

AIZU WAKAMATSU INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION MONTHLY ENGLISH NEWSLETTER

SynthesAizu

October 2021
Volume 1 Issue 10

Association News

Online Bingo & Culture Exchange!



Sunday, October 10th!

*(3 session times available, limited to 7 guests per session)

Join us this month for an online bingo event! Come enjoy casual conversation with other members of the international community while trying your luck at winning some prizes!

Session 1	14:00 - 14:50
Session 2	15:00 - 15:50
Session 3	16:00 - 16:50

Japanese, English, and Chinese interpretation available!

Enjoy chatting in different languages with other members of the international community!

To sign up, please send your name and (2) session preferences by Saturday, October 9th to our email: mail@awia.jp

**A computer or other device with internet access is needed to join.*

Summer Sky Fest Cancelled

We regret to announce that this year's "Aizu Summer Sky Festival" has **officially been cancelled for 2021**. The festival, which was originally scheduled to take place at the end of August, was postponed until October 9th & 10th due to Coronavirus concerns. Sadly, the festival was ultimately cancelled due to the spike in cases from the Delta variant. We would like to thank everyone who was planning to participate in the AWIA's "International Zone" at this year's festival, and we look forward to seeing everyone again next year!



Halloween Open House Event!

We're back to our spooky ways this year at the AWIA! Come join us for Halloween festivities on Sunday, October 31st! Trick-or-treaters can pick up a Halloween sweet, take photos in our costume photo booth, and enjoy a variety of other spooky activities.

Date: October 31st (Sun), 10:00~16:00 (drop-in)

Place: Lion D'or Building, 3F free space (2 floors below the AWIA!)

Price: Free! Members and non-members of all ages welcome!

Hey, you there...hmm...yes, I'm sensing... a powerful Halloween spirit! If you are hungry for more Halloween fun, we are in need of some ghoulish helpers for this event! We are recruiting volunteers to help decorate beforehand and operate activities on the day of the event. Even if you can only drop by for an hour, every bit helps! If you'd like to join, come to the AWIA on Sunday, October 24th anytime between 10:00 - 17:00 for our volunteer prep day!

Halloween Quiz

Test your knowledge of monster folklore and Halloween traditions around the world!



Monster Mask Craft

No costume? No worries! Come make a simple Halloween mask at our all-ages craft corner!



Costume Photo-Booth

Show off your costume with some spooky props in our photo booth! Our costumed staff members are happy to hold the camera, or join in for a group photo!



会津若松市国際交流協会

AIZU WAKAMATSU INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION

TEL (0242) 27-3703

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This Month in Aizu-Wakamatsu

Covid-19 and Vaccine Updates

Aizu-Wakamatsu Opens Vaccine Waitlist for Sudden Cancellations and Vaccine Surplus

Aizu Wakamatsu has opened a waiting list for anyone willing to receive their vaccine on short notice in the event that someone cancels a reservation or there is a surplus of doses at the end of the day. If you have already made a reservation to receive your vaccine, your scheduled inoculation day must be more than 14 days away to be eligible for the waiting list.



To register, please scan the QR code or visit the Aizu Wakamatsu city homepage and look for the "Innoculation of Surplus Vaccine" article under the "About New Coronavirus Vaccination" page.

Aizu Wakamatsu Passes 50% Inoculation Rate in Vaccine-Eligible Population

In late August, Aizu Wakamatsu opened vaccine reservations to all residents over the age of 12. On September 19th, the city homepage reported that 55% of Aizu residents had received both their first and second dose of the vaccine. More than 82% of vaccine-eligible residents have made a reservation for at least one dose of the vaccine. Furthermore, over 95% of Aizu's over-65 elderly population have received both doses of the vaccine.

Aizu Necchu Seminars

Are you an avid learner looking for new ways to develop professionally? Now, foreign residents can take advantage of a fantastic opportunity to enhance their careers and learn more about their passions through face-to-face seminars hosted by industry professionals! The Aizu Necchu Seminar series usually costs 15,000JPY for a season pass, but this year foreign residents can join for FREE!! Check out the seminar schedule and website below for more details! (*Seminars are held in Japanese*)

Oct. 9th	Masaru Kanda, Ph.D - Kuroshio Current Experience Center President Kimihiro Yoneyama - Author, Doctor
Nov. 13th	Hiroyasu Uno - Business Producer
Dec. 11th	Joji Osada - Humanities Professor, Koriyama Women's University Ko Omura - Composer, actress, musician
Jan. 15th	Shigeo Maeda - Maeda Foods Co., Rep. Taku Miyake - Studio Gift Hands Rep.
Feb. 12th	Kyoko Sasaki - Weather Researcher at the Japanese Meteorological Agency
Mar. 12th	Haruhiko Suzuki - Shueisha Publishing Creative Department Rep. Shunsuke Nakamura - Shikumi Design Rep.

For more information, visit:
aizu-necchu.jp

Autumn Leaves in Aizu

1) Bandai Azuma Skyline

Tsuchiyu Onsen Town

Peak Viewing:
Late Sep. to Early Oct.



