

THE TOMBO

OITA'S • ENGLISH • NEWSLETTER

November-December 2012

Issue 64

Volunteer experiences

~Looking at what is close by us~

After living in the Kanto region for a long time, this year I became a citizen of Oita Prefecture and began my long awaited life in Kyushu. With that, out of the blue I experienced the northern Kyushu torrential rain this July.

The country where I was born and raised is an area which geographically experiences many natural disasters. I have experienced countless cyclones and heavy rains from when I was young, but this was the time that I felt I was shown the terrible power of nature once again. Since I arrived in Japan there have been two huge natural disasters; the January 17th Great Hanshin Earthquake of 1995, and the March 11th Great East Japan Earthquake of 2011. However, this was the first time I had experienced being directly involved in a natural disaster here.

On July 12th I went to the train station as usual to find that the train I always take was delayed 30 minutes due to heavy rain. I was aware of record-breaking torrential rain in northern Kyushu, but living in Oita City I didn't see any considerable damage around me. I did not know the dreadful things that were yet to come. Without further incident, that weekend I headed to Ishinomaki City in Miyagi Prefecture as I had originally planned. It wasn't until my return trip from Fukuoka Airport to Oita Prefecture that I saw the true extent of the damaged state of towns and roads from the bus window. Houses and trees had collapsed and roads were severed. I shuddered to realise that the scenes looked similar to the aftermath of the March 11th tsunami.

With that the volunteer group in Ishinomaki City with which I am associated quickly decided to come to Taketa City. The work commenced and I decided to participate in the volunteer efforts as well. Due to my work commitments I was only able to help with clean-up projects on the weekends, but



over a period of several weeks I went to volunteer in the affected areas. The first work was done with organisation member friends, Oita University students and some landscapers who travelled over from Yufuin. With a total of around thirty people we removed mud from the street gutters of roads in the mountains. In addition to this, one day a group of thirty nine people

from Mie Prefecture showed up to volunteer so together we worked on removing the mud from residents' houses and cleaning up gardens that were damaged by the overflow from rivers. During this time, the friends who I had worked together with in Tohoku came in great numbers from across Japan to help out. My German friend who I knew from volunteering in Tohoku also sent me a message saying "I'll come to Japan again to give assistance when needed".

Around the middle of August when the work in Taketa City was completed to some extent, the volunteer operation base was moved to Aso City where work continued until September.



There were a few points I noticed through this volunteer experience.

One point is that whilst many people from across Japan continued to come to Kyushu to volunteer, peoples' awareness of the rain damage in my own city of Oita was relatively low, and there were not many people volunteering. I would have liked to see more local residents, young people in particular, participating in the volunteer efforts. Volunteering is not really something special: I think that perhaps we just need to first look closely at our "*mijikana tokoro*" (what is close by us).

---Ershad Ali Chowdhury

[English translation of original Japanese text]

Natural disasters: a refresher on preparation and procedure ~Earthquakes~

Whilst earthquakes are not common in Oita Prefecture, they aren't unheard of. In the event of an earthquake, it is important that you know the procedures to follow, especially if caught on your own without anyone around you to give you directions.

What if I am indoors?

If an earthquake occurs while you are indoors, you should take cover under something sturdy. If there isn't a table or desk near you, cover your head and crouch in an inside corner of the building. Stay away from glass, windows, outside doors and walls, and anything that could fall, such as lighting fixtures or furniture. If your stove is on, turn it off immediately. Open doors so that you don't get trapped inside, and only use a doorway for shelter if you know it is strongly supported.

Stay inside until the shaking stops and it is safe to go outside. Most injuries during earthquakes occur when people are hit by falling objects when entering into or exiting from buildings, or when they run outside panic stricken.

What if I am outside?

If an earthquake occurs while you are outdoors stay away from buildings, streetlights, and utility wires, and watch for falling objects such as signs and bricks. If you are driving, keep a firm grasp on the steering wheel, and gradually bring the car to a stop. Avoid stopping near or under buildings, trees,



overpasses, and utility wires.

You should vacate the central lane of the road, so that emergency vehicles such as fire engines and ambulances can get through. Evacuate on foot, and leave the key in the vehicle and the door unlocked in case your car needs to be moved by emergency response workers.

