

Iwaki City Monthly Event & Information Guide

Volume 286 August 2015

IIA Obento Making Class



On Tuesday 30 June, the IIA held a Japanese Culture Understanding Class on the topic of making healthy obento. A total of 38 people participated in the class, with 16 of them from foreign countries. Ms Toyoko Hirasawa, the head of the Iwaki City Council of Health Promoters Uchigo Branch, taught the class how to make healthy obentos that can still be enjoyed cold.

Food prepared on the day included rice with green peas, lemon teriyaki chicken tenders, cucumber pickles, baby scallop skewers and niboshi (dried infant sardines) tempura. Participants were pleased that the food can be made easily, using readily obtainable ingredients.

Furthermore, nine members of the Council of Health Promoters, to which Ms Hirasawa is affiliated, assisted with this event. Thank you very much to all those who assisted and participated!



IIA Computer Classes

The IIA recently held a course of computer classes for foreign residents on July 3, 7, 10, 14 and 17, for a total of five classes. Six people from four different countries (China, Korea, Mongolia and the Philippines) joined in the class.

The IIA's consultant for multiculturalism Ms Yiping Sato taught the class, with assistance from IT supporter Ms Keiko Hashimoto. Participants learnt the basics of Microsoft PowerPoint. On the final day, each of the participants gave a presentation of on a topic of their choosing using slideshows they had prepared. Thank you to all the participants!



Inside this issue...

Festivals & Events, Cinema Guide	2
General Notices	3
IIA Events	3, 4
Hospital Information	5
August Events Calendar	6



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市民協働課及び公益財団法人いわき市国際交流協会は皆
さんを歓迎します。お気軽にお立ち寄り下さい。お電話、
e-mail をお待ちしております。

Festivals & Events



Your guide to what's happening around Iwaki City and beyond this month

Iwaki

July 31st & August 1st: Chigo-Dengaku Dance and Furyu @ Kumano Shrine, Nakoso. This event is a Nationally Designated Important Intangible Cultural Asset. Chigo-Dengaku is performed to ask for a fruitful harvest and the Furyu is performed to by children give thanks for one. A pre-event is held on July 31st with the main event held on August 1st. For inquiries, please contact Kumano Shrine: TEL 0246-62-2207.

August 1st: Iwaki Fireworks Festival @ Aquamarine Park, Onahama. From 7pm to 9pm. The Iwaki Fireworks Festival is one of the largest fireworks festivals in Tohoku. There will be a display of around 10,000 fireworks synchronised to musical accompaniment. For inquiries, please contact the Iwaki Fireworks Festival Action Committee: TEL 0246-53-5677. Website: <http://www.iwakihanabi.com/> (Japanese).

August 2nd: Goldfish Hand Catching Contest @ Ichibancho (in front of Yumoto Station), Yumoto. From 6pm to 8pm. For inquiries, please contact the Yumoto Onsen Tourism Association: TEL 0246-42-4322.

August 3rd: Yumoto Yappe Odori @ from Naritasan to Ichibancho Dori (around Yumoto Station). From 7pm to 9pm. For inquiries, please contact the Yumoto Onsen Tourism Association: TEL 0246-42-4322.

August 6th: Jangara Performance @ taxi waiting area in front of Iwaki Station. From 6pm to 9pm. Many groups of young dancers will perform Iwaki's traditional folk dance. For inquiries, please contact the Taira Tanabata Festival Action Committee: TEL 0246-25-9152.

August 6th to 8th: Taira Tanabata Festival @ Taira Shopping District. Thursday and Friday: from 10am to 10pm, Saturday: from 10am to 9:30pm. The shopping streets of Taira will be decorated with vibrant Tanabata decorations. There will also be plenty of stalls selling food and festival goods. For inquiries, please contact the Taira Tanabata Festival Action Committee: TEL: 0246-25-9151.

August 8th: Iwaki Odori (Taira) @ Main Street in front of Iwaki Station. From 4:20pm to 8:35pm. This is the main leg of Iwaki Odori. For inquiries, please contact the Iwaki Odori Action Committee: TEL 0246-44-6545.

August 13th to 15th: Kaiten Yagara Bon Odori Festival @ the plaza in front of Uchigo Staion. Thursday: from 1pm to 9pm. Friday and Saturday: from 5:00pm to 9pm. The big attraction of the Bon Odori in Uchigo is the Kaiten Yagura (rotating tower). Participants dance around the central rotating tower, and anyone is welcome to join in. For inquiries, please contact the Iwaki Kaiten Yagura Bon Odori Action Committee: TEL 0246-26-1256.

