

# THE TOMBO

OITA'S • ENGLISH • NEWSLETTER

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Issue 52

## INTERNATIONAL OITA

*Oita has the highest number of international students (relative to population) in Japan. This is largely due to the international students from approximately 100 different countries at Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University (APU) in Beppu.*

*This month's cover article on fair trade is a valuable contribution from the students of an APU seminar called "Sustainable Development Issues in the Asia Pacific".*

On one sunny morning thirteen APU students from five different countries (Japan, Thailand, Vietnam, Korea, and China) got on a three-car caravan to Nakatsu City. The purpose of their trip? To visit a small fair trade shop, located in the alleys of Nakatsu, to learn how the shop practices fair trade and impacts international society.

Fair trade shops are non-profit organizations (NPOs) that pay the producers in third-world countries a fair price for their products, to aid social development of those countries.

When the cars arrived in Nakatsu they parked in a free parking lot of a local library that was near the destination. The students were surprised at the generosity of the town, as free parking is nearly impossible to find in Japan.

After meandering through the alleyways the trip planner, Dr. Manopimoke, and her seminar students arrived at their destination- Fair Trade Shop Daichi. The first exclamations from the students were "kawaii!" and "ii nioi!" which translate as "It's cute!" and "It smells good!" Indeed, the shop was decorated with the traditional items gathered from all over the world, to give off a look of a local antique shop one would find in London or a Harry Potter movie. The fragrance was from traditional incense made in Nepal, giving off a relaxing and refreshing scent. A poster on the wall read "Daichi" meaning "Mother Earth".

The thirteen students and the professor squeezed into the store and sat down in a circle around a table. Holding back the impulse to browse around the store, the students took out their notes and interview questions that they had prepared to ask Suga-san, the owner of Fair Trade Shop Daichi.

Formality was in store here, as two APU students stood up to deliver greetings in both English and Japanese. Dr. Manopimoke then offered Suga-san a small gift, which she put aside without showing the urge to look inside, in traditional Japanese style. Suga-san then introduced herself, her daughter and a reporter there from Godo Press, who took pictures with a very expensive looking camera.

The interview started off with a basic question regarding fair trade. "What is your definition of fair trade?" Suga-san's answer was simple, saying that fair trade is about sharing the profits equally, and giving the slice of pie that the manufacturers and suppliers really deserve.

Suga-san was first interested in the concept of fair trade after stumbling upon a newspaper article about fair trade shops selling handmade crafts from third-world countries. Initially, for one year, she bought handicrafts from an NGO in Japan, but the goods were not able to satisfy local customers. The following year she visited Thailand and Indonesia for her first trip abroad. Soon afterward, she went to work in a fair trade shop of Oxfam origins in the UK to learn more about fair trade concepts.

The year after that, Suga-san visited Thailand and Indonesia, meeting with the locals to find suppliers for her own fair trade shop. She then visited a fair trade organization in India, and also the locals of Bangladesh and Nepal. She searched for suppliers over the internet as well, communicating with the locals of Ghana over e-mail. After establishing a relationship with her suppliers, she came back to Japan to open her very own fair trade shop. The problem is that Japan, in contrast to other countries around the world, does not have an organized network of fair trade stores. So the fair trade shops in Japan are all on their own, without support or aid from government or other organizations.

Concerning such disadvantages for fair trade shops in Japan, Suga-san's dream is to establish a network of the trade shops in Japan to mutually help one another. Despite the difficulties of lacking aid and funding for advertising, Suga-san is optimistic about fair trade stores, mentioning that it is only a matter of time before the practice of fair trade becomes the norm. She also mentioned that her suppliers' living standards have improved substantially since she opened her fair trade store. Her suppliers in Bangladesh, Nepal, Ghana, Indonesia, India and Thailand can now afford to pay their house rent, utilities, children's education, and medical care.

After the interview, Dr. Manopimoke and her students were able to enjoy Nepal Fried Rice and Vegetarian Curry for lunch with peppermint tea from Nepal and authentic coffee from Ghana. After lunch, the students were finally able to release their shopping urges and browse excitedly at the many exotic items of Fair Trade Shop Daichi.

During the discussion after the trip, the students expressed that they hope that fair trade will be a norm someday through the spread of Suga-san's passion. Fair trade is not only benefiting standards of living in third-world countries but also promoting cultural exchange through the fair exchange of products. Some students even expressed hopes that fair trade practices can someday help the people in their own countries.



Inside Daichi



### Fair Trade Shop Daichi

1-7-23 Shinhakata-Machi,  
Nakatsu City 871-0041  
TEL:0979-22-0963.  
www.daichi-sugarumi.com



THE TOMBO would like to thank Yong Ho Kim and Prof. S. Manopimoke's APU seminar class for contributing this article.



