

HIMEJI CIR NEWSLETTER

I went to training this month in the beautiful city of Yokohama (which I have the awful habit of mixing with Okayama for some reason) and I think I have ate a lifetime's supply of Chinese food. Make sure to check out as many famous autumn-leaf spots as possible in Himeji before winter creeps in and I hope you enjoy this month's edition of the Himeji CIR Newsletter!

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About Me

Hello! My name is Cessan Smith and I am the fifth Coordinator for International Relations (CIR) in Himeji City. I was born in Scotland but lived in Australia for seven years.
よろしくお願いします！

What is a CIR?

A Coordinator for International Relations (CIR) is a position on the JET Programme that involves providing international expertise in a local government office. My everyday work involves translation, interpreting as well as holding cultural exchange events in Himeji.



Mount Shosha Autumn Leaf Festival

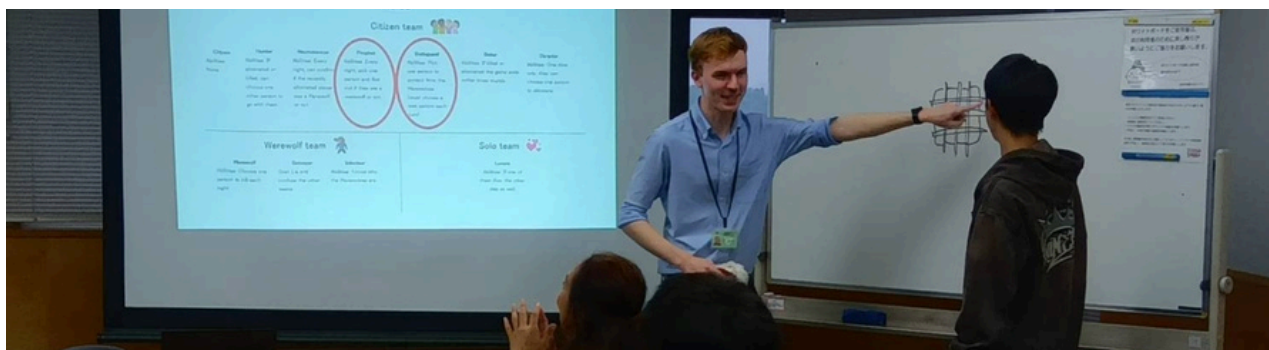
No matter how many times I visit Mount Shosha, I always find Autumn to be the perfect time of year to pay a visit (spring is also a personal favourite). Even if you missed the festival, I highly suggest you take a trip up the ropeway before all the leaves are gone!



Himeji Castle Kyoukasuigetsu

I always struggle to explain what 鏡花水月 (kyoukasuigetsu) actually means, but if I could explain it in my own words, I would say it's like a dreamy JRPG set in Himeji Castle. This event is still on through early December, so make sure to check it out!





つきに一回英語交流会!

Monthly English Meetup!

I have started holding a monthly English event at Egret Himeji! It was really great playing games with everyone and I look forward to the next month's session!

Stay informed about CIR events by following us on social media!



Himeji City
CIR



Facebook
Himeji International
Exchange Center




Instagram
@visithimeji



Wordpress
Himeji CIR
Multicultural Blog

Event Calendar

Event	Date, time & Location	Outline
	<p>Himeji Otemae Street Illumination</p> <p>Friday 22nd November ~ Wednesday 11th December Himeji Otemae Street</p>	<p>The main street of Himeji City has been illuminated throughout the autumn/winter season. Don't miss your chance to take some magical photos in front of the illuminated street and castle!</p>
	<p>Himeji Castle Kyoukasuigetsu</p> <p>5:45pm~9:15pm Friday 22nd November~ Wednesday 11th December Himeji Castle</p>	<p>Based around the theme of viewing Himeji Castle's night reflection in water, this event features mystical lights and atmospheric music all for 1,000 yen!</p>

Japanese Word of the Month

む い と しょく
無 為 徒 食

I read this 四字熟語 (yojijukugo) four-kanji compound in a book recently and thought it was too good not to share it. 無為徒食 (mu-i-to-shoku) means to lay around doing nothing. It's made of the characters for nothing (無) do (為) in vain (徒) eat (食) which I translate to 'do nothing and eat in vain', which is exactly what I plan to do throughout winter!

Hyogo Trivia

The image to the right is the logo of Hyogo prefecture. Can you guess what it represents? (the answer is written below, no peaking!)



It's a 兵 as in 兵庫 (hyōgo)!

Foreigner in Japan Spotlight

Nicholas Santoso

Hello, my name is Nicholas Santoso. I am from Australia and am the Coordinator for International Relations in Hamada City.



What is your favourite food?

Indonesian rendang- I was born in Indonesia!



What is your least favourite food?

Wasabi- I don't like how it goes up my nose...

