

VIVA! ひめじ English

September 2023, Vol.86

The 25th Himeji International Exchange Festival

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Himeji Cultural and International Exchange Foundation
– newsletter editing volunteers

The 25th Himeji International Exchange Festival

This festival, started to deepen the friendship between foreign residents and citizens of Himeji, will be held for the first time in four years. Shall we experience many different languages and cultures and enjoy this long-awaited festival together?

Date & time : Sunday, October 29, 2023, at 10:00AM -3:00PM.

Place : Otemae Park ※This event will be held even if it rains.

■EAT “food of the world”

You can taste nine different dishes from nine countries.

Spanish Ajillo will be offered for the first time.

It's 250 yen per dish. Tickets will be sold from 11:00AM. (The sale will end when tickets are sold out)



■LOOK at “stage performances”

Folk dance and various music performances from different countries, such as the Vietnamese “Múa Lân” lion dance, will be shown on the stage. Foreign residents will introduce the culture of their home countries.

■EXPERIENCE “different cultures”

- Try ethnic costumes (200 yen) ☆Sari (India) , Ao Dai (Vietnam) , Muumuu (Hawaii) etc.
- Aboriginal art (※1) and face painting (200 yen each)
- Language lessons (10 minutes, 200 yen)
☆Nepalese and Bengali will be taught for the first time.
- Japanese tea ceremony (400 yen) • Quiz house (free)



※1

<Message from the Festival Executive Committee>

We hope you will drop in at “the Multicultural Plaza”, “Games of the World” and “Introduction to Himeji Zone”. Many programs are being prepared to meet your interests and tastes, to be enjoyed with all your senses. We, all involved, look forward to seeing you at this festival!

Let's Take a Walk! "Retro Town: Aboshi"

We editorial volunteers visited the Aboshi area the other day. The Aboshi district, located in the western part of Himeji City, has long prospered as a fishing and shipping area, rich in nature thanks to the Seto Inland Sea and the Ibo River. We made a lot of new discoveries there, so let us introduce them. Please use this article as a reference when exploring the Aboshi area !

We are introducing photos of this area on Youtube.



The broccoli we ate here was fresh and delicious. 😊

1. *Aboshimachi Koryukan*

Here, you can get a tourist map and local information, buy local vegetables directly from the market, and rent bicycles.

A free shuttle bus (not in service on Wednesdays) to Eco Park Aboshi, which runs from Sanyo Aboshi Station, passes through the *Aboshimachi Koryukan*.

2. The Yamamoto Residence

The volunteers kindly explained the local information to us.

This is a historical building with a harmony of Japanese and Western styles built by Mr. Yamamoto, the president of Aboshi Bank, about 100 years ago.

Inside, you'll find a marble fireplace, a study and hallway bathed in stained-glass light, and even a seashell-walled washroom. The whole building is like a work of art.

On the 1st and 3rd Sundays, you can tour the inside of the house with a volunteer guide. You will need to pay 300 yen for the materials.

Parking: available



3. Former Aboshi Bank Head Office

This is a Western-style building with a domed roof made of bricks that was built about 100 years ago as the head office of Aboshi Bank. Currently, it operates as a restaurant.

Parking: available



The Kewpie dolls on display made us feel nostalgic.

4. *Daicel Ijinkan*

This building was built as a lodging for foreign engineers.

There are two existing buildings, one in green and the other in red. The green one is open to the public only on weekdays as "the Celluloid Museum".



5. *Eco Park* Aboshi (Health Promotion Center: *Reflechosa*)

