

THE TOMBO

OITA'S • ENGLISH • NEWSLETTER

March-April 2011

Issue 55

Oita Fun Facts

This edition of THE TOMBO introduces some random trivia about Oita Prefecture to better acquaint readers with some charming and interesting aspects of our beloved area and to shed light on some little-known facts about Oita Prefecture.

Most Tunnels in Japan

Oita has a very rugged terrain from the jugged coastline in southern Oita, which is part of the Nippo Coast Quasi-National Park, to the 1700-meter-tall Kuju Mountain and surrounding ranges, which boast the highest peaks in Kyushu. Although road construction in Oita is a daunting task, Oita is able to claim the highest number of tunnels of any prefecture in Japan (518 tunnels).

The tunnel pictured here, Ao-No-Domon, has an amazing story behind it dating back to the 1700s, when a fugitive turned monk carved the tunnel through the mountain side for 30 years, with just a hammer and a chisel! He thus repented for killing his master by easing the travels of the locals of the town where he escaped to after the crime, which is present day Nakatsu City in Oita. The story is the basis for Kikuchi Kan's novel, which is entitled "The Realm Beyond" in the English translation printed by Hara Publishing Company.



Most Hot Springs in Japan

Most Oita residents and visitors are aware of the plethora of hot springs available throughout the prefecture, but did you know that Oita has the highest number of hot spring sources in Japan and ranks second in the world? Yellowstone National Park in the United States claims the most hot spring sources, but Oita is next in line with 5,093 hot springs. From carbonated baths, that you can soak in, at Nagayu Hot Spring in Taketa, to all kinds of hot water baths, hot mud baths, and hot sand baths in Beppu, these wonders of nature are a must-see, must-do experience!



Most Bamboo in Japan

Oita Prefecture is the number one producer of *madake* bamboo (at 114,000 sheaves/year), which is a flexible and pressure resistant variety that is ideal for use in bamboo crafts and handiwork. Thanks to the local hot springs, the tourist industry in Beppu started booming during the Edo Period (1603-1867), and products made of bamboo were used in the daily rituals of the local people trying to accommodate visitors. As the visitors started to find charm in these bamboo products, they gained souvenir value, and bamboo as a handicraft developed into an industry in Beppu.

Eventually, a bamboo crafts training center opened in Beppu in 1903, and the national government has recognized about 20 artists as "Master Craftsmen", as they are able to manipulate the rough bamboo material into weaved designs of exquisite beauty. The art has gained national attention with Beppu Bamboo Craft exhibitions in Thailand and Italy. There is now also a Traditional Bamboo Crafts Center in Beppu City, where visitors can learn about the history of the craft, try their hand at bamboo crafts or even purchase some bamboo products of their own.



Most Dried Shiitake Mushrooms in Japan

Not only does Oita have the highest production amount of dried shiitake mushrooms nationally, the cultivation of shiitake mushrooms is said to have originated in Oita. With production at 1,348 tons/year, Oita claims about 35% of the national market, and Oita's mushrooms often take home first prize for top quality in national competitions. Furthermore, the Shiitake Promotion Section of the Oita Prefectural Government, is actively working to help expand the Oita Shiitake Cooperative's market to Thailand and China. The Oita Shiitake Cooperative gives a huge trophy, filled with dried shiitake mushrooms, to the winner of the *honbashi* sumo tournament, which is a professional tournament that takes place throughout Japan six times a year.

Rice balls made with shiitake throughout Oita Prefecture were also designated as one of Japan's "100 Top Traditional Onigiri" back in 1986 when there were efforts to promote Japan's traditional rice-centered diet.



Onta Yaki- Ancient Pottery

Sarayama is a pottery village located in the mountains outside of Hita City. There are 10 kilns in the village which have been passed down, along with the secrets of the craft, directly from father to son since the early 1700s! The current day potters still use ancient techniques, which are considered eco-friendly in modern times, employing only manual-powered wheels, wood-burning kilns, and water-powered mortars to pound the clay. These techniques are designated by the Japanese Agency of Cultural Affairs as an "Important Intangible Cultural Property". It should be noted that it is the intangible methods used to create the product, and not necessarily the product itself, which are regarded as culturally important.

