

# VIVA! ひめじ

<English Version> February,2004 No. 8

Issued by Himeji International Association  
Newsletter editing volunteer  
URL <http://www.himeji-iec.or.jp>

P1..	People
P2,3..	Vietnam No. 2
P4,5..	In Case of illness or injury
P6..	Information



## <PEOPLE>

Mr.Andreas Pfaff

Mr. Andreas Pfaff, who works at Mitsubishi Electric as an engineer, first visited Japan in May of 2002. He was born and grew up in Steinhausen, a small town (120km far away from Düsseldorf) with a population of about 4500. The major industries there are the cement industry and the housing industry. The countryside is very calm and peaceful. He joined Mitsubishi Electric in Germany and his first visit to Japan was an official trip to Himeji. His first impression of Himeji was that there were clean roads and stations, and the people were kind. He had tempura and sushi at that time, which he really likes now, so he didn't have any anxiety in particular when his transfer to Japan was decided. He studied Japanese for 3 weeks in Germany and he went to the YMCA twice a week to learn Japanese after coming to Himeji. He has mastered Hiragana, Katakana, and can read Kanji now.

He took on cooking at the International Friendship Festival. The truth is that he is really good at cooking, and he made Zwiebelkuchen at the festival. It sold out very quickly with rave reviews. Mr. Pfaff has been a helpful volunteer in Himeji. In the past, he joined a folk dance club in Germany, and has visited Hungary, Netherlands and Ireland as an active volunteer.

Himeji will be the place that he will never forget because it is where he met his dearest partner. They are going back to Germany in April this year.

He dreams of coming back to Japan and visiting a lot of places one day.

Germany is famous as an environmentally conscious country, and he separates paper trash from garbage even in Himeji. His partner, whose name is Atsumi, gave a wry smile about his habit.

Although it was a long interview, he answered everything very politely. He also cooperated extensively with the

Himeji International Association. We thank him for all his help and wish for their happiness.



# Xin chào !

(Hello in Vietnamese) No.2

The Friendly Citizenship was held on Aug.22, 2003 in Himeji, and many Vietnamese children performed "MUÁ LÂN" there. (This is a traditional Vietnamese performance that is like Japanese Shishimai ). Pham Thanh Thanh Hang wrote a composition about it here. She is a 1<sup>st</sup> grade student at Tohkoh junior high school. This composition tells us his feelings for his native culture, while gazing at an uneasy future and feeling fear for it.

## My Impression of MUÁ LÂN

I took part in the Friendly Citizenship in Himeji on Aug. 22. Until then, I had never known about the Friendly Citizenship. When I asked my teacher about it, he said it was to make us realize we can all get along with and be friendly to each other, so I decided to join. There we performed MUÁ LÂN. Most of the members were from Tohkoh junior high school and Johtoh elementary school. Many people came to see us perform. When I appeared on stage, I was excited and nervous. I played a traditional Vietnamese instrument. Although I made a few mistakes, it went well overall. I was very happy when we received a big applause.

The participation in this concert was a great opportunity to get to know each other, to help each other, and to gain confidence for me and the other students.

Though there are 28 Vietnamese students in Tohkoh junior high school, I had never had the chance to get to know all of them. Many students are tired from club activities and studying, so we couldn't find the time to think about our friends; even ourselves. Due to this some of them couldn't understand Japanese well, so they dropped out from school. (It was sad.)

When I came to Japan, I was in the third grade of elementary school. At that time, I didn't know much about Japan and couldn't speak Japanese at all. It was not confident and I was very nervous. Since then, four years have passed and I can now understand Japanese well. But studying every subject in junior high is still very difficult for me. As this is the case for me, after living here for four years, I can see why it would be difficult for someone who has only been here for a year or two. It is not easy for Vietnamese people to survive in Japan. We can't always be what we want to be, and even if we want to have dreams, we can't. When I think about the uncertainty of my future, I get worried a lot. But it is not as if I can return to Vietnam where there are not enough jobs to survive. Some who have returned to Vietnam have faced bullying. For us Vietnamese, it is not only hard to find our place in Japan, but in Vietnam as well.

