

TOYAMA JAPAN

— 日本の富山がよくわかる —
All about TOYAMA in Japan



ごあいさつ

一般社団法人富山県芸術文化協会
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2020年の初頭から、世界の人々は大きな衝撃を受けました。新型コロナウイルス感染症が世界各国で多くの人々を苦しめ、さまざまな社会活動を停滞させました。2020年に予定されていた「とやま世界子ども演劇祭」も中止を余儀なくされました。

こうした中で、とやまでは2020年の秋以降、十分な感染症対策のもとで舞台公演や展覧会の安全な開催に成功し、芸術文化活動を待ち望んでいた人々に大きな希望の明かりを灯すことができました。また、WEBメディアを活用し、遠隔地や屋外に出ることができない方も多様な芸術文化活動の一端にふれることができるようになりました。

私たちは、今回の事態から多くのことを学びました。遠隔を余儀なくされたことで、直接会うことへのかけがえのなさ、困難な状況にあって互いに相手を気遣う友情、そして共通の夢や目標に向けて手を携えた国際協力の大切さを胸に刻みました。

富山県は、日本唯一の氷河がある高さ3000m級の立山連峰から、「世界で最も美しい湾クラブ」の富山湾まで変化に富んだ美しい自然のもと、人々の努力によって災害を克服し、人類の理想である「SDGs未来都市」をめざす意欲的な自治体です。舞台芸術はもとより、美術・工芸などでも日本トップクラスの成果をあげています。また、富山市はコンパクトシティ、レジリエンスシティをめざし、高岡市は1300年を超える伝統文化を有しています。皆さんには、伝統文化から時代の最先端まで、とやまの多彩な魅力にふれていただきたいと思えます。

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Toyama Bay inducted into “The Most Beautiful Bays in the World” Club.

Photo : TATEYAMA mountain range from AMABARASHI coast ©Toyama Prefectural Tourism Association

雨晴海岸から望む立山連峰（公社）富山県観光連盟より

Greetings

Toyama Prefectural Artistic and Cultural Association
President Akira KINOSHITA

From the dawn of the year 2020, people all over the world were greatly shocked. The new coronavirus infection tormented many individuals in every country of the world, and social activities stagnated. “The TOYAMA World Festival of Children’s Theatre in 2020” which was planned for 2020, unavoidably, also had to be canceled.

In these circumstances, under sufficient measures against infectious diseases, we had successfully organized performing arts performances and exhibitions in Toyama from autumn 2020, and we had brought a big light of hope to the people who eagerly waited for artistic and cultural activities. Also, with the use of the Internet media, people who live in remote locations or cannot go outside were able to experience parts of such activities.

We have learned a lot from this situation. By being forced to isolate, we have engraved in our memory the importance and the irreplaceableness of meeting in person, the friendship that cares for each other in difficult situations and being hand in hand in the international cooperation toward common dreams and goals.

The Toyama Prefecture is an ambitious local government that has overcome disasters with people’s efforts and is aiming for the ideal "SDGs Future City" for humankind. Everything is happening under the beauty and changing richness of nature starting from the 3000m-high Tateyama Mountain Range with Japan's only glacier, to Toyama Bay of the “World's Most Beautiful Bays Club”. Our Prefecture has achieved top-class results in Japan not only in performing arts but also in arts, crafts, and other fields. In addition, Toyama City aims to become a Compact City Toyama and Resilient city, and Takaoka City has retained its traditional culture of over 1300 years. We would like everyone to experience Toyama’s various attractions, starting from traditional culture to the state-of-the-art era.

Short History of PAT & TIATF

The very beginning スタートライン

In 1977 the Theatre Company BUNGEIZA of Toyama obtained the premium prize in Dundalk International Maytime Festival, Ireland, which opened all the way to international artistic and cultural exchanges in Toyama. BUNGEIZA proposed to hold Toyama International Amateur Theatre Festival (TIATF) in 1983 in memory of the 100th anniversary of inauguration of prefecture, which was the first international festival ever held in Asia. Just before the opening of the festival, surprising enough, the airplane of Korea was shot down by the Soviet Union Air Force off Sakhalin. In this strained situation of the whole world, Players Studio Debrecen from Hungary took 5 days, traveling across Siberia taking a boat and managing to arrive in Toyama, finally to participate in our Festival! Their exploit gave us tremendous courage, and at the same time it can be said to be a brilliant hint of bright and ever-lasting future.



TIATF'83 富山県置県百年記念 富山国際アマチュア演劇祭

"Politics and religions separate us, while arts unite us."
"政治と宗教は人を分けるが芸術は人を集める"



TIATF'85 国際青年年記念 富山国際高校演劇祭

Young men bearing "Mikoshi" in Toyama Festival.
富山まつりでTIATF 神輿を担ぐ若者たち

Strong figures of high school students 高校生たちの力強い姿

In 1985 we had Toyama International High School Theatre festival, where high school students from all over the world got together in one place for the first time in the world history. The photo shows their strong features who were bearing on their shoulder "Mikoshi" for the first time in their lives. In 1989, Toyama International Youth Theatre Festival was held, when more and more applicants wanted to join, and we had much difficulty in deciding the chosen groups. In 1997 the second TIATF, and this makes 4 times of international events in Toyama in total. Our criteria have always been participants' localities and their qualities.



Performances of high quality.
多くの質の高い舞台を披露



TIATF'89 富山・高岡市市制百年記念 富山国際青年演劇祭

All are young who find themselves young.
自らを若いと思う人すべてが若者



TIATF'92 富山国際アマチュア演劇祭

The first cruising performances in the world 世界初のクルージング公演

In 1996 we held Toyama International Theatre Festival combined with International Children's Theatre Festival, which resulted in many precious memories. Also for the first time in the world, we were cruising around Toyama Bay on the Shin-sakuramaru, a large passenger boat (19,811 tons), giving the performances there, while His Imperial Highness the Crown Prince with Her Imperial Highness gave us the honor of visiting Toyama and appreciating "The Marriage Proposal" (written by Chekhov and performed by On-nyoro-za) at Niikawabunka Hall.



