

June 2022, Vol.81

# VIVA!

# ひめじ

## English

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Himeji Cultural and International Exchange Foundation  
– newsletter editing volunteers

## The legal age of adulthood has been lowered to 18

As of April 1<sup>st</sup> 2022, the legal age of adulthood in Japan has been lowered from 20 to 18. Anyone currently 18 or 19 years old at the time of the change is now considered an adult. So, what is or isn't allowed from the age of 18?

### What adults from age 18 are now allowed to do

- \* Enter contracts without parental consent  
-Mobile phone, loan, apartment rental, etc.
- \* Apply for Naturalization
  - ※Those who have dual citizenship must choose a nationality by age 20
- \* Acquire national qualifications such as certified accountant, judicial clerk, doctor, pharmacist, etc.

### What is still prohibited until age 20

- \* Drinking
- \* Smoking
- \* Buying tickets of public-managed gambling (horse, bicycle, motorcycle or motorboat)
- \* Adopting a child
- \* Getting large or medium-sized car license

### ※Marriageable Age

The minimum age at which a woman can marry has been upped from 16 to 18 years old, making it the same for women as it has been for men.

### What are some things to be cautious of when entering contracts on your own?

Minors need a parent's consent when entering contracts for mobile phones or apartment rentals. If a contract is entered without parental consent, it can be canceled. Once entering adulthood, it is not necessary to get parental consent to enter a contract. However, these contracts come with responsibilities, and one cannot simply back out of it. Issues may arise when entering a contract without careful consideration.

It is important to look into the contract carefully before signing. If you have any issues, you can consult with the Consumer Hotline by dialing 188.



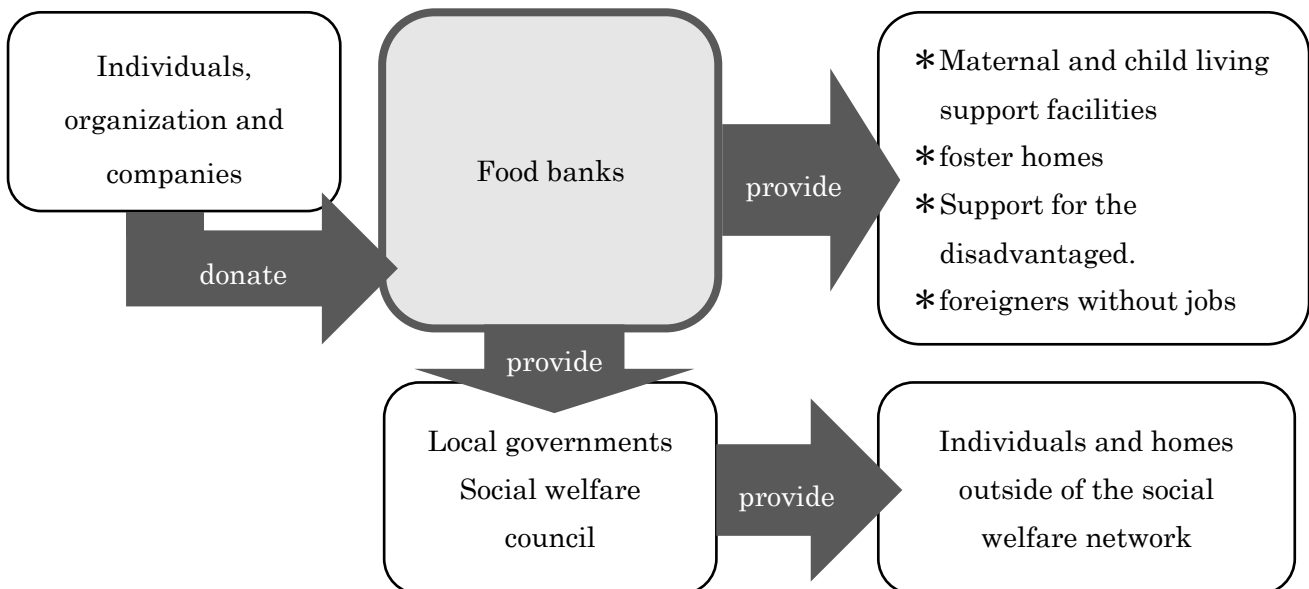
## Contribute to Achieving SDGs through Food Drives

Food which is thrown away while it is still edible is what is considered to be “food loss.” In Japan, food loss from unsold and leftover food reaches about 6 million tons per year. That equates to each person in Japan throwing out a bowl of rice every day.