Furthermore, the sound of the mortars pounding the clay, which echoes throughout the village, was designated as one of the "Top 100 Soundscapes of Japan" in 1996, to protect aural experiences worth preserving for future generations. Although the highly-protected methods used are ancient, the designs are regarded as modern, or rather time-less classics, and were admired by the "father of British studio pottery" Bernard Leach.



Oita International Wheelchair Marathon



The Oita International Wheelchair Marathon was started in 1981 to commemorate the International Year of Disabled Persons, and was actually the world's first international competition exclusive to wheelchair athletes. It has been held in Oita every year since, growing to arguably be the most acclaimed wheelchair competition in the world! The competition welcomes approximately 400 athletes a year, with participants from approximately 30 different countries participating. Switzerland native Heinz Frei still holds the world's best record in the T53/54 division for men, which he established in Oita in 1999, at 1 hour 20 minutes and 14 seconds.



OITA CHARITY CYCLING



For the past 13 years, Oita JETs and friends have been organizing a charity bike ride to raise funds for various charities. From March 19th to the 21st, we will cycle approximately 300km through the beautiful countryside of Oita Prefecture from Beppu, along the coast to Kunisaki, through Nakatsu along the Yabakei Cycling Road and back to Beppu. Prior to and during the bike trip, both riders and volunteers will raise money for Room to Read, a non-profit organization dedicated to providing educational opportunities to underprivileged children, particularly in the form of building schools and libraries. Over the past 14 years Oita JETs have raised over 2,000,000 yen to help build schools in Vietnam, Nepal and Sri Lanka.

After contributing 650,000 yen last year through this Charity Cycling Event, St. Mary's Preschool in the Mannar District of Sri Lanka was built. This northern region of Sri Lanka was heavily impacted by the recently concluded civil war and has become a major resettlement area for people displaced by the conflict. Room to Read partnered with the local government to help rebuild the war-torn region through building schools for children and their families, as they try to resume their lives.

This year we are looking to raise even more than last year in order to build a stand alone library. Please contribute to this worthy cause by donating to this year's Oita Jet Charity Cycling Event.

Contributions can be sent directly via bank transfer (*furikomi*) to the following account:

Bank: Oita Bank, Taketa Branch おおいとぎんこう たけた してん 大分銀行 竹田支店

Account: 普通 (Regular) 5238460 ふつう

Name: 大分国際チャリティー (Oita International Charity) おおいとこくさい



For more information email:

oitajetcycling@gmail.com

Homepages:

<http://oitajetcharitycycling.wordpress.com/>

<http://www.roomtoread.org>



The 2nd Oita English Language Teaching Seminar

Oita JALT is proud to announce it will be co-sponsoring the 2nd Oita English Language Teaching Seminar. This is the second such event to be held in Oita and will be held in collaboration with ETJ Oita, Oki-NET and Pearson Kiriara KK.

There will be 7 presentations focusing on teaching English to students in elementary school, junior and senior high school, and college/university, as well as adult TESOL classes.

There will also be a materials display from Pearson Kiriara KK, a book shop provided by Little Monsters ELT Books and a coffee shop too! This promises to be Oita's biggest English language teaching event of the year so please make a note in your diary. We hope you will be able to join us!

Date: Sunday, April 17th

Time: 9:30 AM - 4:00 PM

Location: Oita City

Cost: Free

Venue: Compal Hall Room 400 (Art Room) Oita City

For further information please go to:

<http://jalt.org/groups/oita> or

<http://www.elcalendar.com/events/details/5046>

The presenters include:

Simon Goddard Weedon (E English School / The Daily Yomiuri). "Does Grammar exist? Alternative approaches to understanding the role of grammar in language learning and alternative methods for teaching grammar in class"

Kazuya Yamamoto (Oita Fuzoku Elementary School) & **Ed Kellerman** (Oita Fuzoku Elementary School / Albion English School) "TBA"

Scott Aubrey (Risumeikan APU) "Improving student interaction in the classroom"

Monica Hamciuc (Risumeikan APU) "Project based learning - A case study"

Antoinette Jones & Warren McDonald (Ritsumeikan APU) "Language beat: Using music to enhance language learning"

Tristan Scholze (Rainbow Bridges / Fukuoka Women's College) "TBA"

Meg Takemura (Pearson Kiriara) "TBA"

Go Slow, Be Happy

Fifth Annual World Day of Slow Living and Third Annual Sunset Walk

In honor of the Fifth World Day of Slow Living, we in Oita are showing just how slow we can be by celebrating one month late!

