



Thus, I became a “Hino-jin”!

In this issue of Mimitaro, we interviewed Mr. Ban Sanyasi Nishan, living in Hino.



It has been 10 years since I came to Hino from Nepal when I was 10 years old. My father came to Japan 20 years ago, and when the curry restaurant of his business got on track, he invited me to come to Japan. I was raised by my grandfather, so I had not

seen my father since I was 2, and my mother since I was 5 years old. It was a strange feeling to meet my parents in Japan, and I remember being very nervous because the country was completely unknown to me.

At school, I was the first student from a foreign country, so at the beginning the teachers seemed bewildered, but to me it was also the biggest challenge of my life. The first problem was school lunches, I couldn't eat the Japanese rice which was too sticky for me, so for a while I got permission to go home for lunch. Also, unlike Japanese schools, Nepalese schools learning are all book-based. I experienced Music and PE for the first time, and in Arts and Craft I was surprised at the experience of cutting wood at school. Each and every experience was new to me. My teacher was very supportive and would come to our house every week to report to my mother how I was doing at school. Whenever something happened, such as I got into a fight with a friend or drank Coke at school, the teacher would tell my mother, and my mother would scold me in Nepali.

At first, I could not understand a word at all, so I communicated by showing flash cards with sentences written on it such as “I want to go to the bathroom” and “I want to go home.” Then the school opened a Japanese class just for me. Thereafter, I learned Japanese all day long every day, and I was eager to study because I wanted to play with my friends. Little by little, I was able to study together with my classmates, and when I entered junior high school, people were surprised at how well I could speak Japanese, but it was thanks to this class. One more thing, it was also thanks to the people in the community.

My parents were busy working every day, even on weekends, so after I became a little familiar with this place, I started riding my bicycle out to the park by myself. On the way, I was often greeted by elderly neighbors who were working in the fields, and we would spend an hour or so chatting together. Sometimes they would teach me words, such as, “This is a pumpkin” and they would give me vegetables to take home. There was even an “*Ojiichan*” who cared for me like his real grandchild, who would spend time eating *onigiri* (rice balls) with me, showed me how to do a handstand, taught me Japanese, and even came to watch me at my *Undokai* (sports day). At the time, I could never have done it on my own, but thanks to the warm people around me, I have learned to speak Hino dialect, have grown to love this town, and have become a fine “*Hinojin*” and this place has become my hometown.

In junior and senior high school, I joined the baseball club, which helped me master *keigo* (honorifics), and I made many friends, and had a very fulfilling school life. I don't see myself as a foreigner now, but I started to see dreams in Japanese around the 3rd grade of junior high school, and that seemed to be the turning point for me. Since everything in my home is Nepalese culture, I completely switch to Nepalese, and there were times when I had difficulties between the two cultures. For example, Japanese junior and senior high school students sometimes go out at night with friends, which is out of the question in Nepal, so sometimes I had arguments with my parents. Also, we are Hindu and do not eat beef. I was served different dishes at school lunches, but eventually only beef was left out of the same dish as everyone else, and I sometimes wondered if I should eat it or not. However, after my mother told me “You should eat it because it will be unavoidable living in Japan,” I enjoy my meals without being too sensitive about it.

After graduating from high school, now I am enjoying my work at an automobile parts factory. On the other hand, there is the restaurant that my father has worked hard to manage, and I would like to take over the business someday. So for now, I plan to experience the real world and treasure the bonds I have with people, and in the future, I wish to expand the curry restaurant of my father's taste all over Shiga.



In junior high school (JHS), there are many changes in class content and school life from elementary school. Let us introduce a little about JHS so that you can enjoy your school life without worries!

In Shiga, there are 93 public (city/ town founded) JHS. In addition, there are national JHS, prefectural JHS, private JHS, compulsory education schools (combined elementary and JHS), and also special support schools. (As of April 1, 2024)

For public JHS, the school you enroll in are determined by the school district in which you live. If you wish to enter a national, prefectural, or private JHS, you must take an entrance exam. Those who wish to take entrance exams should consult with their school teachers from about the upper grades of elementary school to determine their course of study.



List of JHS in the prefecture

https://www.nionet.jp/shisetsulink/item_j_highschool.html

About school life

Q What subjects do you study in junior high school?

A In JHS, students study 9 subjects (Japanese, Mathematics, Social Studies, Science, English, Music, Art, Health and Physical Education, Technical Home Economics), and there are different teachers for each subjects. There are regular exams (mid-term and final) 4 or 5 times a year. In addition, there are also achievement tests a few times a year, and the results of these tests are used as reference when considering which school to enter. Grades are evaluated based on the results of regular exams, class participation, tardiness, absences, and works submitted (notebooks and homework), which are also important when considering higher education. JHS is compulsory education, so there is no grade retention.

Q What are club activities (*bukatsudo*)?