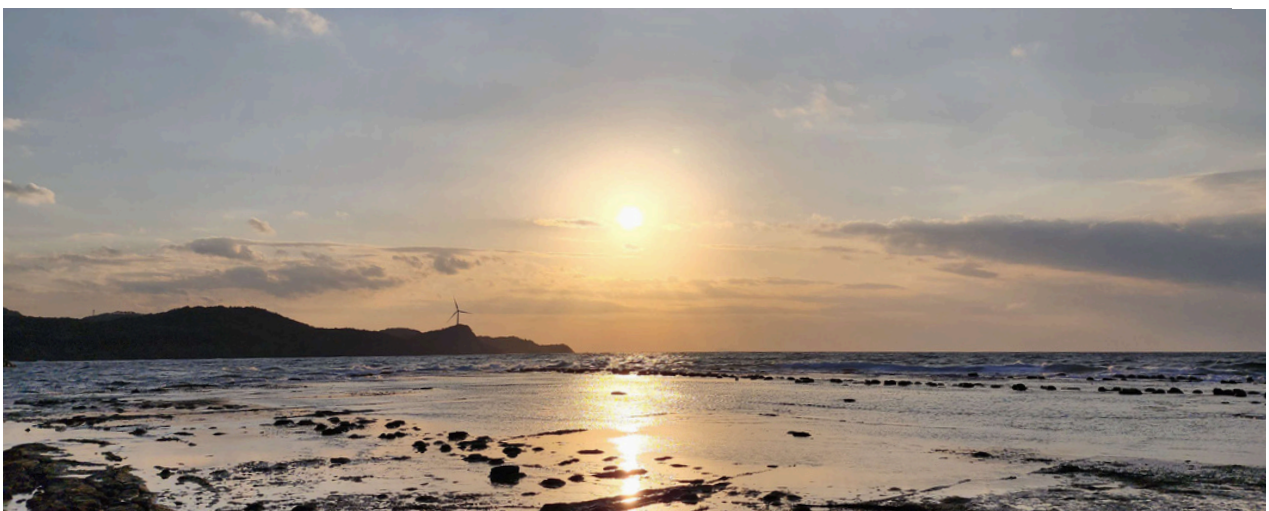


World Heritage Site Himeji Castle

I visited Himeji in July! I
loved the castle and the
vintage car museum~

Story Time: A Day at Mount Sanbe

The first time I tried hiking was in September of 2023. To introduce new CIRs and English teachers to Shimane, a one-day hiking trip at Shimane's Mount Sanbe was arranged. It was promised to be a simple hike straight to the top, well-suited to beginners and the inexperienced. Sounds simple, right? Well, it should have been- if only the weather was on our side...



Iwamitatami-ga-ura Beach

Anyway, the trip started with lunch at the local burger spot, Sanbe Burger. After a delicious lunch, we took group photos, and we split into two groups: one would go up the mountain, and the other would visit the nearby natural sciences museum. The latter turned out to be the wiser choice- but no one knew that yet.

The trail started out as a simple, paved pathway, but it wasn't long before the trail turned into a narrow, dirt path, becoming steeper with each step. At this point in the hike, the mood was cordial; we greeted and took the time to get to know each other.

Story Time: A Day at Mount Sanbe

As we went further up the mountain, the trail became rougher. Tree roots stuck out perilously, ready to trip the unaware. Rocks that looked ready to come loose appeared on the path. The crowd began thinning out, as many chose to rest and stay behind for a while. I was getting more and more tired, and as I caught my breath, I thought to myself: "Should I head back down?"



Iwami Kagura Ceremonial Dance

But, as I saw signs pointing out that I was getting closer to the peak of the mountain, I decided, "Nah, that's OK. Let's keep going." Eventually, I reached the top of the mountain, alongside the few people that also made it up. Those who went this far took satisfaction in such an achievement.

Story Time: A Day at Mount Sanbe



Donchichi Town

More photos were taken, and we enjoyed the light rain that began to fall on our heads.

Wait- rain?

Oh, no.

And so it was that the weather took a turn- for the worst. As we descended down the mountain, the heavens opened, and a downpour fell upon us. It was a struggle getting up the mountain, and now it was an equal struggle getting down, as we looked out for each other to ensure that no one slipped and tumbled their way down Mount Sanbe. Occasionally we would meet the stragglers, who were yet to reach the top of the mountain, and we would feel sorry for them for having to stay out longer in this weather.

Drenched and muddy, the hikers finally descended, and were joined by our drier counterparts who visited the museum, no doubt thanking their stars that they answered the call of air-conditioned, roofed spaces instead of the great outdoors.

Story Time: A Day at Mount Sanbe



Orii Beach (折居海岸)

And with that came the conclusion to a memorable first hike. It was certainly an interesting welcome for many people in the prefecture, and I have no doubt they will remember this day for a very long time. My experiences then made me learn two things: first of all, I learned to be resilient in tough, unexpected situations. Second, I learned that I will need to practice my excuses the next time someone invites me to go hiking!

Visit Hamada

Hamada-shi, Shimane Prefecture, sits along Honshu's western coastline, facing the Sea of Japan. So, naturally, the locally caught seafood is a source of great pride! But it's not just food; from the exciting dance performances of Iwami Kagura, to the UNESCO-listed papermaking craft of Sekishu Washi, Hamada has so much traditional culture to offer. Don't forget to visit beautiful, white sand beaches over at Iwami Seaside Park, and catch a beluga whale show at Aquas Aquarium!

For more information, follow the link below:

<https://kankou-hamada.or.jp/>



Hope to see you all in Hamada soon!