

# HIMEJI CIR NEWSLETTER

Happy spring! (or at least the start of it). This edition of the Himeji CIR Newsletter includes the new Himeji Workplace Explorer article! This time I visited the Himeji City Aquarium, so please give it a read!

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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. よろしくお願ひします！

## 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.





# スコットランドの **ことば**

## 1. Coorie (クーリー) 寄り添う

クーリーとは人に寄り添うことです。よく進行形の「coorieing」(クーリーイング)として言います。スコットランドは涼しい国なので布団でクーリーをするのは快適です。

例文

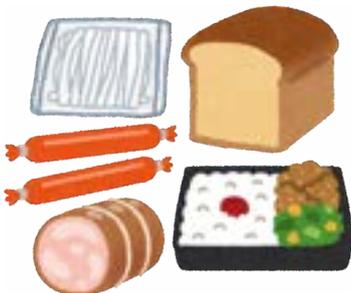
There's nothing better than coorieing under a blanket on a cold winter's night.

寒い冬の夜にブランケットで寄り添うことほど素敵なことはない



## 2. Scran (スクラン) 食べ物

スクランとは食べ物のことです。最近、スコット語の言葉は概念化され、スクランと言えばスコットランド料理という意味になりました。



例文

While I am in Scotland, I would like to try the Scottish scran.

スコットランドに滞在中、スコットランド料理を食べてみたい

## 3. Chuffed (チャップド) 満足した

チャップドとは結果が十分いい時に「これで満足だ」という意味です。いつも過去形で使います。

例文

He is really chuffed after winning the football tournament.

彼はサッカー大会を優勝して自負しています。



日本語の話ですが、最近ニュースで半導体について取り上げられていました。漢字だけ見ると意味不明ですが、「はんどうたい」と聞くと「ハンド・タイ」に聞こえて、髪の毛を手で結ぶものを想像してしまいます。おかげで、半導体の意味を一生忘れないと思います。



# Foreigners in Japan Conference

## Kinki Block CIR Training



### 在住外国人会議

今年度の在住外国人会議では、外国人に対する否定的な感情や不安から市役所の施設の使いやすさまで、あらゆるトピックについて議論しました。

### 近畿ブロックCIR研修

京都市で開催されたJETプログラムのCIR研修に参加しました！そこで、他の近畿地方で活動しているCIR（国際交流員）の事例発表を聞き、自分自身のCIRとしての経験を共有しました。

### Foreigners in Japan Conference

At this year's conference, we discussed everything from negative feelings or anxiety toward foreigners, to the ease of use of city hall's facilities.

### Kinki Block CIR Training

I went to JET Programme CIR training in Kyoto! There, I learnt about what other CIRs in the Kinki (Kansai) region have been doing and shared my experience as a CIR as well.



Himeji City Aquarium

# Himeji Workplace Explorer!

Hello!

I'm Cessan and I am the Coordinator for International Relations in Himeji City.

Did you enjoy the last article? If you haven't read it yet, be sure to check it out! Continuing on my mission to explore Himeji City's tourist attractions, this time I visited the Himeji City Aquarium. Located on Mount Tegarayama, opposite Himeji Castle when viewed from Himeji Station, the aquarium is often thought to be far from the station and thus less popular with foreign tourists. However, once the nearby Tegarayama-heiwakoen Station opens, I suspect there will be a steady increase of visitors from both inside and outside Himeji City.

Okay, let's go!



*<Himeji City Aquarium Main Building>*

The Himeji City Aquarium was built in 1966 and consists of a Main Building and New Building. Both buildings showcase sea animals from the Harima region, with the Main Building focusing on saltwater fish and the New Building primarily featuring freshwater fish. While the Main Building had been closed for about a month due to a malfunction in the firefighting equipment, my camera assistant and I visited on October 30<sup>th</sup> 2025, the second day after its reopening.

