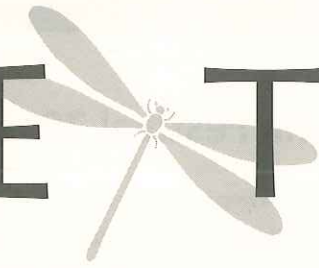


# THE TOMBO



Oita's English Newsletter

October, November, December 2015

Issue 80

## ♪ The 25<sup>th</sup> Japan-America Grassroots Summit



My name is Sheridan, and I come from the USA. I attended the 25th Japan-America Grassroots Summit held in Oita Prefecture in July. The Summit was a great opportunity to have some memorable experiences in Oita Prefecture, as well as make new friends.

During the summit I got the chance to visit several different areas of Oita, including Beppu, Hita, Kitsuki, and Oita City. Each place I visited exposed a different side of Oita. If Oita Prefecture is the onsen capital of Japan, then Beppu felt like the capital's throne. I visited the Three Hells (my favorite was the Blood Pond), and relaxed in the hotel's onsen. Beautiful outdoor illuminations surrounded the hotel the participants stayed at, and each of these illuminations was powered by geothermal energy from the hotel's onsen.

As impressive as Beppu was, my favorite part of the summit was my time in Hita. No matter where I looked I couldn't help

but be impressed by Hita's landscape. What I didn't know before I arrived was that Hita is in the basin of a mountain. This means two things. One, the skyline of the city and the countryside alike are always full of mountains, and, two, Hita gets hot. We met the staff of the Hita Chamber of Commerce who announced (both proudly and shamefully) that, in all of Japan, the temperature in Hita was the hottest that day.

The fact that it was scorching hot didn't make the trip any less amazing. We got a chance to visit an artisan who created geta and decorate a pair of geta for our own. We visited several different factories, including one for shochu and another for Sapporo beer. We looked at pottery that dated back hundreds of years and had the opportunity to see how it was made. We looked at the massive yamaboko for the upcoming Gion Festival. Sadly, I wasn't in Japan when the festival was held. I did get the chance to wear a kimono (tied for me by my very lovely host grandmother) and enjoy a meal on a houseboat with traditional musical entertainment and a great vantage point from which to watch fisherman using cormorants to catch fish.

It's amazing to think that, as beautiful as Hita was, I was impressed with the kindness and hospitality people showed me more than anything else. In particular, my homestay family made me feel incredibly welcome and gave me my first chance to experience a slice of everyday Japanese life. Between everyone's kindness and nature's beauty, I truly came to love Oita Prefecture. --- Sheridan



## ♪ Yufuin Cinema Festival 2015

I'm a huge fan of film and I love going to the cinema. Being British and living in Japan, I have the opportunity to see many Japanese films that may not get a theatrical release back home in the UK. Not only is this great for my Japanese study, but it also means I get the chance to see films I otherwise may not have gotten to see. So when my friend told me that every year Yufuin in Oita Prefecture holds a film festival and asked me if I would like to go, I jumped at the chance.



The sign points out that Yufuin is a "town without a single cinema"

However, I was surprised to learn that Yufuin even had a film festival in the first place. Yufuin didn't exactly seem like a haven for film fans – it doesn't even have a cinema! When I thought of film festivals, I thought of bustling crowds and bright lights. I thought of places like Cannes, Toronto, Tokyo, Venice... I did not think of sleepy Yufuin, a place that is often bustling with tourists but is also a small and quiet town surrounded by nature. That said, I love Yufuin: whenever I take a trip there and take in its wide skies and the view of the beautiful twin-peaked Mt. Yufu, I am filled with happiness. I go there here whenever I want to eat good food, sit in an onsen, and relax. So as a fan of Yufuin and as a fan of films, a Cinema Festival in Yufuin seemed perfect.

My friend picked me up in the car to drive to Yufuin early in the morning on a cloudy Sunday to catch the film we had chosen to see: *Seshiumu to Shōjo*, a film combining live-action film and beautiful animation, about a girl who teams up with a group of gods to find her grandmother's missing pet birds. I knew almost nothing about the film except that I had found the brief plot synopsis intriguing, and so I had no idea what to expect.

