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

<People> Mr. Tim Morcom

Tim Morcom is from Melbourne, Australia, and arrived in Japan in 2011. He was awarded first prize in the Japanese speech competition in February this year. His speech was titled “A Coffee Machine and a Brother’s Bond”. Tim is presently running an English school where students can be in an all-English environment any time and they learn the system that Tim himself used to learn Japanese.



Q: Were there any things that surprised you when you came to Japan?

A: One day, I was wearing a pair of very expensive headphones and after going out and getting drunk, realized that I had lost them along the way. I was very disappointed.

When I mentioned it to my friend he said, “They’ll probably still be at the place you left them”. When I went back to the restaurant, they had my headphones!! I was really surprised. If that had happened in Australia, they would have been gone for sure.

Q: How did you study Japanese?

A: I only study Japanese with things that I am interested in, so I learned from Japanese comics and comedians. When I find a word I don’t know, I check it in a dictionary and memorize it. I called it “Mining”. Also, I changed my computer and everything else in my life into Japanese.

Q: What brought you to Japan?

A: I always thought that I want to experience living abroad. By chance, I happened to know a person living in Himeji and I so decided to come and try it out. I thought that maybe I could bring some of Melbourne culture, the music, the cafés, here to Japan.

Q: Could you tell what you feel about coffee?

A: I love coffee so much. I drink more than 10 cups a day. Cafés in Melbourne aren’t just places to drink coffee. They are a place with high quality coffee and staff, and a very special atmosphere. These things put together...that is a CAFÉ! Unfortunately, there’s nothing like that here in Japan yet, so sometimes I miss Melbourne.

Let's walk around Aboshi

A ten minute walk from Sanyo Aboshi Station will lead you to an area surrounded by the river and the sea. We will introduce some historical buildings and temples in this area. We hope you will enjoy strolling around while using this article as a reference.

The ★ mark shows buildings that are designated as scenic importance by Himeji City.

<①Shinonome Bashi (bridge)>

This bridge is the starting point. Walk from here.

<②Aboshi Ichibangai>

Across from the Shinonome Bashi, there is an intersection. If you turn right, there will be a shopping street lined with streetlamps.

<③Old Aboshi Bank>★

Located on an arcade street perpendicular to the shopping street there is a western style bank made of bricks. It was constructed in 1921. It is used as a boutique today.

<④Kataokake Residence>★

This house was built in 1702. It is now utilized by the surrounding residents and their Children. The outside has an appearance and atmosphere of the Edo period.

<⑤Daikakuji (temple)>★

The main building of this temple is designated as a cultural importance site by Himeji city. Statues of Buddha and other images from this precinct, which are also considered of cultural importance, can be seen.

【website】 <http://www.daikakuji-himeji.jp>

<⑥Yamamotoke Residence>★

This house was built around 100 years ago, and features a watchtower. It is still used as a private residence, and is not open to public.

<⑦Aboshimachi Koryukan>

This “Morning market” is open every Sunday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Local produce and other food products are sold here.

<⑧Daicel Ijinkan>★

Daicel Ijinkan are western style houses that were built for foreign engineers in 1908. Two of them remain: One green house and one with red roofs. They are open to public on weekdays and admission is free.



<⑨Eco Park Aboshi>

Eco Park Aboshi consists of several sections including a learning space called “Aboshi Kankyo Gakushu Center” where you can learn about trash, recycling and the environment, “Rifurechosa” a sports facility, and large grass field. In the summer, you can touch beetles in “Beetles Hall”.