Aftershocks

After the first earthquake, be prepared for aftershocks. These secondary shockwaves are usually less violent than the main quake but can be strong enough to do additional damage to weakened structures.

Be aware of tsunamis if you live in coastal areas. When local authorities issue a tsunami warning stay away from the beach and evacuate to higher ground.



Rescue workers and volunteers say that one important thing for foreigners living in Japan to do is to get to know someone in their neighborhood and to get involved in community disaster prevention activities.

Prepare an evacuation kit in advance and locate your nearest evacuation shelter. Evacuation shelters will display a green and white sign displayed on the left.



Are you familiar with Japanese traffic rules and road signs? The Oita International Plaza will be hosting a workshop on Japanese traffic rules, road signs and traffic laws for international residents. The workshop will be presented by a police officer in English and basic Japanese. If you've just starting driving in Japan or plan to get your license soon this will be a great opportunity to get you up to speed with Japanese traffic rules. Drivers who would like to brush up traffic rules are also welcome. There will be a Q&A held at the end of the workshop.

Place: Small Picture Hall (iichiko Culture Center B1F) * Reservations not required

Date: November 11th Time: 14:30~16:00 Participation cost: FREE

For more information, please contact the Plaza TEL: 097-533-4021 Email: in@emo.or.jp



Here are some suggestions for P, Q and R from the last issue:

P: Pen and ink calligraphy could have been found at the Western Style Calligraphy Exhibition at Café and Gallery Piano in Beppu City.

Q: A Quiet place to read or relax (perhaps your very own piece of 'the inaka') can be found in the most unexpected places, or in my case one of the most obvious places. I personally could spend all day in Yufuin, either at Lake Kinrin or one of the many little cafes along the main streets.

R: Rental bicycles are available at many visitor information centers and major JR stations across the prefecture, and can be rented by the hour or for the entire day. Research tells me

that rental bicycles are available in the vicinity of Oita, Beppu, Yufuin, Hita, Nakatsu and Bungotaketa stations; however I am sure that the list is actually much longer. Try inquiring at City Tourism Associations for more information.

The letters for November and December are S, T and U:

S: Sri Lankan cuisine

T: Tinsel and Trimmings: impressive decorations that made you turn your head

T: Tenugui with interesting designs

U: Unusual flavours unique to Oita



If you think that you might know where to find these things please contact Joanne: joannegyoshida@yahoo.com, or Nicole: nicole@emo.or.jp. *Joanne Yoshida is offering a free TOMARE meditation Tenugui towel to the first ten people to email us with an answer.*

CONTEMPORARY ART FESTIVAL

The Beppu Art Month and Mixed Bathing World projects

Beppu Art Month is a yearly event held at numerous locations across Beppu City. This year it began on October 6th, and is scheduled to run until December 2th. There are art displays, installations, interactive events, seminars and musical performances for visitors to enjoy. For those of you who have lived in the Oita/Beppu area for over a year, you may already be familiar with the brightly coloured posters, but have you ever participated in or attended an event? Some are easy to stumble across, but for others you will need a map or directions to get there. The Beppu Art Month home page contains detailed information on the event including the schedule, as well as access and ticket information and downloadable pamphlets. Whilst the festival website is only available in Japanese, it is fairly easy to navigate. Joanne Yoshida (regular reader and contributor to The TOMBO) gives her thoughts on Beppu Art Month:

“This year I’m excited to be participating in Beppu Art Month with two “Shake Your Soul/Yoga Dance” events--- “Dancing in the Street” in front of Beppu Tokiwa, and “Melody House”, a collaborative day with singer/songwriter Kobe (こうべえ). When I first saw Harbors, the “live house” in Kamegawa where we will do the event, it reminded me of some places I used to hang out in America when I was in high school with its rough rock-and-roll feel when you enter. Then it opens up to the meditative second floor rooms that look out over Beppu Bay. I imagined the chance to “create a day” there, kind of like how

kids play house--- together with movement and music--- to meet new people, bring in some good food, and be in those contrasting spaces of dark and light, inside and outside, with no particular goal in mind. Beppu Art Month reminds me that like the *onsen* steam rising from the ground all over Beppu, artists, musicians, shop owners and open-hearted residents too seem to pop up everywhere: bubbling with stories and creativity to share. *Zehi* (definitely!!), tap into your source, follow your flow and I hope to see you there!”

