

VIVA ! ひめじ

Himeji Cultural and International Exchange
Foundation newsletter editing volunteers
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<People> Interview	・・・P1
Spring in 2014: How about visiting Nishi-Harima?	・・・P2,3
“The General” - Kuroda Kanbee	・・・P4
Amendment of Road Traffic Law	・・・P5
Notification	・・・P6



<People> Mr. Thi Hoang Anh

Mr. Thi Hoang Anh's parents are both Vietnamese and came to Japan before he was born. He can speak Japanese fluently, but cannot speak Vietnamese. However, he understands his parents when they speak Vietnamese at home. This year, he passed the university entrance examination, thanks to being recommended through the Refugee Higher Education Program of United Nations. Every year, many people apply for the program, but only a few are selected.

Q: What clubs were you in and what subjects do you like?

A: I have liked sports since I was little. So, I belonged to baseball club and badminton clubs. I like social studies and mathematics too.

Q: You also took extra classes on Saturdays at Joto-machi Sogo Center. When did you start going to the classes?

A: I started going to the classes when I was in the third and fourth grades of elementary school. Ms. Kanagawa, one of the teachers there suggested that I should take the extra classes. So, I have studied there ever since.

Q: What was the best thing for you about the extra classes?

A: The best thing was that I could study with friends. The teachers supported me not only with my subjects but also with my personal development. They encouraged me to take the recommended admission test and my parents supported me too, they wanted me to do the best that I could, even though my school record was not good when I first entered high school. So naturally, I studied very hard for this test.

Q: In spring you are going to be a university student. What would you like to do at university?

A: I am both excited and nervous about university life. Of course, I am going to keep studying hard, but I would also like to do some part-time work, so that I can help my parents. If possible, I would like to join a circle activity and make many friends too.

◆Joto-machi Extra Classes
Every Saturday 1:30pm-
At Joto-machi Sogo Center

Since October 1999, Ms. Kanagawa, other school teachers and volunteers help foreign children to study in Japan. Students are from kindergarten to high school.

Message from Anh:

If you make an effort, there is always someone who appreciates it. You can do it!

Spring in 2014: How about visiting Nishi-Harima?

Here are some great places and events to visit in Nishi-Harima, west of Himeji-city:



A «Taishi Town»

① Ikaruga Temple is a popular temple, nicknamed “*Otaishi-san*”. The placement of its three-story pagoda and its Deva gate is very similar to the one placed in Horyu Temple in Nara.

<Access> Take the number 39 Shinki bus from the north gate of Himeji station, get off at Ikaruga, and it’s about a 5 minute walk (headed west).

② Taishiyama Park is located in the center of town. A steam locomotive (D51) is displayed there. Many people visit the park when cherry blossoms are in bloom. In addition, going up the mountain (47 meters high) allows you to see the broad area of the Banshu plain and the Inland Sea .

<Access> Take JR Train line to Aboshi Station, then take a Shinki bus bound for Yamasaki and get off at Tonan Nishiguchi, it’s about a 5 minute walk from there.

B «Tatsuno City»

③ Tatsuno Park has about 3000 cherry blossoms and they come out at the beginning of April. Tatsuno Sakura festival is held around that time near the park.

<Access> Take JR Kishin Line, get off at Hontatsuno station and it’s about a 30 minute walk from there (or you can take the number 39 Shinki bus, get off at Tatsuno, then walk for 20 minutes).

④ Shin-Maikohama is a famous place crowded with many visitors for shellfish gathering because at low tide, it has a broad tidal flat.

<Access> Take the Sanyo Electric Railway to Aboshi station, then it’s about 8 minutes by taxi.



C «Shiso City»

⑤ Dasai Temple, 1000 year-old Japanese wisteria is an impressive spectacle with a huge Japanese wisteria, which is said to be planted in 960. The tree has 1.5 meter blossoms and the broad range of blossoms fill the shrine area at the end of April. The Wisteria Festival is held every year at the beginning of May.



<Access> Take the number 33 or 41 Shinki bus and get off at Yamasaki, it’s about a 10 minute walk from there.

Rainy days are also recommended. You smell more fragrance.

D «Sayo Town»

⑥ Sasagaoka Park is well-known for its magnificent cherry trees, and also its various kinds of playground equipment, including a 100 meter slide. It’s not only kids, who can enjoy it, but their parents too!

<Access> Take JR Kishin Line and get off at Kozuki Station, then it’s about 10 minutes by taxi from there.

