

# VIVA ! ひめじ

Himeji Cultural and International Exchange  
Foundation newsletter editing volunteers

URL <http://www.himeji-iec.or.jp>

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<People> Mrs. Hendessa Madrio

Her husband's job (a tennis coach) brought her to Himeji. She started a new living in Japan in 2006 in Yokkaichi-shi, with her husband, who began a new job in Tokyo since the previous year. They moved to Himeji last August and they have lived here ever since.

She is from the Philippines, a country which consists of more than 7100 islands. She is from Surigao, the provincial capital of Surigao Del Norte made up of islands on the north-east of Mindanao.

Q: To begin with, could you tell us what your hometown is like?

A: The key industries are fisheries, mining, chromite, coconut growing and others. Fruits like mango, bananas and some vegetables are also produced. It is noted as a mecca to surfers, who visit from all over the world to enjoy riding big waves.

I personally like "adobo", one of the local dishes. Its recipe is quite simple; you just flavor chicken with salt, soy sauce and vinegar, you can add a bit of sugar to taste, and sauté it together with garlic and onion. I can tell you it really tastes good.

We have a rainy season (June through December) and a dry season there in Surigao. The highest temperature in May can go up to 39 degrees Centigrade. It's hot enough to burn, isn't it?

Q: Next, I'd like to ask you about your impression of Himeji and your experience, if any, when you were at a loss so far while in Japan?

A: I think that Himeji is really a beautiful city. People living here are hardworking, warmhearted and the air is fresh and bracing. Among others Himeji Castle is terrific. Japanese food is nutritionally balanced and it's good for keeping in good shape. And I like it very much.

I didn't have a good command of Japanese at first and so I felt nervous every time I got on and off the train. I found it most difficult to learn Japanese before.

I now study Japanese in a Japanese class at Himeji Cultural and International Exchange Foundation. I appreciate it because it's easy to understand and it's given to us in accordance with the level of students' proficiency.

I gave birth to my second daughter here in Japan. I was uneasy about nursing at first but excellent medical technology and kindhearted people around me relieved me of my anxiety.

Q: Lastly, could you tell us about your dreams for the future?

A: I like Japan very much. And I hope that we could live here for good by getting permanent residency. At present I work for Sansei Foods Co., Cadbury Japan to teach English to managing staff and I'm also engaged in some other work for STIC. I think I will have to study Japanese harder so that I can get a lot more work. As I majored in Computer Applications in my Bachelor of Science in Business Administration at university, I can teach computer skills. You can imagine that I'm really fond of teaching.

## 15<sup>th</sup> International Exchange Festival

When : October 24<sup>th</sup>, 2010 Sunday 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM  
(rain or shine)

Where: Ootemae Garden (10 min. walk on Ootemae doori from Himeji Station)

This International Exchange Festival is an event for foreign and Japanese residents in Himeji City and other areas to activate their cultural exchange. The event is consisted of “Activity” “Food” “Show” and “Exchange”.

This year, about 800 Japanese and foreign volunteers will join and support this big festival.



### ① Activity (Some booths may charge a fee)

Various booths such as the Photo booth where you can wear colorful world costumes, classes to enjoy speaking foreign languages, Australian Aborigines' art & face painting and more for you to experience world culture.

### ② Food

World Food booths offer 19 various dishes from 15 countries, such as Peruvian “aji de gallina” and Chinese dumplings. You can enjoy food for 150 yen per dish.

