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# awa life



A monthly newsletter for international residents of Tokushima, produced by TOPIA, the Tokushima Prefectural International Exchange Association.

December 2008 No. 222

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## the origin's design

text by matthew lindsay  
photos by shunsaku inoshita

**W**hat a klutz!" I cursed my clumsy self as I rode home after losing my wallet for the second time in almost as many months. I wished with every last ounce of hope that it might somehow find its way back to me - stories of lost valuables being returned to their owners are not the stuff of fairy tales here in Japan.

Back home I switched on the PC to find a miracle mail from TOPIA awaiting me. My wallet had been found! Professor Shunsaku Inoshita of the Department of Design at Shikoku University had kindly notified TOPIA and was holding it for me. Within minutes I was back on my bike heading towards the university, a smile back on my face.

I felt an immediate bond with Professor Inoshita upon entering his office. The numerous photos and paintings of forest, waterfalls, rivers and



*children gather around professor inoshita's yoshino river sculpture in the forests of kochi prefecture*

mountains, the bowls of fresh fruit on his table all indicated that here was a nature lover much like myself. The professor informed me a student had found my wallet on the old blue bridge, within a hairs breadth of falling into the Yoshino River. Little did I know but the discovery of it would lead me to discovering the origin of the

mighty river.

Professor Inoshita incorporates his love of nature into his work. He's an active contributor and organizer of the annual outdoor sculpture and installation exhibition held in Tokushima Park. He has also erected sculpture monuments at the origin of two of Tokushima's major rivers, the Yoshino

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## awalife

is a monthly publication of the Tokushima Prefectural International Exchange Association (TOPIA).

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www.topia.ne.jp/e\_index.htm

## from the editors

as they say, time flies, and I can't believe we're already back in December! Time for Christmas illumination display information, making plans for the new year holidays and writing **nengajo**. It's all a bit dizzying, isn't it? You only just get used to it being the year 200X, and now it's time to usher the poor thing off to greener pastures and bring in the new, improved 200X+1. In with the new and out with the old, I guess. Well, we've still got a little time left to make the most of 2008, and I hope you've got some plans to do just that. For now, if you're looking for something to do then why not check out some of the artwork in Kamiyama from this year's Artist in Residence Program, or the annual Christmas lights.

Cheers, Andrew



Can you feel it? It's almost over. What have I done? A year felt so long when I was young. My parents told me, if you are in a specific age, time will pass very quickly. So if it is already fast for me in my thirties, how fast must it feel for even older people. But I start to feel good about it. I can see with my own eyes how fast things proceed. I wait and wait and suddenly the wait is over for something. And only a few days left until the end of the year, and again I have to write some **nengajo**. How do I do this? Oh, I look at page five and get some cards at the post office. Maybe this time I will win something in the lottery? Okay, a few more days to save the planet this year. I am looking forward to saving it again next year!

Danke! Mario



*mikan and steamed sweet potatoes for sale by fujii temple (photo by andrew dahms)*

# kair 2008 in review

by andrew dahms

another year goes by and the Kamiyama Artist in Residence Program 2008 comes to a close. This year's artists created some very interesting works, ranging from both indoor and outdoor installations to indigo dye, manga, paper cutouts and much more! And as usual, I made my way out to Kamiyama, this time on one of the Art Tours, to see the various sites and receive a short explanation from the artists about their work over the past few months.

## Karin van der Molen

The first stop on the tour was for Dutch artist Karin van der Molen. Van der Molen created a number of pieces that could be found spread across the town.

The first site we visited was the Hachiman Shrine near Kamiyama Onsen where two large objects woven from **kazura** vines were being displayed. The rough tangle of the vines had been shaped into two slightly spherical shapes, one at the entrance to the shrine and the other deeper inside.

The second work took the shape of a tea bowl made from blue stones taken from the local area, fixed together by cement and submerged into the ground so that only the lip and interior stood above the ground. Made to represent a cup steadily filling with the wisdom we collect during our lives, this work is found by the cinnamon tree at Oawa



*guests look over dezsö's works at the sake brewery in the middle of kamiyama*

Mountain.

