

Events in July

1	SA	
2	SU	Closed
3	MO	Closed
4	TU	
5	WE	
6	TH	
7	FR	
8	SA	9:00 Farm Visit 10:00 Satellite JICA Desk 15:00 High School Students Discussion Closed
9	SU	10:00 Children's Nihongo Hiroba 10:00 AtsuHana Japanese Convo. Circle Closed
10	MO	Closed
11	TU	
12	WE	
13	TH	
14	FR	
15	SA	10:00 FIND: Museum Edition
16	SU	Closed
17	MO	Closed (Sea Day)
18	TU	
19	WE	
20	TH	
21	FR	
22	SA	18:00 AWIA Summer Night
23	SU	Closed 10:00 Children's Nihongo Hiroba
24	MO	Closed
25	TU	
26	WE	
27	TH	
28	FR	
29	SA	13:30 Newsletter Preparation
30	SU	Closed
31	MO	Closed

Other Information

Satellite "FIND": Museum Edition

FIND English Convo. Club will be held at the Fukushima Pref. Museum this month! Come chat and learn about the museum and Fukushima's history!

When	Saturday, July 15 th 10:00~11:30
Place	***Fukushima Pref. Museum - Jotomachi 1-25*** (East of Tsuruga-jo Castle)
Sign Up	Contact mail@awia.jp by <u>Friday, July 14th</u>



Due to the nature of this event, we ask that participants wear masks. Thank you for your understanding.

Satellite JICA Desk - July 8 10:00-14:00

Come chat with Ms. Matsuyama about her experience in JICA etc.
High-School Students Discussion Time - 15:00-17:00

Fukushima/Sri Lanka Friendship Assoc.

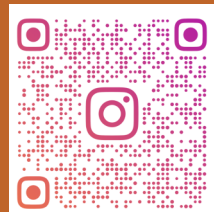
Building connections between Fukushima and Sri Lanka. The Establishment Meeting of the Fukushima-Sri Lanka Friendship Association will be held this September, with Special Guest Mr. E. Rodney M. Perera, his Excellency the Ambassador of Sri Lanka to Japan. They are accepting memberships now!

Date: Sept 9th (Sat) 13:30-14:45
Place: Koriyama View Hotel Annex (Koriyama, Nakamachi 10-10)
Cost: Free for Members
Contact: Chinthaka Kumara **TEL:** 080-1806-0478
Email: fukushima.srilanka@gmail.com
Matsuyama Satomi (JICA Desk) **TEL:** 080-2809-5543
*After the meeting, there is a get-together with the Ambassador. The ticket price is about ¥10,000.
Contact Mr. Kumara or Ms. Matsuyama for more details.

Call for Newsletter Volunteers!

Come help us fold, stamp, and pack our monthly publications for mailing! No need to sign up, just drop by if you can!

Date: July 29th, Saturday **Time:** 13:30~
Place: Aizu Wakamatsu International Association Office



We're on Instagram!

Follow us for photos and news about our upcoming events!

AWIA_PHOTO



<https://facebook.com/awiajp>

Visit our Facebook page for updates in multiple languages!



Use this QR Code and access our email form to sign-up for events

965-0871 Fukushima-ken, Aizu Wakamatsu-shi, Sakae-machi 2-14, Lion D'or Garden 5th Floor
TEL: (0242) 27-3703 | FAX: (0242) 27-3704 | EMAIL: mail@awia.jp | SITE: <https://www.awia.jp>

AIZU WAKAMATSU INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION MONTHLY ENGLISH NEWSLETTER

SynthesAizu

July 2023
Volume 3 Issue 7

Association News

Important

Due to low foot traffic, the Aizuwakamatsu International Association Office **will be CLOSED on Sundays** starting in July. We will continue holding events on Sundays but our office will be closed to visitors. Stop by anytime from Tuesday to Saturday~ We would love to see you.

AWIA Summer Night!!

It's Summer! Our Big Event this year will give you plenty of opportunity to chat and meet other members. Feel the summer vibes with a few summer activities like Watermelon Smashing and Yo-yo fishing alongside dinner and mingling. Why not wear a kimono or some of your culture's traditional clothes?

If you've got a talent you want to show off, take advantage of the open mic! Contact us if you're interested!

