

VIVA ! ひめじ

<English Version> March 2007 No.20

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<People> Interview **Mr. Kjell Hahn**

Mr. Kjell who is from St. Louis USA, lives in Shikama, Himeji. He teaches English in a private school now. He studied art in university.

Q: Why did you come to Japan?

A: When I was in university I heard about Japan from a Japanese friend, I was really interested in it, and thought I wanted to go there. I came to Himeji to be an ALT (assistant language teacher) for the first time through the Jet Program in 2001. I had a hard time speaking Japanese at that time because I didn't study at all, so I started learning Japanese at Egret Himeji. (He speaks Japanese fluently now.) I went back once in 2005, and came back to Japan last year.

Q: What do you do in your free time?

A: When I was a child, I played at the Mississippi or a lake in my hometown. Sometimes I went camping and traveled to climb the Rocky Mountains. From these experiences, I drew pictures and rode a bicycle to go everywhere. The next day of coming to Himeji for the first time, I went to Mt. Hiromine. And I like to collect bicycle parts, and made my original bicycle which is only one in the world.



Q: What is your favorite place in Japan?

A: It's Shodo Island. There are many mountains and it is surrounded by sea. I can ride around with my bicycle.

Q: What do you want to do in Japan from now on?

A: I teach English right now, but I want to study more about art because of my major, so in the future I would like to teach art. And I am thinking I want to invite my mother to Japan someday. I love the Japanese scenery and food, so I would like to live in Japan forever.



Useful facilities in and around Himeji ~ Counseling Services and Information for Foreign Residents ~

The local governments of Himeji and Hyogo provide various information and services including counseling for foreign residents in Japan. Some of them are listed below.

General Counseling for Refugees from Indochina (Vietnamese)

- Category General affairs
- Date & Time Tuesday 10:00-12:00, 13:00-16:00
- Advisers Counselors and Interpreters from *Refugee Assistance Headquarters Kansai Branch, Foundation for the Welfare and Education of the Asian People*
- Place Counseling Center (1st Floor in the City Hall)
- Phone 079-221-2759

General Counseling (Portuguese and Spanish)

- Category General affairs
- Date & Time 1st-4th Tuesday 13:00-16:00
- Advisers Interpreters
- Place Counseling Center (1st Floor in the City Hall)
- Phone 079-221-2107

Information for foreign residents

- Category General information (English)
- Date & Time Everyday 8:35-17:20
- Advisers Officers from *Himeji International Association*
- Place Himeji International Exchange Center (3rd Floor in Egret Himeji)
- Phone 079-287-0820

“Living Guide” for foreign residents

Living Guide, a life information handbook (in English, Chinese, Vietnamese, and Portuguese) is given on your foreign registration.

For more Inquires, contact

Himeji International Exchange Center

3rd Floor Egret Himeji, 68-290 Honmachi, Himeji, Hyogo 670-0012

Tel: 079-287-0820 Fax: 079-287-0824

E-mail: kokusai@city.himeji.hyogo.jp

Radio Programs in Foreign Languages

FM COCOLO (76.5MHz)

- HYOGO HAPPENINGS (English) Monday 21:00 - 21:10
- 兵庫信息廣場 (Chinese) Monday 21:10 - 21:20
- ACONTECE EN HYOGO (Spanish) Monday 21:20 - 21:30
- ACONTECE EN HYOGO (Portuguese) Monday 21:30 - 21:40

FM GENKI (79.3MHz)

- Vietnamese program Sunday 15:00 - 15:05

Hyogo International Plaza

You will find the places and opportunities for international exchange activities including events, seminars and language lessons. Related information is also available.

•Resource Center

Free internet access, video players and TV sets, news papers, and magazines are offered to Hyogo residents with the purpose of seeking the related information and enhancing understanding on the international exchange.

•NGO Support Office

The activity room is available to the groups devoted to the international exchange and cooperation. The office is equipped with tables for meetings and preparations, a photocopier, a paper folding machine, and letter cases for free and rental rockers.

•Japanese Language Education Office

As the central office of Japanese language education in Hyogo, it gives various supports to Japanese language teachers and volunteers for building networks and creating curriculums and supplementary materials of the lessons. The counseling services on learning Japanese language are also available.