The third work, titled Moon Dome, can be found near the river in Shimobun. Crossing the river, one is greeted with what looks like an upturned tea cup made of vines, with the centre of it turned into a large funnel and pointing up into the sky. On the ground in the middle is a stone for visitors to rest their head and look up through the vine branches into the sky above.

True to van der Molen's style, each of her works felt less like an installation and more like a natural part of their surroundings, holding a definite sense of belonging to the area in to which they were placed. Not only do each of the works rely heavily upon the use of local materials, but their thoughtful placement gives them a subtle sense of presence and belonging in the area in which they have been

placed.

Also, in somewhat of a surprise move, van der Molen's husband Pat von Boeckel also created an artwork during the program.

Found at the Josei Senior High School, it also takes the form of an indoors installation piece. In the middle of a tatami-floored room is an open space filled with bark from which tower several large sections of a tree trunk. On either side of the room plays a video, both showing a dream-like sequence of Kamiyama and the natural surroundings, all played to classical music in a dim environment with dramatic lighting that gives the space its own, separate atmosphere.

## Aki Rika

The work of Kagawa-born Aki Rika was found in the old Yorii-za Theatre and a nearby area in the form of two large installations.

The first work, in Yorii-za, filled the entire inside of the theatre. But perhaps it would be more appropriate to call the work an experience rather than an installation. Upon entering the theatre you are greeted by dimmed lights and a large, circular wall made entirely of rice stalks (reminding me greatly of Vaughn Bell's work from last year). And all about are countless origami cranes hanging from the ceiling by long threads to create a field of individual artworks. Furthermore, there is a small entrance to the wall of rice stalks as well that leads into

**kair 2008 in review ... con't on page 4**

## kair 2008 in review ... con't from page 3



*karin van der molen's artwork with its tunnel for viewers to look up into the sky above*



*aki rika's installation in the old yoriiza theatre, with members of the art tour in the middle of the theatre, surrounding by hundreds of origami cranes strung from the ceiling*

the middle of the ring, where there are even more hanging works of a different kind, each like a small house and with its own led inside to give it a light of its own.

The second work was found a short, 10 minute walk from the theatre. Heading out of the theatre and along the road a way, we passed up along a small river until we reached a field with a small, wooden tower standing in the middle of it. At around three metres in height, the wooden tower was completely sealed from the outside except for some small coloured windows and a door that blends almost perfectly in with the building's exterior. Standing inside, the light from outside peaks through into the room via the coloured windows to create a dappled lighting effect on the walls. The light inside the room changes as the sun moves overhead and according to the weather conditions at the time, giving you a different experience each time you enter.

### Andrea Dezsö

Like Karin van der Molen and Aki Rika, the works of Andrea Dezsö were also spread out over various areas of the town.

The main exhibition space was in the old Myozai Sake Brewery in the middle of town, consisting of a large screen showing a nine minute long animation sequence and a small field of poles with artworks arranged on top. Based around a series of kaleidoscopic Awa Indigo Dye designs, the animation is played to the sounds of nature and a recording of the heart sutra. The heart sutra forms the main focus for the work, being the sutra read by pilgrims when they reach a temple in the 88 temple pilgrimage. Its appearance in the animation is a representation of Kamiyama's role in this ancient tradition and serves to add a captivating sense of rhythm and depth to the animation.

The other artworks in the room were equally captivating. Arranged as small islands of

light in the dark of the room, each of the poles sported paper cut out works, pop-up books and even a limited edition manga book. The overall theme of the works was a focus on how it feels to be a stranger to a new environment and the feelings this invokes.

The third work by Dezsö was found at the Ono Sakura Butai, an outdoor theatre for the Awa Puppet Theatre that can be found some 10 minutes away by car from the Myozai Sake Brewery. This particular work took the form of a series of screens used as a background for the awa puppet theatre. A series of ten boards come together to present a total of five harlequin-esque faces that can be flipped instantly to show both front and back, each sporting the same faces but with different facial expressions. This design was born from Dezsö's linking of the theatre with a more western style circus and the typical style of designs found there.