We handed over our tickets and sat down in the public hall and waited for the lights to dim. It was then that the polar bear holding a microphone appeared on stage. Somewhat worried that I may be hallucinating, I whispered to my friend (who had seen other films at the festival): "Is that polar bear always there before the film starts?" My friend, equally bewildered, whispered back: "No... I have no idea why there's a polar bear!"

Luckily, soon everything became clear (a similar polar bear featured prominently during the film), but it was certainly a memorable introduction to my first film festival in Japan, and set the tone for what turned out to be a quirky and memorable film. After the credits rolled, we were able to attend a symposium with the film's creators, during which they took questions from members of the public. It was fantastic to be able to hear the thoughts and opinions of my fellow cinema-goers and the people who had created the film.



It's not every day that I see a polar bear introducing a film...



It wouldn't be a trip to Yufuin without getting to eat something delicious. In this case, hamburger with vegetables and a lovely roll cake.

Following the symposium, my friend drove me to a beautiful café located slightly apart from the hustle and bustle of Yufuin's main shopping street, and we chatted about the film over delicious cake and tea. It was the perfect end to a lovely morning. If any readers have not been to the Yufuin Cinema Festival before, I thoroughly recommend checking out next year's film festival. --- *Miriam*

## EXHIBITIONS &amp; SCREENINGS

Date	Description	Place	Admission	Contact #
Sept. 29 <sup>th</sup> – Oct. 4 <sup>th</sup>	The 51 <sup>st</sup> Oita Prefecture Art Exhibit: Western and Japanese Sculptures	Oita Prefectural Art Museum	¥500	☎ 090-7153-5710
Oct. 6 <sup>th</sup> – Oct. 11 <sup>th</sup>	The 51 <sup>st</sup> Oita Prefecture Art Exhibit: Calligraphy	Oita Prefectural Art Museum	¥500	☎ 090-8836-5837
Oct. 13 <sup>th</sup> – Oct. 18 <sup>th</sup>	The 51 <sup>st</sup> Oita Prefecture Art Exhibit: Photography	Oita Prefectural Art Museum	¥500	☎ 090-8914-4813
Oct. 3 <sup>rd</sup> – Nov. 8 <sup>th</sup>	L'ecole de Paris – The Dreams of Outsiders who Blossomed in Paris	Oita City Art Museum	¥800	☎ 097-554-5800
Oct. 23 <sup>rd</sup> – Nov. 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Nihon Kenbunroku – Exhibition about the history of dogs and people in Japan	Oita City Historical Museum	¥200	☎ 097-549-0880
Oct. 31 <sup>st</sup> – Jan. 24 <sup>th</sup>	Opening Exhibition Vol. 2 Dawn of Gods – Encounter of Venus, and Spiritual Landscape, East and West	Oita Prefectural Art Museum	¥1200 (same-day ticket)	☎ 097-533-4500

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



## STAGE &amp; MUSIC EVENTS

Date	Time	Artist/Event	Venue	Cost	Contact #
Oct. 14 <sup>th</sup>	19:00	One Coin Relay Concert: You Kigoshi plays the cello with Izumi Nagae playing the piano	iichiko Otonoizumi Hall	¥500	☎ 097-533-4004
Nov. 11 <sup>th</sup>	19:00	One Coin Relay Concert: Taichi Hikita plays the Tsugaru Shamisen	iichiko Otonoizumi Hall	¥500	☎ 097-533-4004
Nov. 25 <sup>th</sup>	14:00 and 18:00	Shochiku Kabuki	iichiko Grand Theatre	Prices vary.	☎ 097-533-4004
Dec. 3 <sup>rd</sup>	14:00 and 18:00	Takarazuka Revue Snow Troupe: National Tour "Kanashimi no Cordoba" and "La Esmerelda"	iichiko Grand Theatre	Prices vary.	☎ 097-533-4004
Dec. 12 <sup>th</sup>	19:30	Play the Christmas – Christmas Party	Cantaloop II	¥2500 +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

Cantaloop II=3-2-30 Miyako-Machi  
Nakayama Dai 5 Building 6F Oita City

iichiko Grand Theatre= Oasis Tower 2F Oita City  
iichiko Otonoizumi Hall =Oasis Tower 4F Oita City

## Oita World Festa 2015

## Oita World Festa 2015

Date: October 31<sup>st</sup> (Saturday)

Time: 10:00am ~ 5:00pm

Place: Horuto Hall (Oita City)

Cost: Free entry.

