

## Association News

On October 5th we held our International Festival! This year again so many people joined us to share in the joy of international exchange. It would not have been possible without over 150 volunteers both on the day and in the weeks before helping to prepare. Thank you to everyone who lent us your time and energy, to our sponsors, exhibitors and all of our attendees!

## ChAT吧 (ChAT-ba) Chinese Convo. Club.

ChAT-ba stands for:

'Ch': Chinese, 'A': Aizu, 'T': Together, and  
'吧/-ba': 'Let's!' in Chinese.

Interested in speaking Chinese with other learners, and Chinese people? Join the new Chinese Conversation Circle ChAT-ba!

**November 9th (Sat)**

**13:30-15:00 at the AWIA Office.**

Sign-up by email - [mail@awia.jp](mailto:mail@awia.jp)



Speak Chinese and interact with Chinese residents! This time let's play around and try out haiku (5-7-5) poetry about our daily lives using Chinese. There's no strict rules so you can use Chinese and Japanese and discover new things. Beginners in Chinese welcome! Join us!

## Children's Storybook Time

### Multilingual Storytime!

A great opportunity for your child to hear stories and interact with languages, people, and cultures from all over the world! This time hear stories and play games in French, Chinese, and English! It's free, so why not come along?

**Date:** November 17th (Sun) 10:00-12:00

**Place:** Aizu Keikodo Rms 1, 2, 3

**Participants:** 45 children

(age 4-12, Elementary School 1st-6th grade)

**Sign-Up:** Aizu Library Counter, or through the poster.  
(poster sent out to children, also available at AWIA office)  
(Sign-up is first come first served)

**Contact:** Aizu Library TEL: 0242-22-4711

(send form via:) FAX: 0242-22-4702



## FIND English Convo. Club

Why not come and speak English with people from all walks of life? Everyone is welcome, no matter your English level. Enjoy an activity then free talk in this casual event.

**When** Saturday, **November 16th** 10:00~11:30

**Place** City Learning Centre (Keikodo) 3F Rm 1

**Sign Up** Contact [mail@awia.jp](mailto:mail@awia.jp) by Friday, Nov 15th

## AtsuHana Japanese Convo. Club.

Speak Japanese in a casual way with many people and have fun with Japanese culture.

Let's enjoy culture and language together this month too!

**When** Saturday, **November 9th** 10:00-11:30

**Place** City Learning Centre (Keikodo) 3F Rm 1

**Sign-up** Contact [mail@awia.jp](mailto:mail@awia.jp) by Friday, November 8th

## Nihongo-de-Hanasou!

'Let's Speak in Japanese!'

Join us for our Japanese Speech event. Have you been working hard studying? Want to try out the Japanese you have, or interested in pushing yourself? Why not come along! It's not a competition, just a good chance to try out speaking in Japanese, and everyone gets a small gift for joining. Anyone is welcome to join. It'll be fun!

**Sign-up** by Nov 16th (Sat) with your speech topic

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

**Speech:** about 5mins (less is okay, speaking only event, no presentation/slides etc.)

**Contact us for more info!**

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

**Date:** Nov 24th (Sun) 10:00-12:00

**Place:** Aizu Keikodo Rm 2, 3





# This Month in Aizu and Fukushima



## Autumn Leaves: Oyakuen Garden

**Until around mid November**  
**FREE entry on Nov 3rd (Sun, Culture Day)**

Peacefully stroll around Oyakuen, the traditional garden and villa of Aizu's feudal lords, and take in the beautiful changing colours of the maple trees and more right here in AizuWakamatsu just like the samurai of old this autumn!

**Place:** Oyakuen Garden, Hanaharu-machi, AizuWakamatsu.  
**Time:** 9:00-17:00 (Last admission 16:30)  
**Entry fee:** ¥330 (FREE on November 3rd!)



## Autumn Leaves: Nagatoko

**Around mid November**

Rich yellow leaves of a 30 meter tall ginkgo tree cover the grounds of Shingu Kumano Shrine and the Nagatoko (long floor) worship hall, a beautiful large open air wooden structure of 44 thick wooden pillars built in ancient Heian Era style. The grounds and tree are lit up in the evenings too! Experience the fall colours alongside ancient Japan.

**Place:** 2258 Kumano Shrine, Shingu, Kitakata 966-0923  
**Time:** 8:30-17:00 **Entry fee:** ¥300



## Incense Ceremony Experience

**Nov 10th (Sun)**



Enjoy the aroma and atmosphere of a traditional incense ceremony. Considered one of the three great arts alongside tea ceremony and flower arranging, why not take this rare opportunity to experience a lesser known part of Japan's traditional culture?

**Time:** 10:00-11:30 and 13:30-15:00 (15 people/time)  
**Place:** Ozawa Candle Shop, 6-27 Nishisakae-machi, Aizu  
**Fee:** ¥1000 (reservation required)  
**Contact:** Ozawa Candle Shop in store, or call 0242(27)0652  
**More info:** <https://www.aizukanko.com/news/797>

## Fukushima Museum Events

**Weekends Throughout November**

Fukushima Museum is continuing to hold a variety of hands on events throughout November with the aim of sharing three cultures of Aizu: samurai culture, commerce and industry culture, and snow country handicrafts culture.

