

<English Version>September 2012 Vol.42

<People> Interview	・・・P1
Autumn event in 2012	・・・P2
Lunch	・・・P3
Crime prevention information	・・・P4
The 17 th Himeji International Friendship Festival	・・・P5
Information	・・・P6



<People> Ms.Stephanie Sim

Ms. Stephanie Sim is from Singapore, a world leading Southeast Asian city-state. She speaks both English and Mandarin Chinese because Singapore is a multi-cultural society. Due to Singapore's young history as an independent state, the people are vibrant, energetic and diverse. Stephanie loves living in her reformed traditional Japanese house in Tatsuno with her very own indoor wood burning stove and a Japanese traditional *'irori'* fireplace. Her work and her friends are based in Himeji where she teaches English in her own school.

Q: Can you tell us a little about your home country, Singapore?

A: Singapore is about the same size as Awaji Island and has been an independent state for 47 years.

It is a unique country comprised of Chinese, Malays, Indians and Eurasians. 5 million people live on this little island speaking four official languages with English being the common language and also an English-based creole called *Singlish*. Being a tropical city, it rains often. Despite a high urban population density, there are many nature reserves and greenery including the only Night Safari in the world, which I recommend you visit when you go to Singapore.

Q: What is your impression of Himeji?

A: I met my husband, who is Japanese, in university in Australia, so I came to Himeji for him. I first arrived in Himeji late at night and was surprised how narrow the roads were and how quiet it was at night. I learned that it was because Himeji is a historical castle city and the roads were preserved that way. I really appreciated the sentiment. I also thought that Himeji reminded me of my university days in Perth because of its comfortable size.

Q: What can you tell us about the food?

A: Singapore was an important port for spice trade so our cuisine is a mixture of Asian influences.

That is how Singapore's famous Chilli Crab and Hainanese Chicken Rice was created, including the old immigrant Chinese pork rib soup called Bak Kut Teh. I love all Japanese food, especially Yakiniiku and Tofu.

Q: What are your plans for the future?

A: My husband and I love traveling, and even though we did a world trip several years ago, there were a few continents we missed like South America and Africa. It is our dream, if possible, to complete our world trip in the future.

Autumn Event in 2012

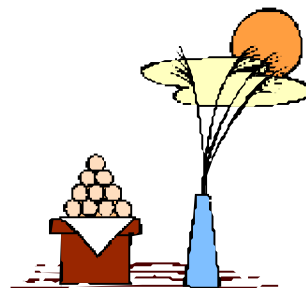
● The 30th Himeji Castle Moon Viewing Party

On the Mid-Autumn Festival day, a temporary stage will be set up in the yard of Himeji Castle. The Japanese harp (*koto*), the Japanese drum (*wadaiko*), a Noh play and traditional Himeji local entertainment will be performed there. Some of Himeji's local specialties will be sold and *matcha* (powdered green tea) will be served in the yard. A taste of local *sake* will be offered for a small fee. Attendees can observe the full moon through the telescope in the observation area.

Date: September 30 (Sun) (postponed in case of rain)

Time: 18:00~21:00

Place: Sannomaru Square



● Kokoen Moon Viewing Party

After the sunset each garden in Kokoen will be lit up. Japanese musical instruments will be played. A tea ceremony party will be held. Operation hours will be extended until 21:00 on that day.

Date: September 30 (Sun) (postponed in case of rain)

Place: Kokoen

Admission Fee: ¥300 (adults), ¥150 (elementary & junior high school students)

● The Exhibition of Drums & Percussions instruments from around the World

Drums, xylophones, and a variety of other percussion toys collected from all over the world. You'll be able to enjoy their unique shapes and sounds.

Exhibition: September 15 (Sat)~November 13 (Tue)

Time: 10:00~17:00

Place: The Japan Toy Museum

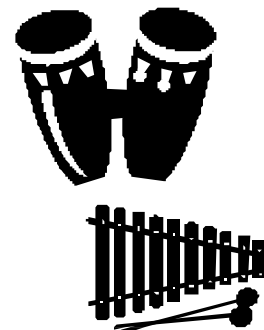
Closed: Wednesday

Admission Fee: ¥500 (adults), ¥400 (university & high school students),
¥200 (children over 4 under 15)

Access: Take the JR Bantan line to Kouro station (15 minutes from Himeji Station)

From Kouro Station, it's a 15 minute walk to the east.

