



Interacting with the world at the Mecca of Ceramics!

In this issue of Mimitaro, we interviewed Ms. Bae Sujung, a curator of “Shigaraki Ceramic Cultural Park.”



13 years ago, when I was working at a gallery related to ceramics after graduating from university in Korea, I was attracted to the art of ceramics so I came to Japan, where there are many bibliographic resources to do a comparative research on Japanese and Korean ceramics. After two years of Japanese language school, five years of graduate school (Ph.D.), and spending a year and a half on the program of “Research Fellowship for Young Scientists” (PD), I felt a strong desire to “touch the genuine art” so I applied for a position as a curator. After working as a part-time curator at Aichi Prefectural Ceramic Museum and Seto City Art Museum, I was hired as the first foreign curator at the Shigaraki Ceramic Cultural Park, and now it is my fourth year. During its closure due to Covid-19 pandemic, I planned a virtual museum, and last year I organized an exhibition to introduce contemporary Korean ceramics in the context of the traditional stream.



Shigaraki Ceramic Cultural Park is located in Shigaraki, a town of ceramics since the Middle Ages. It is a massive park and around the theme of ceramics it has many functions such as creation, training and exhibitions. A unique feature of the park is the Artist in Residence, where artists stay for a certain period of time to do their creative activities. For more than 30 years we have accepted artists from all over the world for this program, and our park is famous overseas as the “Mecca of Ceramics” and “sacred site for Residences.” Up until now, from over 55 countries, approximately 1500 artists have stayed and the unique Shigaraki clay and various types of kilns have been used to explore the possibilities of creative work. Some of the artists’ works has become the museum’s possession, forming a unique collection. We also provide opportunities to hear from the artists in residence. I believe that my presence as a Korean in a museum open to the world like this one will allow me to take advantage of its internationality, and I hope to hold more international exhibitions actively in the future.

In the recent years, Korea’s society has been changing so rapidly, I can not keep up with it when I return home. From the 1990’s, western-style tableware, and plastic tableware has been used in the households, and the number of kilns has been drastically reduced due to this trend. In Japan, ceramic tableware is still used in majority of households, so it is a favorable environment for potters. Historically, China, Korea and Japan have an active interaction, and also in the world of ceramics they have an interactive effect on each other. However, because they are neighboring countries, the relationship is highly sensitive politically, and if it deteriorates, even sister cities exchange and events will be cancelled, which will affect foreigners living in Japan as well. Therefore, I strongly wish, “Please don’t let politics get involved in culture and the arts.”

When I first came to Japan, I was conscious of the fact of being a foreigner, but now, only when I look for a house, I remember that I was a foreigner, and I live a very comfortable life. In my case, I adjusted to this country by hanging out with Japanese people and chatting with them a lot rather than socializing with my own people. What I think is nice living in Japan is that there are relatively few job-related discriminations. When I was a student, I worked part-time on the night shift as a line worker, and I was surprised to see elderly people working together with me. The fact that the society is relatively open-minded about the profession, is what allows me to continue working in my own way. Another thing I like is the “single person culture” that we have in Japan. Before I came to Japan, I could not imagine going into a restaurant alone, but here there are many services and things for single people, which is very convenient. I feel very independent and free to do whatever I want by myself. Living in Shiga, I am comforted by the presence of Lake Biwa. I have not yet made a round trip around Lake Biwa, but I enjoy relaxing and camping by the lake.

We are now preparing for the next exhibition. (refer to P4★)
Please come and visit our world-class Shigaraki Ceramic Cultural Park!