So MUÁ LÂN has been a proud moment for people like us. Dancing in front of everyone was embarrassing, but it felt good. There have been various hardships and there were times when I felt like quitting, but when I hear the MUÁ LÂN rhythm of the drums, it gives me strength. Because of MUÁ LÂN, we are able to support each other and to help each other out. I think of how wonderful it would be for us to all be able to graduate junior high school and to find our dreams. I hope to find my dream here and to continue living in Japan.





~This composition received the prize for a junior high school student contest.~

★★★Here are the supporters for the Vietnamese children to make "Dreams come true." ★★★

<<< Supplementary instructions at Johtoh General Center >>>

Place: Johtoh Town Center

Time: every Saturday 13:30 ~ 15:00

Ms Kanagawa Kayuki (0792-82-0924)

Ms Nagatani Yoshiko ([ynagatani@yahoo.co.jp](mailto:ynagatani@yahoo.co.jp)) who is one of supporters of multi-cultural symbiotic group, a translator and an interpreter for the children.

Other housewives and college students also help the children by giving supplementary instructions. They expect the children can be of equal ability when entering a Japanese high school. They sell Muran post cards in order to get teaching materials. One postcard is 100 yen.

<<< Ichikawadai Class / Johtoh Class >>>

– Place: Ichikawadai 1 chome Public apt hall

Time: every Wednesday 19:00 ~ 20:30

– Place: Johtohcho Takenomon Johtoh Public Hall

Time: The second and fourth Tuesday 19:00 ~ 20:30

Yamasaki Megumi Lave. Tel: 0792-23-0970 E-mail: [yamasaki@himeji-du.ac.jp](mailto:yamasaki@himeji-du.ac.jp)

The Dokkyo University students belong to a volunteer group for Japanese Educators

They instruct in Japanese and each subject of study.

<<< Himeji Catholic Church >>>

Tel: 0792-22-0043

Time: every Saturday 15:00 ~ 17:00

There are many supporters here, Yasuko Saitoh— a church volunteer, students from Junsin junior and high school, Kenmei Girl's junior and high school, instruct Vietnamese elementary and junior high students each in subject with a homely atmosphere.

<<< Coaching of Muran >>>

Mr. Nguyen Huu Chien — "The office of the association for Vietnamese resident in Japan"

Tel: 0792-25-0583

Place: Hanada elementary school for children

Hanada Public Hall for adults

Johtoh elementary school (Ms Kanagawa Kayuki who has taken over Nguyen's coaching also instructs)

Mr. and Mrs. Nguyen will support you for consultation, and will go to a hospital with you.

There is a problem for Vietnamese children after they graduate from junior high school: less than 40% of them go to high school, compared to over 90% of Japanese students who do.

(Data from 1992-1997 Hyogo Foreign Residents Educational Research)

Nothing can be better (than this) . / There's nothing like this

We hope many people help Vietnamese children to study each subject to enter high school, especially we need tutors, someone with teaching experiences, students, having free time, please help out in any way you can. There's nothing like this. They will be glad to be able to enter a high school, come to a high school and get a job, not as a part time.

If there will be just one more Vietnamese high school student, there might be a change in Japan.

They say that one should not absorb another culture, but mix in to it for mutual understanding of different cultures.

Please keep an open mind towards everyone, making our society comfortable and pleasant for all.

~This composition received the prize for a junior high school student contest.~

★★★Here are the supporters for the Vietnamese children to make "Dreams come true." ★★★

<<< Supplementary instructions at Johto General Center >>>

Place: Johto Town Center

Time: every Saturday 13:30 ~ 15:00

Ms Kanagawa Kayuki (0792-82-0924)

Ms Nagatani Yoshiko ([ynagatani@yahoo.co.jp](mailto:ynagatani@yahoo.co.jp)) who is one of supporters of multi-cultural symbiotic group, a translator and an interpreter for the children.

Other housewives and college students also help the children by giving supplementary instructions. They expect the children can be of equal ability when entering a Japanese high school. They sell Muran post cards in order to get teaching materials. One postcard is 100 yen.

<<< Ichikawadai Class / Johto Class >>>

- Place: Ichikawadai 1 chome Public apt hall

Time: every Wednesday 19:00 ~ 20:30

- Place: Johtocho Takenomon Johto Public Hall

Time: The second and fourth Tuesday 19:00 ~ 20:30

Yamasaki Megumi Lave. Tel: 0792-23-0970 E-mail: [yamasaki@himeji-du.ac.jp](mailto:yamasaki@himeji-du.ac.jp)

The Dokkyo University students belong to a volunteer group for Japanese Educators

They instruct in Japanese and each subject of study.

