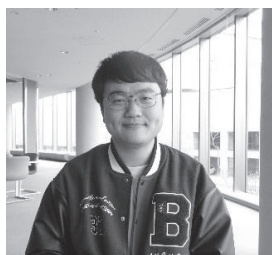




Community activities double the fun!

In this issue of Mimitaro, we interviewed Mr. Zhu Yunhao who is engaged in community activities in Nagahama.



13 years ago, I came to Japan from Wuxi, China. My father is a Chinese chef who has been working in Kyoto since I was in the third grade of elementary school. Because of that, I started learning Japanese since my third year of senior high school, and came to Japan after graduation. After studying at a Japanese language school for six months, I decided to pursue biology and enrolled in Nagahama Institute of Bio-Science and Technology. At first it was challenging to keep up with the university lectures, but I gradually became more comfortable with the language, thanks to the friendship I built with Japanese students. After completing my undergraduate degree, I continued my research on proteins in both the master's and doctoral programs. Starting from last year, I teach experiments to undergraduate students as an assistant professor in the Department of Bio-Science.

I love challenging things, and have many hobbies, ranging from watching movies and reading manga to snowboarding. I also completed "*Biwaichi*," a cycling tour around Lake Biwa. During my student years, I worked part-time jobs, including seven years at a ramen restaurant, where I mastered making Japanese ramen from noodle-making. I also worked at a café, where I served soft-serve ice cream. About three years ago, I began participating in the "*Nagahama-shi Tabunka Kyosei Machizukuri Shimin Kaigi*" (Nagahama Citizens' Council for Multicultural Community Development). At the first meeting, I was honestly surprised to see how much thought the local government puts into supporting foreign residents. In daily life, it may not be very noticeable, but the city has taken thoughtful steps, such as providing interpreters and translated materials. The city also holds events where foreigners and Japanese citizens can interact with each other, which I often attend. Recently, I participated in making "*Onigiri* (rice balls)" with international students.

At the "Lake Biwa shoreline cleanup" we all had a great time digging out large pieces of trash from the sandy beach.

One thing I've noticed through these events is that the participants are often the same faces, and there's not much diversity in the group. Foreigners often associate with only their own people, and it's not easy for them to join local government events. I used to feel the same way, thinking "This event looks interesting," but lacking the courage to take the first step. However, once I did, I enjoyed getting to know Japanese people and began to love the events. Interaction among citizens is important for people from various countries to live in harmony, and that can start with simply enjoying events together. Right now, I feel that the efforts to build a foreigner-friendly community are largely one-sided, led by the Japanese, but for real success, foreigners also need to take an active role. Since Japanese people are the majority, it is natural for foreigners to feel hesitant. That is why I want to suggest, why don't we foreigners invite Japanese people to our events? I am sure that many Japanese would be happy to participate and many friends would be made.

My participation in the event led people to reach out to me, and after registering as a volunteer with the city, I became involved in a wide range of activities. Currently, I have the opportunity to meet people of all nationalities, young and old, men and women, by assisting in "Chinese language class," "Japanese language class," and "Children study class" for foreign children. I take on activities I feel are worthwhile without worrying too much about perfection, if one or two good things come from them, that is enough for me. Perhaps because I tend to forget unpleasant experiences and focus on the good ones, I truly enjoy all these activities. I think I simply enjoy talking to people.

The world and life offer both joy and sorrow, but as long as we aim for the positive, happiness will surely follow. Let's go out, seek joy, and enjoy life to the fullest!

Interpretation * Consultation Desks for Foreign Residents in Shiga

Note: Ja (Japanese), Pt (Portuguese), Es (Spanish), En (English), Vi (Vietnamese), Zh (Chinese), Tl (Tagalog),
ICT (AI interpreting devices and remote interpreting)

