

# awa life

**Some Fuzzy Memories  
of Shikoku**

**Esports Exchange  
Event**

March 2021

# 365



**Vegan Recipe**

**Gairaigo Galore:**  
ハラ

**Japanese Culture  
& Reading Corner:**  
ひな祭り



**TOPIA**

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## Awa Life is a Monthly Publication of the Tokushima Prefectural International Exchange Association

Unfortunately, the coronavirus is still playing a large role in all of our lives. Luckily, however, the weather is starting to get nicer, so why not spend some time outside? You can enjoy the lovely sakura blossoms in late March and April, and Tokushima Prefecture offers some particularly gorgeous spots. Check out the "Tokushima Hanami Map 2021" in the "Events" section for more details! For those indoor types, why not try your hand at making the delicious vegan recipe that Alessa has written for us this month? If you enjoy shiitake then it's certainly the dish for you!

For all of those who like writing, please feel free to submit an article to us at any point in time about basically anything. There are a few limitations though, such as you can't write about religion, politics, commercial activities or businesses or anything that we deem inappropriate. But, other than that, we would be more than happy to receive articles about anything and everything including but not limited to concerts, lectures, other events, culture, sports, community group information or anything cool that's happening in your local community.

We highly appreciate all of your articles and we love reading them. So if that writing bug of yours is buzzing about, grab a pen or a computer and write and send away! Please send all submissions to our email:

Your editors,  
Sydney and Nico

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*Download a PDF file of awa life or view the online version by going to TOPIA's website!*



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## *Some Fuzzy Memories of Shikoku*

*By: Isreal Lutes*

My first few weeks in Japan felt like a barrage of non-stop sights, smells, and tastes. My mind was an expanding balloon. I was “reborn” into a new environment and culture, “assailed by eyes, ears, nose, skin . . . feel[ing] it all as one great blooming, buzzing confusion.”<sup>1</sup> But, despite the new experiences and challenges, I was aware that something was missing - animals. More specifically, I was keenly aware and a bit saddened that I hadn’t yet seen any mammals. I’d seen plenty of frogs, a few snakes, lizards, and even rescued a turtle from an irrigation canal by my apartment. There were plenty of insects too. For the first few months, there was the omnipresent background drone of “*semi* song.” But, I saw no wild mammals for a few months after I arrived in Japan.

Each of us has a unique relationship to the places we stay that is shaped by our identities, interests, habits, and modes of interaction. Just as speakers of different languages experience the same sounds differently, individuals with different interests and backgrounds experience the same environments differently. This can have a powerful impact on our lives. In most cases, however, it results in rather banal differences: a janitor’s notice of dirt when at a supermarket, or an experienced driver’s innate sense for when the light will turn.



Just as we relate to our environments differently, we form our own unique mental maps that are related to our interests and interactions. As a child fascinated with animals and whose hero was Steve Irwin, many of the vivid memories of places I lived are related to animals. From my time in Malta, for example, I remember that at one time or another my family had a hawk in our garage<sup>2</sup>, a hedgehog<sup>3</sup>, a Mediterranean chameleon<sup>4</sup>, and a litter of puppies<sup>5</sup>. While the rest of my family enjoyed barbeque on the beach on Sunday evenings, I would often be on my own, hunting for crabs and other sea critters among the rocks. Even as a grown adult, I still like to catch snakes, frogs, geckos, newts, turtles, and whatever else I can get my hands on.



While I couldn't tell you what restaurants serve the best foods or which tourist attractions in Japan live up to the hype, I am happy to have hiked, scrambled, and crawled up and over hills and mountains, along meandering streams, through bushes, briars, and stickers. I can remember most of the places I've hiked in Shikoku, and I know the general whereabouts of many of my first animal sightings: the badger on Mt. Miune, the Japanese serow (looks like a deer-goat mix) near a campground in Naka-cho, a giant flying squirrel soaring over the Sadamitsu river, a masked palm civet along the dike road by my house, a whole slew of fire belly newts in the kiddie pool of an abandoned elementary school, a large owl standing stoically on a local bridge rail as cars sped past, the sea turtle at Cape Ashizuri, along with other memories of monkeys, hawks, rabbits, deer, wild boars, foxes, tanuki, weasels, mice, vipers, and other critters.

