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Himeji Cultural and International Exchange Foundation
– newsletter editing volunteers

Let's Go to Himeji City Museum of Art

The Himeji City Museum of Art is symbolized not only by its red brick building, but also the sculptures displayed in its garden. “The Garden Art Project” is being held until December 1st free of charge. You can see fantastic scenery in the garden shrouded in mist. The events below are also being held inside the museum.



○KUMA Kengo Style -Architectures from the Perspective of Onomatopoeia- Himeji version

Dates: Saturday, September 21st, 2024 – Sunday, November 17th, 2024

Admission: 1,400yen (general), 800yen (university and high school students),
400yen (junior high and elementary school students)

○The Collection Meets KUMA Kengo Designs survive from the past to the future

Dates: Saturday, December 7th, 2024 – Sunday, February 2nd, 2025

Admission: 700yen (general), 400yen (university and high school students),
200yen (junior high and elementary school students)

Himeji City Museum of Art

Opening hours: 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM

Closed: Every Monday (If Monday is a public holiday, closed on the next business day)

New Year holidays (December 28th – January 3rd)

Directions: 20-minute walk north from Himeji station, located on the east side of Himeji Castle.



There is an event in Engyoji temple related to events in Himeji City Museum of Art.

○Engyoji temple by KUMA Kengo -Design Works for Survival-

Event Dates: Sunday, June 16th – Sunday, December 1st

Location: Mitsunodo-mae square in Mount Shosha Engyoji Temple

Time: 10:00 AM to 3:45 PM

Admission: Free (Whereas donation of 500yen is required to enter Engyoji)



Nada Fighting Festival

The “Nada Fighting Festival” is one of the most famous events in the whole country and is visited by tens of thousands of people every year. It is held on October 14th and 15th at Matsubara Hachiman Shrine in Shirahama-town, Himeji City.

Directions: Take the Sanyo Electric Railway to “Shirahamanomiya Station”, and then walk south for 5 minutes.

There are no parking spaces available, so please use public transport.



14th (*Yoimiyā*: the day before)

*Yatai**1 from seven villages gather at the Matsubara Hachiman Shrine to perform Shinto rituals. Each village has its own color.

The *Neriko*, who carry the *yatai*, bump their *yatai* against each other. This act is called “*neriawase*”. Many spectators gather at the shrine to watch this fierce event, which continues until it gets dark.

15th (*Honmiya*: the day)

At the shrine, three *mikoshi***2 are bumped into each other. One village prepares all three *mikoshi*. The village in charge of the preparation changes every year. The harder the fighting is, the better it is, until at last the *mikoshi* are broken. After that, the *mikoshi* and the other six villages' *yatai* head from Matsubara Hachiman Shrine to the other shrine at the top of Mount Otabi. On the way, they all get together in the square at the foot of Mount Otabi before heading to the top of the mountain. They then descend from the mountain, do another round of gathering in the square, and return to their respective villages.

*1 *Yatai* - A float which carries a taiko drum and the people who beat the drum. It is lavishly covered with carved wooden, gold, or lacquered decorations. It is very large, and some weigh more than 2 tons.

*2 *Mikoshi* - A portable shrine meant only for gods. No people are allowed to get on *mikoshi*.



Yatai

Precautions:

- Spectators are requested to stand along the passageway. There are seats where one can sit and watch. However, they are all reserved and cannot be used, even if they are vacant.
- There are some dangerous situations, such as the floats falling. To enjoy the festival safely, listen carefully to the instructions of local people and security personnel, and do not go near the *yatai* or *mikoshi*. Also, wear clothes that are easy to move in and shoes that are easy to walk in to avoid getting injured.

Preparing for an Earthquake ②

Following on from the previous issue 89, we will be providing you with information you should know in case an earthquake occurs.

What to do before a Disaster Occurs

- Make copies of your residence card and passport and keep them with you.
- Make a note of emergency contact details of family, friends, embassies, etc. and keep them (with you) so that you can contact them to let know your location and safety.
- Discuss with your family and decide on meeting places and evacuation sites in case a disaster occurs while you are apart.
- Get some disaster prevention supplies and be prepared.
- Have a good relationships with your neighbors by participating in local disaster prevention drills, etc.
- Check the Himeji City Wide Hazard Map (available in Japanese, English, Chinese, Korean and Vietnamese) to be aware of the risk level for your home.



[the Hazard Map](#)

Disaster Damage Certificate

A disaster damage certificate is a document issued by your city hall or town office to certify that you have suffered damage in a disaster. It will be required when applying for assistance or benefits for the costs of rebuilding or demolishing your home. If your home is damaged, take photos of the damage before you start cleaning up and making repairs.



Disaster Preparedness Storehouse

A disaster prevention storehouse is an emergency storage warehouse that contains items needed when a disaster occurs. It contains water, food, blankets, etc. Each warehouse stores different items. You can download a list of equipment in the warehouse in your area by scanning the QR code at the bottom right. Check out pages 1 and 2 to know what's in stock at your local warehouse. There are not enough supplies for everyone in the community, so please bring yourself what you need.



Japanese Schools

Compulsory education in Japan is 6 years of Elementary school and 3 years of Middle School (Junior high school). There are high schools, universities, graduate schools, and vocational schools that you can choose to pursue. Also, there are special education schools for children with disabilities. Public schools (Municipal and Prefectural) and private schools are available in Japan.

