



Living in Japan

In this issue of Mimitaro, we interviewed Nguyen Minh Tuyen and the family, living in Hikone.



Tuyen-san:

After the Vietnam war, many Vietnamese immigrated from South Vietnam as refugees and left their home country behind. I was 19 years old when I immigrated to Japan with my family

back in 1994, and have been living in Hikone since. I met my wife Hong at a soccer tournament organized in Hikone through Vietnamese community, now we are a family of four with children named Mai and Nam.

Some of my family still reside in Vietnam and living apart is the hardest part. I left the country as a refugee which makes it difficult for me to go back and visit my elderly father. My dream is that someday, I hope my homeland will respect civil rights so that I could visit my family and home freely.

After moving to Japan, I immediately started to work, and gone to different kinds of work even without knowing much the language. When there was the financial crisis back in 2008, I lost my job for a year, made me feel restless about what the future would hold for us. At the moment, I work as a full time employee at a dyeing and processing company in Shiga. We settled into our own home 5 years ago. Even though I could understand Japanese thru my self-study ability but still I cannot fully express myself, I hope someday I could be able to communicate well in Japanese.

Hong-san:

I came to Aichi for the first time as a trainee in 2003, where I worked 3 years in the field of sewing. It took some time to get used to the language, culture, and food so I was often at a loss. People at work patiently taught me, and kindly went out their way to show me around the town on day offs.

I went back home for a year, then I moved to Shiga after getting married. Raising children and doing things around the house were a lot of unknowns when done in

a foreign country. I was at a loss to just try buying a single food item, or taking my children to a doctor. There weren't too many Vietnamese back then, however I was lucky enough to have my sister in law and families to help me go through those challenging days.

And when the children got a bit older, the next challenges arose was the language barrier; I started having difficulties due to frequent visits to school and nursery, and with too many newsletters they would bring home. In addition to that, getting school materials ready for them kept me busy. Recently, I see more Vietnamese living in the area. I realized it is my turn to give back, so, I would like to support, share my experience as a senior And work together with my Vietnamese Community.

As Vietnamese community grew, it's heart breaking when I hear of Vietnamese who are up to no good through the news broadcast. Luckily I was always surrounded by good family and friends. What breaks my heart is that the more I hear about the unideal news of some Vietnamese, the more I hear from my fellow Vietnamese that they are given cold shoulders or being bullied at work based on prejudice

What I want Japanese people to understand is that unfortunately there are some people who are inconsiderate and are up to no good, however they are just a small percentage of it, and such people exist no matter where you are from. Many immigrants in Japan seek jobs to financially help their families left in their home country. Japan is welcoming immigrants to supplement its workforce and my hope is that the country truly would welcome us with kind and open arms.

It is important for us immigrants to learn Japanese to be able to communicate and be a part of the Japanese society. In fact, having the ability to communicate is the best way to protect yourself from being mistreated or bullied. Another important thing is to always report or talk to someone to discuss and solve problems you may be facing. I am learning skills utilizing internet as I raise children. Mai wants to become a nurse, and Nam wants to be a soccer player. I hope we can realize our dreams!

The Support System for Higher Education will be Expanded

Starting April 2020, a system will be established to give every person the opportunity to go on to university(daigaku), junior college(tanki daigaku),higher technical college(koutou senmon gakkou), or technical college(senmon gakkou) regardless of the economic situation of their family.

Supported School Types: universities, junior colleges,higher technical colleges and technical colleges

Details of Support: 1 Tuition fee exemption system (entrance fee and tuition)

The amount varies depending on the type of school, and whether it's public or private.