This time, I got the chance to feed some of the sea animals being exhibited. I imagined it would be the most fun job at the aquarium, but it turned out to carry a lot of responsibility, and feeding the animals was surprisingly scary. Upon my arrival at the New Building, the keeper asked me, "Would you like to help with Kaka's lunchtime show at 1:30pm?" For those of you who don't know, Kaka is a 3-year-old, 15kg red-footed tortoise. What's more, he's one of the main attractions at the aquarium.



<Kaka's lunchtime show>

Kaka was born and raised at the Himeji City Zoo, but since transferring to the aquarium, he has gained recognition for his lunchtime shows. Visitors are instantly taken in by the way he chomps down on food, cutely saying his own name (ka~ka~). As a relatively tall foreigner, feeding Kaka under the hot lights was an incredibly nerve-wracking experience, but I wanted to do my best for the fans who had gathered to see Kaka eat.



<Vegetables/grass including komatsuna, cucumber and carrots>

Tortoises are herbivores, but their jaws are so strong that if they bit my finger, I'd never be able to write again, which is why we feed them using tongs. Since Kaka is still a baby, the aquarium holds a lunchtime show every day with Kaka eating delicious and nutritious vegetables.

That'll do, Kaka, that'll do.



<Feeding kaka his vegetables>



*<Got my bucket and I'm ready to go>*

After saying goodbye to Kaka, we headed to the sea turtle exhibit. Compared to the cute baby tortoises, the adult sea turtles are way scarier. Their jaws are about ten times bigger, and they get so desperate for food that they try to climb out of the water towards you, which was absolutely terrifying. One sea turtle kept trying to climb up no matter how much food I threw at it. Midway though, the keeper explained, "This one eats seaweed in the ocean" and I realized that I was waving fish in the face of a vegetarian sea turtle the whole time. Luckily, the keeper had cabbage ready to go, so it didn't have to wait too long. Apparently, carnivorous and herbivorous animals can live together in the same tank without any issues.