The 'real' World Day of Slow Living, which began in Italy and is now called the Global Day of Slowness, is officially taking place this year on February 28. On this day, in New York and other cities around the world, activities are being planned to bring attention to the idea of people using their time wisely and in harmony with the environment. In Oita, we will celebrate on March 22, with the Third Annual Sunset Walk from Oita International Plaza's Multi-Lingual Library to the Oita Prefectural Library.

Full details for the event are posted below. If you like to go slow, feel the need to slow down, or if you just want to experience a relaxed walk through some backstreets in town, please set aside some time for going slow and join-in on this day. Saunter as the sun goes down, take time to meet new friends, and read books with fellow Oitans. Singles, doubles, friends, families, students, any combinations welcome.

Slow Living Sunset Walk

Date: Tuesday, March 22

Time: 17:30-19:00

Meet: 17:15 at Oita International Plaza

OASIS Tower B1, Oita City

For information about Oita Sunset Walk contact Joanne:

joannegyoshida@yahoo.com

To find out more about the World Day of Slow Living, visit the site of the non-profit Cultural Association The Art of Slow Living:

<http://www.goslowbehappy.com>

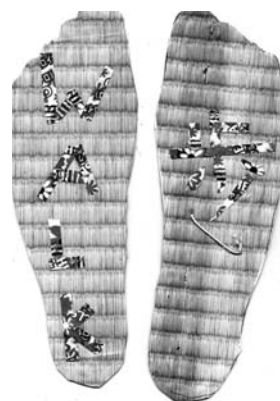


I end on a slow note with a poem I wrote after our First Annual Sunset Walk. I hope it gives you the flavor of the event. The 'footprints' refer both to our walk and to footprint bookmarks we made and passed to people we met along the route. At the culmination of the event we took books from the shelves and sat at big wood tables in the beautiful Oita Prefectural library and read books aloud.

Of Sunset, Moonlit Walks, Books, and Footprints

When you live in a land
where there are so many books
you don't understand
Sometimes you want to join with a band
of friends and walk to where there are books
written in a language you do
comprehend.
Or even listen to others read in theirs.
To pass a footprint on and
put a footprint in the place that you want to share.
Read a passage aloud.
Read one to yourself
As the sky goes from blue to orange
You walk to where the books are;
Stay and take one off the shelf
Read it
lovingly
The way the poet
Ryokan
wrote lovingly
about his
vase.

