

June 2015 Vol.53

VIVA!

ひめじ

English

The Newsletters for foreign residents

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Himeji Cultural and International Exchange
Foundation newsletter editing volunteers
URL <http://www.himeji-iec.or.jp>

<People> Ms. Chen Li Fang

Ms. Chen came to Japan as an exchange student in September 2014 from Meizhou, Guangdong Province. She majored in Japanese at a Chinese University. She participated in the speech contest this March, and was highly praised for her natural speech.



Q: Why did you want to come and study in Japan?

A: I came to Japan because I have been interested in Japanese *anime* since I was a junior high school student, and I wanted to know what the real Japan is like. *Anime* is really good for studying Japanese. Not only is it useful for understanding Japan, but the content can have deep meaning, and for me, it became my “spiritual nourishment” when I was having a hard time.

Q: Now that you are here, how do you feel about Japan?

A: Japanese people are always polite and caring, the customer service in stores is also good. I was surprised that Japanese people always say “thank you” or “sorry” to their family members, since people do not say such things to their close relatives in China. Chinese people think “Why do you say such things? We do not need to say that, because we are so close.” I think this is a cultural difference between Japan and China. As for the food, I like *Okonomiyaki*, croquette and *Dango*, and also Japanese snacks.

Q: What do you study in college?

A: I study Japanese culture and “Japanese-Chinese contrastive language studies”. As well as Japanese, I am also interested in other languages, so I would like to learn Korean and English while I am in Japan.

Q: What do you want to do in the future?

A: It is really tough to find a job in China. Even if I am good at one foreign language, I will not be able to get the kind of job I would like, so I will study harder and I hope to become an interpreter.

Summer Events 2015

◆Himeji Castle Admission-free Month

Himeji Castle will be open to the citizens of Himeji for free in July.

Date: July 1 (Wed.) - 31 (Fri.)

Applicable to the citizens of Himeji only

(Present proof of name and address at the castle entrance: driver's license, health insurance card, student ID card, residency card or similar.)



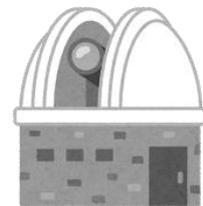
◆Sakurayama Park Festival July 18 (Sat.) -19 (Sun.)

This festival offers you the chance to experience nature and science through experiments, craft-making, a puppet show, and astronomical observation which even small children can enjoy.

Place: Himeji City Science Museum, Hoshinoko Yakata,
Kodomo no Yakata, Himeji City Nature Observation Forest

Time: 9:30 - 16:00

Contact: 079-267-3962



◆Himeji Minato Festival July 25 (Sat.)

5,000 fireworks will be launched from pontoons floating 300 meters out to sea.

Time: 19:30 - 20:45 (approx.)

Access: Free shuttle buses will run from Sanyo Line, Shikama Station.

Contact: 079-221-2504

※postponed or cancelled in case of bad weather



◆Boze Peron Race Festa August 1 (Sat.)

Amid the sound of loud cheers and drums beating out at sea, participants on the twenty-seater boats work together to be the fastest crew. Every year teams of young supporters compete against each other as they cheer enthusiastically for their crew from the stands.

Place: In front of Boze Sports Center, Boze, Ieshima-cho.

Starting Time: 9:00

Access: Take Shinki-Bus Line 94 bound for Himeji Port from JR Himeji Station North Bus Terminal and get off at the final stop. Then take the Boze Kisen ferry to Boze Island. The venue is a 25 minute-walk from the ferry terminal.

Contact: 079-327-1001



◆The 33rd Himeji Castle Kangetsu-kai September 27 (Sun.)

A range of traditional arts such as *wadaiko* drumming will be performed on a special stage. Himeji-*oden* (Himeji style Japanese stew), local *sake* and *tsukimi-dango* (rice dumplings) will be on sale. You can also enjoy tea ceremony and moon-viewing with telescopes.

