

# awa life

New Year's Greeting  
from TOPIA

January 2023

Wings for a Dream

# 386



Industrial Human Resource  
Development Exchange with Lower  
Saxony, Germany



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

Happy New Year or Akemashite omedeto gozaimasu! We hope that you all had a great holiday season! We want to thank you for reading Awa Life and we hope you stay with us for another year. As we enter into the new year, we hope that you are able to start with a big smile and are able to take a few steps to achieve your resolutions. According to the Chinese zodiac calendar, 2023 is the year of the rabbit. Let's have a fun and successful year. Wishing you the best!

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)**

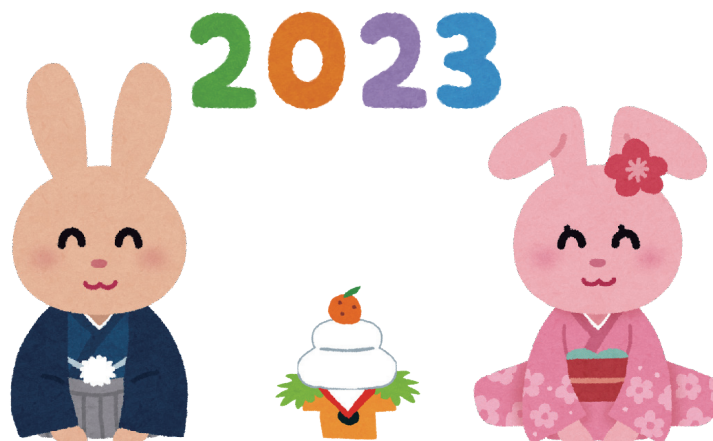
### **Tokushima Prefectural International Exchange Association (TOPIA)**

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/>

*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:*

Seiji Miyoshi, Jia Hua Lin, Takako Koizumi, Junko Kimura, and Naoko Yoshida

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## *New Year's Greeting from TOPIA*

*By: Seiji Miyoshi, Chief Director*

Happy New Year.  
I hope that everyone has been in good health as we welcome the new year. In regards to COVID-19, the virus spread at an unprecedented rate last summer due to the new, highly infectious Omicron strain. Although the number of infections began to settle down at the start of autumn, the number of cases continued to increase in November, and we were standing at the 8th wave towards the end of the year. However, for the first time in 3 years we had a summer with no “movement restrictions” and we saw an increase in the flow of people across the country in August. Additionally, in October the cap on the number of foreign visitors who could enter the country was removed, and the ban on individual tourists entering the country was lifted for the first time in nearly 2 and half years. The country also began its “national tourism support” project.

At the Tokushima Prefectural International Exchange Association, face-to-face projects that were previously restricted are now being implemented with thorough infection prevention measures. In particular was our Awa Odori exchange project “Arasowaren”. Although it was a difficult decision to make in the midst of a sharp increase in cases, we were able to perform for the first time in 4 years. In addition to 5 practice sessions, we were able to dance at 2 paid stages

during the actual festival. With the passion for wanting to dance and practice from the foreigners and study abroad students, we were able to teach them about Tokushima's culture and deepen our ties of exchange. Thanks to the understanding and support of the foreign dancers and the volunteers, we were able to participate without a single infection case appearing. I would like to take this chance to express my gratitude to everyone from the bottom of my heart.



As of the end of June 2022, 6,641 foreign residents are living in Tokushima, meaning that 1 in 106 residents of Tokushima are foreigners (approximately 0.9%). This is the largest number ever. By nationality, 91.5% are from Asian countries such as Vietnam, China, the Philippines, and Indonesia. As a country, Japan is promoting domestic employment support for study abroad students in order to strengthen international competitiveness, as well as promoting employment to foreigners in specialized or technical fields. As such, it's

expected that the number of foreign residents will continue to increase. It will be increasingly important to build local communities where people from various countries can live together, accept their differences, and understand one another. In this new year, Tokushima will take the opportunities of their friendship ties with Lower Saxony in Germany and their participation in the US's largest travel exhibition "LATAS", to leap onto the world stage and connect and interact with people from across the globe in preparation for the Osaka Kansai Expo in 2025.

While of course working to make Tokushima a comfortable place for foreign residents to live, we plan to cooperate with the prefecture, municipalities, and private organizations in order to showcase Tokushima to the world and

attract many visitors as we work towards the promotion of a creation of a multicultural society. In closing, I would like to wish everyone a happy and prosperous New Year, and I ask for your continued understanding and cooperation in regards to our organization. Thank you.