A Club activities are a voluntary activity of the students and in general, students are free to join any of the clubs they wish. There are sports clubs (baseball, soccer, basketball, track and field, tennis, etc.) and cultural clubs (art, brass band, handicrafts, drama, etc.), and the types of club activities vary from school to school. Activities are mainly held after school and on weekends. They interact with students from different grades, and sometimes participate in competitions and contests.



Q What are other aspects of school life?

A Most JHSs have uniforms for each school. The summer uniform is worn from June to October, and the winter uniform from October to June. Gym uniforms are also specified by the school.

Some schools allow students to commute to school by bicycle or train. Bicycle commuters are required to install locks, wear helmets, and have bicycle insurance. Be sure to follow the traffic rules on your way to and from school.

There is a program called “JHS Student (*Chugakusei*) Challenge Week.” During the 2nd year of JHS, students will participate in a 5-day work experience as an opportunity to interact with working adults and think about their future. (All public JHS in Shiga prefecture offer this program.)

Q I am concerned about how my child is doing at school...

A You can discuss your child’s school life and studies during individual meetings (*kojin kondan*). In the 3rd year of JHS, students, guardians, and teachers will have a meeting (*sansha mendan*) to discuss the student’s future plans after graduation and senior high school entrance examinations. If you have any concerns, feel free to consult with the teacher whenever necessary.

Q What are some of the necessary expenses for junior high school?

A There is no fee for tuition and textbooks, but expenses for preparation for entering the school (uniform, gym clothes, swimsuits, gym shoes, bags, equipment for club activities, etc.) and expenses for the entire school year (school lunch, supplementary materials and school supplies, PTA membership fee, field trip and school trip fees, club activity fees, school commute-related fees, etc.) are required.

※Financial Assistance System (*Shugaku enjo seido*) : This system provides partial assistance to guardians of students enrolled in public JHS for expenses necessary for school attendance, such as school supplies, commuting supplies, and PTA membership fees. Guardians covered by welfare and who are equivalent to this are eligible.

Please contact your school or municipal board of education for more information.

Career path after graduation from junior high school

It is necessary to discuss and prepare for future career paths after graduating from junior high school with the family from an early stage. If you plan to go on to senior high school, consult with the homeroom teacher, research the school you wish to attend, and go to information sessions and school guides. If you decide to work, you should consult with the school, and through *HelloWork*, can acquire skills at a Shiga Prefecture's Technical Schools (*Techno College*) or other schools before going to work. There are also special training schools where students can receive practical vocational education and specialized technical education, as well as schools that allow students to attend senior high school while working, such as senior high schools with a part-time and correspondence systems. Find a career path that suits you from a variety of options.

“Career Guidance” for students and guardians with foreign roots

- Date : Oct 27th (Sun) 1:30pm - 4:00pm
- Venue : G-NET Shiga Large Hall (Omihachiman)
- Target : Children with foreign roots (Grade 5 to JHS students) and guardians



<https://www.s-i-a.or.jp/en/events/924>

Explanations of the examination system and speech from seniors. Interpretation and multilingual materials available.

Individual counseling and immigration consultation corner are also available.

Inquiry : Shiga Intercultural Association for Globalization Tel 077-526-0931 email mitsuda@s-i-a.or.jp

Various types of schools

◇ **Alternative School (*Free School*)** There is another place for learning that is different from school. It provides a variety of learning opportunities for children who cannot attend school and is a safe and secure place to stay, mentally and physically. Some cities and towns offer subsidies for children attending alternative schools, so please check with the municipal board of education.



Website of Shiga Prefecture Free School Liaison Council →

<https://www.shigafs.org/>

◇ Online learning for children with foreign roots

- ABC Free School Japanese senior high school entrance support for foreigners. Online classes (fee required)
- NICO PROJECT /YSC Global School Online Japanese language classes taught by experts (fee required)

◇ **Night Junior High School (*Yakan Chugaku*)** For those who have passed the compulsory age for JHS attendance (15 years old) and have not completed JHS or have not been able to study sufficiently for various reasons, such as not attending school.

- 5 days a week (Mon to Fri), 4 hours of classes per day.
- Learn all 9 of the JHS subjects.
- Upon graduation, students receive a JHS diploma.
- Textbooks and tuition are free of charge. (Fees for studying materials may be required.)



Night Junior High School will open in Konan-shi Shiga, in April 2025. If you live in Shiga or work in Konan-shi and wish to enroll, please attend an information session. Oct 25th (Fri) From 6:00pm

How to apply: Website (QR code) / Application deadline: Oct 21st (Mon)

Inquiry: Konan-shi Board of Education Office, School Education Division Tel 0748-77-7011



☆ If you have any concerns, consult with your school! ☆

Many letters are handed out at school. Check with your teacher if you are unsure, and ask for an interpreter during meetings. If you have any concerns or problems, talk to your teacher or to the school counselor.

- Where children can consult outside of school

Please talk to us if you are worried or troubled about yourself, your friends, your family, or any other matters.