In addition to above, Hyogo International Plaza is also equipped with an open relaxation space **International Salon**, fee-based **International Gallery** and **Conference Room** for rent.

For more Inquires, contact

Hyogo International Plaza

International Health Development Center
5-1, 1-chome, Wakinohama Kaigan-dori,
Chuo-ku, Kobe, Hyogo, 651-0073
Tel: 078-230-3060 Fax: 078-230-3080
URL: <http://www.hyogo-ip.or.jp>

Operation Hours

| | |
|--|---------------|
| Monday – Friday | 9:00 – 20:00 |
| (Conference Room | 9:00 – 21:00) |
| Saturday | 9:00 – 17:00 |
| * Closed: Sunday, National Holidays, the year-end and new year holidays | |

You can research books on their website!



Information and Advisory Service

For your better life, free counseling services and information are offered to foreign residents on all aspects of living in Japan. Consultants speak English, Chinese, Spanish, Portuguese and Japanese. For the counseling on Legal affairs, an advanced appointment is required. Your personal information is protected.

| | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|---------------|
| General affairs | Monday – Friday | 9:00 – 17:00 |
| Legal affairs | Monday | 13:00 – 16:00 |

For more Inquires, contact

Information and Advisory Service

General Consultation Center for Hyogo Residents
6th Floor, Kobe Crystal Tower,
1-3, 1-chome, Higashikawasaki-cho,
Chuo-ku, Kobe, Hyogo, 650-0044
Tel: 078-382-2052 Fax: 078-382-2012

Event Information in Spring

Castle Day April 6 (Friday)

On the Castle day, April 6, admission is free for Himeji Castle, Himeji City Zoo, and Himeji City Museum of Art every year.

- Himeji Castle: 9 a.m. ~ 5 p.m. (admission closes at 4 p.m.)
- Himeji City Zoo: 9 a.m. ~ 5 p.m. (admission closes at 4 p.m.)
- Himeji City Museum of Art: 10 a.m. ~ 5 p.m.



Around this time of year many people will come to visit Himeji Castle to see **the** cherry blossoms. Before and after the Castle Day, many events will be held around Himeji Castle, such as, Viewing Cherry-Blossoms in Himeji Castle, Japanese Drum Concert, Night Viewing of Cherry-blossoms in Himeji Castle etc.

Parnassus Morning Harmony (Concert)

Every Second Saturday morning, casual concert is held in Parnassus Hall.

Parnassus Hall is known for the pipe organ.

The next concert schedule is as follows:

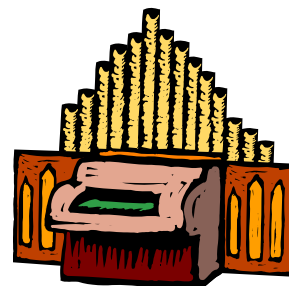
Date: April 14 (Saturday) 10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. (opens at 10 a.m.)

Genre: Classic Concert

Admission: Free

Access: From Himeji Station-Himeji City Bus: leave from North terminal no.2

Take the Bus no.8 for “Shosha Ropeway “ or no.9 for “Oikedai” . Get off at “Himeko Bus stop” . (Approximately for 15 mins.)



The Matsuri Yatai (Floats) in Himeji

Date: May 19 (Saturday) 10 a.m. -- 4 p.m.

Place: Sannomaru Park in Himeji Castle/ Otemae Street

Floats are used mainly in autumn Festival at shrine. However, in “the Matsuri Yatai in Himeji” all floats in the city get together at Himeji Castle in May. Nearly 100 men carry a heavy float weighed about 2 tons. It is worth seeing the excellent view of floats gathering together.



Manners at Japanese Funerals

In Japan funeral service (Ososhiki) is held to lay the deceased to rest. It is important to know the manners at funeral as it happens suddenly. There are various kinds of funeral ceremonies, Buddhist, Shinto, Christian and so on, but most people have funerals in the Buddhist style. People generally attend either a wake or a funeral with a “Koden” (Condolence Gift). Hand in the condolence gift at the reception desk and write down your name and address in “Houmeichou” (Visitor’s Book)

<< Procedure for Buddhist style funeral >>

Wake--- the day before the funeral. It is a ceremony for the family and relatives spending the last night with the deceased.