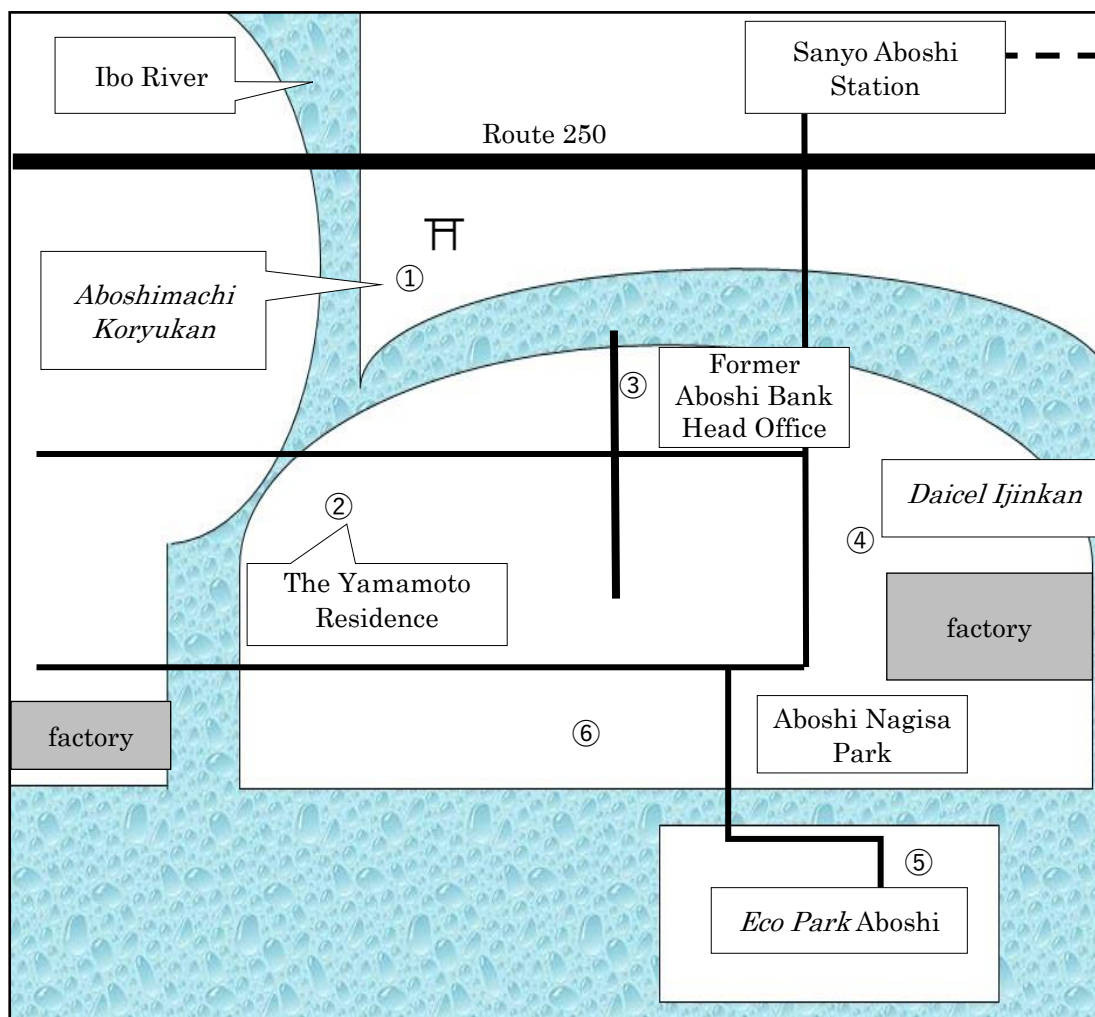
"*Eco Park* Aboshi" is a garbage disposal site. And "*Reflechosa*" on its premises has a heated pool and bath that uses the heat generated when garbage is burned. It has also a fitness gym and a ground golf course available for anyone to use. A free shuttle bus runs between Sanyo Aboshi Station and here.

6. Area on the west side of Aboshi Nagisa Park

In this area, there are restaurants where you can enjoy seasonal seafood (oysters, whitebait, conger eel, etc.).

7. Others

North of Sanyo Aboshi Station is Usuki Hachiman Shrine, where the Lantern Festival is held. And there is a famous *sake* brewery near JR Aboshi Station.



The town of Aboshi was not greatly affected by the war, and the sight of local people living in the old buildings moved us. Also, their quiet and warm humanity healed us. We would love to go again with our friends!

Do You Wear a Helmet?

○ Since April 2023, a new law recommending all bike riders to wear a helmet has been enacted.

Bike accidents can bring severe injury in many cases, especially for head injuries. There is no penalty for not wearing a helmet, but it is recommended to you to wear it on a bike, and to be careful not to get injured yourself.



In Hyogo prefecture, local regulation says it is mandatory to obtain bike insurance.

