

# Mimitaro

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## SIA Volunteer group “Mimitaro”

Piazza Omi 2F 1-1-20 Nionohama, Otsu City

Tel/Fax : 077-523-5646

E-mail : [mimitaro@s-i-a.or.jp](mailto:mimitaro@s-i-a.or.jp)

URL : <http://www.s-i-a.or.jp>

 : <https://www.facebook.com/siabiwako>



## Life is what you make it!



In this issue, we talked to a translator from Moriyama City, Ms. Liu Ying, who also works jointly with Mimitaro as one of its translators.



The book that I translated, *Koinu no Saiban Hajimemasu* (“*The Puppy Trial Begins*”) written by Nobuko Imazeki, was published in China in April this year, enabling me to finally take a step forward as a literary translator. In addition, the mail magazine that has been continuously published for 15 years has reached its

190<sup>th</sup> issue. “*Appreciation of Japanese-Chinese Translation*”

(<http://www.mag2.com/m/0000102762.htm>)

I wanted to be a translator ever since I was in junior high school. My grandmother was a Japanese who became an orphan and was left behind in China after the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War. Our family came to Japan about 40 years after the war when I was 14 years old. I enrolled in a special class at a time when foreign students were not provided with any support in the study of Japanese and I spent the days feeling anxious not being able to learn the language nor cope with my studies. It was during this time when I read the book, *Madogiwa no Totto-chan* (“*The Little Girl at the Window*”), with a dictionary on one hand. I was touched by the story, which paved the way to my fascination for the world of books. Since then, a loner like me has considered books as my friends. By reading them, I've come to love the Japanese language and started to think that I would like to try translating in the future. I did whatever I could think of to be a translator. Because my Japanese and Chinese skills were insufficient, I went to a university in Beijing after high school, then enrolled in a university in Japan where I majored in the Japanese language.

After that, I continued working as a translator while teaching Chinese and Japanese. Ten years went by, but there were only requests for business translations and absolutely none for the literary translation that I had been aiming for. I knew nothing would change unless I do something about it, so I applied for a local reporter's position in Moriyama City's public information newsletter to get a little closer towards the literary profession. In one of the interviews, I met Ms. Imazeki, a writer of children's literature, which eventually led to my translation of her book. With the completed translation on hand, I searched all over China for a publisher, and it took 3 years for the book to be published. I was deeply moved to realize that along with great pleasure, chasing a dream could be such a difficult and heavy undertaking.

Until now, I have been completely preoccupied with my own affairs, but finally, I live comfortably enough to be able to talk about my life. On the private side, I was extremely distressed by parenting, getting along with the school's PTA and other mothers, to name a few. From these bitter experiences, I devoted myself to NPO activities on native

language education and cross-cultural exchange, but due to the differences in opinions within the organization, the activities were terminated, to my disappointment. I have often stumbled in the same way, but when I look back at it now, I think the outcome would have been different if I dealt with the situation in another way. Those occasions were really painful, but because of the mistakes I made, I was able to re-examine myself and nourish my personal development.

In terms of work, I was not able to land a job in literary translation, and while I did some trial and error, the encounters I had along the way have enriched my life and connected me to my dream. If everything worked well from the start, I might have led a monotonous life in solitude, doing only translations. When I was upset by the uniqueness in Japanese child rearing and culture, the students in our Chinese class have helped me out with their advice. As a reporter for the local PR paper, I met people from all walks of life and learned about various ways of living. After the NPO activities, I became exhausted and took on a new challenge to regain myself. I began to seriously study literature in graduate school. Now, I am doing some research on translation as a researcher. As a hobby, I enjoy experiencing the Japanese culture, such as putting on kimonos and the tea ceremony, where everyone is welcomed with the same warmth and hospitality. I realized that if you do not create walls around you, there are many different places where you will find belongingness and be connected with friends who share the same interest.

Life's road is a not without bumps. I continue to pursue my old ambition, but the journey where you find your dream is different for each person. If you get tired along the way, you can stop to rehydrate, or you can change directions without putting yourself under pressure. What matters is not to blame anyone on whatever road you take, but make every effort to live a life with satisfaction. In addition, I wish that children would conserve physical and mental strength so as not to wear themselves out and treasure each encounter with people on their journey. And by all means, please make books your lifelong friend. The books I translated are donated to libraries in the prefecture, but I hope that there will be more multilingual books available in them.

