
THE TOMBO

Oita's English Newsletter

July - August 2014

Issue 74

Oita Prefectural Art Museum



In addition to the new station building, Oita City has another big addition under construction. For the past year, residents of Oita may have seen large black and white posters featuring the letters 'OPAM' which stand for the 'Oita Prefectural Art Museum'. Construction on OPAM began in April 2013, and the building is scheduled to be finished in October 2014.

OPAM was designed by the world famous Japanese architect Shigeru Ban who is well known for architectural design work such as the Centre Pompidou-Metz and charity work including temporary disaster relief housing and buildings made from affordable, easily constructed materials such as cardboard and paper. The shared ideal behind OPAM is to create a "museum of encounters", where people can come and go freely. The art museum will be home to permanent exhibitions and special exhibitions which will require an admission fee, but large areas of the building will be open to the public, free of charge. Large horizontal folding panels on the front of the building will be raised each day to create a space where the exterior blends with the interior of the building, and an overpass has been constructed connecting OPAM with the Oasis building across the street.

OPAM



Oita Prefectural Art Museum small-scale model

The OPAM logo was created by visual design company Communication Design Laboratory artists, and incorporates the first letter from each of the English words "Oita Prefectural Art Museum". The letter "O" was transformed into a more circular shape, and the "A" was elongated as though stretching up to the heavens.

The OPAM official opening is scheduled for spring 2015. Once opened, the museum collection will contain approximately 4,900 pieces of artwork. The permanent exhibition will feature *Bungo Nanga* pieces by Tanomura Chikuden, Japanese works by Fukuda Heihachirou and Takayama Tatsuo, Western paintings by Ujiyama Teppei, sculptures by Asakura Fumio and bamboo crafts by Shouno Shouunsai, among many others. In addition to the permanent exhibition, there will be special exhibitions featuring domestic and international artwork.

The ground floor of OPAM will feature an open atrium, interchangeable display spaces, a store, a café and an outdoor area. Escalators will lead visitors up to the second floor which will be an education area: a space for children to enjoy. It will contain workshop and training rooms, a studio and another café. Lastly, the focus of the third floor will be a number of collection exhibition rooms, and an open roof feature to let in natural light.

Perhaps the most striking feature of OPAM will be the design of the exterior of the building. Inspired by Oita's woven bamboo crafts, architect Shigeru Ban designed a diagonal grid-like pattern to be constructed of prefectural lumber that will give the building a uniquely "Oita" feel. A similar design will also be featured on the roof. In the third floor ceiling section open to natural light, there is a structure with a similar grid-like pattern, this time fashioned into the shape of a wave.

Building progress and a construction site tour

In late May I was fortunate enough to participate in a brief tour of the OPAM construction site with several of my coworkers. Progress photos of the construction process are regularly uploaded to the OPAM homepage which gives viewers an idea of the developments, but getting to see the interior of the building and the surrounding site offered us an entirely different perspective.

Work was winding down for the day so we only saw a few construction workers in action but regulations required that we wear hard hats, gloves and covered clothing and footwear for the entire tour. After entering the site we headed straight into the building through a rear entrance where we were confronted with scaffolding and piles of timber and wall panels. We were led into a hallway along the back of the art museum, and then taken into the administration building which is technically separate from the main building. The administration building is intended for staff use only and extra artworks and pieces in need of restoration will be stored here.

On the roof we were shown the open ceiling feature designed to let sunlight into the building. The core of the wave-like feature is made from steel, and then finished with timber. As the guide explained the details of these unique features he added that many of the innovative building techniques have never been done before, so there has been an interesting learning curve for the builders.

After the roof we made our way down to the ground floor and saw the escalators stretching up to the second floor which appears to have no pillars or structural support holding it up. We were taken down to the basement floor car park that will be able to accommodate 107 cars, where we soon discovered how the unique, semi-freestanding structure is achieved. The guide lead us over to some large, squat concrete pillars that don't appear to be anything special, but are in fact part of the



Oita Prefectural Art Museum construction site tour group building's stability secret. OPAM was designed with cutting edge safety features in the event of natural disasters, particularly earthquakes. Almost 40 large underground pillars have been created and installed specifically to absorb the majority of the shock normally felt in an earthquake. A number of additional horizontal shock absorbers also significantly reduce any movement felt throughout the building to ensure that the highest safety standards are met. These reinforced underground pillars allow other structural support to be smaller and thinner than that of a regular building, which is how the completely open space upstairs was created.