### ③ Show

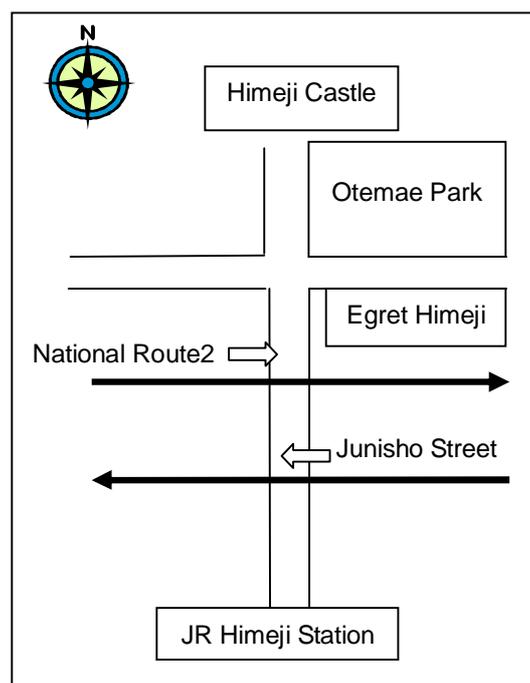
Enjoy Andean whistle, Quena and Aborigines instruments, world dance and fashion show of world costumes.

### ④ Exchange

Multicultural common area open workshop where you can experience food and culture differences through a week's worth of food ingredients from around the world, experience the difficulty of cross-language communication and more. We will also have a conversation area where you can speak a language that you are good at or want to try.

#### Message from Volunteers

The International Exchange Festival celebrates its 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year, so we are planning a dynamic show from a Samba team from Kobe and a ceremony with umbrellas that have children's smiles printed on them and more! We are looking forward your visit!



## Fall Festivals in BANSHU Area

“YO- I YASA-” or “CHO-SA” are the sounds you would hear in October in the BANSHU area. They are the cries of the people celebrating the fall festivals, which originate from religious rituals that Japanese used to perform in order to give thanks for the huge harvest of the Five Grains (GOKOKU HOJO (五穀豊穰)), good fortune and the prevention of calamities of the year (JOSAI SHOFUKU (除災招福)). In the past, Japanese people regarded natural phenomena as indications of the will of Gods (KAMI (神)), and honored them at Shinto shrines. The spirits are placed on portable shrines called MIKOSHI (神輿) during festivals. Parading through the streets with the MIKOSHI represents KAMI walking through the city. Floats called YATAI (屋台), DASHI (山車) or DANJIRI (だんじり) play important roles in the events. For instance, they serve as attendants for KAMI. Lion Dances called SHISHI-MAI (獅子舞) are believed to wipe out disease and defeat Evil. Their elaborate and grand decorations help warm up the festivities and is a must-see event. The traditional costumes worn during the festivals reflect the folkways of each district; some people wear FUNDOSHI /MAWASHI (ふんどしまわし), or loincloths, and others put on HAPPI (法被) like KIMONO (着物). The festivals can be both lively and solemn. However, recent festivals have focused on the lively parts, attracting audiences more than the ritual ceremonies. The following are festivals held in the Himeji area.



### ◇Place (Shrine), Date: Features & Access◇

TSUDA TENMA JINJA (津田天満神社), Oct. 9 (Sat) & 10 (Sun): Lifting up the heavy float with one stroke (IKKI-ZASHI (一気差し)), Parades of YATAI and Lion Dancing. Access: Take 27<sup>th</sup> line bus at the 4<sup>th</sup> gate of SHINKI BUS Himeji Station, and get off at TSUDA JINJA MAE.

OSHIO TENMAN GU (大塩天満宮), Oct. 14 (Thu) & 15 (Fri): More than ten types of Lion Dance. Access: Walk south for 5 minutes from Sanyo OSHIO Station.

MATSUBARA HACHIMAN JINJA (松原八幡神社), Oct. 14 (Thu) & 15 (Fri): “NADA FIGHTING FESTIVAL” is famous not only in this area but also all over Japan. MIKOSHI are smashed against each other, and gorgeous YATAI compete passionately. Access: Walk south for 3 minutes from Sanyo SHIRAHAMA NO MIYA.