August 14th: La La Mew Jangara Performance @ Hydrophilic Terrace, La La Mew, Onahama. From 11am and from 12 noon. For inquiries, please contact Iwaki La La Mew: TEL 0246-92-3701.

August 15th: La La Mew Bon Odori @ west side plaza, La La Mew, Onahama. There will be Yosakoi dancing from 4pm to 5:30pm. Bon Odori will be from 6pm to 8:30pm. There will also be Jangara dancing from 7:30pm. For inquiries, please contact Iwaki La La Mew: TEL 0246-92-3701.

August 16th: Yotsukura Repose of Souls and Revival Fireworks @ Yotsukura Beach. From 5:30pm to 9pm. Fireworks from 7:45pm to 8:50pm. For inquiries, please contact the Yotsukura Repose of Souls and Revival Fireworks Action Committee: TEL 0246-32-2130.

August 16th: Yumoto Onsen Great Costume Bon Odori and Fireworks @ Onsen Street (from Shouhakukan to the Children's Song Hall), Yumoto. From 6:30pm to 9pm. For inquiries, please contact the Yumoto Onsen Gathering: TEL 090-5594-0459.

August 20th: Natsugawa Lantern Floating Festival @ lantern floating: Heishin Bridge, fireworks: Natsugawa Riverbed; Taira. Lantern floating is from 6:30pm to 8:30pm. Fireworks are from 7:45pm to 8:30pm. As well as floating lanterns down the river, there will be a variety of dances performed, festival stalls and fireworks. For inquiries, please contact the Natsugawa Lantern Floating Festival Action Committee: TEL 090-4554-6123.

August 27th: Naritasan Bon Odori @ Naritasan grounds, Yumoto. From 6:30pm to 9pm. For inquiries, please contact the Yumoto Onsen Tourism Association: TEL 0246-42-4322.

Movies @ Pole Pole Iwaki

Our Little Sister (Japanese) *Until August 8*

Haruka Ayase

Pokémon The Movie XY: Ring no Chou Majin Fuupa (Japanese)

Rika Matsumoto

Inside Out (Japanese dub)

Yuko Takeuchi

Hero (Japanese)

Takuya Kimura

The Boy and the Beast (Japanese)

Koji Yakusho

Terminator Genisys (2D English, 3D Japanese dub)

Arnold Schwarzenegger

Avengers: Age of Ultron (2D English, 3D Japanese dub)

Robert Downey Jr.

Minions (Japanese dub)

Yuki Amami

Attack on Titan (Japanese) *From August 1*

Haruma Miura

Jurassic World (2D English, 3D Japanese dub) *From August 5*

Chris Pratt

Mission: Impossible – Rogue Nation (Languages not released at time of printing) *From August 7*

Tom Cruise

The Emperor in August (Japanese) *From August 8*

Koji Yakusho

Kamen Rider Drive Shuriken Sentai Ninninger (Japanese) *From August 8*

Ryoma Takeuchi

Ted 2 (Languages not released at time of printing) *From August 28*

Mark Wahlberg

S: The Last Policeman: Recovery of Our Future (Japanese) *From August 29*

Osamu Mukai

Pole Pole Ticket Office: 0246-22-3394

Website: <http://www.polepoleiwaki.com>

Movie names, times and other information are believed to be correct at the time of printing. However, information changes quickly, so please confirm before making plans. Pole Pole Cinemas are located in the Sekaikan Building near Iwaki Station. Adults: ¥1800; university and SHS: ¥1400; seniors (sixty years and older), JHS and under: ¥1000. The first of every month is discount day: ¥1000. **Movies after 6:30pm are ¥1000 (¥800 for JHS and under).** Monday is Men's Day ¥1000, Wednesday is Student's Day ¥1000, Thursday is Couple's Day ¥2000 (per couple), and Friday is Ladies' Day ¥1000. SHS friends discount ¥1000 each for groups of 3 or more SHS students. Married couples with at least one member over 50 ¥2000 (per couple). Discount for people with disabilities ¥800 (also applies to one companion). 3D films cost an additional ¥300.

General Notices

日本語能力試験

JLPT Japanese-Language Proficiency Test

Japanese Classes - Special Course

I will be holding a Japanese study group to help people prepare for the Japanese Language Proficiency Test which will be held in December. Participation is Free. Please inquire to me directly to hear about the content of the classes.