---Joanne G. Yoshida



Festivals & Events

Date	Event Description	Location	Contact #
March 19 th & April 16 th	Oita City Park Flea Market- Held on the 3 rd Saturday of every month. Food stalls and flea market vendors offering goods for sale from 10am to 3pm.	Oita City Wakakusa Park	☎097-573-7377
March 19 th	Healthy Spring Walking Event- Starting at Mikazuki Waterfall Park, this 12-km walk rally, will take participants past historical and tourist spots. Local food vendors and prize drawings too!	Kuju Machi Mikazuki Waterfall	☎0973-72-1313
March 20 th	7th Innai Town Market- A fun local event featuring the sale of local produce, foods, crafts and handmade products, and a mini-concert and exhibitions at the Innai Town Hall.	Usa City Innai Machi	☎0978-42-6007
March 26 th	Hiji Fishery Appreciation Day- A day to show thanks to customers of the local fish port. Fresh-catches on sale at discount, and various other events to take place at this local event.	Hiji Machi Oga Fukae Port	☎0977-72-4255
March 27 th & April 16 th	Uki Uki Flea Market- Come meet locals and get deals on goods from 11:30am to 3pm!	Oita City Oasis Tower 1F	☎097-538-7411
April 1 st ~ April 3 rd	Beppu Hot Spring Festival- This yearly event opens over 100 municipal-run hot springs in Beppu to bathers for free! Events take place around the city to celebrate the blessed waters.	Throughout Beppu City	☎0977-24-2828
April 2 nd	Mount Ogi Fire Festival- Ogi-yama will be set aflame as part of the Beppu Hot Spring Festival. Scenes of the mountain on fire and the hot spring steam rising provide great photo opportunities!	Beppu City Ogi-yama	☎0977-24-2828
April 3 rd	Awashima Park Flower Festival- Awashima Shrine Park is a designated cherry blossom spot. On April 3 rd there will be stage performances and food vendors in the park entertaining visitors.	Bungo-Takada Usuno	☎0978-53-5111
April 3 rd	Aki-Machi Cherry Blossom Festival- The 3000 cherry blossom trees along Aki Dam will be in full bloom, and various events will take place. The week following the festival the trees will also be lit up at night so visitors can enjoy night viewing.	Kunisaki City Aki-Machi Aki Dam	☎0978-72-5168
April 5 th	Kurushima Night Market- On the ancient streets in Morimoto-Machi, agricultural products and handicrafts will be on sale from 7pm. Photo/art exhibits & concerts will take place too!	Kusu-Machi	☎0973-72-2374
April 8 th	Yokozu Shrine Spring Festival- Come enjoy spring in bloom at this local event with festivities and performances, on the grounds of Yokozu Shrine, a local cherry blossom hot spot. Views of Beppu Bay, Mount Tsurumi, and the Kunisaki Peninsula from the shrine are also spectacular!	Hiji-Machi Fujiwara Yokozu Shrine	☎0977-72-3153
April 9 th ~ April 10 th	Kibe Shrine Children's Lion Dance- Children work together to operate the head and body of a lion in this traditional Japanese-style Lion Dance (<i>shishimai</i>) performance.	Kunisaki City Kunimi-Machi	☎0978-72-2677
April 10 th	Tsurumi Mountain Hiking Competition- This hike offers participants 3 courses with an average hiking time of 5 hours, depending on ability. The hike starts at sea level, on Spa Beach, and reaches heights of 1,375m at the top of Mt. Tsurumi. All courses avoid major roads!	Beppu City From Spa Beach to Mt. Tsurumi Peak	☎0977-24-2828
April 23 rd	Making Earthenware Sculptures Workshop- Come to the Oita City Historical Museum to experience ancient crafts. Workshop starts 9:30am, 210 yen fee. Make a reservation by April 6 th .	Oita City Historical Museum	☎097-549-0880
April 25 th	Kaiten Shrine Annual Memorial- A special torpedo training unit was established in Hiji in May 1945, in last-ditch efforts to turn the tide of the World War II. Kaiten Shrine is the only shrine in Japan for worshipping the spirits of torpedo unit troop members. Every year on April 25 th people from all over Japan gather to pay respects to these soldiers.	Hiji-Machi Kaiten Shrine	☎0977-72-4255
April 29 th	Annual Omoto Shrine Festival- This is a festival at the inner-most shrine of Usa Shrine Complex. Omoto Shrine at the top of Mount Omoto will open the 2-hour hiking course and have rice-cake pounding and more!	Usa City Usa Jingu Omoto Shrine	☎0978-37-0001
April 29 th	Baien Festival- This event honors Baien Miura, an astronomer, literary artist, and ancient sage of Oita Prefecture, through festivities including children's <i>kagura</i> , and poetry & essay reading.	Kunisaki City Aki-Machi	☎0978-67-0155
April 29 th	Showa Town 10-Year-Anniversary- Showa Town in Bungo-Takada celebrates the 10 th anniversary since its establishment with grand-scale events on the national holiday "Showa Day", which honors Emperor Hirohito, who reigned during the Showa Era from 1926 to 1989.	Bungo-Takada Showa-no-Machi	☎0978-22-3100

Cherry Blossom Season

The beginning of spring in Japan is marked by the short-lived yet beautiful site of cherry blossom (*sakura*) trees in bloom. In traditional-style, people in Japan celebrate by picnicking under the trees day and night! Below is a short list of some well-known spots around the prefecture to enjoy this recreational activity of partying under the cherry blossom trees in bloom, also known as *hanami*, or flower-viewing.