# how to write nengajo

submitted

There are lots of different ways to wish someone a Happy New Year in Japanese. Aside from the above, you could also write 去年はお世話になりました。今年もよろしくお願ひします。(kyonen wa osewa ni narimashita. kotoshi mo yoroshiku onegaishimasu - Thanks for all your help in the past year. I'm depending on you again this year). Don't forget to include the date - January 1st has its own special **kanji**: 元旦 - **gantan**.

The custom of sending **nengajo** as a new year's card was invented in the 8th century, when the aristocrats and nobles started to wish a good New Year to each other.

In the 9th century however, this custom spread and so they wanted to greet even their friends in other parts of the country to wish them a good New Year, so they started to write New Year letters.

It became famous over the years until more people, even the ordinary folk did this. From the Edo Period on, express mailmen were used to transport the letters so that they would arrive on the first day of the new year. In the year 1871, when the post system was invented, there weren't so many letters yet to send out.

But only two years later, the post started to simplify the **nengajo** so that everyone

could afford them and that their use would be easier: they introduced the **nengajo** postcard.

The custom rapidly spread until approximately 1887, when it became a general custom to send out **nengajo** to friends and family. And in 1899 the post started officially the **nenga**-system (send in the card in the old year, and it arrives on January first). Last year over 3,950,000,000 cards were sold, so you can imagine how important this custom has become here in Japan. Why not get started today and bring a little New Year's cheer to some people you know at home or in your workplace?



|   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| <p>きって<br/>切手<br/><b>Kitte</b> / stamp ①</p> <p>The <b>nengajo</b> sold by the post office already have a stamp printed on them. If you make your own, you'll have to buy a 50 yen stamp to put on it. There are some with special New Year's designs that include <b>otoshidama</b> lottery numbers.</p> | <p>郵便はがき<br/>7700831</p> <p>① 50</p> <p>② 年賀</p> <p>put<br/>your<br/>address<br/>here<br/>□□□□□</p> <p>山田 太郎様 ⑤</p> <p>徳島県徳島市寺島本町西1の6 1<br/>クレメント・プラザ 6階 ④</p> <p>③ A7777組 お年玉 77777</p>  | <p>⑥</p> <p>牛</p> <p>あけましておめでとう<br/>ございます<br/>元旦</p>   |
| <p>ねんが<br/>年賀<br/><b>Nenga</b> / New Year's Card ②</p> <p>This will let the post-man know to post your card on January 1st.</p>   | <p>The address ④ is written on the right hand side, starting with the prefecture, then city, getting smaller until the apartment number is at the end.</p> <p>When you address ⑤ your <b>nengajo</b>, make sure you write the honourific 様 (<b>sama</b>) at the end of the recipient's name, but be careful not to write it at the end of your own!</p> | <p>牛<br/><b>Ushi</b> / cow ⑥</p> <p>People usually decorate their cards with an illustration of the Chinese Zodiac animal for the coming year, or the <b>kanji</b> for that zodiac animal. There are no hard and fast rules, though, making it the perfect opportunity for you to express your creativity!</p> |
| <p>としだま<br/>お年玉<br/><b>Otoshidama</b> / New Year's Gift ③</p> <p>The <b>otoshidama</b> lottery is held around January 15<sup>th</sup> every year - check your numbers at the post office to see if you won a prize!</p>   |   |  |

# christmas impressions

by mario dammann

There is this special feeling. It starts almost as the same time, when the streets and department stores decided to change decorations. Trees, lights and music are helping to start this feeling. Would there be snow, it would be perfect, but I think also this year it will be difficult to see white Christmas in Tokushima.