## CULTURE SHOCK



-By Matt Curd-

I have been in Japan since October 2009. Coming from New Zealand, plus having lived in Melbourne, Australia for 8 years, I arrived here very “green”. I knew about five words in Japanese and was largely unprepared for what lay ahead. I like to define culture shock as, “something that opens a window into your soul, enabling you to see if you have the mettle required to live happily in a culture opposite to your own.”

One of the best pieces of advice I have received since arriving in Japan was to “forget about everything you have ever learnt about life in your western world, because in your eastern one, none of it applies.” I would know. I spent my first 3 months here trying to live my life just how I would at home. Big mistake! I quickly learned that in Japan the more you resist change the longer culture shock lasts.

In the first phase of culture shock “the honeymoon phase”, everywhere you look your senses are captured to excite, intrigue and fascinate you. You lap up your new surroundings and heap praise on the intricacies of Japanese life. However like every honeymoon, it must eventually end and unlike marriage, when domestic bliss is supposed to follow, the “negotiation phase” of culture shock is not so blissful. It creeps up and, before you know it, the smile from your face has disappeared, replaced by frustration, irritation and an almost constant urge to fight the way of life here. Any western avenues previously taken to relieve stress or simply go about your life, don’t lead to the same destination in Japan.

The simplest things, like buying a train or bus ticket, suddenly become the biggest challenge. All the things you have never put a second thought to, suddenly join the list of ever growing challenges,



meaning that your brain is required to think a lot more about things not normally requiring much thought. As a by-product of raised emotional stimulation, stress levels are raised accordingly. To combat stress people look for something familiar, like a drinking session at the pub with your mates, sports, gardening, cooking, anything that enables you to enjoy some down-time. In Japan all of these things are available and are very common choices amongst Japanese people for stress relief, but if you can’t communicate, they also become part of that ever growing list of challenges. So you catch my drift, it can be very difficult here especially if you can’t communicate.

So! What to do? Time to get proactive! Take Japanese lessons, or turn your drinking sessions into drinking slash Japanese lessons by taking notes of phrases and practising them in conversation. Get some advice from other westerners who have lived here longer. Get active, go for a jog! Get some endorphins flowing! New roads must be found or in some cases forged, in order to live life happily. Rigid approaches will not facilitate the required changes. You must become malleable, mouldable and most importantly open to the adjustments required to function civilly in Japan.

Now I am moving into the 10<sup>th</sup> month of my Japanese experience. Through all the frustration, anxiety and depression and being totally surrounded by unfamiliarity, Japan is still an amazingly beautiful and intriguing place to me. Having battled and defeated the worst stages of culture shock, I really do feel like my Japanese experience has added character, knowledge, experience and mettle to me as a person. I hope a few others reading this are nodding in agreement right now thinking about your experience.



## WHAT DO JAPANESE WANT TO KNOW?



-By Hiroshi Kanematsu-

*We Japanese are shy but very curious. There are a lot of things that we want to ask foreigners. The queries listed below are just a few. You might think they are trite or ridiculous, but understanding the basis of our questions might help you to understand us. Knowing about each other’s customs is a key for mutual understanding.*

### 1. Why don’t you take your shoes off in the house?

We wonder what happens if you tread on dog poop in the street without knowing it and then wear your shoes in the house. It is so strange for us to see people lying on the bed with shoes on.

### 2. Why do you soak in a bathtub full of bubbles? Do you rinse off?

In Japan the same bathwater is used by everybody in the family. Each person washes and rinses their body before soaking in the bathtub so that everyone else can be comfortable in the same water. Using the same hot water is not only for saving resources but also for tightening family bonds. In movies, I sometimes see people get out of the bubble bath and put on a robe

without rinsing. I wonder if he/she gets a rash without rinsing the bubbles.

### 3. What do you do when someone is taking a shower and you need to use bathroom?

It is ironic that cultures which clearly differentiate between “yes” and “no” have their toilets and baths in one room, and people who tend to be obscure keep them separated.



# Continuing Japanese Miracles

A True Story- By Eljoma

*Do things happen by random chance or by design of destiny? What is coincidence and what is providence? I find myself asking these questions as I try to grasp the significance of the last 12 months, which have profoundly shaped my present life. This article is about the first of several events that could seriously challenge the agnostic or compel the apathetic into at least recognizing the existence of positive energy. I call them miracles. What would you call them?*

I arrived in Beppu in April of 2009. The plan was that I'd finish my PhD as fast as I could, then go back home. Being my first time away from my family, not one week had passed after my arrival and I was already feeling intense withdrawal symptoms. I became extremely depressed and it started affecting my studies and my writing. Then things started happening. At that time I didn't find any meaning to the little events that were taking place seemingly in concert.

