

# What's New in Hyogo?

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*Thank you very much for applying to the Foreign Resident Monitor program. Monitors will receive an issue of "What's New in Hyogo?" issued about three times a year. We will also conduct questionnaire surveys two times a year, and wish to ask for your cooperation. Earlier issues of "What's New in Hyogo?" are viewable at the Hyogo Prefectural Government International Policy Division website. (<http://web.pref.hyogo.jp/kokusai/kenmindayori/kenmindayori.htm>)*

## **Still Accepting Application for the Foreign Resident Monitors**

The Foreign Resident Monitors Program has a quota of 150, but there are still some vacancies. Hearing monitors' opinions is important for the Hyogo Prefectural Government in its policy-planning of the region. Please ask your neighbors or friends to join this program.

If you know anyone who is willing to become a monitor, please give them the enclosed information and application form.

## **Test Start of the Medical Interpretation Service**

In collaboration with an NGO, Hyogo Prefecture is offering a pilot program of medical interpretation services from October 3, 2005 to February 28, 2006. This service is available for 1,500 yen at a time at three hospitals in Kobe. If you have ever felt uneasy at a hospital because of language difference, please try this interpretation service.

**【For appointment or inquiry】**

Multilanguage Center FACIL

( TEL: 078-736-3040 FAX:078-731-6927 E-mail:facil@tcc117.org )

## **Medical Institutions Providing Multilingual Services**

The on-line listing of medical institutions that provide multilingual services is available on the Hyogo International Association's website. This information can be helpful when you need to see a doctor. However, please contact the hospital you wish to visit in advance for further details, as such multilingual services may not always be available.

<http://www.hyogo-ip.or.jp/hiaf/jp/medical/index.htm>

## Consolidation of Municipalities

Many municipalities across Japan have been consolidated since last year, and new municipalities have been created in Hyogo Prefecture as well. This year, the three cities of Tatsuno city, Nishiwaki city, and Miki city, and the four towns of Shin-Onsen-cho, Sayo-cho, Taka-cho and Kamikawa-cho were newly created. Currently, there are 28 cities and 20 towns (cho) in Hyogo Prefecture, but by March 2006 there will be 29 cities and 12 towns.

Please confirm your municipality's information at their website, as your address or foreign resident registration window at the city or town hall may change given the recent and planned consolidations.

【New Name】	【Consolidated Municipalities】
“Tatsuno city”	Tatsuno city, Shingu-cho, Ibogawa-cho, Mitsu-cho
“Nishiwaki city”	Nishiwaki city, Kurodasho-cho
“Miki city”	Miki city, Yokawa-cho
“Shin-Onsen-cho”	Onsen-cho, Hamasaka-cho
“Sayo-cho”	Sayo-cho, Kozuki-cho, Mikazuki-cho, Nanko-cho
“Taka-cho”	Kami-cho, Naka-cho, Yachiyo-cho
“Kamikawa-cho”	Kanzaki-cho, Okawachi-cho

< Municipalities consolidation information in Hyogo Prefecture

( <http://web.pref.hyogo.jp/sichou/gappei/index.htm> ) >

## FM CO · CO · LO Broadcasting

Through FM CO · CO · LO (76.5MHz), Hyogo Prefecture is offering useful daily life information and government information in English, Chinese, Spanish, and Portuguese every Monday. Please tune in to this radio program.

	【Every Monday】
“HYOGO HAPPENINGS” ( English )	2 1 : 0 0 ~ 2 1 : 1 0
“Binku Xinxi Guangchang” ( Chinese )	2 1 : 1 0 ~ 2 1 : 2 0
“ACONTECE EN HYOGO” ( Spanish )	2 1 : 2 0 ~ 2 1 : 3 0
“ACONTECE EM HYOGO” ( Portuguese )	2 1 : 3 0 ~ 2 1 : 4 0

## Symbols of Hyogo Prefecture

There are 47 prefectures in Japan, and each of them has its own prefectural flower, tree, and bird. Some even have fish or other animals. Do you know what flower, tree, and bird represent Hyogo Prefecture?

Hyogo's Prefectural flower is the wild chrysanthemum, or Nojigiku. Nojigiku grow wild on cliffs near beaches. Their height ranges from 50 to 80 cm, and their white bloom has a diameter of 3 to 5 cm. Nojigiku usually bloom in November to December.





Hyogo's Prefectural tree is the camphor tree, or Kusunoki. It is usually 20 meters high, but some can grow as large as 50 meters with a diameter of 5 meters. Kusunoki can often be found along streets, as well as in parks and shrines.

Hyogo's Prefectural bird is the oriental white stork, or Konotori which is designated as a specially protected animal by the Japanese Government. Their wingspan can be as wide as 2 meters. Konotori is an endangered white bird, rare in the world. They used to be found across Japan, but began to disappear due to the use of agricultural chemicals. The last wild stork in Japan was spotted in Toyooka, Hyogo in 1971. Currently, rehabilitation projects are underway to release raised storks to the wild in Toyooka City, and the test release started in September this year.



### **Opinions and Recommendations from Foreign Resident Monitors**

Included in the last page is the sheet for the Opinions and Recommendations from Foreign Residents Monitors. Please write in your opinions and send it to the address below by mail or fax. We will introduce submitted opinions in the next issue. We look forward to hearing from many of you.

### **Editor's Note**

In winter, cities are livened up with beautiful illuminations of streets and buildings at night. The Kobe Luminarie is one of the most famous lighting events of the winter. First held in December 1995, the year of the earthquake, the Luminarie has been held every year to offer thoughts and prayers for the peaceful repose of the quake victims and to renew hopes for reconstruction of the quake-hit areas. This year marks the 11th Luminarie, and the lighting can be enjoyed in Chuo-ku, Kobe, from December 9 (Fri.) to 22 (Thu.). In addition to the Luminarie, many illuminations can be enjoyed in various parts of Hyogo Prefecture during this season. Please stroll around the streets to appreciate the beautiful art of lighting.

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