The only thing you can be sure of, is the returning of the coldness in your apartment and the increase of the costs for electricity for the coming month. But it has also something good. For me at least. I feel safe and relaxed. The special Christmas feeling gives me back my childhood memories. In my Germany childhood memories is a white Christmas. It is even colder in my hometown Berlin than at this time in Tokushima, but we have snow, at least a little and with a little luck also on Christmas Eve. Inside my family and I are singing Christmas songs, it is warm, the Christmas tree is atmospherically illuminated and peace comes to my heart.

The Christmas time is a very special event in Germany, rather than in Japan. The whole family comes together. We feel bound together and that we are a family. Of course, not everybody has this much luck as I have with a family of over twenty members.

Last year (my first year in Tokushima) I enjoyed some of the Christmas illuminations in the prefecture. Two friends were so kind to grab me and take me all the way to the



*hypnotic but beautiful installation at mt. bizan*

Top of Mt. Bizan and to Ikeda Station. Bizan had a very beautiful and modern looking illumination made of LEDs in a hypnotic triangle form (see picture above). It was very bright but fitted perfectly into the night atmosphere. A friendly overall blue marked the top of Tokushima city's most famous mountain. Also the view from the top was very exciting. No clouds on heaven prevent us from looking at the stars and the air was very clear.

Our next stop was the very far away Ikeda. We drove and drove, but finally we made it to our destination, Ikeda Station. The place is, as you may know in the very far west of Tokushima, right ahead in the mountains. The air was cold, the wind was strong. My until this point fresh bought winter jacket was even to thin it seemed. But seeing the lights of the illuminations set my heart in fire, it was a small place like a stage or

small park with lots of small lights in a beautiful order. In the trees were decorated with fairy lights and the entrance of this small stage park had an archway with lights. It was very romantic, but I felt a little like the fifth wheel on a car. My two friends (a young couple) should have felt more heat in their hearts. Anyway, we took some nice pictures for our families and our stomachs started to feel empty. The girlfriend of my friend knew a good Italian restaurant with lovely pasta. These were indeed very good spaghetti and these alone were worth the long travel and standing out the freezing temperatures (not in the restaurant of course). Plus the beautiful illumination installations made this evening a perfect date. Someday, maybe this year, I want to go again.

Okay enough small talk from me, check out this years Christmas lights in the memorandum section!



## the origin's design ... con't from page 1

River and the Naka River. The professor kindly gave me a detailed insight into the creation and installation of the Yoshino River monument.

The Yoshino River runs a course of 194km making it a close second to Shikoku's longest river the Shimanto, which is only two kilometers longer. The origin point of the river lies deep in the heart of the island in Kochi Prefecture. The spherical shape of Professor Inoshita's monument symbolizes one of these first drops. As it makes its way towards the Pacific, the Yoshino is fed from tributaries originating in all four prefectures of the island. The outline of Shikoku cut into the sphere is in recognition of this connection the river has with the entire island.

In deciding upon what material to use to construct the origin's monument, Professor Inoshita made longevity a priority. Initially he thought of using stone but then realized that it would blend too much into the surrounds making it unrecognizable. One day while driving behind a fuel tanker the answer came to him - stainless steel. Not only is it long lasting, it also acts as a mirror to reflect the beauty of the pristine surroundings of the origin.

The choice of design and material proved to be relatively easy compared with the logistics of installing the monument. The initial intention was to install the sphere right at the origin of the Yoshino however locals informed the professor that it could get damaged or destroyed there.