Interpretation * Consultation Desks for Foreign Residents in Shiga

Note: "Other" is by AI interpreting devices and remote interpreting



Area	Consultation Desk	Language(s)	Consultation Schedule	Contact
Otsu	City Hall Kankou Shinkou-ka MICE Promotion Office	English	Mon - Fri 9:00 am - 5:00 pm	077-528-2864
	Otsu Int'l. Goodwill Association (Otsu-shi Kokusai Shinzen Kyokai)	Japanese/ zoom avail. Consultation with an Administrative Scrivener	2 nd Wed 5:30 pm, 6:15 pm, 7:00 pm (reservation required by 1pm the day before)	077-525-4711
Hikone	City Hall Hikone Foreign Residents Support Center (Hikone Gaikokujin Soudan Center) ① Honkan (main bldg) 3F Jinken-seisaku-ka ② Chuo-cho bekkan (annex) 1F	Portuguese	Mon - Fri 8:30 am - 5:15 pm (1 st & 3 rd Thu until 7:00 pm)	① 0749-30-6113 ② 0749-22-5931
		English	Mon - Fri	
		Chinese	Tue, Fri (Wed) 8:30 am - 5:15 pm	
		Vietnamese	Tue, Thu (Fri)	
Nagahama	City Hall Shimin-ka	Portuguese, Spanish, English, other	Thu 8:30 am - 7:00 pm Mon - Wed, Fri 8:30 am - 5:15 pm	0749-65-8711
	Nagahama-shi Tabunka Kyosei Kokusai Bunka Koryu House (GEO)	Japanese	Every day (expect Thu) 10am – 6pm	0749-63-4400
Omiachiman	City Hall 2F Kokusai Kyokai Each department	Portuguese, English, other	Mon - Fri 9:00 am - 4:45 pm	0748-26-7092
Kusatsu	City Hall 2F Machizukuri Kyodo-ka	English, other	Mon - Fri 9:00 am - 4:00 pm	077-561-2337
Moriyama	Moriyama Int'l. Friendship Assn. (Moriyama Shimin Koryu Center)	English (Inquire beforehand for other languages)	Mon - Fri 9:00 am - 4:30 pm	077-583-4653
Ritto	City Hall 3F Ritto Int'l. Friendship Association (Ritto Kokusai Koryu Kyokai)	Portuguese	Wed 1:00 - 5:00 pm	077-551-0293
Koka	City Hall Seikatsu Kankyo-ka	Portuguese, Spanish other	Mon - Fri 8:30 am - 5:15 pm	0748-69-2145
	City Hall Kosodate Seisaku-ka			0748-69-2176
	City Hall Seikatsu Shien-ka			0748-69-2158
Yasu	City Hall Kikaku Chousei-ka Each department	English, Chinese, other	Mon - Fri 8:30 am - 5:15 pm	077-587-6039
	Yasu Int'l Friendship Association (Yasu-shi Kokusai Kyokai)	English	Mon - Fri 9:00 am - 5:00 pm	077-586-3106
Konan	City Hall Higashi Chosha 1F Jinken Yogo-ka	Portuguese	Mon - Fri 9:00 am - 4:00 pm	0748-71-2354
	Konan Int'l. Assn. Nishi Chosha 4F (Konan-shi Kokusai Kyokai)	Portuguese	Mon - Fri 8:30 am - 5:00 pm	0748-69-7530
		Vietnamese	4 th Fri 8:30am - 5:00pm	
Takashima	Takashima Int'l Friendship Assn. (Takashima-shi Kokusai Kyokai)	English, Vietnamese	Irregular schedule (by appointment)	0740-20-1180
Higashiomi	City Hall Shinkan Shimin Seikatsu Soudan-ka	Portuguese	Mon - Fri 9:00 am - 5:00 pm	0748-24-5521
Maibara	City Hall Santo Shisho Chiiki Shinkou-ka	Portuguese	Mon - Fri 8:30 am - 5:15 pm	0749-53-5172
	Maibara Multicultural and Int'l Assn. (Maibara-shi Tabunka Kyosei Kyokai) Santo shisyo bekkan (annex) 2F	Portuguese	Mon - Fri 9:00 am - 5:00 pm	0749-56-0577
		Chinese	Mon - Thu 9:00 am - 3:00 pm	
Hino	Town Office Jyumin-ka	Portuguese	Mon, Wed, Thu 9:00 am - 5:00 pm	0748-52-6571
Aisho	Town Office Echigawa Chosha Mirai Sousei-ka	Portuguese	Mon, Tue, Fri 8:30 am - 5:15 pm Wed, Thu 8:30 am - 4:30 pm	0749-29-9046
		Other	Mon - Fri 8:30 am - 5:15 pm	
Shiga Prefecture	Shiga Foreign Residents Information Center (Shiga Gaikokujin Soudan Center)	Portuguese, Spanish, Tagalog, English, Vietnamese, other	Mon - Fri 10:00 am - 5:00 pm	077-523-5646

