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<People> Mr. Nendi Suherlan

Mr. Nendi Suherlan came from Indonesia in July 2009 as a trainee. He currently works for a firm based in the city of Aioi and studies welding. He is a member of the Japanese Language Club “Nihongo Hiroba” and in February received an outstanding performance award in a Japanese speech contest. His speech was entitled, “Let Me Share My Dream!” He also instructed an International Cultural Exchange course in July, where he introduced various aspects of Indonesian culture. His hometown, Bandung in West Java, is often called “Java’s Paris” due to its beauty.

Q: Why did you choose to get your training in Japan?

A: Because Japan has the most advanced technology amongst Asian countries. In addition, I was interested in Japanese anime and music when I was a child, so I always hoped to come to Japan one day. I really like the band *L’Arc-en-Ciel*. I want to go to their concert now that I am here in Japan.

Q: What was the first impression of Japan?

A: First, I thought the city as a whole was very clean. What surprised me was the fact that vending machines were everywhere. I was also surprised when I saw a guy standing in the street with a straw hat on his head and a bowl in his hand, but who looked clean and rich.*

*It was a monk engaging in a traditional form of *takuhatsu*, a Buddhist religious rite.

Q: Do you have any difficulty living in Japan?

A: I recently got used to living here, but it took me a while to figure out the Kansai dialect, (*-kurehen*, *-sehen*, and so on,) since I first lived in Saitama and was learning standard Japanese there. Also, there are certain types of food that I can’t eat for religious reasons. In the city where I grew up, Halal marks are on everything to indicate if it is permissible for eating according to Islamic law. But here I have to make sure I know what’s in my food every time, which is really troublesome.

Q: New Year's Day is coming up soon. What is New Year's like in Indonesia?

A: January first is a national holiday, but we don’t do anything special. Because about 85% of people living in Indonesia are Muslims, the end of Ramadan, *Eid ul-Fiter*, is more highly celebrated.

Q: For the final question, would you please describe your dream?

A: I want to first learn more Japanese and later work in robot manufacturing in a Japanese university, majoring in engineering. Japan has the best robotics technology in the whole world!!!

2012 New Year Event Information

Here we will introduce some events held in Himeji during January and February. Note that the schedule and contents of the events are subject to change.

☆ Himeji Castle's Free Admission Day (January 1)

You can enter the Himeji Castle area free of charge. You can also visit the castle's "Egret's Eye View," the special visitor facilities for the Himeji Castle restoration, for free.

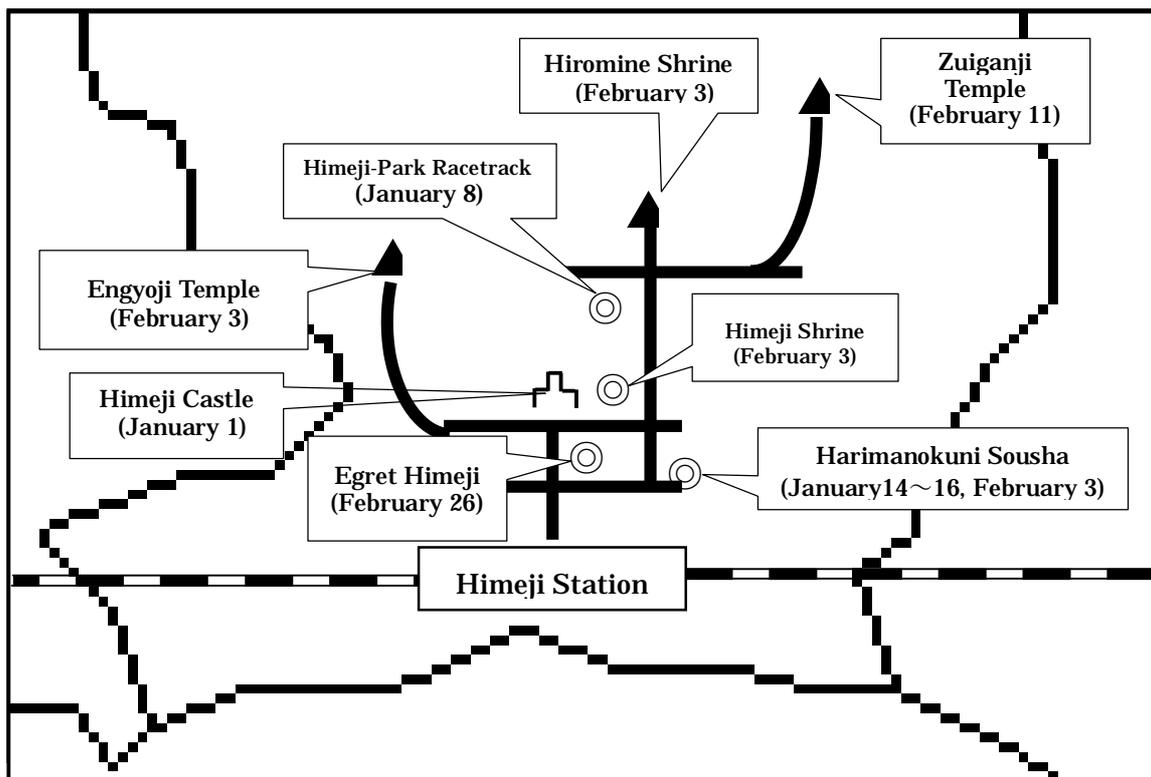
《Hours》9:00 – 17:00 (Last admission 16:00)



☆ The 38th National *Tako-age* (Kite-flying) Festival (January 8, Himeji-Park Racetrack)

Watch as hundreds of Japanese traditional kites from all over the country are flown up in the sky. You can purchase your own kite at the event as well.

