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Himeji Cultural and International Exchange Foundation newsletter editing volunteers
URL <http://www.himeji-iec.or.jp>

<People> Mrs. Ni Wayan Rimpin Yamaguchi

Mrs. Ni Wayan Rimpin Yamaguchi was born in Bali and came to Japan with her husband in 2002. Now she is living in Himeji with her husband and child.



Q: What is the island of Bali like?

A: Bali is a small island in the Indian Ocean, and its capital is Denpasar.

My hometown is Jimbaran, which is a coastal town where there are lots of high-class hotels. We have rainy and dry seasons and the average temperature is around 28°C, but it is pleasant at night. In the dry season between May and October, there are lots of tourists. Tourism is the main industry. There are many Hindus in Bali, so most festivals and events follow the Hindu Wuku calendar, which has a 210 day cycle and uses ten different weeks. During Galungan time, similar to Japan's Obon, people make a lot of preparation. It is very busy to cook sweet offerings and get new ethnic costumes wearing for visiting temples. The official language is Indonesian, but many young people can also speak English.

Q: What brought you to Himeji?

A: When I was a junior high school student, I had a chance to talk to a guy while waiting for a flight, who ended up becoming my husband. A few years later, I started to go out with my husband and got married when I was 24 years old. My dad was strongly opposed to our marriage, but my mom and friends supported us and we finally got married. First we ran a souvenir shop in Bali, but my father in law had a sudden illness, so I came to Himeji.

Q: Did you have anything that worried you?

A: Yes, I talked with my husband in English and Bali, so I could not speak Japanese at all. I learned basic Japanese at school, but it was hard to understand the Kansai-dialect. Moreover, in Bali we don't eat raw fish normally, and I don't like the smell of fish. It also takes a while to get used to using Japanese cookware.

Q: What is your hope for the future?

A: I'd like to learn Japanese more and also study dressmaking as a hobby. I like Japanese food, too, so I would like to make my own original seasoning for cooking Japanese boiled food.

Autumn Events Information 2015

《University Festivals》

Autumn is the season when each university hosts a campus festival. A wide variety of events such as stalls, lectures, and concerts will be held during these festivals. Anyone can enter the campus, so why don't you go and take a look? Here we will show you some events in Himeji.

◎Himeji Dokkyo University “Shiyo-sai Festival” Oct. 17 (Sat.)-18 (Sun.)

【Access】 Shinki Bus (Line 3, 11) Get off at Himeji Dokkyo University

【Website】 <http://www.himeji-du.ac.jp>

◎University of Hyogo, Shosha Campus “Kodai-sai Festival”

Oct. 31 (Sat.)-Nov. 2 (Mon.)

【Access】 Shinki Bus (Line 41, 42, 43, 45) Get off at University of Hyogo, School Of Engineering

【Website】 <http://www.eng.u-hyogo.ac.jp>



◎University of KinDAI Himeji “Nojigiku Festival” Oct. 24 (Sat.)-25 (Sun.)

【Access】 8 minutes' walk from Oshio Station on Sanyo Railway

【Website】 <http://www.kindaihimeji-u.ac.jp>

《Events》

◎The 18th Himeji Music Street Nov. 1 (Sun.) 12:00-16:00

Musical events held at three different venues: Egret Himeji first basement floor, Shinjokan in Junshin Gakuin High school and Himeji City Museum of Art (Free of charge)



◎The 70th Himeji Citizen Cultural Festival Nov. 1 (Sun.)-29 (Sun.)

Artistic works in every field: orchestral music, choral music, classical Japanese dancing, dramatic performance, tea ceremony, and flower arranging are to be performed at each venue in the city such as the Himeji City Bunka Center, Himeji City Citizen's Hall, etc. Note: An admission fee may be charged at some venues.



◎Himeji Tezukuri-tenkomori Market Nov.3 (Tue.) Higashi-oyashikiato Park

You can enjoy on-the-spot sales of miscellaneous goods and snacks and gain experience making crafts by hand.

【Website】 <http://himejitezukuri.daa.jp/>

《Autumn Festivals》

◎Festivals in Shikama (Ebisunomiya Tenman Shrine, Hamanomiya

Tenmangu Shrine: Oct. 8-9)

◎Nada Fighting Festival (Matsubara Hachiman Shrine: Oct. 14-15)

◎Chochin (lantern) Festival (Usuki Hachiman Shrine: Oct. 21-22)

◎Shimotsuki Grand Festival (Harima no kuni Sohsha Shrine: Nov. 13-16)

You can also see colorful portable shrines, carried on people's shoulders, being paraded around in the city.



《The 20th Himeji International Friendship Festival》

Oct. 25 (Sun.) 10:00-15:00 Otemae Park

No postponement for rain.

You can enjoy deepening exchanges through a cross cultural experience. At the international food booth, you can taste 15 kinds of food, including Mongolian and Peruvian foods. Also there are booths with themes like “playing” and “seeing”, and stage performances.



☆The 20th anniversary special event on stage, featuring “Eastern Art Troupe”☆

①Ryu-no Mai (Dragon dance)

Ten to fifteen performers will dance on the stage and puppeteer a fifteen meter long dragon.

②Performance of *henmen* and *biwa*

“*Henmen*” is one of the traditional Chinese performances of changing masks quickly from one after another. It is performed to a *biwa* performance on stage.

<A message from Fumio Maeda, the chief executive chairman of the Festival Committee>

Thanks to the cooperation and support of many volunteers living in Himeji, the festival will be twenty years old this year. On this special occasion we are trying hard to elaborate on the festival so that you can enjoy yourself in many ways.

Safety Notice from JR-West

Keep in mind the following when you board the train or bullet train:

■Stand behind the yellow line on the platform

- Incidents have occurred where passengers have contacted a moving train while they were distracted by something else.
- The corner of the platform is pretty dangerous to stand at.
- Stay back behind the yellow line at all times.