Meanwhile, according to the Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare, 15% of the Japanese population cannot afford enough food.

Food drives provide people in need with donated food which might otherwise be wasted. This can reduce the amount of food loss as well as the number of people who are food insecure. Food banks, which are run by NPOs and NGOs, do food drives.

### ◆How Food Drives Work◆



### ◆Food Drive Operation Information◆

NPO Food Bank Harima serves Himeji and the surrounding area. For schedules, check its website.

Food Bank Harima

<https://foodbankharima.org/>



Hyogo Prefecture’s website lists supermarkets which operate food drives.

Hyogo Food Drive Movement

<https://web.pref.hyogo.lg.jp/nk19/hyogofooddrive.html>



## ◆ Examples of Food You Can Donate ◆

Food with at least one month before the expiration date,  
and can be stored at room temperature

- \* Rice (white rice, brown rice, alphanized rice-rice which only needs water, etc.)
- \* Canned foods, boil-in-bag foods, pre-packaged foods
- \* Seaweed sheets, *furikake*
- \* Baby formula, baby foods, snacks
- \* Seasonings (soy sauce, oil, etc.)
- \* Vegetables (root crops)



## ◆ Examples of Food You Cannot Donate ◆

- \* Food which expires within a month
- \* Food whose packaging is open
- \* Perishables
- \* Alcohols (except for *mirin* and cooking *sake*)
- \* Food which doesn't have either manufacturer or seller printed on its packaging
- \* Handmade food, food bought overseas



※ Donation rules may vary depending on the food drive in which you participate. For details, please inquire with the host organization.

### Let's get to know SDGs' Goals!



#### 2. Zero Hunger

End hunger. Achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture.



#### 3. Good Health and Well-Being

Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.



#### 4. Quality Education

Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.

# Rain This, Rain That



June is the rainiest month of the year. Rice is a staple in Japan, and because we fill the rice fields with water and plant seedlings, a lot of rain is needed during this time. In Japan, because people are used to this season, there are more than 400 kinds of words to express rain.

## Light Rain

こさめ  
小雨 *Kosame* (light rain).... Rain for a short time that stops quickly.

きりさめ  
霧雨 *Kirisame* (drizzle) .... Rain as fine as fog

なみだあめ  
涙雨 *Namida ame* (teardrop rain).... Light rain that falls like tear drops



## Heavy Rain

おおあめ  
大雨 *Oo ame* (heavy rain)....A lot of rain

ごうう  
豪雨 *Gouu* (heavy rain)... Heavy rain pouring down

ごうう  
ゲリラ豪雨 *Gerira gouu* (A sudden, heavy downpour).... Localized, heavy rain that suddenly falls for a short time.



## Sudden Rain

ゆうだち  
夕立 *Yuudachi* (rain shower).... Rain falling for a short time on a summer evening.

Sometimes including thunder.

とおあめ  
通り雨 *Toori ame* .... Rain that starts out suddenly and stops quickly.

あめ  
にわか雨 *Niwaka ame* (rain shower)... Rain that starts out suddenly, then stops after a while.

きつね よめい  
狐の嫁入り *Kitsune no yomeiri* (sun shower, lit. Foxes' Wedding)..... Raining when it's sunny.

It is named as such as it is said that foxes have mysterious powers, like *yokai*. Such weather is also described as "*kitsune no yomeiri*" in Italy and Malaysia, and is considered auspicious.



In addition to the many labels for rain, there are also many words that express the state of rain, such as "*Shitoshito*" which expresses the sound of quietly falling rain and "*Zaazaa*" which represents the sound of heavy rain.

## Proverbs Featuring Rain

せいこううどく  
晴耕雨読 *Seikou udoku*

Plow the fields on sunny days and read on rainy ones. It means that you can live a relaxing life away from work and relationships.

あめふり じかた  
雨降って地固まる *Ame futte ji katamaru*

Means that following a conflict or dispute, things will improve. That is because after it rains, the ground will be in poor condition, but after the ground dries, it will be hard and firm.



