

# VIVA!ひめじ

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Newsletter editing volunteer  
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<People> Interview NOOR AZALINA BINTI BUANG (Malacca in Malaysia)

Noor came to Japan in 2004 and studied Japanese for 1 year in Tokyo. She studies Japanese language at Himeji Dokkyo University.

Q: Please tell us about your name.

A: My name is NOOR AZALINA BINTI BUANG. 'BUANG' is my father's name. All Islamic women have 'BUNTI' in their name and all Islamic men have 'BIN' in their name.

Q: What opportunity have made you come to Japan?

A: I have watched Japanese animation since I was a child. I was interested in Japan and I really wanted to go to Japan. However, I did not have a chance to go and I almost gave it up. One day, I found that Malaysian Government had announced for people who want to study in Japan, and I have applied for it.

Q: Have you ever faced a problem in Japan?

A: It was the problem that I could not read Kanji when I bought something. There are some foods which we can not eat and drink such as pork and alcohol because of our religion. Therefore, we have to go to the special shops in Kobe to buy chicken and beef. (It is possible to order via the Internet.)

Q: Please tell us about the scarf on your head.

A: It is called Tudung in Malay language. It has many colors. I took a light blue one today. There are special Tudung which have gold and silver and these are worn at a wedding.

Q: Do you have something that you want to do in Japan?

A: Yes. I would like to work with Japanese people but it is hard to find a job in Japan, because I wear Tudung. I think it gives bad impression. She have decided to be a Japanese teacher after she goes back to her country.

Noor is a very friendly woman, she wishes to make a lot of friends and have a great time with Japanese friends. "Smile" is her secret in making a lot of friends. She will join the International Friendship Festival in autumn and she will cook Malaysian food. If you see her, have a friendly visit to her booth.

## What is Kokumin-Nenkin (National Pension Plan) ?

To foreign residents in Japan,

What if you have Aged ? What if you become disabled? What if you pass away ? What will your family do? Let's have a look at some Pension Plans (systems) for the future.

Japan's Pension Programs, like those in most other countries, are very complicated. We would like to explain the basic things about Kokumin-Nenkin (National Pension Plan). There is another type of Pension, Kosei-Nenkin (Employees' Pension Plan), mainly for people who work for wages or salaries.

● **Question** : What is a Public Pension Plan?

**Answer** : Public Pension Plans are run by the state.

The purpose of the pension plan is to prepare for beneficial payments by accumulating contributions made by people who are working and to support the aging, the decease which are unavoidable and risks of becoming disabled

There are two main Public Pension Plans in Japan:

Kokumin-Nenkin (National Pension Plan) — Everyone living in Japan must register in this plan.

Kosei-Nenkin (Employees' Pension Plan) — Mainly for people working.

● **Question** : What is a Retirement Pension Plan (Rorei Nenkin)?

**Answer** : A pension plan is a system in which the government collects contributions that people make while they are working, which will be paid as pension benefits when they become old and/or unable to work.

The system is set ,so that working people can support retired people.

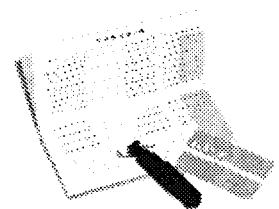
● **Question** : What are the other Pension Plans?

**Answer** : There are two Pensions. The purpose of the plan is to provide support not only when you become old but also when you become disabled or when your parent(s) pass away.

- Basic Disability Pension: When the member becomes disabled as a result of illness or injury, he or she can receive a pension benefit, depending on the severity.
- Basic Survivor's Pension: If a member dies, the bereaved family can receive a pension benefit.

● **Question** : At what age are we required to make pension contributions in Japan?

**Answer** : Everyone living in Japan, ages between 20 and 59 , including foreigners, should register in the National Pension Plan.



- **Question** : When can I receive Old Age Pension?

**Answer** : As a rule, you can receive Old Age Pension when you are 65 years old.

- **Question** : It is difficult to make pension contributions now. What should I do?

**Answer** : There are application of Exemption/Postponement Programs.

Types of exemption program and people who can apply for the programs:

- Complete Exemption: People who receive life assurance, Grade 1 Disability Basic Pension, or Grade 2 , can be exempt from making contributions.
- Partial exemption, Contribution Postponement System for low income, and Special payment system for students: If it is difficult for you to make pension contributions, you can apply for one of these programs. After your income or other conditions are evaluated, if your application is approved, you will be exempt from making part of your contributions or will be approved to postpone making pension contributions. However, if you fail to make the remaining partial pension contributions, the period will be regarded as a period when you did not make contributions.

For example, if you are exempt from making 3/4, 1/2, or 1/4 of your contributions, you should make 1/4, 1/2, or 3/4 of your contributions respectively.

