

THE TOMB

OITA'S • ENGLISH • NEWSLETTER

May-June 2012

Issue 61

New Resident Registration System

On July 9th 2012 the Alien Registration Act will be abolished, and in its place foreign residents living in Japan will receive a Residence Record. Upon arrival in Japan, foreign nationals will receive landing permission and be issued with a Residency Card. After moving into permanent accommodation, foreign nationals are required to register their address with their local government office. Notification (or change) of address can be filed at municipal offices, and all other changes including change of name, application for reissue of residency card, application to update validity period of card and notification concerning the organization to which the applicant belongs are to be reported to Regional Immigration Offices.

For those already living in Japan who have been issued an Alien Registration Card by a municipality, and are expected to still be living in that municipality when the system changes (July 9th, 2012), the changeover process will be relatively simple. Local Governments will notify all foreigners of the impending change,

and issue them with a Provisional Resident Record. Valid alien registration certificates will be deemed equivalent to a resident card until a determined date (approximately three years after the implementation date), after which foreign nationals will be required to apply for a resident card.

A new 'special re-entry system' will be introduced, under which foreign nationals with a valid passport and residency card can leave the country without applying for a re-entry permit. They will be able to re-enter Japan on their original visa provided that they return within one year of leaving Japan. In addition, the 'period of stay' will be extended to a maximum of five years.

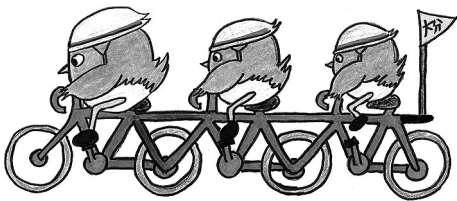
For more information contact the Immigration Information Center TEL: 0570-013904

The immigration Bureau also has a comprehensive e-brochure available at:

http://www.immi-moj.go.jp/newimmiact_1/en/index.html

Dragons and Dolphins and Bikers for Charity? Oh, my!

The Oita Association for Japan Exchange and Teaching (Oita AJET) along with the Oita Charity Cycling Team (OCCT) invite you to participate in our **15th Annual Oita Charity Bike Ride: The Year of the Dragon**. This is an opportunity to cycle around Oita with fellow



bikers and simultaneously raise money for a worthy cause. Last year was a tremendous success with over 50 riders and more than ¥1,600,000 raised for Tohoku disaster relief! This year, we will continue to support the Northern Japan disaster relief effort. Our funds will be donated to Ashinaga, a Tokyo-based nonprofit that provides financial and emotional support for orphans. Founded in 1969, Ashinaga is currently building "Tohoku Rainbow House" which will provide psychological support to children who have been affected by the March 2011 earthquake and tsunami.

This year, the Oita Charity Bike Ride will take place on May 19th and 20th. The trip is mostly flat with a few challenging hills and measures about 100km each way. Starting in Sakanoichi, we will ride along Oita's beautiful coastline and then travel a bit inland through Saiki to Onagara Forest Park (小半森林公園). After one night's accommodation in cabins, we will embark on our journey back up to Sakanoichi, taking a slightly altered route. We even have scheduled a break at Tsukumi City's Dolphin Island (津久見イルカ島) for a highly-anticipated dolphin encounter!

We are recruiting bikers, drivers, volunteers, fundraisers, and anyone else interested in helping make this event a success. To participate with us in this event costs ¥10,000 and includes accommodation for one night, dinner, breakfast, snack packs, water and an event t-shirt. Any additional funds will be added towards our fundraising total.



If you would like to participate in this event in any way or have some questions, please contact us at oitajetcycling@gmail.com. More information about the event can also be found on our website, <http://oitacharitycycling.theinaka.com>. **The sign-up deadline has already passed but we are flexible, so please contact us ASAP if you'd like to join.** We look forward to biking with you!



Sri Lanka in Oita - Nelum Mala



Whilst lots of attention is going to the new Oita Station on the south side of the tracks, Nelum Mala, a Sri Lankan restaurant and cafe with an all natural menu and evocative ambiance, has opened at a perfect time to add spice back into the city's central Galleria Takemachi.