I was staying at the campus dormitory. My rent was ¥40,000 per month for one room inclusive of all utilities. For a privately-financed student like me, that was expensive. I had to live at the dormitory initially because I didn't know enough yet about the ins and outs of Beppu living.

I remembered that a friend at the Student Support Office once mentioned to me that Beppu had cheap public apartments. I went to the Beppu City Hall and found out that the public apartments were given out through lotteries. At that time, there were about 10 vacant apartments. I asked if I could sign up for all 10 lotteries, telling them that I didn't care where I'd stay as long as it was affordable. They said I could only sign up to join the lottery for one public apartment.

On the day of the lottery, I came in late as I had almost forgotten that it would be held that day. Fortunately, they conducted the lotteries of the other nine vacancies, and the lottery that I was signed-up in was held last. This was my first time to attend a Japanese lottery, I was alone, and my Japanese proficiency was virtually zero. I was like a drone following the person seated next to me as I noticed that his lottery card was the same color as mine. So when our turn came, and the man beside me stood, I also stood up. We were asked to form a line in front. I then realized that we were lining up to draw our own respective lottery numbers from a rotating raffle drum with individually-numbered miniature balls.

I drew the number 2 and that number was written on my lottery card. I went back to my seat, telling myself not to expect anything. My mind was in fact already at what I was going to do after the lottery had finished. Everything was in Japanese so I was interpreting what

was happening based on people's actions, not on what was being spoken. Then, clapping started. Somebody stood up and walked to the front. "See, I didn't win," I told myself. So, I stood up and as I was about to say "excuse me" to the person sitting beside me so that I could pass, I didn't notice that my lottery card fell on the floor. The guy to my left tapped my shoulder and said something in Japanese which I guessed meant "Hey, your lottery card fell." I still don't know why but after I picked up my card, I sat back down.

Suddenly, someone grabbed my lottery card, raising it and shouting, "*Koko ni! Koko ni!*" I didn't know what was happening. I knew there was already a winner so what did this crazy guy want with my card?

Everything then became clear to me. The clapping was for the back-up winner who gets the apartment just in case the primary winner decides not to get the unit. So two numbers are drawn per lottery, and the first to be drawn was for the back-up winner. As they were drawing the number for the main winner, that was the time I stood up and headed for the door. The guy who told me that I had dropped my card, also happened to see that the number of my card was "2." Apparently, they had already called out "number 2" three times and were about to reward the unit to the back-up winner because no one was coming forward as the primary winner.

I didn't understand what number 2 was in Japanese. I did hear them announcing "*ni ban, ni ban*", and I knew "*ni*" meant "2" but I didn't know what "*ban*" meant (it meant "number"). The reason why the guy suddenly grabbed my card and raised it up was because he saw that my lottery card was "*ni ban*", so he took matters in his own hands and just got my card and raised it up for me. I forgave him already.

So that's how it happened. I won a Beppu City public apartment, that is, the right to live in one. Out of all vying for that one apartment, my number was chosen. Number 2, me. My rent is ¥10,000 per month for a 3-room apartment. *Miracle One* was complete.

To read more of *Continuing Miracles* access:  
<http://ilovebeppu.blogspot.com/>