《Access》Take Shinkai-bus (No.3·4·81·84) from Himeji Station bus-terminal and get off at 'Keibajo-mae'.



☆ Hatsu Ebisu Festival (January 14-16, Harimanokuni Sousha)

Affectionately called *Ebessan* in Himeji, *Hatsu Ebisu* is the god of fishermen and one of the seven gods of good luck. The *Hatsu Ebisu* Festival is held each year to pray for household safety and business prosperity.

☆ Setsubun Ceremony (February 3, Harimanokuni Sousha • Mt. Hiromine-Hiromine Shrine • Himeji Shrine • Shoshazan Engyoji Temple)

Hoping to prevent misfortunes like sickness and natural disasters, people scatter roasted beans in order to drive away evil spirits and draw in good luck.

《Access》

(Mt. Hiromine-Hiromine Shrine): Take Shinki-Bus (No.4) from Himeji Station bus terminal and get off at 'Hiromine'. 30 minutes' walk through a mountain path

(Himeji Shrine): Take Shinki-Bus (No.5•11) from Himeji Station bus-terminal and get off at 'Kokuristu-Byoin', (the National Hospital) or 'Bijutsukan(museum)-mae'. 5 minutes' walk.

(Shoshazan Engyoji Temple): Take Shinki-Bus (No.8) from Himeji Station bus-terminal and get off at 'Shosha Ropeway'. Take the ropeway to Sanjo station. 15 minutes' walk from the station.

☆ Oni-oi Festival at Zuiganji Temple (February 11, Masuiyama Zuiganji Temple)

Oni-oi literally means 'chasing devils' in English.

At the festival you can see a powerful dance by torch-wielding performers disguised as red and blue devils, a parade of 16 children as small devils, a 'Scattering *Mochi*' (rice cake) ceremony and a ceremony of crossing over fire.

《Access》Take Shinki-bus (No.81•86) from Himeji Station bus terminal and get off at 'Shirakuni'. 20 minutes' walk through a mountain path.



☆ The 8th International Exchange Spring Festival (February 26, Egret Himeji)

Various events with an international flavor such as a display booth, a café, a stage show and a Japanese speech contest are scheduled to be held. (For the Japanese speech contest, see "Information" on page 6).



Hatsu-Hinode (January 1, New Year's Day)

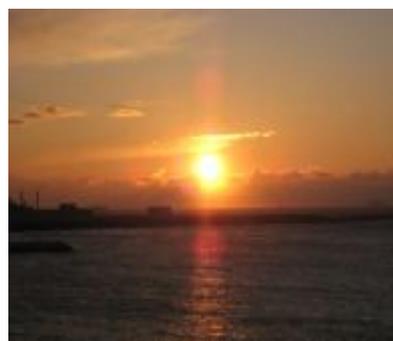
Hatsu-hinode refers to the first dawn of a year.

It is said that one will become happy if he or she can see *Hatsu-Hinode*.

There are lots of viewing spots in Himeji such as mountain tops, the harbor, The seaside and bridges where you can see the sunrise.

How about getting up earlier to see *Hatsu-hinode*? (The sunrise is expected to start at around 7:00.

For further details, please check the newspaper or a website.)



Ozoni

Ozoni is a traditional Japanese cuisine eaten during family reunions on New Year's Day, or *Shogatsu*. It consists of rice cakes filled with various ingredients that are specialties of the area. Therefore, the taste of *Ozoni* varies from region to region.

Ozoni has remained an integral part of the New Year menu. Below is a simple *Ozoni* recipe consisting of a clear type of soup. It's very easy to make, so please enjoy a taste of *shogatsu* in your own home.

Ingredients (2 Servings)

rice cake...2 pieces	radish...100g
carrot...50g	chicken...80g
shrimp(shelled) ...2	water...3 cups
shiitake(cap)...2	soy sauce w/ dashi...3tbsp
<i>mituba</i> , yuzu peel	sake...dash
red and white <i>kamaboko</i> ...2cm(each)	



Directions

1. Slice radish, carrot, and *kamaboko* into 3mm thin pieces.
2. Dice chicken into 2cm cubes and blacken over high heat.
3. Sprinkle shelled shrimp with sake.
4. Bake the rice cakes until tender.
5. Cook the radish, carrot, chicken, shiitake caps, water, shrimp, and soy sauce in a pan until tender.
6. Add rice cakes, *mitsuba*, and *kamaboko*, cook 2 min.

