

HIMEJI CIR NEWSLETTER

Happy New Year! I hope everyone has a good お正月 break and ate plenty of lucky foods with the word まめ attached to them. I look forward to another year of writing this newsletter and hope everyone is looking forward to reading it as well!

Contents



What is a CIR?
(p.1)



Japanese Word
of the Month
(p.5)



CIR work over
January (p.2)



Hyogo Trivia
(p.5)



Event Calendar
(p.4)



Foreigner in
Japan
Spotlight (p.6)



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.



Himeji Castle

Disaster Preparedness Day

I participated in the 71st Cultural Heritage Site Fire Prevention Day training at Himeji Castle, where I had the role of being a foreign resident trapped on the first floor of Himeji Castle.



Kansai Block CIR Training

There was a kansai block training session held in Nara this year with all the CIRs from Kansai region. It was great fun meeting all the new faces, exchanging ideas with everyone!



Himeji Foreign Residents Conference

I participated in the Himeji Foreign Residents Conference a few weeks back, where foreigners living in Himeji about their daily struggles, troubles and issues, as well as disaster-preparedness.

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>Tsubohori Excavation Exhibition</p> <p>On until Sunday 6th April Himeji Archaeological Center</p>	<p>'Tsubohori' means digging up pots. In this case we are talking about a selection of excavated pots on display at the Himeji Archaeological Center dating from the Yayoi period until Edo period Japan.</p>
	<p>Himeji Castle Marathon 2024</p> <p>Starts at 9am Sunday 23rd February Himeji Castle Area</p>	<p>The famous Himeji Castle Marathon is on once again this year!</p> <p>Whether you are participating in the race or just like to watch, this is an event where you can appreciate athletics and Himeji Castle at the same time!</p>

Japanese Word of the Month

おび みじか たすき なが

帯に短し襷に長し

This phrase refers to something that is useless because it's neither one way nor the other. An 帯 (obi) is what you call the sash that goes around the waist and ties at the back of a kimono and a 襷 (tasuki) is the name for the cord that ties up the sleeves of the kimono. In summary, it's about a piece of cloth that's too short for an obi and too long for a tasuki, therefore it is essentially useless.

Hyogo Trivia

Did you know? Hyogo Prefecture is the 12th largest prefecture in Japan!



Foreigner in Japan Spotlight

Spencer Jiro Viernes

Hello there! My name is Spencer Jiro Viernes. I'm from New Zealand but I was born in the Philippines.



What is your favourite food?

My favourite Japanese food would be Tsukemen. I love the spicy stuff!



What is your least favourite food?

I'm not fond of celery. The texture is weird.



Mentetsu

I have been to Himeji multiple times,
especially to visit some friends living in
Hyogo Prefecture. I enjoy eating and going to
the random secluded cafes there. Also, one
of my favourite Tsukemen spot is located
there — Mentetsu

Story Time: The Unescapable Kumamon

I always try to experience new things and explore more of Japan so my favourite story would probably be related to Kumamon. There's a running joke in the Kumamoto JET community. If we leave Kumamoto, whether it's within Japan or overseas, you will find him somewhere. Rather he comes to find you.



Kumamon (Kumamoto Prefecture's mascot)

"You can't escape it!" they say. It's funny because it's true. I can't remember how many times I spot a Kumamon figure, design, or thing in the wild. He appears in the most random place, and when you least expect it. And if you're really lucky, you might see him in person at an event with a special "Kumamon Stage" appearance. So look at for him at your local events.

Story Time: The Unescapable Kumamon

It's a great watch because often you will find that he appears with the local mascots, where you can take photos, enjoy the event and maybe even buy Kumamon goods and products. He's quite the businessman, or businessbear? Fun fact, he is actually a civil servant, and his official title is "Promotion and Happiness manager".



Kumamon Products

Which makes sense because he brings happiness to people all around the world, while promoting Kumamoto's charms, tourism and local products.

Visit Kumamoto

Kumamoto Prefecture is located in the centre of Kyushu, south-west of Japan. Have you ever seen Kumamon? He's the national mascot and is born in Kumamoto. It is famous for "Mount Aso" where one of the world's largest calderas lies, and the beautiful sea around "Amakusa" — a group of 120 islands. Both the mountains of Aso and the sea of Amakusa are designated as national parks by the Japanese Government. It's these two "mountain" and "sea" national parks which make Kumamoto unique.

Instagram

@kumamoto_cir



@KUMAMOTO_CIR

Feel free to contact me.

I can show you around. Looking forward to seeing you here!