Beppu Public Housing



Writer & Family

## Festivals &amp; Events

Date	Event Description	Location	Contact #
Sept. 9 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Free Hot Spring Entrance-</b> 9/9 is Kokonoe area's designated hot spring day, and designated facilities marked by posters will allow free entrance for bathers.	Kusu Kokonoe-Machi	☎0973-73-5510
Sept. 10 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Fire Festival-</b> Under fire lit torches festive dancers will entertain onlookers at Akane Furuhashi Shrine in Kunimi Town, Kunisaki City.	Kunisaki City Kunimi-Machi	☎0978-82-1113
Sept. 11 <sup>th</sup> ~ Sept. 13 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Joyara Festival-</b> A special local festival in the fishing town of Saiki. Watch rowers dressed in colorful garb and decorated boats row along the river while shouting "JOYARA!"	Saiki City Omiya Area	☎0972-27-8001
Sept. 12 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Yayoi Morning Market-</b> First come, first serve at this bustling morning market with fresh foodstuffs at Michi-No-Eki Yayoi (Yayoi Rest Stop).	Saiki City Michi-No-Eki	☎0972-46-5951
Sept. 14 <sup>th</sup> ~ Sept. 15 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Yunohira Hot Spring Festival-</b> Along the cobblestone streets of Yunohira, Tanigawa Shrine's fall festival, including <i>taiko</i> & more, will be held to pray for a healthy harvest.	Yufu City Yufuin-Machi	☎0977-86-2367
Sept. 14 <sup>th</sup> ~ Sept. 20 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Hama-no-ichi Festival-</b> Festivities at Yusuhara shrine to bring the old marketplace back to life, specialty cushion shaped red bean rice cakes ( <i>shikishi-mochi</i> ) for sale.	Oita City, Ikushi Area	☎097-534-0065
Sept. 18 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Saganoseki Morning Market-</b> Oita's specialty <i>seki-aji</i> and <i>seki-saba</i> fish will be on sale at the Prefectural Fisheries Association Saganoseki Branch.	Oita City Saganoseki	☎097-575-1000
Sept. 19 <sup>th</sup> & Oct. 17 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Kimono Appreciation Day-</b> Monthly event held on the 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month. Free and rental kimonos for trying, professional photo shoot and more!	Kitsuki City Jouka-Machi	☎0978-62-3131
Sept. 19 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Kodanse Market-</b> At this local market, held on the ground of the former Hazako School, you can enjoy local seafood delicacies from seafood tempura to fresh sushi!	Saiki City Yonozu	☎0972-35-6111
Sept. 19 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Koshita Dam Festival-</b> After the opening ceremony at 11:30, there will be various events from food eating contests, to canoeing/wakeboarding, to fireworks and more!	Usa City Innai-Machi	☎0978-42-5111
Sept. 21 <sup>st</sup> ~ Sept. 22 <sup>nd</sup>	<b>Kappa Festival-</b> A tradition from over 300 years ago. Young boys perform songs and dance to pray for the autumn harvest.	Nakatsu City Yabakei Area	☎097-954-3111
Sept. 21 <sup>st</sup> ~ Sept. 23 <sup>rd</sup>	<b>Kannawa Hot Spring Ami Festival-</b> A ceremonial festival to celebrate the Monk Ippen who opened the Kannawa Hot Spring area. A wooden statue of Ippen is cleansed and paraded.	Beppu City Kannawa Onsen	☎097-766-1808
Sept. 21 <sup>st</sup> ~ Sept. 25 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Ohara Shrine Festival-</b> Vendors line the street leading to Ohara Hachiman Shrine at the shrine's biggest festival of the year. Don't miss the adorable children's parade!	Hita City Ohara Shrine	☎097-323-8951
Sept. 23 <sup>rd</sup>	<b>Ogata Festival-</b> Held on the Ogata Elementary School grounds, this harvest festival has <i>kagura</i> and lion dance performances.	Bungo-Ono City Ogata	☎0974-42-2111
Sept. 23 <sup>rd</sup>	<b>Usodake Shrine Festival-</b> This festival is to pray for the healthy growth of children, and welcomes visitors from as far as Shikoko and Honshu.	Oita City Usodake Shrine	☎097-588-0047
Sept. 25 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Fall Festival-</b> One of three seasonal festivals held at the Takatsuka Atago Jizo-son shrine w/ <i>kagura</i> stage performances, local dishes, rice cakes and ceremonial <i>sake</i> .	Hita City Amagase Town	☎097-357-9200
Sept. 25 <sup>th</sup> & Oct. 23 <sup>rd</sup>	<b>Uki Uki Flea Market-</b> Get some cheap goods and meet locals from 11:30am~3pm	Oita City Oasis Tower 1 <sup>st</sup> Fl	☎097-538-7411
Sept. 25 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Guitar and Shakuhachi Night-</b> Come enjoy a concert along the river in Onagara Park. 1000yen entrance includes a bite to eat, and musical performance from 7pm.	Saiki City Honjo	☎0972-56-5111
Sept. 26 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Kodawari Market-</b> Homemade goods market based on the concept of "Local Production for Local Consumption" held on the grounds of the former Hazako Branch School.	Saiki City Yonozu	☎090-2585-3991
Sept. 26 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Hougyousai 2010 (Fish Festival)-</b> Local seafood products for sale and live stage performances at Tsurumi Market. This event draws a large crowd! Come join the festivities!	Saiki City Tsurumi	☎0972-33-1111
Oct. 10 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Harvest Festival-</b> A tradition carried out every year from the days of old. Come harvest rice and exchange with local people at Tashibuno Manor (farming village).	Bungo Takada Kozaki Area	☎0978-22-3100
Oct. 11 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Beef Eating and Screaming Competition-</b> Yes, that's right! Come eat beef raised in Yufuin and scream to your heart's content, or just enjoy watching others do so!	Yufuin Town Kawakami	☎0977-85-4464
Oct. 17 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Oita Dialect Uncovered! Speech Contest-</b> A comedic contest for linguistic contortionists at Chuo Community Center. Come hear Oita-Ben in his finest form!	Bungo-Takada Chuo Kominkan	☎0978-22-3100
Oct. 17 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Beppu Yukemuri Health Walk Rally/ Marathon-</b> Come enjoy walking around Beppu's Lake Shidaka and Lake Kagurame. Includes free entrance into city managed hot springs!	Beppu City Lake Shidaka	☎0977-25-8025
Oct. 23 <sup>rd</sup> ~ Oct. 24 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries Festival-</b> A event to promote local goods at Beppu Park. Enjoy local cuisine, products, wood-working workshops, and more!	Beppu City Beppu Park	☎097-506-3544
Oct. 24 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Beppu Dance Festa-</b> This contest will showcase talented dancers competing for the grand prize at Beppu Park. Held in conjunction with local goods promo event.	Beppu City Beppu Park	☎0977-24-2828
Oct. 30 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Ichiyo-i-</b> A festival held a week before Usuki's grand bamboo lantern festival, to pray for the safe return of Princess Hannya to her hometown, based on Oita folklore.	Usuki City Yasaka Shrine	☎0972-63-1111