Japanese Language Classes in Shiga



Area	Group Name		Venue	Class Schedule	Contact
Otsu	Otsu International Goodwill Association		Asuto Hamaotsu 2 F	Fri 1:30 - 2:30 pm, 7:00 - 8:00 pm	077-525-4711
			Katata Community Center	Thu 10:00 - 11:45 am	
	Nihongo no kai		Otsu Kominkan	Thu 10:00 am - 12:00 pm	090-1479-5468
	Omi Nihongo Fureai Club		Piazza Omi 2F	Mon 10:30 am - 12:00 pm	077-523-1061
Seta-kita Kominkan			Sat 7:30 - 9:10 pm		
Hikone	Hikone International Assn.		Hikone Kokusai Koryu Salon	Wed 7:00 - 8:30 pm Fri 2:00 - 3:30 pm	0749-22-5931
	Smile		Nishi-chiku Kominkan	Sun 10:00 - 11:30 am	0749-24-7241
			Innovation Office Nayashichi	Mon - Fri ① 9:30 - 10:50 am ② 11:00am - 12:20 pm ③ 1:30 - 2:50 pm ④ 3:00 - 4:20 pm (closed on Tue)	070-5661-7345
			Asahinomori-chiku Kominkan	Tue, Fri 9:00 - 10:20 am	
Hikone Kokusai Koryukai VOICE		Naka-chiku Kominkan	Sat 2:00 - 4:00 pm	090-5156-6916	
Nagahama	Nagahama UNESCO Kyokai		Kokusai Bunka Koryu House	Wed, Sat 7:00 - 8:30 pm	0749-65-6552
	Tanoshii Nihongo		GEO	Tue 6:30 - 8:00 pm	0749-63-4400
Omi-hachiman	Nihongo Koryu Kyoshitsu Tanpopo		Kaneda Community Center	Sat 7:00 - 9:00 pm	0748-26-7092
	Nihongo Koryu Kyoshitsu Azuchi		Azuchi Community Center		
	Nakayoshi Nihongo Koryu Kyoshitsu		Kaneda Community Center	Wed 10:00 - 11:30 am	
Kusatsu	Olive		Kirarie Kusatsu	Sat 7:00 - 8:40 pm	077-565-9215
	SHIPS		Tabunka Kyosei Shien Center	Wed, Fri 10:30am - 12:00 pm	077-561-5110
	Kusatsu International Friendship Association Kizuna		Ritsumeikan Univ. BKC / online	Sat 10:20am - 12:00 pm	077-561-2322
	Nihongo Center		Kirarie Kusatsu	2 nd & 4 th Sat 1:00 - 5:00 pm	090-8146-9596
Moriyama	Moriyama Nihongo Kyoshitsu		Moriyama Shimin Koryu Center	1 st - 4 th Sat 10:00 - 11:50 am	077-583-4653
	Nihongo Salon			Mon - Fri 10:00am - 12:00 pm	090-8648-9749
Ritto	RIFA Nihongo Kyoshitsu		Community Center Daihou	2 nd & 4 th Sat 10:15 - 11:45 am	077-551-0293
Koka	Koka International Exchange Assn.	Ninja	Minakuchi-chuo Kominkan	Sat 7:30 - 9:30 pm	0748-63-8728
		Niji	Maroom	Mon 2:00 - 4:00 pm	
Yasu	YIFA Nihongo Kyoshitsu		Yasu International Association	Arrangements possible	077-586-3106
Konan	Konan International Association	Nihongo Kyoshitsu Ishibe	Ishibe Machizukuri Center	Mon 2:00 - 3:30 pm Tue 5:30 - 7:00 pm Wed 3:30 - 5:00 pm Thu 7:00 - 8:30 pm	0748-69-7530
		Nihongo Kyoshitsu Mito	Mito Community Center	Sat 6:30 - 8:00 pm	
	Caminando		ELD	Mon, Wed 7:00 - 9:00 pm	090-1448-3350
Takashima	Takashima International Assn.		Imazuhigashi Community Center	Arrangements possible	0740-20-1180
	Nihongo de Hanasou		Shin-asahi Kominkan	2 nd & 4 th Sat 10:00 - 11:30 am	
Higashiomi	Yokaichi Nihongo Kyoshitsu		Higashiomi International Friendship Association	Sat 1:30 - 3:00 pm 1 st - 3 rd Sun 1:30 - 3:00 pm	050-5802-9606
	Notogawa Nihongo Kyoshitsu		Notogawa Community Center	1 st - 3 rd Sun 1:30 - 3:00 pm	
Maibara	Maibara Nihongo Kyoshitsu		Maibara City Hall Santo shisyo bekkann (annex)	Sat 9:30 - 11:00 am	0749-56-0577
Aisho	Aisho International Friendship Association		Echigawa Kominkan	Wed ① 1:30-3:00 pm ② 7:00 - 8:00 pm Sat, Sun ① 10:00 - 11:30 am ② 1:30 - 3:00 pm ③ 3:15 - 4:45 pm	070-5593-1769
Online	ONRITANS		Online classes (zoom)	Mon - Fri / Arrangements possible	090-3655-5417