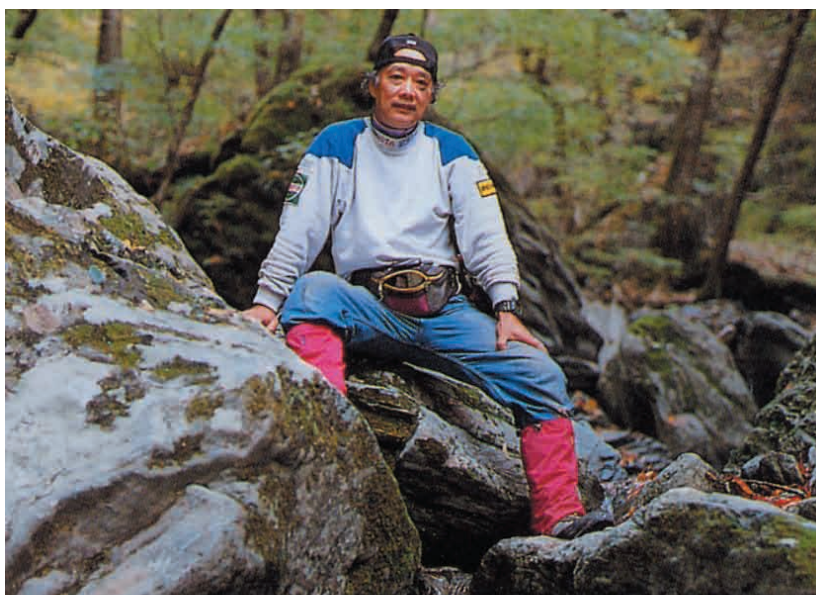


*the base of the yoshino river, deep in the heart of kochi prefecture, and the site of professor inoshita's sculpture (top left)*

During typhoons the river can rise up to 2 metres, dislodging anything in its path. A large mossy boulder overlooking the origin was therefore chosen as the location for the monument.

Once the position of the monument had been established there still remained the problem of getting the sizable sphere (diameter 1m) there. Professor Inoshita initially thought of a helicopter to do the job. The protected

forest at the site though was too dense to penetrate without damaging it. There was no other option than to lug the monument by four wheel drive vehicle along a forestry road above then lower it into the valley by rope – a mighty effort indicative of the professor's commitment to his work and his deep love of nature. Getting there?



*professor inoshita, ready for action out in the wilds*

## Becky's Awa-ben!

### Kaku (to bring)

Watch out! In standard Japanese this verb means 'to write' or 'to scratch' so using it outside of Tokushima might get you some funny looks.

### Sono tsukue wo kaite-ite.

Can you bring that desk over here.

### Aru-de nai-de. (Standard Japanese aru desho)

Isn't it?

### Ara... watashi no pen ha doko?

Huh? Where is my pen?

### Sore are de nai de?

Isn't it that one right there?



# letter from suketo hoikuen

by kazue inoue  
 suketo hoikuen staff

The weather has taken a quick cold turn, and we've entered a time of the year in which it is very easy to catch a cold or otherwise fall ill. Cases of influenza are on the increase in Tokushima City, and you should take care to keep a good watch over the health of your children. In particular, December is the time for Christmas, and while it has departed from the original religious background of the event, it is an important time in which children's dreams can come true.

In this month's article, I'd like to briefly mention a child-rearing text from Canada

called 'Nobody's Perfect' (author Janise Wood Catano, published by Health and Welfare Canada). In it there are some very handy points for child-rearing:

- \* Match your parenting techniques with your child's age, and use the same technique repeatedly to help them sink in.
- \* If your child is being good, immediately compliment them on their behaviour. Simply scolding your child when it does something wrong will have the opposite effect.
- \* Don't play into a child's bad

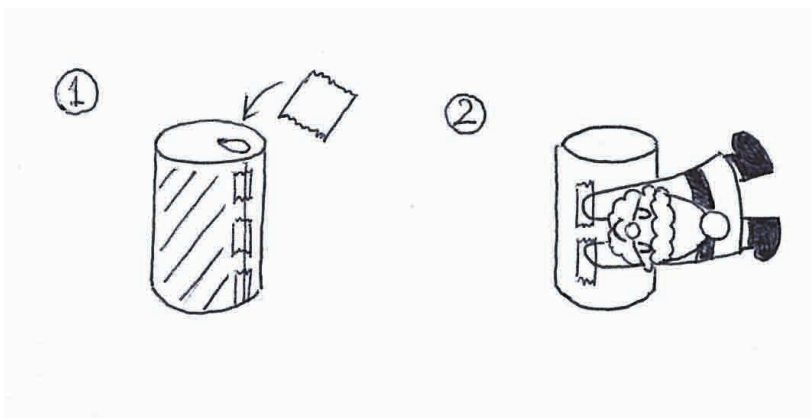
behaviour, especially if it causes trouble for others.