- **Question** : When a foreigner who has enrolled in the National Pension Plan decides to leave Japan, can he/she receive pension benefit payments?

**Answer** : If a non-Japanese resident has made his/her contributions as a Category 1 insured person for 6 months or longer but cannot receive the pension, he/she can claim a withdrawal of total payment after leaving Japan. The amount depends on the number of months he/she made contributions.

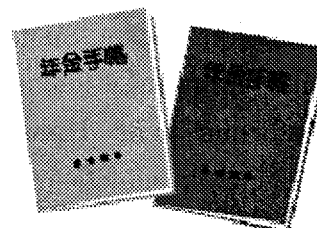
To claim the total payment, please mail a completed application form along with the required documents to the Social Insurance Operation Center within 2 years of leaving Japan.

The application form can be obtained at the Social Insurance office or at the National Pension counter of the local municipal office.

For detailed information, please visit the web page of Social Insurance Agency <http://www.sia.go.jp/>  
Application form (PDF file) →<http://www.sia.go.jp/e/index.html>

Contact: Himeji City Social Insurance Operation Center Tel: 079-221-2332

Himeji City Social Insurance Office Tel: 079-224-6361



画像-ゆうちょくらぶ  
<http://www.yucho-club.jp/secondlife/01/c-1-10.html>

## ★11<sup>th</sup> International Friendship Festival★

International Friendship Festival will be held again this year as shown below with the citizens of Himeji and with the foreign residents.

People can enjoy the foods from various countries and also experience tradition dances and music. Through communicating and participating in activities , friendships and mutual understanding should be deepen with the foreign people.

Date: October 29, 2006(Sun.) 10am to 3pm No postponement for rain

Place: Himeji Otemae Park

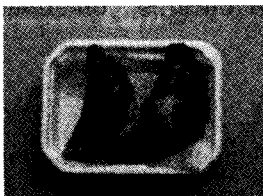
Event organizer: Himeji City / Himeji International Association, International Friendship Festival Executive Committee



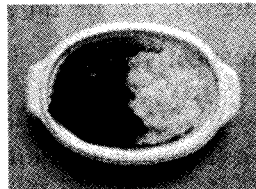
### ☆ Taste the World

From all nationalities 23 kinds of cuisines will be served for 150 yen/dish.

Empanadas (Argentine)



Gaeng Nuer Sai Fak Thong (Thailand)



Red curry paste with coconut milk makes a Hot and Spicy Pumpkin Curry. Rosy pimientos(paprika) and Greenery basil should stimulate your appetite.

“Empanadas” filled with meat is very popular in Argentina. We have arranged a little.... adding spinach, corn and cheese and have it done crispy.

### ☆ Stage Performance

On the main stage, Himeji Fire Brigade Musical Band will perform a recital. Presentation of traditional dances and songs will also be performing.

### ☆ Kids Festival

Let's play games with our foreign neighbors in Himeji. Feel free to join us!

### ☆ Let's Play

Have a break! Dance and music at the communication square. Serving Asian Tea with snack for 200 yen at Open Café.

### ☆ Let's Try

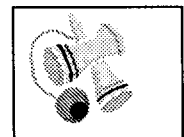
Games...Costumes of different nationalities—which would you like to try on? Exhibition of Aboriginal Art, Language lesson, Tea Ceremony Do you have interest in Fortune-Telling?

### ☆ Games of the World

Enjoy air-rocket, sports chanbara, beanbag, kendama, indiaca, balloon art, petanque and dish-spinning. Kendama certification will be issued.

### ☆ Information of Himeji

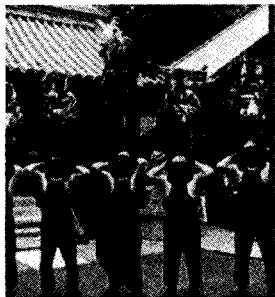
Regional products and worldwide companies are introduced.



Let's go out for autumn festivals!!

## Inukai-Shinmei Shrine's shishimai in Kodera

Have you ever seen or joined autumn festivals in Himeji? Today let me introduce to you Inukai-Shinmei Shrine's shishimai in Kodera-cho, which has recently become a new district of Himeji-city.



Shishimai is the folkloric performing arts of dancing by people wearing a lion-costume, and the one in Inukai-Shinmei Shrine has a history of some 500 years. Once epidemic diseases and hunger have widely spread all over Japan, the lion (shishi) was created to drive away the evils by visiting houses. It is said that people can recover from illness and injury after having their limbs or heads bitten by the lion, and even now it is performed in some situations. Each house offers some rice and money wrapped in cloth and placed on a tray in return for the lion's performance.

Besides exorcism, tradition says that shishimai has positive effects on a good harvest (gokoku hojo), peaceful family life (kanai enman) and preventing bad illness. It was designed as Hyogo's important intangible culture property in 1977.

