

A Room for Learning

In this issue of Mimitaro, we visited "Camiyando" in Konan City, where students come together to study the Japanese language.

**Mr. Shigeyoshi**

Kise: It's been a year since Camiyando started. A group of enthusiastic individuals with the eagerness to

learn spearheaded its establishment. The motivation for the project came 2 years ago, when Ms. Imai, who was born and raised in Brazil and Ms. Yano, a Japanese Brazilian, came to consult with the office of Koka/Konan Jinken Center where I used to work. They inquired about the possibility of starting a junior high school evening class that will be conducted in the Japanese language, as they would like to receive school education in Nihongo. Since it would be difficult to realize such a project soon, I suggested that they themselves could begin with a study group. Thus, the beginning of Camiyando. At present, about 20 students come here to study twice a week. One of the classes is a Nihongo class taught by Ms. Chieko Okumura, a qualified Japanese teacher. The other one is handled by a former high school teacher, Mr. Tsutomu Yamamura, who focuses on lessons where the students read newspapers in elementary school level and discuss topics based on a specific theme.

There are some students who drop by after work, after classes in schools, and there are even families with all their members who come to visit. Heart-warming scenes, like parents studying under the guidance of their children, can also be witnessed. Just recently, we started a class for beginners. There is no particular curriculum to follow and the students tell us whatever they want to learn and we simply guide them in their studies. Many people have the knowledge but find it difficult to express their thoughts. We try to point out their mistakes when they use too much polite phrases or when they use an expression incorrectly: "We, Japanese, do not say it like that!" It is surprising that while in Japan, there is no chance for foreigners to have ordinary conversations with the Japanese since they have to earn a living daily. I hope that Camiyando serves as a place to cultivate friendly relationships while learning the language in an ordinary environment.

Ms. Makiko Imai: Since I was a child, we conversed to other family members in Nihongo every day. For this reason, I didn't have any trouble with simple conversations from the time I arrived in Japan. But the longer I lived here, I've come to realize the inadequacy of my vocabulary, the difficulty in expressing my thoughts, and I started to feel the slight difference in the meaning of Japanese words. That's why I've always wanted to have the opportunity to learn Japanese.

At present, there are many foreign residents in Japan. Majority of them tend to be concerned only of the existing circumstances as they go through their busy lives. I wonder what they think of their family's future and their own. When you lived long enough in a certain place, you have to overcome the language barrier in order to deal with various problems, such as for instance, how you would manage to communicate without an interpreter when your children marry a Japanese and build a family of their own. You will need proficiency in Japanese that will enable you to understand and manage information necessary for daily living. Moreover, understanding of the Japanese culture and acquisition of knowledge, among others, will be required. Acquiring fundamental knowledge in school like the Japanese is ideal, but under actual conditions, certain limitations such as age, make this difficult. It would be good to have a junior high school with evening classes in Shiga, where we could also brush up with our studies. Having been acquainted with Camiyando's Kise sensei, Ms. Yano and many friends, made the attempt for learning toward hope, a reality. In the future, I'd like to become a grandmother who can communicate with my grandchildren in proper Japanese.

Ms. Walkiria Yano: It has been 20 years since I came here, but ever since, I never had any interest in learning Japanese. I finally decided to begin studying 4 years ago, when I was unable to work due to an injury. I enjoyed the lessons and was able to speak in a steady pace. Now, I work as an interpreter. What concerns me is the fact that many young people graduate from schools in Japan with inadequate education. Their skills in both their native tongue and in Japanese are insufficient. They become adults with only half the capability. When they start their lives as members of the society, there will certainly come a time when they would feel the desire to study again. It would be nice to have a place to go back to anytime and continue their education.

Mr. Robson Oshio: I was 16 when I came to Japan with my family, 25 years ago. I had given up studying Japanese because it seemed too difficult. I heard that there is a place where one can study in a relaxed atmosphere so I joined the class. Like me, there are many of those who want to speak in Japanese, but since they find it hard to, they build a wall around them. The teachers and fellow students are kind and even if you learn phrases gradually, you will find yourself speaking naturally. Having been able to converse a little, my Japanese friends at work are pleased and talk to me a lot.

I want to be better and talk more about how my day went and the feelings I have. How great it would be to have more places for learning like Camiyando!





When you're in trouble...