When	July 22nd (Sat) 18:00-20:00	Who	Anyone!!
Where	Ayumu Café (AiCT Building)	Cost	Adult: ¥3000 Student (13+): ¥2000 Elem. Age(6-12): ¥1500 Under 6y/o: Free!
Sign-up	Contact AWIA (mail@awia.jp) before July 15 (Sat)		

AtsuHana!

The Japanese version of 'FIND'! It can be difficult for Japanese-Learners to meet people and make friends, so we have created a space to meet people and chat!

Starting off with a game followed by Free Talk Time, come have fun!

Due to the nature of this event, we ask that participants wear masks. Thank you for your understanding.

When	Sunday, July 9 th 10:00~11:30
Place	Aizuwakamatsu City Learning Centre 3F Room 1
Limit	30 people
Sign Up	Contact mail@awia.jp by <u>Saturday, July 8th</u>



Japanese 'Speech' Contest

Try something new! Sign-up Deadline: July 25(Tues)

Fukushima International Association is holding a Japanese Speech Contest for foreign residents. This is not only a chance to show off your Japanese skills, it's an opportunity to show off what you can do! Contestants will also be judged on their presentation and entertainment skills, not just Japanese! Why not challenge yourself!

Date: Aizu Contest: Sept 3rd (Sun)
Prefectural Contest: Oct 28th (Sat)

Open to: Speakers of Japanese as a Additional Language

Theme: Fukushima: Your thoughts, feelings, and experiences.

(福島県で「言いたいこと」「思うこと」「考えること」) **Length:** ~3min

Categories: (all participants will get a gift!)

- Student (Elem., Junior High, High School)
- Regular A (Lived in Japan for under 3years)
- Regular B (Lived in Japan for 3years+)

Sign-up: Send an application to the Fukushima International Assoc.

email: yananichi-f@worldvillage.org

More Info: <https://www.worldvillage.org/news.html?id=5539>

Prizes
1st: ¥30,000
2nd: ¥20,000
Special: ¥10,000

And more!



会津若松市国際交流協会

AIZU WAKAMATSU INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION

TEL (0242) 27-3703

EMAIL: mail@awia.jp

This Month in Aizu

Aizuwakamatsu Summer Festivals

There are quite a few temples and shrines throughout Aizuwakamatsu, and in the summer, they hold small festivals often to pray for health and safety of the neighbourhood. Some of these festivals have been bringing summer fun since the time of Gamo Ujisato (an Aizu Lord) in the 1500s. Here are some you can check out, and enjoy festival foods like taiyaki or choco-banana. We can't write about all of them, but keep an eye out for the one happening in your area!



◆Onbason/Chofukuji Temple Festival

7/1 Time: ~noon-20:00
Location: Nisshinmachi (Near Nisshin Elem.)
Other: The first festival of the season!!

◆DainichiNyorai/Mirokuji Temple Festival

7/8 Time: 9:00-18:00
Location: Omachi 1cho (Near the Aizu Dentokan)

◆Tanaka Inari-jinja Lantern Flower Fest.

7/10 Time: ~noon-20:00
Location: Hideo Noguchi Street (near Shinmei Doori)
Other: Enjoy different stalls, and small performances. Why not buy a lantern flower?



◆Ishizuka Kannondo Temple Festival

7/16 Time: ~noon-20:00
Location: Kawaramachi (Near Nishiwakamatsu Station)

◆Hachiman Shrine Festival

7/22 Time: 13:00-19:00
Location: Yamamimachi (Near Gakuho School)



◆Yanagihara Shrine Festival

7/25 Time: 9:00-20:00
Location: Sugawara Shrine (Yanagihara-machi 6) (Same place as the Farm Visit)
Other: There is a (small) portable shrine carrying event on the 24th from 19:30

◆Suwa Shrine Festival

7/27 Time: 11:00-20:00
Location: Honmachi (near Xaverio and Aoi Schools)



◆Shinmei Festival

8/4 Time: ~noon-21:00
Location: Under the arcade on Shinmei doori, outside of the AWIA Office building



Tajima Gionsai

Enjoy the largest festival Minamiaizu has to offer. At night, local children perform kabuki on carts, but the highlight is the Nanahokai Procession (Bride 'parade.'). The Tajima Gionsai is one of the top Gionsai in Japan and attracts visitors and photographers from all over the country. Unmarried women dress up in traditional bride clothing and walk in a parade down the main street of Tajima, carrying offerings to the shrine. All together, more than 100 people participate. It's truly a wonderful sight.