USUKI HACHIMAN JINJA (魚吹八幡神社), Oct. 21 (Thu) & 22 (Fri): “CHOCHIN Lantern Festival.” The largest number of parishioners for a festival of its kind. Access: Walk north for 10 minutes from Sanyo ABOSHI Station.

※This is only partial information regarding the festivals, so check ahead before you go. Streets will be crowded so exercise caution.

# 2010 Population Census

The Census is an important survey conducted to clarify the actual conditions of the population and households in the country.  
Please fill out the census form!



- Date: October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2010
- Respondents: All people including foreign residents living in Japan
- Questions: Name, sex, employment status, place of work or location of school, type of household, etc. (Total of 20 questions)
- How to conduct the Census

## 1. Distribution

Census takers will visit households during the period of September 23<sup>rd</sup> and September 30<sup>th</sup>.

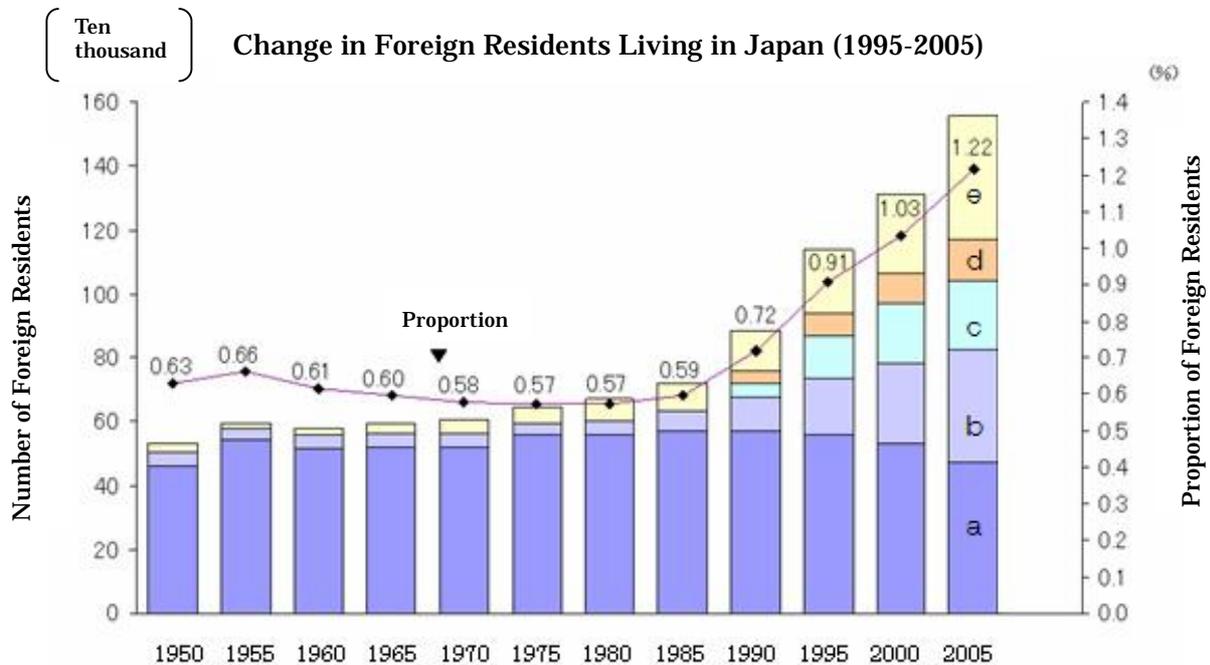
## 2. Collection

The Census takers will visit the households again to collect completed forms.

\* You can send the form to Himeji City by mail.

The results of the Census are fundamental data which will be used to improve our lives in various fields such as child welfare, medical care of the elderly, local revitalization, advance of internationalization, etc.

