



## My Curriculum Vitae

～ We talked to Mr. Ewerton Yoshio Kimura, a resident of Ritto City, in this issue of Mimitaro regarding work. ～



It will be 18 years since my family and I came to Japan when I was eight. Those were tough years, not being able to understand the language and even being a target of bullying. I went to high school

because I was convinced by my parents to, but right now, I'm glad that I did. After graduation, I worked as a welder for 6 years, as a precision parts machine operator for a year, and just about a couple of years ago, I started as a specified dispatch worker (regular employee of a dispatching agency or *haken gaisha*) in the research and development department of a seat belt manufacturing company.

Having registered in a leading job search site has led me to my present job. I have worked as a regular employee until then, so at first, I had some hesitation working as a temporary staff and was full of doubt, but when I plucked up the courage and switched to a new job, I was provided with the proper treatment, supporting me with my new employment. After training in Excel for one month, I had been assigned to the workplace after undergoing another month of further training in the required CAD. I couldn't ask for a better working environment. There's so much to learn in the workplace, making it very fulfilling. This decision had been a major turning point in my life.

My work involves designing seat belt products and the manufacture of its prototypes. Some of the techniques we have acquired so far could be useful, but since it's a job that requires advanced knowledge, someone like me who did not go to college, would need to enhance my skills. We proceed to the process leading to production while coordinating with other departments once the prototype has been completed, and this itself was a new experience. Interacting with others is a skill I'm not good at, but right now, this can't be an excuse anymore. I use every part of my body, including my extremities, to make up for what I lack in skill. Even my mouth has to work full time. Aside from my own, I get to help other staff with their work, giving me the chance to earn a lot of experience. Thankfully because of this, many people have started talking to me and I have gained a lot of good friends. I am also grateful each day, for having been blessed with a superior, who generously shares his knowledge to a temp staff like me. I will do my best to meet the expectations of my co-workers as soon as I can.

Finding employment may take the right timing and luck, but needless to say, if you don't work hard, you will not succeed in any field. However, even if giving it your best does not work out, I think it may also be good to have a change of environment. Work is something you do for your personal life and livelihood. I thought about my future on a long-term basis, which is why I changed my job. People tend to think that society is everything, and when they are in a difficult situation, they often give up, unable to have the courage to go on. Taking the next step from there will enable one to open the next door.

I suppose that in the case of foreign nationals, they tend to separate and label themselves as "foreigners" and just give up. Unfortunately, there are still some companies who are particular about a worker's nationality, but the fact is, there are also some who are not. In my experience, our workplace do not regard nationality, academic background and others, to be of great importance, but rather, they consider a person in terms only of whether "*He can do his work*" or if "*He can get along well with fellow workers*".

The younger generation, in particular, should not confine themselves within the limits of a boundary, but instead, they should dream big. Our parents' generation was one that went through a hard time coming to a new place, so you may have heard a lot of their bitter stories about society and work at home. It will be unproductive to be under the impression like, "*This is how it is to work, anyway*", or "*This is what the society is all about, so just earn a living*". Learn about various societies, try to listen to other people's stories, nurture your dreams. There are plenty of places that are willing to accept us, society is changing rapidly and there are tons of opportunities awaiting. Right now, let us work hard towards our dreams and grab every chance that comes along. And there is one other thing: recently, I began to realize the importance of my native tongue. In understanding 2 languages, the possibilities in the society will also expand. We have to accomplish a variety of procedures as citizens of our own country, and have to do them all by ourselves as adults. I, myself, have started to learn Portuguese again because my language ability has been at a standstill since I was eight.

So far, I have experienced working for 3 companies and every time I have changed jobs, I've felt my horizons expanding. There is no turning back for me anymore. I intend to move ahead toward a wider world.



# Useful Information on Pets



Here are some information on keeping pets. Please treat them properly and with great care.

## ◆ Before deciding to have a pet

Pets are sold in pet shops, but dogs and cats without an owner are given protection by animal protection centers, and by registering, one can become a foster parent for these animals (Some animals are banned from being kept as pets, according to the law.) You should discuss about possible allergies with members of the family, and the lifelong responsibility of keeping a pet. Those who live in apartments or rented houses should check the terms of their occupancy, etc. Pets may become ill and grow old, and medical expenses may likewise become costly, so take into consideration the financial burden that you will have to bear. There are private pet insurance companies but there is no public pet insurance system.

•Shiga Animal Care Center	TEL. 0748-75-1911	136-98 Iwane, Konan City	<a href="http://www.sapca.jp/">http://www.sapca.jp/</a>
•Otsu City Hall Health Department Health Center	Animal Care Center		TEL. 077-574-4601
1-chome 24-2 Oginosato, Otsu City		<a href="http://www.city.otsu.lg.jp/soshiki/021/1442/">http://www.city.otsu.lg.jp/soshiki/021/1442/</a>	

## ◆ How to keep a pet (dog)

Have your pet vaccinated against rabies at a veterinary hospital (mandatory) and get a “rabies vaccination completion certificate”, then submit it to the city hall. (Combined vaccine, microchip implant, castration/contraceptive surgery, *filariasis* or heartworm disease prevention, and giving medication for flea/tick prevention are optional.) Register your dog at the city hall and get a tag and registration card (from 91 days to 120 days after birth or within 30 days from the day of ownership). Dogs over 91 days after birth will be vaccinated against rabies once a year.