At the end of the tour we gathered outside the building and were able to take a group photo from a distance. Even in its unfinished state you can see that it is taking shape. Examining the small-scale model and digitally designed images of the completed art museum it's not too much of a stretch to imagine the large wooden crisscross patterned exterior and wide open atrium of the ground floor. Lastly, we learned that OPAM is designed to be an eco-friendly facility. Around 40% of the lighting utilizes energy-saving bulbs, and the entire roof of the administration building will be fitted with solar panels to supply electricity to the art museum. Underground well water with an average temperature of 20 degrees Celsius all year round is used throughout the building not only as a water source but also in maintaining

EXHIBITIONS & SCREENINGS

Date	Description	Place	Admission	Contact #
Jun. 6 th – Jul. 13 th	Iwago Mitsuaki Cat Collection- a collection of photographs of cats from Japan and around the world	Oita Art Museum	¥800	☎ 097-554-5800
Jul. 18 th – Sep. 15 th	"Tougenkyou" expressing the spirit and linking culture- an exhibition of ink paintings by Japanese artists expressing the acute sensitivity and spirituality of Japanese culture	Oita Prefectural Museum of History	¥310	☎ 0978-37-2100
Jul. 18 th – Aug. 31 st	Oita Robot Fair 2014- an exhibition of robots from antique toys to modern day robots made with cutting edge technology	Oita Art Museum	¥1,000	☎ 097-554-5800

Oita Art Museum= Oita-Shi Bijutsukan 大分市美術館 Oita Prefectural Museum of History= 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.



STAGE & MUSIC EVENTS

Jul.	Time	Artist/Event	Venue	Cost	Contact #
7 th	19:00	Michio Kobayashi and the Verus String Quartet concert	iichiko Otonoizumi	¥2,000 - ¥4,000	☎ 097-533-4004
11 th	20:00	Hitomi Yoshimura live in Oita	Cantaloop II	¥2,300 +drink	☎ 097-548-5363
17 th	19:00	Rika Miyatani and Keiko Takahashi Piano Duo Grace concert	iichiko Otonoizumi	¥500	☎ 097-533-4004
19 th	19:30	Ikken Tap Dance Session- live tap	Brick Block	¥3,500 w/ drink	☎ 097-536-4852
20 th	13:00	Live Kagura- traditional Kagura dancing performed by local groups	Kagura Kaikan	¥1,000	☎ 0974-35-2372
20 th	18:30	Major 7th live in Oita	Cantaloop II	¥2,000 +drink	☎ 097-548-5363
25 th	19:30	Yoshitaka Minami live concert	Brick Block	¥6,000 +drink	☎ 097-536-4852
27 th	12:30	Beautiful Hula Festival	iichiko Otonoizumi	¥1,000	☎ 097-545-9393
*Jun.29 th -Jul.27 th	Multiple times	The 6th Patria Hita Arts Festival	Patria Hita	Inquire for details	☎ 0973-25-5000
Aug.	Time	Artist/Event	Venue	Cost	Contact #
2 nd	14:00	Drumstruck- world-first fun and interactive drumming performance workshop for all ages	iichiko Grand Theatre	¥2,000 - ¥4,000	☎ 097-533-4004
17 th	14:00	Senzoku Gakuen College of Music Oita Summer Concert 2014	iichiko Otonoizumi	¥1,000	☎ 090-2854-9116
27 th	11:00	Concert for Kids- featuring performances by a number of Japanese singers and musicians	iichiko Otonoizumi	¥1,500	☎ 097-533-4004
29 th , 30 th , 31 st	15:00	Pirate Ship 2014 SKOAL	T.O.P.S Bitts Hall	¥8,100 (3 day ticket)	☎ 097-533-0467

**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

iichiko Grand Theatre= Oasis Tower 1F Oita

City

iichiko Otonoizumi=Oasis Tower 1F 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

comfortable room temperatures.

The OPAM opening is scheduled for spring 2015, with the exact date to be confirmed. I hope that any TOMBO readers who find themselves in Oita

next spring will drop by OPAM to experience this innovative, never before seen "museum of encounters" that will become a hub for Oita Prefecture's artistic and cultural creations.

