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<People> Mr. Ches Hart

Ches Hart is from Melbourne, Australia and is currently living in Himeji. He works as a supervisor for an English language school. At last spring's Himeji International Exchange Japanese Speech Contest in 2012, Ches gave an emotional speech entitled "Time" and was declared the overall winner.

Q: Please tell us about your reasons for coming to Japan and how you have been enjoying your time here.

A: I heard about teaching English in Japan when I was back in Australia and became interested in it from there. I first came to Japan in 2005 and taught English to children and adults in Takasaki in the Gunma Prefecture. In 2007 the company I was working for went under, so I returned home. I then came back to Japan and lived in Fukuchiyama in the Kyoto prefecture before moving to Himeji where I currently live.

Q: Can you tell us a bit about your home city, Melbourne?

A: Melbourne is the second biggest city in Australia. It's famous as a city of arts and culture. A lot of students from Japan, China, and the Middle East go there to study. It has a warm climate and is close to the beach, so marine sports are popular. A special game only found in Australia called Australian Rules Football, or AFL, is extremely popular. I played it when I was in high school. There are also a lot of Japanese restaurants in Melbourne. Since I visited them quite often, eating raw fish and other Japanese delicacies was no problem at all when I came to Japan.

Q: What is your impression of Himeji?

A: I enjoy my work, and the company I work for is a little more liberal with vacation days than a typical Japanese company. I enjoy playing sports so I've joined a Japanese basketball team and have made a lot of friends here too. When I first came to Japan I couldn't speak any Japanese and did some self-studying on the Internet. When I first heard the Kansai dialect I thought it sounded a bit strong, but after being here for a while I've really grown to like it.

Q: What are your plans for the future?

A: I'm currently taking classes on-line to get my masters in Environmental Management. After I graduate next year, I plan on returning to Australia to find a job in that field.

2012 Summer Outing Information

- The 34th fireworks display over the ocean at Himeji Port

Date: 4th Saturday in July (subject to change)

19:30~ *postponed in case of rain

Place: Himeji Port

Access: Get off at Shikama Station on the Sanyo railway

Free Shuttle Bus to the site

Inquiries: the Sponsors of Himeji Port Festival TEL 079-221-2504



- The 63rd Himeji Castle Festival

Ø August 3 (Fri) Outdoor Noh performances with light supplied by bonfires 18:30~

Place: San-no-Maru Place * Will be held at City Hall in case of rain

Ø August 4 (Sat) Grand Parade 15:30~

General Dancing 20:00~21:00

Place: Otemae street *Will still be held in case of light rain

Ø August 5 (Sun) Himeji Yosa-Koi Festival 9:00~21:00

Place: Otemae Park *Will still be held in case of rain

Inquiries: Himeji Castle Festival Association

TEL 079-287-3652 FAX 079-287-3657

- Himeji City Pool <http://himeji-machishin.jp/tegara/>

Open period: from the 1st Saturday in July through the 1st Sunday in September

Open hours: 9:30~18:00

Admission Fee: Junior high school students to adults 1,000yen

4yrs to elementary school students 500yen

- Himeji Central Park Aquarea <http://www.central-park.co.jp/>

Open period: July 14~September 2

Open hours: 9:30~17:30

Admission Fee: Junior high school students to adults 2,900yen

Elementary school students 1,700yen

3yrs old to Preschool age students 1,000yen

(Attractions not included in fee)



★★★ Watch out! Waterside Accidents! ★★★

When it is getting hot, you have more chances to go out and play near water. Please pay attention to the following cautions in order to avoid waterside accidents.

1. Do not enter restricted areas.
2. Do not play near water alone.
3. When it starts to rain or river water gets muddy, go to higher place like a bank for safety.
4. Do not swim while intoxicated.
5. Wear a life jacket when you enjoy water sports.