Just hop on the boat (metaphorically) that sits at the entrance to the arcade and take it almost all the way to the other end of the shopping street. Before you get to Oasis, you will see Nelum Mala on the left, just past the Wazawaza building. The mysterious "Sigiriya Lady" in the entrance holds a lotus flower and welcomes you to Nelum Mala, where wall paintings by artist Shiho Shimizu, a graduate of Geijutsu Tan-ki Daigaku, evoke the historic frescoes of Sri Lanka with images of its tropical wildlife.

Although I didn't know anything at all about Sri Lanka before entering Nelum Mala, by the time I left, after my first visit my senses were delighted with the taste of fragrant and perfectly spiced curry, I had discovered a new found wonder which made me want to visit this land of abundant nature, home to Ceylon Tea, kandyan dance and the awe-inspiring Sigiriya rock.

Imported spices and a South East Asian special rice known as 'indika' rice are the staples at Nelum Mala, where low-calorie, healthy and spicy dishes are made with all natural ingredients and no chemical additions. Enjoy the tastes of Sri Lanka by choosing from at least three kinds of curries on the lunch-time menu. One plate comes with a choice of two curries, salad, rice and tea (800 yen). You can order the set without tea as well (750 yen), but the delicious imported Ceylon tea is a Nelum Mala recommendation, so you might want to go for the lunch-tea set!

Vegetarians: feel comfortable and welcome as the menu contains items that are perfectly suited to even a vegan diet. You may have found that in Japan items labeled "vegetable curry" on the menu often have some traces of meat. At Nelum Mala, rest assured that no animal products are used in the vegetable curries.

There is also a Tea Time menu which includes Sri Lankan sweets, Ceylon Tea, a curry set, or fresh juice. Roti is offered only on the Tea Time menu, with a choice of one kind of curry (500 yen). In addition there is takeout, a great option especially for those who work in the Oasis building or in the galleria, and are looking for a healthy and nutritious lunch at a reasonable price (takeout lunch box, 600 yen).

Some pointers for eating Sri Lankan curry--you can mix the salad in with the curry to make it less spicy. Pineapple is often



used in Sri Lanka in the salad so this makes it a good balance to the curry spices. This is considered the "Sri Lanka Style"! A variety of spices are used; including cardamon, cinnamon, cloves, curry powder, and coconut powder. I found the curry has a lovely and fragrant taste with just the right amount of spice. There are also condiments on the plate

which you can add if you'd like to make it hotter.

Note: if you are a vegan, feel free to mention it to the staff who can explain the ingredients to you, as some of the condiments contain some fish powder.

The restaurant takes pride in being a non-smoking establishment, and all aspects of Nelum Mala incorporate an attitude which stresses nature and health. Natural materials were used as much as possible in the making of the interiors. For example, the wooden walls and poles were painted with buttermilk paint and the natural plaster on the main walls was applied lovingly by hand.

Nelum Mala plans to have events in the space including Sri Lankan Dance, Indian Dance and other performances on the stage which is painted with colorful footprints (including mine!). The management is looking for people who would like to do performances or expressive arts in the space (tables are moved for events so the setting transforms into a small event space). Please contact Nelum Mala if you would like to share your performing art or other creative ideas there.

Parties are okay too. The menu can be rearranged so please inquire about using the whole space if you would like to hold a party there.

Please check the Facebook page for Nelum Mala and press the "like" button! Note that the restaurant is open weekdays for lunchtime and tea time but the schedule sometimes changes and days off can be irregular so please call for details.

Nelum Mala TEL: 070-5815-1906

Oita-shi, Chu-o Machi 3-5-14 1F

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Nelum-Mala-ネルンマラ/100622170060842>

--Article by Joanne Yoshida



CAN YOU FIND IT IN OITA PREFECTURE?

Here is what I had in mind for G, H and I from the last issue:

G: The **gorilla statue made of stone** can be found in the middle of Oita city, at the set of traffic lights between Tokiwa department store and McDonalds (again, obviously not for purchase or consumption). Since this discovery, I have also noticed the turtle and lion statues as well. How many are there in total?

H: Horse riding can be enjoyed at a number of locations across the prefecture, with most locations offering one off options in addition to membership plans.