TIATF'96 第11回国民文化祭とやま記念富山国際演劇祭・国際こども演劇祭

The first international festival cruising in Toyama Bay.
富山湾クルージングによる世界初の国際演劇祭



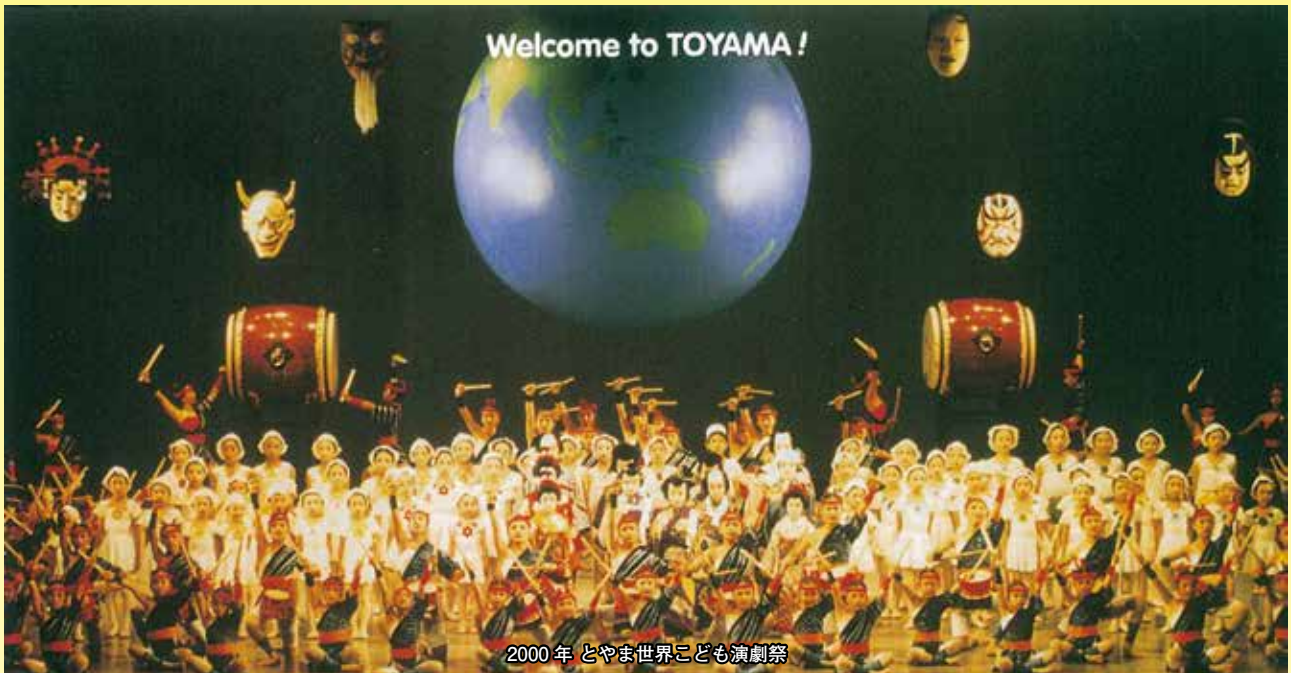
On the deck many performances were held.
新さくら丸甲板が劇場空間



His Imperial Highness the Crown Prince and Her Imperial Highness giving the honour of seeing the festival (the current HM the Emperor with HM the Empress) 皇太子殿下同妃殿下 (現・天皇后両陛下) 富山のろう者劇団やチェコのパントマイムをご高覧



Short History of PAT & TIATF



2000年 とやま世界こども演劇祭

The festival authorized by AITA/IATA asbl (International Amateur Theater Association) .
国際アマチュア演劇連盟の公式行事

Towards the future of children こどもたちの未来に向けて

In 2000, Toyama World Children's Theatre Festival was held, officially being authorized by International Amateur Theatre Association (AITA/IATA asbl). On this good occasion, we focused on children in organizing international performing arts festivals. Thus after Asia-Pacific Children's Theatre Festival in 2004, the first World Festival of Children's Performing Arts in Toyama (PAT) developed its frame into a larger domain of theatre, dances, music and musicals, etc. This also resulted in far more successful performances with far more splendour, brightness and energy of children.



アジア太平洋こども演劇祭 2004

Many traditional performing arts in many countries and regions being shown.
国や地域の伝統芸能が多く披露される



とやま世界こども舞台芸術祭 2008

The Robot ASHIMO appearing on stage.
ロボットのアシモ登場



とやま世界こども舞台芸術祭 2012

Patty with many mascot characters in Toyama gathering together.
PATちゃんをはじめ県内のマスコットキャラクター集う

Collaboration with foreign countries, finally bearing fruit 結実した海外との共同制作

After the World Festival of Children's Performing Arts in Toyama, 2012, the World Festival of Children's Performing Arts in Toyama, 2016 sees our memorial 10th international event in total. On this special occasion, we would like to perform in front of a large audience from abroad, our fruit of collaboration with foreign countries: folklore drama "Sannen Netaro" created by BUNGEIZA and Griff Puppet Theatre from Hungary along with "The Little Match Girl", wonderful collaborative effort of KASAI Dancing Company and Bohemia Ballet from the Czech Republic.

TIATF and PAT the 10th memorial special performances, collaborated with foreign countries

"The Little Match Girl" and "Sannen Netaro".

とやま世界こども舞台芸術祭 2016

TIATF & PAT 第10回記念 国際共同制作による特別公演



ダンスファンタジー「マッチ売りの少女」
演出・振付／可西晴香

Kasai Dancing Company with Bohemia Ballet.
可西舞踊研究所・プラハボヘミアバレエ団共同制作



民話劇「三年寝太郎」 演出／小泉博

The Bungeiza with Griff Pappet Theater.
ハンガリーグリフ人形劇団・富山劇団文芸座共同制作

Let's Talk about Toyama

Efforts to live in harmony with nature

自然と人間の共生の努力

The first World Cultural Heritage site in which people's lifestyle harmonized with nature was recognized

人々と自然との共生が初めて評価された世界文化遺産

The historic village of Gokayama was registered as a World Cultural Heritage site in 1995. Among the Gassho-style houses in the village, the oldest one was built about 400 years ago. Trees planted on the steep slope of the mountain have been bent for several decades because of heavy snow. These trees peculiar to the area are utilized for Gassho-style houses, which are characteristic of this area and are very strong.

It is very remarkable that people's lifestyle harmonized with nature in the village was appreciated in the selection of this site. This was the first time in the history of the World Heritage project.

The white diamond and the dams in the plain fields

水を保つ機能「白いダイヤモンド」と「大地のダム」

Snow accumulated in the Tateyama mountain range is called "the white diamond." It is the source of water flow which never stops all year round.

People in Toyama have always utilized this abundant water for various industries over the ages. In 2006, the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries selected the 100 exquisite agricultural waterways. From Toyama Prefecture, 4 waterways were selected. The waterways in Toyama Prefecture have expanded like a net. For the last several hundred years, they have been playing important roles in providing water to fields for agriculture including rice cultivation, preventing fires, melting snow on the streets, and conserving the ecological system. Especially, rice fields function as dams in the plain fields where water penetrates into the soil slowly and is kept as groundwater.

Activity to protect the forest of satoyama and the water sources

里山の森と水源を守る活動

The activity of Kusakari-jujigun(Grass Cutting Crusade) started in 1974. This was the first proposal-based civil movement in Japan. It was an alternative to aerial herbicide application to the forest in Toyama Prefecture. Toru ADACHIHARA called people to help to cut grass, kusakari in Japanese. 252 young people came to Toyama from all over the country. Since then, for 40 years, this activity has been held every summer. People of various generations cut grass for about 10 days. The work is very hard under the blazing sun. The activity has been accepted and conducted to protect the forests and water sources. It is also an opportunity for people to get a sense of accomplishment, meet and interact with each other, and understand the forest. The activity was made into a movement in 1997. This activity has attracted a lot of appreciation all over the country and the world.