Blossom Period	City	Location	Address/Directions	# of Trees	Contact #
Early April	Beppu City	Mount Ogi Sakura Garden 扇山桜の園	5 minute drive from Beppu IC	¥10,000	☎0977-21-4023
Early April	Bungo Ono City (Kiyokawa)	Mitake Forest Sakuras 御嶽林道桜並木	1 hour from Mera IC: Route 10 – Route 326 - Route 502	¥3,000	☎0974-35-2111
Early April ~ Mid April	Hita City (Nakatsue)	Shimouke Dam 下釜ダム周辺	40 minute drive from Hita IC	¥5,000	☎0973-54-3111
Late March ~ Early April	Oita City	Peace Park 平和市民公園	Near the Oita Prefectural Art Hall	¥1,850	☎097-558-8135
Early April	Taketa City	Oka Castle Ruins 岡城跡	15 minute drive from JR Bungo Taketa Station	¥2,500	☎0974-63-4807
Late March ~ Early April	Usa City	Usa Shrine 宇佐神宮	10 minute drive from JR Usa Station	¥1,500	☎0978-37-0001
Late March ~ Early April	Usuki City	Usuki Park (Usuki Castle) 臼杵公園 (臼杵城跡)	10 minute walk from JR Usuki Station	¥1,000	☎0972-63-1111

Stage & Music Events

Mar.	Time	Artist/Event	Venue	Cost	Contact #
4 th	18:30	MISIA- The tour of MISIA (famous female pop artist)	iichiko Grand Theater	¥7,500	☎092-714-0159
4 th	22:00	Hoopla- House music club event	DJ's Bar Trip	¥2,000 w/drink	☎097-533-8249
5 th	22:00	Mintdragon Rock Event- Takamasa bar closing in April!	2Banchō Takamasa Bar	¥1,000	☎090-3608-1259
6 th	2 shows	Comedy Theater- Big names perform at 13:30 and 17:30	iichiko Grand Theater	¥3,500	☎097-575-0085
11 th	19:00	Chamber Music Oita Grand- 2 nd annual concert	iichiko Otonoizumi Hall	¥1,000~2,000	☎090-9562-3013
12 th	14:00	QuatuorB Classical Music- Classical music quintet concert	Kusu-Machi CC	¥500~1,000	☎0973-72-0601
12 th	18:30	Bluegrass Spring Festival- Oita Bluegrass Music Association	Brick Block	¥1,500 w/drink	☎097-536-4852
13 th	18:00	Un Viaggio Nuovo- Contemporary dance performance	Patoria Hita	¥500~1,500	☎0973-25-5000
13 th	13:00	Beating Rhythms Charity Performance- Beats, song & dance	iichiko Grand Theater	¥1,000~2,000	☎097-536-7230
16 th 17 th	19:00 13:00	The Shape of Things- Stage performance rendition of the film by Neil Labute, starring Japanese actor Osamu Mukai & others	iichiko Otonoizumi Hall	¥3,000~7,000	☎097-533-4004
19 th	18:30	Ueno High School Choir- 21 st annual recital performance	iichiko Otonoizumi Hall	¥300~500	☎097-543-6249
21 st	13:30	Oginodai High School Brass Band- 31 st annual performance	iichiko Grand Theater	¥500~700	☎097-541-0123
27 th	13:00	Rakugo- Traditional Japanese comedic storytelling	Kunisaki Culture Center	¥1,000~2,000	☎0978-72-2121
27 th	14:00	Junior Orchestra- Conducted by Mark Galanos	iichiko Grand Theater	¥500~2,000	☎097-533-4004
April	Time	Artist/Event	Venue	Cost	Contact #
2 nd	14:00	Viola Recital Vol. 3- Viola performance by Masaki Shono	iichiko Otonoizumi Hall	¥1,000~2,000	☎097-533-1129
2 nd	13:00	Flute Duet Dual Performance- Concerts in Oita & Okayama	Compal Hall 3F	¥1,500~2,000	☎090-6776-4743
3 rd	18:00	Arabesque Belly Dance- w/ Isis Atzumi & Jasmine Jena	iichiko Grand Theater	¥1,500~3,000	☎090-8412-5820
19 th	18:30	Wedding Singer- Comedy musical stage performance	iichiko Grand Theater	¥3,000~7,000	☎097-533-4004
21 st	19:00	Tenor Recital- Vocalist Shoko Gyoten w/ piano accompaniment	iichiko Otonoizumi Hall	¥1,500~2,500	☎080-6425-5661
23 rd	18:30	Women's Choir Performance- 30 th Anniversary performance	iichiko Otonoizumi Hall	¥500~1,000	☎090-7246-4638
26 th	19:00	Chopin Piano Concerto Night- Performance of Chopin pieces	iichiko Otonoizumi Hall	¥2,000	☎097-545-4301