## Wings for a Dream

By: Jia Hua Lin



Ever since I was young, I have been interested in cars like Tomica. Nearly every week I would buy toys relating

to cars and do things such as make mini 4WD teams or modify radio-controlled cars.

I had always admired Japanese cars, and by some string of fate I was able to come to Japan after graduating from middle school. I could barely speak any Japanese, but I decided that "as I'd already taken that first step, I'd work to improve my Japanese, even by a little bit." After Japanese language school, I adopted a unique study method where I would watch Initial D videos over and over again at home.

After entering high school, I was able to put into use the Japanese I had diligently been studying and ended up having many wonderful experiences during my school life. While in high school, I was a member of the physics club and

worked as the leader for a disaster prevention shelter. Since my idea was chosen by the teacher who worked as our advisor and I was entrusted with building a model shelter, I knew I had to work hard. We ended up winning silver at the prefectural competition, however, I felt incredibly frustrated as we missed the gold by just a sliver due to not being able to communicate as a team. In order to try something new, I entered the Judo club in my 2nd year of high school. I practiced daily, keeping the thoughts "practice diligently", "take a step forward", and "put your efforts into practice" in mind. I entered the local tournament and obtained my black belt, and even now I can't forget the amazing growth that I was able to achieve both mentally and physically.

However, when I was a 2nd year in university, I was very worried about what kind of path I should take. I had thought that there would be many students in the mechanical engineering department who liked cars, but that wasn't the case with those around me. Of course there were some interesting classes, but the majority of them were theory-based. Even if I was told "if you like cars then mechanical engineering is definitely for



## Wings for a Dream

you!” I felt it was incredibly boring. At one point I seriously considered quitting and starting a restaurant, but when I consulted with one of my professors, they told me “It would be such a waste to quit!” so I took that chance to reflect on myself. Afterwards, I wrote a report about cooking, and by doing so I realized how fun cooking is, and the possibilities and wonders that it holds. As a result, I came up with the idea for a “cooking support robot”, and my goal for the future is to be involved with the development of robots and cars.

As I gain more knowledge about machines and slowly become able to do things like my own car’s maintenance and inspection, I grow more excited to learn about the mechanical field. Currently I am using the knowledge I have gained to work on cars via maintenance, inspections, etc. and I end up losing track of time. When there’s something I don’t understand, then I have to investigate the cause and fix it, which has helped me improve my ability to look things up and work with my hands. My communication skills have also improved as, in order to secure a place for work and tools, I have made friends with tire shops and mechanics. Also, in my 3rd year of university I had a class where we had a creative assignment to get into teams and compete to see who could have an eraser powered airplane go the farthest distance. Thinking back to my frustrating memories from high school, I made smooth communication a top priority, and we were able to set a flight distance that was 1.5 times that of the previous record. At first, in order to obtain the ideal airframe, we calculated the weight, air resistance, etc. of the airplane, tried making it, and then tried flying it, but the results were disastrous. We continued to make the same mistakes, and we were stumped. With these continuous failures, the team’s morale was down, but I wanted to find some way for us to make it work. I then proposed that we first build an airplane that could fly a sensible distance, analyze it, and then improve it through the method of inverse calculations. With that as a starting point, the flight distance increased and the situation began to improve. Afterwards, the other members came up with ideas and,

through trial and error, we were able to achieve the results that I mentioned earlier. This made me realize the importance of smooth communication when dealing with an individual’s knowledge and abilities and an organization. I also took a class called “Idea Design” where we would even be able to obtain a patent for our ideas. I managed to get a 100 in that class, which filled me with a sense of accomplishment and confidence from having my idea recognized, and also made me realize just how fun it can be to invent things.

Just like this, I always think about how I can apply the new knowledge and skills I have obtained from past experiences. I also like to learn about other people’s values and have stimulating conversations and experiences. I’m also always thinking about how I can contribute to society in the future through my experiences.