Reading Guide for Japanese

Gassho-style house 合掌造り (の家)

Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries 農林水産省

Kusakari-jujigun 草刈り十字軍

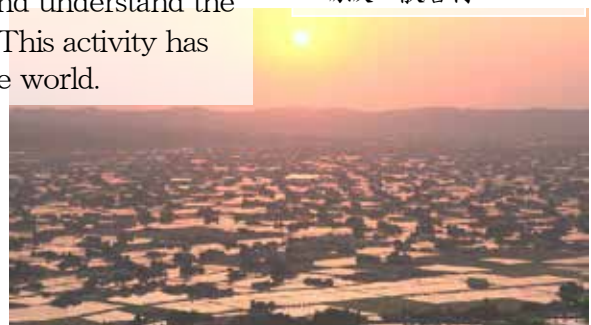
proposal-based civil movement 提案型の市民運動

Toru ADACHIHARA 足立原貫 (草刈り十字軍提唱者)



Ainokura Village in Gokayama
五箇山の相倉合掌造り集落

Sankyo-son in Tonami
砺波の散居村



dialogue

Sakura and Emily, who is from New York, visit Gokayama, Nanto City



Sakura

Many World Cultural Heritage sites are archeological locations, but people actually live their daily lives in Gokayama.

There's so much green around here.



Emily



Sakura

Those trees were planted by village people. They can be utilized as fuel. When a tree is big enough, it is used for a pillar of the houses here.

People's lives harmonize well with nature. I want to have a lot of experiences in Toyama's nature.



Emily



Sakura

Then, why don't you join Kusakari-jujigun, a Grass Cutting Crusade. It was started in Toyama

Crusade? Against whom?



Emily



Sakura

No, no. That's a volunteer activity to protect the forest and water sources. Volunteers stay in the mountain for 10 days during summer to cut grass to avoid the use of herbicide. Their activities were made into a movement.

Interesting!



Emily



Sakura

It is surely hard work, but you can learn a lot of things on site, I heard.



NOWPAP, the UN organization to protect the environment

NOWPAP stands for "Northwest Pacific Action Plan." Its head office was established in Toyama City in 2004. This is the first UN office on the Japan Sea. NOWPAP Toyama Office is working on protecting the marine environment together with its partner, the Busan Office, in Korea.

Tateyama and Kurobe, treasures of Toyama

富山の宝 立山・黒部

The world-famous tourist site in the mountain

世界有数の山岳観光地

The Tateyama Kurobe Alpine Route is a tourist route from Toyama City to Omachi City, Nagano Prefecture, through the Northern Alps. You take various means of transportation, such as a cable railway, a highland bus, a trolley bus, and a ropeway. On the way you can enjoy the beautiful scenery of a primeval forest and the permanent snow.

There is a waterfall, Shomyodaki, which is the highest in Japan at 350m. Only in the snow melting season there is another waterfall, Hannokidaki, at the right side of Shomyodaki. Its drop is 500m. These two falls, together, look like a V shape.

In Bijodaira there is a primitive forest with over 1,000 year-old trees. Midagahara and Dainichidaira, registered wetlands under the Ramsar Convention, are very rich in alpine flora. At the final station of the highland bus, Murodo, there are mountains over 3,000meters high before your eyes. You see a very beautiful reflection of Tateyama on the surface of the pond, Mikurigaike. There are many sightseeing spots.

The wonderful nature and artistic beauty

素晴らしい自然と造形美

The Kurobe Gorge Railway starts from Unazuki Onsen and reaches Keyakidaira. The track is about 20.1kilometers long and runs halfway through the mountains, looking down at the deepest V-shaped valley in Japan at 1,500meters. On the tram, which was once used as a railroad car for construction of tunnels and dams, you will feel a breeze and enjoy the nature of Kurobe Gorge, such as verdure in early summer, the permanent snow in summer, and colored leaves in autumn.

The track has many tunnels and bridges. One of the bridges is 60meters high. Along the track, there are wonderful spots for colored leaves and the permanent snow. You can enjoy magnificent landscapes one after another. There is an open air spa on the riverside where hot water springs dynamically.

The only glaciers in Japan

立山にある日本唯一の氷河

The three snow ravines in the Tateyama mountain range were confirmed academically as existent glaciers for the first time in Japan. Experts presume that in Gozenzawa Gorge, on the east face of Mountain Oyama, there is ice formed more than 1,000 years ago.

This discovery was made by the experts of Tateyama Caldera Sabo Museum through research. In the Far East region, Tateyama is the southern limit of the glacier. A glacier is a large body of ice formed by accumulation of snow and ice, and moves very slowly over many years. Compared to other mountains with glaciers in the world, Tateyama is relatively low in latitude and its temperature is relatively high. However, it has satisfied all the conditions for forming a glacier, such as a lot of accumulated snow and avalanches.



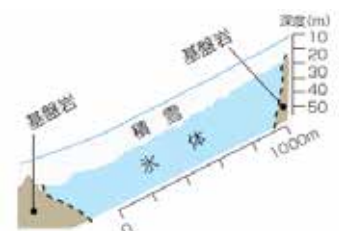
Shomyodaki 称名滝
とやま観光ナビより



Otani area of snow
雪の大谷 (美女平 天空ロード)



Kurobe Gorge Railway
黒部峡谷鉄道



Cross sectional view of the ice body in San-no-mado Snowy Gorge

dialogue

Mike and Kenta talk about going to Tateyama



Kenta

Why don't we go to Tateyama this weekend? We can take a cable car and a highland bus on the Tateyama Kurobe Alpine Route.

That sounds interesting! I like mountains and vehicles very much.



Mike



Kenta

I'm thinking of climbing Mountain Oyama from Murodo, the final station of the bus. How about it?

OK! I heard that we can see a glacier from Oyama. Is it true?



Mike



Kenta

Yes. That is the first glacier in Japan. I thought glaciers existed only in the Alps in Europe or the Himalayas, but there is a glacier in Toyama in Japan. It is a big surprise.

I want to see it. It's so interesting!



Mike



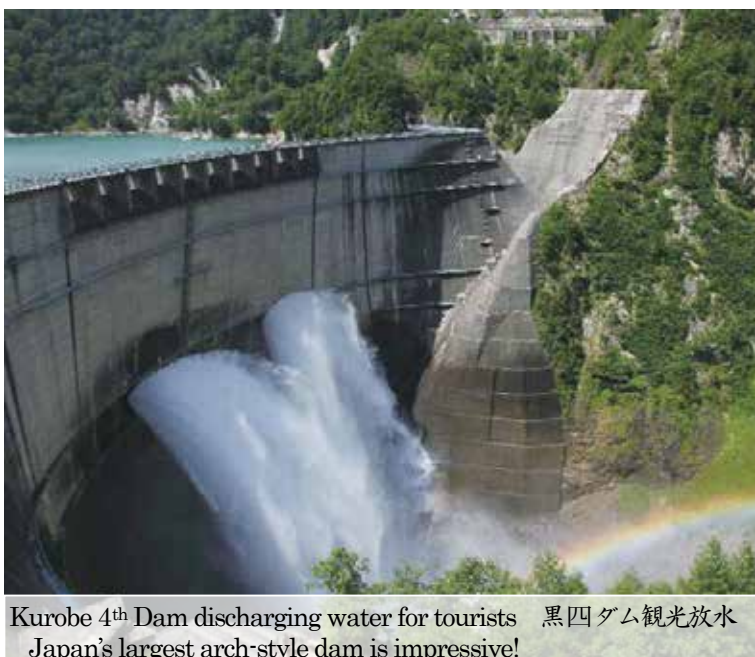
Kenta

I've got an idea. You like vehicles, so let's take a trolley train in the Kurobe Gorge. Some cars are canopy trucks. It goes to the very deep valley, about 1,500 meters deep. You can enjoy a lot of beautiful landscapes.