Date: August 26, September 9 (Wednesday)
Time: 10am-12 noon
Venue: Iwaki Social Welfare Centre (Shakai Fukushi Centre),
volunteer room
Fee: Free

Inquiries: Nihongo no Kai Representative Yoko Suzuki
TEL 0246-62-3218, 090-6788-0290
Email yohkosuz2001@i.softbank.ne.jp,
yohkosuz2000@yahoo.co.jp



Iwaki International Association Events

For applications and more information on IIA events, please contact the IIA.

TEL: 0246-22-7409 FAX: 0246-22-7609 Email: info@iia-fukushima.or.jp Website: www.iia-fukushima.or.jp/

IIA Iwaki Odori Team

Iwaki Odori is scheduled for August 8 (Saturday). For everyone participating in the IIA's team, details are as follows.
Let's dance our hearts out!

- 3:00pm** Meet at Iwaki City Hall (Coordination and Citizenry Affairs Division, 1st floor)
Note: Although it is a Saturday, you will be able to enter from the front entrance.
Please wear clothes that are easy to dance in. The IIA group will have Hawaiian shirts as their uniform. You will receive and put on the shirt at City Hall.
- 3:20pm** Dance practice (If the group is unsynchronised, we will not be allowed to participate, so please take the practice seriously.)
- 3:40pm** Move from City Hall together (We will leave valuables at "Niji", near the station, so take your belongings with you when you leave City Hall.)
- 4:20pm** Assemble for the first round of dancing
- 4:25pm** Opening ceremony
- 4:45pm** First round begins (5:05pm-5:15pm Rest)
- 5:35pm** Dancing finishes
- 5:45pm** Social event We will enjoy a chat over cool drinks and light food.
- 6:30pm** Finish



Japanese Classes

The Autumn & Winter term of IIA Japanese language courses will start on the 30th of September.
If you are interested, please contact the IIA by the 28th of August.

A. Speaking Course:

October 1 to December 3 - Thursdays, 10am-12pm

B. Writing Course:

October 1 to December 3 - Thursdays, 1pm-3pm

C. Reading Course:

September 30 to December 2 - Wednesdays, 10am-12pm

D. Japanese Culture Course:

September 30 to December 2 - Wednesdays, 1pm-3pm

Participants: 15 people per class

Number of Classes: 10 classes per course

Class Fee: Free

Course Materials: Textbooks will need to be purchased.

Venue: Lifelong Learning Plaza (Shogai Gakushu Plaza), Washington Hotel (4th floor)

Lecturers: Volunteer teachers from IIA members



Please contact the IIA for more information about the classes. The content of the classes will be adjusted to the level of the students. If you are a first-timer to the IIA classes, please take the placement test to check your Japanese language level.

Placement Test

Date: September 2 (Wednesday) **Time:** 10am-12pm (reservation required)

Venue: Iwaki City Lifelong Learning Plaza (Shogai Gakushu Plaza)

What If You Were In An Accident?

Daily Life Information Seminar and Consultations

Have you ever come close to being caught in an accident when walking on the street or when driving your car? Are you regularly mindful of traffic rules, so that you don't have an accident? Supposing you were to be involved in an accident, it is important for you to act without panic. Let's keep safe by learning about traffic safety and traffic accidents. After the seminar in the first session, we will provide individual consultations during the second session.

Date: September 15 (Tuesday)

Venue: Iwaki Lifelong Learning Plaza (Shogai Gakushu Plaza), Large Conference Room 2 (4th floor)

Content: First session Daily Life Information Seminar 10am-12 noon

① About Traffic Safety Section Chief Hideaki Yoshida from the Iwaki Central Police Station, 1st Traffic Division

② "What if you were in an accident?"

Kazunari Sato Head of the Office for Mutual Aid for Automobiles, Iwaki Private Automobile Association (General Incorporated Association)

Second session Consultations on Everyday Life (held individually, for foreign residents only) 12 noon-2pm (reservation required)

Participants: Foreign residents or citizens interested in the theme. (Consultations are for foreign residents only.)

Fee: Free (Both the seminar and consultations)

Consultants: IIA consultants for multiculturalism - Kumi Kanoda and Yiping Sato



Spanish Cooking Class

Last year's Spanish Cooking Class was enormously well-received. This year, we will once again hold a class making Spanish home cooking using ingredients from Iwaki. What dishes does the teacher have in store this time round?



