

An information Magazine for the International Community in Kochi

在住外国人のための生活情報冊子「Tosa Wave」 56号(2014年12月発行) 発行: 公益財団法人高知県国際交流協会

here are approximately 3,300 foreigners living in Kochi Prefecture. In this issue, we put the spotlight on three such foreigners. We introduce their lives in Kochi and hope to use their words as encouragement to any

"Foreigners Who Work in Kochi (Including People Born Abroad)"

こう ち かつやく がいこくじん がいこくしゅっしんしゃ ふく 「高知で活躍する外国人(外国出身者を含む)」

foreigners who are thinking of living and working in Kochi.

県内には約3,300人の外国人が経国人が各国人が外国人が外国人が経国人が経国人が経国人が経国人が経国とから、人(外国出身者を含む)の中から県からで活躍する3人にスポットを当て、彼らの高知での生き方を紹介するとともに、彼らの言葉を通して、これ

から高知で頑張ろうと考えている外国人に対して熱いエールを送りたい と思います。

Foreigners Working in Kochi (1)

Dana Berte (Aki City, from America)

The first person we will introduce, Dana Berte, was a Coordinator for International Relations with the JET Program in Aomori Prefecture

for 3 years, and now works in product development at Kikusui Sake Company.

Dana first became interested in sake during her time in Aomori Prefecture. She got involved in a sake-tasting class at a local bar. Each class, the bartender would put out sake from various producers, and the students were expected to take notes on the flavors and study outside of class. Once a month there was a tasting test where the students were expected to identify the maker of the sake through taste alone. If they got all of the questions correct, the prize was a bottle of very expensive sake. Dana won the prize twice. Through that class, she realized that she was very passionate about sake, and that if she could she would like to work in that industry.

Dana seems very happy with her life in Kochi. その表情から充実ぶりがうかがえるデーナさん

As Dana approached the end of her time in JET, she decided that she wanted to remain in Japan and work for a Japanese company, preferably related to sake. She signed up with the employment service HelloWork and gave them very comprehensive information about her interests and skills, and they began to try to find jobs for her. Rather than searching job listings for foreigners, they sent applications to jobs for regular Japanese people. Dana says she was not interested in working in the industry "as a foreigner," limiting herself to jobs like translation. However, she knew that the Japanese skills she had acquired during her time as a CIR would be very important.

HelloWork eventually inquired at about six sake breweries that had openings Dana was qualified for. Kikusui was her first interview. Dana had already been doing research about Kikusui, and she says she was impressed with their hiring practices, that they hire many women and young people, and that they were forward-thinking and used new media effectively in their PR. So when Kikusui offered her the job, she accepted.

Dana had never been to Kochi before. She sent some things ahead, packed up her car, and made a road trip down to Kochi from Aomori, staying at friends' houses along the way. She says her first impression of Kochi was that it was a "comfortable place."

After about six months working in the office at Kikusui, Dana wanted to be involved in actually making the sake. As it turned out, the people

知で活躍する デーナ・ベルテさん めっとく サイルテさん (安芸市在住、アメリカ出身)

んです。

国際交流員としての任期満了が迫る中、デーナさんは日本に残り、できれば日本酒に関わる会社で働こうと決意しました。そこで、ハローワークに行き、自身の能力等を伝え、外国人求人者向けの仕事ではなく、日本人求人者向けの仕事を紹介してもらいました。デーナさんは、「外国人、人工人」として通訳などの限られた仕事をすることには興味はなかったと話してくれました。しかし、国際交流員として身に付けた日本語能力は、とても重要なものでした。

ハローワークは、デーナさんが雇用条件を満たすら酒造に削い合わせをしてくれ、最初に面接を行ったのが輸水酒造でした。デーナさんは面接を行ったのが輸水酒造でした。デーナさんは面接前に企業研究をしており、輸水酒造が多くの女性や若いスタッフを採用し、先進的で、メディアを効果的に使い会社をPRしていることに好印象を抱いていました。そのため、輸水酒造から採用の連絡があったとき、デーナさんは喜んで入社を決めました。

デーナさんが高知に来るのは初めてで、事前に荷物を送り、をといたことに立ち寄りながら青森から高知まで車でやって来ました。高知の第一印象は、「快適な場所」というものでした。

 at the product development laboratory who were testing new flavors were interested in having a foreigner's opinion, so she began to study food chemistry in her free time so that she could come up with new flavors more effectively. Eventually she switched over to Product Development entirely, and now she is in charge of several people there.