It sounds like a really interesting adventure!



Mike



Kurobe 4th Dam discharging water for tourists 黒四ダム観光放水
Japan's largest arch-style dam is impressive!

Difficulties of constructing Kurobe Dam

The history of constructing Kurobe Dam is full of unprecedented hardships. While constructing the 3rd dam, the structure was swept away by an avalanche and dynamite was ignited spontaneously by high heat. Furthermore, while constructing the 4th dam, there was a crushed zone from which a huge amount of water sprang. There were certainly many problems, however, they were solved by new technology every time. It was a really human drama. The story of the construction has been told in novels and movies.

Land, sea and air transportation networks

陸・海・空の交通ネットワーク

An improving expressway network 充実する高速交通網

Toyama is located at almost the same distance from Tokyo, Osaka, and Nagoya. In the spring of 2015 the Hokuriku Shinkansen bullet train started operation. By Shinkansen, it takes about 2 hours from Toyama to Tokyo. It is expected that the Shinkansen will greatly influence tourism and industry, increase interaction between Toyama people and others, and draw more people to the prefecture.



The Hokuriku Shinkansen
北陸新幹線

There is an expressway network directly with the Capital region, Chukyo region, and Kansai region.

In addition, there are links from Fushiki Toyama Port to neighboring countries. It functions as a gateway in the region along the Japan Sea.

A hub of international transportation 国際的交通の拠点

Toyama Airport was opened in 1963. This is the only airport established in a dry riverbed in Japan. It is very accessible. It takes only 15 minutes from the airport to the center of Toyama City by car. Its nickname is “Toyama Kito Kito Airport.” (“Kito Kito” means “fresh” in Toyama dialect)



Toyama Kito Kito Airport
富山きとくと空港

From the airport, domestic flights are available to Tokyo and Sapporo. International flights are also available to Dalian, Shanghai, Taipei, and Seoul. The airline network is formed with neighboring countries along the Japan Sea and of East Asia.

The main gateway in the area along the Japan Sea

日本海側の総合的拠点港

Fushiki Toyama Port has functioned and prospered as a major port facing the Japan Sea for a long time. In 1986, the port was designated as one of the Special Major Ports since it was evaluated as an important port for international trade. In 2011, the port was also selected as a Comprehensive Hub Port.



Siberian Land Bridge

Fushiki Toyama Port is the last port of call of Japan in a foreign route.

There is a route for commodity distribution, called “Siberian Land Bridge,” which connects Japan with Europe by maritime transportation from Fushiki Toyama Port across the Japan Sea and the Trans-Siberian Railway. It is expected to greatly reduce the number of days for transporting commodities to Europe.



Kaiwomaru and Sinminato Ohashi Bridge / Photo by Fusikitoyamakou Kaiwomaru.org. 海王丸と新湊大橋 写真：伏木富山港・海王丸財団提供

Toyama Bay is a member of “**Most Beautiful Bays in the World**” Club

富山湾は、「世界で最も美しい湾クラブ」に加盟している。

Reading Guide for Japanese

Special Major Port 特定重要港湾

Comprehensive Hub Port 総合的拠点港

Siberian Land Bridge シベリア・ランド・ブリッジ

Trans-Siberian Railway シベリア鉄道

the last port of call of Japan 日本での最終寄航の港

dialogue

Sakura and Mike talk about transportation networks in Toyama Prefecture and Japan



Mike

I feel Tokyo and Toyama are very close by taking an airplane.



Sakura

In 2015, the Hokuriku Shinkansen bullet train started operation. By Shinkansen, it takes about 2 hours from Toyama to Tokyo



Mike

How do you go to the Kansai region? Toyama is equally accessible from these cities.



Sakura

You can go to Osaka or Nagoya by car on the expressway or by train. The distances from Toyama to Tokyo, Osaka, and Nagoya are almost the same.



Mike

How about access to overseas from Toyama?



Sakura

From Toyama there are flights available directly to Korea, China, and Taiwan.



Mike

It's convenient. The tram running in Toyama City is very cool.



Sakura

You know, the one from JR Toyama Station to the north is called Portram and the other one running in the center of the city is called Centram.



Mike

We can live here without a car.



Toyama Light Rail 富山ライトレール

Building a city, a place to live easily

As one of the strategies of Toyama City to build a compact city where people can live without a private car, the first full-scaled LRT (Light Rail Transit) was introduced in Toyama City in 2006. The LRT has been evaluated so highly that it received various awards, including the Good Design Award.

Toyama, a prefecture of manufacturing

ものづくり県富山

Toyama's power of manufacturing

富山のものづくりの力

Toyama is one of the leading prefectures of industrial accumulation along the Japan Sea. There are many companies, some of which occupy a high share of the market at home and abroad, and some of which have excellent technologies and products. These include the world's top makers of zippers and electronic parts for computers. Such top quality goods produced with high technology in Toyama are in demand overseas. Today, there are new challenges in the fields of medical care, biotechnology, airplanes, new generation cars, and robotics.

Toyama Brand recommended by Toyama Prefecture

富山県推奨 とやまブランド

Among various attractive goods produced in Toyama, excellent goods are designated as "The Toyama Brand recommended by Toyama Prefecture."

Masuzushi is a symbolic food of Toyama. It is always very popular in railway box lunch fairs held nationwide. Toyama produces the largest number of tulip bulbs.

Okado Somen, which looks like women's traditional hair style marumage, is made on cold winter days. It has a resilient texture. Toyama is proud of various items such as yellowtail fish and Takaoka copperware, which are listed as the Toyama Brand.

New developments in traditional technology

伝統の技の新たな展開

In Toyama Prefecture there are 5 traditional craft industries designated by the national government. Today, these traditional craft industries are more and more inclined to develop new products to match modern lifestyle. One example is an electric guitar, named "Dragon Sword," designed with wood carving at Inami. In the Etchu paper industry, Japanese paper is used for lamp shades to produce soft light. Furthermore, water-repellent Japanese paper is developed in the industry. In the lacquerware industry in Takaoka, there are various products to match modern trends, such as cups for beer and ornaments for cell phone straps.