Please note a subsidy (JPY2,000 max.) will be offered for high school students and those who are 65 years and older.

Application is necessary, so please visit the website for detail.

▼ Website



○ A Traffic Safety Campaign is held in each season, spring, summer, autumn, and winter.

The campaign this autumn will start on September 21st until the 30th.

Please pay attention not to be involved in an accident and not to cause one also, ensuring that you follow the traffic rules under the slogan of “First of all, Let’s check the safety together”

- Please stop earlier at an intersection, watching out for children and elderly.



- Please turn on the car light earlier, because the sunset is earlier in autumn.

Let’s turn it on at 5:00PM!

If there is no oncoming traffic, switch the light to high beams.



People Interview

Mr. Munetaka Myochin



Have you ever heard the chime of the clock at the north side of Himeji station? That is the sound of Fire Chopstick Wind Chimes, which are made from iron. The Myochin family makes these wind chimes and Munetaka Myochin is the 53rd head of the family.

The Fire Chopstick Wind Chimes is one of the representative products from Himeji.

armor and helmets

Q Tell us about Fire Chopstick Wind Chimes.

A The Myochin family began making armor and helmets over 850 years ago. When the armor was no longer used, my family began to make the Fire Chopstick Wind Chimes in order to keep their old traditions alive. My father (Munemichi Myochin, the 52nd head of the family) designed the Fire Chopstick Wind Chimes using the sound of the fire chopsticks.



Q How do you make the sound of Fire Chopstick Wind Chimes?

A We beat on the glowing iron, *tamahagane* (material of swords), and titanium with a hammer many times. The delicate degree of burning and hammering is a secret known only by my family. The sounds and skills cannot be expressed by machines.

かちいろいとどしどうまるくそく てつじきん
▲勝色威 胴丸具足・鉄地金
ばくばりかわ かぶと あかめよこいけでんらい
箔貼変り兜 赤目横井家伝来
かぶと みょうちんまさいえさく
兜：明珍政家作
なごやじょうそうごうしむしやう なかむら
名古屋城総合事務所蔵 中村
けいさつえい
慧撮影

Q How did you master the skills?

A I dropped out of a university and became an apprentice to my father because I wanted to support him. Every day from morning to night, my father was beating glowing iron sticks with a hammer, bent in front of a furnace that reached 1300 degrees. As I saw his working style, I trained to create a sound of my own. It took me five years to create a beautiful sound. I spent the next ten years creating a steady, clearly lingering sound. Still, I cannot create a beautiful sound if my mind is cluttered. I will try to be sincere in creating a beautiful sound.



▲the Fire Chopstick Wind Chimes

Q At last, do you want to tell something to the readers?

A You cannot produce good results without patience. There is no 100% of guarantee of success. Challenging yourself leads to next step. It is important to work on something diligently and keep pushing through.

Japanese Holidays

September 23rd is "Autumnal Equinox Day" in Japan, and many schools and companies have a day off. "Autumnal Equinox Day" is the day when the length the day and night are equal. In March, there is also "Spring Equinox Day," which is also a holiday. Both of these days are for showing respect to ancestors and remembering those who have passed away, so many people visit graves on these days.

This year, "Respect for the Aged Day" falls on September 18th and is also a holiday. Japan has 16 holidays throughout the year, which is the second-highest number in the world. The countries with the most holidays are Colombia and India, with 18 holidays each. We would like to feature various countries' holidays in the next issue. If your country has any unusual holidays, please let us know (contact information below).

Disaster Prevention Vocabulary of This Issue

はんらん

氾濫 (*Hanran*): The phenomenon where water, such as rivers, overflows and spills outside.

(Example) はんらんけいかいじょうほう

(*Hanran keikai jyouho*) :

Information on the risk of
river flooding.



Letter from the Editor

On October 7th, starting at 10:00AM, there is a planned event in Tatsuno City, on Shinmaiko Beach, where participants will be running while dressed in Tyrannosaurus rex (T-Rex) plush costumes. This race, which originated overseas, is expected to gather over 100 participants.

For more details, please contact the "Tyrannosaurus Race in Shinmaiko" organizing committee.

▼X(twitter)



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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 December, 2023

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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