

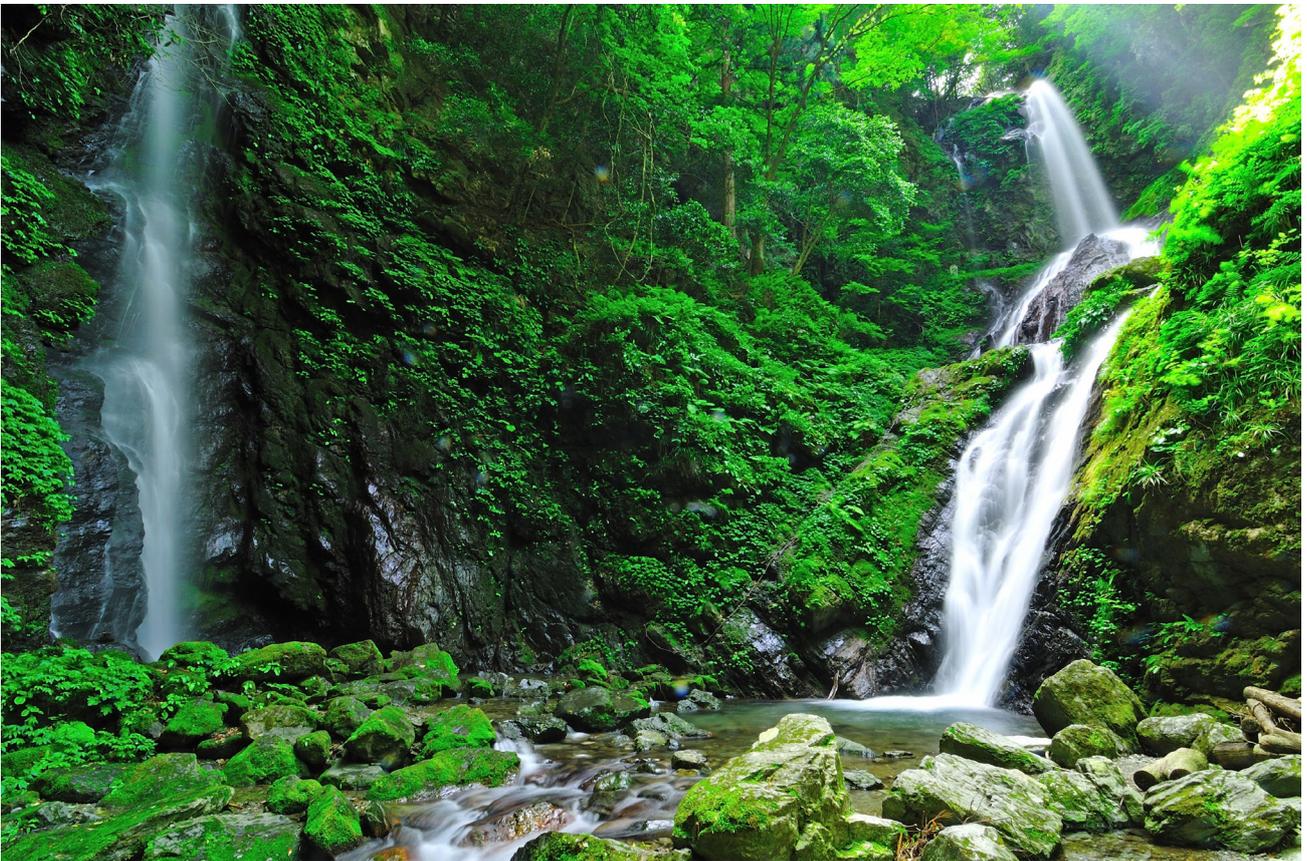
# aWa life

**Introducing Kaiyo's  
Hahagawa River!**

May 2023

# 390

**Welcome Messages!**



**Gairaigo Galore:**  
ドクターカー

**Introduction to AIA**



**TOPIA**

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

I think everyone can agree that Golden Week is a beloved part of May. Does everyone have any plans for Golden Week this year? All of the tourism spots will certainly be busy, but it's a nice chance to explore other prefectures, or maybe even spots in Tokushima you haven't been to yet! If you don't do anything for Golden Week, maybe you'll want to check out some of the other events happening in May. There's an Onsen Matsuri over in Kamiyama and an open garden event that will be happening in Awa City! Have a great May!

