

## Events in November

1	WE	
2	TH	18:30 Japanese Conversation Class (PM)
3	FR	Closed (Culture Day)
4	SA	9:30 Hello World Club
5	SU	Closed
6	MO	Closed
7	TU	
8	WE	
9	TH	18:30 Japanese Conversation Class (PM)
10	FR	10:00 Japanese Conversation Class (AM)
11	SA	10:00 AtsuHana: Japanese Convo. Club 14:00 Children's Storybook Prep. Meeting
12	SU	Closed 10:00 Children's Nihongo Hiroba
13	MO	Closed
14	TU	
15	WE	
16	TH	18:30 Japanese Conversation Class (PM)
17	FR	10:00 Japanese Conversation Class (AM)
18	SA	9:30 Hello World Club 10:00 JICA Desk 14:00 FIND: English Conversation Club
19	SU	Closed
20	MO	Closed
21	TU	
22	WE	
23	TH	Closed: Labour Day
24	FR	10:00 Japanese Conversation Class (AM)
25	SA	10:00 Nihongo de Hanasou 13:30 Newsletter Preparation 14:00 AWIA Sports+: Table Tennis
26	SU	Closed 10:00 Children's Nihongo Hiroba 10:00 Children's Storybook Room
27	MO	Closed
28	TU	
29	WE	
30	TH	18:30 Japanese Conversation Class (PM)

## Other Information

**#SamurAizu** Follow **@samuraizu\_official** on Instagram to see the beauty of Aizu! Use #samuraizu and show off Aizu to the world!

### Parent's Salon: Christmas Party

Join us for a fun Christmas Party! Let's enjoy fun Christmas Traditions by making Christmas Crackers!

**Date:** Dec 9th (Sat) 10:00~11:30  
**Place:** Aizu Keikodo 3F Tatami Room  
**Limit:** 15 Families (~30 people)  
**Cost:** ¥500/per family (free for members!)  
**Sign-up:** via Google Form by Dec 8th (Fri)!



Sign-up here!

### Parents Salon: Looking for Volunteers!

We put on these events to create a space for parents to unwind and chat, and we need your help! Enjoy children and want to get involved? Contact AWIA to sign-up.  
 (anyone welcome! - [mail@awia.jp](mailto:mail@awia.jp))

### Experience Japanese Culture with KIEA!

The Koriyama International Exchange Association is holding a fun event at the beginning of December. Enjoy the smell of fresh herbs and round out the year with a bit of Japanese culture by making an herb kokedama!

**Date:** Dec 9th (Sat) 10:00-12:00  
**Place:** Koriyama Welfare Centre 3F (Asahi 1-2-9, Koriyama)  
**Cost:** ¥1000 **Applications start Nov 1st!**  
 (First come first served)  
**Contact:** KIEA (024-924-3711) or google form:  
<https://forms.gle/poSEHckT1cgf9xgu5>



### Satellite JICA Desk

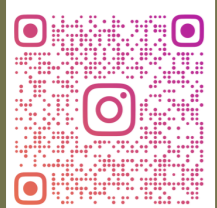
This month, Ms. Matsuyama will be holding an information session about JICA to recruit volunteers, but she still has time for chats! Contact her for an appointment!

**Date:** Nov 18th (Sat) 10:00-17:00 @ AWIA Office  
**Apply:** Contact Ms. Matsuyama via email:  
[jica\\_fukushima\\_desk@jica.org](mailto:jica_fukushima_desk@jica.org)

### 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:** November 25th, 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



AIZU WAKAMATSU INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION MONTHLY ENGLISH NEWSLETTER

# SynthesAizu

November 2023  
 Volume 3 Issue 11

## Association News



## AtsuHana

AtsuHana, the Japanese Conversation Club. Come have fun and talk to others in Japanese! Starting off with an activity, followed by Free Talk Time, use Japanese in a casual way.

When	Saturday, <b>November 11th</b> 10:00-11:30
Place	Aizu City Learning Centre (Keikodo) 3F Rm 1
Sign Up	Contact <a href="mailto:mail@awia.jp">mail@awia.jp</a> by <u>Friday Nov 10th</u>



\*Due to the nature of FIND and AtsuHana, we ask that participants wear masks. Thank you for your understanding.\*

## FIND English Convo. Club

Why not speak English with people from all walks of life and maybe make some new friends? Anyone is welcome, no matter your English level. Play a game, then do some free talk.