Looking back, there was always a book by my side: impressing me, healing my wounded heart, encouraging me. Then, I decided to consider life as a piece of literary work. I am grateful for a life full of ups and downs, and I try to write each of its episode with care. If you want to accomplish something or meet someone in this lifetime, act on it yourself and be the hero of your story. It is my hope that it will be a pleasant and prosperous one until the epilogue.



# What Dispatch Workers Should Know About

— Be informed on the new rules on dispatch labor and make use of them in your employment ! —

## ■ Restrictions on the period for receiving worker dispatching services and the obligation to apply for labor contract.

With the exception of some enterprises, there is a maximum limit of 3 years in the period during which dispatch workers (*haken rodosha*) can work at a client company (*haken saki*). In cases such as having the dispatch workers perform duties beyond the limited period, the client company must make a request to the dispatch workers to sign a labor contract.

With the revision of the Worker Dispatch Law in 2015, working on the same job at the same establishment as a dispatch (temporary) worker for more than three years is basically not allowed. After going through certain procedures, working for more than 3 years is possible, but you are required to move to a different "section". Since September 2018, if a worker is being considered to be dispatched to the same "section" of the same establishment continuously for 3 years, it is possible to receive the employment stabilization measures (obligation) stated below from the dispatching agency operator (*haken gaisha*). Those who are expected to be dispatched for more than a year but less than 3 years are subject to the obligation to exert reasonable efforts. "Dispatch workers who are employed on an indefinite term at the client company" and "dispatch workers over 60 years old", etc., are not covered by employment stabilization measures.

Who are eligible: Dispatch workers who concluded or renewed their contracts after September 30, 2015.

## △ Employment Stabilization Measures ( Obligations )

The dispatching agency operator needs to take any of the following measures from ① to ④.

In addition, when ① fails to lead to direct employment, it is necessary to choose from one of the measures from ② to ④.

- ① Request for direct employment to the client company (if the company agrees to the request, the dispatched worker becomes their employee)
- ② Provide new employment opportunities (dispatch destination) (The conditions are limited to reasonable items in light of competence and experience of the dispatch worker)
- ③ Offer indefinite employment (*mukikoyou*) in the dispatching agency other than as dispatched workers.
- ④ Other measures to stabilize employment

## Attention!

- To be eligible for employment stabilization, it is necessary for the worker to make a request to the dispatching agency operator for the continuation of his/her employment even after the dispatch period. The dispatching agency operator may request any among the employment stabilization measures from ① to ④
- In cases, such as when the client company engages the dispatched workers in prohibited categories of work (port transport services, construction work, security services, medical related services), or accepts them in violation of the restricted period, it will be considered that a labor contract has been offered to these dispatched workers.

## ■ Measures to promote conversion to indefinite employment (*mukikoyou*)

Applications for indefinite employment have also begun from April, 2018. Fixed term labor contracts from April, 2013 or later, when repeatedly renewed and exceeds a total of 5 years, can be converted into indefinite employment contract from the next contract, through the application of the worker. (Refer to Mimitaro No. 126 for details)

### Labor Consultation Desk

- |   |                  |                         |                  |
|---|------------------|-------------------------|------------------|
| ◆ Shiga Labor Bureau • General Consultation on Labor      Tel. 077-522-6648 (Japanese)                    |                  |                         |                  |
| 4 <sup>th</sup> flr. Shiga Labor Joint Government Office Building, 14-15 Uchidehama, Otsu City, Shiga-ken |                  |                         |                  |
| ◆ "Telephone Consultation Service for Foreign Workers"      10:00 to 15:00                                |                  |                         |                  |
| English (Mon to Fri)  | Tel. 0570-001701 | Chinese (Mon to Fri)    | Tel. 0570-001702 |
| Portuguese (Mon to Fri)   | Tel. 0570-001703 | Spanish (Tue, Thu, Fri) | Tel. 0570-001704 |
| Tagalog (Tue, Wed)  | Tel. 0570-001705 |                         |                  |



## Let's check out the following upon employment !



The dispatching agency must clearly indicate **labor conditions** when labor contracts are concluded, must clearly state the **amount of dispatching fee** when dispatch employment starts, and clearly specify **employment conditions**.