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!*



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*Editors:*

Sydney Bartig and Nico Bohnsack

*Contributors This Month:*

Tony Lu, Chen Fangyu, Akiko Menjo, Ai Hattori, Shoko Nomizu, Seiya Nomura and Yoko Aoki

# Contents

- Pg. 2-3: Introducing Kaiyo's Hahagawa River!
- Pg. 3-4: Welcome Messages!
- Pg. 5: Tokushima Culture and Reading Corner: 鳴門の渦潮
- Pg. 5: Gairaigo Galore: ドクターカー
- Pg. 6: Introduction to AIA
- Pg. 7: Japanese Lesson
- Pg. 8-9: Events and Memoranda



## Introducing Kaiyo's Hahagawa River!

By: Tony Lu

Hey there! It's Tony here, one of the Kaiyo CIR's! This time around, I'll be introducing a place I think most non-Kaiyo people aren't familiar with, the Hahagawa River!



The Hahagawa Bridge and Firefly Statue



Hahagawa Riverbank where the festival stands are held

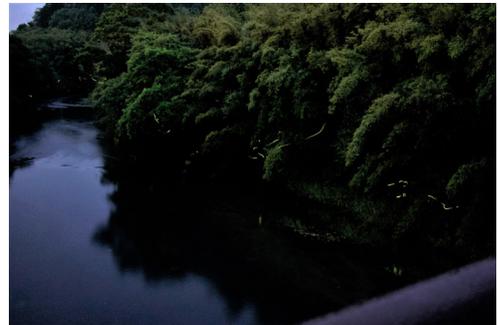


Hahagawa upstream shot with boat boarding area

You may have heard of the Kaifu River that runs through Kaiyo. The Hahagawa is a stretch of river that runs mostly parallel to the larger Kaifu River, and eventually merges with it at the end of its stream. The river is home to multiple attractions, most notably

the Genji fireflies, which we celebrate with a week-long festival in early June each year. The firefly festival is so popular, it draws many tourists from all over Tokushima Prefecture. Only on the first day of the festival, locals run festival stands along the riverbank in the evening, but the main attraction is the nightly boat ride.

For a small fee, the boat will take you upstream to see the fireflies up close in their natural habitat, glowing and floating above the river. With some handy camerawork, you can get some pretty cool shots! Here's one we took last year!



Low-light shot of fireflies hovering above Hahagawa

Due to the pandemic, the festival has been canceled for the past couple of years. However, with everything opening up across Japan, hopefully it will happen this year! The Global Kaiyo team might even have our own stand, so please keep an eye out for us if you happen to be down here!

It is said that the fireflies gather here because of

## Introducing Kaiyo's Hahagawa River!

the cleanliness of the water, which may be the reason why the Hahagawa is also the natural habitat for a protected species of giant eels. These eels can weigh up to 20 kilograms and can grow up to approximately 2 meters in length,



*The Seriwari Rock*

An interesting legend involving a giant eel, loosely translated here:

A long time ago, there was a great eel that lived in the Hahagawa River that hid in the crevices of a large rock. The great eel eventually grew to the point where it could no longer get out. Because the great eel was unable to leave the crevice, baby eels worked hard to bring in food to feed the great eel. However, the great eel's body kept growing bigger and bigger until one day, it finally split the big rock in half. The rock has since been called 'Seriwari-iwa' or 'Sake-iwa' and has become a habitat for giant eels.

with a body circumference of up to 60 centimeters!