■Please do not rush to board the train

- Closing doors do not have sensors.
- When a part of your body or something is caught in the door, it will not open automatically.



■Please stay clear from the track

- If you drop something on the track, be sure to let a station employee know about it.
- Press the emergency button when someone falls off the platform.
- Please stay clear from the track until staff arrive on the scene.





What does this word mean?



Have you ever heard a word often, but not been able to work out what it meant? Even if you looked it up in the dictionary?

FILE 3

Noshi-gami, Noshi-bukuro (Noshi) = The paper or envelope which you use for the gift



“Noshi” is used for seasonal gifts like *Ochugen*, a Bon Festival gift, and *Oseibo*, a year-end gift; wedding and maternity presents and money; as well as *Koden*, offerings brought to a funeral, and *Osonaemono*, a present offered in Buddhism. When you receive actual goods, the box will be covered in *Noshi* paper, but when it's gift money, it will be in a *Noshi* envelope. Also, the decorative binding *Mizuhiki* is often tied around or printed onto *Noshi*-enclosed gifts.

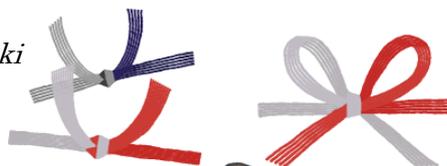
Did you know the *Mizuhiki* has a deep meaning behind it?

Mizuhiki comes in many colors or different ways to tie the knot depending on the type of celebration or condolence it's used for.

1. The types of color of *Mizuhiki*

In general gold and silver or red and white colored *Mizuhiki* are used for congratulations, and black and white or yellow and white colored ones are used for funerals and Buddhist memorial services.

2. The types of knots of *Mizuhiki*



Musubikiri (square knot)

This is used for “things that need not be repeated” such as weddings, funerals, and get-well gift.

Chomusubi (bow knot)

This is used for “happy occasions and things we want to happen again” such as baby birth, awarding the prizes and gifts for school

Furthermore, *Noshi* envelopes come in various sizes and styles, and these differ depending on the amount of money placed inside of them. As you can see, *Noshi* carries the sentiment of the giver, and can possibly be rude if you use the wrong type.

You might think this unique Japanese custom is strict and difficult, but Japan has a tradition of caring about personal relationships and respecting other people, and that custom carries on even today.

Please tell us the words which you can't understand. Contact us at the address written at the bottom of the last page.

My Number System

The Social Security and Tax Number System will start January 2016.

◆What is “My Number”?

My Number (personal identity number) is 12 digit number which every citizen who has a resident’s card possesses.

◆The advantages of “My Number”

1. Makes processing social security and taxes simple.
2. Makes administrative processing quick and accurate.
3. Can provide highly detailed support for particularly troubled people.



◆Future Schedule

From October
2015

A notice card containing the My Number information will be mailed to those with a residency card. Foreign nationals with a residency card will receive one as well. Please hold onto this card.

※ If you live at an address different from your residence card, please update your residence card as soon as possible with your current address.

From January
2016

Your assigned My Number will be necessary for social security, taxes, administrative procedures, and disaster relief. When you submit the “Personal ID Card Application Form” included with the My Number notice mailed to you, you can pick up your personal ID card at any city office starting January 2016.

“Personal ID Card”

Along with being used as your personal identification, the card also comes with an IC chip containing your electronic identification. With this you can perform various applications electronically. Furthermore, it offers many convenient services from your local municipality.

From January
2017

The opening of a personal use website (MN Portal = the Disclosure System of Personal Information Cooperation Record) where you can obtain various news and information from your home computer.

◆◆◆◆ Inquiry for My Number System ◆◆◆◆

0570-20-0178 Japanese

0570-20-0291 English ▪ Chinese ▪ Korean ▪ Spanish ▪ Portuguese

9:30~17:30 (Closed Saturday, Sunday, and national holidays)

☆☆Information about the Himeji Cultural and International Exchange Foundation☆☆

In Japan, fall is said to be the perfect season for enjoying culture and the arts. The foundation doesn't just oversee international exchange, but also holds different cultural events at the civic center in town and Caspa Hall at the Sanyo department store. These events include Japanese performing arts like *kabuki*, *noh*, *kyogen*, *rakugo*, and so forth at affordable prices. And if you have further interest in traditional Japanese arts, please pay a visit to the Shosha Art & Craft Museum.

You can find the schedule for these events at our website (<http://himeji-culture.jp/>) or in leaflets at city hall and other municipal facilities.

◆◆◆Editor's Postscript ◆◆◆

Life is getting easier because the lingering summer heat is finally starting to wane. September marks the season for cosmos to go in bloom. The best way to view cosmos is at the Umaba cosmos garden in Tatsuno City, a suburb of Himeji, towards the end of the month. Wouldn't dropping by on a fair weather day be pleasant?

Furthermore, as we mentioned in the previous issue, translation and editing volunteers of "VIVA!ひめじ" received the *Kusanone* distinguished service reward. We thank you for your years of reading and support. All of the staff are devoted to supplying you with useful information. We hope you'll continue to stick with us.



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These names are used with the contributors' permission.

Their assistance is much appreciated.

You can read back numbers of "VIVA! ひめじ" at the website of the Himeji Cultural and International Exchange Foundation (International Exchange Section)(<http://www.himeji-iec.or.jp/>).

The next issue of "VIVA! ひめじ" will be available in December. Don't miss it! We invite your comments and suggestions.

We are always looking for translators and native speakers to assist us with translating and proofreading upcoming editions of "VIVA! ひめじ". If you are interested, please contact us at the following address.

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