**This month join us in the Afternoon, at 14:00!**

When	Saturday, <b>November 18th</b> 14:00~15:30
Place	Aizu City Learning Centre (Keikodo) 3F Rm 1
Sign Up	Contact <a href="mailto:mail@awia.jp">mail@awia.jp</a> by <u>Friday Nov 17th</u>



## Nihongo-de-Hanasou!

'Let's Speak in Japanese!' Join us for our Japanese Speech event. Have you been working hard studying? Why not come and show off that hard work! It's not a competition, and everyone gets a small gift for joining.

Sign-up by Nov 21st with your presentation title to our email [mail@awia.jp](mailto:mail@awia.jp)  
 (Speech: less than 5mins, powerpoint optional)  
 Contact us for more info!

Why not support the other members of our community by coming to watch?

**Date:** Nov 25th (Sat) 10:00-12:00  
**Place:** Aizu Keikodo Rm 1



	Deadline	Limit
Sign-up	Nov 21st (Tue)	10 people

## AWIA Sports+ Table Tennis

### AWIA Sports+ (play with us)

Cultural exchange and sports! Our second sport event this year is Table Tennis! Join us for a fun time hanging out and playing. Everyone is welcome!

- **Date:** Nov 25th (Sat) 14:00-16:00
- **Place:** Kakujo Community Centre (1-47 Joto-machi)
- **Cost:** Free!
- **Limit:** 20 people
- **Age:** High School and up
- **Sign-up:** Contact AWIA: ([mail@awia.jp](mailto:mail@awia.jp)) or Google Form →
- **Please bring:** Inside Shoes, towel, hydration etc.



Sign-up Deadline: **Nov 24th (Fri)**

\*\*There are few parking spots at the Community Centre, so please park elsewhere nearby\*\*



会津若松市国際交流協会

TEL (0242) 27-3703

EMAIL: [mail@awia.jp](mailto:mail@awia.jp)

AIZU WAKAMATSU INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION

## This Month in Fukushima



Soba season is here! In addition to rice, Aizu also grows a lot of soba thanks to the mountains. So, this month Aizu has a lot of Soba Festivals happening! To enjoy these, head to your nearest local soba shop and enjoy that fresh soba flavour! (Look out for a flag or sign that says 新そば祭り(まつり) (Shin-Soba Matsuri) to get a special deal, and the freshest soba)

**Kitakata** (10/14-11/19)    **Inawashiro** (11/1-11/30)

**Bange** (11/11+12 @ MichinoEki Yugawa/Bange)

And more! Enjoy the food of the season!



## Nihonmatsu: Chrysanthemum Doll Festival

**Oct 10th (Tue) - Nov 19th (Sun)**

One of Nihonmatsu City's most famous festivals! The Chrysanthemum flower is the crest of the imperial family, and so it is well loved. Nihonmatsu City has taken the Chrysanthemum festival to the next level: They cover dolls/mannequins with them and create impressive displays! The ruins of Nihonmatsu Castle, Kasumiga-jo, are the stage of these wonderful displays. Enjoy not only the flowers, but the history and a beautiful view of Nihonmatsu from the Castle.



**Place:** Kasumiga-jo Castle Park

**Time:** 9:00-16:00

**Entrance Fee:** ¥800 (Junior High + under: free!)

**More Info:** <https://www.nihonmatsu-kanko.jp/nihonmatsunokikuningyo>



## Nakada Kannon: Chrysanthemum Matsuri

**11/1 (Wed) - 11/10 (Fri)**

Koan-ji Temple is part of Aizu's 33 Temple Pilgrimage and its Nakada Kannon (kannon statue) is one of the Aizu Korori Kannon. Located in Aizu-Misato, it is said that praying at the Nakada Kannon can cure you of your earthly ailments. The temple and statue were built in 1279 and are absolutely beautiful. Noguchi Hideyo's Mother often visited to pray for his health! November is Chrysanthemum season, and Koan-ji will be displaying a selection of them. Why not take the time to see the beautiful temple and flowers?

◆ **Time:** Nov 1st - 10th

◆ **Place:** Nakada Kannon Temple (Donoatoko-147 Yoneta, Aizumisato)

◆ To see the Kannon statue inside the temple, please make an appointment!

◆ **More Info:** <https://misatono.jp/en/nakata>



## Silk Road Festa in Izaka Onsen

**Nov 17(Fri) - 19(Sun) - 10:00-16:00**

Experience Fukushima's Silk Road!

**Place:** 16-16 Higashitakinomachi, Izaka

Head over to Izaka Onsen Kyu Horikiri-tei and enjoy

• Hand-woven Kimono Exhibition

• Silk from worm to fabric (including a workshop!)

• Urban Fashion Show (Kimono Rentals/fitting etc.)

And more!