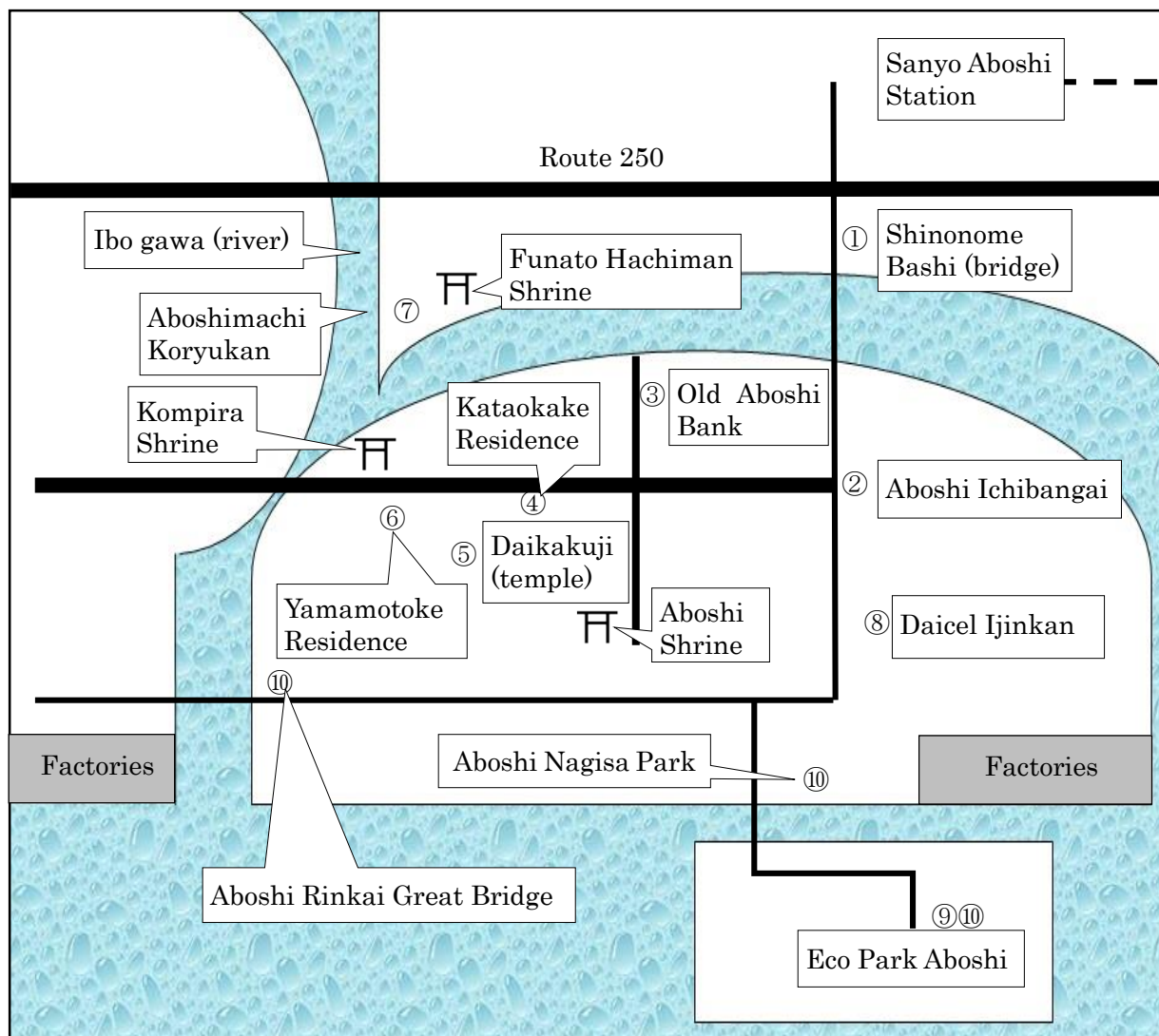
【website】 <http://ecopark.or.jp/>

(Free shuttle bus service is available at Sanyo Aboshi Station: on the hour from 10:00 to 15:00. No service on Wednesdays.)

<⑩Factories along the coast line> Many companies have factories along the coast. More and more people are visiting this area, especially to enjoy the night views.

(Places to visit: Aboshi Nagisa Park, Eco Park Aboshi, Aboshi Rinkai Great Bridge)

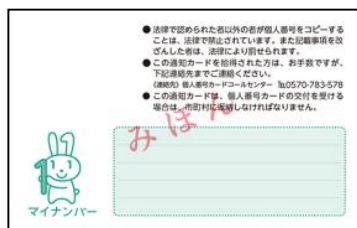
《Summer Events》		
Jun. 26~28	Kojin-e Yukata festival	Daikakuji (temple)
Jul. 17	Sentosai lantern festival	Funato Hachiman Shrine
Jul. 19~20	Ebisusan summer festival	Aboshi shrine
Early in August	Kawa festival (fire works)	Ibogawa (river)
Early in August	Summer festival	Kompira shrine



My Number System Q & A

“My Number” is a social security number given to every resident in Japan, which consists of a 12-digit numbers.

【Q1】 What is a Notification Card?