I can't brag about my travels in Japan, and the variety of animals that I've seen is not particularly impressive. If you're willing to spend some time in the mountains and valleys of Shikoku, you're very likely to spot quite a few of the creatures yourself. I have chosen to pursue a little deeper appreciation for Shikoku and its natural abundance, and that means that I have missed out on a wider range of experiences around Japan. But, I can't complain because the memories I take with me will reflect who I am.

A memory I made: I was reminded of the richness of Tokushima's wildlife one day when I saw more than thirty deer and five pheasants in the space of

around two hours. I was driving over a little-used mountain road in early spring. All the plants were bright green and glowing with life. In fact, some parts of Tokushima are so heavily populated by wildlife that it is possible to make a living hunting.

A memory I hope to make: I was surprised last year to find that Shikoku has bears, though their population is very low. To my knowledge, Japanese black bears live in the southern section of the Tsurugi mountain range, along the Tokushima-Kochi border. There are only an estimated 20-30 left. Before I leave Japan, I sincerely hope to see one in the wild. I know the chance is slim, but I also know, if I did, it would be one memory of Shikoku that I would have for the rest of my life.

Happy trails everyone!



- 1 William James's, philosopher and psychologist, description of a baby's experience.
- 2 It had been captured and its wings had been clipped. If I remember right, our family turned it over to a bird sanctuary.
- 3 Caught and (eventually) released.
- 4 Caught and (eventually) released. I was so proud to catch a chameleon at the time, but thinking back on it I realize just how pathetically slow the chameleon was and how unimpressive the feat of catching it was.
- 5 My sister found them. They had been stuffed into a plastic bag, thrown into a nearby valley, and left to die. Thankfully, I believe that we were able to find a home for all of them.

\*Mamushi photo credit to Bradley Daniel Skinner



## Esports Exchange Event

By: Toshiro Taki

An e-sports exchange event was held on December 19th (Sat.) at the Tokushima International Strategies Center on the 6th floor of Clement Plaza. The event was held by the Diversity Promotion Division of the Tokushima Prefectural Government, in cooperation with the Tokushima Para Esports Club, a club primarily centered around those with disabilities.

Esports has been garnering attention as something that, as long as you have a game console or computer, anyone can participate and compete in regardless of age, gender, nationality, or if they have a disability. Additionally, if you play online then you can compete with people regardless of where you are. In the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, this is a great way to interact with others while still preserving your peace of mind.

For this event, those with disabilities served as teachers, and through esports, everyone was able to have a great time together. Unfortunately, due to COVID-19, there have been fewer chances for these kinds of events.

Six foreign residents from 5 different countries (Vietnam, Germany, America, Mexico, and Australia) participated in the event and were able to experience the fun of esports alongside those with disabilities. They tried out a racing game and a puzzle game.

Starting off, the foreign participants tried out the racing and puzzle games while receiving guidance on how to play. Afterwards, they listened to a presentation about esports and were able to learn about it more in depth. Next, everyone sat in a circle, introduced themselves, and then engaged in discussion. One of the participants then gave a demonstration of the racing game. To finish things off, everyone participated in a tournament-style battle with the puzzle game, sparking a lot of fun and excitement.

Esports is something that anyone can freely enjoy, so if you ever have the opportunity, definitely try it out!

### Racing Game Demonstration



### Puzzle Game Tournament



# Japanese Culture and Reading Corner: ひな祭りとお雛人形

By: Toshiro Taki

日本の年中行事の一つに、桃の節句（三月三日）のひな祭りがあります。女の子の健やかな成長を祈るためのお祭りです。女の子のいる家では、祭りの日の前後、約1ヶ月間、ひな人形（お雛様）を飾ります。ひな人形には、お内裏様、三人官女、五人囃子などがあり、平安時代（8～12世紀）の宮中での装束を身に着けています。



## Vocabulary List

ねんちゅうぎょうじ 年中行事	Annual Event	にんぎょう 人形	Doll	ごにんばやし 五人囃子	Five Court Musician Dolls
せいちょう 成長	Growth	すこ 健やかな	Healthy	きゆうちゆう 宮中	Imperial court
ひなさま お雛様	Hina Dolls	しょうぞく 装束	Dress		
へいあんじだい 平安時代	Heian Period	さんにんかんじょ 三人官女	Dolls of the Three Court Ladies		
もも せつく 桃の節句	Doll's Festival	だいらさま お内裏様	Dolls Representing the Emperor and Empress		

## Gairaigo Galore

### ハラ (harassment)

By: Nico Bohnsack

Have you already watched or read Demon Slayer: Kimetsu no Yaiba? If not, you are in danger of getting harassed in Japan. *Kimehara* is a word which describes the phenomenon when somebody makes you feel uncomfortable because you haven't watched or read the famous anime/manga.