### ■ Let's make sure that we are covered by social insurance ! (*shakai hoken*)

We can receive sickness and injury allowance, childbirth allowance, child care leave benefit, family care leave benefit, etc., by subscribing to social insurance, if certain conditions are satisfied.

- △ **Prerequisites for social insurance coverage** Those whose work falls under these categories: ① corporate office (corporation, limited company, etc.) or ② individual establishment with 5 or more employees (excluding restaurant business, hair-cutting and hairdressing business, etc.), and those who are regularly employed here will be eligible for employees' welfare pension insurance and health insurance.
- A part-timer or *arubaito*, who is in the same work as a regular employee, with prescribed working hours, as well as 3/4 or more working days, is eligible for insurance.
  - Even when working days are less than 3/4 of regular employees, as mentioned above, those who satisfy all of the following 5 requirements become insured:
    - ① A predetermined working time of 20 hours or more per week
    - ② The duration of service is expected to be one year or more
    - ③ Monthly wage of ¥88,000 or more
    - ④ Not a student
    - ⑤ Works for a company with 501 or more employees (those working for companies with less than 501 employees may also be insured if the company operates based on the agreement between labor and management.)

Inquiries on Employees' Pension Insurance (*kosei nenkin hoken*) & Health Insurance (*kenko hoken*) coverage  
Tel. 0570-007-123 or 03-6837-2913 (multilingual)

### ■ Avail of Annual Paid Leave (*nenji yukyu kyuka*), Child Care Leave (*ikuji kyugyo*), and Family Care Leave (*kaigo kyugyo*)

Labor laws, such as Labor Standards Act and Equal Employment Opportunity Law, are applicable even in dispatched labor.

- △ **Annual Paid Leave** Employees are entitled to the right to take a leave with pay.
- Employers must grant 10 days paid leave to employees who worked for six consecutive months from the time of hiring and who worked on not less than 80 per cent of all schedule work days. From then on, it will be given yearly according to the length of service. This number of days is for those who work 5 days a week or 30 hours a week or more. Even if you are a part-time worker or *arubaito*, you will be given annual leave according to the number of working days and hours.
  - Annual leave may not be kept in reserve. The right to annual paid leave expires after 2 years.
  - If employment relationship ends due to retirement or dismissal of workers, the right to claim paid holiday will cease.
  - In principle, it is illegal to convert unused paid holidays into cash.
- △ **Child Care Leave • Family Care Leave** If certain conditions are met, even part-timers and *arubaito* may take child care leave and family care leave.
- **Child care leave** In principle, a worker may acquire this leave to take care of children less than 1 year of age. May be taken under the following conditions: Employment for one year or more under the same employer. It is not clear if the labor contract term will expire until the child reaches 1 year and 6 months.
  - **Family care leave** A leave for workers to be able to care for family members in care-requiring condition. Family care leave may be taken partially, up to a total of 93 days per eligible family member, up to 3 times as the maximum limit. May be taken under the following conditions: Employment for one year or more under the same employer. It is not clear if the labor contract term will expire until the succeeding 6 months, after 93 days counting from the start of the planned date of family care leave.



# Event Information



## "One-coin" Concert Series

(¥ 500 / show)



Bungei Seminario (777 Kuwanomiji, Azuchi-cho, Omihachiman City)

### ♪ "World Famous Songs Played on Mandolin"

Oct. 18 (Thu) from 14:00~

### ♪ "Echo the Sound of Brass! Masterpieces in Brass Quintet"

Oct. 27 (Sat) from 10:30~

### ♪ "A Dream's Moment – Presented by 3 Moms"

Nov. 17 (Sat) from 10:30~

### ♪ "Awatenbou Santa (Hasty Santa Claus) has come to play the marimba!"

Dec. 8 (Sat) from 10:30~

### ♪ "Christmas Fantasy"

Dec. 20 (Thu) from 14:00~

Entrance fee: ¥ 500 ※No seat reservation

Azuchi-cho Bungei no Sato Shinko Jigyo-dan

☎ 0748-46-6507



## Autumn Foliage Famous Spots



(mid-November until early December)

### ★ Tankai-ko (lake) (Fukashimizu, Imazu-cho, Takashima City)

[https://takashima-kanko.jp/spot/2018/06/post\\_149.html](https://takashima-kanko.jp/spot/2018/06/post_149.html)