2 Expanded payment of scholarships

- The Japan Student Services Organization (JASSO) provides each student with financial support
- Will cover necessary student living expenses

(The amount of money differs between students living at home and outside)



Eligibility: Students in resident tax-exempted households and similar households

(Applicable to students in school in 2020 (including those who had already started their studies))

JASSO <http://www.jasso.go.jp/>

Higher Education

After graduating from high school, there are various ways to access higher education, such as four-year universities, two- or three-year colleges, and technical colleges. There are national, public and private educational institutions, and there are many options for specialized courses. Transfer to a university from a junior college or higher technical colleges and cross- enrollment in a college or junior college while taking classes in a university or college are also possible. Admission to university generally requires the completion of Japanese high school, or of a 12-year school education course at a designated school for foreigners equivalent to high school in Japan. In addition, the following methods are available for those who have graduated from a school abroad or who have not completed a 12-year education course. For details, please check the homepage of the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT).

1. Pass the certification exam for high school graduates. (http://www.mext.go.jp/a_menu/koutou/shiken/)
2. For those coming from countries with over 12 years of primary and secondary education: have received over 12 years of primary and secondary education from foreign schools, or pass the corresponding academic qualification exam.
3. For those from countries with less than 12 years of primary and secondary education: have completed a school course corresponding to a high school in a foreign country; or possess academic achievements equivalent to high school completion and complete a preparatory education program (http://www.mext.go.jp/a_menu/koutou/shikaku/07111314/001.htm) or a training course (http://www.mext.go.jp/a_menu/koutou/shikaku/07111314/002.htm) designated by the MEXT.

★ In addition, the number of years of primary and secondary education does not matter for the following persons: persons with international baccalaureates or with Abitur qualifications, persons who passed the entrance qualification screening conducted by each university and who are 18 years old or older.

The tuition for higher education varies depending on the institution and the field of study. Rent and living expenses must also be considered in the case of schools that are far from home. Gather information on scholarship to avoid hesitation due to financial reasons.

Educational Funds for Higher Education



Scholarships are broadly divided into (1) scholarships from JASSO, (2) scholarships from university, (3) scholarships from private companies, foundations, etc., and (4) scholarships grant funded by the local government. Eligibility requirements vary, but the economic situation of the household, academic ability and fields of study are often checked. There are two types of scholarships: [grants] that do not require repayment, and [loans] that do. Some scholarships also cannot be received simultaneously with others. For more information contact the department in charge of the school or visit the school's homepage.

* There may be restrictions based on the status of residence.

Program Name	Eligible Recipients	Contact Address • Reference
JASSO	Students enrolled in graduate schools, universities, junior colleges, higher technical colleges and technical college	https://www.jasso.go.jp/about/shogakukin *Grants and loans
Local Government Scholarship Fund	Varies	Municipal offices (Some local governments do not have scholarships.) *Grants and loans
Newspaper Scholarship Grant	Students who deliver newspapers	Each newspaper company *Grants and loans
Scholarship Grant for Traffic Accident Orphans	Traffic accident orphans, and students with parents with significant disabilities	http://www.kotsuiji.com/howto/ *Grants
Benefit Associations for Japanese Public Servants in Education	Students enrolled in graduate school, university, higher technical college and technical college	Shiga Branch Telephone: 077-526-1356 * Grants and loans
Tsuboi Ichiro/Jinko Student Support Program	University students (3rd year or higher) and graduate students (including those who are planning to enroll) Children of refugees, permanent residents of Japanese descent and Chinese returnees	Support 21 http://support21.or.jp Telephone: 03-5449-1331 *Grants
PP Scholarship	Japanese citizens, permanent residents, and special permanent residents	
Biwako Scholarship	International students, or students of foreign nationalities university or junior college in Shiga Prefecture	Shiga Intercultural Association for Globalization Telephone: 077-526-0931 * Grants http://www.s-i-a.or.jp/index.php/projects/multicultural

The Educational Funding System and Educational Loans

* There may be restrictions based on the status of residence.

Always confirm the interest rate, repayment period and other details before taking a loan.