<http://www.beppuartmonth.com/>

The contemporary art festival ‘Mixed Bathing World’ will also be held this year in conjunction with Beppu Art Month. Mixed Bathing World features eight creative projects that range from a free-form performing art zone to bamboo sculpture displays incorporating hot spring steam. Purchasing a passport ticket will gain you entry to all exhibition venues and attendance to one performance at the Eikyū Beppu Theater. Same-day passports cost ¥2,000 and there is a discount for advance purchase. Information on the projects, artists, passport tickets and access is all available on the homepage in both English and Japanese <http://mixedbathingworld.com/en/> So take a look at all the events and projects available, pick a few options and enjoy a wonderful day out in Beppu!



Festivals and Events

Date	Event Description	Location	Contact #
Nov. 3 rd	Uki uki flea market- a great chance to pick up some bargains. Held in Oasis Tower from 11:30~15:00.	Oita City iichiko Culture Center	☎ 097-538-7411
Nov. 3 rd	6th 'Tomato Heaven in Ogi' + The 32nd Ogi Furusato festival- will feature main events such as tomato cooking contests and tomato picking tours, as well as tomato recipe suggestions, tomato quizzes and more.	Taketa City Ogi Chuo Kouminkan	☎ 0974-68-2211
Nov. 3 rd	23rd Shonai Kagura Festival- in conjunction with the 31 st Shonai Town 'Furusato' festival. There will be kagura performances from a number of groups, and specialty goods for sale.	Yufu City Shonai-Machi	☎ 097-582-1111
Nov. 3 rd	Beppu Sentoumyou- approximately 15,000 lamps will be lit in Beppu Park creating a magical atmosphere. There will be lamp-making and illumination throughout the park.	Beppu City Beppu Park	☎ 097-776-5327
Nov. 3 rd	Bird box making- experience making bird box homes for wild birds, and other crafts. Reservations required, participation cost ¥500.	Kokonoe-Machi Kuju Shizen Gakkou	☎ 097-373-0001
Nov. 3 rd , 4 th	Usuki Takeyoi festival- over this weekend, approximately 20,000 bamboo shoots are lit up with candles all over the city.	Usuki City Nioza	☎ 097-263-1111
Nov. 3 rd ~30 th	Fall rose festival- a relatively new festival at the rose garden where 2000 roses (approximately 200 types of roses) will be in full bloom.	Hita City Amagase-Machi	☎ 097-357-3147
Nov. 4 th	JR Leisure walking- an enjoyable autumn day out including rose garden viewing and a visit to Amagase Onsen.	Hita City Amagase-Machi	☎ 097-784-2021
Nov. 10 th	Melody House at Harbours- collaboration between Shake Your Soul/Kripalu Yoga Dance in Oita and singer/songwriter Kobe (こうべえ). ¥1,500 entry includes lunch, dance workshop and live concert as part of Beppu Art Month.	Beppu City Kamegawa	☎ 090-1165-5567
Nov. 11 th	Autumn leaves walk- take a stroll around the park to enjoy the scenic autumn leaves, and experience the beginning of <i>aki</i> (autumn).	Oita City Kenmin-no-mori	☎ 097-588-0656
Nov. 16 th ~18 th	Taketa Chikuraku bamboo light festival- over the three days 20,000 bamboo lanterns will be lit across Jyouka-Machi, and visitors can enjoy live music performances, and taste local delicacies at food stalls.	Taketa City Jyouka-Machi	☎ 0974-63-2638
Nov. 17 th	Drum char-grilling- including charcoal flower-making. ¥1,200 participation for adults, ¥1,000 for children (contact Kuju Furusato Shizen Gakkou for details).	Kokonoe-Machi Kuju Furusato Shizen Gakkou	☎ 097-373-0001
Nov. 17 th	Kimono appreciation day- try on rental kimono and have your photo taken by a professional. Persons wearing kimono will get discounted or free entry to designated public facilities as well as discounts at 29 restaurants in Kitsuki.	Kitsuki City Jyouka-Machi	☎ 097-863-0100
Nov. 23 rd	The 25th Hiji produce festival- booths from Hiji businesses will be on display, and there will be a <i>furusato</i> restaurant, and you can also experience shiitake mushroom planting!	Hiji-Machi Chuo Kouminkan area	☎ 097-773-3127
Nov. 23 rd	Kuju Furusato Shizen Gakkou barbecue- as a follow on from their event on Nov. 17 th , the kiln will be opened to reveal the charcoal flower creations, followed by a charcoal barbecue.	Kokonoe-Machi Kuju Furusato Shizen Gakkou	☎ 097-373-0001
Nov. 30 th ~ Dec. 1 st	Human rights enlightenment festival 'Human Festa'- a series of events will be held at the iichiko Culture Center focusing on the theme of human rights, accepting one another and growing with one another.	Oita City iichiko Culture Center	☎ 097-533-4000
Dec. 2 nd	Hyoutan festival- A tradition passed on for 800 years, and designated as intangible cultural property by Oita Prefecture, held at Shibayama Hachiman Shrine.	Bungo-Ono City Chitose-Machi	☎ 097-437-2111
Dec. 15 th ~ Jan. 18 th	Beppu Tosuisai- the "Chic Winter Festival" held in Beppu Park features 200 Christmas trees decorated in lights and ornaments.	Beppu City Beppu Park	☎ 097-725-3311
Dec. 23 rd ~24 th	Beppu Christmas hanabi fantasia- approximately 10,000 fireworks are to be fired into the clear winter sky to create huge original displays, accompanying a performance of Christmas songs sung by 1000 people.	Beppu City Spa Beach	☎ 0977-24-2828
Dec. 31 st	Core Yamakuni Countdown Fireworks- come along with your friends, family or partner and enjoy ice-skating, fireworks, a bingo competition and DJ request time (from 10pm~1am).	Nakatsu City Yamakuni	☎ 097-962-2140
Dec. 31 st	Usa Shrine New Years Eve festival- this is the final festival to round off the year. Visitors visit Usa Shrine to pray for things such as good health and good fortune.	Usa City Usa Shrine	☎ 097-837-0001
Dec. 31 st	Ueno Kagura- traditional Japanese <i>kagura</i> dance will be performed at Wakahata shrine.	Nakatsu City Ueno	☎ 097-923-8615