El-Rancho Grande, Kusu, Kuju-machi

<http://www.elrancho.jp/index.html>

Riding Club Crane, Yufuin

<http://www.uma-crane.com/map-yufuin-course/>

I: For **Ichigo-gari** (strawberry picking), hopefully a few readers were able to get outdoors and visit a strawberry farm. Seeing where exactly produce comes from, and getting to eat food that you have picked yourself is a fun and rewarding experience.

The letters for May and June are J, K and L (and include a music theme):

J: A Jukebox (whether it be in working condition or just on display)

K: Karaoke with a twist

L: Live jazz



If you think that you might know where to find these things, please contact Joanne: joannegyoshida@yahoo.com, or Nicole: nicole@emo.or.jp



Oita International Plaza Bulletin Board

Did you know that the Oita International Plaza website includes a bulletin board? This board is for people who are interested in international exchange and are looking to broaden their network. Users can post event information, requests to find language exchange partners and more. Visit the site and register to post on the board.

<http://www.oitaplaza.jp/english/modules/bluesbb/>



Date: Sunday, May 27th

Time: 3pm – 5pm

Location: Oita Prefectural Shakai Kyouiku Sougou Centre in Beppu

Cost: Free for JALT members; 500yen for non-members

Note: The presentation will be followed by a social event

Rob Waring

Notre Dame Seishin University



Balancing Language Teaching - the case for Extensive Reading

The first half of this presentation will introduce the Balanced Curriculum which shows how to balance all the important elements of input, output, fluency focus and study focus. The second half will show how to implement this in the Japanese language classroom with particular reference to the least implemented element which is fluency input.

Bio:

Rob Waring is an internationally recognized authority on Extensive Reading. He is a founding board member of the Extensive Reading Foundation and Vice President of the Korean English Extensive Reading Association. He has published numerous articles, and presented in over 20 countries. He is author and editor of three series of graded readers by Cengage Learning.