Kodomo no Jinken 110	0120-007-110	Mon - Fri 8:30am to 5:15pm
Child Line	0120-99-7777	Everyday 4:00pm to 9:00pm
24h Kodomo SOS Dial	0120-0-78310	24h (Also available on New year holidays)



Shiga Prefecture Partnership Oath System (from Sept 2)

While same-sex marriage is not legally recognized, this system allows two individuals to declare their commitment to a life of mutual support and cooperation, when one or both partners belong to sexual minorities. The prefecture will certify their declaration and issue a certification. An appointment is required for the declaration.



INQ Shiga Prefecture Civil Liberties Promotion Division

<https://www.pref.shiga.lg.jp/ippan/kurashi/zinken/338394.html>

(*Jinken shisaku suishin-ka*) Japanese: Tel 077-528-3533
Foreign languages: Shiga Foreign Residents Information Center Tel 077-523-5646

◆ Administrative Counseling Day

A specialist will consult with you on any problems you may have in your daily life. (Reservation required)

- Otsu Oct 16th (Wed) 10:30am-4:00pm
Otsu Biwako Godo-chosha 1F, shared meeting room 1
- Takashima Oct 18th (Fri) 1:00pm-3:30pm
Imazu Higashi Community Center 3F Large hall
- Nagahama, Maibara Oct 24th (Thu) 1:00pm-4:00pm
Nagahama City Office 1F Multi-purpose room
- Konan, Koka Oct 30th (Wed) 1:00pm-4:00pm
Kocopia (within Aeon Town Konan)
- Hikone Nov 6th (Wed) 1:00pm-3:30pm
Vivacity Hikone

Participating organizations: Legal Affairs Bureau, Labor Bureau, Pension Office, Judicial Scrivener, Administrative Scrivener, Tax Accountant, Administrative Consultant, etc.

INQ Administrative Counseling Center
(*Gyosei Sodan Center*) Tel 077-523-1100

◆ Joint professional consultation for foreigners

Various consultations are available on residency, labor, daily life, human rights, etc. Face-to-face consultation/ Interpretation available/ 30 min per person/ Reservations start in November

Date: Dec 5th (Thu) 1:00pm-5:00pm

Venue: Otsu Biwako Godo-chosha 1F meeting room

Organized by Osaka Regional Immigration Services Bureau
Japanese: Tel 0570-064259 → push #410

Foreign language: Shiga Foreign Residents

Information Center

Tel 077-523-5646



<https://www.moj.go.jp/isa/support/fresc/fresc01.html?hl=en>

Shiga Foreign Residents Information Center

(within Shiga Intercultural Association for Globalization)

Tel 077-523-5646 Fax 077-510-0601

email : mimitaro@s-i-a.or.jp

◆ Expansion of Social Insurance Coverage

As of October, part-time workers employed by companies with 51 or more employees will be able to enroll in social insurance (employee's pension insurance and health insurance).

Conditions for enrollment: More than 20 hours of work per week/ Wage is more than 88,000 yen per month/ Expected to be employed for more than 2 months/ Not a student



<https://www.mhlw.go.jp/tekiyoukakudai/index.html>

◆ Use of Individual Number Card (My Number Card) for Health Insurance Card

On Dec 2nd, new issuance of the current health insurance card will be terminated and the system will be shifted to using the Individual Number Card as the standard for health insurance. Registration for using the Individual Number Card as a health insurance card can be done at city hall, medical institutions, and pharmacies. There is a transitional measure where the cards are valid for one year, but the issued insurance card will expire when the expiration date comes or if there is a change in the insurer.

Mimitaro Information

◆ Special Exhibition “Dynamic Asian Ceramics -From Masterpieces of the Machida City Museum Collection-” Until Dec 8th (Sun)

Shigaraki Ceramic Cultural Park
Museum of Contemporary Ceramic
2188-7 Chokushi Shigaraki-cho Koka



◆ Aisho Art Exhibition

Oct 12th (Sat)- 20th (Sun)
Aisho Town Hearty Center Hatasho Medium Hall
822 Abiko Aisho-cho Echi-gun

◆ Hachimanbori Matsuri Week

Oct 12th (Sat)- 26th (Sat)
Around Hachimanbori 9-1 Ishinchomoto Omihachiman

◆ Ishiyamadera Autumn Leaves Light up

Nov 15th (Fri)- Dec 1st (Sun)
1-1-1 Ishiyamadera Otsu



◆ Mt. Hiei Enryakuji Temple “Oni Oi Shiki”

Dec 31st (Tue)
4220 Honmachi Sakamoto Otsu



<https://ja.biwako-visitors.jp/event/detail/41>

Apology and Correction

On page 2 of Mimitaro No.152, there was an error with the business hours of Konan-shi, City Hall Jinken Yogo-ka. We apologize for the error and make the following correction.
9:00am-4:00pm → Correct is 8:30am-5:15pm

Next issue of Mimitaro is scheduled in January