Water jet machine
ウォータージェットマシン



Dragon Sword, an electric guitar designed by Inami wood carving
井波彫刻のエレキギター
「龍剣」

Reading Guide for Japanese resilient texture

コシの強い食感
water-repellent 撥水性の
lacquerware 漆器

Toyama Brand Parade



The "Toyama Brand" are the special products of Toyama.

- Masu-zushi, pressed trout sushi, is famous throughout Japan.
- Toyama tulips are top-product in Japan.
- Toyama hoshi-gaki are the high-quality dried persimmons.
- O-kado somen are traditional hand-made dried noodles.
- Toyama Bay buri are high quality yellowtail in Japan.
- Toyama Bay shiro-ebi, white shrimp, are called "The Jewel of Toyama Bay".
- Toyama Bay hotaru-ika are firefly squid .
- "Paro" is the therapeutic robot.
- Water jet machines are used for industries.
- Inami wood carvings are an applied fine art.
- Takaoka copperware is used in a large variety of items.
- Toyama Koshi-hikari are tasty rice.

photo: Toyama Just Now

dialogue

Sakura and Mike are shopping to look for a souvenir of Toyama



Mike

My cousin will come to Toyama.
What's good as a souvenir of Toyama?



Sakura

How about goods designated as the Toyama Brand. For food, I recommend masuzushi, or okado somen. Processed yellowtail or white shrimp are also good.



Mike

Is there anything good among the traditional crafts?



Sakura

How about a lacquerware or copperware item of Takaoka? A tin cup is beautiful.



Mike

It might be wonderful to have something made by traditional skills with a modern design.



Sakura

You know there is an electric guitar designed with Inami wood carving.



Mike

That's cool!



Sakura

By the way, Mike, your jacket is great. Do you know the zipper of that jacket is produced by a company in Toyama?



Mike

I bought this one in San Francisco. This kind of zipper is used around the world. I'm surprised!



TOYAMA MONOZUKURI Research and Development Centre

The centre is a base facility with the most advanced equipment to promote the manufacturing industry in Toyama Prefecture.

It is open for companies or universities. With industry - academia - government collaboration, the centre aims to support the development of new goods and technology.

The beauty of traditional buildings and their meaning in modern society 伝統建築の美と現代的な意義

Temples of people's prayers 人々の祈りが込められた寺院群

In Takaoka City there are two Buddhist temples with cultural significance. One is Zuiryuji and the other is Shokoji. The former is a national treasure and the latter is an important cultural property.

Zuiryuji was built as the family temple for the 2nd lord of the Kaga domain, Toshinaga MAEDA, by the 3rd lord, Toshitsune. It took 20 years for the temple to be completed in 1663. The characteristic feature of the temple is that the main gate, the temple gate, the Buddha hall, and the lecture hall are arranged in a straight line.

Shokoji was built about 420 years ago as a temple of the Honganji school of the Pure Land Buddhism. The location of the temple is believed to be the place of the central office of Etchu in ancient times. With the appearance of the main gate, which was built in a wide place, and the arrangement of the buildings, the temple looks like a castle.



Zuiryuji, a national treasure
国宝瑞龍寺

Important Preservation Districts for Groups of Historic Buildings Kanaya-machi, Takaoka, a town of metal casting and traditional crossing lattices

千本格子の鑄物の町 高岡・金屋町の重伝建地区

In Kanaya-machi of Takaoka City there is a row of traditional townhouses. Typically, these houses have an arrangement of crossing lattices, called samanoko, in their facades. In the early 17th century, the feudal lord of the Kaga domain invited 7 craftsmen of metal casting to Kanaya-machi to produce housewares. Then, Kanaya-machi prospered as a town of metal casting.

In Kanaya-machi, buildings related to metal casting have been conserved very well, such as main houses, dozo (traditional storehouses built from timber, stone and clay), workplaces, and tiny shrines. Craftsmen of metal casting keep their tradition there. In Kanaya-machi, you can see the history of the traditional industry and the lifestyle of craftsmen in the Edo Period.



Kanaya-machi in Takaoka
City 高岡市金屋町

A traditional style of house, Azuma-dachi and kainyo

伝統家屋アズマダチとカイニョ

In the Tonami Plain there is a unique settlement, called sankyo-son, in which houses are built with some distance between them. The house is typically built with a traditional architectural style, Azuma-dachi. To avoid snowstorms in winter and sunlight in summer, trees such as cedars are planted surrounding a residence. This residential wood is called kainyo. Fallen leaves or branches from kainyo were used as fuel, too. People had an ecological lifestyle. Along with changes in lifestyle, the number of the residential woods is decreasing. Various efforts have been made to preserve this traditional landscape of Japan.

Reading Guide for Japanese

lecture hall 法堂

Honganji school of the Pure Land

Buddhism 浄土真宗本願寺派

Important Preservation Districts for

Groups of Historic Buildings 重要伝

統的建造物群保存地区 (重伝建地区)

tiny shrine 祠 (ほこら)

residential wood 屋敷林



Azuma-dachi アズマダチ

dialogue

Sakura and Mike visit Zuiryuji, a national treasure



Mike

We visited Shokoji the other day. It's a wonderful temple, and Zuiryuji is also terrific. It's so large that we have walked straight and passed through two gates.



Sakura

Yes, we have. Zuiryuji is a temple for Zen practice and is a national treasure. Well, let's go to Kanaya-machi next. It is famous for metal casting. The stone pavements and a row of traditional houses there have a lot of charm of their own.



Mike

Buildings in Toyama are very interesting.



Sakura

Yes, they are. In Tonami City there are traditional houses surrounded by tall trees in rice fields.



Mike

It sounds like there are houses in the woods.



Sakura

That's right. There are houses scattering in the district and that is why the district is called sankyo-son, a dispersed village. When the rice fields are filled with water, each house surrounded with trees looks like an island on a lake.



Mike

Wow, what a beautiful landscape it must be!



Sakura

Next time, let's go on a trip to visit various buildings all over Toyama, shall we?



Mike

Sounds great!



Yamachosuji, a beautiful dozo street in the castle town

In 1609 Toshinaga MAEDA, the 2nd lord of the Kaga domain, established a castle and a town for his life after retiring. Along with them a town of merchants gradually formed. That is Yamacho. The name of Yamacho originated in Takaoka Mikuruma-yama. Yamachosuji is a beautiful street with dozo(storehouse with earthen) in the atmosphere of a castle town. The town is designated as "Important Preservation Districts for Groups of Historic Buildings." The historical landscape has been conserved in the town.

Rich local culture 豊かな郷土文化

Traditional dances in Festivals 住民が踊り継ぐ祭り

Etchu-owara-bushi, Mugiya-bushi, and Kokiriko-bushi are three major folk songs of Toyama. Owara-Kaze-no-Bon, held in Yatsuo, Toyama City, is accompanied by kokyū, a traditional string instrument, with a melancholic tone. Dancers wear braided hats. Men dance dynamically and women dance elegantly for three days and nights. Mugiya-bushi is performed in the Gokayama Mugiya Festival in Nanto City, and in the Johana Mugiya Festival. Dancers do a dynamic dance with sedge hats in hand. Kokiriko-bushi is performed in a festival in the Gokayama region in Nanto City. Dancers dance while playing the sasara, a traditional instrument.