Beppu Contemporary Art Festival "Mixed Bathing World" in conjunction with Beppu Art Month events

As listed on page 2 and 3, from October 6th to December 2nd, there will be a number of events taking place around Beppu City (Hamawaki, downtown and Kannawa) as part of the "Mixed Bathing World" project and Beppu Art Month. There will be things to do, see, eat and experience almost every day, so check out the websites to find an event to suit you!





STAGE & MUSIC EVENTS

Nov	Time	Artist/Event	Venue	Cost	Contact #
1 st	19:00	The Winds of God	iichiko Otonoizumi	¥5,800	☎ 035-687-1174
4 th	14:00	Oita Mandolin Orchestra	iichiko Otonoizumi	¥1,000	☎ 097-569-2726
5 th	19:00	KIOI Sinfonietta Tokyo- Oita performance featuring conductor Christian Ehwald and pianist Peter Rösel	iichiko Grand Theater	S: ¥6,000 A: ¥5,000	☎ 035-355-1280
8 th	19:00	Mariinsky Theater Orchestra- with conductor Valery Abisalovich	iichiko Grand Theater	GS: ¥12,000~ B: ¥6,000	☎ 097-533-4004
9 th	19:00	Group UNO- 41 st concert "Tsubasa ni nose te"	iichiko Otonoizumi	¥2,000	☎ 097-545-8587
9 th	19:00	"Only Yesterday" (Ohimode poroporo) musical	iichiko Grand Theater	S: ¥3,500 A: ¥3,500	☎ 097-538-9647
10 th	20:00	C-TAKE Jazz tunes Autumn Live- featuring various artists	Brick Block	¥1,500 w/drink	☎ 097-536-4852
11 th	14:00	Oita Symphony Orchestra- 36 th periodical concert with French opera	iichiko Grand Theater	¥1,800	☎ 090-9583-8577
17 th	14:00	Tomotaka Okamoto- Concerto del Sopranista 2012	iichiko Otonoizumi	¥5,000	☎ 0120-499-699
18 th	13:00	Kuromatsu Kagura	Kagura Kaikan	¥1,000	☎ 097-435-2372
18 th	17:30	Flower Companyz- One man tour "Happy End 2012~2013"	T.O.P.S BittsHall Club Spot	¥3,500	☎ 097-533-0467
21 st	18:30	New York Jazz Trio	Brick Block	¥4,500	☎ 097-536-4852
24 th	21:00	HAZE- DJ event ¥1,000 for entry (with 1 drink), ¥2,500 for all you can drink until 1AM	P.E.I Pub	¥1,000 or ¥2,500	☎ 090-9409-0393
Dec	Time	Artist/Event	Venue	Cost	Contact #
6 th	19:00	WHITE ASH- "All that we have now" Release tour	T.O.P.S BittsHall Club Spot	¥2,500	☎ 097-533-0467
8 th	13:00	The Wizard of Oz puppet show- by the Puuku theater group	Patria Hita	¥3,000	☎ 097-325-5000
18 th ~ 24 th	10:00~ 22:00	Oasis Artist Produce 2012 Heart of Christmas- a 'Christmas present' to patrons in the form of art and performances	iichiko Atrium Plaza	free	☎ 097-533-4004
21 st	19:30	Fried Prize iichiko Jazz Night 2012	Brick Block	¥5,000	☎ 097-536-4852
24 th	17:00	Junko Koshino x TAO- drum art performance "Phoenix" tour	iichiko Grand Theater	SS: ¥7,000 S: ¥6,000 A: ¥5,000	☎ 097-537-5515
29 th	21:00	HAZE- DJ event ¥1,000 for entry (with 1 drink), ¥2,500 for all you can drink until 1AM	P.E.I Pub	¥1,000 or ¥2,500	☎ 090-9409-0393