Oita International Plaza will be holding a **Barter Exchange Market** as part of this event.

First exchange: 11:30am ~ 12:00pm

Second exchange: 3:30pm ~ 4:00pm

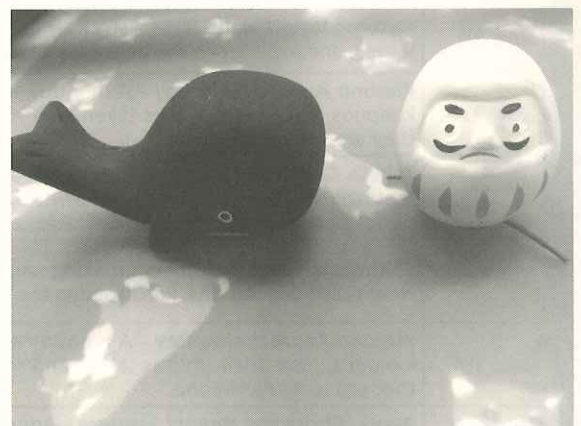
1. Please bring items worth up to 1,000 yen each.

- These items can be either used or unused.
- Limited to items that can be easily carried.
- Food products will not be accepted.

2. When exchanging starts, participants can show each other the items they have brought and barter.

3. When participants have finished bartering, they can exchange items.

As well as the Barter Exchange Market, there will be lots of events held as part of Oita World Festa 2015. Please come and join the fun!



An example of the type of items you could potentially bring...!