In the local performing arts club of Nanto-Taira High School, students learn and pass down the folk songs and dances of the Gokayama region. They achieve a very good result at the All-Japan High School Cultural Festival every year.



Owara-Kaze-no-Bon in
Yatsuo Town
八尾町のおわら風の盆

Festivals, great and beautiful 華やかで豪快な祭り

Toyama is one of the prefectures where there are many floats for festivals. In the past, floats indicated economic potential or the culture of each town. Each float is decorated gorgeously with the essence of craftsmanship of lacquerware, carving, and metalwork. For example, Takaoka Mikuruma-yama has umbrella-like decorations formed by bamboo sticks with many flowers. When seven beautiful floats get together, it is very spectacular.

Another type of float is seen in the festivals in Johana, Nanto City, or Yatsuo, Toyama City. This type of float has a small palatial home, called yakata, and dolls are put there. The floats with a lot of lanterns parade shine the town at night. It is interesting to see how floats change direction in a narrow street. A Tatemon float in Uozu City is 16meters high and has many lanterns hung from a pillar, which makes the float triangle-shaped. The floats light up the night sky by hundreds of lanterns.

Festivals, rooted in local towns 土地に根付いた祭り

In local towns in Toyama Prefecture, there are traditional annual events in which people pray for health, safety, good harvest, and prosperity.

Hatsu-uma in Toga, Nanto City, is a festival only by children. They visit houses pretending to do works of agriculture or sericulture. Buriwake-shinji is held in the Kamo Shrine in Kamo-Chubu, Imizu City. After buri, yellowtail, are offered to the god in the shrine, the fish buri are divided. People eat pieces of the buri as the gift from the god, in turn. Kishu-sai is a festival held in many port towns in Himi City. People display tairyo-bata, a fisherman's flag, offer a sea bream to the local god, and share a cup of sake.

Reading Guide for Japanese

float 山車
sericulture 養蚕
yellowtail ブリ
sea bream 鯛
share a cup of sake
酒をまわしのむ



Takaoka Mikuruma-yama Festival 高岡御車山祭

Emily's mother wants to visit Toyama Kenta explains to Emily about festivals in Toyama



My mother wants to come to Toyama this September. Where should I take her in Toyama?

What does she like?



She likes music and dance in any country.



So, why don't you take her to some festivals. Toyama has various traditional festivals. In September, you should see Owara-Kaze-no-Bon. A great number of tourists from all over the country come and see the festival. You can join in the dancing, too.



They dance for 3 days and nights, don't they?

Yes. There are also many float festivals.



What is a float?

It is a big wheeled platform with gorgeous ornamentation. Many people drag it to parade in the town. When many floats get together, it is magnificent. Now you can see the floats at an exhibition facility.



It's exciting just imagining! I have to send an email to my mother soon.



Chindon

The Chindon Contest was started in 1955 with the wish for restoration of Toyama City, 99.5% of which was burned down due to the bombing in the war. A chindonman is a street performer who advertises a shop or a fair by playing musical instruments such as a bell or a drum. In the contest a couple dozen chindon-men from all over the country show their performances on the stage. The contest is held every year when cherry blossoms are in full bloom. Therefore, it is a beautiful and bright seasonal feature which heralds the arrival of spring.

Etchu *Man'yo* Excellent waka poems which was loved for 1,300 years

越中万葉 1,300年間愛された和歌

Man'yo-shu is the oldest existing collection of Japanese poetry (*waka*). Otomo no Yakamochi was a statesman, a *waka* poet, and one of the compilers of *Man'yo-shu*. From 746 to 751 he was out of Nara, which was the capital at that time, and stayed in Takaoka as the governor of Etchu province (old name of Toyama). 473 *waka* from his works were collected in *Man'yo-shu*.

Among them, **223 *waka* were written during his 5 years in Etchu**. He expressed his deep emotions about the grand, beautiful and severe nature and climate in Etchu in his many works. His works still appeal to people, about 1,300 years later.



Statue of Otomo no Yakamochi

Let's read three poems of Otomo no Yakamochi aloud

The spring garden,
glowing red,
peach flowers,
and on the path they illuminate,
there appears a maiden.

Haruno sono	春の苑
Kurenawi nihofu	紅にほふ
Momo no hana	桃の花
Shitaderu michi ni	下照る道に
Idetatsu wotome	出で立つ少女

In the morning on my bed,
I hear very far away,
on the Imizu River,
early in the morning while rowing,
the boatman singing.

Asadoko ni	朝床に
Kikeba harukeshi	聞けば遙けし
Imizukaha	射水川
Asakogi shitsutsu	朝漕ぎしつ
Utafu funabito	歌ふ船人



The Memorial Performance of the 1,300 Anniversary of the Birth of Otomo no Yakamochi was presented in Toyama, on 28 July 2018.

On Tachiyama
snow that falls and stays
I never tire of seeing,
even during summer.
It is divine, it seems.

Tachiyama ni	立山に
Furiokeru yuki wo	降り置ける雪を
Tokonatsu ni	常夏に
Miredomo akazu	見れども飽かず
Kamu kara narashi	神からならし



A recital of the all 20-volume *Man'yo-shu*

万葉集全20巻朗唱の会

This recital is organized in October every year as the main event of Takaoka *Man'yo* Festival.

More than 2,000 people who wear the traditional clothes of the *Man'yo* Period, recite a total of 4,516 *waka* of 1,300 years ago, one after another for three days and nights, on a special aquatic stage in Takaoka Kojo Park.

This is an event in which you can see the culture and history of Japan, and understand again how important it is.

dialogue

Sakura explains to Emily about Man'yo-shu



What a beautiful flower! Is it a cherry blossom?

Emily

No, it isn't. It is a peach flower. Some man a long time ago depicted his girlfriend standing under the tree in his poem.



Sakura



You know very well about ancient times.

Emily

It is because people left an anthology, named Man'yo-shu, 1,300 years ago.



Sakura



Do you understand such old language? It is far longer ago than English was developed as we know it today.

Emily

Yes. It is certainly old Japanese, but by studying a little we can understand what the poems mean.



Sakura



By reading waka poems you can resonate with people of 1,300 years ago. That's great!

Emily

The father of Doraemon Fujiko F. Fujio Hometown Art Gallery at Takaoka Art Museum

ドラえものの父、藤子・F・不二雄ふるさとギャラリー

One of the most well-known manga artists in Japan and around the world, Fujiko F. Fujio is the creator of Doraemon and countless other classics.