*<A touching scene of me feeding the sea turtles>*



*<A sea turtle chasing after some squid>*

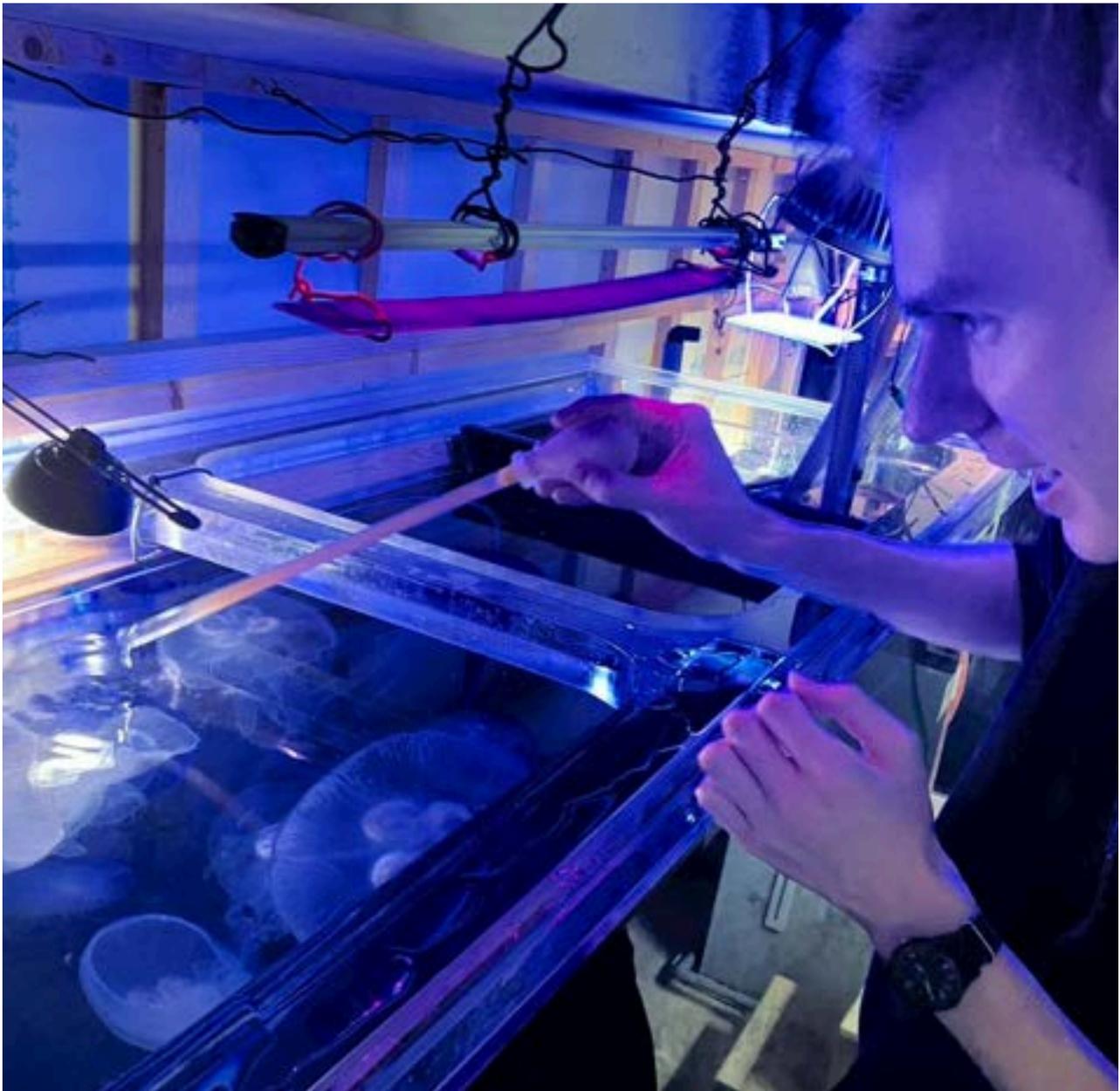
The Himeji Aquarium has both freshwater and saltwater turtles. When I heard the word 'tansui', which means 'freshwater' (淡水), I misheard it for 'carbonated' (炭水) which is also pronounced 'tansui, and I briefly imagined a turtle swimming in a tank full of bubbles. Compared to the baby turtles, the adult ones don't seem to have much of an appetite, and are only fed once a day. Their food consists of oysters, squid, and fish.



<Feeding the penguins>

Next, we fed the penguins. When you picture penguins, you probably imagine cute little birds waddling around, right? But according to the keeper, penguins are actually super scary. If you don't wear boots, they'll attack your feet trying to get the food, and even try to poop on you. Looking at the photo above, it's clear that my boots were way too short (the knees are wide open!). Since it was bird flu season at the time, we had to step in disinfectant before entering the enclosure to minimize bringing in germs.

Once I actually got inside the enclosure, the penguins weren't all that scary at all (in fact they were very adorable) and none of them tried to poop on me, thankfully. I ended up spoiling one penguin who just stood on the platform in front of me instead of chasing after food that fell into the water. It was really fun! I was glad that the penguins only ate fish, as compared with feeding the sea turtles (squid, oysters, etc.) fish are much easier to throw.



*<Jellyfish tank>*

Lastly, I had my go at feeding the jellyfish. I don't know much about jellyfish, so I wasn't really sure exactly HOW they eat their food. I was surprised to learn that jellyfish actually have four stomachs. Feeding them was tricky, but a fun experience. When the jellyfish swirled around in the tank and floated up, they'd flip over, and that's when you'd inject the food directly into their stomachs. They eat these tiny crustaceans called artemia, which looks like orange juice.



*<Feeding the jellyfish>*

Besides feeding turtles and jellyfish, I also fed reptiles and other animals, but since the photos show a lot of bugs, I've decided to skip that part. While only the keepers are allowed to do the feeding, I think it's fun enough just to watch as a visitor too, so if you haven't been Himeji City Aquarium yet, please pay a visit!! Thank you to the keepers who showed us around!

Thank you for reading! See you next time.