

VIVA! ひめじ English

March 2022, Vol.80

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Himeji Cultural and International Exchange Foundation
- newsletter editing volunteers

VIVA!ひめじ 20th year Anniversary

- 1998
HELLO! HIMEJI CLUB
established
Publishing languages:
Japanese + English,
Japanese + Chinese
- 2002
Renamed as VIVA!ひめじ
Portuguese edition introduced
- 2003
Vietnamese edition introduced
- 2004
Spanish edition introduced
- 2014
50th issue published
- 2021
Plain Japanese edition
introduced
- 2022
VIVA!ひめじ
20th year Anniversary



Originally called "HELLO! HIMEJI CLUB", this year marks the 20th anniversary since being renamed "VIVA!ひめじ". At the time of "HELLO! HIMEJI CLUB", computers were not as widespread as they are today; volunteers would bring in raw manuscripts and illustrations created with a word processor (machine for creating documents), then proceed to cut and paste them together.

Over time, we have gradually increased the number of languages in which we publish, currently totaling 7 languages. In our feature article series, "People," we introduce foreign nationals who are active in Himeji. So far, over these 20 years, we have interviewed a total of 74 people from 38 countries.

Despite not being able to meet in person due to the state of emergency caused by the COVID-19 outbreak, we held online editorial meetings and published regularly. In addition to all these, we also hold study sessions such as computer seminars and Easy Japanese seminars to improve the skills of our volunteers. Thanks to the continued effort of many people, VIVA!ひめじ continues to grow.

We will continue to provide useful information for everyone. VIVA!ひめじ thanks you for all your support.

SDGs, short for “Sustainable Development Goals,” is defined as the 17 Global Goals that all people in the world should work toward to accomplish by 2030 in order to create a better future. These goals can be roughly divided into three categories: economics, society, and environment, and were adopted by the United Nations in 2015.

Himeji City was named “SDGs Future City” in 2021 for the local government’s innovative proposals that aim to solve issues using SDGs and create new values.

In VIVA!ひめじ, we are going to explore the various programs related to SDGs. In this issue, we will cover some initiatives that you can implement into your daily routine.



Let’s get to know SDGs’ Goals!

We will be introducing the 17 SDGs Goals little by little.



1. No Poverty

End poverty in developing countries and, in developed countries, reduce the number of people living below the poverty line set by each country.

Let's work on SDGs starting today!

Save Electricity

- Turn off electric appliances when not in use.
- Turn off lights when they're not needed.
- Dial down the temperature setting of the air conditioner.

Save Paper

- Make payments online.
- Use the back of a piece of paper or an electronic scratchpad when taking memos.
- Don't overuse paper napkins in restaurants.

Reduce Garbage

- Take your own bag when shopping.
- Take your own bottle or cup when going to a coffee shop.
- If you plan to consume products soon, purchase discounted ones or ones at the front of the row.
- Buy simple packaged products.
- Store fresh foods and other foods you can't consume soon in the freezer.
- Separate garbage properly.
- Drain water before discarding raw garbage, such as vegetable skins.
- Recycle or donate the clothes and books you no longer use.

Reduce Automobile Exhaust

- Purchase local commodities in local stores.
- Walk, cycle, or use public transportation when going out.

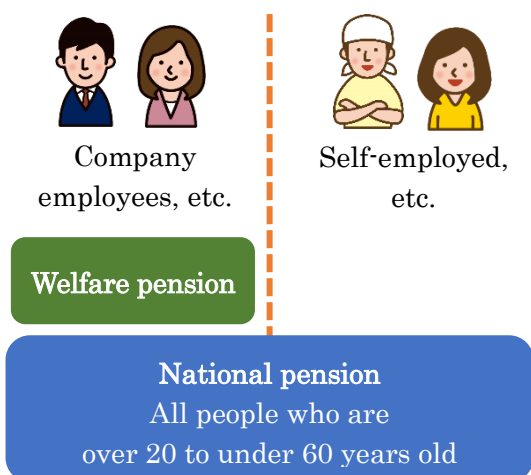
In the next issue, the SDGs-related initiative we will feature is Food Drive.

Goals that apply to Food Drive



Do you know about the Japanese pension system?

In April 2022, the pension system will be revised. There are several types of pensions, including welfare and national pension. The “national pension” requires all residents within Japan who are between the ages of 20 and 60 years old to be enrolled. Pensions are often thought of as something you receive when you retire, but you can also receive pensions in certain situations, such as a spouse passing away, or becoming disabled due to accident or illness. It is important to keep this in mind.