## ★ Stage & Music Events ★

Sept.	Time	Artist/Event	Venue	Cost	Contact #
8 <sup>th</sup>	20:30	<b>Jazz &amp; Blues Session-</b> Also held on Sept 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Cantaloup II	¥500 + drink	☎097-548-5363
11 <sup>th</sup>	19:00	<b>Hard Core Event-</b> w/ performers from Tokyo, Kobe & more!	Cantaloup II	¥1,500 + drink	☎097-548-5363
11 <sup>th</sup>	22:00	<b>Mintdragon-</b> Regular rock event at local bar	2Banchō Takamasa Bar	¥1,000	☎090-3608-1259
11 <sup>th</sup>	18:30	<b>Flamenco Concerto 2010-</b> Goto Mari Flamenco Studio	iichiko Otonoizumi	¥2,500	☎097-533-4004
12 <sup>th</sup>	19:00	<b>Kariyushi Okinawa Music-</b> Fun & lively Okinawa music!	Cantaloup II	¥2,500 + drink	☎097-548-5363
12 <sup>th</sup>	13:00	<b>Kabuki-</b> Traditional Japanese play "Shochiku Kabuki"	iichiko Grand Theater	¥1,500~10,000	☎097-533-4004
15 <sup>th</sup>	19:00	<b>Stage Comedy-</b> Famous Japanese "talents" perform comedy	Tsukumi Citizens Hall	¥3,500	☎0972-82-9527
15 <sup>th</sup>	19:00	<b>Yoshida Brothers-</b> Must-see rock-style <i>shamisen</i> performance	Oita Cultural Hall	¥6,000	☎092-715-0374
16 <sup>th</sup>	21:00	<b>Bluegrass Night-</b> w/ local artists Southbound, Rose Garden, etc.	Cantaloup II	¥1,000 + drink	☎097-548-5363
17 <sup>th</sup>	21:00	<b>Friday Bossa Nova Night-</b> Regular monthly event	Cantaloup II	¥500 + drink	☎097-548-5363
19 <sup>th</sup>	19:00	<b>Genryu Taiko-</b> Traditional Japanese drum performance	iichiko Grand Theater	¥4,500	☎090-8767-1201
20 <sup>th</sup>	13:00	<b>Hula Dance Recital-</b> La a Kea o ka la HULA HALAU	iichiko Otonoizumi	¥1,000	☎090-3883-8244
21 <sup>th</sup>	18:30	<b>Ballet-</b> A performance of "Gisele" by The Tokyo Ballet	iichiko Grand Theater	¥2,000~6,000	☎097-533-4004
24 <sup>th</sup>	20:30	<b>Soft &amp; Mellow-</b> Jazz/ pop/ bossa nova/acoustic regular event	Cantaloup II	¥500 + drink	☎097-548-5363
25 <sup>th</sup>	22:00	<b>Jam Jam Reggae-</b> DJ reggae event, entrance includes 1 drink	DJ's Bar Trip	¥1,500 w/drink	☎097-533-8249
25 <sup>th</sup>	22:00	<b>Come Green!</b> Regular monthly DJ event	Beppu Roots	¥1,000 + drink	☎0977-25-7292
26 <sup>th</sup>	13:30	<b>Kyushu Guitar Festival-</b> Sponsored by Oita Guitar Academy	iichiko Otonoizumi	¥1,000	☎097-532-7218
28 <sup>th</sup>	20:00	<b>Drum Session-</b> Special session w/ professional drummer	Cantaloup II	¥2,800 + drink	☎097-548-5363
30 <sup>th</sup>	18:30	<b>Namie Amuro-</b> PAST<FUTURE tour 2010	iichiko Grand Theater	¥7,800	☎092-714-0159
Oct.	Time	Artist/Event	Venue	Cost	Contact #
2 <sup>nd</sup>	22:00	<b>Hot Patty Saturday-</b> Regular event on 1 <sup>st</sup> Sat. of the month	Beppu Roots	¥1,500 w/ drink	☎0977-25-7292
3 <sup>rd</sup>	17:30	<b>Singer Songwriter Ise Shozo-</b> Famous Oita native performer	Usuki Citizens Hall	¥4,500	☎0972-63-7977
3 <sup>rd</sup>	13:00	<b>Traditional Japanese Music Performance-</b> <i>Shamisen</i> & song	iichiko Grand Theater	¥1,000~3,000	☎097-536-0522
9 <sup>th</sup> & 10 <sup>th</sup>	12:00- 17:00	<b>Oita Yume-iro Music Festival-</b> Street performances will take place at downtown locations incl. Wakakusa Park & Aqua Park	Downtown Central Oita City	FREE	☎097-513-4286
10 <sup>th</sup>	18:00	<b>Begin-</b> Popular Okinawa band 10 <sup>th</sup> anniversary tour	Oita Cultural Hall	¥6,000	☎097-537-5515
29 <sup>th</sup>	19:00	<b>MARO Concert-</b> Meister Art Romantica Orchestra performance	iichiko Grand Theater	¥2,000~6,000	☎097-533-4004
31 <sup>st</sup>	18:30	<b>MUR-MUR Acrobats-</b> Canada's dynamO theater Japan tour	Patoria Hita	¥1,000~2,000	☎0973-25-5000