⑦ Nishi-Harima Astronomical Observatory Park is located on the top of Mt. Onade, and the observatory has a Nayuta telescope, which is equipped with a 2 meter aperture, making it the largest in the world. In addition to watching the stars and space, visitors can also enjoy bird-watching.

<Hours> 9:00-21:00

It has accommodation and BBQ places!



<Closed> The Second and fourth Mondays of the month.

On Tuesdays, if Monday is a public holiday.

<Access> Take JR Kishin Line and get off at Sayo Station, it's about 10 minutes by taxi from there.

<HP> <http://www.nhao.jp/>

E «Aioi City»

⑧ Cape Manyo has an impressive, broad view of the Inland Sea, including Awaji Island and Ieshima Islands. In addition, in March, the cape is filled with camellias and in April, it's filled with cherry blossoms .



<Access> Take the JR Sanyo Line to Aioi Station, then take a Shinki Bus, and get off at Cape Manyo.

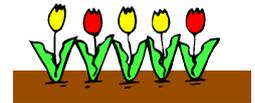
⑨ Aioi Dragon Boat Race is held in Aioi Bay. Some dragon boat teams, consisting of 32 members, compete with each other, beating drums and gongs. On the eve of festival, 5,000 fireworks on the sea add to the excitement of the race.

<Opening> May 24, 2014 Fireworks. May 25 Dragon Boat Race

<Access> Take JR Sanyo Line to Aioi Station, it's about a 25 minute walk from there (or you can take an extra bus operating for the event from the station).

F «Kamigori Town»

⑩ Koto Tulip Garden is located in Harima Science Garden City and there about 50,000 tulips come out. Tulip fairs are held in May.



<Access> Take JR Sanyo Line and get off at Kamigori Station, then take a Shinki bus and get off at Harima Science Garden City.

G «Ako City»

⑪ Oishi Shrine, Ako Castle Ruin commemorates faithful and loyal soldiers who avenged their lord. The weapons, writing, and wooden statues related to the soldiers are displayed in the shrine repository. Many people visit the shrine to pray for the realization of their desires.

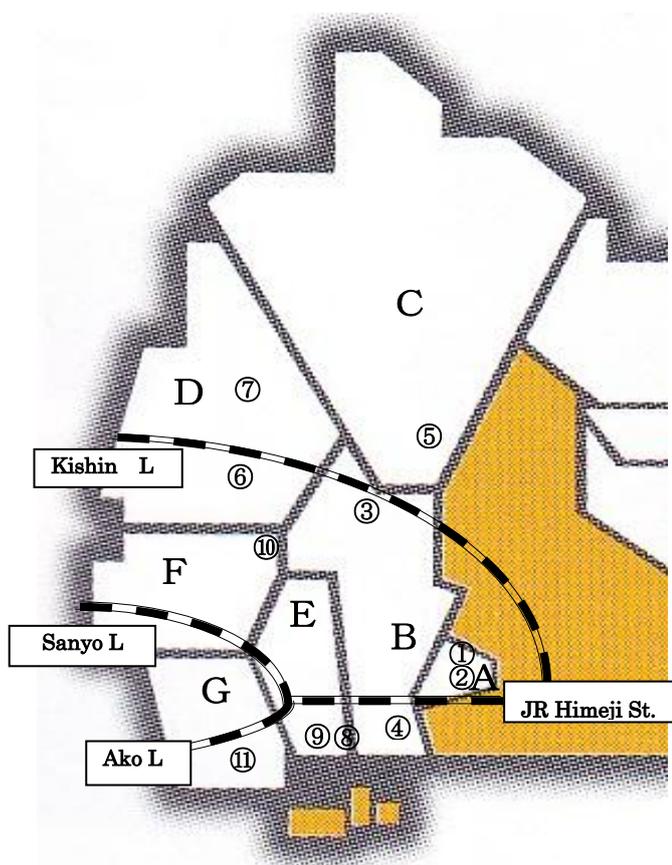
<Admission Fee> The shrine precinct is free, it's 420 yen to visit the shrine repository (or free for junior high school students and younger).

<Access> Take JR Ako Line and get off at Banshu Ako Station , it's about 15 minutes walk from there.

※Please check the times of trains and busses, just in case there are few busses and trains running.

※The following web page has tourist information for the Nishi Harima area.