**Ticket prices range from student to most expensive general admission. Prices shown otherwise indicate price for purchase on the day of the event, they may be cheaper if purchased in advance. "w/ drink" prices include a drink, "+drink" prices require the additional purchase of a drink. Times shown indicate start times, doors usually open 30 minutes beforehand.

VENUES

Brick Block= 5-7-5 Ikushi, Oita City

Cantaloop II= 3-2-30 Miyako-Machi

Nakayama Dai 5 Building 6F Oita City

Club SPOT= 3-3-18 Funai-Machi, Oita City

iichiko Grand Theater= Oasis Tower 1F Oita City

iichiko Otonoizumi= Oasis Tower 4F Oita City

Oita Culture Center= Niage-Machi 4-1, Oita City

Kagura Kaikan= 810 Kiyokawa, Bungo Ono City

T.O.P.S BittsHall= Ikushi 5-783, Oita City

Patria Hita= 1-8-11 Sanbonmatsu, Hita City

P.E.I= Miyako-Machi 2-5-3 Shirogane Bld2F

EXHIBITIONS & SCREENINGS

Date	Description	Place	Admission	Contact #
Oct. 4 th ~ Nov. 4 th	'Eki kara tsunagaru art' exhibition- artworks will be displayed throughout the Yufuin during this time. Take a stroll around to discover them all	Displayed all across Yufuin	FREE	☎ 097-785-3373
Oct. 19 th ~ Nov. 25 th	"Kissa no seki" - The world of tea-drinking exhibition on tea and Japanese culture.	Oita Prefectural History Museum	¥500	☎ 097-837-2101
Oct. 19 th ~ Nov. 25 th	Oita in Japanese maps and world maps- come learn about Oita's place in the world.	Oita City History Museum	¥200	☎ 097-594-0880
Nov. 1 st ~ Dec. 16 th	Kiyoshi Yamashita exhibition- a display of works by Kiyoshi Yamashita celebrating 90 years since his birth.	Oita Art Museum	¥1,000	☎ 097-554-5800
Nov. 9 th ~ Dec. 7 th	Kenta Yoshiga painting exhibition- held at Life Gallery Hana. Entry is free, delicious organic tea and sweets available for purchase.	Life Gallery Hana	FREE	☎ 097-573-7711
Nov. 13 th ~ Dec. 27 th	Tanomura Chikuden exhibition- featuring pieces by Tanomura Chikuden, a leading artist in the late Edo Period	Oita Art Museum	¥300	☎ 097-554-5800

Oita Art Museum= Oita-Shi Bijutsukan 大分市美術館 Oita City History Museum= Oita-Shi Rekishi Shiryokan 大分市歴史資料館

Oita Prefecture Art Center ~Museum and Hall~ 大分県立芸術会館 Life Gallery Hana = Life Gallery 花 Oita Prefectural History Museum= 大分県立歴史博物館

Most Museums and Centers are closed on Monday, or Tuesday if Monday is a public holiday. Student admissions vary, highest cost shown.