<<< Himeji Catholic Church >>>

Tel: 0792-22-0043

Time: every Saturday 15:00 ~ 17:00

There are many supporters here, Yasuko Saitoh— a church volunteer, students from Junsin junior and high school, Kenmei Girl's junior and high school, instruct Vietnamese elementary and junior high students each in subject with a homely atmosphere.

<<< Coaching of Muran >>>

Mr. Nguyen Huu Chien — "The office of the association for Vietnamese resident in Japan"

Tel: 0792-25-0583

Place: Hanada elementary school for children

Hanada Public Hall for adults

Johto elementary school (Ms Kanagawa Kayuki who has taken over Nguyen's coaching also instructs)

Mr. and Mrs. Nguyen will support you for consultation, and will go to a hospital with you.

There is a problem for Vietnamese children after they graduate from junior high school: less than 40% of them go to high school, compared to over 90% of Japanese students who do.

(Data from 1992-1997 Hyogo Foreign Residents Educational Research)

Nothing can be better (than this) . / There's nothing like this

We hope many people help Vietnamese children to study each subject to enter high school, especially we need tutors, someone with teaching experiences, students, having free time, please help out in any way you can. There's nothing like this. They will be glad to be able to enter a high school, come to a high school and get a job, not as a part time.

If there will be just one more Vietnamese high school student, there might be a change in Japan.

They say that one should not absorb another culture, but mix in to it for mutual understanding of different cultures.

Please keep an open mind towards everyone, making our society comfortable and pleasant for all.



## In Case of Illness or Injury

Illness and injury can be of utmost concern while you are living in Japan.

Therefore, I would like to introduce the hospitals or institutions that can respond in foreign languages or provide medical consultation. Please utilize this when troubled by illness or injury.

①Hospitals which can respond in foreign language

(Be sure to check by telephone in advance, since there are the hospitals which require an reservation)

medical institution name	Specialities	correspondence languages	Address Telephone	The languages which can be interpreted by the staff and the volunteer staff
JyonanTago Hospital	internal medicine (during the morning of Tuesday, Thursday, Friday)	Chinese (Beijing language, Shanghai language)	165,Honmachi, Himeji-shi Tel:0792-25-2211	
Kyoritsu Hospital	internal medicine	English	3-12,Ichikawadai, Himeji-shi Tel:0792-85-3377	Vietnamese (a nurse can speak Vietnamese )
HimejiCentral Hospital	cranial nerve surgery, gastroenterology, surgery, orthopedics, nerve, internal medicine	English	2-36,Shikama-ku Miyake,Himeji-shi Tel:0792-35-7331	English, Portuguese,, Vietnamese
Endo Hospital	surgery, orthopedics internal medicine dermatology urology anesthesia rheumatism rehabilitation heart blood vessel surgery	Vietnamese	717,Shosha, Himeji-shi Tel:0792-67-2020	Vietnamese
NipponSteelHirohata Hospital	Surgery internal medicine(kidney internal medicine) cardiology orthopedics	English	3-1,Hirohataku Yumesaki-cho, Himeji-shi Tel:0792-36-1038	

In addition, the hospitals that can respond in a foreign language are introduced by the homepage of the Himeji International Association.

URL : [http://www.himeji-iec.or.jp/sinfo/life/doctors/doctors\\_en.pdf](http://www.himeji-iec.or.jp/sinfo/life/doctors/doctors_en.pdf)

②AMDA International Medical Information Center

free medical information by telephone

They can introduce doctors who can speak foreign languages or hospitals where foreign languages are spoken

Information on Japanese medical, welfare and insurance systems, etc. are given

(Center Kansai)

Telephone: 06-4395-0555

English and Spanish: Mon. -Fri. 9:00-17:00

For Portuguese, Chinese: Please ask day and time directly.



(Center Tokyo)

Telephone: 03-5285-8088

English, Chinese, Spanish, Korean and Thai : Mon. - Fri. 9:00-17:00

Portuguese: Mon., Wed. and Fri. 9:00-17:00

Philippine language: Wed. 13:00-17:00

《inquiry》 AMDA international medical information center Kansai

Telephone 06-4395-0555

Facsimile 06-4395-0554

### ③multi-culture symbiosis center ・HYOGO

multi-culture symbiosis center is NPO made on the year of the Great Hanshin Earthquake. We are supporting foreigners who live in the same area. We would like to support people from various cultures.