### Other Music/Stage Event Information

**Beppu Tower Nightly Events-** On the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of Beppu Tower there is a DJ's Music Lounge where nightly music events are held. Entrance is FREE with the purchase of 1 drink, and the crowd is young and international! Doors open at 7pm and the fun starts at 9pm. Monday is jazz/bossa nova night. Tuesday is rock/blues night. Wednesday is techno/house night. Thursday is hip hop/R&B/reggae night. Friday and Saturday are ALL GENRE nights! Come join the fun! For event info contact beppu.tower@yahoo.com or call 080-5642-7781.

\*\*\*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 1 drink, "+drink" prices require the additional purchase of a drink. Times shown indicate start times, doors usually open 30 minutes beforehand.\*\*\*

## Venues

2Banchō Takamasa Bar= 3-7-21 Chuo-Machi, Oita City  
 BeppuROOTS= 1-9-19 Kitahama, Beppu City  
 Kitahama Night Center 4F Beppu City  
 Beppu Tower= 25-5 Kitahama 10-chome, Beppu City

Cantaloup II= 3-2-30 Miyako-Machi Nakayama Dai 5 Building 6F Oita City  
 DJ's Bar Trip= 2-3-6 Miyako-Machi 3F, Oita City  
 iichiko Grand Thtr= Oasis Tower 1F Oita City  
 iichiko Otonoizumi= Oasis Tower 4F Oita City

Oita Cultural Hall= 4-1 Niage-Machi, Oita City  
 Patoria Hita= Sanbonmatsu 1-8-11 Hita City  
 Tsukumi Citizens Hall= 20-15 Miyamoto, Tsukumi City  
 Usuki Citizens Hall= 72-83 Oaza Usuki, Usuki City

## Exhibitions & Screenings

Date	Description	Place	Admission	Contact #
Sept. 8 <sup>th</sup> ~ Oct. 17 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Photo Exhibition-</b> Full exhibit of famous Japanese photographer Akiyama Shotaro's life work photographing flowers.	Oita Art Museum Oita City	¥800	☎097-554-5800
Sept. 20 <sup>th</sup> ~ Oct. 3 <sup>rd</sup>	<b>Walk and the Beginnings of Color-</b> Exhibition at art supply store in Oita City. On Sept 23 <sup>rd</sup> special event w/ yoga, live painting, music and more!!	Kotobukiya Art Supply (2 locations)	FREE	☎097-543-3933 ☎097-545-3432
Sept. 22 <sup>nd</sup> ~ Dec. 26 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Season and Bamboo-</b> Exhibition of bamboo crafts. Oita is the #1 producer of madake bamboo and this craft has flourished in Beppu City.	Oita Art Museum Oita City	¥300	☎097-554-5800
Oct. 22 <sup>nd</sup> ~ Dec. 12 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Surrealism Exhibition-</b> Exhibition of works that came out of the French surrealist movement in the 1920s. Come see work by Dali and other surrealists!	Oita Art Museum Oita City	¥800	☎097-554-5800
Oct. 23 <sup>rd</sup>	<b>International Movie Screening-</b> The German movie <i>Keinohrhasen</i> will be introduced and discussed by German native Sönke Grützmacher.	OASIS B1F Small Picture Hall	FREE	☎097-533-4021

\*\*\*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](mailto:nihongo_himawari_oita@yahoo.co.jp)

**Asian Culture Exchange Center**

Free Japanese lessons near Oita River on the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 13:30~15:00. For more information contact Beppu International Affairs Division TEL: 097-721-6133

E-MAIL: [int-ma@city.beppu.oita.jp](mailto: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 ¥500 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)

**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: [joannegoshida@yahoo.com](mailto:joannegoshida@yahoo.com) (Joanne)

## From the Plaza

**New Plaza Staff Member!!**

Hi everybody, my name is Sönke Grützmacher. I worked for 3 years as a CIR in Taketa and now I have joined the International Plaza as a new staff member. I'm looking forward to meeting you and being of assistance! For my first event see the listing below.