Mimitaro Information

◆ Biwako Fireworks Festival

August 8th (Tue) 7:30 pm – 8:30 pm
Hamaotsu Otsu Offshore of Otsu Port
First time in 4 years! 10,000 fireworks will launch to colorfully display the night sky



◆ Lake bathing at Biwako

In contrast to the ocean, Lake Biwa has calmer waves, making it a pleasant spot for families with children ♪

Shirahige Beach (1091 Ukawa Takashima)
Manohama Beach (Mano 5 chome Otsu)
Omimaiko Beach (Minami komatsu Otsu)
Shingaihama Beach (Shingai-cho Hikone)
Miyagahama Beach (Miyagahama
Okishima-cho Omihachiman)



◆ Exhibition and events at

Shigaraki Ceramic Cultural Park

★ “Taro Okamoto Dreams of Art Ceramic Wall, Ceramic Board, 21st Century Figure Modeling”

Part 1 July 15th (Sat) – Sept 24th (Sun)

★ Summer Holiday Project

Children’s Clay Modeling Exhibition

July 15th (Sat) – Sept 3rd (Sun)



★ Tsuchikko Program (For children and guardians)

Children Pottery Series “Special course”

July 22nd (Sat), 23rd (Sun), 29th (Sat), 30th (Sun)

(Advance registration)

2188-7 Chokushi Shigaraki-cho Koka

Tel 0748-83-0968

◆ Birdman Rally 2023 (Tori Ningen Contest)

July 29th (Sat), 30th (Sun)

Various types of man-powered aircraft will fly over Lake Biwa

Matsubara swimming area Hikone



◆ Best time to see Sunflowers

Dai-ichi Nagisa Park

Late July to early August Imahama-cho Moriyama

Shiga Agricultural Park Blume no Oka

Early August to late August

843 Nishioji Hino-cho Gamo-gun

“Oide Yasu” Sunflower Maze

Late July to early August

Yoshikawa Yasu, along lakeshore road



Mimitaro News



◆ COVID - 19 (from May 8th)

【Medical Examination】 In addition to initial fees, patients will be responsible for the costs of medical tests and other expenses. Public assistance is available to cover the cost of expensive treatments and medicines. Medical examinations are available at a wide range of medical institutions. Before visiting, please be sure to call them first to make an appointment.

【Vaccination】 Free vaccination will continue until March 2024. Vaccination is available to the elderly, those at high risk of serious illness, children, and others who have received vaccination tickets. From September, all ages 5 and older are eligible for the vaccination.

★ In case of infection, refrain from going out for 5 days from the day after the onset of symptoms, and if symptoms still continues after that, wait until about 24 hours after the symptoms become milder.

★ Consultation Center /24h, multilingual support
Medical Examination/ Consultation Center

Tel 077-528-3621

Shiga Pref. Home Treatment Support Center

Tel 077-574-8560

◆ Japanese language for work JICE (free of charge)

Application: At Hello Work

- Nagahama “Rinko”
Evening course Level 1 Sept 15th – Dec 7th
- Hikone “Tachibana”
Evening course Level 1 Sept 27th – Dec 13th
- Koka “Maroom”
Evening course Level 2 Sept 26th – Dec 12th
- Konan “Kosei Bunka Hall”
Evening course Level 1 Nov 29th – Feb 28th
- Moriyama “Ekimae sogo annai-jyo”
Evening course Level 2 Nov 21th – Feb 16th
- Online course
Evening course Level 3 Nov 20th – Feb 13th
Evening course Level 2 Nov 14th – Feb 6th

◆ “Career Guidance” for students and guardians with foreign roots will be held again this year!

Oct 22nd (Sun) G-NET Shiga (Omihachiman)

Shiga Foreign Residents Information Center

(within Shiga Intercultural Association for Globalization)

* On August 8th, due to Biwako Fireworks Festival, consultation in person will be until 3:30pm.

Next issue of Mimitaro is scheduled in October