

June 2017 Vol.61

# VIVA!

## ひめじ

### English

The Newsletters for foreign residents

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Foundation newsletter editing volunteers

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

<People> Miss Dinh Thi Thu Trang

Trang is from Binh Duong Province of southern Vietnam. After graduating with a Japanese major from her hometown University, she played an active part as an interpreter for Japanese companies. She came to Japan in April 2014, and studied Japanese at a language school in Kobe. In April 2015, she transferred to Himeji Dokkyo University as a sophomore. She is a senior now.



Q: Why did you transfer to University in Japan after getting a job in Vietnam?

A: Although I had learned how to read and write Japanese at University, I could not comply with company’s requests because I did not have enough speaking and practical experience which was needed for the job.

Q: Please introduce Vietnam and Bing Duong Province.

A: Bing Duong Province is in suburbs of Ho Chi Minh City. Since people in South tend to be easygoing compared to the people in North, they seem to speak softer. Although it used to be a farm village, it has less fields now since the factories of Japanese companies are increasing.

Q: What is your hobby?

A: Aikido. Anime is also popular in Vietnam, and I used to read manga when I was a child. Because of the influence of anime, I started to have an interest in Karate then I chose Aikido in the end. I practiced it for 2 years in Vietnam, and still continue today. I received the second grade rank last year.

Q: What is your future dream?

A: I would like to be a Japanese teacher at language school in Japan. I’m not good at talking in front of people, but I thought I need to overcome this weakness, so I participated in Japanese speech contest. I have read a psychology book which helps with speech training, and practiced many times. I was able to receive the silver medal, thanks to my teachers and friends who helped me.

## Idiomatic phrases using “foot” (Ashi)



The Japanese language has many idiomatic phrases related to parts of the body.

We would like to introduce idiomatic phrases about “feet”:

### ★Ashi ga hayai

Literal meaning: to be quick on one’s feet when walking or running.

Idiomatic meaning: food that goes bad quickly or is hard to be kept long.

As “foot” can also mean transportation of a thing or sign of changing, it is used to mean food is easy to go bad quickly.



### ★Ashi ga deru

Literal meaning: to expose one’s foot

Idiomatic meaning: to spent money much more than the amount in mind or to go over budget.

As money runs about in the world, as if it had feet, it used to be often called o-ashi.



### ★Ashi wo arau

Literal meaning: to wash one’s feet.

Idiomatic meaning: to be through with bad companions, to give up a bad lifestyle, or to quit one’s occupation. Originally it used to mean to stop evil conduct, but now it means to stop any kind of conduct regardless of good or evil.

### ★Age ashi wo toru

Literal meaning: to defeat a rival by holding their foot which they raise in a sumo or judo match.

Idiomatic meaning: to fault a person on a slip of the tongue or to trip a person by making fun of his own words.



## 2017 Summer Events –Fireworks–

◆Ieshima Tenjin Festival, Fireworks Festival on the sea

Originated in 840 at Ieshima shrine. Featuring lion dances and more than 1,000 fireworks.

★Ieshima Tenjin Festival – Ieshima shrine

Mon July 24<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 pm – Yoimiya (Eve) of Tenjin Festival

Tue July 25<sup>th</sup>, all day

★Fireworks Festival on the sea – inside the Ieshima port

Tue July 25<sup>th</sup>, from 9:15 pm

Access to the Ieshima island: Get on a bus (94 line) on the south side of Himeji station and get off at Himeji

port. Ride the Ieshima main island liner for 30 minutes. Get off at “Miyakou” port. Then walk in 10 minutes.

※The last boat from Ieshima to Himeji is at 7:50 pm.

We recommend using accommodation on the island or a sea taxi.

Contact: Ieshima Sightseeing Association Tel: 079-325-8777



◆The 39<sup>th</sup> Himeji Minato Festival: Fireworks Festival on the sea  
Himeji port

You can see 4,000 fireworks over the sea, 300m from the shore.

Sat July 29<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 pm – The water parade on the sea

7:30 pm – 8:45 pm Fireworks

Access to the venue: Complimentary shuttle bus from the north of Shikama Station, Sanyo Railway.

Contact: Himeji Industrial Promotion Division Tel: 079-221-2506



◆The 67<sup>th</sup> Tatsuno Noryo Fireworks Festival Chidorigahama area along the Ibogawa River

Classic summer event in Tatsuno city. More than 2,000 fireworks with sounds of Japanese drums.

Sat August 5<sup>th</sup>, 7:45 pm – 8:45 pm

Access to the venue: Get off at Hontatsuno Station, JR Kishin Line. Then walk east for approximately 15 minutes. Free parking lot available.

Contact: Tatsuno city Sightseeing Promotion Division Tel: 0791-64-3156

◆The 46<sup>th</sup> Kakogawa Festival : Fireworks Festival Grass area along the Kakogawa river

One of Kakogawa’s festival events, with more than 5,000 fireworks.