Ticket prices range from student to most expensive 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 1 drink, "+drink" prices require the additional purchase of a drink. Times shown indicate start times, doors usually open 30 minutes beforehand.

Venues

Ajimu Culture Center- YShimoge 2130,
Ajimu-Machi, Usa City
Art Plaza- Niage-Machi 3-31, Oita City
Brick Block- Ikushi 5-7-5, Oita City
B-Con Plaza- Yamanote-Machi 12-1,
Beppu City
Compal Hall- Funai-Machi 1-5-38,
Oita City

DJ's Bar Trip- Miyako-Machi 2-3-6, Toyo
Kaikan Bldg. 3F, Oita City
Gallery Omichi- Omichi-Machi 1-2-16,
Oita City
iichiko Otonoizumi- OASIS Tower 3F,
Takasago-Machi 2-33, Oita City
iichiko Grand Theater- OASIS Tower 4F,
Takasago-Machi 2-33, Oita City

Kusu-Machi Chuo Community Center-
Iwamuro 24-1, Kusu-Machi
Oita City Historical Museum-
960-1 Kokubu, Oita City
Patoria Hita- Sanbonmatsu 1-8-11,
Hita City
2-Banchō Takamasa Bar- Chuo-Machi
3-7-22, Oita City



Exhibitions & Screenings

Date	Description	Venue	Cost	Contact #
March 5 th	International Movie Screening- Canadian native Phillip Anastapalous will introduce Canadian movie "The Corporation", and hold a discussion to promote international understanding from 1:30pm.	Oasis B1 Screening Hall	Free	☎097-533-4021
March 11 th ~ March 31 st	Nagasaki Now Photo Exhibition- This exhibition, entitled "Common-place Nagasaki~ Miraculous People" in Japanese, documents the images of atomic-bomb victims and survivors in present-day Nagasaki.	Gallery Omichi	Free	☎097-547-4155
March 14 th	Ajimu Movie Screening- Screenings of the Japanese movie "Ototo" will be shown at 10am and 2pm at the Ajimu-Bunk-Kaikan in Usa City.	Usa City Ajimu Culture Cntr.	¥1,000	☎0978-34-4839
March 21 st	Korean Movie Screening- Two Korean movies being screened for free in Beppu! "My Piano (For Horowitz)" from 1pm and "Lump Sugar" from 3pm.	B-Con Plaza Meeting Room 1F	Free	☎0977-26-7111
March 29 th ~ April 4 th	Art Plaza Events- Calligraphy exhibition (2F Art Hall), colored pencil drawings (1F Gallery A), group exhibit-paintings & installations (1F Gallery B)	Art Plaza	Free	☎097-538-5000
April 23 rd ~ July 4 th	Oita-Portugal Exchange Exhibit- This exhibit introduces the cultural and historical exchange between Oita City and Portugal since the 1500s.	Oita City Historical Museum	¥200	☎097-549-0880

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

Japanese Lessons

What's Going On?

Community

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 Miharuru TEL: 097-527-2614

E-MAIL: nihongo_himawari_oita@yahoo.co.jp

Asian Culture Exchange Center

Free Japanese lessons near Oita River on the 2nd floor of the Yutaka Building in Yutaka-Machi, Oita City. Wednesday from 10:10~11:40. Asian Culture Exchange Center TEL: 097-537-0122 CELL: 090-4580-9550 (Ms. Noda)

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 10:30~12:30 at the Oita University International House in Nishiki-Machi, Oita City. Classes cost 500yen per 3 month term. For more information call Ohashi-san 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 10:30~12:00. For more information contact:

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

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

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?