## People -Interview-

### Mr. Hornn Vothy (Cambodia)



Mr. Hornn is from Siem Reap Province, Cambodia where he lived a 10-minute drive from Angkor Wat, a World Heritage Site.

He came to Japan in 2015 and has lived in Himeji since 2020. Currently, he works in technical development for a metal company.

**Q** What brought you to Japan?

**A** In Cambodia, there are many people who have a good impression on Japan. In Cambodia, bridges and roads are built using Japanese technology, and there are also Japanese language schools. So, I have felt close to Japan since I was a child. Then, I received a scholarship from the Ministry of Education, to attend graduate school at Hokkaido University. I studied engineering there and, after obtaining my degree, I got a job at a company in Himeji.

**Q** How is your life in Japan?

**A** I wanted to live somewhere cold because Cambodia is warm all year round. So, life in Hokkaido was amazing. The air was clean and the scenery was beautiful.

When I first moved to Himeji, I was surprised at the speed of the Banshu dialect. However, as I studied Japanese in the Japanese language class at Egret Himeji, I gradually got used to it. Now I have many friends and enjoy my life.

**Q** How do you spend your holidays?

**A** I like traveling. I have traveled to various places such as Osaka, Kyoto, Wakayama, and other places in the Kansai region as well as the Tohoku region and Tokyo. I would like to visit Okinawa once the COVID-19 pandemic is over.

In Himeji, I would like to visit Taiyo Park. I have been to Neuschwanstein Castle in Germany, and I would like to see the two-thirds scale reproduction of it in that park.

**Q** What is your future dream?

**A** I would like to learn about the Japanese working style and customs in the workplace, and use that knowledge to create a manufacturing company in Cambodia someday.



At the ruins of Angkor

## ■Have something you would like to share about your country or culture?

Himeji Cultural and International Exchange Foundation provides events and workshops where foreign residents living in Himeji and its neighboring areas have chances to talk about their countries and cultures. If you are interested, please contact us using the information listed below.

- Demae workshop for cross-border understanding : When there is a request, you go to schools or community centers and talk about your country and culture. \**Demae* : home delivery service.
- International exchange workshop : You host classes at Egret Himeji and share your culture (e.g. cooking classes) with Himeji residents.
- Interaction with people in your area : You interact with people living in your neighborhood at the community center, talking about various topics---your culture, for instance.

### Disaster Prevention Vocabulary of This Issue

ハザードマップ Hazard Map:

This map shows places which can be seriously affected in the event of natural disasters such as earthquakes, heavy rain, etc.

The hazard map published by Himeji city is available here:

<https://www.city.himeji.lg.jp/bousai/category/2-12-1-8-0-0-0-0-0-0.html>



We have a lot of rainy days in June as is referred to in the column “Rain This, Rain That” on page 4.

The rainy season sets in when the fruit of plum trees ripen. Therefore, the expression 梅(plum)雨(rain), and it is called “*tsu yu*”. It may not be a perfect time of year for going outside, but is the best season for hydrangeas, which look most beautiful in the rain. It might be a good idea to go out and enjoy the sight of hydrangeas, on the leaves of which raindrops play.

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### Contributors To This Newsletter

Japanese: SHIGETA Fusako, ITAMI Junko, KUNIMITSU Minako, HONJO Masako,  
MOCHIZUKI Toshiharu

English: ITANI Megumi, YOSHIDA Ayano, TOKURA Wakana, NAKAMURA Niki,  
FUKUI Kenzo, Tiffany Gibson

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

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You can read previous issues of “VIVA! ひめじ” on the website of Himeji Cultural and International Exchange Foundation International Exchange Section.

The next issue will be available in September, 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

### Contact Information

Himeji Cultural and International  
Exchange Foundation  
3<sup>rd</sup> floor, Egret Himeji,  
68-290 Honmachi, Himeji City,  
Hyogo 670-0012  
TEL : 079-282-8950 FAX : 079-282-8955  
Email: [info-iec@himeji-iec.or.jp](mailto:info-iec@himeji-iec.or.jp)  
HP: <https://www.himeji-iec.or.jp/>