Date: October 3 (Saturday)
Time: 10am-1pm
Venue: Iwaki City Cultural Centre (Bunka Centre), cooking room (2nd floor)
Participants: Anyone is free to participate
Fee: IIA members 1,500 yen, non-members 2,000 yen
Capacity: 30 people (first come, first served)



Thai Cooking Class

If the heat of summer has you feeling tired, why not rejuvenate yourself with some spicy Thai cuisine?



Date: September 11 (Friday)
Time: 10am-1pm
Venue: Iwaki City Cultural Centre (Bunka Centre), cooking room (2nd floor)
Participants: Anyone is free to participate
Fee: IIA members 1,500 yen, non-members 2,000 yen
Capacity: 30 people (first come, first served)

Zen Café

Why not come and experience zazen? You can relax amongst the stillness of a Zen temple, reflecting on yourself while adjusting your posture and breathing. You will also be able to reflect on your everyday life through conversing with the chief priest, as well as speak freely with the other participants. You may find some new realisations about yourself or some hints that could help you in your everyday life.

Date: September 25 (Friday) 2015
Time: 10am-12 noon
Venue: Iohji Temple, Iwaki-shi Taira Kamiarakawa Aza Gorouchi 157
Content: Experience zazen at a Zen temple and speak with the chief priest
Instructor: Mr Tokue Murakami, chief priest of Iohji Temple
Participants: Foreign residents or anyone interested in the theme

Participation fee: Free
Capacity: 30 people
Parking: Iohji Temple car park
Application deadline: September 15 (Tuesday)



Lecture in Understanding Energy



We experienced the Great East Japan Earthquake and realised the importance of energy. Please come to our lecture where we will think about natural energy while making solar power panels by hand.

Date: October 18 (Sunday)
Time: 10am-4pm (please bring your own lunch)
Venue: Higashi Nippon International University, classroom 101
Lecturer: Director General Morihiko Shimamura of the Iwaki Otento Sun Business Union
Participants: General citizens including students
Fee: IIA members 1,000 yen, non-members 2,000 yen, foreign residents free
Capacity: 24 people (first come, first served)

Volunteer Interpreter Training Workshop



We will be holding a training workshop for English-Japanese volunteer interpreters.

Date: September 9, 16, 30; October 7, 14 (Wednesdays, 5 classes in total)
Time: 10am-12 noon
Venue: Iwaki City Lifelong Learning Plaza (Shogai Gakushu Plaza), conference room (current plan)
Lecturer: Hiroyuki Yuyama
Participants: Holders of Grade 2 or above in the EIKEN Test in Practical English Proficiency or people with corresponding English ability / holders of N2 or above in the Japanese Language Proficiency Test (JLPT) or people with corresponding Japanese ability.
Fee: IIA members 1,000 yen, non-members 4,000 yen
Capacity: 20 people (first come, first served)



Chinese Course

We will be holding a Chinese language course (beginners) for people who have studied Chinese before. We will be aiming to improve speaking ability.



Date: September 29; October 6, 13, 20, 27 (Tuesdays, 5 classes in total)
Time: 6:30pm-8:30pm
Venue: Iwaki City Lifelong Learning Plaza (Shogai Gakushu Plaza), conference room (current plan)
Lecturer: Guiqin Xu
Participants: People who have studied Chinese before
Fee: IIA members 1,000 yen, non-members 4,000 yen
Capacity: 15 people (first come, first served)

Discussion Group for Natives of China



We will be holding a discussion group for people from China. We will welcome a representative of a group active in Sukagawa, who will tell us about the group's development and its activities. Let's take this chance to think about the foreign community.

Date: September 5 (Saturday)
Time: 1:30pm-3:30pm
Venue: Iwaki City Lifelong Learning Plaza (Shogai Gakushu Plaza), Japanese-style room (5th floor)
Guest: A guest from the Tsubasa Chinese support group
Participants: Natives of China
Fee: 500 yen



The following is a guide to hospitals open on Sundays and public holidays in Iwaki City during August.