Inquiry: Tel: 079-232-4388 HP: <http://www.japan-toy-museum.org/>



● The 61st Himeji Castle Chrysanthemum Exhibition

Over 800 *kiku* (chrysanthemum) arrangements such as "*oogiku*" and "*bonsai-giku*" will be exhibited. They are all carefully arranged by *kiku* lovers.

Exhibition: October 14 (Sun)~November 11 (Sun)

Place: Sannomaru Square (planned)

Lunch

Autumn is the season that has many types of boxed lunches for outings, sports days, and school trips.

Now then, what kind of lunch do you like?

Boxed lunch has been a very popular meal over the centuries. It's an important element of "Mom's cooking" and mothers have made great efforts and tradition to have enriched foods.

Boxed lunches are made to please the eye as much as the pallet, so they're a unique meal that's been a vital part of everyday life for ordinary people.

Back then it was said to be the epitome of diet.

Around the year 1580, lunch boxes became popular and widespread for adding various side dishes. Further on they've evolved to modern lunch sets.

In the year 1700, ①*makunouchibento* (eaten at plays) and ②*shokadobento* (served at high-end restaurants) flourished, and now people can easily get many kinds of good lunches.

The ③*ekiben* (served at stations and on trains) went on sale with the beginning of railroad services.

Today, ④*yofubento* (western style) is becoming popular since Japanese eating habits are becoming more and more diverse.

However, ⑤*onigiribento* (rice ball) is one that still enjoys popularity today. This is because they are very convenient to make and eat. Also, rice and pickled foods are two primary pillars of the Japanese diet.

Would you like to make a rice ball with your family?

You can enjoy various tastes using *nori*, *umeboshi*, *furikake*, *tempura*, and fish, and you can try making different shapes too.

Directions

1. Prepare hot rice.
2. Wet your palms with a little water and salt.
3. Don't push too hard when making a rice ball.
4. Wrap the rice ball before it becomes dry.

①*makunouchibento*



②*shokadobento*



③*ekiben*



④*yofubento*



⑤*onigiribento*



Crime Prevention Information

The number of burglaries, bicycle thieves, and purse snatchings has been increasing in Himeji city. In order to protect ourselves, we asked the Himeji Police about crime-prevention, so please refer to the following.

【Preventing burglaries】

- ◆Have more than one lock on your door : (“**ワンドアツニロックス**” One door, Two locks)

Burglars hate to take times to break in. 70% of them give up if it takes more than five minutes to break in.

Put auxiliary locks on the windows in order to keep burglars from breaking into the house through them.

- ◆Pretend you are at home :

Better leave the lights on when you are out, as many burglaries occur in the evening.

- ◆Cooperation with neighbors :

Burglars hate to be spoken to by neighbors, being stared at, and avoid houses with watchdogs.



【Prevention of bicycle thieves】

- ◆Make sure to lock your bicycle :

Not only one lock but put another lock like a wire lock.

- ◆Use bicycle parking areas:

Do not leave your bicycle on the road, but park at a parking area. Choose a proper parking area with security systems.

- ◆Register your bicycle:

Bicycle registration is required by cyclists, which prevents theft. Report to the police immediately if you have your bicycle stolen.



【Prevention of purse snatching】

- ◆Hold your bag in the hand facing away from oncoming traffic.
- ◆Put a prevention net on the front basket of your bicycle.
- ◆Take a secure route even if it takes longer.
- ◆Do not walk with your headphones on or using a mobile phone.

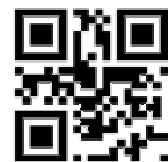
For Women:
Be aware of unsolicited
photography and gropers!
Take a well-lighted route and
carry attack alarms!

- ◎Hyogo Security Net (Japanese only)

Send you crime and security information by mobile text message.

Send a blank message to hpp@hbnp.net.

You can also register by scanning the QR code on the right.