- \* Be a good example for your children. As their parents, you are the role model from which they will learn and grow.
- \* Be creative with your parenting skills. Instead of scolding your child for doing something wrong, make it so they can't do that thing in the first place.
- \* Create a set of rules and make sure they are always kept.
- \* Show your child the results of your own actions to help them learn themselves.

## This Month's Toy: Rolling Santa

**1:** Cover an empty drink can with wrapping paper or a design of your choice.

**2:** Sticky-tape a paper Santa to it and roll it about so that the Santa flips over and over! You can also put some small nuts or rocks into the can to help it roll even better.



# japanese lesson

by yoko aoki

## 外来語 (1) Loan Words

◆ <sup>いっばんてき</sup> <sup>がいらい</sup> <sup>ご</sup> 一般的な外来語 Common Loan Word  
日本人が誰でも知っている外来語で 日本人の日常生活に  
すっかり定着しているもの。

Loan words known by any Japanese person; words that have become a permanent part of daily life in Japan.

テスト - test, クラス - class, サッカー - soccer,

◆ <sup>しょうりやく</sup> <sup>がいらい</sup> <sup>ご</sup> 省略された外来語 Abbreviated Loan Words

ワープロ = ワードプロセッサ word processor  
パソコン = パーソナルコンピューター personal computer  
セクハラ = セクシュアルハラスメント sexual harassment  
ハイテク = ハイテクノロジー high technology

◆ <sup>にほんご</sup> <sup>いっしょ</sup> <sup>がいらい</sup> <sup>ご</sup> 日本語と一緒にできた外来語

Loan words made in combination with Japanese

<sup>け</sup> 消しゴム = <sup>け</sup> 消す + ゴム erase + gum = rubber eraser  
<sup>きゅう</sup> 急ピッチ fast pitch; sudden rise

例: <sup>れい</sup> <sup>きゅう</sup> 急ピッチで <sup>しごと</sup> <sup>すす</sup> 仕事を進める = to work at a high pitch

<sup>くち</sup> <sup>くち</sup> 口コミ = <sup>くち</sup> 口 + コミュニケーション mouth + communication = word-of-mouth

例: <sup>れい</sup> <sup>よしん</sup> 余震のうわさは <sup>くち</sup> <sup>ひろ</sup> 口コミで広まった  
= Rumors of aftershock spread by word of mouth

<sup>しょう</sup> <sup>はぶ</sup> 省エネ = <sup>はぶ</sup> 省く + エネルギー conserve + energy = energy conservation

例: <sup>れい</sup> <sup>しょう</sup> 省エネのため、<sup>れいぼう</sup> <sup>ど</sup> <sup>せってい</sup> 冷房は 24 度に設定しましょう。  
= To conserve energy, set your air conditioner at twenty-four degrees.

Quiz: 1) ガラス ← ( ), 2) コップ ← ( ), 3) ゲーム ← ( )  
4) デジカメ ← ( ), 5) マスコミ ← ( )  
6) <sup>かわせ</sup> 為替レート ← ( + )  
7) <sup>ちやく</sup> 着メロ ← ( + )

Answers: 1) glass, 2) cup, 3) game, 4) digital camera, 5) mass communication (media),  
(6) exchange + rate, 7) receive (call) + melody



# memoranda

## Christmas Lights Display Information

Christmas light displays will be held all across the prefecture this December and early January. Why not take this opportunity to head out and enjoy the sights.