Social Welfare Office Funds (Educational Support Fund) (loan)	Low-income households	Shiga Prefectural Social Welfare Council Telephone: 077-567-390 *Interest-free
Enrollment preparation loans from the Welfare Fund for single-parent household and widows,	Single parent households	Shiga Prefecture Health Care and Welfare Department Children and Youth Bureau Telephone: 077-528-3554 Residents of Otsu City, Otsu City Children's Family Division Telephone: 077-528-2686 *Interest-free
Government school loan, public school funds		Japan Finance Corporation https://www.jfc.go.jp/n/finance/search/ippan.html Education call center Telephone: 0570-008656 * With interest
Bank school loans		Each bank (interest rates vary depending on the bank) * With interest



Event Information

Smelt fishing in Lake Yogo

[Lake Yogo] located in the northern part of Shiga Prefecture is Kinki's leading Smelt fishing area



Start from 11/23 (Sat) until 3/31(Tue)

6:00~17:00 (No holidays)

Pier Edo, Pier Kawanami: Nagahama-shi, Yogo-cho

INQ Lake Yogo Fisheries Cooperatives

TEL 0749-86-3033

Nagahama "Bonbai" Exhibition

Plenty of highlighted, lined up "bonsai" plum trees

January 10 (Fri) ~ March 10 (Tue)

9:00 ~ 17:00

Keiunkan:Nagahama-shi, Minato-cho 2-5

INQ Nagahama-shi Tourism Association

TEL 0740-27-0936

Makino Highland Ski Resort

Ski resort with a vast slope of 300,000m²

Start from early January to late February

8:00~17:00 (No holidays)

Takashima-shi,Makino-cho Makino 931 banchi

INQ Makino Kogen Tourism Co.Ltd

TEL 0749-86-3033



Setsubun Festival February 3rd (Monday)

In the old days, Spring was the beginning of the year, the day before that a special ritual is done, scattering of beans to cleanse away evil spirits, 「Demons out!」 「Luck in !」



◆Tachiki Shrine TEL 077-562-0420

Kusatsu-shi, Kusatsu 4-chome 1-3

◆Zensuiji Temple TEL 0748-72-3730

Konan-shi, Iwane 3518

◆Taga Taisha (Shrine) TEL 0749-48-1101

Inukami-gun Taga-cho Taga 604

Perky Concert [Harumajika Oishi Torio no Oto Monogatari]

There is a corner for everyone to sing together at the end of the concert ♪.

February, 20th (Thu) 14:00 (Start)

Admission Fee : Free of charge

Bungei Seminary: Omihachiman-shi

Azuchi-cho, Kuwanomidera777

INQ (Public) Azuchi-cho Literary Arts Prom.Agency

TEL 0748-46-6507



Hina Doll Festival March 3rd (Tue)

A festival that prays for the healthy growth of female children. A Hina doll is decorated with peach flowers to celebrate it.



◆ Merchant House visit (Hina Tour)

February 8 (Sat) ~ March 15 (Sun)

9:30~16:30 (Closed days : 2/12, 17, 25. 3/9)

Omi's merchant mansion: Nakae Jungoro House, etc.

Higashiomi-shi, Gokasho Kondo-cho, etc.

INQ Higashiomi-shi Tourism Association

TEL 0748 -29 -3920

◆Hino's Hina Travel Festival

February 9 (Sun) ~ March 8 (Sun)

9:00 ~ 17:00



From Hino-cho Okubo to Murai. whole area of Nishioji

INQ Hino Tourism Association

TEL 0748 -52 -6577



★ Stop! Using smartphones and etc while driving

From December 1st 2019 use of smartphones while driving will be severely punishable.be careful.

★Declaration of Final Tax Return.

The period of finalization is from February 17th (Mon) to March 16th (Mon). If you have paid a large amount of medical expenses), purchased a house with a loan, etc., or if you have income that has not been corrected or withheld (such as, or business income), etc. If you have (income), please confirm at the tax office.



※The next issue of Mimitaro on april

Shiga Foreign Resident Information Center

(Available languages ; Portuguese, Spanish, Vietnamese, Tagalog, English and Indonesian)

A counselor will respond to your consultations for various problems in daily life

TEL: 077 -523- 5646 FAX: 077 -510 -0601

E-mail: mimitaro@s-i-a.or.jp