A Notification Card is a paper card which notifies every resident of “My Number” (the Individual Number).

【Q2】 What an Individual Number Card (“My Number Card”) can do?



※Applying for an Individual Card is optional.

- You can use it as an identification card.
- You can receive various certificates such as a certificate of residence at convenience stores.
- You can use it for on-line applications of various administrative procedures such as e-Tax.

【Q3】 How do I apply for an Individual Number Card?

- ① Fill in the application form, attach an ID photograph and send it by mail.
- ② Read QR code of application with your smartphone, then apply via the website.
- ③ Access the main website (see next page) to apply via PC, and follow the onscreen instructions to fill in a form.

※Regarding ② and ③ digital ID photograph is needed.

【Q4】 What if I lose my Notification Card or Individual Number Card?

- ① If the card is lost outside of except one’s home or stolen, report the loss to the police immediately. Make a note of “the number” you are issued upon submitting your report. In case of Individual Number Card missing, contact the My Number Free Call Center (0120-95-0178), to have its functions temporarily stopped.
- ② Please report the loss with noting “the number” issued at the police to the municipal office (city hall, local office, or branch office), and apply for re-issuance if necessary.

【Q5】 How do I change my name, address, or validity periods described on Individual Number Card?

You can request your municipality to change your name or address. If you want to change validity periods due to extending the length of stay, you will also need to complete forms at your municipal office. Please bring your “Notification Card” with a form of identification, or your Individual Number Card, and your personal seal (if you don’t have it, signature is acceptable). Contact Himeji City My Number Call Center for Individual Number (See next page) for details.

>>Those who made a change in information described on residence card after Oct. 3, 2015<<

An application form for issuance of the Individual Number Card enclosed with the Notification Card was based on the information as of Oct. 2, 2015. If any change was made after Oct. 3, 2015, you cannot use this application form. So if you would like to apply for Individual Number Card, please use a new application form located at your municipal office. You can also download the application at the main website of Individual Number Card.

※If you are a foreign resident and have any information on your residence card changed due to “extending periods of stay” or “change of your name spelling” or other changes, you also need to use a new application form. Please take note of these details when you apply for Individual Number Card.

※When you leave Japan permanently, please bring your notification card or Individual Number Card and follow moving-out procedures at municipal office.

<Inquires>

Website for the Individual Number Card System (“My Number System”)

The Social Security and Tax Number System (within the website of Cabinet Secretariat)

<http://www.cas.go.jp/jp/seisaku/bangoseido/>

(English, Chinese, Korean, Spanish, Portuguese, and other languages)

Main website for the Individual Number Card

<https://www.kojinbango-card.go.jp/>

(English, Chinese, Korean, Spanish, Portuguese)

Inquires for the Individual Number System (“My Number System”)

■Free Call Center for the Individual Number

0120-95-0178 (Fee Call)

Weekdays/ 9:30~20:00 Weekends and national holidays/ 9:30~17:30

Free Call Center handled in five languages

0120-0178-26 regarding the Individual Number System

0120-0178-27 regarding notification cards and Individual Number Cards

■Himeji City Call Center for the Individual Number

079-221-2150 Weekdays/ 9:00~18:00 Sunday and National Holidays/ 9:00~17:00 (unavailable on Saturday)

* Status of handling the Individual Number System in Himeji city

* Confirmation of the return of a notification card

* Reservation for the issuance of the Individual Number Card

※No Foreign language services

☆Information about the Himeji Cultural and International Exchange Foundation☆

The Himeji Cultural and International Exchange Foundation offers a quarterly published newsletter for foreign residents in Japan, 「VIVA!ひめじ」 with the help of volunteers, we provide this newsletter in English, Chinese, Vietnamese, Spanish and Portuguese alongside the Japanese edition. We are currently seeking volunteer translators and editors. It is a great value to have native speakers proofread and edit the translated articles. We encourage you to take advantage of this unique opportunity to improve your translation skills. If you're interested, please contact us at the address below.

◆◆◆Editor's Postscript◆◆◆

A new Public Office Election Act, which will lower the voting age from 20 to 18 years old, goes into effect in June. There are various opinions about this act, but as the population in Japan is aging, many look forward to the positive effects of a new wind of change from Youth.

In addition, if more youth participate in politics by voting, it will lead to a reinvigorated society as a whole and is a good opportunity to be viewed positively at home and abroad.

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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 Sep. 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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