Festivals and Events

Date	Event Description	Location	Contact #
May. 3 rd	National University Sumo Tournament- university students from all over Japan will come to compete in this fierce tournament at the Usa sports ground sumo ring	Usa City Usa sogo-undo-jo	☎ 0978-32-1111
May. 3 rd	Tour de Kunisaki- cyclists from across the country will cycle along the Kunisaki peninsula in this major sports event. Cycling courses range from 20km~160km.	Kitsuki City Bunka-taiiku-kan	☎ 0120-711-951
May. 3 rd ~ May. 4 th	West Japan Paragliding Championship- this event continues to attract young people from all across the country. The beautiful scenery of Kyushu provides an ideal backdrop for the contest.	Kusu-machi Kirikabu-yama	☎ 0973-72-4566
May. 3 rd ~ May. 4 th	Ebine Festival- there will be exhibitions and selling of agricultural products, fun things planned such as stage events, games and a Yamaga-machi beef <i>yakiniku</i> -corner.	Kitsuki City Yamaga-machi	☎ 0977-75-1211
May. 4 th	The 21st Ebisudani Festival- the event this year will include a lottery corner, <i>taiko</i> (drum) and <i>kagura</i> (traditional dance) performances, and excursion trips around Ebisudani. An event for the entire family!	Bungo Takada City Ebisuyaba-noson kouen	☎ 0978-54-3111
May. 4 th ~ May. 5 th	Kitsuki Castle Festival- featuring the castle town "Edo village", and events such as basket races, <i>taiko</i> performances.	Kitsuki City Jyouka-machi	☎ 0978-63-0100
May. 6 th	Bungo Takada Soba Festival- this is a fun event where you can see soba being cooked in a 3meter wide pot. The first 500 people will receive a taste of the soba for free!	Bungo Takada City Spaland Matama	☎ 0978-22-3100
May. 12 th	Spring tie-dyeing- come along and experience tie-dyeing eco-bags with vegetable dyes made from wild grass. Participation costs ¥500, and reservations are essential. Be sure to bring an apron and plastic gloves (if you are concerned about dye stains).	Kusu, Kuju-machi Kuju Shizen Kyoshitsu	☎ 097-373-0001
May. 12 th ~ May. 13 th	The 27th Shiroshita Flounder Festival- featuring <i>shiroshita karei</i> , a special kind of flounder from Hiji-machi. A firework display is scheduled for the night of the 12 th .	Hiji-machi Youkokujyoushi area	☎ 0977-72-4255
May. 12 th	Usa Air Base Peace Walk- a walking tour (10km course) of the former Usa air base with guided explanations of the old battlefields.	Usa City Yanagigaura	☎ 0978-32-1111
May. 13 th	Hita Yukasai- this multi-coloured festival will feature attractions such as a flower fashion show, as well as a flower selling corner and a lottery competition.	Hita City Rose Hill Amagase	☎ 0973-57-3147
May. 19 th	Rice planting in Kuju- run by the Kuju Furusato Shizen Gakkou. Participants can experience planting rice by hand. ¥1,200 participation fee which covers lunch, insurance, and teaching materials. Reservations necessary.	Kuju Kuju Furusato Shizen Gakkou	☎ 097-373-0001
May. 19 th	Macrobiotic lunch and yoga dance- will be held in Oita Joshi Kouen (castle park) 10:30~15:00 as part of the Beppu Onpaku special event schedule (¥3,500)	Oita City Joshi Kouen	☎ 090-1165-5567
May. 20 th	Himeshima Karei Festival- attractions will include children's fox dance, and flounder eating from 11am and 12pm for ¥1,500	Himeshima Ferry Port	☎ 0978-87-2211
May. 22 nd & Jun. 3 rd	Yoga dance and meditative walk in Kannawa- will take place from 13:00~15:30. Cost is ¥3,000 which includes tea and mushi-yu (steam bath).	Beppu City Fujiya Gallery	☎ 090-1165-5567
May. 26 th ~ May. 27 th	The 65th Hita City River Opening Tourism Festival- held in accordance with the removal of fishing restrictions in Hita. This festival is becoming well known for its fireworks display and performances by local residents.	Hita City Mikuma River	☎ 0973-23-3111
May. 27 th	Yufuin cycling- explore Yufuin and its surroundings on a bicycle, with two courses to choose from (28km and 75km). Entries for participation close May 10 th .	Yufu City Yufuin	☎ 0977-85-4464
Jun. 3 rd	Mt. Kuju opening- this day marks the beginning of the Kuju mountains summer mountain season. The festivities at the top of the mountain begin at 10am	Mt. Kuju	☎ 0973-76-3150
Jun. 3 rd	Mud volleyball contest- gather your friends and family and come play volleyball in the mud. Make teams of six, dress in costumes, play volleyball and have fun!	Nakatsu City Sachi-no-tanbo	☎ 0979-43-2050
Jun. 5 th	Kurushima night market- from 19:00 onward, you can buy local produce and art. There will be photo and art displays, as well as a mini concert.	Kusu-machi Mori-hon-machi street	☎ 0973-72-2374
Jun. 10 th	Tashibunoshou rice-planting festival- this small historical rice paddy village offers a chance for people to experience rice planting the old fashioned way.	Bungo Takada City Ozaki area	☎ 0978-22-3100
Jun. 16 th	Shounai-chou kagura performance- come see public performances of <i>kagura</i> in Yufu City (500 parking spaces available)	Yufu City Shounai-chou	☎ 0977-84-3111
Jun. 16 th	Kimono appreciation- held on the third Sunday of each month, visitors can try on kimono for free and have their picture taken. People in traditional Japanese dress can get free entrance and discounts at selected tourist spots and restaurants.	Kitsuki City Jyouka-machi	☎ 0978-63-010
Jun. 16 th	Chimaki-making- come take a stroll through the green grass meadows, and experience making chimaki (rice stuffed with filling, wrapped in bamboo or reed leaves) from 13:30~17:00. Participation is ¥500, advance reservations appreciated.	Kusu, Kuju-machi Kuju Shizen Kyoshitsu	☎ 097-373-0001
Jun. 30 th	Rice field exploration Round 1- here you can learn about what types of creatures live in rice fields after the rice is planted. Participation is ¥500. Reservations are appreciated.	Kusu, Kuju-machi Kuju Shizen Kyoshitsu	☎ 097-373-0001