If you become a victim, immediately call the police or go to a police station and file a claim.

The Hyogo Prefectural Police is able to respond in 18 languages now.

[English, Korean, Arabic, French, Vietnamese, Mongol, Indonesian, Urdu, Spanish, Thai, Russian, Tagalog, German, Turk, Persian, Portugal, Chinese (Mandarin and Cantonese)]

The person in charge with each language might not be available all the time. However, even if unattended, the police will arrange a time for translation or respond using a three-way call. Make good use of the 110 emergency number and police stations for your security.

The 17th Himeji International Friendship Festival

**COME! SEE!
JOIN!**

Date: Sunday, October 28th, 2012

Time: 10:00~15:00(rain or shine)

Place: Otemae Park

(10min walk from Himeji Station)

Thank you for waiting!

The Himeji International Friendship Festival is coming soon!

This festival aims to promote friendship between the citizens of Himeji and foreigners through the experience of cultural events.

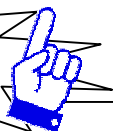
4 tips for having fun

- ① Get a brochure.
- ② Buy tickets
(purchase early to avoid wait times).
- ③ Check out what you want to eat and see
- ④ Go straight to the booths.

4 themes of the festival

- ① “Play” folk costumes, Australian Aboriginal art, face painting.
- ② “Eat” 15 kinds of food from 12 countries
¥150 apiece. Food tickets required.
- ③ “See” Indian dance, Vietnamese Moulin, Philippine bamboo dance.
- ④ “Exchange” English quiz, workshops.

Food Introduction



Popular home cooking prepared by well versed foreign residents will be offered. Here are some examples.

- ① “Deep fried spring roll” from Vietnam
Vegetables and meat wrapped with rice paper and deep fried.
More popular than the summer roll (a non-deep fried spring roll).
Bite sized and crispy.
- ② “Jeon” from South Korea
The name ‘*jeon*’ is from the southeastern Korean dialect. In the standard Korean language it’s called ‘buchimgae’. It also has the nickname, “Korean style *okonomiyaki*”

We’ll give you more information about other foods served in the festival as it becomes available.
You are sure to enjoy these world wide delicacies.

<Message from Kenichiro Ito, executive of Himeji International Exchange Festival >

The festival is supported by over 900 volunteers including foreigners.

They are working passionately and actively, and your cooperation will make the festival more attractive.

So we welcome any and all volunteers who are interested.

Japanese Courses for Foreigners
The Second Term of 2012 (September to December)
Now with new Intermediate Level and Kanji classes!

Would you like to join us and learn Japanese with professionals? Egret Himeji welcomes all foreigners in the city to learn basic Japanese! In addition to introductory level classes, Egret has added an intermediate level as well as *kanji* classes for beginners. The latter classes are held until March.



Courses: “Introductory Class from levels A to F” (Sundays or Thursdays);
“Intermediate Class” (Mondays); “Kanji Class for Beginners” (Sundays)
Location: Classrooms on the fourth floor at Egret Himeji
Tuition: ¥3,000 (10 classes total)
How to apply: Registration began on the first of August at office on the third floor of Egret Himeji
Note: Seats are limited to 20 people

※※※ Editor’s Postscript ※※※

Forced electronic conversations inhibited our fun this summer. But once autumn begins again, lively events will start up. Traditional *matsuris* and the International Exchange Festival are sure to keep us happy and excited. So, it might be a good idea to bring a *bento*, go out and have some fun.

Volume 43 of “VIVA! Himeji” will be published in the coming December. We welcome letters to the editors. Should you have any comments or concerns, feel free to direct them to the email address or phone number listed at the bottom.

Translators and Proofreaders

English : Makoto Hara, Satoko Takimoto, Stephanie Sim, Adam Anania
Chinese : Wenjun Gan, Mika Tsuda, Fan Jie, Masaki Hamane, Zeng Ning
Portuguese : Yu Kunimitsu, Yuma Hasegawa, Eni Takinami
Vietnamese : Hoang Nam Phuong, Phan Thi Minh Xuan, Huyen Tien Thong, Pham
Spanish : Reina Wakamatsu, Tsukasa Takahama, Saori Horii

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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