

CIR NEWSLETTER



1

What is
a CIR?

2

Interesting
America

3

Himeji
Updates

4

Heart-
Fluttering
Himeji

ABOUT ME



Hello!

I am Emily Bierma, the 6th Coordinator for International Relations (CIR) in Himeji. I was born and raised in Indiana, USA. I first moved to Japan in August 2024 and was appointed as Himeji's CIR in August 2026. Nice to meet you!

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.



おもしろい！アメリカ

DID YOU KNOW?

アメリカに9月7日はレイバーデー（労働者の日）でした。夏の終わりだと思われているので、その三連休に最後の夏の旅行をしたり、バーベキューやピクニックしたり、夏の最後を楽しむ人が多いです。そして、面白い習慣があります。薄くて淡い夏の洋服を衣替えをして、秋・冬の洋服を着ることから「レイバーデーの後、白い洋服を着てはいけない」という昔の非公式なルールがあると言われていましたが、現在では、レイバーデーの後でも白い服を着たらだれにも構わないと思います。



写真：Unsplashからの無料写真

アメリカ語のフレーズ

PIECE OF CAKE

お安い御用、朝飯前、とても簡単

"That exam was a piece of cake!"

「その試験はとても簡単でした！」



PULLING MY LEG

からかっている、ふざけている

"I'm just pulling your leg."

「ちょっとからかったただけだよ」

UPCOMING EVENTS



写真：姫路フォトバンク

HIMEJI MOON VIEWING EVENT

This year's moon viewing event will be held on September 25th, 2026. Enjoy a variety of live performances and music as well as tea ceremony in front of the castle. At Koko-en Garden, see the traditional garden's beauty in a new way during the garden light-up. Enjoy gazing at the moon with Himeji's beautiful historic scenery as the backdrop! I will be one of the announcers announcing things in English, so I hope to see some of you there!

Date & Time: 9/25/2026 (Fri.) 17:00 - 21:00

*Will be postponed to 9/26 (Sat.) in the case of rain

Place: Himeji Castle Sanomaru Square

HEART-FLUTTERING HIMEJI

日本語版は姫路市公式ノートでぜひご覧ください！

SELF-INTRODUCTION・ABOUT HIMEJI'S CIR

Hello everyone! My name is Emily Bierma, and I was newly appointed as Coordinator for International Relations (CIR) for Himeji in August. I am from Indiana in America, and although the beginning of my life in Japan started in August 2024 when I became the CIR for Seika Town, Kyoto Pref., my two-year term passed and I was appointed as Himeji's CIR. After moving to Himeji I soon began to like it, so I am looking forward to liking it even more through my work as well as through this article series.

Although my hobbies include drawing and reading, after coming to Japan, I began to love going to cafes, and that has become a new "hobby." I look on Google maps to see if there are any stylish cafes near my current location, and if I find one that looks particularly delicious, I go. I have called this a "Café Crawl Challenge." If I do this, it makes an outing more interesting and fun. If you find places close to your home or workplace, it means you've already decided on a special place to go when you want to treat yourself. I have these kinds of places in my life. There are a lot of delicious and stylish cafes in Himeji. Every Monday, I go to a café called "Hamamoto Coffee," order a motivational almond toast and coffee to get me through the new week, and pass the time reading. I make use of the power given to me by the delicious food to do my best during the whole week, not just the whole day. Occasionally, I will meet people at cafés and have a chance for fun exchange, so even on a day off you could still say I am doing international exchange.

When you think of the job “Coordinator for International Relations,” there may be people who don’t understand what that work entails, and the work they do differs depending on the city, town, or village. Because of that, I would like to use this article to introduce the Coordinator for International Relations job in Himeji. The Coordinator for International Relations, known as the CIR, is a job that involves translation and interpretation as well as participation and planning of cultural exchange events. In my case, I came to Japan through a system called the JET Program, assigned to a contracting organization. Through my work, I work hard to cultivate meaningful relationships and awareness between citizens, foreigners, and tourists so that they can understand cultural similarities and differences together. Himeji’s CIR is involved in Sister City, Castle, and other connections, translates and interprets, participates in cultural exchange events, and more. I don’t only share American culture with citizens, but I have also been able to more closely come in contact with Japanese culture through a variety of different ways thanks to this job, I can become a big connecting bridge between cultures.

With this article, I want to write not only report-like articles about my work, but also search for the charm in Himeji by going to various places and facilities, learning about new places and things, and introducing these “heart-fluttering spots” to everyone. I think this is on part of cultural exchange, and I want to more deeply understand and respect not just Himeji culture, but Japanese culture as a whole, and I hope this can be one more step on this cultural bridge.