STAGE & MUSIC EVENTS

May	Time	Artist/Event	Venue	Cost	Contact #
1 st	19:30	Trio Los Fandangos- tango argentine seasonal tour	Brick Block	¥3,500 +drink	☎ 097-536-4852
3 rd	16:30	Revolt Against the "xxxx" fes- featuring Revolt, FJB, Razors Edge, Spread, The Trust Blast, Dradnats Misspray and more	T.O.P.S BittsHall	¥2,500	☎ 097-533-0467
6 th	18:00	Eric Alexander & Joe Farnsworth quartet- super primetime tour	Brick Block	¥7,500	☎ 097-536-4852
6 th	16:30	AAA Tour 2012	Ichiko Grand Theater	¥6,300	☎ 092-771-9009
9 th ~ 19 th	Varies	The 14th MUSIC FESTIVAL Argerich's meeting point in Beppu- featuring musicians Martha Argerich (piano), Mischa Maisky (cello) Geza Hosszu-Legocky (violin), Daniil Trifonov (piano) and others.	Be-con Plaza +iichiko Culture Center	Varies	☎ 097-727-2299
13 th	14:00	Jolly Company Wind Ensemble Concert 2012- 20 th Anniversary Concert	iichiko Otonoizumu	¥1,000	☎ 080-5265-6513
16 th	20:00	Special Jazz&Blues Session- with guest Kai Kurosawa (from U.S.A)	Cantalloop II	¥1,500+drink	☎ 097-548-5363
18 th	19:30	Machiko Watanabe acoustic live- with Mami Ishizuka	Brick Block	¥5,500w/drink	☎ 097-536-4852
20 th	14:00	Takashima Chisako- with 12 violinists	Ichiko Grand Theater	¥5,500	☎ 097-537-5515
20 th	18:00	UNCHAIN- "Eat the Moon Parade" album tour, with KEYTALK	T.O.P.S BittsHall	¥3,000 +drink	☎ 097-533-0467
26 th	18:00	TAO 2012- amazing "drum art" performance, as part of their Kyushu and Okinawa tour	Ichiko Grand Theater	SS:¥7,000 S:¥6,000 A: ¥5,000	☎ 097-537-5515
27 th	19:00	Takeban SEEKRUIN	T.O.P.S BittsHall	¥3,000	☎ 097-533-0467
June	Time	Artist/Event	Venue	Cost	Contact #
3 rd	18:30	LOST IN TIME, Sakura Merryman, Sekai Ichi	T.O.P.S BittsHall	¥3,000	☎ 097-533-0467
4 th	20:00	Belly Dance Show- featuring Isis & jasmine jena	Brick Block	¥2,000w/drink	☎ 097-536-4852
8 th	18:30	EGG BRAIN, MEANING, FJB and others	T.O.P.S BittsHall	¥2,300	☎ 097-533-0467
13 th	19:00	Sièna Wind Orchestra	Ichiko Grand Theater	S:¥6,000A:¥5,000 B: ¥4,000	☎ 097-533-4004
17 th	14:00	Oita Symphony Orchestra- 2012 Family Concert	Ichiko Grand Theater	¥1,800	☎ 090-9583-8577
23 rd		Dragon 2012- featuring PRIMARY COLOURS, VAIRUS, Kamarosu, Takanoka Super Band	Cantalloop II	¥1,000+drink	☎ 097-548-5363

**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

iichiko Grand Theater= Oasis Tower 1F Oita City

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

Cantalloop II= 3-2-30 Miyako-Machi

iichiko Otonoizumi= Oasis Tower 4F Oita City

Nakayama Dai 5 Building 6F Oita City

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

EXHIBITIONS & SCREENINGS

Date	Description	Place	Admission	Contact #
Apr. 10 th ~ May. 13 th	Kanou Mitsuo Print Exhibition- a display of 70 masterpieces by artist Kanou Mitsuo, including copper plate drawings, metal prints, lithographs and more.	Oita Art Museum	¥500	☎ 097-554-5800
Apr. 21 st ~ Jul. 2 nd	"Kaiga ni miru monogatari" Display (the stories seen in paintings)- in addition, a free information workshop on the display will be held on May 13 th from 14:00.	Oita City History Museum	¥200	☎ 097-549-0880
May. 17 th ~ May. 29 th	Flower Poetry Picture Exhibition- featuring works by artist Tomihiro Hoshino. In support of the Great East Japan Earthquake reconstruction efforts (10:00~19:00)	Oita City Tokiwa main store8F	¥800	☎ 097-536-6188
May. 29 th ~ Jun. 17 th	New Collection Exhibition- the new artworks across all of the genres will be the focus of this period.	Oita Art Museum	¥200	☎ 097-554-5800
Jun. 19 th ~ Jul. 8 th	Hirano Gogaku Exhibition- display of pieces by artist Hirano Gogaku, a Buddhist priest from Hita temple, Sennen-ji, marking 120 years since his death.	Oita Art Museum	¥200	☎ 097-554-5800