Place: Sannomaru Square, Himeji Castle

Time: 18:00-21:00

※postponed to the following day in case of rain



◆ **Rekihaku Club 「Let's make a *Shide-bo!*」 September 27 (Sun.)**

Place: 1st Floor Lobby, Hyogo Prefectural Museum of History

Hours: 10:00 - 11:30, 13:00 - 14:30 (2 sessions a day)

Run on a first-come, first-served basis; 20 participants max. per session.

Fee: ¥100 (Parental guidance required for 4th grade elementary students and under.)

※*Shide-bo*: A decorated rod used for Autumn Festivals.



◆ **Castle Moat *Wasen* (Japanese-style boat) Ride**

Schedule: Saturdays, Sundays, and National Holidays until November 29 (Sun).

Note: Extra rides scheduled on Aug. 13 (Thu) and 14 (Fri)

Closed on Sept.5 (Sat), 6 (Sun), 12 (Sat), 13 (Sun)

Frequency of service: Ten times per day (every 40 minutes from 9:30)

Duration: 30 minutes

Fare: Adults ¥1,000 Children (age 12 and under) ¥500

One infant per adult free of charge (child fare charged for any additional infants)

Ticketing and Boarding: Himeji Castle Mushadamari (on the east side of Koko-en Garden)

※No advance reservations accepted. Ticket sales start at 9:00 on the day of boarding.



What does this word mean?

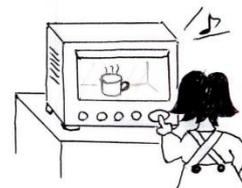


Have you ever heard a word frequently, but not been able to work out what it meant even if you looked it up in the dictionary?

FILE 2

チンする Chin-suru

=to cook in a microwave



This expression means to heat up food in a microwave, 'to microwave'. This phrase comes from the "ching" sound made by microwaves to signal that food is ready.

Even though more recent microwaves make a beeping noise or play a melody when food is ready, there are still a lot of people who use this phrase.

① Kono gohan **chin-suru**? = Shall I microwave this rice?

→ Un, **chin-shite!** = Yeah, microwave it.

② Kono pan wa ippun **chin-suru** to oishiku narimasuyo.

= Microwaving this bread for one minute will make it more delicious!



Please tell us any words you can't understand.

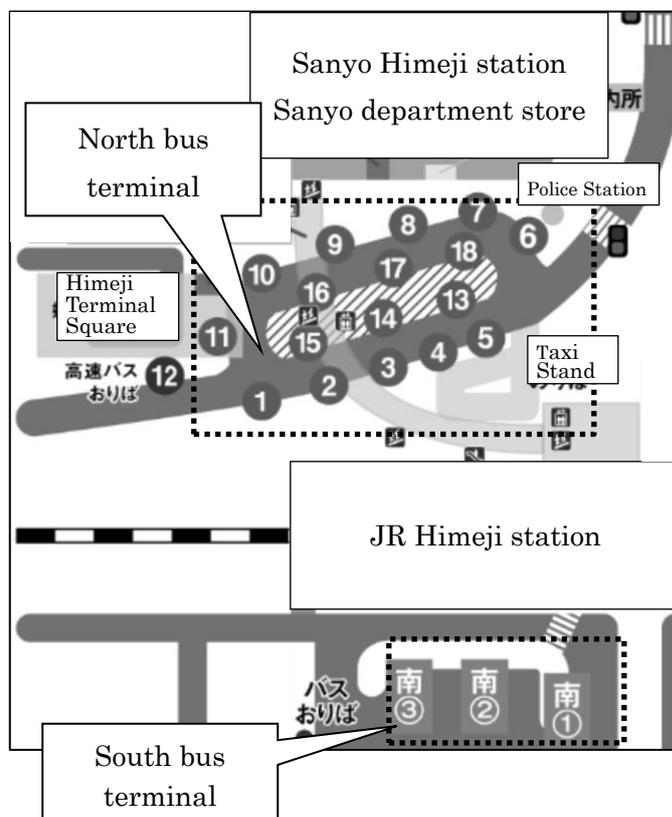
Contact us at the address written on the bottom of the last page.