As one of the most popular autumn leaf spots in Tohoku, the Bandai Azuma mountain road boasts stunning views of both the autumn colors and the town below.

<https://koyo.walkerplus.com/detail/ar0207e12909/>

2) Mt. Adatarara

Koriyama

Peak Viewing:
Early to Mid-Oct.



Breathe in the crisp fall air while enjoying the vibrant autumn colors on Mt. Adatarara's trails! A gondola is also available for a relaxing trip up the mountain.

<https://koyo.walkerplus.com/detail/ar0207e154471/>

3) Goshikinuma Lakes

Urabandai

Peak Viewing:
Mid-Oct. to Early Nov.



At Aizu's famous "five-colored lakes," visitors can enjoy seeing double the autumn leaves in the smooth reflection on the lake's surface. Rowboats and walking trails are also available for a full day of autumnal enjoyment.

<https://koyo.walkerplus.com/detail/ar0207e203496/>

Iwaki Bus Tour with Akabeko Salon!

This month, our friends at the Akabeko Salon are hosting a FREE bus tour through Iwaki city for foreign residents! Come enjoy the beautiful autumn landscape of Fukushima and taste local delicacies from the Iwaki city coast! The tour is free of charge with a *slight* catch! Guests will be asked to share photos of their experience on their social media.

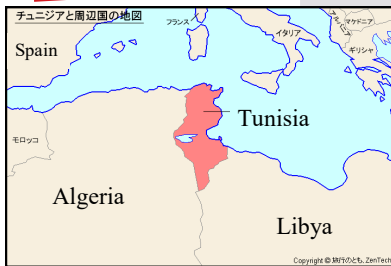
Schedule	
8:30	Meet at Aizu Wakamatsu Station
9:00	Departure
18:00	Return to Aizu Wakamatsu



When: Sunday, October 31st
Where: Tour Iwaki City and surrounding areas by bus!
Cost: FREE! (guests must share the tour on social media)
Capacity: 10 Guests
Sign-Up: salon-akabeko@bekonon.com

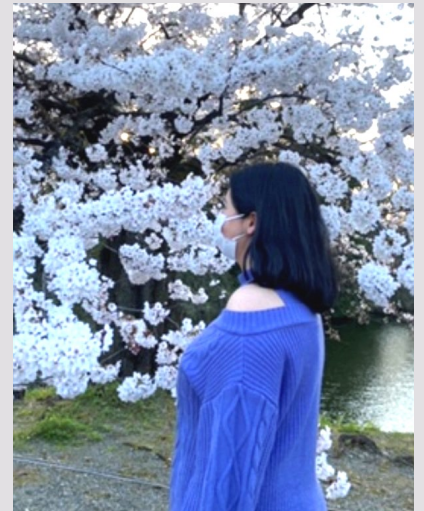


Member Spotlight: Tesnim Ben Abdallah



Tunisia is located on the northern tip of Africa and is bordered by the Mediterranean Sea. A popular destination for travelers, Tunisia is a treasure trove of unique history and culture.

Born in the Tunisian capital city of Tunis, Tesnim (Tes) Ben Abdallah is a 2nd year student at Aizu Wakamatsu Zabelio Gakuen High School. She recently joined the AWIA after participating in the “Global Human Resources Seminar” for High School students. This fall, Tess also won the position of Student Council President at her school, and hopes to create a place where each student can hold and share their own opinions. In her interview, Tes shares with us the importance of understanding your own ideas while taking an interest in others.



Helping Others Through Language What Being a “Global Citizen” Means to Me

Q. What kind of place is Tunisia?

Tunisia has a beautiful landscape, especially near the coastline. The summers are very hot, and tourists come from all over the world to enjoy the summer sun. The ruins of Carthage are also quite famous.

Q. What is your connection to Tunisia?

I was born in Tunisia and moved to Japan when I was 3 years old. I only attended school in Tunisia for 1 year before my family came here for my father’s work. Since then, I’ve always lived here in Japan. The school calendars are different in Japan and Tunisia, so I actually experienced my school entrance ceremony twice, once in Tunisia and once again here in Japan.

Before Covid, my family and I would return to Tunisia every year. I always really enjoyed spending time with my cousins. Our families love gathering together, and we would often throw a big party when we met up.

Q. What language do you use when you speak with other people from Tunisia?

The official languages of Tunisia are Arabic and French, so when I talk with my cousins we use a mix of both languages.

Q. That’s amazing! Do you speak any other languages?

I speak Russian, Spanish, a bit of Korean, and Japanese.

Q. So with English included, that’s seven languages in total, right? How did you learn them all?

Well, with Russian I had a friend from Russia who taught me. Her family also spoke Russian at home, so I had a lot of exposure to it when I went over to her house to play.

I learned Spanish through self-study. I first became interested in it because my cousins were studying it at school in Tunisia. When I heard them speaking Spanish, the sound of the language really captured my interest.

Korean is also self-study. I really like K-pop and Korean dramas, so I use those to study. I also have a friend whose mother is Korean, so when I learn a new phrase I’ll try saying it to her. It always makes me really happy when she understands, and motivates me to keep learning more words.