## Festivals and Events

Date	Event Description	Location	Contact #
Oct. 11 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Tashibuno-shou Shukakusai (Tashibuno Manor Harvest Festival)</b> - A yearly tradition that has continued for many years. Come harvest rice and chat with the locals at Tashibuno Manor farming village (weather permitting)	Bungo Takada City Kozaki area	☎ 0978-22-3100
Oct. 11 <sup>th</sup>	<b>28<sup>th</sup> Beppu Yukemuri Health Walk Rally/Marathon</b> - This event will take place at Lake Shidaka and Lake Kagurame in Beppu (inquire for more details)	Beppu City Lake Shidaka	☎ 0977-25-8025
Oct. 11 <sup>th</sup> ~ Nov. 3 <sup>rd</sup>	<b>Sanko Cosmos Garden</b> - 20 million cosmoses are in bloom, approx. 21 ha of the foot of Hachimenzan mountain. Places change every year; this year the Haruguchi and Naritsune districts will transform into a pink and white carpet. Shuttle bus service (free of charge) from JR Nakatsu Station on Sundays.	Nakatsu City Sanko Area	☎ 0979-43-2050
Oct. 12 <sup>th</sup>	<b>40<sup>th</sup> Beef Eating and Screaming Contest</b> - Yes, you read it right! Come eat beef raised in Yufu and scream to your heart's content, or just enjoy watching others do so (held at Namiyanagi Farm)	Yufu City Yufuin-cho Kawakami	☎ 0977-85-4464
Oct. 17 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Kimono Appreciation Day</b> - A monthly event where visitors can try on rental kimonos, have their photos taken, and receive discounts at nearby facilities if they are wearing kimono.	Kitsuki City Jouka-machi	☎ 0978-63-0100
Oct. 17 <sup>th</sup> ~ 18 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Beppu Fisheries Festival</b> - This event aims to show local seafood produce. Held at Kamegawa Port, here you can enjoy lots of local cuisine.	Beppu City Kamegawa Port	☎ 097-532-6611
Oct. 18 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Oita Dialect Uncovered! Speech Contest</b> - A comedic contest for linguistic contortionists at Chuo Community Center. Come along to test out your Oita-ben comprehension (reservations necessary)	Bungo Takada Chuo Kominkan	☎ 0978-22-3100
Oct. 18 <sup>th</sup>	<b>The 10<sup>th</sup> Road of Xavier Walking Festival</b> - Walking event to explore the road which Christian Missionary Francisco Xavier walked along in 1551 to go to Bungo-Funai via Yamaguchi.	Hiji Town Hiji Town Community Center	☎ 0977-73-3158
Oct. 24 <sup>th</sup> ~ 25 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Beppu Agriculture and Forestry Festival</b> - An event promoting local goods at Beppu Park. Here you can enjoy local products, wood working and workshops.	Beppu City Beppu Park	☎ 097-506-3544
Oct. 25 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Beppu Dance Festa</b> - This contest will showcase talented dancers competing for the grand prize (to be held in Beppu Park in conjunction with another local produce promotional event)	Beppu City Beppu Park	☎ 0977-24-2828
Nov. 7 <sup>th</sup> ~ 8 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Usuki Takeyoi festival</b> - Over this weekend, approximately 20,000 bamboo shoots are lit up with candles all over the city.	Usuki City Nioza	☎ 0972-63-1111
Nov. 2 <sup>nd</sup>	<b>26<sup>th</sup> Shonai Kagura Festival</b> - In conjunction with the 34 <sup>th</sup> Shonai Town 'Furusato' festival. There will be kagura performances from a number of groups, and specialty goods for sale.	Yufu City Shonai-Machi	☎ 097-582-1111
Nov. 13 <sup>th</sup> ~ 15 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Sennen Akari</b> - Festival of lights in Hita City. Bamboo shoots will be lit up with candles throughout town, and there will be concerts, food stalls, and more!	Hita City Mameda-Machi	☎ 0973-23-3111
Nov. 14 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Japanese traditional art - "Straw sandals" making workshop</b> - Experience making straw sandals. Participation fee is ¥500, reservations necessary.	Kokonoe-Machi Kuju Furusato Shizen Gakkou	☎ 0973-73-0001
Nov. 14 <sup>th</sup> ~ 15 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Hita Tenryo Festival</b> - This festival works to recreate Edo period Japan with a samurai parade and various acts of local performing arts around Tsuki-kuma Park.	Hita City Mameda-Machi	☎ 0973-23-3111
Nov. 8 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Autumn leaves walk</b> - Take a stroll around the park to enjoy the scenic autumn leaves, and experience the beginning of <i>aki</i> (autumn).	Oita City Kenmin-no-mori	☎ 097-588-0656
Nov. 21 <sup>st</sup>	<b>Kimono Appreciation Day</b> - A monthly event where visitors can try on rental kimonos, have their photos taken, and receive discounts at nearby facilities if they are wearing kimono.	Kitsuki-City Jouka-machi	☎ 0978-63-0100
Nov. 20 <sup>th</sup> ~ 22 <sup>nd</sup>	<b>Taketa Chikuraku bamboo light festival</b> - Over three days 20,000 bamboo lanterns will be lit across Jyouka-Machi, and visitors can enjoy live music performances, and taste local delicacies at food stalls.	Taketa City Jyouka-Machi	☎ 0974-63-2638
Dec. 5 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Shimekazari and Kadomatsu making workshop</b> - Experience making Japanese New Year's decorations. Participation fee is ¥500, reservations necessary.	Kokonoe-Machi Kuju Furusato Shizen Gakkou	☎ 0973-73-0001
Dec. 19 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Kimono Appreciation Day</b> - A monthly event where visitors can try on rental kimonos, have their photos taken, and receive discounts at nearby facilities if they are wearing kimono.	Kitsuki-City Jouka-machi	☎ 0978-63-0100
Dec. 23 <sup>rd</sup> ~ 24 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Beppu Christmas Hanabi Fantasia</b> - Approximately 10,000 fireworks are to be fired into the clear winter sky to create huge original displays, accompanying a performance of Christmas songs sung by 1000 people.	Beppu City Spa Beach	☎ 0977-24-2828
Dec. 26 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Wadako (Japanese traditional kite) making workshop</b> - Experience making Wadako. Participation fee is ¥220 (incl. admission fee), reservations necessary.	Oita City History Museum	☎ 097-549-0880
Dec. 31 <sup>st</sup>	<b>Usa Shrine New Year's Eve festival</b> - This is the final festival to round off the year.	Usa City Usa Shrine	☎ 0978-37-0001