- ★ Be responsible for your pets: take them for a walk, feed them, and have them vaccinated. Discipline them so as not to cause any trouble to others. Clean up your pet's feces and dispose of them at home. Letting your dog roam freely and releasing them while taking them for a walk in the park is prohibited.

## 🐾 What should I do ... !?

### ◆ My pet got lost! I have someone's pet in my care...

Contact the animal protection center or the nearest police station.

*There are pet-friendly facilities and hotels, dog cafés and dog parks in the prefecture!*

### ◆ In case my pet dies?

- Contact the city hall. \* The procedure may be different depending on the city, but some have a place for cremation of animals.

In the case of dogs, follow the procedure for cancellation of registration at the city hall. (within 30 days)

- There are also private companies dealing with pet funerals and graves.
- Burying the body of a dead animal in a private land is allowed, but is forbidden in rivers, parks, etc.

### ◆ When leaving, entering the country with my pet?

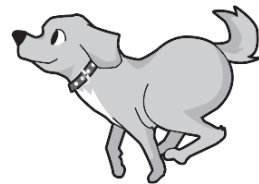
When taking a pet abroad or bringing it back home, it is necessary to comply with the requirements to be able to enter Japan and the country of destination. Since the procedure takes time, please contact the Animal Quarantine Service as soon as possible.



Animal Quarantine Service

<http://www.maff.go.jp/aqs/animal/index.html>

<http://www.maff.go.jp/aqs/english/animal/dog/index.html> (English)





# Are you prepared for disasters?



Recently, major disasters such as earthquakes, torrential rain and typhoons frequently occur. Being ready at all times is extremely important in disaster prevention! Let's keep updated on information and be prepared.

## ◆ Have you taken safety measures at home?

Take safety measures at home, such as arranging the furniture, fixing them in stable positions and preventing things from falling down.

## ◆ Are your emergency supplies ready?

In preparation for evacuation, have your sneakers ready and place the following in a backpack: masks, gloves, underwear, household medicines, emergency food, water, cash, insurance cards, contact phone numbers, a copy of your ID card (such as passport and residence card), etc.

## ◆ Do you know where the nearest evacuation area (*hinan-jo*) is?



Ask your neighbors or visit the city hall and check the hazard map in your area. It is important to remember the word "*hinan-jo*" or evacuation area, including its *kanji* character (避難所)! Do not hesitate to go to the *hinan-jo* even if you do not understand the language.

## ◆ How is information disseminated in the event of a disaster?

"Evacuation preparation" (*hinan jyunbi*), "evacuation advisory" (*hinan kankoku*) and "evacuation order" (*hinan shiji*) are disseminated through TV, radio, the internet, cellphones, announcements from public relation vehicles, disaster prevention radio communication, etc. Proceed to the evacuation area while carefully paying attention to the situation in your surroundings.



• Since telephone connection may become difficult when a disaster occurs, use the "Disaster Emergency Message Dial 171" (*saigai-yo dengon dial 171*), the "Disaster Emergency Message Board web 171" (*saigai-yo dengon-ban web 171*) and emails instead. Discuss ways for family members to contact each other and have more than one means of communication, in case others are not available (*Twitter*, *LINE*, *Facebook*, etc.). Download applications that are useful during earthquakes on your cellular phone.

*"Do what you can to reduce personal risk"*

NHK WORLD-JAPAN

Shiga Pref. Disaster Prevention Portal Site

Shiga Pref. SNS [https://twitter.com/watan\\_shiga](https://twitter.com/watan_shiga)

Shiga Pref. Disaster Prevention Information Map

Shiga Pref. Radio Station (MHz): NHK Shiga 1st Broadcasting (945)  
FM Kusatsu (78.5)

<http://www.s-i-a.or.jp/hijyou/saigai/jishin-jpn.html>

<https://www3.nhk.or.jp/nhkworld/>

<https://dis-shiga/>

<https://www.facebook.com/pref.shiga>

<http://shiga-bousai.jp/dmap/>

e-radio (77.0) FM Hikone (78.2)

B-WAVE (79.1) Radio Sweet (81.5)

## ◆ Evacuation of pets during disasters

- Check with the city hall in advance for evacuation areas that allow pets, and secure a place to temporarily look after them beforehand. The pet owner is responsible for taking care of their pets in the evacuation area.
- Pets also panic during disasters. Have them microchipped and tagged to locate them in case they went astray.
- On a regular basis, have your pets get used to being inside a cage, discipline them so as not to make unnecessary noises and train them not to be scared of other people.
- If you left your pet at home or someplace else, consult with the city hall's personnel in charge of this matter.