He spent his boyhood in Takaoka, where he began nurturing his dream to become a manga artist. While walking in his footsteps here in Takaoka, you can get to know the origins of Fujiko・F・Fujio and experience his playful works through many original drawings on display at this gallery. (Tourism Information in Toyama)



The Doraemon area in the Takaoka Otogi no Mori Park
© 藤子プロ

The Koshi no Kuni Museum of Literature

高志の国文学館

Toyama Prefecture is the home of Etchu Man'yo poetry, as reflected in the 223 pieces written by Man'yo poet Otomo no Yakamochi. It was also the birthplace of authors such as Yoshie Hotta, Keita Genji, and Genyoshi Kadokawa, and formed the background for many literary masterpieces, including Hotarugawa (Firefly River) by Teru Miyamoto, Nagai Michi (The Long Road) by Hyozo Kashiwabara, and Tsurugidake - Ten no Ki (Mt. Tsurugi - Tale of the Triangulation Point) by Jiro Nitta. Other artists Toyama Prefecture has turned out include filmmakers Yojiro Takita, Katsuhide Motoki, and Mamoru Hosoda, and manga artists Fujiko Fujio A and Fujiko F. Fujio.

The Koshi no Kuni Museum of Literature aims to spread the appeal of these Toyama based authors and their works far and wide, and enable everyone to easily become familiar with and learn from this "hometown literature," while providing a venue to encourage the creation of new literary works.



© 高志の国文学館

A prefecture advanced in the arts 芸術の先進地富山

Performing arts festivals to meet people and be more creative

交流・創造する舞台芸術祭

In the “World Festival of Children’s Performing Arts in Toyama,” children from around the world show their performances, such as ballet, musicals, dance, or Japanese traditional dance, very brightly on the stage.

In Nanto City there is a park named “TOGA ART PARK of Toyama Prefecture.” This is a place for creating new performing arts in the artistic atmosphere of Toga. Every summer an international drama festival is organized there, including SCOT Summer Season.

There is another international festival there. It is “SUKIYAKI MEETS THE WORLD.” This is an event for international exchange and world music.



"An Inspector Calls" by
Players Studio Debrecen,
directed by Hiroshi KOIZUMI
「夜の来訪者」利賀公演
プレイヤーズ・スタジオ・デブ
レツェン 演出 小泉博

A bridge between Eastern and Western arts 東西の美術のかけ橋

Tadamasa HAYASHI, born in Takaoka City, played an important role in introducing Japanese arts, including ukiyo-e and other national artistic treasures, to the Western world from the latter half of the 19th century to the beginning of the 20th century. HAYASHI majored in French at the University of Tokyo. He served as an interpreter in the Paris Exposition in 1878. Afterwards, he became an art dealer and deepened exchange with Claude Monet and Édouard Manet. Although he was a private citizen, he served as the secretary-general at the Paris Exposition in 1900. It was he who introduced Impressionism to Japan for the first time.



Tadamasa HAYASHI
(1853~1906) Japanese
art dealer

An advanced group of museums 先進的な美術館群

Toyama Prefecture has several museums which keep unique collections. In the Toyama Prefectural Museum of Art and Design, Toyama, you can enjoy works of Pablo Picasso, Georges Rouault, and other artists of Surrealism. Since Shuzo TAKIGUCHI, a poet and an art critic from Toyama City, had personal exchanges with Joan Miro, the museum was able to obtain these collections.

The Suiboku Museum, Toyama, exhibits ink-wash paintings, which show us the beautiful nuance in tonality of shading. In the museum, ink-wash paintings of excellent modern artists, including Akira KAHO, and Taikan YOKOYAMA, are presented systematically.



The Suiboku Museum, Toyama
富山県水墨美術館



SCOT サマーシーズン 劇団 SCOT 「リア王」(演出 鈴木忠志) 於: 新利賀山房
劇団主宰の鈴木忠志は、「第9回シアター・オリムピクス」(2019年8月開催) 芸術監督を
務める。

SCOT Summer Season “King Lear” Directed by Tadashi SUZUKI. (Venue: Shin Toga Sambo)
The founder and director of the Suzuki Company of Toga “SCOT”, Tadashi SUZUKI, takes a
role of the artistic director of the 9th Theatre Olympics in August 2019

private citizen 民間人
Impressionism 印象派
Surrealism シュルレアリスム
tonality of shading 墨の色調

Emily tells Kenta and Sakura about the collection of the Toyama Prefectural Museum of Art and Design



I was surprised to see paintings of Picasso and Miro here in Toyama.

Oh. You've been to the Toyama Prefectural Museum of Art and Design



It is so wonderful to see the tide of modern art in the world all at once.

Yu know, Tadamasa HAYASHI introduced Japanese arts to the Western world more than 100 years ago. He was from Takaoka City.



He also introduced Impressionism to Japan.



The museum in Toyama is a real one!

Yes, but not only that! We also have the World Festival of Children's Performing Arts in Toyama, SCOT Summer Season, and SUKIYAKI MEETS THE WORLD, one of the biggest world music festivals in Japan.



I know the world famous hit song named "Sukiyaki."

The name "Sukiyaki" represents the fusion of Eastern and Western cultures.



A unique international poster exhibition for the open entry in Japan

日本で唯一、大規模な国際ポスター公募展

The International Poster Triennial in Toyama (IPT) is organized once every three years in Toyama Prefectural Museum of Art and Design.

This is a unique international poster exhibition for the open entry in Japan. This is one of the five major poster contests in the world. At the 13th contest in 2021, there were about 6,000 entries from 64 countries and regions in the world.

This is an event which designers and artists around the world are interested in.



On the "Onomatopoeia Rooftop" of Toyama Prefectural Museum of Art and Design, you can see the playground with some play equipment like "fuwa-fuwa(fluffy) dome", inspired by sounds of onomatopoeia or imitative words of Japanese language.

©Toyama Prefectural Museum of Art and Design
オノマトペの屋上には、「ふわふわドーム」等、日本語の擬音語や擬態語から着想を得た遊具が並ぶ。

One of the best places to live in 住みよき全国トップクラス

The best place to work 安心して仕事ができる富山県の魅力

By taking a look at some statistics, you can understand how liveable Toyama is. The employment rate is near the top in Japan. On the other hand, the unemployment rate is very low. Toyama is the best place to work with less anxiety. Real income per household in Toyama City is one of the highest. Typically, a family has more members and there are more dual-income families in Toyama. The rate of recipients of welfare was ranked the lowest, 47th, in 2017.



Houses and rice fields
家屋と水田

Very high level of well-being in Japan 幸福度日本トップクラス

Hosei University released the rankings of 47 prefectures in terms of well-being. The study group of the university selected 40 indices and classified them in four main areas, namely, “life and family,” “labor and company,” “safety and security,” and “medical care and health.” According to the rankings, Toyama Prefecture is ranked very highly overall. Toyama is ranked at or near the top on some indices, including the homeownership rate and the total floor space per home. The residential environment is generally better in Toyama. In addition, Toyama was ranked 5th (in 2010) in the rate of three-generation households and 3rd in the rate of dual-income (in 2005). There is no child waiting to go to a certified nursery school. Grandparents have higher awareness of raising children. This is one of the reasons for a couple to work outside. The most distinctive feature of the lifestyle in Toyama is to realize a steady and diligent life and to cherish the family.