Disaster Prevention Awareness

The Great East Japan Earthquake caused extensive damage last March. Also, when the typhoon No.12 hit Himeji in September, about 100,000 residents were told to evacuate their homes due to concerns about river flooding. As Japan is prone to natural disasters, it is important to be prepared for emergencies. Within the next 30 years, there is a 0.03 to 5% probability that an 8.0-magnitude earthquake will occur at the Yamasaki fault. An earthquake of this magnitude is estimated to result in about 4,000 deaths, about 750,000 evacuees, and more than one million people who will ultimately be displaced from their homes in Hyogo Prefecture.

From now on, each resident needs to be prepared for disaster prevention on a regular basis, in case of earthquakes, tsunamis, heavy rains, and typhoons.

About 10,000 foreigners live in Himeji City, which accounts for about 2% of the total population. It can be difficult for those who are still learning Japanese to stay informed about disaster prevention.

In these situations, how we can be prepared for disaster prevention on a regular basis?
Suggestions are listed as follows:

1. Obtain local information provided by the FM radio station Genki (79.3 MHz).
2. Frequently check out the information magazines such as "VIVA! ひめじ" and others published by various organizations.
3. Participate in Japanese lessons and obtain various types of information from teachers, such as key terms to know during an emergency.
4. Build a relationship with your neighbors in order to support each other in case of emergency.
5. Make sure to pay any fees your neighborhood charges for disaster relief supplies, etc. and participate in neighborhood and international exchanges whenever possible.

Please review and complete the following checklist to help prepare yourself for emergencies.

- If you don't feel confident speaking Japanese, have a list of friends and family who can help translate for you in emergency situations.
- Organize a safe place to evacuate when a disaster strikes.
- Keep PCs, cell phones, and radios at hand.
- Know the evacuation area in your community.
- Participate in community activities involving disaster awareness.
- Know the place that you can get information when a disaster strikes.



"Disaster Prevention Web Site of Himeji City" provides various information on disaster prevention.

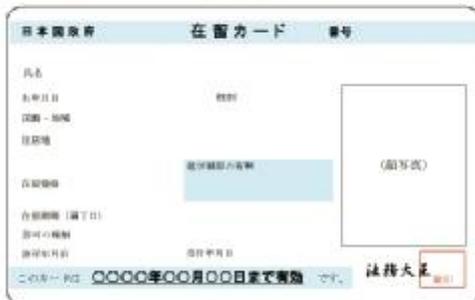
<HP> <http://www.city.himeji.lg.jp/bousai/>

<TEL> 079-221-2200 (Himeji City Disaster Countermeasures Office)

●Procedures for Entering and Leaving Japan

Immigration Examination Soon a new immigration examination system will be in effect at Narita, Haneda, Chubu and Kansai Airports. Mid to long-term residents will be issued resident cards in addition to receiving landing verification stamps in their passports. At other ports of entry/departure, residents will receive landing verification stamps and the following description 『在留カード後日交付』, will be made near the stamp, but will not yet receive resident cards. In this case, residents will have to visit their municipal office in order to obtain the card, or a resident card will be mailed by the Regional Immigration Office to the reported place of residence.

A conceptual picture of the resident card
(Front of the card)



(Back of the card)

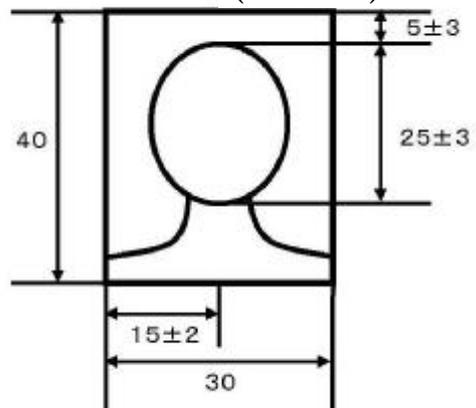


This picture is in the planning stage and is subject to change.

A portrait photo...

- shows the applicant alone
- full front face without head wear
- no background
- must be clear
- must be taken within 3 months prior to submission

(Unit: mm)



●Procedure at a Regional Immigration Office

Notification of a change of name, date of birth, gender, or region/nationality

In case you change your name or your nationality/region because of marriage or other reasons, be sure to notify the Ministry of Justice of the change within 14 days. Although the Latin alphabet, (“Romaji,”) is generally used for foreign resident cards, a name written in Chinese characters can be added as well.