Date: July 22-24th (Sat-Mon)

Place: Tajima, Minamiaizu

Details:

Nanahokai (bride) Procession:

07:50am July 23rd

Kabuki Performances: 16:00-late

Access: Aizu Tetsudo Railway to Tajima

More info:

<https://www.kanko-aizu.com/miru/26278/>



Kitakata Retro Fest



7/15 12:00-21:00

7/16 9:00-16:00

Enjoy showcases such as: Tanabata decorations, a car show, retro fashion show, retro machines and more! Also enjoy pro wrestling, local sake and the old timey vibes of the area. See the website for flier, and more information.

<https://www.kitakata-retro.jp/news/1833/>

A Message from a Member:

E. R. wanted to do tea ceremony with her visiting nieces. We got her in touch with Miyazaki-san, who is a tea ceremony teacher. This is what she said about her time:

It was a very cool experience. We started with the traditional kimono dressing. The tea ceremony was also great. We were lucky enough to see both the Sencha tea ceremony and the Matcha tea ceremony. We even got to make our own tea. We would highly recommend to try it. All the members of Miyazaki-sensei's family were very nice, knowledgeable and friendly, and answered all of our questions. The whole experience was amazing. We recommend the ceremony to anyone going to Aizuwakamatsu.



If you'd like to try it out yourself, contact us: mail@awia.jp
Miyazaki-san's website: <https://aizu-charakukai.com/>

The New President of AWIA



Miyazawa Yoichi

(Nadis Holdings)

Greetings, my name is MIYAZAWA Yoichi, and as of 2023, I have been given the honor of the title of President of the Aizuwakamatsu International Association. For the past 25 years

through my work, I have had the opportunity to visit places such as America, Europe, South-East Asia, China and more. A thing I have come to realise through my travels is, people all over the world live just like us here in Aizu and Japan, each proud of their country, history, culture, and community, living their lives to the fullest.

If people everywhere become interested in and want to understand the lives and culture of the people around them, even a little bit, don't you think the world would become a better place? The International Association is doing exactly that work, and I recognize how important that is. In order to love others, you must first understand and love yourself. 'Aizu People' are proud of where they come from, and work so hard to pass on their history and

culture to the next generation. This is a great place to welcome people from all over. Living closely with other cultures can be both interesting and challenging.

It is my full intention to do my best as President to help increase understanding as well as support those who have come to Aizu and made it their home. I want to express my gratitude to the members and staff as I step into my new role.

In conclusion, I would like to close my inaugural address by wishing that the conflicts and wars that are currently taking place around the world, will end as soon as possible.



A Farwell Message from The Former President of AWIA



Takeda Shu

(Aizu EU Association)

I would like to take a small moment of your time to give my parting address as the President of the Aizuwakamatsu International Association.

I took over the role of President from SUZUKI Kensuke in 2020,

and the 3 years since has gone by in a flash. I am honored to be a part of the Association's 27-year history. It has become physically difficult to manage the various roles I hold, and it is with your understanding that I retire from this role. I would like to thank, once again, the many people who have supported me during my tenure on the board of directors, the staff, and all those involved, allowing me to fulfill the responsibilities of my position.

Looking back, we were unable to carry out some of our usual activities due to the COVID-19 pandemic, but thanks to the efforts of the staff, volunteers, and others involved, we were somehow able to continue our work. I would like to express my sincere respect for all those involved.

Currently, 950 foreign residents from about 50 countries live in Aizuwakamatsu City. As the pandemic is coming to an end, the number of inbound tourists is expected to

increase. I am convinced that the role of our Association will become more important for the further development of Aizuwakamatsu as a city of international exchange. I wish that the Aizuwakamatsu International Association will be able to fulfill its role under the leadership of Mr. MIYAZAWA Yoichi, the new president.

We, the Takeda Health Foundation, will also continue to work with the International Association through the program of accepting trainee doctors from China and nursing trainees from Vietnam, and we look forward to your continued support.

In conclusion, I would like to express my appreciation to all of our members and all those who have been involved in our activities over the years.