五三でお詣りをしています。実際に試してみてもいいかもしれません。かわいいですよ。



Vocabulary List

成長	Growth	紅白	Red and White	長生き	Long Life
行事	Event	縁起	Sign of Luck	欠かせない	Vital
七五三	Event for Children 7, 5 and 3	お詣り	Visit to a Religious Site		
千歳飴	Type of Candy	起源	Origin		
麦芽	Malt	健康	Health		

Gairago Galore



ユニバーサルデザイン (Universal Design)

By: Sydney Bartig

Last month I introduced the word “barrier free (バリアフリー)”. Continuing the trend of similar words, this month I would like to introduce ユニバーサルデザイン. As you may remember, バリアフリー is a word used for making places accessible to those with disabilities, such as adding a wheel chair ramp. Similarly, ユニバーサルデザイン, or universal design as it is written in English, is used to describe designing the environment, buildings, etc. so that they are as accessible for everyone, regardless of if they have a disability, their age, or other factors.

This word first came about thanks to an American architect named Ronald Mace. Nowadays the idea has developed to include a variety of factors, not just things like wheelchair ramps. It includes things such as public transport, dishes made for those with sight impairments, furniture designed for a variety of people, and many more.

Being a part of the Diversity Promotion Division, I've seen this word come up a variety of times, and it is now used often as people continue to work towards diversity.



Introduction to the Komatsushima City International Exchange Association

By: Jiro Murakami, President

The Komatsushima City International Exchange Association was founded on October 1990 with the aim of fostering friendships between the citizens of Komatsushima and foreign citizens based on mutual respect and understanding of cultures and traditions, the idea of creating a rich and peaceful world, and the goal of developing Komatsushima as a city with an international trade port where warm-hearted people with an international perspective live. Starting from the “Port Festival” that took place in July 1991, the “Foreign Awa Odori Contest” has been held 20 times over 20 years.

In November of the same year, the first “International Mandarin Orange Picking Exchange” was held, and since then each year the citizens of Komatsushima and foreign citizens come together to enjoy picking mandarin oranges. This event is extremely popular. Prior to COVID-19, over 100 people participated in the fun.

From these international exchange activities, support projects for foreign residents living in Komatsushima also began. Foreign residents living in Komatsushima consist of those who are the spouses of Japanese nationals, those who are trainees at companies, etc. We opened our Japanese classes in 2003, and at the time, many women from the Philippines who were married to Japanese came to study.

Afterwards, for 4 years from 2009 to 2013, we held the “Wakaru! Dekiru! Japanese Class” as a project of the “Daily Life Japanese for Foreigners” commissioned by the Department of Cultural Affairs. This program was designed for women with children who are living with their Japanese family. We provided childcare so that they could study Japanese without any worries. We told the children old Japanese tales through pictures, and taught them traditional Japanese games. In addition to studying Japanese, we held classes to help with daily life issues, such as a Japanese food cooking class, a bento class after problems



arose at preschools and schools, a disaster prevention class, etc. These classes were also popular for the student's families. We also held a Japanese class for foreigners seeking to work in Japan, and offered childcare services as well. From this, and after receiving advice from the prefecture, city, and TOPIA, we founded the “International Childrearing Club Momotaro” in 2012. “Making acquaintances in the community.” We were able to create a place for exchange, not only for foreign mothers, but also for Japanese mothers and those involved in childrearing.

Due to COVID-19, it is difficult to hold events such as mandarin orange picking or cooking classes, but I hope that we will be able to resume them soon.

Currently we are putting our efforts into “education support for children with foreign roots”. Twice a week we hold supplementary lessons for children who came to Japan from overseas, as well as for those with foreign parents. Volunteers help the children with preparation for high school/college exams, studying kanji, or their homework.

For several years now we have had a foreign resident on our board of directors who gives us advice as someone with experience. They also help plan and hold each of our events.

We would like to continue working towards a “Multicultural Komatsushima” where everyone can see each other's faces and engage in interactive international exchange. We truly appreciate the support and guidance we have received from TOPIA, related organizations, and other groups, and we look forward to continuing to work with everyone.