Computer class for elderly people
地域の高齢者のための
パソコン教室

Emphasis on the community bond 地域のきずなを大切に

Community relations are strong in Toyama. Municipal activities are lively. The participation rate in senior citizens' clubs was the highest in Japan in 2016. What supports the better quality of life in Toyama is people's mind to help each other and to emphasize the relationship between family and community.

Reading Guide for Japanese
unemployment rate 失業率
rate of recipients of welfare
生活保護率
indices (単数形 index) 指標
municipal activity
自治体活動



Patrol by residents
住民による防犯パトロール

The lowest incidence of fire and a lower crime rate 火災発生率が最低、犯罪発生率が低い

Learning from the big fires in the past, people in Toyama have higher awareness of fire protection. In 2018 incidence of fire recorded the lowest in Japan. In addition, an ordinance on community safety development became effective in 2011. Since then, the concern for community security has been higher. The crime rate in Toyama ranked 6th lowest among 47 prefectures in 2011. Toyama is a secure prefecture.

dialogue

Emily and Sakura talk about life in Toyama



Emily

You are so lucky to live in such a big house.



Sakura

In Toyama it's not special at all. Toyama ranks at or near the top in Japan for homeownership rate and average floor space.



Emily

The house is so big that you can live with grandparents.



Sakura

My parents say they can work without anxiety for us since my grandparents live together with us.



Emily

My host parents are also a dual-income couple. People in Toyama work hard.



Sakura

The average real income in Toyama is also at or near the top in Japan.



Emily

I understand from statistics that Toyama is a wonderful place to live.



Sakura

According to the rankings of 47 prefectures in terms of well-being, released by Hosei University, Toyama ranks 2nd among the 47 prefectures. That is a result of people's efforts. I appreciate Toyama once again.

Discover Toyama with statistics

指標名 Index	指標値 Value	全国順位 Ranking in Japan	全国平均 National average	年次 Fiscal year
持ち家率 Homeownership rate	78.1%	1	62.3%	2015年
1住宅あたり延べ面積(専用住宅) Total floor space per home	143.57㎡	1	92.06㎡	2018年
道路整備率 Road maintenance ratio	74.5%	1	59.3%	2016年
女性雇用者に占める正社員の割合 Legitimate workers ratio in female employment status	50.1%	3	42.0%	2017年
新聞発行部数(1世帯あたり) Newspaper circulation per home	0.91部	1	0.61部	2020年
博物館数(100万人あたり) Number of museums (per million people)	34.7館	3	9.9館	2015年
文化ホール数(客席300席以上・100 万人あたり) Number of cultural halls with more than 300 seats (per million people)	29.1館	1	14.6館	2015年

Special thanks to Toyama Prefectural Board of Education This HANDBOOK depends on "English Handbook of TOYAMA for High School Students" (Let's talk about KITOKITO TOYAMA)



Traditional culture of slow food

伝統が今に生きるスローフードの食文化

Food culture brought in by kitamae-bune, northern boundships

北前船がもたらした食文化

Kelp, konbu in Japanese, is not taken from Toyama Bay, but Toyama is ranked 1st in the annual consumption of kelp. In the Edo Period kitamae-bune, northern boundships, transported goods like rice to Hokkaido and came back with kelp or herring. Baiyaku-san, medicine paddlers, sold kelp to China through the Satsuma domain and bought materials for medicines from China. It is said that Satsuma could improve its finances by this trade and play an important role in the Meiji Restoration. In Toyama, people use kelp not only for soup stock but also for various dishes, such as kombumaki, kombujime, kombumaki-kamaboko, and tororokombu-onigiri. There are many kinds of traditional foods with kelp to enjoy as specialties of Toyama.

Healthy traditional dishes developed in the local climate

風土が生んだヘルシーな伝統料理

In Toyama there is a lot of snow in winter. To survive the severe winter, people tried to find the best way to preserve foodstuffs, which resulted in a variety of traditional dishes.

One of them is kaburazushi. This is a typical dish of the Hokuriku region in the winter time. Winter yellowtail or winter mackerel is salted. A piece of them is sandwiched in a sliced turnip. Then, it is preserved together with fermented rice.

Kurozukuri is a delicacy which is produced only in Toyama. It is made from squid, squid ink and liver. The ancient wisdom, not to waste any of the harvests from the ocean and to preserve them as long as possible, has been passed down to the present.

Promoting local production for local consumption and slow food

地産地消・スローフードの推進

Slow food is an ecological movement in which less transportation of food is required. Toyama Prefecture has promoted “local production for local consumption.” For example, “a point system for purchasing local food of Toyama” was started. Produce of Toyama is recommended as good ingredients for school lunches. Furthermore, there is a list of companies or individuals that support “Toyama no shun (delicacies in seasons in Toyama).” They positively consume the local food. By these approaches, fresher and safer food becomes more available. These approaches are also expected to reduce food miles, leading to less environmental load.



Toyama-wan-zushi
Sushi of TOYAMA BAY



Kombujime
昆布じめ



Kaburazushi
かぶら寿し



Shinminato fishery
The auction of seafood at the daytime 新湊漁港 昼競り

Reading Guide for Japanese mackerel サバ
turnip かぶ
local production for local consumption 地産地消
food mile フードマイレージ



Fixed net fishing method in Himi 氷見沖の定置網漁

An ecological fishing method getting attention in the world 世界が注目するエコロジカルな定置網漁

An Etchu-style fishing method with a fixed net has a history of 400 years in Toyama Bay from the Edo Period. People fix the net and wait for fish to get in the net. Little fish can go through it. It has a smaller impact on the ocean ecology. The fishing area is along the coast, so a ship does not require much fuel. It is an energy saving method. In Toyama there was a conference on the fixed net fishing method. Technical guidance has been given to distribute the method to South-East Asia and Africa.

Websites of TOYAMA



“PAT 2016”



You can get the documents of the PAT2022 from this website.

You can watch our recent stage performances with these QR codes !



“Into the New Stage!”

Event by Toyama Prefectural Artistic and Cultural Association (17-18 Oct 2020)



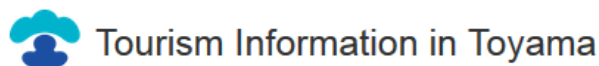
A variety of performances was held with performers as well as audience who wished for the re-start of stage performances under the limited situation caused by newcoronavirus.



71 museums in Toyama join this association. You can search the interesting museums of TOYAMA.



You can get interesting travel information from this website.



Spring in Toyama



Winter in Toyama



Etchu Man'yo Creative Dance "Man'yo
Koshi no Kuni" Memorial Performance
of the 1,300 Anniversary of the Birth
of Otomo no Yakamochi
大伴家持生誕 1300 年記念
越中万葉創作舞踊「万葉高志の国」
(Refer to p.18 / 18 頁参照)



HANDBOOK TOYAMA JAPAN

The Executive Committee
of The World Festival of Children's Performing Arts in Toyama
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Dramatic Dance "The Snow Queen" Opening Performance of PAT2016
ドラマチックダンス「雪の女王」富山県洋舞協会合同公演

