

awa life

February 2024

**TOPIA Bus Tour
Impressions**

**Aizome & Ningyo Joruri
Fun**

399



Gairaigo Galore: カプセル

**Impressions from
Helping Pick Hassaku
Oranges**



TOPIA

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

Do you know about Japan's "Hina Matsuri"? In English, it's called "Doll Festival" or sometimes "Girls Day", and is celebrated on March 3rd. Luckily for those who are interested, Tokushima offers plenty of Hina Matsuri events, especially in the Katsuura area! The Big Hina Matsuri and Sakamoto Ohina Meguri both start in late February and last for a while, so why not take a look on your day off?

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 Rasmus

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 Rasmus Burgmer

Contributors This Month:

Shoko Nomizu, Zha Zihang, Naoko Yoshida, Yukari Nagata, and Mari Kimoto

Contents

- Pg. 2: Aizome & Ningyo Joruri Fun
 Pg. 3-4: TOPIA Bus Tour Impressions
 Pg. 4: Impressions from Helping Pick Hassaku Oranges
 Pg. 5: Japanese Lesson
 Pg. 6: Tokushima Culture and Reading Corner: 雲辺寺
 Pg. 6: Gairaigo Galore: カプセル
 Pg.7: One World Children Support Project
 Pg. 7-9: Events and Memoranda



Aizome & Ningyo Joruri Fun

By: Shoko Nomizu

On November 26th (Sun.), the Tokushima Prefectural International Exchange Association held the “Bus Tour to Practice Japanese and Experience Tokushima’s Culture”. 33 people, including 9 children, from countries such as China, Korea, Vietnam, Ukraine, the Philippines, etc. participated in the event.

The first stop was the Ai no Yakata in Aizumi Town. Everyone was excited to see the unique results of the indigo-colored handkerchiefs that they had dyed themselves.



In the afternoon, the group headed to the Awa Jurobe Yashiki in Kawauchi-cho to enjoy a performance of Awa Ningyo Joruri puppet theater. Thanks to an invitation, the group was able to view a special performance by the Awa Ningyo Joruri group “Heiseiza” celebrating the 10th anniversary of their registration as a “UNESCO future heritage group” as part of the National Federation of UNESCO Associations in Japan.

The approximately 3-hour performance was packed with programs, including a performance of Keisei Awa no Naruto, a puppet demonstration, an Awa Odori dance with puppets, and more. Not only the adults, but even the children had their eyes glued to the stage the entire time. Although the Japanese was difficult, the powerful narration by the tayu, as well as the movements and facial expressions of the puppets, allowed for everyone to enjoy the wonder of joruri.

Additionally, the group was greeted with warm hospitality by the Women’s Association when

they had lunch at the Kawauchi-cho Community Center.

The day turned out to be a great chance to study Japanese and enjoy Tokushima’s culture. Thank you very much to Heiseiza and the UNESCO Association, as well as everyone from the Women’s Association.

TOPIA Bus Tour Impressions

By: Zha Zihang

The Ai no Yakata is a museum built in the former residence of the Okumura Family who were once influential indigo merchants. On November 26th, we had the chance to visit the Ai no Yakata and try out aizome indigo dyeing.



First was indigo dyeing. Inside of the indigo dyeing workshop were many large kame (vats), each being filled with a large amount of dye. The dye was quite beautiful and had a mysterious purple hue to it. Before starting the dyeing process, we were able to choose our favorite design from three different options. After choosing a design, we were split up into groups based on our choice. We then dyed the white handkerchiefs according to the instructions of the staff member in charge of each group. All of the staff were kind and gave us simple instructions that were very easy to follow. After taking a look at my finished handkerchief,



I thought it was very beautiful. I never thought it would be so easy for me to make such a beautiful indigo dyed handkerchief by myself. I'm so grateful to the staff!

After we were done indigo dyeing, we entered the main building of the Okumura Family and had a look around. Inside of the main building, we were able to see the processing area for the dye. Seeing the workplace of the artisans really helped in imagining the indigo dyeing process from production to sales.

Finally, we visited the exhibition room. In the exhibition room, a variety of indigo dyed works were on display, including beautiful clothing. There were also tools used for indigo cultivation and processing on display. This experience was both fun and meaningful, not only because I was able to try indigo dyeing with my own hands, but also because I was able to learn about the history and present state of aizome indigo dyeing.



In the afternoon we watched a performance of Awa Ningyo Joruri Puppet Theater at the Awa Jurobe Yashiki. Awa Ningyo Joruri is a type of play where the staff manipulate the puppets to the tayu's (narrator's) story.