\* Although the TOMBO aims to provide information that is as accurate as possible, there may be occasions when the dates mentioned or other small details are incorrect. If you are unsure at all regarding the details of an event, please use the contact numbers listed above to make inquiries.

## What's Going On?

### From the Plaza

#### Free Legal Consultations

The Oita International Plaza is holding free legal consultations for foreign residents on the third Wednesday of every month: October 21<sup>st</sup>, November 18<sup>th</sup>, December 16<sup>th</sup>.

The Oita International Plaza is also holding free consultations concerning immigration and residency paperwork etc. on the first Sunday of every month: October 4<sup>th</sup>, November 1<sup>st</sup>, December 6<sup>th</sup>.

For more information on free consultations, please contact the Oita International Plaza.

#### Free Tagalog Consultations

The Free Tagalog Consultations held on the first Saturday and third Tuesday of every month will not be held for a short while. We are sorry for the inconvenience and thank you for your understanding.

"Free Consultations on Immigration, Residence and Citizenship Procedures" (Sponsor: Life Support for Foreigners), as well as "Free Consultations for Foreign Residents" will be held as planned, so please attend these consultations instead.

(If you require consultations in a language other than Japanese or English, please make the appointment at least 2 days in advance).

#### Free Chinese Consultations

Date/Time: **Every Thursday 10:00-13:00**. Place: Oita International Plaza. Consultant: Kodama Wenyu (\*Dates and times are subject to change. Please contact the Oita International Plaza before coming.) TEL: 097-533-4021  
Venue: Oita International Plaza (iichiko Culture Center, B1F)

#### Volunteer Interpreters and Translators

##### "Skill Up Course" – Disaster Cases

**December 12th (Saturday), 14:00-15:30**

For volunteer interpreters/translators, we are holding "Volunteer Interpreters and Translators "Skill Up Course"-law cases-" from 2 pm to 3:30 pm on Sat. December 12th. Participation is FREE! Reservation is necessary (Deadline: December 4th). If you are a volunteer, come to the "Middle meeting Room 1" at iichiko Culture Center 4F. Contact: 097-533-4021 (osei@emo.or.jp)

### Japanese Lessons

#### Himawari Japanese Volunteers

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

Wasada Public Hall Wed. 10:00-11:30

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

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

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

E-MAIL: [nihongo\\_himawari\\_oita@yahoo.co.jp](mailto:nihongo_himawari_oita@yahoo.co.jp)

#### Nihongo Rakuraku-talk

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

TEL: 0977-21-6133 E-MAIL: [int-ma@city.beppu.oita.jp](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 10:15-12:00 at the Oita University International House in Nishiki-Machi, Oita City. Classes are free of charge. For more information call Ms. Ohashi  
CELL: 090-7866-2486

#### AIUEO Japanese Lessons

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

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

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

### Community Classes and Events

#### Happy Talk

Come practice speaking Japanese with other learners and native speakers. Reservations not required, just show up on the day.

**October 24<sup>th</sup> 13:00-14:30**

**November 21<sup>st</sup> 13:00-14:30**

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

For more details visit the Facebook page:

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



The JR Kyushu Sweet Train waiting at Oita Station (sadly I did not get to ride on it!) A sunny day in Usuki.



## ♪ Goodbye to 2015!

It's hard to believe that 2015 is already drawing to a close. It has been a privilege to edit the TOMBO this year and I am looking forward to writing articles for the TOMBO in 2016 too. I hope that all readers of the TOMBO have a wonderful New Year.

--- With warmest regards from the editor.

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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<sup>th</sup> - Jan 3<sup>rd</sup>

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

