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**People Interview with Michelle Pilley (from Adelaide, Australia)**

I wrote this article in easy Japanese. I hope that everyone would enjoy reading it.

**Question:** What interested you about Japan?

**Ms Pilley:** I learned Japanese at high school. I wanted to study a language, which was totally different from English. That's why I chose to study Japanese.



**Question:** When did you come to Japan?

**Ms Pilley:** When I was a high school student, I came to Japan twice. Before coming to Japan, I imagined what Japan would be like. When I actually came to Japan, I found out how nice people were and how beautiful the buildings were, which was just what I had imagined. Later, when I was 20, I came back to Japan and lived here with my family because my mother got the opportunity to work here due to the sister city relationship between Himeji and Adelaide. At that time we lived here for one year. After my graduation from university, I came back to Japan again. That was six years ago. Since then, I have been working at YMCA teaching English to adults as well as children from preschool age.

**Question:** What do you like in Japan?

**Ms Pilley:** First of all, I like Japanese people the most because they are very kind. I also like the change of the seasons in Japan. In spring cherry blossoms bloom and in autumn leaves change their colors. It's a very natural thing in Japan. However, it's very different from Australia so I think it's really wonderful. I love Japanese foods, which is the other reason why I can stay in Japan so long.

**Question:** What would you like to do in future?

**Ms Pilley:** I'd like to work on introducing Australia to Japanese people. When Japanese people go on a trip to Australia, I'd like them to see every day Australian life, which they can't see on a regular tour. There are many tours, in which children can do home stay. However, I seldom see similar tours for adult, so I'd like to arrange such tours so that adults can enjoy the home stay experience too.

Every year Ms Pilley joins the International Friendship Festival and cooks Australian foods as a volunteer. You may have a chance to meet her if you go and enjoy the next festival.

No.1

Have you already given up going school, because it costs a lot or you cannot afford to pay school fees?

There are school expense subsidies for elementary and junior high school students, tuition exemption system for students in prefectural high schools, and reductions of school fees and school loans for students in private high school.



**For Elementary and Junior High School Students**

**Schooling Support**

The Prefectural government and local government will subsidize a part of school fees for those who cannot afford to pay it for their children.

Who can receive?

Those who are currently enrolled at an elementary or junior high school.

Total income of the family is under a certain standard

What do they subsidize?

- Fees for preparations
- Fees for school supplies
- Fees for school meals (if necessary)
- Medical expense for some school illness  
( ex. tooth decay and otitis media etc. )
- Fees for off-school activities, and school excursions

Please ask for more information from the board of education or your child's teachers.

Inquiries: Himeji Education Board, General Affairs Section

(Soumu-ka Gakuji-gakari) tel: 0792-21-2762

**For High School Students**

**Reduction or Exemption of School Tuition (For Hyogo Prefectural High Schools)**

For those who are enrolled at a prefectural high schools and their families income is under a certain standard.

The system exempts the students from all or half of their tuition fees for those who. . .

1. live on welfare
2. live in an orphanage
3. do not need to pay municipal tax.
4. have lost their parents
5. work to pay their way and find it difficult to pay tuition fees
6. Have difficulty making a living due to the death, unemployment or divorce of one's breadwinner.

7. have difficulty making a living due to natural disasters

8. have some special circumstances.

How to apply? Please ask your child's school.

Inquiries: "Hyogo-ken Kyouiku linkai, Zaimu-ka"

(Finance Division, Hyogo Prefectural Board of Education )

Tel: 078-362-3744



### **Tuition Reduction System for the students in Private High School (in fiscal 2005)**

Who can receive?

Those who pay tuition fees for the students enrolled at private high schools in Hyogo, Osaka, Kyoto, Okayama and Tottori prefecture (except correspondence courses), and correspond to both of the following.

(Basically for those who take care of the students in terms of income tax)

1. live in Hyogo prefecture
2. total taxable income for municipal tax in fiscal 2004 is or less 3,195,000 yen.

Inquiries: Education and Information for Private Schools in Hyogo Planning and Coordination Department

(Hyogo-ken, Kikaku-Kanri-bu, Kyoiku-Jyohou-kyoku, Kyouiku-ka, Shigaku-daiichi-gakari)

Tel: 078-341-7711

### **School Loans for Private High Schools**

For those who pay tuition fees for the students enrolled at private high schools (except correspondence courses), when their income is under certain standard, they can get a loan for the necessary expense for admission but have to pay it back.