What's Going On?

Japanese Lessons

Himawari Japanese Volunteers

Support for people learning Japanese in order to help them enjoy their lives in Oita, now at three different locations.

Wasada Public Hall Wed. 10:00~12:00

Meiji Akeno Public Hall Wed. 14:00~16:00

Tsurusaki Public Hall Sat. 10:00~12:00

For more information contact Fukata Miharu
TEL: 097-527-2614

E-MAIL: nihongo_himawari_oita@yahoo.co.jp

Nihongo Rakuraku-talk

Beppu City Hall offers free Japanese lessons every Tuesday from 14:00~15:30. For more information contact Beppu International Affairs Division TEL: 097-721-6133

E-MAIL: int-ma@city.beppu.oita.jp

Sakura Japanese Class

Come study Japanese with friendly volunteers and teachers in a pleasant atmosphere. Sakura Japanese Class is held every Monday from 10:15~12:00 at the Oita University International House in Nishiki-Machi, Oita City. Classes are FREE. For more information call Ms. Ohashi
CELL: 090-7866-2486

AIUEO Japanese Lessons

Volunteers offer free Japanese lessons on Tuesday and Friday from 10:20~11:50 at I-NESS near Oasis Tower as well as Thursday nights at Compal Hall from 18:30~20:00. Lessons are also offered in Beppu at the Oita International House on Tuesday mornings from 10:30~12:00. For more information contact:

Ms. Miyase 090-8353-2485 (day lessons)

Ms. Kato 097-532-5940 (night lessons)

Community

Oita International Christian Fellowship

You're welcome to join us for worship and fellowship! Check our website at: www.oicf3712.webs.com

Place: Compal Hall

Time: Every Sunday 10:00am~12:00pm

Check the lobby board for the room number under "O.I.C.F."

International Kempo (Self-Defence Classes)

Ever thought about being able to defend yourself? Join us to keep in shape and to learn martial art-based self-defense techniques and *bo-jyutsu* (stick fighting).

Place: Souda Dojo (Near Oita University)

Time: Every Friday 19:00~21:00

For more information on times and places, please contact Katsunori Tsujita at 097-583-0959.

"Tomare" Meditation

~Stop and find your center~

Would you like to learn more about or participate in individual or group meditation sessions, classes, or the Japanese healing art of Reiki? There will be a special December Christmas meditation class on **Wednesday Dec. 26th**.

Time: 19:00~21:00, cost is ¥2000 (includes seasonal Christmas tea and a macrobiotic sweets set)

For information, schedule or questions please contact Joanne at 097-573-8053 or joannegyoshida@yahoo.com

Lunch With Us?

Japanese home cooking club for international families living in Beppu, takes place on **Nov. 22nd & Dec. 20th** at the Health Center, Yunomachi Kenko-park, Beppu City from 11am to 2pm. 500yen to participate. For more information contact Beppu International Affairs Division TEL: 0977-21-6133

E-MAIL: int-ma@city.beppu.oita.jp

SHAKE YOUR SOUL/ Kripalu Yoga Dance

This body-spirit fitness program incorporates elements of yoga, dance, movement therapy and 'qi kung' with rhythms of music from around the world. Held at the Nakajima Ko-minkan Friday mornings 10AM to 11AM (every week) and Thursday afternoons 1:30PM to 3PM (first and third Monday of the month). For more information or to make reservations contact:

Joanne TEL: 090-1165-5567

Macrobiotic and Art Workshop

This workshop will be held in conjunction with the Kenta Yoshiga Painting exhibition on **Saturday Nov. 17th**
Place: Life Gallery Hana.

Life Gallery Hana will also be hosting "The Poetry of Yoga" global book launch and poetry reading in December.

Please contact Ikuko-san for details.

TEL: 097-573-7711

From the Plaza

Japanese Traffic Rules Workshop

The International Plaza will hold a workshop for international residents on Japanese traffic rules, road signs and traffic laws. There will be time for Q&A at the end.

Date: **Nov. 11th from 14:30~16:00**

Participation is **free**, reservations not required.