Interpretation*Consultation Desks for Foreign Residents in Shiga

Area	Consultation Desk	Language(s)	Consultation Schedule		Contact Info.
Otsu	City hall (Kokusai Koryu-shitsu)	Portuguese, Spanish, English, Chinese, Korean, etc.	Mon～Fri	8:40～17:25	email: otsu1023@city.otsu.lg.jp FAX: 077-525-8755
	Otsu Int'l. Goodwill Association (Otsu-shi Kokusai Shinzen Kyokai)	Japanese (interpreter required)	2 nd Wed	17:30～19:30 (by appointment)	077-525-4711
Hikone	City hall (Sogo-annai)	Portuguese	1 st ・3 rd Thu Mon～Fri	8:30～19:00 (except for the above) 8:30～17:15	0749-30-6113
		English	Mon～Fri	8:30～17:15	
		Chinese	Tue, Fri	8:30～17:15	
Nagahama	City hall (Shimin-ka)	Portuguese	Mon～Fri	8:30～17:15	0749-65-8711
		Spanish	Mon, Tue, Fri	8:30～15:30	
		English	Mon, Wed, Fri	9:00～16:00	
	Nagahama Int'l. Friendship Assn. (Nagahama Shimin Kokusai Koryu Kyokai)	Portuguese	Tue Wed, Sat	10:00～17:00 13:00～17:00	0749-63-4400
		English	Tue, Wed, Fri, Sat, Sun	10:00～19:00	
Omihachiman	City hall (lobby)	Portuguese, English	Mon～Fri	9:15～16:30	0748-26-7092
Kusatsu	Kusatsu Int'l. Friendship Assn. (Kusatsu-shi Kokusai Koryu Kyokai)	Portuguese	2 nd ・4 th Thu	9:00～11:00	077-561-2322
		English	Mon～Fri	8:30～17:15	
	City hall (Shimin-ka)	Chinese	Mon～Fri	8:30～17:15	077-561-2344
Moriyama	City hall (Sodan-shitsu)	Portuguese (Please make an appointment for other languages).	1 st ・3 rd Thu	9:30～11:30	077-583-4653
Ritto	Ritto Int'l. Friendship Association (Ritto Kokusai Koryu Kyokai)	Portuguese	Wed	13:00～17:00	077-551-0293
Koka	City hall (Seikatsu Kankyo-ka)	Portuguese, Spanish	Mon～Fri	8:30～17:15	0748-69-2146
	(Shakai Fukushima-ka)	Portuguese			0748-69-2155
	Chiiki Community Suishin-ka	English			0748-69-2114
Yasu	Yasu International Association (Yasu-shi Kokusai Kyokai)	English, Spanish	Mon～Fri	9:00～17:00	077-586-3106
		Portuguese, Chinese	Irregular sched. (by appointment)		
Konan	Higashi Chosha	Portuguese	Mon～Fri	8:30～17:15	0748-72-1290
	Nishi Chosha (Jinken Kyoiku Keihatsu-shitsu)	Portuguese	Mon～Fri	8:30～17:15	0748-77-8511
	Konan International Association (Konan-shi Kokusai Kyokai)	Portuguese	Mon～Fri	8:30～17:00	0748-71-4332
Takashima	Takashima International Assn. (Takashima-shi Kokusai Kyokai)	English	Irregular sched. (by appointment)		0740-20-1180
Higashiomi	City hall (Shinkan) Shimin Seikatsu Sodan-shitsu	Portuguese	Mon～Fri	9:15～12:00 13:00～16:30	0748-24-5521
Maibara	Santo Chosha (Santo Jichi Shinko-ka)	Portuguese	Mon～Fri	8:30～17:15	0749-55-2650
	Maibara Multicultural Friendship Assn. (Maibara-shi Tabunka Kyosei Kyokai)	Portuguese	Tue～Fri	13:15～17:15	0749-56-0577
		Chinese	Mon～Thu	9:00～15:00	
Hino	Town office (Jumin-ka)	Portuguese	Mon, Wed, Thu	8:30～17:15	0748-52-6571
Aisho	Echigawa Chosha Jumin-ka・Sogo seisaku-ka	Portuguese	Mon～Wed, Fri	9:00～17:15	0749-42-7684
		Spanish, English	Mon, Tue, Thu, Fri	8:30～17:15	
Shiga	Shiga Intercultural Association for Globalization (Shiga-ken Kokusai Kyokai)	Portuguese, Spanish	Mon～Fri	10:00～17:00	077-523-5646
		Tagalog, English	Mon～Thu		