<https://ameblo.jp/tezukuri960/entry-12825817848.html>



## LIBERTY OF TEA @ Tsuruga-jo

**Nov 3rd(Fri), 4th(Sat), 11th(Sat), 12th(Sun)**

Enjoy the fall leaves at Tsuruga-jo alongside the highest quality matcha and a unique treat shaped like a kokedama (moss ball/mini-bonsai). Taking place on the grass in the Honmaru (a restricted area!), why not take the opportunity to enjoy an amazing sweet, and view of the Castle?

**Time:** 10:00-16:00 (or until gone)

**Fee:** 1 set/person (tea + sweet) - ¥3000 (Limited 20sets/day)

No reservations! First come first served!

<https://www.aizukanko.com/news/690>

## Sukagawa Taimatsu Akashi 'Fire Festival'

**Nov 11th (Sat)**

**Place:** Midorigaoka Park (5 Atagoyama, Sukagawa)

**Time: Fire Ceremony:** 17:15 @ Nikaido-jinja Shrine

**Taimatsu Burning:** 18:30

**More Info:** [https://www.city.sukagawa.fukushima.jp/kanko\\_sukagawa/kanko\\_event/taimatsu\\_akashi/1003835.html](https://www.city.sukagawa.fukushima.jp/kanko_sukagawa/kanko_event/taimatsu_akashi/1003835.html)



Sukagawa, the hometown of Godzilla and Ultraman co-creator TSUBURAYA Eiji, isn't just a great place to see Ultraman statues. It's also home to the breath-taking Taimatsu Akashi Festival.

The Taimatsu Akashi Festival is a must-see. Huge towers of straw are burned to represent the torches (taimatsu) that the residents held as they gathered to protect the castle from DATE Masamune over 400 years ago.



## AWIA Spotlight

### Farewell: Kou Ei - Chinese CIR

Kou-san joined AWIA in October 2017, as a Chinese CIR. She closed up her time at AWIA at the end of October. Her goal was always 'to create a welcoming community for everyone, regardless of nationality.' Thank you so much, Kou-san! Best of luck on your next journey!

Here is her heartfelt farewell message for everyone:



Kou-san worked as a CIR from Oct 2017 - Oct 2023

### Doing it Together

According to recent news, as of the end June 2023, there are around 3,220,000 non-Japanese people living in Japan. This is the highest number on record. Even I, who has lived in Japan for so long, can really feel Japan taking steps towards a more multicultural society.

20 or so years ago, when I came to Japan, I felt there was quite a few people who were uncomfortable with or even bothered by foreigners. There have been times when, if something came up, I have been told 'Where's a Japanese person?' or 'I want to speak to a Japanese person.' People had told me 'In Japan, they're not very welcoming of outside cultures and people' so when I experienced that, I thought, 'oh so it was true.'

After that, with Japan jumping onto the wave of globalization, it became more international little by little. There started to be more of an environment where diverse cultures and values could come together. Not just in the big cities, but even in small-town AizuWakamatsu, many residents are so kind and passionate about Cultural Exchange and do all they can; donating time, and energy into supporting their foreign residents. I am so grateful for all of their hard work into making this city into a place with a great international-minded community, where foreigners can live comfortably.



I believe that mutual understanding and respect are essential to building a rich multicultural society. "Alone we can do so little, together we can do so much"; We, as foreign residents living in Japan, should do our best and work together with the local residents to build a better symbiotic society with an attitude of cooperation and understanding. "Home is wherever you make it." With this, I want to work hard at my next place.



Thank you very much for the last 6 years. I want to take this time and thank you from the bottom of my heart for all your support and guidance throughout my time here. 再見! (Zàijiàn!)(Farewell!)

### Tsuruga-jo Free English Tours!

#### Enjoy a FREE tour of the Castle grounds!

Want to learn more about Tsuruga-jo Castle and the history of Aizu? Get a free tour in English! The free tours of Tsuruga-jo Castle will be ending this month. A volunteer guide will show you around the Castle grounds, giving you an in-depth look at the history of the Castle. Maybe you'll learn something you never expected!

**Place:** Tsuruga-jo Tourist Information Centre (観光案内所)

**Time:** 10:00-15:00 - no reservation needed!

**\*\*Tsuruga-jo Castle + Oyakuen will be lit up for fall! Enjoy the historical places in a new light!\*\***  
(Oct-Nov) (Nov 11th-13th 17:45-20:15 (final admission: 19:30))



10:00 - 15:00	
DATE	DAY
Nov 3	FRI
Nov 4	SAT
Nov 10	FRI
Nov 18	SAT

Free!