なりました

Conversation

A : お久しぶりですね。子どもさんは今おいくつですか。

B : 先月、7歳になりました。

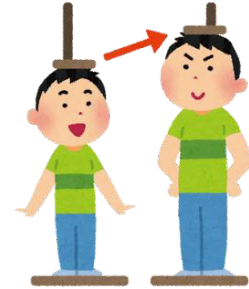
A : そうですか。大きくなりましたね。お元氣ですか。

B : ええ、前は、よく風邪を引いていましたが、
今は、とても元氣になりました。

A : それはよかったですね。

B : はい、大きな自転車に乗れるようになりましたよ。

A : そうですか。すごいですね。



As shown in the examples, [なりました] is used when a person's abilities or the state of an object changes. The verb becomes 「〈V辞書形〉ようになりました」. Potential verbs or verbs that express ability or potential such as 「わかります」 or 「見えます」 are often used.

Conjugation

- ① 7歳になりました。・・・〈Nに〉なりました
- ② 大きくなりました。・・・〈いA (〜い) 〉なりました
- ③ 元氣になりました。・・・〈なAに〉なりました
- ④ 乗れるようになりました。・・・〈V辞書形〉ようになりました



Practice Problems

Change the word in () to the correct form and write it in the _____.

日本語の新聞が_____なりました。(読めます)

- ① 3月になって、だいぶ_____なりました。(暖かい)
- ② 1歳の息子が、少し言葉が_____なりました。(わかります)
- ③ 友達ができて、徳島がとても_____なりました。(好きな)
- ④ 学校を卒業して、就職しました。_____なりました(会社員)

Events & Memoranda

Misato Umesu Festival 美郷梅酒まつり

Known for being Japan's first 'special ume ward', Misato in Yoshinogawa City of Tokushima Prefecture will hold their annual Umesu Festival for the first time in 3 years.

The umeshu is made with love, using safe ume plums that are produced in Misato by the familiar faces of the townsfolk. During the event, visitors can enjoy a wide variety of umeshu and foods. How about enjoying the tastes of autumn while leisurely enjoying the day? Come and enjoy the rice nature of Misato!

When: November 26th (Sat.) & 27th (Sun.)

Where: Misato Hotarukan

Fee: Advance Tickets: 1,000 Yen (5 Tickets)

Same-day Tickets: 1,200 Yen (5 Tickets)

Inquiries: Misato Umesu Festival Information
Desk (Misato Hotarukan)

Tel: 0883-43-2888

URL: <https://www.misato-hotarukan.jp/?md=4>

全国初の「梅酒特区」徳島県吉野川市美郷地区で、3年ぶりに恒例の梅酒まつりを開催します。

生産者の顔が見える「安心・安全」な美郷産の梅を使って、梅酒を愛情込めて造りました。

開催期間中は、いろんな種類の梅酒や食事が味わえます。秋の味覚を楽しみながら、のんびりゆったりしませんか？豊かな自然あふれる美郷へどうぞお越しください。

日時：11月26日（土）・27日（日）

場所：美郷ほたる館

料金：前売券：1000円（5枚綴り）

当日券：1200円（5枚綴り）

問い合わせ：美郷梅酒まつり総合案内所
（美郷ほたる館）

Tel: 0883-43-2888

URL: <https://www.misato-hotarukan.jp/?md=4>

31st Anan City Chikkusai/JA Agri Anan Festival 第31回阿南市活竹祭・JA アグリあなん祭

Many fun events are planned, including a festival with specialty goods, various corners, stage events, and more. ♪

When: November 26th (Sat.), 27th (Sun.)
10:00 – 15:00

Where: Anan Agricultural Cooperative
JA Agri Anan

Inquiries: Anan Chikkusai Executive Committee
(Within the Anan Commerce
and Industries Policy Division)