At the Awa Jurobe Yashiki, we were given careful instructions on how to move the puppet's hands and feet, and we were even able to try operating

TOPIA Bus Tour Impressions



them ourselves. I'd never tried operating a puppet before, so it was a very new experience for me.

Afterwards it was time to watch the performance. It was so amazing to watch the tayu tell the story, changing their voice to match the current events. I wasn't able to completely understand the story, but thanks to the tayu's voice, I was able to get a feeling of the main character's emotions. I think it was amazing that the tayu was able to convey this just with their voice.

Impressions from Helping Pick Hassaku Oranges

By: Zha Zihang



On December 10th, we boarded a bus bound for a farm in Mima City in order to help harvest hassaku oranges.

It was a peaceful, clear, and warm day as we rode up into the mountains. Mountains in the winter give the image of cold and snow-covered mountain, but it was unexpectedly warm. Once we exited the bus and were all together, the farmer carefully explained the points of caution when harvesting hassaku oranges. Large scissors

are used to cut the stems of the hassaku oranges. Smaller scissors are used to cleanly cut the stem as to not damage the other oranges.

The mountain paths looked quite normal at first glance, but once you try to climb them, they are actually quite steep and difficult for the elderly to climb. While harvesting the oranges, it was so heartwarming to be able to interact with so many people. People help each other, know each other, and talk with one another. I really felt that people live while helping one another.



Working in the quiet mountains was an experience that helped relieve my daily fatigue and refresh my mind and body. I was very impressed with the great dexterity of the farmers who regularly harvested the hassaku oranges.

I feel that my daily life has been enriched thanks to this local agricultural experience.

「～つもりです」「～^{おも}っています」

(Conversation between teacher and student.)

A: Bさん、卒業したら^{そつぎょう}国に帰りますか。^{くに かえ}

B: いいえ、帰らない^{かえ}つもりです。

日本の会社で働こう^{にほん かいしゃ はたら}と思っています。^{おも}

A: そうですね。これからどうしますか。

B: もっと、日本語を勉強する^{にほんご べんきょう}つもりです。

A: そうですね。がんばってください。



「～つもりです」and「～^{おも}っています」express the speaker's intent/plans. Although there is not a large difference, 「～つもりです」implies a strong feeling of planning to do 「～する」or not do 「～しない」something. 「～^{おも}っています」expresses plans/hopes that the speaker will do in the future 「[自分が] ～する」.

The two phrases are used as follows: [V辞書形・Vない形ない+つもりです] [V意向形+^{おも}っています].

Volitional Form Conjugation

I 動詞: かいます → かおう あそびます → あそぼう (ますの^{まえ}前のい^{だん}段→お^{だん}段+う)

II 動詞: おぼえます → おぼえよう みます → みよう (ます + よう)

III 動詞: きます → こよう つれてきます → つれてこよう
 します → しよう きゅうけいします → きゅうけいしよう

Practice Questions

Change the word in parentheses () and write it in the blank.

① 連休は近くの温泉に_____と^{おも}っています。(いきます)

② 将来、自分の会社を_____つもりです。(作ります)

③ 夏休みにアルバイトを_____と^{おも}っています。(します)

④ A: 明日のパーティーに行きますか。

B: いいえ、用事があるので_____つもりです。(いきません)

Tokushima Culture and Reading Corner: 雲辺寺

By: Yukari Nagata

しこくへんろ だいろくじゅうろくばんしよ 雲辺寺に 行ったことは ありますか？雲辺寺は、標高 927m の 山の 上にあり、四国霊場の中で 最も 標高の高いところに あります。そのため、「四国高野」とも 呼ばれています。このお寺は、およそ 1200 年の 歴史があり、弘法大師 が 刻んだといわれる 「千手観音菩薩像」が まつられ、とても神秘的な 雰囲気です。初夏には あじさい、秋は 紅葉、冬は 雪景色を 楽しむ ことができます。



また、山頂の公園には ブランコと フォトフレームがあり、「天空のブランコ」「天空のフォトフレーム」として 人気があります。香川県側から、ロープウェイを 使って 行くことができます。ぜひ、ステキな写真を 撮って みてくださいね。