The "kime" in the word stands for "Kimetsu no Yaiba" while the "hara" stands for "harassment". Such combinations, which are perfect examples of *wasei eigo* (Japanese-made English), are often used to describe different forms of harassment, with famous ones being *sekuhara* (sexual harassment), *pawahara* (power harassment), *matahara* (maternity harassment), and *aruhara* (alcohol harassment). It's obvious that of all these expressions "sexual harassment" is probably the only one used in English speaking countries. All the other forms of harassment might also exist but are described in a different way, such as "abuse of power", "workplace discrimination against pregnant women" or "alcohol related harassment".

In Japan, the formula "abbreviation of a word + hara" is a convenient way to describe different forms of harassment or discrimination, and the list becomes longer every year. The existence of many forms of harassment, combined with the excessive use of the various terms, also brought up another problem: to be falsely accused of having done something in a harassing way. But don't worry, Japan also found a word for that: *harahara* (harassment harassment).

## Vegan Recipe: Japanese-style Pasta with Shiitake Mushrooms

By: Alessa Peters

A little-known fact is that Tokushima is not only a major producer of sudachi, but also of shiitake mushrooms! Shiitake from Tokushima are known for their thick, meaty texture and strong flavor. They can be harvested year-round and make a great addition to not only Japanese, but also Western dishes.

Living in Japan, you will very likely have come across some very interesting fusions of Japanese and Western food. Pasta dishes are popular here, and there are countless ways to fuse the Italian staple with Japanese ingredients and flavors. A quick and easy dish I sometimes make at home is pasta with mushrooms and leafy green vegetables, and of course lots of umami flavor!

\* If you prefer, you can of course only use mushrooms or add any vegetables of your choice. I never use measurements, but remember that mushrooms and leafy green vegetables shrink when you cook them, so make sure you use enough even when it looks like too much! I used four large shiitake mushrooms for my one serving.



### Ingredients:

- Pasta of your choice
- Shiitake mushrooms
- Champignons or one or two other types of Japanese mushroom of your choice

- Komatsuna (Japanese green leafy vegetable (\*Alternatively, use some komatsuna and some spinach for more variety.))
- Leek
- Garlic
- Soy sauce
- Konbu dashi
- Mirin
- Sake

### Instructions:

- Cook pasta according to the instructions on the package until nearly done.
- In the meantime, cut the garlic and heat it in a frying pan with some sesame oil.
- Cut the mushrooms and add them. Stir frequently.
- Add the soy sauce, konbu dashi, mirin, and sake and let simmer for a few minutes until the mushrooms are brown.
- Cut the green vegetables and add them, stirring.
- Just before the pasta is al dente, drain and then add to the frying pan. Finish cooking pasta in the sauce (add water if needed).
- Transfer everything to a bowl and top with shichimi togarashi and / or green onions (if you're not using leek) to taste.





## Japanese Words with Multiple Meanings (Part 2)

Some words in Japanese have multiple meanings, which can invite misunderstandings.

1.) 「ごはんを食べますか？」 This 「ごはん」 can mean 2 different things.

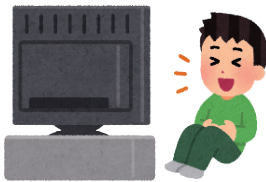


じよくじ  
「食事」



しろ こめ  
「白いお米」

2.) 「おかしい」 can have different meanings.



「おもしろい」



からだ ぐ あい わる  
「体の具合が悪い」



き かい ちょうし  
「機械の調子がよくない」



か  
「変わっている」

3.) 「パンツを買います。」 This 「パンツ」 can mean 2 different things.



「ズボンを買います。」



した ぎ か  
「下着を買います。」

4.) 「えらい」 means 「すぐれている」, but in Tokushima it can also mean 「疲れた」.