A peculiar split rock formation can be found in the river. The rock is the subject of an

Aside from the fireflies and giant eels, if you follow the river upstream, you'll eventually reach the Namikiri Fudosen Temple. It's definitely another must-visit place in Kaiyo with its feather-like moss. We've actually visited before, and you can read the full blog on our website, [globalkaiyo.com](http://globalkaiyo.com)!



*Namikiri Fudosen Temple*



*Namikiri Fudosen Cedar Trees Holding Up Boulder*

The river runs right by the entrance of the temple, so there's no missing it!



So, if you're ever in Kaiyo, come and check out the Hahagawa!

## Welcome Messages!

### Chen Fangyu, Multilingual Consultation Staff

Hello, everyone, it's nice to meet you. My name is Chen Fangyu. I started working at TOPIA from April as a multilingual consultation staff (Chinese). My primary duties include providing consultation for daily life issues, work issues, studying, etc. to foreigners living in the prefecture, as well as tourism information for foreigners visiting Tokushima. In addition to that, I am also in charge of planning, editing, and sending out Awa Seikatsu – a monthly Chinese newsletter. I've just started working here so there is a lot that I don't know, but I hope to rely on everyone's knowledge. I look forward to working with you all.

In 1990 I came from Shanghai to Osaka. At first, I spent a year and a half studying at a Japanese language



school in Osaka, and then afterwards I studied at a university in Kyoto as a study abroad student. After graduating, I worked in Osaka for 7 years, and then in 2001 I moved to Tokushima. In the blink of an eye, I've now been living in Tokushima for 23 years, and Tokushima has become my second home.

## Welcome Messages

Tokushima is surrounded by mountains and water, the air is clean, and the food is delicious. In Japanese there is an expression “住めば都” that roughly translates to “home is where you make it”, and I too slowly became accustomed to Tokushima. Recently I had the chance to act as a tour guide for Chinese tourists who came from the US to visit Tokushima. As I had never acted as a tour guide before, I was a bit nervous at first, but during the tour my feelings for Tokushima naturally spilled out and I managed to capture the hearts of the tourists who were very satisfied and said that they wanted to visit Tokushima again. The bus driver even joked about how much love I have for Tokushima. Thanks to this experience,

### **Akiko Menjo, CLAIR Tokushima Branch Temporary Staff Member**

Hello, everyone, it's nice to meet you. My name is Akiko Menjo, and I started working here from April. Although I've only been working at TOPIA for a few days, it has a very cheery and warm atmosphere that makes it easy to relax in.

Starting from last year I started learning tanka. Tanka is kind of like an old Japanese-style of short poems. On my days off I also like to visit the temples of the Shikoku 88 Temple Pilgrimage. Slowly climbing the stone steps of the mountain temples, I often find when you look backwards you are treated to a beautiful view. Times like that make my heart feel full of emotion. Once I

### **Ai Hattori, JICA Tokushima Desk**

Nice to meet you all. My name is Hattori, and I have started working as a Coordinator for International Cooperation for the JICA Tokushima Desk. I loved Tokushima and visited many times, and before I knew it, I ended up moving here.

As a JICA Overseas Cooperation Volunteer, I worked as a physical education teacher in the Republic of Maldives. Because I interacted with and ate together with the locals a lot, I've grown to love spicy food, and I've become quite good at fishing. I believe I grew to love Tokushima due to its slightly spicy Tokushima ramen and its environment that is perfect for fishing.

My hobbies are fishing, surfing, snowboarding,

I was able to gain more confidence in guiding foreign tourists.

I've lived in Japan for a long time, so I have at least some knowledge of what is necessary to live in Japan, as well as knowledge about Tokushima's customs and traditions. So that foreigners can live with ease in Tokushima, I hope to be able to help solve a variety of worries that everyone may have. As well, I hope to help those who visit Tokushima fall in love with it and be a part of Tokushima's tourism growth. Even if only in a small way, I hope to aid in Tokushima's economic revitalization and growth.

get better at tanka, I'd like to be able to compose tanka that express the emotions I feel at those times.