Those who pay tuition fees for the students (take care of the students in terms of income tax) and reside in Hyogo prefecture. Their income is under a certain standard. Necessary to have a cosigner for the loan who also lives in Hyogo prefecture.

Loan Ceiling: Within 300,000 yen per person

(only for admissions and facilities fees. Except tuition fees and text costs).

Without interest. Must be paid back within three years.

Application: prospective students in private high schools in Hyogo

---please ask the private schools you wish to go to

prospective students in private high schools outside Hyogo

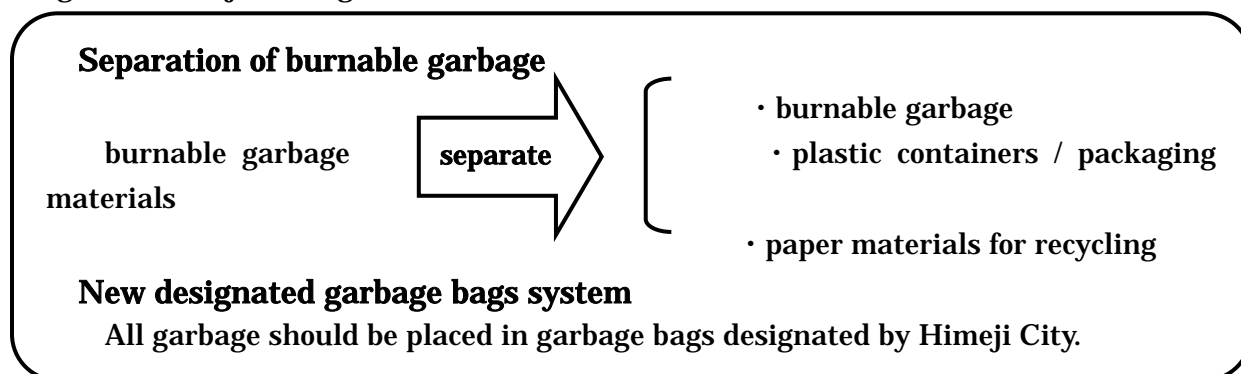
---please ask "Hyogo-ken Shigaku Shinkou Kyoukai"

(Hyogo Private School Association)

Tel: 078-321-2592

# How to dispose of 「 domestic garbage 」 ~ how to sort out your garbage ~

Himeji City will introduce a new separated garbage waste collection system from October. Following are the major changes after the introduction.



## < How to dispose of flammable garbage items >

Please place them in garbage bags designated by Himeji city and put them out at a collection point.

They will be collected twice a week.

## < How to discard of plastic containers / packaging materials >

Plastic containers and packaging materials **bearing the identification mark** (see right) **and other plastic containers / packaging materials** all fall under this category.



They should be placed in **Himeji city's designated garbage bags for plastic containers / packaging materials**.

They are collected once a week.

Items that fall under this category ( e.g. )

- |                      |                               |
|----------------------|-------------------------------|
| bags                 | plastic shopping bags, etc    |
| trays                | trays for fruits, etc         |
| caps                 | plastic bottle caps, etc      |
| bottles              | shampoo, detergent bottles    |
| packing materials    | egg packing materials, etc    |
| nets                 | orange holding net, etc       |
| wrapping             | fresh food wrapping materials |
| cushioning materials | styro-foam, polystyrene       |

Please dispose of PET bottles with over-sized garbage (Sodai Gomi) as before.



## [notes]

- Rinse the containers to remove contents such as foods before throwing out. Nonperishable contents such as detergents can remain non-washed. If the containers are very dirty, they should be treated as combustible wastes.

- If the item itself is made of plastic, it cannot be recycled. Therefore it should be put out as over-sized garbage.

However, small plastic items can be disposed of as burnable garbage.

( e.g. ) Plastic cases for cassette tapes and CD

- For containers and packaging made of other materials, sort them out according to their labels.