からだ つか  
「体が疲れる。」



「すばらしいです。感心します！」





# Events & Memoranda

## TOPIA Japanese Classes 2021 (Term 1)

### Japanese Classes 2021 Term 1 TOPIA Japanese Classes Schedule

Time: 10:30-12:00 Location: Meeting rooms at TOPIA

Textbook: We will be using the "Minna no Nihongo I" or the "Minna no Nihongo II" (2<sup>nd</sup> edition) textbooks (2,750 yen for the book and audio CD). Please prepare the textbooks on your own. Additionally, there will be themed lessons on various topics such as seasons and life in Tokushima.

Fee: Free \*There may be changes due to the COVID-19 situation. Please check TOPIA's website for the latest information.

DAY	TEACHER	LEVEL	CLASS DESCRIPTION	START DATE
TUE	Ms. Tamaki	Elementary 1	We will study verb conjugations, te form, nai form, dictionary form, etc., as well as sentence patterns that utilize these. Text: Minna no Nihongo I – from Chapter 14~25	April 6 (20 times)
WED	Volunteers	Group Lesson	This is a flexible group study class split up into 3 different groups. (Beginners included.) *For parents of young children, a childcare worker will be on hand to look after your child during the lesson. (Please inquire in advance. Depending on the current COVID-19 situation, this service may not be offered.)	April 7 (20 times)
THU	Ms. Yamada	Conversations & Cultural Activities	We will practice Japanese conversations relating to a variety of topics. Additionally, while studying Japanese we will experience Japanese culture and seasonal events firsthand. *For those who have finished up to Chapter 13 of Minna no Nihongo I. (Schedule is subject to change.)	April 8 (20 times)
FRI	Ms. Aoki	Elementary 2, 3	We will study various forms and expressions, such as potential, volitional, imperative, prohibitive, conditional, reasoning, passive, causative, and honorific expressions. Text: Minna no Nihongo II – from Chapter 26~50	April 2 (25 times)
SUN	JTM	Elementary 3	We will study reasoning, passive, causative, honorific expressions, etc. Text: Minna no Nihongo II – from Chapter 39~50	April 4 (20 times)
	Volunteers	Group Lesson	This is a flexible group study class split up into 3 different groups. (Beginners included.)	

\* Please register for Group Lessons at least a day before the class. (If you do not sign up in advance and show up on the day of the class, we may not be able to find a group for you to study with.) Additionally, as the number of groups are limited, we may not be able to find a group that suits your level.

\* If you are unable to attend class, please call and let us know. (088-656-3303)

\* The Volunteer Classes on Wednesday and Sunday will be cancelled if no students show up within the first 30 minutes.