Foreign residents living in Japan are also required to enroll in the pension system.

Residents who came from a country that has an "International Social Security Agreement" with Japan
If you are a member of the pension system of your home country, you do not need to enroll in the system in Japan. It is also possible to leave the pension system of your home country and enroll in the Japanese pension system.

Countries where the agreement is valid

Germany, UK, South Korea, USA, Belgium, France, Canada, Australia, Netherlands, Czech Republic, Spain, Ireland, Brazil, Switzerland, Hungary, India, Luxembourg, Philippines, Slovakia, China, Finland

Countries that have signed agreements and are in the process of preparing

Italy, Sweden

As of February 1st, 2022

Residents who came from a country that does not have an "International Social Security Agreement" with Japan

In this case, you must enroll in the pension system of Japan. If you return to your home country before receiving your pensions, you will be able to receive a "lump-sum withdrawal payment". Please apply within two years of your return.

If you have difficulty paying pension insurance premiums

People with low income and foreign students are exempted from paying pension insurance premiums. Please complete the procedure at the pension office of the municipality where you are registered as a resident.

For more information, please visit the Japan Pension Service website (<https://www.nenkin.go.jp>) or consult with the pension office of the municipality where you live.

People -Interview-

Mr. Yannick Lyn (Canada)



Yannick is from Ontario, Canada. With his Chinese father and Jamaican mother, he comes from a culturally diverse community in Canada where he lived with people of different backgrounds.

He worked in the northern region of Hyogo, as an Asago City ALT (Assistant Language Teacher) for 3 years. During the summer of last year, he began his job as Himeji City's CIR (Coordinator for International Relations) and continues to promote international relations within the city.

Q What brought you to Japan?

A My cousin loved Japanese pop culture; she introduced me J-Pop songs and various J-Dramas which made my interest in Japan grow little by little. I studied Japanese in university and I joined my university's Japanese Student Association where I made many Japanese friends. While I was studying, I also had a short study abroad program at Kobe University. Since I had really enjoyed my stay in Hyogo Prefecture, I decided to put it as my first choice for placement requests when I applied to the JET Programme.

Q Do you feel different working as a CIR compared to when you were an ALT?

A When I was an ALT, the students were always so full of energy, so it was very fun teaching them. I find as a CIR, my schedule is always decided far in advance. This job also has more translation and interpretation, so the roles are very different. With all of the community events and new challenges I often face, every day of my job feels very rewarding.

Q What are your hobbies?

A I have many hobbies; I play the piano and I cook. I also run, I began this hobby when I was in Asago because of all the beautiful scenery around me. Even though I've moved to Himeji, I continue to run around areas like the Himeji Art Museum and Himeji Castle.

Q What are your plans for the future?

A I want to become a professional translator, so I need to improve my Japanese level. I've been given the opportunity to translate greetings from the Mayor and documents for Himeji's sister cities, which are great experiences towards my future goal.



Yannick at his
Christmas Event

Announcements from the Himeji Cultural and International Exchange Foundation

■“Japanese Language Course for foreign residents” - Registration available soon!

The Himeji Cultural and International Exchange Foundation will hold Japanese Language Courses starting from May. There are 7 classes: Beginner A to F, and Intermediate. Each class consists of 10 lessons. Tuition is 3,000 yen.

Application starts from April 1st. Please apply in the office of the foundation. The capacity of the classes is 10 people per class. As soon as it reaches the capacity, application will be closed.



Disaster Prevention Vocabulary of This Issue

だんすい 断水 *Dansui*: water outage

Ex) やかんだんすい 夜間断水 *Yakan Dansui*:
water outage during night



Two years have passed since COVID-19 began spreading and we are growing accustomed to the new lifestyle. Booster vaccinations for COVID-19 have begun. Please check the website of the municipality in which you reside for information regarding vaccination.

As it is March, the seasonal weather allows for more opportunities to enjoy the outdoors. Enjoy springtime while also taking measures to prevent infection.

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These names are used with the contributors' permission. Their assistance is much appreciated.

You can read previous issues of “VIVA! ひめじ” on the Himeji Cultural and International Exchange Foundation website, in the International Exchange Section. The next issue will be available in July, 2022.

We welcome your comments and suggestions. We are also looking for translators and native speakers to assist us with translating and proofreading upcoming editions. If you are interested, please contact us at the address on the right.



Website

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