Out of the 47 prefectures in Japan, for those that choose to visit Tokushima and visit TOPIA, I hope that I can be of at least some help. I look forward to meeting you all.

golfing, camping, and cooking. All of them I've done just a bit (lol), but I have done golf a bit more seriously. I hope to be able to do a lot of fun things with everyone living here in Tokushima. I look forward to meeting you all.



For those who are interested, here's a picture of me. ( ^ O ^ ) ' (It was mandatory lol.) I'll be at TOPIA, so feel free to stop by!

## Tokushima Culture and Reading Corner: 鳴門の渦潮

By: Shoko Nomizu

\*\*\*Starting from this month we will introduce famous sightseeing places, specialty items, etc. from Tokushima. We will tell you more about Tokushima's charm.\*\*\*

みなさんは、鳴門の渦潮に行ったことがありますか。徳島県の有名な観光地です。鳴門の渦潮は満潮と干潮の海面の差によって、激しい潮の流れが発生してできる自然現象です。渦潮を見ることが出来る時間は、1日に、2回だけなので、「潮見表」で時間を必ず確認してください。また、1年のうちで、特に大きい渦（大潮）を見ることが出来るのは、春の3月から5月下旬と秋の9月から11月下旬です。その時の渦の大きさは、直径20～30mにもなり、その大きさは、世界一とされています。（大潮の日や時間も潮見表で確認できます。）

鳴門公園からは、美しい景色を、そして大鳴門橋にある「渦の道」を歩くと橋の上のガラスから雄大な渦潮を見ることが出来ます。また、船に乗って近くまで行くと、迫力満点の渦潮を体感できます。ぜひ、一度、行ってみてください。



## Vocabulary List

渦潮	Whirlpool	激しい	Intense	直径	Diameter
観光地	Sightseeing Spot	潮の流れ	Tidal Current	拡大	Expansive
満潮	High Tide	自然現象	Natural Phenomenon	迫力満点	Full Impact
干潮	Low Tide	潮見表	Tide Table	体感	Experience

## ドクターカー

## Gairaigo Galore



(Ambulance with a doctor onboard)

By: Sydney Bartig

I was doing a translation recently and an interesting katakana word came up that caught my eye, so I thought I would share it with everyone this month. That word was “ドクターカー”, which if you translate it literally is “doctor car”. However, we of course don't use that phrase in English, so I was a bit puzzled at the meaning. A car belonging to a doctor? A weird way to say ambulance? A car that is a doctor? (That last one's a joke, though it does certainly invoke an interesting image.)

It's actually close to my second thought - it's a type of ambulance where a doctor is on board. This is a wasei-eigo word, and it actually differs from the word 救急車, which means ambulance in Japanese. (救急 meaning first aid and 車 for vehicle.) The purpose of a ドクターカー is to dispatch doctors and nurses to the scenes of accidents, etc. so that they may administer first-aid, emergency care, and other care there. However, a 救急車 is what we would normally think of when we think of an ambulance (at least in the US), where it transports patients to a hospital where a doctor can then administer medical care there.

Just a side note for those who may not know, if you're ever in an accident or need to call an ambulance here in Japan, the number is “119”. The ambulance ride to the hospital is even free of charge!



## Introduction to AIA

By: Seiya Nomura, Vice President



In October 2020, the Anan City International Association was able to celebrate its 30th anniversary. In order to commemorate the occasion, we solicited logo mark ideas for our association from the citizens of Anan City. From the many submissions we received, we decided on the logo mark featured on the top left. This logo mark features the letter “A” from Anan City, as well as images of sunflowers, the city’s flower, and the earth. Additionally, under our slogan of “Diversity Connects Japan and the World”, we will aim to be an organization that understands our citizens and steadily continue with our activities.



In addition to Tomioka-cho, Anan City, we also opened a new Japanese class in Aratano-cho, Anan City starting from July 7th, 2019. Currently, there are over 330 foreign residents in Anan City, and that number is only expected to increase. By holding Japanese classes, we hope to support the development of the participant’s Japanese



language skills, as well as to eliminate language barriers as much as possible. While promoting exchange between foreign residents and the citizens of Anan City, we strive to create a city where everyone can

live peacefully and where a diversity of cultures can thrive.