Area	Consultation Desk	Language(s)	Consultation Schedule		Contact
Otsu	City Hall Kikaku chousei-ka	En, ICT	Mon - Fri	9:00am-5:00pm	077-536-5612
	Otsu Int'l. Goodwill Association Free private consultation for foreign residents/ Asuto Hamaotsu	Only in Ja	2 nd Wed	5:30pm-, 6:15pm-, 7:00pm- (Reservation required)	077-525-4711
Hikone	Hikone Foreign Residents Support Center (<i>Hikone Gaikokujin Sodan Center</i>)	Pt, En, ICT	Mon - Fri	9:00am-4:45pm	0749-30-6113
		Zh	Tue, Fri (Wed)		
	① City Hall 3F Jinken seisaku-ka	Vi	Tue, Thu, Fri		
	② Chuo-cho Bekkan 1F	En, ICT	Mon - Fri	9:00am-4:45pm	0749-22-5931
Nagahama	City Hall Shimin-ka	Pt, Es, En, ICT	Thu	9:00am-7:00pm	0749-65-8711
			Mon - Wed, Fri	9:00am-4:45pm	
		Vi	Tue 1:00-4:45pm	Thu 1:00-7:00pm	0749-63-4400
	Nagahama-shi Tabunka Kyosei Kokusai Bunka Koryu House GEO	Only in Ja	Every day (except Thu)	10:00am-6:00pm	
Omi-hachiman	Omi-hachiman Int'l Association City Hall 2F	Pt, En, ICT	Mon - Fri	9:00am-4:45pm	0748-26-7092
Kusatsu	City Hall 2F Machizukuri kyodo-ka	En, ICT	Mon - Fri	9:00am-4:00pm	077-561-2337
Moriyama	Moriyama Int'l. Friendship Assn Moriyama Shimin Koryu Center	En, ICT (Inquire first)	Mon - Fri	9:00am-4:30pm	077-583-4653
Ritto	Ritto Int'l. Friendship Association City Hall 3F	Pt	Wed	1:00-5:00pm	077-551-0293
Koka	City Hall Shimin katsudo suishin-ka	Pt, Es, ICT	Mon - Fri	8:30am-5:15pm	0748-69-2146
		Vi	Mon, Tue, Thu, Fri 10:00am-5:00pm Wed 10:00am-2:00pm		
	City Hall Kosodate seisaku-ka	Pt, Es, ICT	Mon - Fri	9:00am-4:00pm	0748-69-2176
	City Hall Seikatsu shien-ka	Pt, Es, ICT	Mon - Fri	8:30am-5:15pm	0748-69-2158
	Koka International Society Koka Cultural Center	Pt, Es, En, ICT	Tue - Sun	9:00am-5:00pm	0748-70-3721
Yasu	City Hall Sogo chousei-ka Each department	ICT	Mon - Fri	8:30am-5:15pm	077-587-6039
	Yasu Int'l. Friendship Association City Hall Minami Bekkan	En	Mon - Fri	9:00am-5:00pm	077-586-3106
Konan	City Hall Higashi chosha 1F Jinken yogo-ka	Pt, ICT	Mon - Fri	8:30am-5:15pm	0748-71-2354
	Konan International Association City Hall Nishi Chosha 4F	Pt, ICT Vi (once a month)	Mon - Fri	8:30am-5:00pm	0748-69-7530
Takashima	Takashima Int'l. Friendship Assn Imazu Higashi Community Center	En, Vi	Irregular schedule (by appointment)		0740-20-1180
Higashiomi	City Hall Shinkan Shimin seikatsu sodan-ka	Pt, ICT	Mon - Fri	9:00am-5:00pm	0748-24-5521
Maibara	City Hall Santo Shisho Chiiki shinko-ka	Pt, ICT	Mon - Fri	9:00am-4:45pm	0749-53-5172
	Maibara Multicultural and International Association Santo shisho Bekkan 2F	Pt	Mon - Fri	9:00am-4:45pm	0749-56-0577
		Zh	Mon - Thu	9:00am-3:00pm	
Hino	Town Office Jumin-ka	Pt, ICT	Mon, Wed, Thu	9:00am-5:00pm	0748-52-6571
Aisho	Town Office Echigawa Chosha Mirai sosei-ka	Pt, ICT	Mon, Tue, Fri Wed, Thu	8:30am-5:15pm 8:30am-4:30pm	0749-29-9046
Shiga Prefecture	Shiga Foreign Residents Information Center SIA	Pt, Es, En, Vi, Tl, ICT	Mon - Fri	10:00am-5:00pm	077-523-5646