### Kenchopia

**When:** Monday, Dec. 15 to Thursday, Dec. 25  
From 17:00 to 23:00 every evening.

**Where:** Tokushima City, in the harbor in front of the Prefectural Office.

**Cost:** Free!

**Info:** Call the Tokushima Yacht Club at 088-644-0087.

### Winter Lights in Ikeda

**When:** Monday, December 1 to Saturday, January 10, 2009, from 17:00 to 22:00 every evening,

**Where:** Ikeda Town.

**Cost:** Free!

**Info:** Call the Ikeda Town Commerce and Tourism Section at 0883-72-7620.

### Anan LED Display

**When:** Monday, December 22 to Wednesday, December 24.

**Where:** The JR Anan Station Plaza and surrounds.

**Cost:** Free!

**Info:** Call the Anan City Chamber of Commerce at 0884-22-2301.

## クリスマスイルミネーション情報

今年の12月と1月上旬にクリスマス・イルミネーションのディスプレイが県内各地で行われます。ぜひこの機会に、足を運んでみてください。

### ケンチョピア

**日時:** 12月15日(月)～12月25日(木)、  
17:00から23:00。

**場所:** 徳島市、ケンチョピア(県庁前ヨットハーバー)。

**料金:** 無料。

**問合せ:** 徳島ヨットクラブまで電話 088-644-0087。

### 池田冬のオブジェ

**日時:** 12月1日(月)から2009年1月10日(土)  
毎日17:00-22:00。

**場所:** 三好市池田町。

**料金:** 無料。

**問合せ:** 池田町商工観光課まで電話 0883-72-7620。

### 阿南光の夢づくり

**日時:** 12月22日(月)から12月24日(水)。

**場所:** 阿南市 ステーションプラザ、牛岐城址公園。

**料金:** 無料。

**問合せ:** 阿南市商工会議所まで  
電話 0884-22-2301。

## Christmas at the German House

Mainly aimed at children, this event focuses on making small handmade decorations for Christmas. Please also bring a small present of 300 yen in value for a present exchange.

**When:** Sunday, December 14, from 2:00pm.

**Where:** The Naruto City German House.

**Cost:** Free!

**Info:** Call the German House at 088-689-0099.

## ドイツ館のクリスマス会

子供たちを対象に、クリスマス用のアーチの飾りをつくります。また、プレゼント交換も行いますので、300円程度のプレゼントを持ってきてください。

**日時:** 12月14日(日) 14:00～

**場所:** 鳴門市ドイツ館。

**入場料:** 無料。

**問合せ:** 鳴門市ドイツ館まで  
電話 088-689-0099。

# memoranda

## Takagai Ishizumi Winter Lights

Deep in the heart of Misato in the Yoshinogawa City district is a long line of stone embankments that seem to reach up into the sky. Every year in Winter they are lit up for just two days, making for a spectacular sight.

**When:** Saturday, December 20 and Sunday, December 21, 17:00-21:00.

**Where:** The Takagai Ishizumi in Yoshinogawa City, Misato, Aza Ojin.

**Cost:** Free.

**Info:** Call the Misato Firefly Hall at 0883-43-2888.

## 高開石積み ライトアップ

毎年この時期にたった二日間だけ、吉野川市美郷では、市民の誇りとなっている石積みがライトアップされます。優美で幻想的な石積みの姿を徳島県民は冬の風物詩として待ちわびています。

**日時:** 12月20日(土)、21日(日)、  
17:00 ~ 21:00。

**場所:** 吉野川市美郷字大神。

**入場料:** 無料。

**問合せ:** 美郷ほたる館まで  
電話 0883-43-2888。

## Living in Tokushima

In need of information for daily activities? Come and take a look at the Living in Tokushima website hosted by Tokushima Prefecture, home to information such as earthquake and typhoon-related messages, TV and movie guides, events, contact numbers and more.