Oita Art Museum= Oita-Shi Bijutsukan 大分市美術館

Oita City History Museum= Oita-Shi Rekishi Shiryokan 大分市歴史資料館

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

What's Going On?

Japanese Lessons

Himawari Japanese Volunteers

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

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

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

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

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

E-MAIL: nihongo_himawari_oita@yahoo.co.jp

Nihongo Rakuraku-talk

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

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

Sakura Japanese Class

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

AIUEO Japanese Lessons

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

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

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

Community

Oita International Christian Fellowship

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

Place: Compal Hall

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

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

International Kempo (Self-Defence Classes)

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

Place: Souda Dojo (Near Oita University)

Time: Every Friday 19:00~21:00

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

Rice Planting

The Kuju Furusato Shizen Gakkou is holding a number of rice field activities throughout the year. The next event will be the 'Spring rice planting' where people can experience rice planting done by hand without the use of a machine. The rice seedlings here have been grown using a traditional method called 'yunae'. There is a ¥1,200 participation fee which covers lunch, insurance and teaching materials.

Date: **May 19th, from 10:00~16:00**

Meeting place: Kuju Furusato Shizen Gakkou Office.

For inquiries TEL: 097-373-0001 or email:

mikeda@7midori.org

"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 8:15PM. 1500yen includes tea and sweets.

May 31st, June 28th

***May 31st** "Tomare" meditation session will be a special "new moon meditation" as part of Beppu Onpaku (cost: ¥2000)

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

Lunch With Us?

Japanese home cooking club for international families living in Beppu, takes place on **May 17th and June 21st** at the Health Center, Yunomachi Kenko-park, Beppu City from 11am to 2pm. 500yen to participate. For more information contact Beppu International Affairs Division TEL: 0977-21-6133
E-MAIL: int-ma@city.beppu.oita.jp

SHAKE YOUR SOUL/ Kripalu Yoga Dance

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

Joanne TEL: 090-1165-5567

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.

1pm ~ 2:30pm **May 26th, June 23rd**

Space is limited! Contact us to reserve your seat!

TEL: 097-533-4021

EMAIL: hiramoto@emo.or.jp

Free Legal Consultations

The Oita International Plaza is holding free legal consultations on **May 16th and June 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. The next consultation will be held on **June 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 May 12th & Tuesday May 15th

Saturday Jun. 2nd & Tuesday Jun. 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 second and fourth Tuesday each month from 13:00~16:00. Place: Oita International Plaza. Consultant: Cui Wenyu (*Dates and times are subject to change. Please contact the Oita International Plaza before coming.)
TEL: 097-533-4021

Free Health Consultations

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

Date: **May 16th, June 20th**

Time: 14:30~15:30

Oita International Plaza (iichiko Culture Center, floor B1)

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

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

LANGUAGE LEARNING PAGE



Kanji of the Month



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

ANSWER/REPLY 「回答」

The first character in the compound 「回」, is read as ^{kai} カイ, ^{mawasu} まわす or ^{mawaru} まわる, and comes from a pictograph of a whirlwind and creates the notion of "going around".

TIMES/GO AROUND/PASS AROUND 「回」

The second character in the compound 「答」, which is read ^{tou} トウ, ^{kotaeru} こたえる or ^{kotae} こたえ combines bamboo 「竹」 and fit/match 「合」 and creates an image of a bamboo cover perfectly fitting onto a container. This is meant to relate to a statement directly answering a question.

ANSWER 「答」

If we combine the characters for "times/go around" and "answer" we get the compound:

ANSWER/REPLY 「回答」

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

生徒に英語のアンケートを回したら、「聞かれている質問が難しくすぎて答えにくい」という回答が多かったです。

When I passed around a survey about English to the students, there were many replies that said "the questions we are asked are too difficult and hard to answer".