Japanese Language Classes in Shiga



Area	Classroom Name	Venue	Class Schedule	Contact
Otsu	OIGA Hamaotsu class	Otsu Kokusai Koryu Salon	Fri 1:30-2:30pm, 7:00-8:00pm	077-525-4711
	OIGA Katata class	Katata Community Center	Thu 10:00-11:45am	
	Nihongo no kai	Otsu Kominkan	Thu 10:00am-12:00pm	090-1479-5468
	Omi Nihongo Fureai Club	Seta-kita Kominkan	Sat 7:30-9:10pm	077-523-1061
	Tabunka Kyosei Shien Club	Seta Kominkan 2F	Fri 7:00-8:30pm	077-543-9414
Hikone	Weekday Nihongo Kyoshitsu	Innovation Office Nayashichi	Mon - Fri ①9:30-10:50am ②11:00am-12:20pm ③1:30-2:50pm ④3:00-4:20pm	070-5661-7345
Nagahama	Nagahama UNESCO Kyokai Nihongo Kyoshitsu	Kokusai Bunka Koryu House GEO	Wed, Sat 7:00-8:30pm	0749-65-6552
	Tanoshii Nihongo		Tue 6:30-8:00pm	0749-63-4400
Omi-hachiman	Nihongo Koryu Kyoshitsu Tanpopo	Kaneda Community Center	Sat 7:00-9:00pm	0748-26-7092
	Nihongo Koryu Kyoshitsu Azuchi	Azuchi Community Center		
	Nihongo Koryu Kyoshitsu Nakayoshi	Kaneda Community Center	Wed 10:00-11:30am	
Kusatsu	Olive	Kirarie Kusatsu	Sat 7:00-8:40pm	077-565-9215
	SHIPS Nihongo Kyoshitsu	Tabunka Kyosei Shien Center	Wed, Fri 10:30am-12:00pm	077-561-5110
	KIFA Nihongo Hiroba “Kizuna”	Ritsumeikan Univ. BKC	Sat 10:20am-12:00pm	077-561-2322
Moriyama	Moriyama Nihongo Kyoshitsu	Moriyama Shimin Koryu Center	1 st - 4 th Sat 10:00-11:50am	077-583-4653
	Nihongo Salon		Mon - Fri 10:00am-12:00pm	090-8648-9749
Ritto	RIFA Nihongo Kyoshitsu	Community Center Daiho	2 nd & 4 th Sat 10:15-11:45am 3 rd Sun	077-551-0293
Koka	KIS Ninja Nihongo Kyoshitsu	Minakuru Plaza	Sat 7:30-9:10pm	0748-63-8728
	KIS Nihongo Kyoshitsu “Niji”	Maroom, Minakuru Plaza	Mon 2:00-3:30pm	
	Hajimete no Nihongo	Minakuru Plaza	Inquiry required	0748-70-3721
Yasu	YIFA Nihongo Kyoshitsu	Yasu International Association	Arrangements possible	077-586-3106
Konan	KIA Nihongo Kyoshitsu Ishibe	Ishibe Machizukuri Center	Mon 2:00-3:30pm Thu 7:00-8:30pm	0748-69-7530
	KIA Nihongo Kyoshitsu Mito	Mito Community Center	Sat 6:30-8:00pm	
	Caminando	Mikumo Chiiki Jinken Fukushi Shimin Koryu Center	Mon, Wed 7:00-9:00pm	090-1448-3350
Takashima	Takashima International Assn. Nihongo Kyoshitsu	Imazu Higashi Community Center	Arrangements possible	0740-20-1180
	Nihongo de Hanaso	Shin-asahi Kominkan	Once a month (Inquiry required)	
Higashiomi	Yokaichi Nihongo Kyoshitsu Volunteer Group	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 shisho bekkann (annex)	Sat 9:30-11:00 am	0749-56-0577
Aisho	International Friendship Assn. Volunteer Nihongo Kyoshitsu	Echigawa Kominkan	Sat, Sun ①10:00-11:30am ②1:30-3:00pm ③3:15-4:45pm	070-5593-1769
Toyosato	Nihongo Yomikaki Kyoshitsu	Toyosato Rinpoken	2 nd & 4 th Sat 2:00-4:00pm	0749-35-0611
Online	ONRITANS	Online classes	Mon - Fri / Arrangements possible	satorubox@gmail.com