Funeral--- farewell ceremony for the relatives and the close friends of the deceased

Memorial service--- farewell ceremony, in which the general attendants offer Shoko
Setting out of the coffin—see off the coffin carried out of the ceremonial place, then moved to a crematorium by hearse (Reikyusha).

<<Attire>>

Women--- Black dress or suit is suitable. Shoes and bags are also black but not shiny. One should not wear accessories except for a marriage ring and a pearl necklace. The pearl necklace should be a single string and avoid double because it is believed that double strings imply a funeral will be held once again. Make up should be applied lightly. A generally clean look is most suitable.

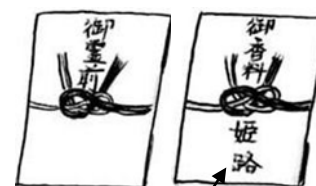


Men—Black suit with black socks and shoes is suitable. Shirt should be white.

School students --- School uniforms

<<Kouden>>

“Koden” (condolence gift) is the money to offer the deceased. Though the amount depends on how close you are to the deceased, generally people put 3,000 yen or 5,000 yen in “Koden Bukuro” (condolence gift envelopes). Write the amount of money you put at the lower left on the reverse of the envelope. Avoid putting new notes. You can buy “Koden Bukuro” at stationery stores, supermarkets or convenient stores. There are various types of envelope with Japanese decoration, called Mizuhiki but for the funerals, one should use the envelope with Mizuhiki in black and white, only in silver, or in only white. Mizuhiki should also be in Musubikiri style, in which the end of string is cut. Write “Goreizen”, “Gokouden” or “Gokoryo” in the middle of upper half of the envelope. It is better to buy the one with already written. Write your name on the lower half of the envelope with smaller letters than the above.



ここに名前を書きます

<<Shoko>> (Incense offering)

Bow once to the relatives then step forward to the Shoko table. Hold the incense with three fingers (the first, second and the third finger), then drop it into the incense burner then bow once to the picture of the deceased.

Those are the basic manners at funeral as a general attendant. If you have a chance to greet the relatives, say “Konotabi wa Goshusho-sama desu” (my deepest sympathies) with a bow. Even if you see your friends or acquaintances at the funeral, do not speak loudly but just greet with a nod.

☆☆☆Information from Himeji International Association☆☆☆

☆Japanese Class for Foreign Residents

First term classes will run from May to June, 2007 (10 lessons)

Basic Japanese classes are available. Classes will focus on grammar, conversation, reading and writing and are taught by professional instructors.

<Levels>

Class: Basic A class , Basic B , Basic C , BasicD-1 , Basic D-2 *expected available classes

Members: Maximum 20 students per class.

Cost: 3000 yen (10 lessons)

The text book fee: Basic A,B,C,D-2 『Minna no Nihongo』 main textbook 2,625 yen (tax included)

『Minna no Nihongo』 sub textbook 2,100yen (tax included)

Basic D-1 * (TBA) to be advised

Location: Himeji International Exchange Center

Egret Himeji 4F, 68-290 Honmachi, Himeji-city

Apply: Visit Himeji International Association (Egret Himeji 3F) to reserve your place.

Application: We'll be taking applications from the first ten days of April.,

Contact: Himeji International Association

URL <http://www.himeji-iec.or.jp/>



※※※Editors Postscript※※※

Spring is the time for hellos and goodbyes.

This time we will be talking about some funeral do's and don'ts of which we hope you will refer to in the future.

We will also have Castle's Day, a spring event (Shiro no hi in Japanese).

There are lots of services and facilities that you can use for free. Have a nice day!! .

The publication of the next issue of "VIVA ! ひめじ No.21" is planned for July 2007.

We'd like to hear from you!

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Spanish: Aki Saito, Hirotohi Koma, Takeo Adachi

We appreciate all your help. (Only those permitted are carried)

We always need some translation assistants and native proofreaders.

Please contact us at the office below if you are interested in this program.

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