Japanese Proverbs

猿も木から落ちる

「さるもきからおちる」

“saru mo ki kara ochiru”

“Even monkeys fall from trees”

Everyone makes mistakes/ no one is perfect

Japanese Onomatopoeia

Have you ever found yourself in a Japanese conversation surrounded by ‘sounds’? In Japanese, onomatopoeia (‘giongo’ or ‘gitaigo’) is used to describe tastes, textures, sensations, sounds, feelings and much more.

In some exciting news, I have recently made a rather large discovery regarding how Japanese onomatopoeia is written. Upon hearing a Japanese giongo or gitaigo word, it can be hard to know whether it is in fact written in hiragana or katakana. Until now, I had not managed to recognise any discernible pattern in this process, and usually just winged it: much to the delight and laughter of Japanese friends. However over my lunch break at work on March 9th, during a conversation about someone's eyes feeling rather しよぼしよぼ ‘shobo-shobo’ (dry and tired) we got to talking about which words were written in hiragana, and which were written in katakana.

We came to the realization that words pertaining to the state of something will more than likely be written in hiragana, and words pertaining to sound or sensation will more than likely be written in katakana.

よぼよぼ ‘yobo-yobo’ - the tottering walk of an elderly person

ぐったり ‘guttari’ - the state of being utterly exhausted

Versus

ピンポン ‘pin-pon’ - the sound of a doorbell or buzzer ringing

ガチン ‘gachin’ - the sound of a thump or bang as one object hits another

Of course there are many instances where something could be perceived as both a state and a sound or sensation, which obviously does not work with this theory. However it is, at the very least, a start. Happy onomatopoeia-ing!

(My apologies to anyone already aware of this, hopefully it was as much a life-changing moment for you as it was for me)

Foreign Movies Showing in Oita

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

Cinema	Movie	Showing Date
Cinema5	A Separation	May. 12 th ~25 th
Central Oita (on 5 th Ave)	My Week With Marilyn	May. 12 th ~25 th
☎ 097-536-4512	Shame	May. 19 th ~Jun. 1 st
	The Good Doctor	May. 26 th ~Jun. 1 st
	The Kid With a Bike (French)	Jun. 2 nd ~15 th
	Un Prophète (A Prophet) (French)	Jun. 9 th ~15 th
Toho Cinemas Wasada Town	Larry Crowne	May. 11 th
☎ 097-548-7878	The Descendants	May. 18 th
	The Muppets	May. 19 th
	Dark Shadows	May. 19 th
	Men in Black 3	May. 25 th
	Midnight in Paris	May. 26 th
	The Skin I Live in	May. 26 th
T-Joy Cinemas Park Place	Larry Crowne	May. 11 th
	Bad Teacher	May. 19 th
	Dark Shadows	May 19 th
	Soul Surfer	Jun. 9 th
	Seeking Justice	Jun. 16 th
	The Amazing Spiderman	Jun. 30 th

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 (in@emo.or.jp) based on the submission deadline listed in the publication schedule below. The Oita Prefecture Cultural and Sports Foundation reserves all copyrights to articles printed in THE TOMBO.

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

Receiving THE TOMBO

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

Necessities of Life

~Free Health Consultations~

Starting in April, the Saiseikai Hita Hospital as part of its ‘Nadeshiko Plan’ is offering free health consultations and medical examinations at the Oita International Plaza to foreign nationals living in Oita Prefecture. For people who are concerned about their state of health but are not sure who to turn to, these free consultations offer a good place to start. This service is aimed in particular to those who are on a low income or unemployed, victims of domestic violence, people concerned about the cost of medical bills, and anyone unsure who to seek advice from regarding medical treatment and welfare. Those in possession of a health insurance card are asked to bring it along to the

consultations. Staff will include a doctor, two nurses, a clerk and a medical treatment consultant.

Consultations are held at the Oita International Plaza (iichiko Culture Center, floor B1)

Dates: May 16th, June 20th

Time: 14:30~15:30

For inquiries please contact the Saiseikai
Hita Hospital TEL: 0973-24-1100

*Dates and times are subject to change. It is recommended that you confirm the date and time prior to visiting.



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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.

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(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).