**International Movie Event**

Come watch the German movie "Keinohrhasen" (Japanese subtitles), with an introduction and discussion held by German-native Sönke Grützmacher. Admission is FREE!

Where: Oasis Tower B1F Small Picture Hall

When: Saturday October 23<sup>rd</sup>

Time: 2pm~4:30pm

For more details contact the Oita International Plaza.  
TEL. 097-533-4021

**Free Legal Consultations**

The Oita International Plaza holds legal consultations on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of every month at the Oita International Plaza. Languages other than English may be available with a reservation at least two days in advance. **Consultations will be held on Sept. 15<sup>th</sup> and Oct. 20<sup>th</sup> from 13:00~16:00.**

The Oita Emigration/Immigration Affairs Council also organizes free consultations on the 1st Sunday of the month at the Oita International Plaza. Emigration/Immigration specialists are available to offer advice on a variety of topics from Immigration Bureau paperwork and procedures, to daily life matters. English interpreters are available. **The next consultations will be held on Sept. 5<sup>th</sup> and Oct. 3<sup>rd</sup> from 13:00~16:00.**

**Free Tagalog Consultations**

Date: Saturday Sept. 4<sup>th</sup> and Oct. 2<sup>nd</sup>

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 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> 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

## Community

**Oita International Christian Fellowship**

You're welcome to join us for worship and fellowship! Check our website at: [www.oicf3712.webs.com](http://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 & places please contact Katsunori Tsujita at 097-583-0959.

## LANGUAGE LEARNING PAGE



## Kanji of the Month



The month of October has been designated “International Cooperation Month” in a collaboration between Oita City and Kyushu’s Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) branch. So this month’s character set is the kanji meaning *cooperation*:

RYOKYOKU  
協力

This kanji set contains 「力」 which is read <sup>ちから</sup>ちから or <sup>りょく</sup>りょく or <sup>りき</sup>りき and originally represented a flexed arm. Imagine a man flexing his arm under to get the visual representation of this character. The connotation of a flexed arm full of muscle makes this character take on the meaning:

POWER 「力」



The other component of this set is 「協」 which is read <sup>きょう</sup>きょう. This kanji is composed of the number ten 「十」 next to three symbols representing power 「力」. “Ten” is used to represent multitude, next to various forms of power. Thus, this character takes on the meaning of combining power between multiple parties. Although this character isn’t used alone, in character combinations it has the connotation of:

TOGETHER 「協」

When you combine the kanji for “power” and “together” you get the concept of “working together”, or simply said:

COOPERATION 「協力」

The following sentence uses the above characters to show their different readings/meanings:

大分市とJICA九州が力を合わせて国際協力月間を開催します。

Oita City and JICA Kyushu combined their **powers** to create International **Cooperation** Month.

## Foreign Movies Showing in Oita

Cinema	Movie	Showing Date
Cinema5 Central Oita (on 5 <sup>th</sup> Ave) ☎097-536-4512	Vengeance (English, Cantonese, French)	Until Sept. 3 <sup>rd</sup>
	La vie modern (French)	Sept. 4 <sup>th</sup> ~ 10 <sup>th</sup>
	Repossession Man	Sept. 4 <sup>th</sup> ~ 17 <sup>th</sup>
	Bright Star (English, French)	Sept. 11 <sup>th</sup> ~ 17 <sup>th</sup>
	Roller Girls Diary	Sept. 11 <sup>th</sup> ~ 17 <sup>th</sup>
	Yellow Handkerchief	Sept. 18 <sup>th</sup> ~ 24 <sup>th</sup>
	Looking for Anne	Sept. 18 <sup>th</sup> ~ 24 <sup>th</sup>
	The Cove	Sept. 18 <sup>th</sup> ~ 24 <sup>th</sup>
	Lovely, Still	Sept. 25 <sup>th</sup> ~ Oct. 1 <sup>st</sup>
Toho Cinemas Wasada Town ☎097-548-7878	Crazy Heart (English, Spanish)	Sept. 25 <sup>th</sup> ~ Oct. 8 <sup>th</sup>
	Resident Evil: Afterlife (3D)	~September 11 <sup>th</sup>
	Eat, Pray, Love	~September 17 <sup>th</sup>
	Tsunami	~September 25 <sup>th</sup>
	Legend of the Guardians	~October 1 <sup>st</sup>
	Knight and Day	~October 9 <sup>th</sup>
	Beauty and the Beast	~October 9 <sup>th</sup>
	Avatar (3D)	~October 16 <sup>th</sup>
	Despicable Me (3D)	~October 29 <sup>th</sup>
	Saw 7	~October 29 <sup>th</sup>