Vocabulary List

しこくへんろ 四国遍路	Shikoku Pilgrimage	しんびてき 神秘的	Mysterious	ふんいき 雰囲気	Ambience
れいじょう 霊場	Sacred Ground	しよか 初夏	Early Summer	きざ 刻む	To Carve
こうや 高野	Koya (Koya-san)	さんちょう 山頂	Summit	あじさい あじさい	Hydrangea
せんじゆかんのん 千手観音	Thousand-armed Kannon	にんき 人気	Popular	ゆきげしき 雪景色	Snowscape
ぼさつ 菩薩	Bodhisattva	ひょうこう 標高	Elevation		

カプセル (Capsule)

By: Rasmus Burgmer

Gairaigo Galore



Japan is famous for two different kinds of capsules. On the one hand, you have the colorful toy capsules of gashapon. On the other hand, you have the famous (or infamous?) capsule hotels, the accommodation of choice for low budget solo travelers.

However, the origins of the loanword “カプセル”, found in the Japanese words for both of these things, is actually connected to medicine.

Looking at the katakana, one could easily assume that the word was taken from the English language, but it was in fact adapted from German.



During the Meiji period (1868–1912), the Japanese government invited a lot of German medical scientist to Japan to have them teach about modern, European medicine. Because of that, a lot of the medical terminology was directly copied from German into Japanese.

It was also at this time that those same German delegates introduced a small eatable container for medicine, the so called “Kapsel”.



Adapted into Japanese, it became “カプセル”, a gairaigo that has since then found all kinds of different applications, like the aforementioned capsule hotels and gashapon toy containers.

Experience the World -One World Children Support Project-

By: Mari Kimoto



On January 14th (Sun.), the One World Children Support Project was held at the

Tokushima Prefectural International Exchange Center (TOPIA). Including children with foreign roots, 16 participants from 7 different countries participated in the event. Two instructors from the United States and Mexico introduced their country and games of their country/the traditional folk dance tinikling. It was a valuable opportunity to learn about other countries through hands-on experiences.

In Tokushima, one out of every 100 people is a foreign resident. At this event, we thought about the importance of getting along, especially as this number is expected to increase.

Everyone, why don't you take this chance to register as an international understanding supporter and introduce your country? For those who are interested, please contact us here at TOPIA.

→ topia@topia.ne.jp



Events & Memoranda



Kenyan Culture Introduction and Cooking Class ケニアの文化紹介と料理教室

Join Ms. Irene Wachuga, a native of Kenya and a licensed cook in Japan, for a cooking class on Kenyan home cooking! Let's learn about Kenyan food and culture with simple English in a fun and tasty way! Feel free to prepare any questions you would like to ask about Kenyan food and culture. Please contact TIA (Tokushima International Association) by phone or e-mail to apply.

When: February 23 (Fri./National Holiday)
9:45 - 14:00

Where: Tokushima Uchimachi Community Center
Kitchen Studio

71-1, 3 chome, Saiwai-cho, Tokushima
Participants: 20 People (First-come-first-served)

Fee: 1,000 yen (Ingredients are included)

Items to Bring: Apron, bandana or other head covering, and dish towel

Inquiries: Tokushima International Association

TEL: 088-622-6066

E-mail: info@tia81.com

ケニア出身で日本の調理師免許をお持ちのアイリーン・ワチュガさんとケニアの家庭料理と一緒に作って食べましょう！簡単な英語を交えながら、ケニアの料理や文化を楽しくおいしく学びませんか？当日、ケニアについて聞きたい事がある方は、考えておいて下さい。

参加ご希望の方は、徳島市国際交流協会まで電話、メール等でお申込み下さい。

日時：2月23日（祝金）
9:45 ~ 14:00

会場：徳島市内町コミュニティーセンター
調理室

徳島市幸町3丁目 71-1（幸町会館2階）

定員：20人程度（先着順）

参加費：1,000円（材料費込み）

準備物：エプロン、三角巾、布巾

お問い合わせ：（一社）徳島市国際交流協会

TEL: 088-622-6066

E-mail: info@tia81.com

Events & Memoranda

Fun & Exciting “Games of the World & Learning Matsuri” ワクワクドキドキ「世界の遊び・学びまつり」

Visit various booths and collect stamps at each. If you collect enough stamps, something good may happen!!

Booth Introduction Examples:

1. Let's try talking to foreign residents!!
2. Let's color flags!!
3. Let's listen to an English picture story!!

When: February 24th (Sat.) 10:00 - 15:00

Where: Children's Science Museum
(Multipurpose Hall), Asutamuland

Age Group: 3 & Older

Fee: Free

Inquiries: JICA Tokushima - Hattori

TEL: 088-656-3303 (TOPIA)

ブースを巡ってスタンプを集めよう。何個か集めるといいことがあるかも!!