**Living in Tokushima Computer Website**  
[our.pref.tokushima.jp/e\\_living/index.php](http://our.pref.tokushima.jp/e_living/index.php)

**Living in Tokushima Mobile Website**  
[our.pref.tokushima.jp/e\\_living/m](http://our.pref.tokushima.jp/e_living/m)

## 徳島県生活情報 ウェブサイト

日常生活において情報をお探しですか。ぜひ、徳島県の生活情報ウェブサイトをご覧ください！このウェブサイトから地震・台風についての情報、テレビや映画のガイド、イベント情報などにアクセスできます。パソコン・携帯版両方提供しています！

**パソコンサイト**  
[our.pref.tokushima.jp/e\\_living/index.php](http://our.pref.tokushima.jp/e_living/index.php)

**携帯サイト**  
[our.pref.tokushima.jp/e\\_living/m](http://our.pref.tokushima.jp/e_living/m)

## Counselling Service at TOPIA トピアの相談窓口

TOPIA offers a counselling and advisory service to all foreign residents to help with issues involving accidents, working conditions, housing, visas, international marriage, and more. Counselling is available in English and Japanese. Please note that although every effort will be made, we may not be able to deal with all cases.

Monday to Friday, 10:00 - 16:30

**Tel.** 088-656-3303 or 088-656-3320 (allows three-way conversations with an interpreter)

# memoranda

## The Tokushima Multicultural Festival Singing Contest

Sunday, January 25 in 2009 is the planned date for the Tokushima Multicultural Festival. The Multicultural Festival to be held in Tokushima is a large-scale event based around the keyword of Multicultural Coexistence, a word gaining ever more importance in our society. The purpose of the event is to both help bring people in touch with the greater issues behind multiculturalism and to learn about its importance in their everyday lives. As part of the programme, we are planning on holding a singing contest for foreign residents, and all comers are welcome! Participants are asked to provide a short self introduction and sing a song in Japanese.

**When:** The afternoon of Sunday, January 25, 2009.

**Where:** Flair Tokushima inside Asty Tokushima.  
Tokiwa Hall.

**Entry:** Participants are asked to sing a song in Japanese.

**Places:** Ten positions are open (if this number is exceeded, participants will be chosen on a first-come, first serve basis).

**Cost:** Participation is free! All participants will receive an award.

**Apply:** Please send in the application form by Friday, January 9, 2009. Application forms can be found both at TOPIA and online at the TOPIA website. For further details, please contact TOPIA via the contact details below.

**Info:** Contact Harada at TOPIA for more information on how to apply:

Tokushima Prefectural International Exchange Association  
〒 770-0831 Tokushima-shi Terashima Honcho Nishi 1-61  
Clement Plaza 6F  
Tel: 088-656-3303 Fax: 088-652-0616  
Email: harada@topia.ne.jp

\* The length of performances is still being discussed.  
Please contact TOPIA for further information.

## 多文化共生 フェスティバル 外国人のど自慢大会 出場者募集!!

当協会では、平成21年1月25日(日)に、皆様方のご協力をいただき多文化共生フェスティバルを開催することとなりました。このフェスティバルは、近年、重要性が増している「多文化共生」をキーワードに、県民の方々に国際化について知ってもらい、考えるきっかけづくりをし、自分との接点を感じ取ってもらえる場を設けることなどを目的としております。そこで、当協会では、現在、このフェスティバルの中で外国人によるのど自慢大会の開催を企画しております。この大会の中で、日本語による歌や自己紹介を通じて、ご来場の方々との交流を図っていただける外国人の方を募集します。

**日程:** 平成21年1月25日(日)(午後を予定しています)。

**場所:** フレアとくしま(アスティとくしま内) ときわホール。

**出演対象:** 日本語の歌を歌っていただける在住外国人の方。

**募集人数:** 10人程度(申込者多数の場合は、事前に当方で選考をさせていただきます。)

**参加料:** 無料、出演者全員に参加賞。

**申込み:** 平成21年1月9日(金)までに、申込み用紙にてお申し込みください。(TOPIAカウンター及びホームページにて配布)詳細については下記担当または当協会ホームページをご覧ください。

財団法人徳島県国際交流協会 TOPIA

〒 770-0831 徳島市寺島本町西 1-61

担当 原田 (E-mail: harada@topia.ne.jp)

電話 (088)-656-3303 FAX(088)-652-0616

\* 出演時間については現在調整いたしております。詳細につきましては、申込をいただいた方に通知させていただきます。

# 受け止めていますか人権の重み