The results of the Census will be used only for statistical purposes and never be used for any other purposes such as immigration control, taxation or police files.



a. Korean b. Chinese c. Brazilian d. Filipino e. Others

Contact: Himeji City

Tel 079-221-1526 Fax 079-221-1528

## Terrestrial digital TV broadcasting (Part 1)

Now, terrestrial digital TV (“chi-digi” for short) is making headway. The TV broadcasting which has been telecasted for almost 50 years is called analog broadcasting. (The word analog “アナログ” is shown on the top right of the screen) Analog broadcasting will end on July 24, 2011. After this date, no programming will be available on analog broadcasting.



Analog TV broadcasting

- Concerning terrestrial digital broadcasting

In addition to the usual TV programs, plenty of information and services are available by using the exclusive terrestrial digital remote control.

For example, just by pressing the “d” button, which indicates the data screen, you can obtain useful information including news and weather in real-time. Some shows enable you to participate in interactive programs. You can use your remote control to join viewer participation programs such as quizzes or questionnaires. If you save the points you earn, you may get a present from the show. Closed captioning is also available by pressing the caption “字幕” button, enriching the viewing experience.

As a government service in the future, terrestrial digital broadcasting will enable you to take care of administrative paperwork and to make reservations for hospitals or nursing homes.

There are three methods to access terrestrial digital broadcasting.

- ① purchase a new terrestrial digital broadcasting-compatible TV
- ② purchase a digital tuner
- ③ connect your current analog TV to a terrestrial digital tuner (if you are a cable TV subscriber)

Concerning these methods or costs, we will explain these details in next issue (Vol.35).

For more information about terrestrial digital broadcasting, contact these consultation centers:

Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications chi-digi call center

<TEL> 0570-07-0101 (Weekdays: 9:00~21:00, weekends & holidays: 9:00~18:00)

<HP> [http://www.soumu.go.jp/main\\_sosiki/joho\\_tsusin/dtv/index.html](http://www.soumu.go.jp/main_sosiki/joho_tsusin/dtv/index.html)

Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications · Hyogo prefecture support center for TV addressees (Digital support Hyogo/Digisupo Hyogo)

<TEL> 078-330-0101 <HP> <http://www.digisuppo.jp/branch/hyogo/32/>

**VIVA!テレビ**

姫路の天気

午前	午後

降水確率 10%  
最高気温 18℃

<ニュース>  
☆ 姫路国際交流フェスティバル あす開催

○ニュース ●天気 ◎QUIZ ◆まるとく情報

Digital(data) screen

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

We Are Looking for Volunteers for 「VIVA ! ひめじ」 !

We publish 「VIVA ! ひめじ」 , a local information magazine for foreign residents which is made with the assistance of volunteer editors and translators. We publish 「VIVA ! ひめじ」 four times a year in six languages: English, Chinese, Vietnamese, Spanish, Portuguese and Japanese. We are looking for volunteer translators and editors for each of these languages. If you are interested or have any questions, please contact us.



※※※ Editor's Postscript ※※※

It's still hot in September. However, morning and night are nice and cool. We can stay healthy if we choose our clothing and bedding according to the temperature difference between day and night. September is typhoon month, so we must check weather forecasts more carefully to ensure that our outdoor flowerpots do not get blown away by strong winds.

October 1st is the day for changing our wardrobe. It is the day that students change their summer uniform to autumn uniform. Breezy October weather is right for enjoying sports and hiking. We received a message from one of our readers which we posted below, "Reader's Voice". Messages from our readers are always encouraging. The next 「V I V A ! ひめじ」Vol. 35 will be issued in December.

We always appreciate any comments from you!

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

☆☆Reader's Voice☆☆

Hello, my name is Taro Starbuck, I am from Washington State, USA. I have enjoyed living in Himeji since 1989.

I also have enjoyed receiving and reading VIVA! ひめじ. Thanks for doing a great job on VIVA's production. It's very interesting and informative!

In the recent issue of VIVA! ひめじ you interviewed Mr. Dion Corey Ward, a resident of Himeji from New Zealand. I found the interview very interesting.

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