Mr. Lin's Cooking

## Industrial Human Resource Development Exchange with Lower Saxony, Germany

By: Takako Koizumi (Industrial Human Resources Development Center)

On September 13th, 2007, Tokushima Prefecture and the State of Lower Saxony in Germany signed a “joint declaration for exchange”, and have since deepened their bonds of exchange in a wide-array of fields, including economics, education, and sports. In regards to the realm of industrial human resource development, exchange began between trainees and instructors from the Prefectural Central Technological School and the Lüneburg Vocational Training Center in the fiscal year of 2015. In the fiscal year of 2017, the Tokushima Industrial Human Resource Development and Exchange Consortium and the Braunschweig-Lüneburg-Stade Handicraft Chamber, the respective industry-academic-government cooperative organizations, signed an agreement for “industrial human resource development exchange” with the goal of further promoting the industrial economy of the two states and contributing to the development of engineers and skilled workers' insight and expertise in regards to vocational training, thus beginning in earnest industrial human resource development exchange between the two states. From the fiscal



year 2018, trainees, students, instructors, etc. from Tokushima have visited Germany for the fields of beautification, woodworking, automotive maintenance, etc., and young artisans, trainees, instructors, etc. from Germany have visited Tokushima for the fields of metalworking, woodworking, etc., for about 1 week to inspect and practice at vocational training facilities, companies, etc. in each country. In the fiscal year 2019, after Tokushima visited Germany, the German side was unable to visit Tokushima due to the world-wide outbreak of COVID-19. Exchange was suspended until fiscal year 2021, but this fiscal year exchange was able to begin again thanks to the relaxation of the entry requirements.



From November 6th to 26th, 2 woodworking trainees, 2 automotive repair trainees, and 2 instructors visited Tokushima from Germany for a total of 6 people. They spent 1 week at the Prefectural Technological School, and 2 weeks at woodworking companies and automotive repair shops for education and practical experiences.

On the other side, 6 automotive repair and beautician trainees, students, and instructors visited Germany from Tokushima from November 26th to December 3rd. They received training at vocational training centers and companies in the state, as well as worked to promote mutual exchange. As a part of our initiatives for this fiscal year, we increased the stay of the German delegation from the usual 1 week to 3 weeks.





While planning how to perfect and strengthen our program by increasing practical lessons at companies, we also conducted joint classes at the Prefectural Technological School with instructors from Tokushima and Germany in order to provide a chance to learn about Germany's excellent technological skills from the meisters themselves.

In order to flexibly deal with industrial structure changes and technological innovation, as well as for the prefecture's economy to achieve sustainable, continuous growth, it is essential to nurture "people" who are the driving force, especially these young engineers. Through this project, we hope to foster industrial human resources who have an understanding of internationalism and broad perspectives, which will help be the basis for growth of our prefecture.



## Japanese Culture and Reading Corner: こたつ

By: Junko Kimura

毎日、寒い日が 続いていますね。冬の 寒い日、皆さんは、家で どのようにして 体を 温めていますか。日本には 冬の 風物詩である「こたつ」という 暖房テーブルが あります。テーブルの 裏に 暖かくなる 装置が 付いています。こたつに ふとんを 掛けて、足や 下半身を 温めます。伝統的な 日本の家は、よく 風が 通り、夏は 涼しいですが、冬は とても 寒いです。ですので、昔の 人は 部屋を 暖めるのではなく、体を 温める こたつを 思いつきました。こたつに 入りながら みかんや アイス クリームを 食べるのは 最高の 幸せです。こたつは とても暖かくて 心地いいのですが、そこから 動けなくなったり、寝てしまったり します。あと、こたつは 場所を とるので、部屋が 狭くなります。私は こたつの 中に 居ると動けなくなるので、数年前から 使うのを やめました。しかし、毎年、「こたつを 出そうかな」と 考えてしまいます。皆さんも 是非、こたつを 経験してください。



### Vocabulary List

あたた	温める	Warm (to raise the temperature of a body or object)	ふうぶつし	風物詩	Things which remind people of a particular season
だんぼう	暖房	Heating	あたた	暖める	Warm (to raise the temperature of the air)
そうち	装置	Device	かはんしん	下半身	Lower body
でんとうてき	伝統的	Traditional	おも	思いつく	Come up with
こち	心地いい	Comfortable	ばしょ	場所を取る	Take up space

## 「～てしまいました」

「～てしまいました」 has 2 different meanings.

- ① 「Express the completion of something」 ② 「Express disappointment or regret」

Grammatical Construction: <動詞<sup>どうし</sup>て形<sup>けい</sup>＋しまいました>

※There is a shortened form when you are talking with someone close to you.