Sun August 6<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 pm – 8:45 pm

Access to the venue: Get off at Kakogawa Station, JR Sanyo line. Then walk east for approximately 20 minutes.

Contact: Kakogawa Festival Executive Committee Office. Tel: 079-424-2190

★Caution: Be sure to confirm operations and traffic regulations in case of bad weather or emergency incidents in advance.

## Let's cook croquettes !

This issue's recipe is croquettes!

It is said that croquettes came to Japan from France at the end of the 1800s. This was a dish for the rich only, for a long time, but in the 1910s the "Croquette song" became very popular and instantly it became a common meal. Now it is loved as snacks and side dishes for children and adults. Why not try making croquettes?

### Ingredients (Makes:12croquettes)

Potatoes	• • • • 3 medium size	■ ■ Coating	
Minced beef	• • • • 200-220 g	Flour	• • • • • as needed
Onion	• • • • 1/2	Egg	• • • • • 1
Salt • Pepper	• • • • as needed	<i>Panko</i> (bread crumbs)	• • • • • as needed
Oil	• • • • as needed		

### How to make

- ① Cut onions into tiny pieces. Peel potatoes and cut into 2 cm squares.
- ② Boil potatoes until tender, drain and mash. It is OK if you wrap it and heat them in a microwave instead. (500W 6minutes).
- ③ During ②, pour oil to a flying pan. Sauté the sliced onions on a medium heat for one and a half minutes.
- ④ Put the minced beef into ③, fry until the meat color changes, it normally takes 2 minutes. Add salt and pepper, then mix together well and turn off the heat.
- ⑤ Take the potatoes from ②, put them into the flying pan with ④ and mix together with the heat off.  
Add salt and pepper again.
- ⑥ Divide the mix into 12 and shape them like hay bales or an oval about 2 cm thick.
- ⑦ Put ⑥ into flour. Next dip it into a beaten egg, then *panko*.
- ⑧ Deep-fry them in 180°C oil. When croquettes colors change to a light brown, they are ready.



Hay bales  
croquettes



Oval round  
croquettes

←Both look so delicious !

- ⑨ Adding sauce to taste, makes it tastier!
- ⑩ If you want to freeze them, wrap them after ⑦ and freeze. When you use them, cook frozen.

## When the residential fire alarm rings

Residential fire alarms detect the smoke generated by fire and inform you by sound or voice. Houses must be equipped with them by law. Have you checked for them in your house?

< 1 > The following places must be equipped with the fire alarms.

- Bed rooms
- Staircases (in case of bed rooms on the second floor)

※ It is preferable that kitchen and other rooms are also equipped with fire alarms.

※ Please refer to the VIVA! Himeji Vol.36

[http://www.himeji-iec.or.jp/viva\\_himeji.html](http://www.himeji-iec.or.jp/viva_himeji.html)



< 2 > When residential fire alarms ring:

- ① Please check where the fire source is, for example, gas appliances, power cords and so on.
- ② Yell out “Kajida” and inform the people around you.
- ③ Put out the fire with an extinguisher and report it by dialing 119.
- ④ When the fire is too big to extinguish, flee to a safe place and inform the fire department by dialing 119.



※ Confirm an evacuation route on a regular basis so that you may flee quickly.

※ When fleeing, be careful not to inhale any smoke by keeping close to the floor and by covering your mouth and nose with a handkerchief.

< 3 > Be careful of malfunctioning alarms

The fire alarms sound by mistake due to the following causes. Please keep them away from the fire alarms.



Smoke or steam while cooking



Dust, small insects, etc.



Vapor from spray



Cigarette smoke

※ Please renew residential fire alarms about every ten years.

Cited from “If the residential fire alarm rings.”  
Japan Fire and Disaster Prevention Association

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

The Himeji City provides information and consultation services for foreign residents in several languages including English, Chinese, Vietnamese, Portuguese, and Spanish. If you have any problems in daily life in Himeji, you can receive free consultation at places below.

■Himeji City Hall, Shimin Sodan Center (citizen's consultation center) Tel: 079-221-2107

Business days and hours: every Tuesday from 1 pm. to 4 pm.

Available Languages: Chinese, Spanish, Portuguese

■Egret Himeji 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, Himeji Hatsu Sekai Tel: 079-287-0821 (business day only)

Business days and hours: every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday from 2 pm. to 5 pm.

Available Languages: English, Chinese, Vietnamese, Spanish, Portuguese

※※※ Editor's Postscript ※※※

We are sure that some may be anxious about the abnormal weather that will come again this summer. Recently in Japan, temperatures have been increasing, and rainfall has varied in frequency and amount in various areas. Some areas have too much rain causing flooding or less rain causing water supply restriction. Japanese weather seems to be a 'subtropical climate'. In addition, Japan has many earthquakes. It is important to watch for the natural disasters in Japan, and pay attention related information. It is recommended that international residents especially be aware of natural disasters and follow notices to assure a comfortable life in Japan. To participate in disaster prevention training in your local community is one example, please think of more ways to get involved.

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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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