Mimitaro Information

◆ Summer festivals in Shiga

- Shigaraki Fire Festival Jul 19th (Sat)
Atagoyama Toki Jinja Nagano Shigaraki-cho Koka
- Ohara Gion Festival Jul 23rd (Wed), 24th (Thu)
Otori Jinja 783 Toriino Koka-cho Koka
- Moriyama Summer Festival Jul 26th (Sat)
Around JR Moriyama station west gate rotary

◆ Fireworks Festival

- Echigawa Gion Noryosai Fireworks Fest. Jul 19th (Sat)
- Koka-ryu Ninnin Fireworks Fest. Jul 26th (Sat)
- Biwako Fireworks Fest. Aug 8th (Fri)
- Nagahama Kitabiwako Fireworks Fest.
Sept 17th, 18th, 19th (Wed, Thu, Fri)



◆ Summer outing locations

- Lake Biwa Museum 1091 Oroshimo-cho Kusatsu
Museum to learn about Lake Biwa
- Otsu City Science Museum 6-50 Honmaru-cho Otsu
Planetarium and astronomy dome can be seen
- Koka Ninja House 2331 Ryuboushi Konan-cho Koka
Experience the world of ninja in a real ninja house
- Minakuchi Children's Forest Nature Park and Museum
10 Kitanaiki Minakuchi-cho Koka
A park and museum with a *Satoyama* landscape theme

◆ The 79th National Sports Festival

“Wata-SHIGA Kagayaku Koku-supō”

Sept 28th (Sun) - Oct 8th (Wed)

The 24th National Sports Festival for
People with Disabilities

“Wata-SHIGA Kagayaku Sho-supō”

Oct 25th (Sat) - 27th (Mon)

The largest sports festival in Japan, held annually, will be taking place in Shiga this year! For details, please check the website.



<https://shiga-sports2025.jp/>

Shiga Foreign Residents Information Center

(within Shiga Intercultural Association for Globalization)

Tel 077-523-5646 Fax 077-510-0601

email: mimitaro@s-i-a.or.jp

Next issue of Mimitaro is scheduled in October

Mimitaro News

◆ Notice regarding the Census

- The Census will be conducted on all people (including foreign residents) living in Japan as of October 1, 2025.
- It is conducted once every 5 years, and is the most important statistical survey in Japan.
- From Mid-September, census takers will visit each household and distribute census documents.
- All residents of Japan are obligated to respond, so please be sure to submit a response.
- We recommend you responding online.
- For more information, please visit the following site.

Census 2025 Search

<https://www.kokusei2025.go.jp/about/en/>



◆ Multilingual telephone consultation for children's concerns

Counseling on children's and youth's problems and parent's concerns and worries about childcare is available in several languages.

Telephone consultation / Interpreter available

Portuguese, Spanish, English, Chinese, Indonesian, Vietnamese, Tagalog, French, Russian, Nepali, Korean

Tel: 077-524-2030

Period: Jul 16th (Wed) - Sept 15th (Mon) 5:00 - 9:00pm

Shiga Prefecture Child Rearing Support Center

(Kokoron Dial)



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

Date and time: Oct 12th (Sun) 1:30 - 4:00pm

Venue: Yasu Bunka Hall, Small theater

Inquiry: Shiga Intercultural Association for Globalization

Tel 077-526-0931

◆ Joint professional consultation for foreigners

Various consultations are available on residency, labor, daily life, human rights, etc.

Face-to-face consultation/ Interpreter available/

30 min per person/ Reservations start from Mid August

Date: Oct 20th (Mon) 1:00pm - 5:00pm

Venue: Otsu Biwako Godo-chosha 1F meeting room

Organized by Osaka Regional Immigration Services Bureau

More details will be announced later on Facebook

Inquiry: Shiga Foreign Residents

Information Center Tel 077-523-5646



Facebook