Japanese Language Classes in Shiga



Area	Group Name		Contact info.	Class Schedule	Venue
Otsu	Otsu International Goodwill Association Nihongo Class		077-525-4711	Fri 13:00~14:45, 19:00~20:45	Asuto Hamaotsu 2F
				Fri 19:00~20:45	Seta Shimin Center
				Fri 19:00~20:45	Seta-higashi Shimin Center
				Thu 10:00~11:45	Katata Shimin Center
	Nihongo no kai		090-6609-3191	Thu 10:00~12:00	Otsu Kominkan
	Omi Nihongo Fureai Club		077-523-1061	Mon 10:30~12:00	Piazza Ohmi 2F
				Sat 19:30~21:10	Seta-kita Kominkan
Hikone	Hikone International Assn. Nihongo Kyoshitsu		0749-22-5931	Wed 19:00~20:30 (Mar~Nov)	Hikone Shimin Kaikan 2F
	Hikone Nihongo Kyoshi-kai WAJT		0749-23-7833	2nd Sat 10:00~12:00	AI Plaza Hikone 6F
	Nihongo Kyoshitsu Smile		0749-24-7241	Sun 10:00~11:30	Hikone Nishi-chiku Kominkan
			070-5661-7345	Mon~Fri ① 10:00~11:30 ② 13:30~15:00 ③ 15:30~17:00	Innovation Office Nayashichi
	Hikone Kokusai Koryukai VOICE Nihongo Kyoshitsu		0749-46-1294 090-7718-5250	Sat 14:00~16:00	Hikone Naka-chiku Kominkan
Nagahama	Nagahama UNESCO Kyokai Nihongo Kyoshitsu		0749-65-6552	Wed, Sat 19:00~20:30	Kokusai Bunka Koryu House GEO
	Tanoshii Nihongo		0749-63-4400	Tue 19:00~20:30	
Omi-hachiman	Nihongo Koryu Kyoshitsu Tampopo	Kaneda Kyoshitsu	0748-26-7092	Sat 19:00~21:00	Kaneda Community Center
		Azuchi Kyoshitsu			Azuchi Community Center
		Kitasato Kyoshitsu		Sun 19:00~21:00	Kitasato Community Center
Kusatsu	Olive		077-565-9215	Sat 19:00~20:40	Kusatsu-shiritsu Machizukuri Center
	SHIPS Nihongo Kyoshitsu		077-561-5110	Wed, Fri 10:30~12:00	Tabunka Kyosei Shien Center
	Kusatsu International Friendship Association	Nihongo Kyoshitsu Kizuna	077-561-2322	Sat 10:20~12:00	Ritsumeikan Univ. BKC
		Yasashii Nihongo Salon		Tue 10:00~12:00 3rd Fri 18:30~20:00	Kusatsu Shimin Koryu Plaza UDCBK
Moriyama	Moriyama Nihongo Kyoshitsu		077-583-4653	1st & 3rd Sat 10:00~11:50	Moriyama Shimin Koryu Center
Ritto	RIFA Nihongo Kyoshitsu		077-551-0293	2nd & 4th Sat 10:15~11:45	Wing Plaza 3F
Koka	Koka International Exchange Assn.	Nagomi	0748-63-8728	Sat 19:30~21:30	Minakuchi Chuo Kominkan
		Niji		Mon 14:00~16:00	Jishu Katsudo Center Kizuna
Yasu	YIFA Nihongo Kyoshitsu		077-586-3106	* Consult with the teacher.	Yasu Int'l. Association (opisina)
Konan	Konan International Association Nihongo Kyoshitsu		0748-71-4332	(daytime) Consult with the teacher.	Chuo Machizukuri Center
				(night-time) Sat 19:00~20:30	Mito Machizukuri Center
	Camiyando		090-1338-3350	Mon, Wed 19:00~21:00	ERUDI
Takashima	Takashima International Assn. Nihongo Kyoshitsu		0740-20-1180	* Consult with the teacher.	
Higashiomi	Yokaichi Nihongo Kyoshitsu Volunteer Group		0748-22-6714	Sun 13:30~15:00	Higashiomi International Friendship Association
				Tue 10:00~11:30	
				Sat 19:00~20:30	
	Clube Da Amizade		090-2193-2006	Sat 19:00~20:30	Notogawa Community Center
Maibara	Maibara-shi Nihongo Kyoshitsu		0749-56-0577	Sat 9:00~10:30	Maibara Kominkan
				Sat 9:30~11:00	Maibara Shimin Koryu Plaza, Santo Kominkan
Aisho	Aisho-cho Nihongo Kyoshitsu		0749-42-7684	Mon 10:00~11:30	Echigawa-chosha
	Aisho Int'l. Friendship Assn. Volunteer Nihongo Kyoshitsu		070-5593-1769	Tue~Sun * Consult with the teacher.	Echigawa Kominkan

Event Information



- ◆ **Higashiomi Dragon Canoe Competition** Jul.16 (Sun)
Notogawa Water Mill and Canoe Land

(1269 Iba-cho, Higashiomi City)

A "dragon canoe" rowing race that originated in ancient China.

INQ Higashiomi City Sports Department Tel. 0748-24-5674

- ◆ **Shigaraki Fire Festival** Jul.22 (Sat)
Along the vicinity of Shigaraki Shimin Center in Shigaraki area
(Nagano, Shigaraki-cho, Koka City)

There will be about 700 torches, a Shigaraki drum performance and fireworks display.