The directors and language class staff all work as volunteers, but they are only able to interact with a small portion of the foreigners living in the prefecture. Additionally, recently due to COVID-19, numerous projects have been canceled or postponed. However, during these 4-5 years, we have had our 30 citizen supporters and organizations increase to 80. Starting from this fiscal year, we would like to resume projects as they were prior to COVID-19. Moving forward, we will continue to make efforts to expand our network.

### Introduction to AIA Projects

1. Japanese Classes: Every Sunday
  - Tomioka Kominkan 10:00 - 12:00
  - Aratano Kominkan 13:30 - 15:30
- English Classes: Every 2nd & 4th Monday
  - Tomioka Kominkan 19:30 - 21:00
- Chinese Classes: Every Thursday
  - Tomioka Kominkan 19:30 - 21:00
2. Awa Odori (Participation in Anan’s Summer Festival)
3. Japanese Speech Contest
4. New Year’s Party (Exchange between foreign residents and citizens of Anan)
5. Participation in the Anan City Human Rights Festival (Exchange between foreign residents and citizens of Anan)
6. Cooking Class by study abroad students of the National Institute of Technology, Anan College
7. Bus Outing



こんげつ かんたん にほんご べんきょう  
 今月は 簡単な あいさつの日本語を 勉強しましょう。

This month, let's study simple greetings in Japanese.

- 1) おはようございます \* おはよう Good Morning



\* 「おはようございます」 is more polite than 「おはよう」.

- 2) こんにちは Hello



- 3) こんばんは Good Evening



- 4) さようなら \* しつれいします \* じゃ また Good-bye

\* 「しつれいします」 is more polite than 「さようなら」. Use for those who are a higher position than you.

「じゃ また」 can be used for those you are close with or those who are younger than you.

- 5) ありがとう ございます \* ありがとう Thank You

\* 「ありがとう ございます」 is more polite than 「ありがとう」.

Conversation : When A-san is helped by or given a present by B-san:

Aさん「ありがとう ございます」 - Bさん「どういたしまして」

- 6) すみません …① To call out to someone ② To apologize

① (Example : レストランで) 「すみません。お水<sup>みず</sup>をください。」

② (Example : 約束<sup>やくそく</sup>の時間<sup>じかん</sup>に遅<sup>おく</sup>れて) 「おそくなって、すみません。」

すみません



\* 「ごめんなさい」 is used for those you are close with or children.

「もうしわけありません」 is an extremely polite expression.

【How should you respond?】

1. トピアのスタッフに話<sup>はな</sup>しかけたいとき \_\_\_\_\_

When you want to talk to a TOPIA staff member.

2. 知らない人<sup>しんせつ</sup>に親切<sup>しんせつ</sup>にもらったとき \_\_\_\_\_

When someone you don't know does something nice for you.

Answers: 1. 「すみません」 2. 「ありがとう ございます」

# Events & Memoranda

## Kamiyama Onsen Matsuri 神山温泉まつり

It's time for the yearly onsen matsuri. ♪ There will be many fun events, such as sales of Kamiyama specialty products, a bazaar, performances of Ningyo Joruri puppet theater, and pounding of mochi rice cakes.

\* Due to COVID-19, the amego fishing event has been canceled.

When: May 28th (Sun.)  
10:00 - 16:00

Where: Kamiyama Onsen

Fee: Free

Inquiries: Kamiyama Onsen Matsuri Executive  
Committee (At Kamiyama Onsen)

TEL: 088-676-1117

URL: <https://kamiyama-spa.com/>

毎年恒例の温泉まつりです♪神山特産品青果物販売やバザール、人形浄瑠璃の上演に餅つきなど楽しいイベントがいっぱいです。

※あめごのつかみ取りは新型コロナウイルス感染症の拡大防止のため中止

日時：5月28日（日）  
10:00 ~ 16:00

場所：神山温泉一帯

料金：無料

問い合わせ：神山温泉まつり実行委員会  
（神山温泉内）

TEL: 088-676-1117

URL: <https://kamiyama-spa.com/>

## Spring Gakujin no Mori Matsuri 春の岳人の森まつり

Iris Gracilipes & Rhododendron Weyrichii Matsuri

Starting from mid-May, Iris Gracilipes and other alpine plants begin to bloom one after another within the park, and various events are held in conjunction with the blooming of the flowers.