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 Lady’s Day (Wednesdays) ¥1,000

Men’s Day is ¥1,000 (Thursday at Toho Cinemas and Cinema5, Friday at T-Joy) Late Night Show (Sun-Fri) ¥1,200 (Toho Cinemas, T-Joy)

## The Animated Adventures of Oita Ben 大分弁講座

Oita Ben was with his cousin, Hakata Ben, and his two accomplished accomplices, Hyo Jun Go and Guy Jean, in a park in Fukuoka City converging to descend on their adverse adversary JAPANESE JARGON. They had formulated a potentially perilous yet positively paramount plan to divert, dumbfound, and detain JARGON once and for all!

The plan was that the three language-lovers, Oita Ben, Hyo Jun Go, and Guy Jean, would stand at the different entrances of the park and act as lookouts to make sure that they didn’t lose JARGON in his stealthy steps. Hakata Ben would keep a careful eye on and casually approach the suspect to determine if it was in fact the jibber-jabber speaking JARGON, by nonchalantly asking for directions in his local dialect. If the suspect did proceed to reveal his identity by speaking in ungrammatical forms, Hakata Ben would signal to his compadres and they would conspire to attack.

They each went to their respective corners of the park as Hakata Ben went to approach him. When they reached their assigned posts, the semi-retired, language-saving, super-heroes realized that JARGON had disappeared! They ran back over to a dismayed Hakata Ben and simultaneously asked, “Where did he go?! Weren’t you watching him?”

Hakata Ben: “You guys were supposed to be watching him too! How did you let him get away?”

Guy Jean: Because we thought you were watching him!

Hyo Jun Go: <sup>だから</sup>だから、あなたが<sup>み</sup>見ている<sup>おも</sup>と思ったの!

Oita Ben: <sup>だけん</sup>だけん、あなたが<sup>み</sup>見ちよと<sup>おも</sup>思ったの!

だから = だけん

The sentence-initial expression 「だから」 that is used to explain something emphatically becomes 「だけん」 in “Oita Ben” (Oita dialect), and other Kyushu dialects, such as Fukuoka’s “Hakata Ben”. This can also be used after adjectives ending in *na* (な) and nouns. For example:

このドレスが好きだから買いたい

このドレスが好きだけん買いたい

I like this dress so I want to buy it

日曜日だからお店が閉まっている

日曜日だけんお店が閉まっている

It is Sunday so the store is closed

## 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](mailto: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 <sup>st</sup>	June 1 <sup>st</sup>
September/October	September 1 <sup>st</sup>	August 1 <sup>st</sup>
November/December	November 1 <sup>st</sup>	October 1 <sup>st</sup>
January/February	January 1 <sup>st</sup>	December 1 <sup>st</sup>
March/April	March 1 <sup>st</sup>	February 1 <sup>st</sup>
May/June	May 1 <sup>st</sup>	April 1 <sup>st</sup>

## 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](mailto:melissa@emo.or.jp))

## Necessities of Life

## 2010 National Population Census

On October 1<sup>st</sup> 2010 a national population census will take place. All people living in Japan, including non-Japanese, will be surveyed in the census. There will generally be five items examined per household (including number of inhabitants, type of residence, etc.), and 15 items per inhabitant (including name, gender, date of birth, nationality etc).

In accordance with the Statistics Act, the private information of persons surveyed will be securely protected and will not be used for any reason other than accumulating statistical data. Likewise, the survey sheets, which will be translated from Japanese into 27 different languages, will be handled carefully so they cannot be viewed by third parties.



Starting in late September, census takers will visit each household to distribute the surveys and envelopes to be used to submit the surveys. For any questions, please inquire with the census takers or the census division of your local city hall.

**国際交流プラザ**  
財団法人 大分県文化スポーツ振興財団

**Oita International Plaza**  
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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 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Mondays of each month. We are open on the Saturdays before these Mondays)  
Closed national holidays & Dec 29 - Jan 3

The Oita International Plaza is a 10-minute walk from Oita Station. Walk up Chuo-Dori or the parallel arcade until the roofed plaza with the model Portuguese ship and fountain. Turn left and walk to the end of the arcade. The OASIS Hiroba 21 building is across the street and is easily identified by the OASIS Tower. The International Plaza is located on the basement floor, within Space Be.