- ・ the consultation of health and medical treatment (free)

In the multi-culture symbiosis center ・HYOGO, a consultation is held to answer many medical questions such as body condition, pregnancy, delivery, technical term, medical system, (A counselor of the doctor qualification of Brazil correspondents) notes: no examination and medicine service

(Interview consultation)(if possible please reserve)

Time: Every month the 2nd and the 4th Wednesday 9:30 to 12:00

Place: the 3rd floor of Tanimoto surgery(Higashinada-ku, Kobe-shi, 5 minutes from the station, JR Konan-yamate, along national highway Route 2)

(Telephone consultation)

Time: Every month the 2nd and the 4th Wednesday 12:30 to 15:00

Telephone:078-453-1224

Translation of diagnosis, examination result is also available(charge). Please ask for details.

《inquiry》 multi-culture symbiosis center Hyogo

Telephone:078-453-7440

Facsimile:078-453-7443

E-mail:cmia.hyogo@mbe.nifty.com

### ④The books of the library of Egret Himeji on the fourth floor

#### ①auxiliary table for medical examination

It is written for every situation at the hospital: How to talk at the reception, the way of explanation for symptoms, diagnosis, notes, medical instruction, etc. It is written in both Japanese and the foreign language with over 12 pages for each language. (in English, Spanish, Portuguese, Korean, Chinese, Philippine language, Thai, Vietnam language, Laos language, Cambodian, Persian, Bengali, Russian, French, Indonesian, Myanmar, )

#### ②nine language correspondence medication instruction

The explanation needed when using medicine has appeared on the book in many languages(each language 16 page)(contents: the method of explanation of conditions ,how to ask medicine for needed, explanation of a clinical history ,existence of allergy, notes, explanation of side effects)(in English, Spanish, Portuguese, Persian, Chinese, Korean, Thai, Pilipino(Tagalog), Vietnamese,)



☆☆☆Information from Himeji International Association☆☆☆

The Himeji international affairs division will hold a lecture on March 14 (Sun), 2004.

If you are interested in international exchange and cooperation, by all means please attend the lecture.

“An enlightening lecture on internationalization”

Place: Egret Himeji 3F The Messea Hall

Time: 13:30-

Joint Hosting: Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)

Currently, there is growing interest in the way of international exchange, cooperation and a multi-cultural society. In order to have many people benefit from gaining an international perspective, Ex-JOCV (Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers) from Himeji will speak of their experiences abroad. Afterwards, we will also introduce the recruiting guidelines of JOCV.



※※※※ Editor's Postscript ※※※※

Because Year-end and New Year is on-season (not sure what you mean by on-season and I don't know how to change it), we couldn't get an interview appointment for an article and make successful arrangements in our schedule. We faced various obstacles when we edited the last issue of this year's "VIVA! ひめじ," but finally, this issue was published. How time flies! The year went by quickly. There was an exciting occurrence this year: "VIVA! ひめじ" was published in Vietnamese for the first time.

We will take your advice and enrich the contents of the issue. In the future, we want "VIVA! ひめじ" to be a useful newsletter for international exchange.

The publication of the next issue, "VIVA! ひめじ No. 9" is planned in the middle of June. Please keep an eye out for the next issue! We would like to hear from you!

※※※※※

Translation assistants and native proofreaders(Only those permitted printing are carried)

English:Naomi Otani,Takeshi Kiba,Tomoko Saita,Keiko Nozaki, Fumie Kan

Chinese:Wang Zhi Qin, Zhou Jiang Tau,Yuka Hara,Hiroko Yamanari,

Portuguese:Éyko Ohata,Yukie Okuda,Matsuko Koba,Koichi Takeshita,Gabriel Shimabukuro

Vietnamese:Ken Ishida, Nguyen

We really appreciate all your help.

Contact Office

Himeji International Association

Egret Himeji 3F 68-290, Honmachi, Himeji, 670-0012

E-mail: [kokusai@city.himeji.hyogo.jp](mailto:kokusai@city.himeji.hyogo.jp)

Tel: 0792-87-0820 Fax: 0792-87-0805