Thursday Evening Monthly Meditation at Organic Cafe Hana: Explore meditation one Thursday a month from 7PM to 8PM. 1500yen includes tea and sweets. Meditation and English: Monday mornings, Nakajima Ko-minkan. For information, schedule or questions please contact Joanne at 097-573-8053 or joannegyoshida@yahoo.com

French Club

French Coordinator for International Relations, Ms. Ambre Tesnier, is holding a French language club open to intermediate speakers on Wednesdays from 1pm to 2:30pm at the Oita Prefectural College of Arts and Culture. Please contact Ambre directly for more information anburu1984@gmail.com

European Language Lessons

Spanish, Italian and Portuguese language classes are available in Oita City. Group lessons are 6,000yen per month (4 classes) and individual lessons are 12,000yen per month (4 classes). Please contact the following numbers for more information:

Spanish: Mr. Ruben Martin 080-3374-4920

Italian: Mr. Luigi Iannotti 090-6633-8143

Portuguese: Ms. Cristina Gomez 080-3373-5286

Word Lover's Group Anyone?

We have started a small group of writers in Oita. We meet once a month in Oita City to discuss writing, share texts that we are working on, and encourage and support each other's writing projects and ideas. We would like to continue to meet on this basis, as well as facilitate readings and literary events in cafes and other spaces in Oita or Beppu. For exact times, and other information, please contact Joanne.

E-MAIL: joannegyoshida@yahoo.com

Lunch With Us?

Japanese home cooking club for international families living in Beppu, takes place on **Friday April 22nd** at Women's Center Fujin Kaikan "Nadeshiko" from 11:00~14:00. 500yen to participate. For more information contact Beppu International Affairs Division TEL: 0977-21-6133

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

From the Plaza

Japanese Chat @ OIP

Come to the Oita International Plaza to exchange with locals and practice your Japanese conversation skills one-on-one in a relaxed atmosphere.

Saturday March 26th 1pm~2:30pm

Saturday April 23rd 1pm~2:30pm

Saturday May 21st 1pm~2:30pm

Space is limited! Contact us to reserve your seat!

TEL: 097-533-4021

E-MAIL: melissa@emo.or.jp

International Movie Screening

Canadian native Phillip Anastapoulos will introduce a Canadian movie to promote international understanding.

Details: March 5th from 2pm, OASIS Tower B1 Screening Hall

No reservations necessary and participation is free! Inquire at the Oita International Plaza 097-533-4021

Free Legal Consultations

The Oita International Plaza is holding free legal consultations on **March 16th and April 20th from 13:00~16:00**. The Oita Emigration/Immigration Affairs Council also organizes free consultations on 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 March 6th and April 3rd 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 March 5th, April 2nd, April 19th

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 2nd and 4th Tuesday of every 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

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 deeper understanding of each character. This month's character set is:

TRAIN 「電車」

The character 「電」, which is read デン, shows the character for “rain” 「雨」 on top of the character for “lightening” 「电」, to take on the meaning:

ELECTRIC 「電」

The character 「車」, which is read シャ or くるま, depicts the aerial view of a carriage with wheels on either side to take on the meaning:

VEHICLE/CAR 「車」

The characters for “electric” and “car” were combined to form the character meaning:

TRAIN 「電車」

The following sentence exemplifies the different readings of the above characters:

車がないから電車で行きます。

I don't have a car so I will go by train.

The Animated Adventures of Oita Ben 大分弁講座

So Oita Ben and his friendly friends, Hyo Jun Go and Guy Jean, had decided to get away from the enveloping drama that ensued as they had let their utmost utterly unforgivable opponent JAPANESE JARGON escape them in a fleeting moment. They had agreed that they would all flee to the comforting comfort of Nagayu's carbonated hot springs, where a little rest and relaxation from the taxing life of semi-retired language saving super-heroes awaited them.

They had prepared their bags with liquor, liquid soap, linguistic books and more, and they had booked their train tickets, booked their private baths, and booked it down to the train station fast. As they each had promised to do in advance, they called hotels to book accommodations but in fact, reservations were not accepted to which they all reported back:

Guy Jean: I was told we do not have to make reservations in advance.

