

TPIEF Bulletin International Exchange Festivals

Free admission and open to all

East

30th Annual TIME Festival

Time	11AM – 3:30PM (Sunday) 21 October 2018
Venue	Torigin Bunka Kaikan (101-5 Shotoku-cho, Tottori City)
Sponsor	TIME Festival Executive Committee
Co-Sponsor	TPIEF

Experience the world through a taste of a number of cultures!



Central

Kurayoshi International Exchange Festival: One Earth, Connecting with a Smile

Time	11AM – 3PM (Sunday)(tentative) 25 November 2018
Venue	Houki Shiawase no Sato (458 Koda, Kurayoshi City)
Sponsor	The Kurayoshi International Exchange Festival 2018 Organizing Committee and TPIEF
Co-Sponsor	Tottori College

Looking for participants!
(Signup deadline Thursday, 20 September)



West

Yonago International Exchange Festival: Connecting Yonago & the World

Time	11AM – 3PM (Monday compensatory holiday) 24 September 2018
Venue	Yonago Culture Hall (293 Suehiro-cho, Yonago City)
Sponsor	Yonago International Exchange Festival Executive Committee, Yonago City, and TPIEF

A chance to enjoy the world restaurant, stage performances, panel displays, and all sorts of cultural experiences for a taste of the world!

Volunteering! at TPIEF

TPIEF operates an intercultural volunteering system. In this corner we are pleased to showcase a variety of our registered volunteers and the activities in which they are involved.

This second installment introduces Yuuko Kuno, who signed on to teach Japanese language. Ms. Kuno helps us with the Japanese language class (weekly on Sunday) held at our Yonago Office.

Why I volunteered to teach Japanese

I had been thinking about how to use my free time to help people, when I knew that a longtime acquaintance had been doing volunteer work for quite some time, and I decided to make the plunge, thinking, "Even though I don't have any skills, I could work behind the scenes in construction or something." I'm now finding out there are a

great many people from overseas, working hard in a place where culture and customs are totally different, and really seeing the need for more support volunteers. Though it's not physically demanding, I still break out in a cold sweat about Japanese language usage—but I enjoy the chance for direct contact with other cultures.



▲Ms. Kuno (centre) with a Japanese language class

An experience that stayed with me

One hot day I was given a bottle of cold tea by one of my students saying, "Here, it's hot today." Almost all the students have jobs, and they spend the extra time and bear the bad weather to do their best in these classes. I kept thinking how different it was, how easy it is for me just coming by car—but I was happy to receive the tea. My English ability is false-beginner level and

hardly up to par, but these students start from the beginning and are working up to hiragana, katakana, grammar and kanji in the space of a few months to half a year. They simply take it for granted that they should work so hard, and it's always so encouraging to see.



▲Japanese language class

To those interested in becoming language volunteers

Were you expecting me to say, "Don't bother if you're not serious about it"? Well, responsibility is certainly important, but people come from all kinds of different situations, and being able to do some good with the time you have and within your own limitations is what really matters. It might not be satisfying for those who want to teach Japanese properly and

efficiently like at a juku, but having a diverse lineup broadens the students' experience, and I'd advise anyone to just give it a try. The support you'd be offering is with the basics of the Japanese language. Sometimes there are things so fundamental they're hard to explain, and for me, having to recheck my own language is part of the fun.



▲Closing ceremony