TEL: 0884-22-3290

URL: <https://www.city.anan.tokushima.jp/docs/2022092800045/>

特産品まつり、各種体験コーナー、ステージイベントなど楽しい催しが予定されております♪

日時：11月26日（土）・27日（日）
10:00～15:00

場所：阿南農業協同組合 JA アグリあなん

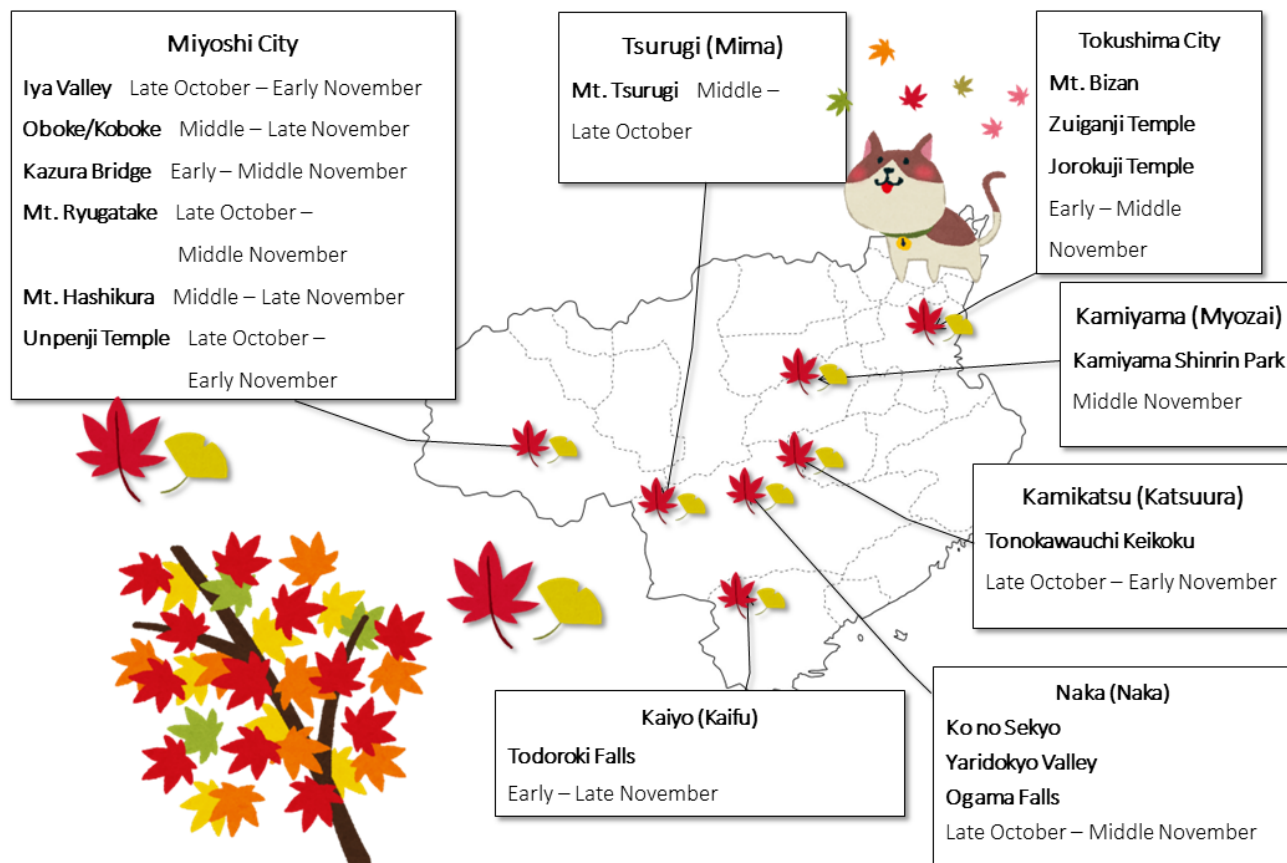
問い合わせ：阿南市活竹祭実行委員会（阿南市商工政策課内）

TEL: 0884-22-3290

URL: <https://www.city.anan.tokushima.jp/docs/2022092800045/>

Events & Memoranda

Tokushima Fall Foliage Map 徳島紅葉マップ



NOTE

Awa Life will be on break next month. We will be back in January with a new issue, so we hope to see you then!

Please also note that TOPIA will be closed from December 29th - January 3rd for the holidays.



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)