--- Nicole

Festivals and Events

Date	Event Description	Location	Contact #
Jul. 1 st – Sep. 30 th	Taketa Soft-serve Ice Cream Rally- grab a map and start eating delicious ice cream to collect stamps to go in the draw to win one of many prizes!	Taketa City Various locations	☎ 0974-63-0585
Jul. 11 th ~19 th	Usuki Gion Festival- a traditional festival that started in 1643. There are 3 portable shrines and 2 floats paraded from <i>Owatari</i> to <i>Okaeri</i> and scenery that suits the castle town Usuki can be seen during this festival.	Usuki City Castle town	☎ 0972-64-7130
Jul. 18 th ~19 th	Kasuga Shrine Summer Festival- around 300,000 people gather each year for this festival featuring traditional cultural performances and portable shrine procession.	Oita City Kasuga Shrine	☎ 097-532-5638
Jul. 19 th	Kimono Appreciation Day- held on the third Saturday of each month, with special offers and discounts for on kimono rental and professional photography.	Kitsuki City Jyouka-machi	☎ 0978-63-0100
Jul. 19 th ~20 th	Tsukumi Port Festival- visitors will be entertained with “Soiya Tsukumi” traditional dance on the 19 th , a fireworks display on the 20 th and much more!	Tsukumi City Chuo-machi area	☎ 0972-82-5111
Jul. 19 th ~20 th	Usa City Tanabata Festival- this summer festival will take place in Usa’s Yokka Ichi shopping area. Come see the decorations, parades and more!	Usa City Yokka-Ichi Area	☎ 0978-33-3433
Jul. 20 th	Jamaica Village 2014- an event for all ages including performances by well known reggae and ska artists 12:00~ 21:00 (advance tickets: ¥2000, on the day: ¥2500)	Usa City Innai-machi Heisei-no-mori Park	☎ 080-3371-4233
Jul. 20 th	Nagasakibana Summer Festival- will be held at Nagasakibana Resort Beach. Festival will include a variety of stage events and a display of 2000 fireworks.	Bungo-Takada City Nagasakibana Resort Campsite	☎ 0978-54-3111
Jul. 24 th ~25 th	Tenjin Festival- portable shrines will be carried throughout the city, and on the evening of the 25 th there will be a shrine against shrine hitting competition.	Kitsuki City Tobimatsu Tenman Shrine	☎ 0978-63-0100
Jul. 25 th ~27 th	Beppu Summer Early Evening Festival- over the two days there will markets, local food stalls, performances and a fireworks display on the evening of the 27 th .	Beppu City Spa Beach	☎ 0977-24-2828
Jul. 25 th ~27 th	Nakatsu Gion Festival- this prefecturally designated “Intangible Cultural Property” has 580 years of history. Highlights include shrine processions and more!	Nakatsu City Nakatsu Shrine Area	☎ 0979-22-1111
Jul. 26 th ~27 th	Hita Gion Festival- Hita Gion celebrates over 300years of history. Here you can see a portable shrine that is 10meters tall!	Hita City Mameda & Kuma Area	☎ 0973-24-6453
Jul. 26 th ~27 th	Nanase Fire Festival- torches are lit and carried across the 2km wide Nanase River, a traditional form of Japanese entertainment.	Oita City Nanase Nature Park	☎ 097-541-1234
Jul. 26 th ~27 th	Usa City Port Festival- this festival is dedicated to the ocean. There will be dances, performances and a fireworks display on the 26 th .	Usa City Nagasu Port	☎ 0978-33-3433
Aug. 1 st ~3 rd	Oita Tanabata Festival- this exciting summer festival takes place across downtown Oita, and features parades, performances, and dances.	Oita City Downtown Area	☎ 097-537-5959
Aug. 2 nd	Yabakei Dam Festival- this festival will feature events such as <i>taiko</i> drumming, water sports and a huge fireworks display.	Nakatsu City Yabakei Dam Area	☎ 0979-54-3111
Aug. 3 rd	Itogahama Beach Festa- events will include a beach volleyball tournament, beach flags tournament and a sand art contest.	Hiji-machi Itogahama Beach	☎ 0977-72-4255
Aug. 3 rd	Oita River Fireworks Festival- to celebrate the last day of the Oita Tanabata Festival, there will be a fireworks festival along the river.	Oita City Oita River	☎ 097-538-9647
Aug. 10 th	Mama-chari World Grand Prix- yes, that’s right: this event is a 4hour endurance race on a ‘ <i>mama-chari</i> ’ bicycle with prizes for the winners. Registration is necessary (around 7 different classes) and riders must wear a helmet and gloves.	Hita City Autopolis Circuit	☎ 0973-55-1111
Aug. 14 th ~15 th	Himeshima Bon-Odori Festival- Himeshima <i>Bon-Odori</i> dances are said to have come from <i>Nenbutsu</i> folk dances. Come see traditional local dances such as the ‘fox dance’, recreated and performed each and every year.	Himeshima Village Chuo-Hiroba	☎ 0978-87-2111
Aug. 15 th ~16 th	Yufuin Bon Matsuri- groups of <i>Bon</i> dancers and a fireworks on Yufumi-dori behind Yufuin JR Station.	Yufu City Yufuin-machi	☎ 0977-84-3111
Aug. 16 th	Summer Night Festival- this festival will feature <i>Bon-Odori</i> dances and a fireworks display at Musashi port in Musashi-Machi.	Kunisaki City Musashi port	☎ 0978-72-5168
Aug. 16 th ~17 th	Nakatsue Music Festival- a number of artist will gather together to perform relaxing acoustic music under the sun. Fishing and camping areas nearby.	Hita City Nakatsue-Mura	☎ 0973-54-3111
Aug. 18 th	Takada Tourism Bon Dance Competition- teams of <i>Bon</i> dancers will compete against each other, dancing along the streets of Showa-no-machi.	Bungo Takada City Chuo Park	☎ 0978-22-2412
Aug. 30 th	Usuki Stone Buddha Fire Festival- 1000 torches will be lit around the ancient stoneBuddha carvings which are nationally designated treasures. It is the biggest fire festival in West Japan!	Usuki City Fukata	☎ 0972-64-7130

What's Going On?