「てしま」→「ちゃ」寝<sup>ね</sup>てしまいました→寝<sup>ね</sup>てしまった→寝<sup>ね</sup>ちゃった

「でしま」→「じゃ」飲<sup>の</sup>んでしまいました→飲<sup>の</sup>んでしまった→飲<sup>の</sup>んじゃった

<Conversation between a parent and child ① Completion of something>

母<sup>はは</sup>：嫌<sup>きら</sup>いなものも食<sup>た</sup>べなさいよ。・・・

子<sup>こ</sup>：おかあさん、見て。ぜんぶ、食<sup>た</sup>べちゃったよ。(食<sup>た</sup>べてしまいました)

母<sup>はは</sup>：よくがんばったね。



This expression indicates that an action has been completed, and is often used with

「もう、ぜんぶ、すっかり、完全<sup>かんぜん</sup>に」 It expresses the feeling of “feeling relieved after completing something one had to do” or “completing something that took a lot of time and effort.”

すっかり：Entirely 完全<sup>かんぜん</sup>に：Completely

<Talking with a coworker ② Disappointment/regret>

A：バスに乗<sup>の</sup>れましたか。

B：走り<sup>はし</sup>ましたが、バスは行<sup>い</sup>ってしまいました。

A：たいへんでしたね。



This expression is used with verbs such as 「忘<sup>わす</sup>れる」「落<sup>お</sup>とす」「なくす」「こわす」「割<sup>わ</sup>る」

「遅<sup>おく</sup>れる」 that have a negative meaning. It expresses “regret for doing something one shouldn’t have done” or “feeling troubled due to an unfavorable situation”.

## Practice Problems

Change the underlined verb to the 「て形＋しまいました」 form . Then write the number for which situation it expresses. (① Completion of an action ② Disappointment or regret )

例：A：どうしたんですか。

B：電車<sup>でんしゃ</sup>にかさ<sup>かさ</sup>を忘<sup>わす</sup>れました。→忘<sup>わす</sup>れてしまいました。②

1. A：レポートは書<sup>か</sup>けましたか。

B：はい、もう、書<sup>か</sup>きました。→

2. A：スピーチは覚<sup>おぼ</sup>えましたか。

B：はい、すっかり覚<sup>おぼ</sup>えました。→

3. A：約束<sup>やくそく</sup>の時間<sup>じかん</sup>に間<sup>ま</sup>に合<sup>あ</sup>いましたか。

B：いいえ、道<sup>みち</sup>をまちがえて遅<sup>おく</sup>れました。→

4. A：いっしょに昼<sup>ひる</sup>ごはん行<sup>い</sup>かない。私<sup>わたし</sup>がお金<sup>かね</sup>をはらうよ。

B：わあ、残念<sup>ざんねん</sup>。さっき、食<sup>た</sup>べた。→

Answer ① 書いてしまいました。 ② 覚えてしまいました。 ③ 遅れてしまいました。 ④ 食べちゃった。 ⑤ 読ました。



# Events & Memoranda

## Taisan-ji Temple Mochi Carrying Competition 大山寺の力餅

This gathering happens every year on the third Sunday of January inside of Taisan-ji temple. The event is a competition of who can walk the furthest carrying a heavy pot filled with mochi rice cake. For men it is 142 kg, for women it is 69 kg. Even observing will invigorate you and before you know it you will shout and cheer for the contestants.

When: January 15th (Sun.)  
12:30

Where: Inside Taisan-ji, Itano-gun, Kamiita-cho,  
Kanyake taisan 4

Fee: Free

\*Registration is open untill noon

Women's division: 69 kg

Men's division: 142 kg

(These weights are from the previous year)

Inquiries: Taisan-ji

TEL: 088-694-5525

URL: <https://taisanji.jp/>

Access: 1 hour by car from Tokushima Station

\*Vehicle traffic will be restricted on the 15th  
in order to get to or leave the temple.

\*There is another event going on on the same  
day at the temple. Please check out the web site  
for more information.