Sunday, August 2			
Taira Area	Takahashi Clinic	9-12, 2-5	46-1231
Taira Area	Yamaguchi lin	9-12, 2-5	24-1811
Taira Area	Shirai Geka Ichoka lin (surgery & gastroenterology)	8:30-12	25-3788
Taira Area	Shiga Seikeigeka Geka (orthopaedics & surgery)	9-12	23-5050
Onahama Area	Izumi Orthopaedic Clinic	9-5	56-3533
Nakoso Area	Yabuki Hospital	9-5	63-1818
Joban Area	Haruyama lin	9-5	44-4011
Uchigo Area	Aihara Shonika lin (paediatrics)	9-12	26-5551
Sunday, August 9			
Taira Area	Takahashi Clinic	9-12, 2-5	46-1231
Taira Area	Shirai Geka Ichoka lin (surgery & gastroenterology)	8:30-12	25-3788
Uchigo Area	Suda lin	8:30-12	27-6060
Onahama Area	Sumitaka Naika Clinic (internal)	9-5	75-1560
Nakoso Area	Kushida Hospital	9-5	63-3202
Joban Area	Iwaki Yumoto Hospital	9-5	42-3188
Nakoso Area	Ohara Kodomo Clinic (paediatrics)	9-12	63-0001
Friday, August 14			
Taira Area	New Town Jin Naika Clinic (internal & nephrology)	9-12	46-0606
Sunday, August 16			
Taira Area	Yamaguchi lin	9-12, 2-5	24-1811
Onahama Area	Kashima Hospital	9-5	58-8010
Nakoso Area	Kojima Jiai Hospital	9-5	63-5141
Joban Area	Kamome Clinic	9-5	28-1010
Taira Area	Yamagiwa Kodomo Clinic (paediatrics)	9-12	28-8686
Sunday, August 23			
Taira Area	Takahashi Clinic	9-12, 2-5	46-1231
Taira Area	Shirai Geka Ichoka lin (surgery & gastroenterology)	8:30-12	25-3788
Uchigo Area	Suda lin	8:30-12	27-6060
Onahama Area	Fukaya Jibiinkoka (ear, nose & throat)	9-5	58-1187
Nakoso Area	Kureha General Hospital	9-5	63-2181
Joban Area	Oriuchi lin	9-5	44-1133
Onahama Area	Konnai Kodomo Clinic (paediatrics)	9-12	73-8815
Sunday, August 30			
Taira Area	Takahashi Clinic	9-12, 2-5	46-1231
Taira Area	Sakamoto Seikeigeka lin (orthopaedic surgery)	9-12, 2-5	38-2830
Taira Area	Shirai Geka Ichoka lin (surgery & gastroenterology)	8:30-12	25-3788
Uchigo Area	Suda lin	8:30-12	27-6060
Taira Area	Hasegawa Seikeigeka lin (orthopaedic surgery)	8:30-11:30	25-5691
Onahama Area	Kobayashi Ichoka Komonka lin (gastroenterology & proctology)	9-5	53-4466
Nakoso Area	Nakoso Hospital	9-5	65-7755
Joban Area	Hakozaki lin	9-5	42-3131
Taira Area	Watanabe Clinic (paediatrics)	9-12	25-1170
Sunday, September 6			
Taira Area	Takahashi Clinic	9-12, 2-5	46-1231
Taira Area	Yamaguchi lin	9-12, 2-5	24-1811
Taira Area	Shirai Geka Ichoka lin (surgery & gastroenterology)	8:30-12	25-3788
Taira Area	Shiga Seikeigeka Geka (orthopaedics & surgery)	9-12	23-5050
Kashima Area	Yamaguchi Seikeigeka (orthopaedic surgery)	9-5	29-7000
Nakoso Area	Kureha General Hospital	9-5	63-2181
Joban Area	Tokiwakai Joban Hospital	9-5	43-4175
Taira Area	Fukuda Shonika lin (paediatrics)	9-12	22-4272
Sunday, September 13			
Taira Area	Takahashi Clinic	9-12, 2-5	46-1231
Taira Area	Shirai Geka Ichoka lin (surgery & gastroenterology)	8:30-12	25-3788
Uchigo Area	Suda lin	8:30-12	27-6060
Onahama Area	Iwaki Central Hospital Fuzoku Shinryojo	9-5	53-3511
Nakoso Area	Kojima Jiai Hospital	9-5	63-5141
Joban Area	Iwaki Yumoto Hospital	9-5	42-3188
Joban Area	Muramatsu Paediatrics	9-12	72-0707

Emergencies

Emergency Dental Care

All emergency dental care will be provided at the **General Health and Welfare Centre (Sogo Hoken Fukushima Senta)** in Uchigo. This centre is open on Sundays and all national holidays from 9am to 12pm and 1pm to 4pm. The reception closes at 3:30pm. For more information please contact the centre on 27-8620.