From the Plaza

Volunteer Translators and Interpreters Skill-up Workshop "Disaster Interpreting" edition

As part of its volunteer translators and interpreters service designed to help international residents in need of help, the Oita International Plaza will be holding a training workshop on "Disaster Interpreting" for all registered volunteers. The workshop will cover detailed information on the types of difficult situations that international residents might find themselves in if there is a disaster, and how volunteers can help. Participation is free, registration required.

Contact: Mrs. Osei

TEL: 097-533-4021 E-MAIL: osei@emo.or.jp

Date/Time: **Jul. 26th / 14:00 – 15:30**

Venue: Middle Meeting Room 2 (iichiko Culture Center, 4F)

Free Legal Consultations

The Oita International Plaza is holding free legal consultations on **Jul. 16th & Aug. 20th** 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. English interpretation available, other languages may be available with reservation two days in advance.

Date/Time: **Jul. 6th & Aug. 3rd / 13:00 - 16:00**

Venue: the Oita International Plaza

For more information contact the Oita International Plaza.

TEL: 097-533-4021

Free Tagalog Consultations

Date: Saturday **Jul. 5th** & Tuesday **Jul. 15th**

Saturday **Aug. 2nd** & Tuesday **Aug. 19th**

Time: **13:00-16:00**

Venue: Oita International Plaza (iichiko Culture Center, B1F)

Consultant: Rhodora Yoshitake

Free Chinese Consultations

Date/Time: **Every Thursday 10:00-13:00**. 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

Venue: Oita International Plaza (iichiko Culture Center, B1F)

Free Health Consultations

The Saiseikai Hita Hospital offers free health consultations and medical examinations at the Oita International Plaza to foreign nationals living in Oita Prefecture.

Date/Time: **Aug. 19th / 14:30 - 15:30**

Venue: Oita International Plaza (iichiko Culture Center, B1F)

For more information contact: Saiseikai Hita Hospital (*Dates and times are subject to change. Please call in advance to confirm times)

TEL: 0973-24-1100

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. 10:00-11:30

Meiji Akeno Public Hall Wed. 14:00-15:30

Tsurusaki Public Hall Sat. 10:00-11:30

For more information contact Ms. Fukata TEL: 097-527-2614

E-MAIL: nihongo_himawari_oita@yahoo.co.jp

Nihongo Rakuraku-talk

Beppu City Hall offers free Japanese lessons every Monday from 14:00-15:30. For more information contact Mr. Kii in the Beppu International Affairs Division

TEL: 0977-21-6133 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 of charge. 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 Beppu Foreign Tourist Information Office on Tuesday mornings from 10:00-12:00.

For more information contact:

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

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

Community Classes and Events

Happy Talk

Come practice speaking Japanese with other learners and native speakers. Reservations not required, just show up on the day. Held every 2nd Saturday of the month at the Oita International Plaza, the date of the next session is **Jul. 12th**

Time: **13:00 – 14:30**

Please bring your own drink if you like. Participation is FREE.

For more details contact Sunny: orixbluewaves@gmail.com

or visit the Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/HappyTalkOita>

べっはち Beppu Rainbow Society

Tanabata tree-decorating event

Date: Sunday 6 July from 10am to 1pm

Place: International Salon in Beppu City

Participation: Free of charge

For more information on upcoming events, visit the Beppu Rainbow Society Facebook page

<https://www.facebook.com/beppu.rainbow.society>

English speaking doctors in Oita Prefecture Necessities of Life



Going to the hospital in Japan can be daunting if you don't speak very much Japanese. The Oita Prefectural Government Medical Policy Division has put together a comprehensive list of hospitals and clinics that offer support in languages other than Japanese including English, Chinese, Korean, Portuguese, Tagalog, Spanish, Vietnamese, French, Thai, Russian, German and Swahili. The level of language support available is categorised into native level, conversational level and basic level, and in some cases the hospital must be informed in advance to make the necessary arrangements.

The PDF file is available for download on the Oita Prefectural Government homepage <http://www.pref.oita.jp/soshiki/12620/hosp-foreignlanguage.html>

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THANK YOU !!

A special thanks to all those who co-operated with us for this issue. Your help was very much appreciated.

THE TOMBO is produced by:

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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).