正月の初会式の行事として毎年 1 月第 3 日曜日に  
大山寺境内で行われます。男 142 kg・女 69 kg  
の餅をかつぎ、歩いた距離を競います。見物する  
方も思わず力が入り思わず歓声を上げてしまう程  
の名物行事です。

日時: 1 月 15 日 (日)

12:30 ごろ

場所: 大山寺

(板野郡上板町神宅字大山 14-2)

料金: 無料

※参加申し込みは正午まで

女性の部 69 kg

男性の部 142 kg

(重量は前回開催時のものです)

問い合わせ: 大山寺

TEL: 088-694-5525

URL: <https://taisanji.jp/>

アクセス: 徳島駅から車で 1 時間程度

※ 15 日は車両の通行規制があります

※同日に大山寺で別のイベントも開催されます。

詳しくはお寺のホームページをご覧ください。

## Ikawa Ski Resort Kainayama 井川スキー場腕山

"Ikawa Ski Resort Kainayama" is a ski resort  
located in Miyoshi City, Tokushima Prefecture, at  
an elevation of approximately 1,100 meters.

When: Open till March 5th (Sun.)

\*Schedules are subject to change due to  
snow and weather conditions.

Where: Ikawa Ski Resort Kainayama  
(Hirayama Iuchi-nishi Ikawa-cho, Miyoshi City)

Inquiries: Ikawa Ski Resort Kainayama

TEL: 0883-78-3003

URL: <https://www.ikawaski.jp/>

「井川スキー場腕山」は、徳島県三好市に位置す  
る標高約 1,100 メートルのスキー場です。

日時: 3 月 5 日 (日) まで営業

※積雪・気象条件により日程は変更になる場合が  
ございます。

場所: 井川スキー場腕山

(三好市井川町井内西平山)

問い合わせ: 井川スキー場腕山

TEL: 0883-78-3003

URL: <https://www.ikawaski.jp/>

# Events & Memoranda

## 15th Shogo Kariyazaki Flower Arrangement Exhibition

in Udatsu ~Flight Profusion~

第15回 華道家 假屋崎省吾 うだつをいける～飛翔繚乱～

The Flower Arrangement Exhibition in Udatsu will be held for the 15th time this year. This year marks the 40th anniversary of the flower arrangement.

When: Jan. 8th (Sun.) - Feb. 26th (Sun.)

9:00 - 17:00 (Last entry is at 16:30)

Fee: 1,000 Yen

Where: Aisho Sanao Yoshida House Anmitsukan

Inquiries: Mima Tourism Bureau

TEL: 0883-53-8599

Mima City Tourism and Exchange Division

TEL: 0883-52-5610

URL: <https://www.awanavi.jp/spot/31105.html>

「うだつをいける」は、今回で15回目の開催。

今年は華道歴40周年記念となります。

日時: 1月8日(日)～2月26日(日)

9:00～17:00(最終入館16:30)

料金: 1000円

場所: 藍商佐直 吉田家住宅・あんみつ館

問い合わせ:

美馬観光ビューロー TEL: 0883-53-8599

美馬市観光交流課 TEL: 0883-52-5610

URL: <https://www.awanavi.jp/spot/31105.html>

## Performing Arts Festival (The 51st Tokushima City Arts Festival)

芸能祭(第51回徳島市芸術祭)

Ningyo Joruri Puppet Theater, Nagauta(long songs with shamisen accompaniment), ballet, and folk dances will be performed.

When: February 5th (Sun.)

Open: 11:00 Performance: 11:30

[Part 1] Nagauta, Ginei (poem recitation), Sankyoku (instrumental trio), Biwa (Japanese lute), Yokyoku (Noh song), Minyo (folk song)

[Part 2] Chorus, Ballet, Folk Dance, Ningyo Joruri Puppet Theater, Awa Hula Dance

Where: Awagin Hall

(Aibacho 2 Chome 14, Tokushima City)

Fee: 800 Yen (Ticket sales are planned to begin starting from January)

Inquiries: Tokushima City Cultural Association Secretariat (Within the Culture and Sports Promotion Division)

TEL: 088-621-5178

人形浄瑠璃・長唄・バレエ・民踊などの発表が行われます。

日時: 2月5日(日)

開場: 11:00 開演: 11:30

[1部] 長唄、吟詠、三曲、琵琶、謡曲、民謡

[2部] 合唱、バレエ、民踊、人形浄瑠璃、阿波フラ

場所: あわぎんホール(徳島市藍場町2丁目14)

料金: 800円

(チケットは1月から一般販売の予定です)

問い合わせ: 徳島市文化協会事務局

(文化スポーツ振興課内)

TEL: 088-621-5178

## 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)