New Bus Terminal at Himeji Station

Starting 1st April 2015, Himeji Station Bus Terminal has undergone major change. The new stops (indicated by circled numbers) and their destinations are shown in the table and map below. For more details, please see the SHINKI BUS homepage.

«North bus terminal»

stop	DESTINATION · VIA · ROUTE NUMBER
①	Himeji-ko (port) 94/ Hakuchodai 36/ Shosha-nishi jutaku via Takaoka byoin (hospital)-mae 46
②	Junkankibyō center · Himeji Shōgyō koko (high school) 17/ Shianbashi 27/ Seitetsu-kinen-Hirohata byoin (hospital) 28 · Shin-nittetsu-Sumikin via Chuji 29
③	【via Nisseki byoin (hospital)】 Takabatake minami-guchi 18/ Saisakibashi nishizume (west) · Seitetsu-kinen-Hirohata byoin (hospital) · Shin-nittetsu-Sumikin 30/ Tatsuno · Aoyama gorufu-jo (golf course) 38 · 39
④	【via Nisseki byoin (hospital)】 Kamiteno · Shosha-nishi jutaku 40/ Midoridai 35 · 40/ Oichi 37/ Yamasaki 31 · 32 · 33/ Seki · Green Station Shikagatsubo 34
⑤	Imajuku junkan (loop) 1
⑥	Shiro shuhen kanko loop bus (Himeji castle loop bus)
⑦	【via Iryo center (hospital)】 Shiromidai 64/ Ebuna danchi (apartment complex) 81 · 86/ Hojo 61 · 62 · 81/ Fukusaki 84 · 86/ Furubokke-koen (park) 82
⑧	【via Iryo center (hospital)】 Himeji Dokkyō Daigaku (univ.) · Daijudai 3 · 5/ Hiromine 4
⑨	Himeji Dokkyō Daigaku (univ.) · Daijudai via Nishi-ko (high school)-mae 11/ Tadera kita-guchi 12 · 13
⑩	Shosha-zan (Mt.) ropeway · Kokogakuen-mae 8 Oikedai 9
⑪	【Highway Express】 Shibuya · Shinjuku/ Tottori/ Kinosaki/ Kansai kuko (aprt.)/ Itami kuko (aprt.)
⑬	Direct to Kenritsu daigaku kogakubu (univ.) Express to SPring-8
⑭	【via Gokenyashiki】 Shiromidai 75/ Kiyosumi 73 Central Park 74/ Ohara · Yashiro 71
⑮	Mino kofun-gun (tumulus clusters) 23 · 24/ Yuhigaoka · Bessho-eki (sta.) 22/ Kashima-jinja (Shrine) 21
⑯	Hinode-cho via Shoko kaigisho (The Himeji Chamber of Commerce and Industry) 25 Shoda junkan (loop) 16
⑰	【via Yokozeki】 Maenosho 51 · 52 · 53/ Yamanouchi 51
⑱	【via Yokozeki】 Kenritsudai kogakubu (univ.) 41 · 42 · 43 · 45/ Shosha-nishi jutaku 45/ Midoridai 43/ Araki 41 · 42/ Kosebata · Yamasaki 41/ Birds Town 42



«South bus terminal»

South ①	Himeji shiyakusho(city hall)-mae 99/ Himeji chuo byoin (hospital) 98/ Sanden Shikama-eki (sta.) · Himeji karyoku 91/ shoda junkan (loop) 98
South ②	【via Hojo jutaku】 Higashiyama junkan (loop) · Matogata junkan (loop) 93/ Shirahama kaigan (beach) · Usazaki-minami 92/ Hinode-cho 90
South ③	Himeji-shi Bunka Center · Agaho-eki (sta.) · Otsu · Shimo-oda jutaku 95/ JR Aboshi-eki (sta.) 96/ Tegarayama loop 97

【Inquiries】 SHINKI BUS Himeji branch 079-288-1744

【Homepage】 <http://www.shinkibus.co.jp/rsn/map/himeji.html>

Duty of Entry for Bicycle Insurance

A new bicycle regulation has been enacted in Hyogo which requires all cyclists to have bicycle accident insurance. Teachers are required to instruct students how to ride safely and properly. Guardians must also ensure that children are well educated about bicycle safety.