*Frequent friendly greetings with neighbors may likely save you in times of crisis !  
Help one another when an emergency arises !  
Participate in regional disaster prevention drills !*







# Event Information



## Setsubun Festival

(Bean-scattering ceremony)

2/3 (Sun.)

In the old days, the first day of spring (*risshun*) was the beginning of the year. On the day before this, referred to as *setsubun*, beans are thrown and scattered to ward off bad luck while chanting, "Demons out, fortune in!" (*Oni wa soto, fuku wa uchi!*)

- ◆ **Tachiki-jinja** (shrine) 4-1-3 Kusatsu, Kusatsu City  
Tel. 077-562-0420
- ◆ **Daiho jinja** (shrine) 7-5-5 Heso, Ritto City  
Tel. 077-552-2093
- ◆ **Zensui-ji** (temple) 3518 Iwane, Konan City  
Tel. 0748-72-3730
- ◆ **Taga-taisha** (shrine) 604 Taga, Taga-cho, Inukami-gun  
Tel. 0749-48-1101

## Hina Matsuri 3/3 (Sun.)

A festival praying for the happiness and healthy growth of girls. The hina dolls are adorned with peach blossoms.



- ◆ **Hino's Hina Matsuri Tour** 2/10 (Sun.) to 3/10 (Sun.)  
From Okubo to the entire area of Murai and Nishioji in Hino.

**Info** Hino Tourist Association Tel. 0748-52-6577



- ◆ **Tamura Shrine Yakuyoke (Warding off bad luck) Festival**  
2/17 (Sun.), 2/18 (Mon.), 2/19 (Tue.) Tamura-jinja  
470 Kitatsuchiyama, Tsuchiyama-cho, Koka City

**Info** Tamura-jinja (shrine) Tel. 0748-66-0018

- ◆ **Hiwatari-shinji (Fire-walking Ritual)**

2/25 (Mon.) 10:00 to 12:00

Sugawara-jinja 1041 Oaza Nagahara, Yasu City

Fire-walking experience: ¥1500

**Info** Sugawara-jinja (shrine) Tel. 077-587-2003

- ◆ **Sagicho Festival** 3/16 (Sat.), 3/17 (Sun.) 13:00~17:30  
3/18 (Mon.) 10:30~22:40

Himure Hachimangu 257 Miyauchi-cho, Omihachiman City

**Info** Omihachiman Station North Exit

Tourist Information office Tel. 0748-33-6061

- ◆ **Nagahama Hikiyama Festival** 4/9 (Tue.) to 4/17 (Wed.)

Nagahama Hachimangu 13-55 Miyamae-cho, Nagahama

**Info** Nagahama City Tourism Assn. Tel. 0749-65-6521

★ It began when the townspeople made floats from the money that Toyotomi Hideyoshi gave away in celebration of the birth of his child.



## Lake Biwa Museum



A museum where one can enjoy while learning the life and history of people, nature and living things that surround the prefecture and Lake Biwa. It's the only place in the Kansai area where you can see the Baikal seal! The "Tree Canopy Trail" is now open, where you can observe the forest from above and see a panoramic view of Lake Biwa.

Admission fee: Elem. & Jr. HS students: Free

Sr. HS students: ¥400 Adults: ¥750

**Info** Shiga Pref. Lake Biwa Museum

1091 Oroshimo-cho, Kusatsu City Tel. 077-568-4811



## Shiga Prefecture's Local Cuisine



**Jun jun** "Sukiyaki" around the northern part of Lake Biwa. Lake fish such as eel and carp, local duck meat and Omi beef, are simmered with burdock (*gobo*), long green onions and tofu in soup stock. The name "jun jun" is said to have originated from the boiling sound made when it simmers.

**Funazushi** A Japanese sushi from the ancient times in which fish is fermented with salt and cooked rice. It is made from ingredients such as *nigorobuna*, (crucian carp) which is indigenous to Lake Biwa ever since, and is a regional specialty of Shiga prefecture.

**Hikone champon** Ramen with plenty of meat and vegetables on chewy, medium-thick noodles. It is characterized by Japanese soup stock made from the fish called "bonito" (*katsuo*) and kelp (*konbu*).

**Noppei udon** Udon noodles with toppings of *shiitake* mushroom and fish paste (*kamaboko*) and a thick soup stock. A local cuisine in Nagahama and its surrounding areas.



## Mimitaro News



**Final Income Tax Return:** 2/18 (Mon.) until 3/15 (Fri.)

The following have to file their income tax return at the tax office: Individuals who paid a large amount in their medical expenses; those who purchased a house through loan, etc. and requires correction in the deducted amount; those with any income that has not been withheld; those with income from a business; and those receiving salary from more than one company. \*Subject to the revision of *Spouse Deduction* and *Spouse Special Deduction* from Heisei 30.

(Refer to *Mimitaro* no. 126 for details)

<https://www.nta.go.jp/> (in English)

**The next issue of Mimitaro will be in April.  
Don't miss it !**