After Hours and Holiday Emergency Treatment Centre

(Located in Iwaki Kyoritsu Hospital)
If you need to see a doctor urgently in the evening or on a weekend or public holiday, the **After Hours and Holiday Emergency Treatment Centre** is open at the following times:

Weekdays: 8pm - 12am
Saturdays: 8pm - 7am (next day)
Sundays: 1pm - 12am.
Public Holidays: 9am - 12am.
TEL: 27-1208

Please make sure whenever possible to bring a Japanese-speaker with you when visiting the hospital in Iwaki.

Emergency Contact Numbers

Police: 110
Fire & Ambulance: 119

Children Emergency, First-Aid Telephone Consultations

The Fukushima Prefecture Children Emergency, First-Aid Telephone Consultation Centre (*Fukushima-ken Kodomo Kyukyu Denwa Sodan*) is a free telephone service that provides professional advice when your child has become sick during the night. This telephone service is available in Japanese only.

TEL: 024-521-3790
or #8000
From 7pm to 8am.

Counselling Services for Foreigners

Yoriso Hotline (Helpline for Foreigners): Consultation service available in Japanese, English, Korean, Tagalog, Chinese, Spanish, Portuguese and Thai. Available languages vary depending on time. Are you having a problem with your visa, nationality, family, work, everyday living, discrimination, domestic violence, confinement or human trafficking? Please call us about any problem you may have. Your privacy will be protected. Free. TEL: 0120-279-226. Mon-Fri, 10am-10pm.

TELL Lifeline: TELL is a professional non-profit organisation that provides counselling to English-speaking foreigners all over Japan. The lifeline is staffed by highly trained volunteer phone counsellors and provides free, non-judgemental and confidential phone counselling and information 365 days a year from 9am - 11pm. TEL: 03-5774-0992. For more information, check out their website at <http://www.telljp.com> or e-mail them at admin@telljp.com.

Safety and Consultation Centre for Women (Police Box in front of Iwaki Station): For consultations related to women's safety. Free. Can only speak Japanese. 10am-6pm daily. TEL: 0246-25-9344.

AUGUST 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Jul 26	Jul 27	Jul 28	Jul 29	Jul 30  Yu no Hanakai	Jul 31	1 Iwaki Fireworks Festival
2 Goldfish Hand Catching Contest	3 Yumoto Yappe Odori	4	5  Free Legal Consultations (Social Welfare Centre)	6 Taira Tanabata Festival		8 Iwaki Odori Taira
9	10	11	12  Free Legal Consultations (City Hall)	13 Kaiten Yagara Bon Odori		15  Wa
16 Yotsukura Repose of Souls and Revival Fireworks	17	18	19  Free Legal Consultations (City Hall)	20 Natsuigawa Lantern Floating Festival  Yu no Hanakai	21	22
23	24	25	26 Japanese Classes – Special Course  Très bien  Free Legal Consultations (City Hall)	27  Yu no Hanakai	28	29
30	31	Sep 1	Sep 2	Sep 3  Yu no Hanakai	Sep 4	Sep 5

IIA Custom-made Plans



Très bien – Inquiries to Yamazaki-san 090-1934-0506



Yu no Hanakai – Inquiries to Ohba-san 0246-42-2135



Wa – Inquiries to Sho-san 070-6493-2859



For more information on any of the IIA events, please contact Suko-san 22-7409



Legal Consultations:

Iwaki City Hall provides free general legal consultations. Scheduled days are as listed on the calendar; however these are subject to change. Please contact City Hall (Hometown Revitalisation Division TEL 0246-22-7438) and confirm the date, time and place. Reservations are required for consultations.

For Iwaki City Council of Social Welfare consultations (held at the Social Welfare Centre), please contact 0246-23-3320.

From the Editor

This August, you might hear the sound of drums and bells around your neighbourhood. This is the music of Jangara, a traditional dance local to Iwaki. Jangara is danced during Obon at houses where there has been a death in the family during the year since the previous Obon. Spectators are welcome to watch from the street, so if you hear the characteristic drums and bells of Jangara, follow the sound and you may be lucky enough to see the dance!

This will be my last edition of Time Out. My term at the Coordination and Citizenry Affairs Division comes to a close at the end of July. I have had many great experiences over the last two years and I will be returning to Australia with some wonderful memories. I have been fortunate to have met many people who have helped me during my time in Iwaki.

To the readers of Time Out, thanks for reading and stay safe. Lastly, be sure to explore Iwaki when you have the chance. This city has so much to offer and there are always new discoveries to be made if you are willing to go looking for them!

– Sebastian