Regardless of the nationality of the child, the tuition is waived if you choose a public elementary school, a public middle school, or a public high school.

◆Himeji Municipal Elementary Schools and Middle Schools

Children between the ages of 6 and 15 can learn at either elementary schools, middle schools, or special education schools. Textbooks are provided for free. School lunch is provided at a cost.



The school to attend is determined by the child's address. A "school admission notice" is mailed out in January to parents or guardians of the child who will be of school age in April of that year. The parents or the guardians go to the designated school on the notice to complete the administration process. "The admission application form" is required to be submitted to the Himeji City Education Committee if the child does not have Japanese nationality.

Help Desk ⇒ Himeji City Education Committee

Tel : 079-221-2766

Inquiry Form →



◆High Schools

Going to high school requires passing an entrance exam. There are high schools with varieties of subjects besides general education. Some of the subjects are more focused on teaching specialized skills for specific jobs. You can choose a high school depending on the subject you are interested in. Please consult with your middle school teacher if you attend a Japanese middle school.

After School Program

This is a place where you can leave your child after school hours. The program is open for children who attend elementary schools and whose parents are not at home after school. The place provides a safe environment for children to spend time. It is a paid program, so the application form needs to be submitted in advance. The application form will be accepted from November for the start of the use of the program from the following April. Please find the details on Himeji City Official Website.

Help Desk ⇒ Himeji City, The child general affairs division

Tel: 079-221-2719

People -Interview-

Ms. MORITA Stella (Taiwan)



Stella is from Taipei city in Taiwan. She married a man from Japan for business, and moved to Himeji city, the hometown of her husband, along with her children in 2023. She actively works as a volunteer editor for “VIVA!ひめじ”, and provides ideas from foreigner’s point of view.

Q What is your impression of living in Himeji?

A Wherever I go, the people in Himeji are kind to me. I think Himeji is a very good place to live. When I came to live here, I was so surprised to see the buses came on time. In Taipei, we cannot know when the buses will come because of the traffic jams. We just wait at a bus stop, then raise our hands when the bus comes to get in. So even in Himeji, I almost always raise my hand.

Q Please tell us about your life in Taiwan.

A I like cooking, but few families cook at home in Taiwan, and many of them usually eat out at a food stall. So, there are many different types of stalls.

About the education, the school year starts in September and ends in June. Children go to various lessons like Japanese. Some of them learn piano or ballet, while the others join a sport club to be active. At an elementary school, they will have a test in each term, so everyone studies very hard.

Q What is a good place to visit Taipei city?

A There is Mt. Yang Ming (陽名山) near my home where I used to live, and I liked to go and play there. It has a field of flowers and a hot spring as well. Please visit there when you go to Taiwan.

Q What do you want to do in the future?

A I am learning Japanese now, and want to be more fluent. And I hope that I can do a job to introduce the culture or habits of Taiwan someday. Although it is not well known, some indigenous people are living in Taiwan, so I want to introduce about them as well.

I am interested in the international exchanges and hope to be involved in something that connects between Himeji and Taiwan.

Experience the Autumn of Food and Music around Himeji Castle!

The 26th Himeji International Festival

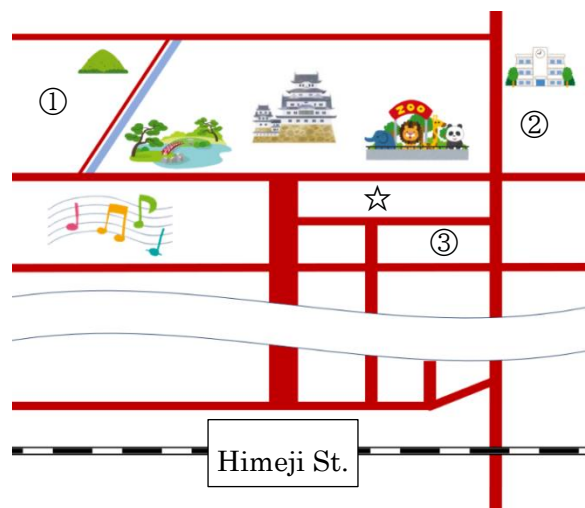
A festival to promote interactions between foreign residents and local residents. You can also enjoy food that will spark your appetite, such as "Food from around the world."

Date and time: Sunday, October 27th, 2024

10:00am - 3:00pm

Location: Otemae Park (☆)

*Will proceed in case of rain



Stroll Concerts

Concerts featuring a variety of music genres, including classical and jazz, will be held at three venues around Himeji Castle. Many musicians with ties to Hyogo will also be participating. Enjoy the performance by the professionals. Free Admission.

Date and time: Sunday, October 27th, 2024, 11:30am - 4:30pm

Locations ①Himeji Bungaku-kan:	11:30am - 12:30pm	“Trio tunes for flute, bassoon and piano”
②Junshin Gakuin:	1:30pm - 2:30pm	“Soprano Duo Concert”
③Egret Himeji:	3:30pm - 4:30pm	“Autumn Jazz Promenade”

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These names are used with the contributors' permission. Their assistance is much appreciated.

You can read previous issues of “VIVA! ひめじ” on the website of Himeji Cultural and International Exchange Foundation International Exchange Section.

The next issue will be available in December, 2024

We welcome your comments and suggestions. We are also looking for translators and native speakers to assist us with translating and proofreading upcoming editions. If you are interested, please contact us at the address on the right.



Website

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