With English, I think it’s about the same as everyone else.

Of course, I watched the news in English and read English newspapers, but I think the easiest way for me to learn was by speaking with my friends who know English, and by learning through natural conversation.

Since languages are my hobby, I’m constantly absorbing language through dramas, news, music, etc. At the bare minimum, I interact with at least 3 different languages a day just in my daily life. Lately there are all kinds of apps you can use to study language, so sometimes I look up from my phone and 2 hours have passed without me noticing! It really is so fun to learn, it doesn’t feel like a chore in the slightest.

Q. Do you have any dreams for the future?

Ever since I was small, I’ve always wanted to help people and work to eliminate world poverty. When I was a child, I thought I wanted to become a doctor, but then I learned that a medical license can only be used in one country. I don’t want to be limited to only Japan or only Tunisia, I want to be able to go anywhere and work where people are most in need. Now, my dream is not to become a doctor, but to help as many people as I can with my language skills. I love talking with all kinds of people, and I can get along with almost anyone I meet. I think I could channel my skills by becoming a diplomat or working for a large international corporation. I also want to do different kinds of volunteer work if I can. There are so many things I’d like to do, so I haven’t quite figured out exactly where it will lead, but I still strongly believe that something must be done to solve world poverty.

Q. Finally, what do you think it means to be a “Global Citizen”?

I believe a global citizen is not just someone who can speak many languages, but a person who fosters an international mindset by taking a genuine interest in other cultures. A global citizen is someone who can see things from various points of view and understand different ways of thinking.

I think the first step towards an international society is for each person to have their own ideas. Take an interest in another culture, learn about it, and understand your own opinions through it. To me, that’s the most important part.

Events in October



1	FR	10:00 Japanese Conversation Class (AM)
2	SA	13:30 Hello World Club
3	SU	Closed (Inbound Guide Seminar)
4	MO	Closed
5	TU	13:30 Nihongo Salon
6	WE	
7	TH	18:30 Japanese Conversation Class (PM)
8	FR	10:00 Japanese Conversation Class (AM)
9	SA	
10	SU	14:00 Online Bingo Culture Exchange
11	MO	Closed
12	TU	13:30 Nihongo Salon
13	WE	
14	TH	18:30 Japanese Conversation Class (PM)
15	FR	10:00 Japanese Conversation Class (AM)
16	SA	13:30 Hello World Club
17	SU	Closed
18	MO	Closed
19	TU	13:30 Nihongo Salon
20	WE	
21	TH	18:30 Japanese Conversation Class (PM)
22	FR	10:00 Japanese Conversation Class (AM)
23	SA	
24	SU	Halloween Volunteer Preparation Day
25	MO	Closed
26	TU	13:30 Nihongo Salon
27	WE	
28	TH	18:30 Japanese Conversation Class (PM)
29	FR	10:00 Japanese Conversation Class (AM)
30	SA	13:30 Newsletter Release Preparation 13:30 Hello World Club
31	SU	10:00 HALLOWEEN Open House Event

Other Information

Aizu's "Shoku no Jin" Autumn Theme

あいつ
食の陣

Aizu's "Shoku no Jin" is a year-round food festival that challenges restaurants and businesses to highlight local products by setting a culinary "theme" for each season. The theme for autumn is "Rice and Sake."

The Aizu region is known for cultivating high-quality rice, thanks to its unique location in a mountain basin. Starting October 1st and running through the end of December, over 50 local restaurants, shops, and hotels will be offering limited-time menu items that feature locally-produced rice and sake.



Visit the Shoku no Jin homepage (Japanese) for details about participating shops and menu offerings:
<https://aizu-shokuno-jin.jp/>

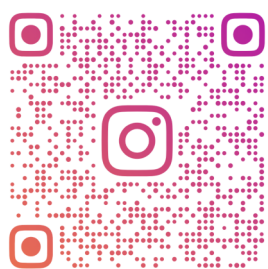


"Hawaiian Time" Hula Dance Performance

Not quite ready to wave goodbye to summer? Come enjoy one last night of summer fun with a live Hawaiian Hula performance! This month, the Hula Hālau 'O Lāhiki dance school, based in Koriyama, is coming to Aizu for a one-night hula show! Visitors can enjoy an authentic hula presentation accompanied by live music. If you're still hungry for more hula after the show, the school is always welcoming new students of all ages and experience levels.

Date	October 16th (Sat), 19:00 (doors open at 18:30)
Place	Aizu City Learning Center, Multipurpose Hall, 1F
Tickets	500JPY / Person

For tickets and more information, please contact the Hula Hālau 'O Lāhiki Dance school:
TEL: 090-2984-8383 Email: hulahalauolahiki@gmail.com



We're on Instagram!
Follow us for photos and news about our upcoming events!



AWIA_PHOTO

<http://facebook.com/awiajp>



Visit our Facebook page for the latest updates in multiple languages!

965-0871 Fukushima-ken, Aizu Wakamatsu-shi, Sakae-machi 2-14, Lion D'or Garden 5th Floor

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