各ブース

例 1 外国人とお話してみよう!!

例 2 国旗に色を塗ってみよう!!

例 3 英語紙芝居を聞いてみよう!!

日時: 2月24日(土) 10:00 ~ 15:00

場所: あすたむらんど徳島 子供科学館
(多目的ホール)

対象: 3歳以上

料金: 無料

お問い合わせ: JICA 徳島 服部

TEL: 088-656-3303 (TOPIA)



36th Big Hina Matsuri 第36回ビッグひな祭り



The first Big Hina Matsuri was held in the spring of 1988 and will now be celebrated for the 36th time. Hina dolls that are no longer used are gathered from families all around the country, given a memorial service, and then displayed at this festival. At the center of the festival, you can find an approximately 8-meter-high 100-step podium decorated with hina dolls, with approximately 30,000 total hina dolls being beautifully displayed at this festival.

A variety of stage performances are planned for the event.

When: February 24th (Sat.) – April 7th (Sun.)
9:00 – 16:00

Where: Hina Doll Museum, Katsuura Town

Fee: Adults: 400 Yen

Groups: 300 Yen (10 People or More)

Children: 100 Yen

Inquiries: Big Hina Matsuri Executive Committee

TEL: 0885-42-4334

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

昭和63年の春に始まったビッグひな祭りは、今回で36回目を迎えます。本祭では、全国より、家庭で飾られなくなった雛人形を集め、供養し、展示させていただいております。場内には、中央にそびえ立つ高さ約8m「百段のひな壇」をはじめ、約3万体的雛人形が豪華絢爛に飾られています。

期間中は様々なステージプログラムをご用意しております。

日時: 2月24日(土) ~ 4月7日(日)
9:00 ~ 16:00

場所: 勝浦町 人形文化交流館

料金: 大人 400円

団体 300円(10人以上)

子供 100円

お問い合わせ: ビッグひな祭り実行委員会

TEL: 0885-42-4334

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

Events & Memoranda

Sakamoto Ohina Meguri さかもとおひな巡り

This year's "Sakamoto Ohina Meguri" theme is "Heart". Hearts, a symbol of caring for others, will be scattered about the event venue. While feeling the warmth of people-to-people interactions, please enjoy Katsuura Town's "Ohina Meguri".

When: February 24th (Sat.) – March 10th (Sun.)

*Until March 31st (Sun.) at Sakamoto
Hachiman Shrine

8:00 – 17:00 (Until 15:00 on the final day)

Where: Around Fureai no Sato Sakamoto/

Sakamoto Hachiman Shrine in
Katsuura Town

Inquiries: Fureai no Sato Sakamoto

TEL: 0885-44-2110

今年の「さかもとおひな巡り」の展示テーマは『ハート～心～』。他人を思いやる気持ちの象徴でもある「ハート」を会場に散りばめています。人と人に通じ合う温かい気持ちを感じていただきながら、勝浦町の『おひな巡り』をお楽しみください。

日時：2月24日（土）～3月10日（日）

※坂本八幡神社は3月31日（日）まで

8:00～17:00 ※最終日は15:00まで

場所：勝浦町 ふれあいの里さかもと・
坂本八幡神社周辺

お問い合わせ：ふれあいの里さかもと

TEL: 0885-44-2110

Let's Think Together! ~Child Rearing in Japan for Foreigners~ いっしょに考えてみよう！～外国人の日本での子育て～

徳島で子育てをしている外国の方々が、自国の子育てと日本での子育てについて発表します。外国人の徳島での子育て事情を知ることにより、お互いに何ができるかをいっしょに考えてみませんか。

日時：2月17日（土） 14:00～16:00

場所：徳島県国際交流協会 大会議室（クレメントプラザ6F）

対象：子育て中の外国人・日本人、国際交流や日本語支援に関心がある方

料金：無料

定員：30名

申込方法：参加ご希望の方は、メールで、下記の項目を事務局 jtmtoku@nifty.com までお知らせください。

① お名前 ② E-mail ③ 電話番号 ④ 所属 ⑤ 保育の利用（希望する方は、お子さんの人数・年齢・学年）

申込締切：2月12日（月）

お問い合わせ：JTM とくしま日本語ネットワーク

徳島市昭和町3丁目35-1 わーくぴあ徳島2階 公益社団法人徳島県労働者福祉協議会内

TEL：088-625-8387

URL: <http://jtmtoku.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)