Venue: Small Picture Hall (iichiko Culture Center B1)

TEL: 097-533-4021 Email: in@emp.or.jp

"Nihongo de Talk" Japanese Chat

Come to the Oita International Plaza to meet and chat with Japanese locals and practice your Japanese conversation skills. Conversations held in small groups in a friendly, relaxed environment.

Date: **Nov. 10th, Dec. 8th** Time: **13:00~14:30**

Place: Oita International Plaza

Space is limited, please contact to reserve a spot. TEL: 097-533-4021

Email: hiramoto@emo.or.jp

Free Legal Consultations

The Oita International Plaza is holding free legal consultations on **Nov. 21st and Dec. 19th from 13:00~16:00**.

The Oita Emigration/Immigration Affairs Council also organizes free consultations where emigration/immigration specialists are available to offer advice on a variety of topics from Immigration Bureau paperwork and procedures, to daily life matters. The next consultations will be held on **Nov. 4th & Dec. 2nd from 13:00~16:00**. English interpretation available, other languages may be available with reservation two days in advance. OIP 097-533-4021

Free Tagalog Consultations

Date: Saturday **Nov. 3rd** & Tuesday **Nov. 20th**
Saturday **Dec. 1st** & Tuesday **Dec. 18th**

Time: 13:00~16:00

Place: Oita International Plaza

Consultant: Rhodora Yoshitake

Free Chinese Consultations

Date/Time: Every Thursday 10:00~13:00 and the second and fourth Tuesday each month from 13:00~16:00. Place: Oita International Plaza. Consultant: Cui Wenyu (*Dates and times are subject to change. Please contact the Oita International Plaza before coming.)
TEL: 097-533-4021

Free Health Consultations

The Saiseikai Hita Hospital is offering free health consultations and medical examinations at the Oita International Plaza to foreign nationals living in Oita Prefecture. For people who are concerned about their state of health but are not sure who to turn to, these free consultations are a good place to start. Staff will include a doctor, two nurses, a clerk and a medical treatment consultant.

Date: **Nov. 21st & Dec. 19th**

Time: 14:30~15:30

Oita International Plaza (iichiko Culture Center, floor B1)

For more information contact: Saiseikai Hita Hospital TEL: 0973-24-1100

(*Dates and times subject to change. Please call to confirm before coming.)

LANGUAGE LEARNING PAGE

 Kanji of the Month
 

This section aims to teach new kanji characters to beginner-level Japanese learners, and to give intermediate and advanced learners a deeper understanding of each character. This month's character set is:

CALLIGRAPHY 「書道」

The first character in the compound 「書」, is read as ^{sho}シヨ, or ^{kaaku}かく. The character combines the image of a hand holding a brush 「圭」, and a simplified form of 'thing' 「者」 to illustrate a person writing something with a brush.

WRITE 「書」

The second character 「道」, is read as ^{dou}ドウ, or ^{michi}みち and is a compound of go 「去」 and head or 'main' 「首」. Together they give us the image of going along a main path or road.

ROAD 「道」

If we combine the characters for "write" and "road" we get the compound:

CALLIGRAPHY 「書道」

The following sentence uses the above characters to exemplify their different readings.

書道の先生が私の名前を日本語で書いてくれました。
The calligraphy teacher wrote my name in Japanese for me.



Japanese Proverbs

初心忘るべからず

「しょしんわするべからず」

“shoshin wasuru bekarazu”

“Don't lose your initial resolution”

Japanese Onomatopoeia

Receiving packages in the mail is one of my favourite things. Hearing the doorbell ring (ピンポン pinpon) I get up and peer through the peephole to make sure it's not another newspaper salesperson. Seeing the familiar coloured uniform of a delivery person I unlock the door chain with a rattle (ガラガラ garagara), sign for the package, and shut the door with a thud (バタン batan).

Ripping open (バリバリ やぶる baribari yaburu) the packaging and getting your hands on the contents is not the only fun part however: the true fun comes from the bubble wrap. Each bubble makes a satisfying pop sound (ぷちぷち puchipuchi) when you squish it. Once all of the bubble wrap is popped it is thrown aside as the contents of the package are uncovered. I get excited (わくわくする wakuwaku suru) to discover the book that I ordered last week has arrived. I flip through (ぺらっと peratto) the pages and begin to read.

Foreign Movies Showing in Oita

Only foreign films are listed. Changes may occur without notice.