Why don't you take this opportunity to experience the tradition!

**Time & Date:** the weekend before Health-Sports Day in every October

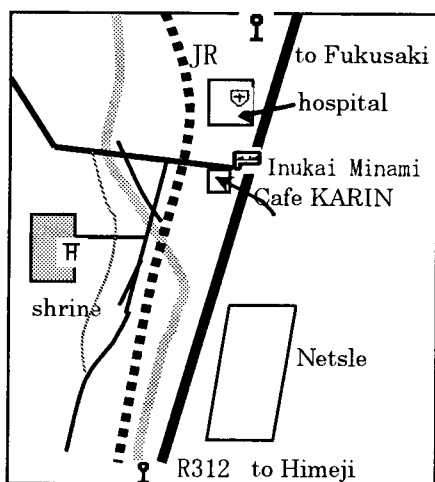
Oct. 7<sup>th</sup> (Sat) afternoon The lion visits each house in the town

Oct. 8<sup>th</sup> (Sun) 10:00 Shishimai performance is held in Inukai-Shinmei Shrine

### Access

• By bus: 7-minutes walk from Inukai stop of Shinki Bus No.84 (departing from Himeji Sta. to Fukusaki via Koro Sta., the travel time is about 25 minutes). The bus leaves every 2 hours between 8:05 and 18:05 from Himeji, and every 2 hours between 10:58 and 18:58 from Inukai.

• By train: 30-minute walk southward from Koro Sta. on JR Bantan Line (4 stations, 15 minutes from Himeji Sta.). Or, 30-minute walk northward from Nibuno Sta. (3 stations, 11 minutes).



### ●Main festivals in Himeji●

- Oct. 14<sup>th</sup> , 15<sup>th</sup> Wild Dance of Kejishi (wild lion) at Oshio Tenmangu near Oshio Sta. on Sanyo Dentetsu Line
- Oct. 14<sup>th</sup> , 15<sup>th</sup> Demolition Derby of Nada at Matsubara Hachimangu near Mega Sta. and Shirahama Sta. on Sanyo Dentetsu Line
- Oct. 21<sup>st</sup> , 22<sup>nd</sup> Japanese Lantern Festival at Usuki Hachiman Shrine near Aboshi Sta. on Sanyo Dentetsu or JR Line

☆ The other local autumn festivals are also held mainly in October. So, do not miss the chance to join and have fun at autumn festivals nearby.

☆☆☆ Information about the Himeji International Association ☆☆☆

The Japanese Language Course For Foreign Residents—the Second term (10 Lessons) from September to December, 2006.

Provided by experienced teachers

Advice and suggestion on better ways of living in Japan

●The following classes for beginners are available:

Class A (Thursday & Sunday), Class B (Wednesday & Sunday),

Class C (Wednesday & Sunday), Class D-1(Sunday), Class D-2(Thursday) [Total 8 classes]

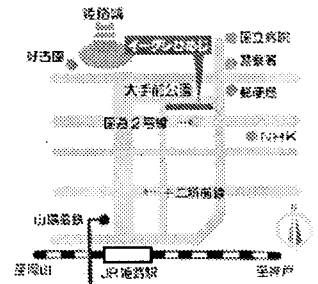
●Number Limit: 20 people for each class ●Tuition Fee: 3,000 Yen

●Cost for Textbook: "みんなのこほんご" \* [Class A, B, C, D-2] Main textbook 2,625 yen (tax included), Sub textbook 2,100 yen (tax included)

"たんきしゅうちゅうしょきゅうこほんごぶんぼうそうまとめ 20" [Class D-1] 1,470 yen (tax included) ●Place of the Classroom: Himeji International Association (Egret Himeji 4F, 68-290 Hon-machi, Himeji City)

●Application: You are requested to apply for the course before the class begins. In the meantime, we accept your application at Himeji International Association Office (Egret Himeji 3F). ●Acceptance Date: Starting on August 1st, 2006. (The application for the Second Term is still available and for the Third Term will be accepted in / after December, 2006.)

●Inquiry as follows: To Himeji International Association URL <http://www.himeji-iec.or.jp/>



※※※Editor's Postscript※※※

This time we took the articles on the Autumn Festival in Inukai, Kodera-cho ( Himeji City )and on the Pension System which many people were interested in. The system is so complicated that we took the National Pension System to discuss at this point. The next issue of 「VIVA ! ひめじ」 vol.19 is scheduled to be out in December. Don't miss it! If you have any questions or comments, please contact us at the following address and number provided below. We will be happy to hear from you.

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All volunteer names are printed with their permission. We appreciate all your help.

We always invite translation assistants and native proofreaders on 「VIVA!ひめじ」.

If you have some interests, please inform us with the following address or number.

We're waiting for many replies.

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