- Lacquering with tin powder– Nov 2nd (Sat)
- Aizu cotton handwarmer craft– Nov 10th (Sun)
- Tea ceremony experience –Nov 17th (Sun)
- Aizu Hongo ware making– Nov 24th (Sun)



**Place:** Fukushima Museum, Joto-machi, AizuWakamatsu  
Reservation, times, and price vary. For more please see:  
Crafts: <https://www.tif.ne.jp/entry/article.html?event=7194>  
Tea: <https://www.tif.ne.jp/entry/article.html?event=7090>

## Nakada Kannon: Chrysanthemum Matsuri

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

Koan-ji Temple in Aizu Misato is part of Aizu's 33 Temple Pilgrimage and its Nakada Kannon statue built in 1279 is one of the Aizu Korori Kannon. It is said that offering chrysanthemum flowers at the Nakada Kannon can bring health and harmony. Noguchi Hideyo's Mother often visited to pray! November is Chrysanthemum season, and Koan-ji will be displaying them. The nearby Hoyoji Temple will be hosting it's Chrysanthemum Festival until Nov 5th and is also part of the 33 temple pilgrimage. Why not take the time to see the beautiful temples and flowers?

**Time:** Nov 1st - 10th  
**Place:** Nakata Kannon Temple (Donoatoko-147 Yoneda, Aizumisato )  
To see the Kannon statue inside the temple, please make an appointment!  
**More Info:** <https://misatono.jp/en/nakata>



## Nihonmatsu: Chrysanthemum Doll Festival

**Oct 10th (Thu) - Nov 20th (Wed)**

One of Nihonmatsu City's most famous festivals and the largest of its kind in Japan! 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: creating stunning, colourful displays by covering dolls/mannequins with hundreds of flowers! The ruins of Nihonmatsu Castle, Kasumiga-jo, are the stage of these wonderful displays. Enjoy the flowers, the history and a beautiful view of autumn scenery from the Castle.

**Place:** Kasumiga-jo Castle Park  
**Time:** 9:00-16:00  
**Entrance Fee:** ¥900 (Junior High + under: free!)  
**More Info:** <https://www.nihonmatsu-kanko.jp/?p=4879>



## Taimatsu Matsuri - Sukagawa

**Nov 9th (Sat)**

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

**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)



# International Festival 2024

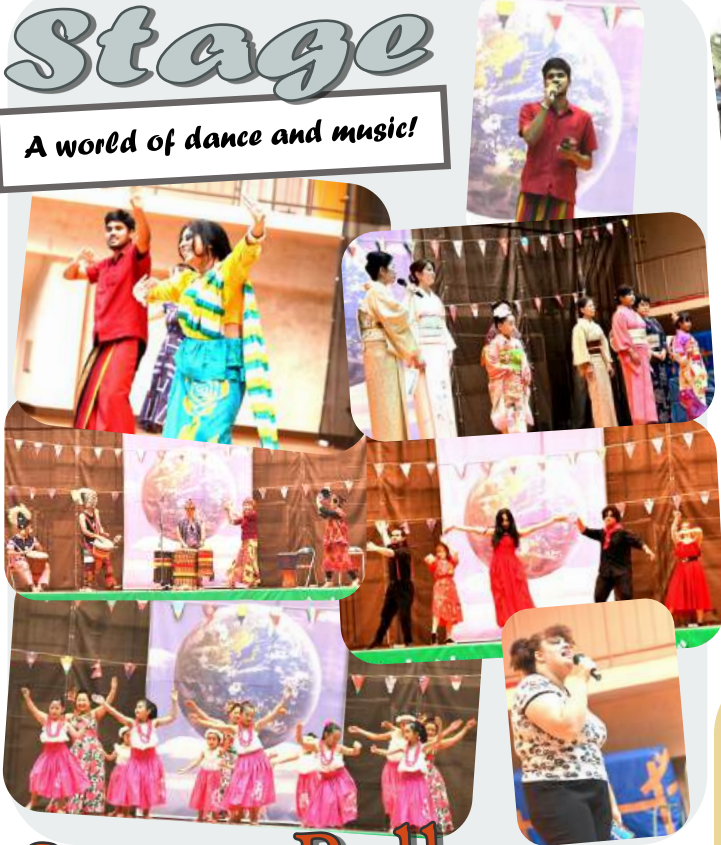
## We set off on The World Adventure



On Saturday Oct. 5th over 2,100 people joined us to set out on the world adventure at our biennial International Festival! We enjoyed a world of dance and songs on stage, travelled around the world right inside the Tsurugajo Gymnasium at the culture booths, went on an adventure of flavors at the food stalls, and followed a treasure hunt at the stamp rally! We hope everyone had a good time interacting with other cultures and adventuring across the world from here in Aizu! -Please enjoy a small selection of photos filled with happy memories from the day!