INQ Touto・Shigaraki Festival Executive Committee
Fire Festival Secretariat Tel. 0748-82-0873

- ◆ **Birdman Rally** Jul.29 (Sat) & Jul.30 (Sun)
(Matsubara Beach, Hikone City)

A flying competition of "birdmen" aboard their uniquely contrived aircrafts.

INQ Hikone Sightseeing Association Tel. 0749-23-0001

- ◆ **Taga Taisha Manto-sai (Lantern Festival)**
Aug.3 (Thu) to Aug.5 (Sat)

Taga Taisha (shrine) (604 Taga, Taga-cho, Inukami-gun)

There will be more than 10,000 glowing lanterns and performances such as Sarugaku and Taga-ondo.

INQ Taga Sightseeing Association Tel. 0749-48-1553

- ◆ **Makino Summer Carnival 2017** Aug.5 (Sat)
Makino Sunny Beach Takagi-hama

(Makino-cho, Takashima City)

There will be stage shows and fireworks display.

INQ Makino Tourism Office Tel. 0740-28-8002

- ◆ **Senkousai Festival** Aug.17 (Thu)
Takebe-taisha ・ In the vicinity of Karahashi Bridge in Seta

(1-16-1 Jinryo, Otsu City)

Boats carrying portable shrines will sail across the Seta River.

There will also be a display of fireworks.

INQ Takebe-taisha (shrine) Tel. 077-545-0038

- ◆ **Injoyo-ji Manto Kuyo (Memorial Service)** Aug.22 (Tue)
(312 Kamiyama-cho, Higashiomi City)

About 5,000 stone Buddhist images will be lit up. There will be a bazaar and some attractions.

INQ Injoyo-ji (temple) Tel. 0749-46-1285

- ◆ **Hachimanbori Festival ~Town & Illumination~**
Oct.7 (Sat) and 8 (Sun)

(Hachimanbori - in the vicinity of Miyauchi-cho, Omihachiman City)

The streets will be illuminated with about 3,000 lights. There will be exhibitions, concerts, and other events.

INQ Omihachiman Tourism Association Tel. 0748-32-7003



★★★ Fireworks Display ★★★



- ◆ **Hikone・North Biwako Fireworks Display** Aug.1 (Tue)
Matsubara Beach

INQ Hikone Sightseeing Association Tel. 0749-23-0001

- ◆ **Nagahama・North Biwako Fireworks Display** Aug.4 (Fri)
Nagahama Bay Area

INQ Nagahama Tourism Promotion Section Tel. 0749-65-6521

- ◆ **Biwako Fireworks Display** Aug.8 (Tue) Otsu Port

INQ Biwako Fireworks Display Exec. Comm. Tel. 077-511-1530



★★★ Mimitaro News ★★★



- ◆ **Test for Lower Secondary School Graduation Certificate**

(Chugakko sotsugyo teido nintai shiken)

Application period: Aug. 21 (Mon) to Sept. 8 (Fri)

Date of exam: Oct. 26 (Thu)

INQ Shiga Pref. Board of Education secretariat
Pre-school, Elem. & Jr. High School Division
Tel. 077-528-4665



- ◆ **(2nd) Certificate for Achieving the Proficiency Level of Upper Secondary School Graduates**

(Kotogakko sotsugyo teido nintai shiken)

Application period: Aug. 31 (Thu) to Sept. 14 (Thu)

Date of exam: Nov. 11 (Sat) and 12 (Sun)

INQ Shiga Pref. Board of Education secretariat
Senior High School Division Tel. 077-528-4571

★★★ Information from SIA ★★★

INQ Shiga Intercultural Association for Globalization
e-mail: siamail@mx.bw.dream.jp
Tel: 077-526-0931 FAX: 077-510-0601

- ◆ **"Career Fair" for Students with Foreign Roots**

A comprehensive support for students of foreign descent in their choice of career. "Career Guidance" and "Discussion with Professionals" will be held jointly this year.

- Date and Time: Jul. 30 (Sun), from 13:00 to 16:30
- Venue: "G-Net Shiga" (80-4 Takakai-cho, Omihachiman City)
- Participants: Students with foreign roots (from 5th graders in elem. to those in senior high school) and their parents, etc.
- Participation fee: Free • There will be interpreters
- Number of participants: About 80 persons
- Application: until July 21 (Fri)

(For inquiries, contact: Ms. Omori)



- ◆ **"Foreign Artists' Exhibition" Foreign artists wanted!**

Would you like to display your paintings or drawings, sculptures, handicrafts, photos and other works of art in an exhibition?

- Exhibition period: between Nov. 12 (Sun) to 27 (Mon) (Approximately 2 weeks)
- Venue: Piazza Omi 1st flr. lobby (1-1-20, Nionohama, Otsu City)
- Application: until the end of August

(For inquiries, contact: Mr. Kakimachi)