© Nishi Harima Tourism, Tour Guide
“Journey to Nishi Harima”
(<http://www.nishiharima.jp/>)



A : Taishi Town
B : Tatsuno City
C : Shiso City
D : Sayo Town
E : Aioi City
F : Kamigori Town
G : Ako City

“The General” - Kuroda Kanbee

A General (or military commander) is a person who gives military orders in wars. The NHK drama “The General Kanbee” has been broadcasting since the start of January this year. The main character of this story is “Kuroda Kanbee” (1546-1604), a military commander who holds a deep connection to Himeji City. People say Kanbee was one of the greatest Generals in the “Warring States Period” of Japan. Kuroda Kanbee was the right-hand man of his master “Hideyoshi” and it is sometimes said that Hideyoshi Hashiba could not have brought the whole country under his rule if Kanbee hadn’t worked for him, and that Kanbee himself also watched for an opportunity, which would bring the whole country under his rule.



The Museum, named “Kuroda Kanbee of Himeji” and the Museum named “Kanbee’s History” are now open, thanks to the NHK drama. The stone wall which is said to have been built by Kanbee has been left around the eastern side of the Hishi gate in Himeji castle and there are many areas around Himeji City that are associated with Kanbee.

★NHK drama Museum "Kuroda Kanbei of Himeji"

In the museum, related pictures are screened, you can see stage costume and props of the drama, and there are also some interactive exhibitions.

<Place> Inside the Karoyashiki Ato Park (South of Himeji Castle)

<Hours> 9:00 -17:00 (Last admission 16:30)

★Kanbee's History Museum

Some excavated materials belonging to Kanbee and the life size figure of Kanbee are exhibited in the museum. “Ri no ichi Watariyagura” near this museum is one of Japan’s most valued cultural treasures, and as such, it is not usually open for public-viewing, so please take the opportunity to see it.

<Place> Inside Himeji Castle grounds,

"Ri no ichi Watariyagura"

<Hours> 9:00 -16:00 (gate closes at 17:00)

★The live stage

The live stage is situated very close to the NHK drama Museum. A variety of performances are held there, mainly on Saturdays, Sundays and Public Holidays.

※The NHK drama Museum and Kanbee’s History Museum will be open until January 10th, 2015.

Additional Information : Council for promotion of Himeji Kanbee Project
<http://himeji-Kanbee.jp/>

TEL 079-287-3808

※Additional exhibitions are being held at the Japan Castle Research Center, Himeji City Archaeological Research Center and the Hyogo Prefectural Museum of History.

Table of admission fee

		Adult	Child
NHK drama Museum	1 person	¥500	¥200
	party	¥450	¥180
Tickets for NHK drama Museum and Himeji castle	1 person	¥700	¥250

※child = primary and junior high,
 party = more than 30 persons

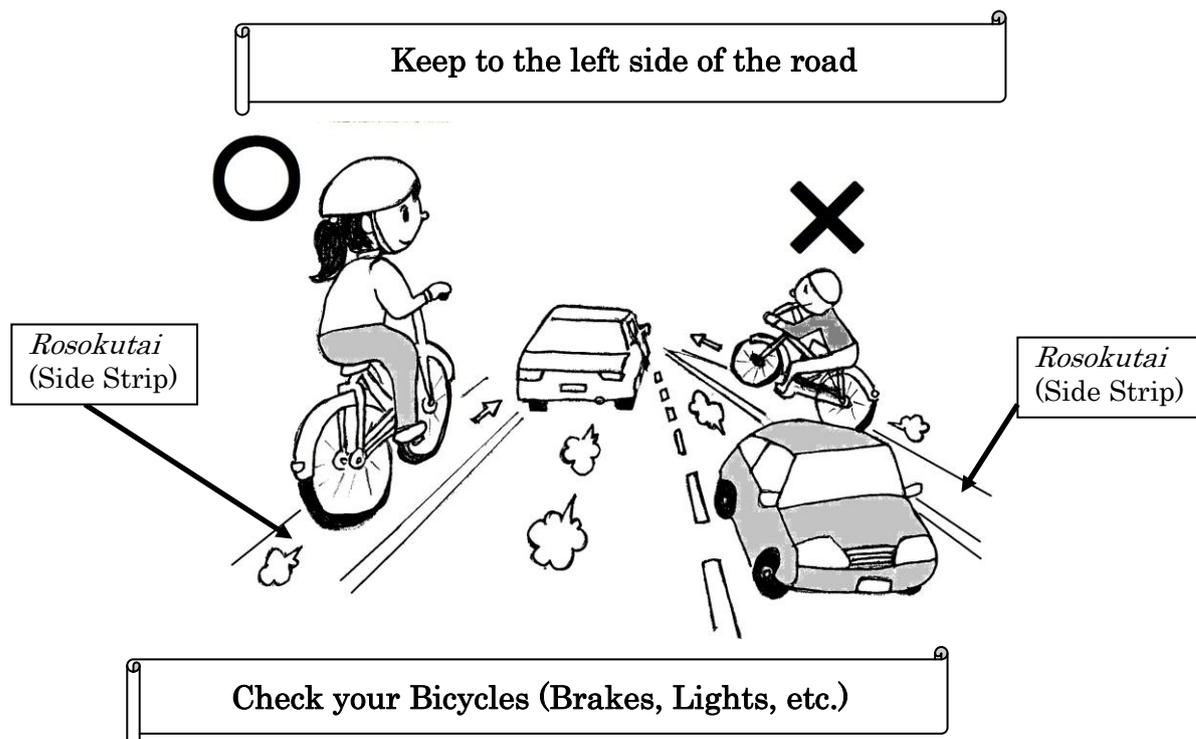
You can do a stamp
 competition!
 “stamp rally”