## Stage

A world of dance and music!



## Food Booths

An adventure of tastes!



## Culture Booths

A journey across cultures and continents!



## Stamp Rally



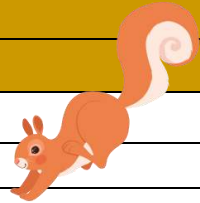
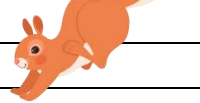




An adventure travelling the whole world (event venue) to meet lots of new cultures and people, and collect stamps to win prizes!



Thoughts from our volunteers:

- It was so fun to speak to many people from around the world and learn about their cultures!
- I always love this event!
- There were so many volunteers, and the work of the students was amazing.
- I thought it was great that children explored the entire venue because of the stamp rally!
- I got to meet so many interesting new people and have some great conversations today!

# Events in November

1	FR	10:00 Japanese Conversation Class (AM)	
2	SA	10:00 JICA Desk 15:00 Children's Nihongo Hiroba	
3	SU	Closed - Culture Day Public Holiday	
4	MO	Closed - Culture Day Transfer Holiday	
5	TU		
6	WE		
7	TH	18:30 Japanese Conversation Class (PM)	
8	FR	10:00 Japanese Conversation Class (AM)	
9	SA	9:30 Inbound Guide Training 10:00 Atsuhana Japanese Convo. Circle 13:30 ChAT-ba: Chinese Convo. Circle	
10	SU	Closed	
11	MO	Closed	
12	TU		
13	WE		
14	TH	18:30 Japanese Conversation Class (PM)	
15	FR	10:00 Japanese Conversation Class (AM)	
16	SA	10:00 FIND English Convo. Circle 13:00 Kanji-kai 15:00 Children's Nihongo Hiroba	
17	SU	Closed 10:00 Children's Storybook Time	
18	MO	Closed	
19	TU		
20	WE	15:00 Board Meeting	
21	TH	18:30 Japanese Conversation Class (PM)	
22	FR	10:00 Japanese Conversation Class (AM)	
23	SA	Closed Labor Thanksgiving Day - Public Holiday	
24	SU	Closed 10:00 Nihongo de Hanasou	
25	MO	Closed	
26	TU		
27	WE		
28	TH		
29	FR		
30	SA	13:30 Newsletter Preparation	

## Other Information

### Stricter Cycling Laws from November

New stricter punishments for cyclists breaking the law.

Please take note and take care!

**Using a smartphone (including making phone calls) while cycling:**

Up to 6 months in prison, or 100,000 JPY fine

**Causing a traffic accident, or hazard while cycling with smartphone:**

Up to 1 year in prison, or 300,000 JPY fine

**Cycling after drinking alcohol:** Up to 3 years in prison, or 500,000 JPY fine

**Cycling with headphones, umbrella, or passenger:** Up to 50,000 JPY fine

<https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2024/10/20/japan/crime-legal/revised-road-traffic-law/> & <https://www.gov-online.go.jp/article/202410/entry-6604.html> (JP)



### ON AIR Be a Guest on the Radio!

Want a chance to be on the radio? AWIA collaborates with FM Aizu (76.2) with a segment once a week: Chikyuu Marutto Tele-report (World-wide Tele-report). Guests can share their experience of living in Aizu or abroad. Guests can join live, or come and pre-record their interview. Interested? Contact us!

**When:** Wednesday Evenings ~17:40 (5-10min segment) (interview is in Japanese only) If you have time, why not listen in?

**Want to be a guest?** Contact us: [mail@awia.jp](mailto:mail@awia.jp)

### Miko (Shrine Maiden) Dance



**Nov 17(Sun) - 10:45-11:30**

**FREE\* - Lunch Included\***

A truly rare chance to watch Shinto Miko "shrine maidens" practicing traditional, ancient dances dedicated to Bandai Myojin at Bandai Shrine, usually closed to the public. Watch rehearsals for three dances, the sakaki dance, bow dance and sword dance, considered intangible folk assets. *\*For foreign nationals answering a survey at the event.*

**Place:** Bandai Shrine, Bandai Town, 969-3301

**Limit:** 10 people, first come first served

**Sign up:** QR code (JP site, so use auto translate)



### Aizu's Seasonal Food—Autumn

**Aizu Rice and Sake Oct 1st - Dec 31st**



For autumn Aizu's Seasonal Food is Aizu rice and sake! The Aizu basin is blessed with ideal conditions for growing rice. The temperature difference of the hot days and cool nights, morning mists in autumn, and deep snows in winter all contribute to delicious rice. Abundant fresh water from lake Inawashiro and the Aga river, and the water flowing from rich mountain forests full of nutrients add to the flavor. Why not pick up some Aizu rice to eat at home, or try out the special dishes on offer at restaurants in the region this season!

**More info:** [https://aizu-shokuno-jin.jp/aizu\\_rice/](https://aizu-shokuno-jin.jp/aizu_rice/)

### 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:** Nov 30th, Sat **Time:** 13:30~ **Place:** AWIA 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!



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