Similar to *Ozoni*, *Shogatsu* customs vary from region to region. These pictures show some of the common customs celebrated during the New Year holidays. It's fun to share our events with you!

<p><u>Hatsumode</u></p>  <p>People visit shrines or temple on <i>Oshougatsu</i> to make wishes and to offer thanks.</p>	<p><u>Otoshidama</u></p>  <p>Children can receive some money from their adult relatives during the New Year days.</p>	<p><u>Osechi</u></p> <p>It's a traditional Japanese food eaten on <i>Oshogatsu</i> that is boxed in <i>Jubako</i>. Each food has its own meaning.</p>  <p><i>Otoso</i></p> <p>This type of sake is usually served.</p>	<p><u>Nengajo</u></p>  <p>People send <i>Nengajo</i> (New Year's post-cards) to friends, relatives and bosses to wish them a Happy New Year. You can find a <i>Tatsu</i> post-card for 2012.</p>
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Emergency Medical Service During Nights and Holiday

If you are ill, you know to a doctor who is near you as soon as possible. But what do you do if you need to see a doctor at night or during a holiday? In that case, please visit one of the following medical institutions:

Emergency medical center for holiday/nighttime TEL 079-298-0119

Monday~Saturday 21:00~6:00 (next day) internal medicine/pediatrics

Sunday and holiday 9:00~18:00 internal medicine/ pediatrics/ ophthalmology/
otorhinolaryngology (ear, nose and throat)

Health Center of oral cavity dentistry & medical association of Himeji city

TEL 079-288-5896

Sunday and holidays including New Year's 9:30~12:00

Plastic surgery on Sundays during the daytime

Because plastic surgeons are in rotary shift, ask the emergency medical center or fire department for hours TEL 079-223-0003

~If you are sick/ injured and aren't sure whether to bring your child with you to the hospital~

Emergent medical telephone counseling TEL 079-292-4874

Monday~Saturday 20:00~24:00

Sunday and holiday 9:00~18:00 20:00~24:00

※Bring the following with you:

Health insurance card/ recipient certificate of medical expenses (infants medical care, the aged medical care)

A list of your current medications and allergies

Mother & baby notebook/ vaccination notebook/ child rearing notebook/ Stool or vomit that you are anxious about (wrapped up in a paper or dirty diaper is acceptable) ※When seeing a children's doctor

Because the emergency medical center focuses on giving first aid to patients for injuries, high fever, etc., we would strongly recommend you visit your family doctor or a nearby hospital afterward.

Call 119 in case of emergency ! !

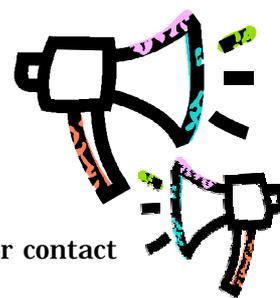
Please calmly give your address, phone number, and a description of the emergency.

Please utilize the "medical information sheet for emergency" from "VIVA! Himeji" Vol. 37 in order to explain the conditions of the patient.



Information about the Himeji Cultural and International Exchange Foundation

On February 26, 2012, we will have a spring festival on the 3rd and 4th floor of the Egret International Exchange Center in Himeji. There will be a Japanese speech contest for foreigners who work or attend schools in Himeji. Won't you come and join the contest? Many people from overseas joined last year, including people from China, Vietnam, Indonesia, Philippines, Australia, etc. If you are interested, please visit our website, or contact us by e-mail or phone.



For inquires, see below.

Editor's Postscript

It is almost the end of this year. Have you reached the goals you set for yourself this year? If so, congratulations! If not, you still have a bit more time left!

Remembering the events from the past year, of course the earthquake, tsunami, and heavy rains come to mind. We pray for the recovery of the people who have suffered from those disasters. We will never forget the warm support that we received from all over the world.

To stay safe in the future, ensure you have access to emergency equipment and plan evacuation routes with your family and friends regularly. It is going to be cold and dry, so let's get into the habit of wearing masks when you go outside, and washing your hands and gargling when you come home. We wish you good health and happiness for 2012.

The next 「VIVA ! ひめじ」 vol.40 will come out in March, 2012. We would like to continue to bring you this newsletter, and we welcome your suggestions and comments.

Translators and Proofreaders

English : Tomohiro Sugahara, Satoko Izumi, Taizou Uesugi, Makoto Hara, Tara Brichetto

Chinese : Wenjun Gan, Mika Tsuda, Yun Kono, Zhu Xiang Yu, Li Guo, Zeng Ning

Spanish : Takeshi Sonoda, Shizuka Yoshii, Reina Wakamatsu, Keiko Abo

Portuguese : Yu Kunimitsu, Yuma Hasegawa, Kozue Higashimura

Vietnamese : Pham, Hoang Nam Phuong, Phan Thi Minh Xuan, Nguyen Thu Huyen

These names are used with the contributors' permission.

Their assistance is much appreciated.

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:

Contact Office
Himeji Cultural and International Exchange Foundation
Egret, 3rd floor 68-290 Honmachi,
Himeji City, Hyogo 〒670-0012
TEL : 079-282-8950 FAX : 079-282-8955
Email: info@himeji-iec.or.jp