### ★ Metasequoia tree avenue

(from Hiruguchi to Makino in Makino-cho, Takashima City)

<https://takashima-kanko.jp/spot/metasequoia.html>

### ★ Biwako Valley

(1547-1 Kido, Otsu City)

<http://www.biwako-valley.com/>

### ★ Autumn leaves and night view at Yumemigaoka Hillside on Hieizan Driveway (776-3 Nagarayama, Yamanaka-cho, Otsu City)

※with illumination

<http://www.hieizan-way.com/about/>

### ★ Enryaku-ji (temple) (4220 Sakamoto Honmachi, Otsu City)

<http://www.hieizan.or.jp/>

### ★ Hiyoshi-taisha (shrine) (5-1-1 Sakamoto, Otsu City)

※with illumination

<http://hiyoshitaisha.jp/>

### ★ Kongourin-ji (temple) (874 Matsuoji, Aisho-cho, Echi-gun)

<http://www.kongourinji.org/>

### ★ Saimyou-ji (temple) (26 Ikedera, Kora-cho, Inukami-gun)

<http://www.saimyouji.com/>

### ★ Eigen-ji (temple) (41 Takano-cho, Eigen-ji, Higashiomi City)

※with illumination

<http://eigenji-t.jp/>

### ★ Kyourinbo (temple) (1145 Ishi-dera, Azuchi-cho, Omihachiman City)

(temple)

<https://kyourinbo.jimdo.com/>

### ★ Genkyuen-within Hikone Castle (1-1 Konki-cho, Hikone City)

※with illumination

[http://www.biwako-visitors.jp/search/spot\\_spot\\_1666.html](http://www.biwako-visitors.jp/search/spot_spot_1666.html)

The next issue of Mimitaro will be in January.  
Don't miss it!



## Shigaraki Illumination 2018



(Around Shigaraki station, Shigaraki Kogen Railway)

★ Until Jan. 14, 2019 (Mon) From sunset to 24:00

※Winter festival will be held on Dec. 9 (fireworks for the finale)

Shigaraki Tourist Association

☎ 0748-82-2345

## Tolling of temple bells on New Year's Eve

Dec. 31<sup>st</sup>



### Hikone Castle Bells 23:30~1:00 (1-1 Konki-cho, Hikone City)

Hikone Castle Management Office

☎ 0749-22-2742

### Hieizan Enryaku-ji 23:40~

(4220 Sakamoto Honmachi, Otsu City)

Hieizan Enryaku-ji (temple)

☎ 077-578-0001

### Saikyoku-ji 23:45~

(5-13-1 Sakamoto, Otsu City)

Saikyoku-ji Head Temple

☎ 077-578-0013

### Miidera (Onjyou-ji)

(246 Onjyouji-cho, Otsu City)

Onjyou-ji (temple)

☎ 077-522-2238

### Toyomitsu-jinja

(392 Toyomitsu, Aisho-cho, Echi-gun)

Toyomitsu-jinja (shrine)

☎ 0749-42-3448



## New Year's Festival

Jan. 1<sup>st</sup>



### Taga-taisha 0:00

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

Taga-taisha (shrine)

☎ 0749-48-1101

### Toyomitsu-jinja 10:00~ (392 Toyomitsu, Aisho-cho, Echi-gun)

Toyomitsu-jinja (shrine)

☎ 0749-42-3448

### Namura-jinja 0:00 until 17:00 (467 Ayado, Ryuo-cho, Gamo-gun)

Namura-jinja (shrine)

☎ 0748-57-0160

## ..... Information from SIA .....

Shiga Intercultural Association for Globalization (SIA)

☎ 077-526-0931

### ▼ Guidance for Future Career

Career guidance seminar for junior high school students who are non-native Japanese speakers and their parents.

Reservations required.

Date and time: Oct. 14 (Sun) 13:30 until 16:00

Venue: Kusatsu Machizukuri Ctr. (9-6 Nishioji-cho, Kusatsu City)

### ▼ Foreign Artists' Exhibition in Piazza Omi

Artist: Mr. Jose De la Colina

Date: Dec. 3 (Mon) to Dec. 14 (Fri)

Venue: Piazza Omi 1F (1-1-20 Nionohama, Otsu City)