( e.g. ) Plastic PET bottles for soft drinks

- |           |   |
|-----------|---|
| caps      | plastic containers /packaging materials |
| bottles   | large garbage ( plastic bottles )       |
| wrappings | plastic containers /packaging materials |

## < How to discard of paper materials for recycling >

Recyclable paper materials bearing the **identification mark of** (see right) and **other paper containers/packaging materials** all fall under this category.



Place them in Himeji City's recommended bags for paper materials or any other paper bags from home.

They are collected twice a month.

Items that fall under this category (e.g.)

wrappings department store's wrapping paper, etc  
paper bags paper bag for disposable chopsticks, etc  
paper boxes empty box of sweets, etc  
paper containers tube-shaped paper container of sweets  
cardboards cardboard for dress shirts, etc  
other recyclable paper materials



e.g.) notebook, copy paper, name card, envelope, photograph, ticket, memo pads

### [notes]

- Dirty paper materials are not accepted.
- Any paper bags from home except those with metal and vinyl can be used for disposal. Close the top of bags using paper tapes or other burnable materials.
- Dispose of the following items as burnable garbage because they are hard to recycle:
  - \* boxes of washing powder and synthetic detergents
  - \* cartons that are aluminum-coated on the inside, such as alcohol and soup packs
- Paper containing private information such as address books, personal books and letters can be disposed of as burnable garbage.



### FAQ ( Q & A )

Q1: Where can I find designated garbage bags?

A1: They will be sold at supermarkets, home centers and drug stores in Himeji city from around September 2005.

Q2: When and where should I put out my garbage?

A2: Please put them out at the designated place on the designated time and day by each area. Your garbage will not be recycled if they are put out on collection days for burnable even if sorted out.

They will also be collected on rainy days. However, please avoid getting paper materials for recycling wet.



### Who to contact when you have enquiries about garbage disposal

Himeji municipal office **Risaikuru Suishinka(Recycle Promotion Section)** 0792-21-2404

\* When calling this number please have someone who can speak Japanese assist you.

「 Clean Calendars for General Households 」 that include information on 「 how to separate garbage 」 and 「 how to dispose of garbage 」 are available at Risaikuru Suishinka(Recycle Promotion Section).

Calendars written in Portuguese, Vietnamese, English, Chinese and Korean are available.

## International License and Foreign Driver's License

When you drive in Japan, you need either an "International driver's license" or "A Foreign Driver's license". The term of validity for an "International driver's license" is one year. It must be updated every year in the country of acquisition. Some kinds of licenses are restricted. For a foreign driver's license acquired in your native country, you are required to have it transferred into a Japanese license. To do so you need to fulfill the following conditions.

### < Requirements >

The driver's license issued by your native country should be valid.

Proof that you stayed in the country for at least three months after acquisition of the **international** driver's license.

### < Required documents >

The driver's license of your native country    Writing materials and seal    Passport  
Photograph (3 centimeters long and 2.4 centimeters wide)

Resident's card which describes your registered domicile ground or Alien registration card

Japanese translation of your license: Ask embassy, consulate or JAF (Japan Automotive Federation) for translation. At JAF the translation fee is ¥3000.

If your driver's license does not state the date of issue, please ask the issuing organization in your country for proof of your driving career.

Processing fee ¥ 4,150 (examination fee ¥ 2,400 + the commission of delivery license ¥ 1,650)

### < Where and how to apply >

Place: Akashi Driving License Office, 1<sup>st</sup> floor, #7 window (Take a bus from JR Akashi station north entrance and get off in front of Akashi Driving License Office. It takes about 15 minutes.)

Open from Monday to Friday (examination time is from 9:30 to 10:30)

Application process: Question and answers. Examination of your documents. Aptitude test. Practical test-, which will be conducted on another day. The whole process is done in Japanese. If you do not understand Japanese please have someone who can speak Japanese accompany you.

Editor's Postscript

What did you think of this edition of 【VIVA! Himeji】? On the "People" page we used easy Japanese and hope it will be useful for learning Japanese. We will try to write easy to read articles in Japanese. We are waiting for your opinions and comments. Next 【VIVA! Himeji】 No.15 is coming out in October.

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*All articles are carried with permission. We really appreciate all your help.*

We are always looking for translation assistants and native proofreaders of 「VIVA!ひめじ」.

If you are interested, please contact us at the following address or numbers.

We're waiting for your contact.

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