Application for updating the validity of the resident card

A permanent resident or a foreign resident in Japan younger than 16 years old whose resident card's validity expires on his/her 16th birthday is advised to apply for a renewal of the validity period of the resident card before the expiration date.

Application for re-issuance of a resident card

* In case your residence card is lost or stolen, please apply for re-issuance within 14 days of the date of disappearance. If you were outside of Japan at the time, please apply within 14 days of returning to the country. To apply for re-issuance, please bring 「遺失物受理証明書 (a report of loss certificate)」 or 「盗難届受理証明書 (a report of theft certificate)」 issued by the Police Department, or 「り災証明書 (a disaster victim certificate)」 issued by the Fire Department.

* In case your resident card is badly damaged or defaced, be sure to apply for re-issuance at your earliest convenience.

* You can apply for replacement of your resident card even if it is not very damaged by paying a re-issuance fee.

When you file any of the notifications or applications above, be sure to bring your passport, photo, and resident card. Applications must be filed in person at a Regional Immigration Office by the individual unless he or she is under the age of 16 or unable to do so because of sickness, etc. In this case, a family member living with the said individual must do so on their behalf.

Notification concerning the applicant's organization or spouse

To file any of the following notifications, please bring your resident card to a Regional Immigration Office or mail a copy of your resident card along with a notification to the Tokyo Regional Immigration Bureau. Please note that a new resident card will not be issued when a notification is filed in this way.

<Notification of an affiliated organization>

In case a mid-to long-term resident with 「技術 (Engineer)」 or another employment status or 「留学 (Student)」 or another learning status, leaves an organization due to termination of contract, changes organizations, or if the resident's organization changes its name or location, the resident has to file a notification within 14 days of the incident.

<Notification about one's spouse>

A mid- to long-term married resident with resident status of 「家族滞在 (Dependent)」, 「日本人の配偶者等 (Spouse or Child of Japanese National)」, or 「永住者の配偶者等 (Spouse or Child of Permanent Resident)」 who loses his/her spouse by death or divorce must file a notification within 14 days of the event.

Examination of resident status

A new resident card will be issued to a mid- to long-term resident when permission is granted to extend the period of stay, a permanent resident permit is granted, or the acquisition of resident status is admitted. The new system requires an affiliated organization hosting foreign nationals to file a notification at the time of its beginning or termination of hosting.

Under the new system, the grounds for revocation of resident status, deportation and penalties are established. Penalties are to be imposed on residents who have submitted a false notification, have neglected to submit a notification in cases mentioned above, have violated the obligation concerning receipt, carrying or mandatory presentation of their card, or have forged or altered a resident card.

Information about the Himeji Cultural and International Exchange Foundation

Library Corner at the Center

The 4th floor at Egret Himeji has a mini library where you can read and borrow books, journals and newspapers. In addition, you can access the web with laptops and view DVDs there. New books are distributed to the library corner every month. Please make use of this reading corner.

Editor's Postscript

A year has passed since the outer walls of Himeji Castle were covered, and we regretfully could no longer enjoy the beautiful view. The renovation, called *Heisei no Daishuri* (Heisei great repair,) has been progressing well. Interestingly, during the reconstruction, a new discovery came to the surface last autumn. Some windows concealed on the walls of the castle tower were newly found, and it became a hot topic of the town.

The area around JR Himeji station has also been under improvement work, and the streetscape is being changed day by day.

We are looking forward to the rebirth created by these reconstructions, while maintaining a conservation of Japanese traditional culture and a good environment of facility and safety.

The next 「VIVA! ひめじ」 Vol.42 will be published in September 2012. We would love to hear your comments. Please contact us at the following address.

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These names are used with the contributors' permission.

Their assistance is much appreciated.

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VIVA ! ひめじ Vol.40 “Take a Stroll Around Town”

The purpose of this previous article was to inform readers about interesting areas in the “good old town” left in Himeji, not to feature particular shops for profit. We are sorry about the misleading introduction, and will give extra consideration when writing articles in the future.