There are surrounding mountains that you can climb such as the Mt. Tsurugi Super Forest Road, Mt. Kumoso, Toishigogen, and Mt. Takagiyama. It is also established as a base for mountain stream fishing, and an information center for alpine plants. Food and lodging are also available. ♪

When: Beginning of May - Mid-May

Where: Shikoku Mountains Botanical Garden  
"Gakujin no Mori"

Fee: (Admission) Adults  
(middle schoolers and older): 500 Yen  
Elementary Schoolers: 250 Yen  
Pre-schoolers: Free

Inquiries: Shikoku Mountains Botanical Garden  
"Gakujin no Mori"

TEL: 088-677-1147

URL: <https://gakujin-no-mori.net/>

ヒメシャガ・オンツツジまつり

5月中旬からはヒメシャガと高山植物が次々と園内で咲き乱れ、花の開花に併せイベントも開催されます。

剣山スーパー林道や雲早山、砥石権現、高城山など周辺登山、溪流釣り、高山植物の情報基地として位置し、食事、宿泊もできます♪

日時：5月上旬 ~ 5月中旬

場所：四国山岳植物園 岳人の森

料金：[入園料] 大人（中学生以上）500円  
小学生 250円  
未就学児無料

問い合わせ：四国山岳植物園 岳人の森

TEL: 088-677-1147

URL: <https://gakujin-no-mori.net/>

# Events & Memoranda

## Awa Open Gardens 2023 阿波オープンガーデン 2023

The idea of “open gardens”, opening private gardens to the public, originated in England.

Awa City has been holding an open gardens event every year since 2013. This year as well, the Awa Open Gardens event will be held for 2 days only, allowing you to visit gardens located around Awa City!!

There are planned to be 16 gardens available for viewing this year, including private and public gardens. 9 gardens will require a ticket to enter, and 7 public gardens/parks will be free to enter.

Please purchase a ticket/map set and tour the gardens by car or other means. There is no bus service.

When: May 13th (Sat.) & 14th (Sun.)  
10:00 - 16:00

Fee: 500 Yen Each Day (includes a map)  
\*Free for middle schoolers and younger.  
However, if you wish to have a map then the fee is required.

Inquiries: Awa City Tourism Association  
TEL: 0883-35-4211  
URL: <https://www.awa-kankou.jp/>



個人のお庭を一般の方に公開するイギリス発祥の「オープンガーデン」

阿波市でも 2013 年から毎年開催されてきました。今年も、2 日間限定で阿波市に点在するお庭を巡れる阿波オープンガーデンの開催が決定しました!! 今年も、個人の庭や公共の庭、計 16 カ所が開放される予定です。

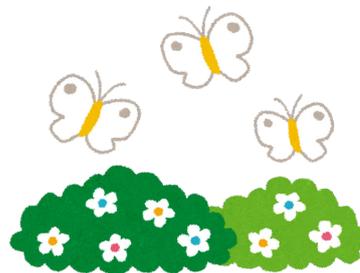
入場券が必要な庭 9 庭、公園等の公共性の高い庭 7 庭は出入り自由となります。

マップ付きの入場券を購入いただき、自家用車等で巡っていただきます。巡回バスはございません。

日時：5月13日（土）・14日（日）  
10:00～16:00

料金：500円／各日（地図付き）  
※中学生以下無料、但し地図が必要な場合は有料

問い合わせ：阿波市観光協会  
TEL: 0883-35-4211  
URL: <https://www.awa-kankou.jp/>



## 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)