Hyo Jun Go: 予約をしておかなくてもいいと言われた。

Oita Ben: 予約をしちよかんでいいと言われた。

～しておかなくてもいい＝～ちよかんでいい

In the last lesson, we introduced the use of 「～ておく」 for doing something in advance. This lesson, we use 「～しておかなくてもいい」 to express that doing something in advance is not necessary or literally “it is okay not to do ~ in advance”. In Oita dialect the 「～しておかなくてもいい」 form becomes 「～ちよかんでいい」 and is similarly added to the stem of the te-form of a verb. However, with verbs ending in 「ぶ」, 「む」 and 「ぐ」, 「～ちよかんでいい」 becomes 「～じよかんでいい」.

For example:

Do not have to call in advance

電話しておかなくてもいい 電話しちよかんでいい

Do not have to eat before coming

食べておかなくてもいい 食べちよかんでいい

Do not have to read in advance

読んでおかなくてもいい 読んじよかんでいい

Foreign Movies Showing in Oita

Cinema	Movie	Showing Date
Cinema5	Little Nicholas (French)	~ Mar. 13 th
Central Oita (on 5 th Ave)	Seraphine (French, German, Latin)	~ Mar. 13 th
☎097-536-4512	Food, Inc.	Mar. 19 th ~ 25 th
	We Feed the World	Mar. 19 th ~ 25 th
	Kick-Ass	Mar. 19 th ~
	Ricky (French)	Mar. 26 th ~ Apr. 1 st
	Taking Woodstock	Apr. 2 nd ~ 15 th
	Potiche (French)	Apr. 2 nd ~ 15 th
	MONGA (Min Nan, Mandarin)	Apr. 9 th ~ 22 nd
	Mrs. Palfrey at the Claremont	Apr. 9 th ~ 22 nd
	Antichrist	Apr. 16 th ~ 22 nd
	Eccentricities of a Blond Hair Girl (Portuguese)	Apr. 23 rd ~ 30 th
Toho Cinemas Wasada Town ☎097-548-7878	The Chronicles of Narnia: The Voyage of the Dawn Treader	Feb. 25 th ~
	Morning Glory	Feb. 25 th ~
	The Tourist	March 11 th ~
	Battle: Los Angeles	April 1 st ~
	Sucker Punch	April 16 th ~
	Gulliver's Travels	April 16 th ~
	Sanctum	April 23 rd ~
T-Joy Cinemas Park Place	The Tourist	March 5 th ~
	The Rite	March 19 th ~
	Battle: Los Angeles	April 1 st ~
	Gulliver's Travels	April 15 th ~
	Angel Wars	April 15 th ~
	Sanctum	April 22 nd ~
	No Strings Attached	April 22 nd ~

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

Unless otherwise noted films are shown in English, with Japanese subtitles.

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 (melissa@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 (melissa@emo.or.jp)

Necessities of Life

End to Analog

The Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications is encouraging residents of Japan to make the switch to digital TV early, as all analog TV broadcasting transmission will be terminated by July 24th 2011. What this means is that if you have not taken measures to receive digital TV transmission by that date, then you will no longer be able to watch any TV programs on your analog set. Measures to be taken include either replacing your current analog TV set with a digital terrestrial-compatible TV, or getting a digital tuner or recording device with a built in digital terrestrial tuner and connecting it to your analog TV set. The Ministry will provide a free simple tuner to those who cannot afford to take such measures (eg. households on welfare).

Please note that disposing of electronics in Japan usually

requires having a truck that deals with electronics disposal come pick the items up, so you may need to contact your local city hall in order to dispose of your current television set. It can be foreseen that electronics disposal services will be overstretched and limited (in July) so making the switch so



For more information contact the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications at 0570-07-0101, or access the Ministry's Quick Guide to Digital Terrestrial TV which is available through the Oita International Plaza homepage at:

<http://www.oitaplaza.jp/english/uploads/photos/243.pdf>

国際交流プラザ

財団法人 大分県文化スポーツ振興財団
法人

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THANK YOU!!

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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 29 - Jan 3

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