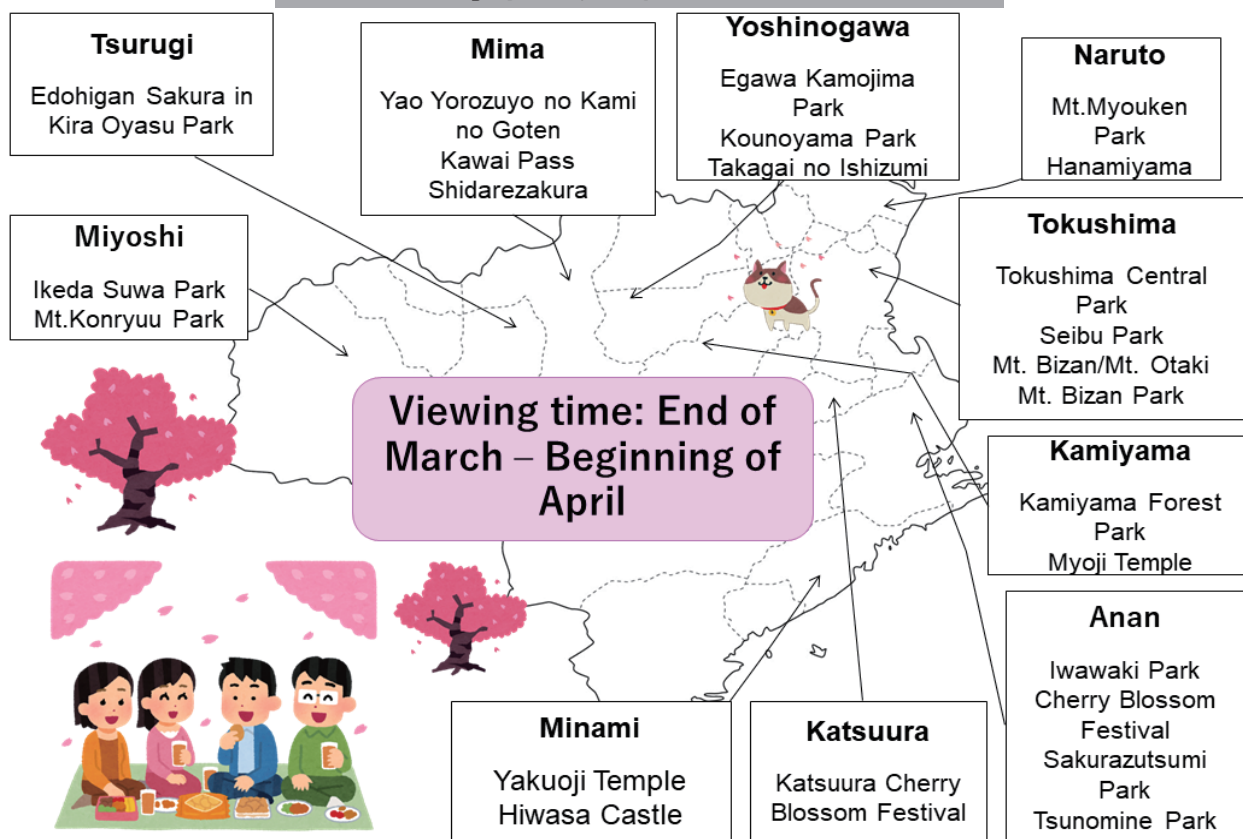
TUE	Ms. Kimura Others	Special Beginners Class	A class for those who cannot read or write hiragana or katakana. We will study the basics, such as the Japanese alphabet, greetings, numbers, and items. We will also be learning about Tokushima.	You may join at anytime.
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\*Classes may be cancelled if there is a typhoon, heavy rain, heavy snow, etc. Please call and confirm if classes will still be held.

Japanese classes are also available at the Anan International Association, Aizumi Town International Exchange Association, Yoshinogawa International Exchange Association, Mima no Sato, Miyoshi City International Exchange Association, Minami Multicultural Coexistence Network "Harmony", the Club for Thinking about Multicultural Coexistence "Tomoni" in Tsurugi Town, Awa International Exchange Association, and the NPO "Attakaiyou" in Kaiyo Town.

# Events & Memoranda

## Tokushima Hanami Map 2021 徳島県花見案内図 2021



## 18th Katsuura Cherry Blossom Festival 第18回 勝浦さくら祭り

The Katsuura Cherry Blossom Festival will be held for the 18th time at the Ikuna Romantic Road in Katsuura-cho.

Events include boat rides down the Ikunatanigawa River, a farm fresh market, an amego fishing pond, treasure hunting, and many more! ♪

When: March 25 (Thur.) - April 10 (Sat.)

Light Up: From 18:00 ~

Where: Ikuna, Katsuura-cho, Katsuura-gun

TEL: 090-8970-6728

URL: <http://awa-sakura.jp/about-awa-sakura/>

勝浦町の生名ロマン街道では、『第18回 勝浦さくら祭り』が開催されます。

期間中は生名谷川の舟下りや産直市、あめごの釣り堀や宝さがし等、楽しい催しが盛り沢山♪

日時：3月25日（木）～4月10日（土）

ライトアップ：18:00頃～

場所：勝浦郡勝浦町生名

TEL: 090-8970-6728

URL: <http://awa-sakura.jp/about-awa-sakura/>

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

TOPIA provides consultation on everyday life, education, labor, medical institutions, and disaster prevention; and information on sightseeing spots to overseas residents and visitors. When necessary, we will refer you to the appropriate organization that can assist with your needs. Counselling is available in English, Chinese, Vietnamese, and Japanese. Please note that although every effort will be made, we may not be able to deal with all cases.

Everyday, 10:00 - 18:00 (closed during the New Year's holidays)

Tel: 088-656-3312 or 088-656-3313 (allows for three-way conversations with an interpreter)