Cinema	Movie	Showing Date
Cinema5 Central Oita (on 5 th Ave) ☎ 097-536-4512	In Darkness (Polish, Ukrainian, Yiddish, German)	Oct. 27 th ~Nov. 9 th
	Longlasting Youth (Italian)	Nov. 3 rd ~9 th
	Big Miracle	Oct. 27 th ~Nov. 9 th
	Cave of Forgotten Dreams (English, German, French)	Nov. 10 th ~23 rd
	The women on the 6 th Floor (French, Spanish)	Nov. 17 th ~30 th
	Woody Allen: A Documentary	Nov. 17 th ~30 th
	Remembrance (German, English, Polish, Russian)	Nov. 24 th ~Dec. 7 th
	The Snows of Kilimanjaro (French)	Dec. 8 th ~20 th
Lessons of a Dream (German, English)	Dec. 1 st ~14 th	
Toho Cinemas Wasada Town ☎ 097-548-7878	Abraham Lincoln: Vampire Hunter	Nov. 1 st
	Paranormal Activity	Nov. 1 st
	Japan in a Day	Nov. 3 rd
	Cirque du Soleil	Nov. 9 th
	Skyfall	Dec. 1 st
	The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey	Dec. 14 th
	Frankenweenie	Dec. 15 th
	The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn	Dec. 28 th
Les Miserables	Dec. 28 th	
T-Joy Cinemas Park Place	Paranormal Activity 4	Nov. 1 st
	Abraham Lincoln: Vampire Hunter	Nov. 1 st
	Trouble with the Curve	Nov. 23 rd
	Lockout	Nov. 23 rd
	Skyfall	Dec. 1 st
	The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey	Dec. 14 th

Admission **Standard** ¥1,800 **Pre-release** ¥1,500 **Pair** ¥2,800

Seniors ¥1,000 **Students** ¥1,000~1,500

Special Discounts

The first day of the month ¥1,000 Ladies' Day (Wednesdays) ¥1,000

Men's Day is ¥1,000 (Thursday at Toho Cinemas and Cinema5)

Late Night Show (Sun-Fri) ¥1,200 (Toho Cinemas)

Making Submissions

THE TOMBO is always looking for articles and event information. Please send your submissions to the Oita International Plaza by E-mail (in@emo.or.jp) based on the submission deadline listed in the publication schedule below. The Oita Prefecture Cultural and Sports Foundation reserves all copyrights to articles printed in THE TOMBO.

Issue	Publication Date	Submission Deadline
July/August	July 1 st	June 1 st
September/October	September 1 st	August 1 st
November/December	November 1 st	October 1 st
January/February	January 1 st	December 1 st
March/April	March 1 st	February 1 st
May/June	May 1 st	April 1 st

Receiving THE TOMBO

The Oita International Plaza mails THE TOMBO, free of charge, to all foreigners living in Oita prefecture. If you would like to start receiving THE TOMBO by mail, or you would like to cancel your subscription, or change your address, please send your name and address to the Oita International Plaza by mail, phone, fax, or E-mail (in@emo.or.jp)

Find your nearest evacuation shelter

~Necessities of life~

Do you know your closest evacuation center in the event of a disaster? The Oita Prefectural Government lists of evacuation shelters for each city and town in the prefecture have been updated and are available online. Visit the site listed below, locate your city's name next to a 避難所一覧 (hinanjo ichiran) 'evacuation shelter list', and open the link. Once you open the link, look through the 施設名 (shisetsumei) 'facility name' and 所在地 (shozaichi) 'location' to find the nearest shelter to you.

Prefectural Office evacuation shelter lists: <http://www.pref.oita.jp/life/1/3/9/>



Some shelters are specified for certain disasters due to their location, structural stability, height above sea level and proximity to rivers etc, so it is important to confirm whether your closest shelter is suitable only for certain disasters. Many municipalities have an evacuation shelter list on their homepage, and some have maps available if you go into your city office in person.

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THANK YOU !!

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HOURS: Monday-Friday 9:30am-7:00pm

(closed weekends and the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month. We are open on the Saturdays before these Mondays)

Closed national holidays & Dec 29th - Jan 3rd

The International Plaza is located on the basement floor of OASIS Hiroba 21 (iichiko Culture Center).