Due to a recent increase in bicycle-related accidents, this regulation has been enacted to support those involved in accidents to cope with high compensation fees.

Please be sure to ride bicycles safely and properly.

◆Kinds of insurance and coverage◆

Party	Other Party		Myself	Service Provider
	Life, body	Property	Life, body	
Individual Liability Insurance	○	○	×	Damage insurance company
Damage Insurance ※1	×	×	○	Damage insurance company
TS Mark Incidental Insurance ※2	○	×	○	Bicycle safety maintenance shop

※1…This insurance covers you in the case of injury caused by accident, however if you add Special Individual Liability Insurance you will also be protected from accident liability.

※2…Insurance for bicycles carrying a TS mark (a mark indicating the bicycle has been inspected by a mechanic who has met the Japan Traffic Management Technology Association’s standards).



Please be insured in case of an accident!

Himeji Police News

Please follow the traffic rules and ride safely!

5 Bicycle Safety Rules:

- Ride on the road, not on the sidewalk unless otherwise indicated.
- Ride on the left.
- Pedestrians have right of way on the sidewalk. If on the sidewalk, ride slowly near the road side. (Ride at an easy stopping speed and pay attention to pedestrians)
- Follow safety rules.
(Don’t drink-drive, double-ride, ride side-by-side. Follow traffic signals and stop at crossings. Use a light at night.)
- Children must wear a helmet.



If you cycle dangerously or infringe the law (neglect a traffic signal, ride a bicycle without brakes, drink-drive), you will get a traffic ticket and may be fined. If you receive a second traffic ticket within a fixed period, you must attend a lecture and pay an attendance fee (if you refuse to attend, you will be fined).

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

■ We won an award!

The volunteer editors of “VIVA! ひめじ” won the “International grass-roots services award”. This award is given to individuals or groups who render long-standing services to international exchange and multicultural coexistence. This award has motivated us to work even harder to make “VIVA! ひめじ” better. Since “VIVA! ひめじ” is issued in 6 languages, translating volunteers are essential. We appreciate their cooperation, and we hope to keep on working with them in the future.

■ About our office

The office of our foundation is on the 3rd floor of Egret Himeji, to the south of Otemae Koen (park). Have you been here? On the 4th floor there is an International Exchange Center And a library with a lot of books about cross-cultural exchange and languages. We also have “Nihongo Hiroba (Japanese Square)” where you can learn Japanese from volunteers. To the north of our office building, you can see the beautiful white Himeji Castle. We always welcome your visit to our office.

◆◆◆ Editor's Postscript ◆◆◆

The best time of roses has passed, and now we can see colorful hydrangea flowers “*Ajisai*” here and there. In Japan, there are some temples which are famous for the hydrangea flowers in their gardens. These temples are called “*Ajisai-dera*” (Hydrangea temples), and one of them is Anji Kamo jinja in Yasutomi-cho, Himeji. Many people come and see the beautiful hydrangea flowers during this season. This time of the year we have a lot of rain too, and it makes hydrangeas more attractive. Why not come on out to see the flowers in the rain?



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These names are used with the contributors' permission.

Their assistance is much appreciated.

You can read back numbers of “VIVA! ひめじ” at the website of the Himeji Cultural and International Exchange Foundation (International Exchange Section)(<http://www.himeji-iec.or.jp/>).

The next issue of “VIVA! ひめじ” will be available in September. Don't miss it! We invite your comments and suggestions.

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.

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