Amendment of Road Traffic Law

The Road Traffic Law was amended on December 1, 2013 and it now prohibits cycling on the right “side strip” of the road. A “side strip” is a lane for pedestrians and bicycles on either side of the road, in cases where there is no sidewalk. The lane is divided with a white line.

In the case of violation, you will receive up to three months in jail or get a fine for up to 50,000 yen. So please be aware and keep to the left side of the road.



The regulation regarding bicycles without brakes is going to be reinforced. The police can stop anyone riding a bike and check their brakes. If you disobey the policeman, or refuse/disturb their check, you will get a fine of up to 50,000 yen.

~Other Basic Rules~

- In principle bicycles should ride on the road, it is an exception to cycle on the sidewalk. (Bicycles are permitted to ride on side walks where the sign, shown on the right, is displayed)
- Give way to pedestrians on sidewalks and cycle slowly along the road side.
- Please walk your bicycle when you are on pedestrian roads, like in a shopping street.
- Please stop at the intersection and look both ways, to make sure it is safe to cross, before crossing.
- Do not cycle drunk.
- Do not ride double/parallel with others.
- Do not ride with one hand off of your bike (e.g. With an umbrella or mobile phone)
- Do not ride while listening to music.
- Turn your headlights on at night.
- Put a helmet on when schoolchildren or small children cycle by themselves.



※Street sign of sidewalk which allows bicycles

☆Information about the Himeji Cultural and International Exchange Foundation☆

■Seminar: Volunteer Step-up Class

Translation and Interpretation for Everyone's Happiness

Ms. Shizuyo Yoshitomi, director of the NPO Multilanguage Center FACIL, has been invited as a guest speaker for this event. The center was founded as rescue action body to give information in multiple languages for suffering foreigners in Nagata-ward, Kobe at the event of Hanshin Mega Earthquake. Based in Kobe city, the center's main functions are: translation, interpretation in multiple languages and cooperating with governmental bodies, educational bodies, NPOs and NGOs.

Ms. Shizuyo Yoshitomi will speak about a variety of the things that FACIL do, and the importance and necessity of Multi-language translation. She will share with us some important visions for developing a happy society for everyone and will teach us crucial points in actual translation and interpretation.

Date & Place: March 29th, 2014, 13:30-15:00

Conference room No.1&2, Himeji Egret 4th floor

Applications: Himeji Cultural and International Exchange Foundation (contact details below)

Applications are accepted by telephone, e-mail, fax or direct visit to the office.

Please provide us with your name, telephone number, address and the number of people attending.

※※ Editor's Postscript ※※※

Spring has come! For schools, April marks the beginning of the new school year and for businesses, the new financial year. With this, there is the rise in consumption tax this year too. As for me, I usually find myself suffering from hay fever in the spring. but here's to a great year ahead for all of us!

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These names are used with the contributors' permission.

Their assistance is much appreciated.

Back issues of "VIVA! ひめじ" can be found at the Himeji Cultural and International Exchange Foundation (International Exchange Section) website: <http://www.himeji-iec.or.jp/>.

The next issue of "VIVA! ひめじ" will be available in June. Don't miss it!

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. We also warmly welcome any comments and suggestions.

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