When we asked Dana for her advice to our readers, she had several suggestions. First of all, in the job market in America, where Dana comes from, it's very difficult to find a career right after graduating. This is because almost every job requires several years of experience so that the employers don't have to take the time to train the employee. One good thing about Japanese employment practices is that they don't expect a great deal of experience

from new employees, so they are very willing to train people. Particularly since this is a small company, Dana was able to try several different paths before ending up where she is today. So, Dana says, even if you don't want to live in Japan permanently, Japan is a great place to spend 3-5 years gaining experience in your field before returning to your home country. Dana also highly recommends that foreigners who want to find jobs in Japan use a service like HelloWork, rather than trying to apply on their own.



Products designed for women with input from the Kikusui female staff.

まくすいしゅぞう じょせい 菊水酒造の女性スタッフによる女性のための商品 た酸造担当者たちから、外国人の意見も聞いてみたいとの声が上がり、デシーを動してみたいとの声が上がり、デシーを力さんは、より効果的に新たな風味を生み出せるようにとプラザベートの時間で食品化学の勉強を始めました。で食品化学の競強を始めました。で食品に携わるようになり、では数人の部下と醸造を担当しています。

最後に読者へのアドバイスを聞いてるを聞いてあるました。デーナさんの出身地であるえたが経験者には仕事を対象をを発表する必要がないため、求職を業後すぐことが多く、が難しいところは、なるとなるとが多く、が難しいところは、なるとなりです。またがようなない。を見られることは、なるとは、なるとは、なるとなりできない。というないなどは、ないないなどを表していいたが、またないでは、ないないないでは、ないないないでは、ないないないでは、ないないないでは、ないないないでは、ないないないないであります。

らず、指導することを離れないところです。 教がいばさはかさな会社なので、デーナさんは醸造担当になるまで様々な部署を経験することができました。デーナさんは、将来帰国を考えている外国人にとっても、日本は専門分野で数年の経験を積むのにうってつけの場所だと言います。また、日本で仕事をしたい外国人に対し、直接応募するのではなく、ハローワークなどを利用することをお勧めしますと話してくれました。

Foreigners Working in Kochi (2) Rogier Uitenboogaart (Yusuhara, from The Netherlands)

Next is Rogier Uitenboogaart, a *washi* (traditional Japanese paper) maker who has lived in Kochi for over 30 years. We traveled northwest two hours by car to the town of Yusuhara to hear his story.

The workshop where Rogier makes *washi* and the attached bed & breakfast are settled in a quiet agricultural village at the base of a mountain, perfectly blending in to its surroundings. Travelling there felt like we were visiting our grandparents in the countryside.

When asked why he chose to make *washi* in Kochi after visiting places of *washi* production all across Japan, Rogier said that the warmth he felt from Kochi's people, and Kochi's wonderful nature and warm climate were the deciding factors. He added that Kochi being a large producer of the plants $k\bar{o}zo$ mulberry and oriental paper bush, which are used in *washi* making, heavily influenced his decision because here he could make *washi* from scratch.

Rogier moved to what is now the town of Niyodogawa, re-visited craftsmen in Ino Town and Tosa City to learn their techniques, and then started self-studying how to create paper from raw materials. After that, he set out to find a workshop location. The ideal place would have a source of spring water for papermaking, and be a good fit for his growing children. He visited several potential places in Kochi

Prefecture, but the reason he chose Yasuhara was because he saw the town's traditional Kagura dance and felt the elegance of the local culture.

Interestingly, although Yusuhara was a nationally renowned producer of oriental paper bush (one of the reasons Rogier moved there), the town was hardly producing any washi raw materials 20 years ago when he moved there. He brought some $k\bar{o}zo$ mulberry and oriental paper bush seedlings that he had



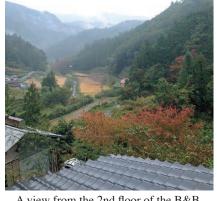
Rogier interviewed at the terrace of the B&B. 取材に応じるロギールさん (民宿のテラスで)

こう た かつやく 高知で活躍する ロギール・アウテンボーガルトさん 外日人(2) (梼原町在住、オランダ出身)

ッでは、こうない。 では、こうないでは、

ロギールさんが和談に作りを行う工房と併設の民宿は、山裾の集落にひっそりとたたずみ、周辺の農村の風景にすっかりなり、ひとたでは、立まで田舎の祖父母の家に遊びに来たかのようでした

り回った後、



A view from the 2nd floor of the B&B. Range 2 階からの眺望

大生産地なので、原料から和紙を作ることができることも、高知で和紙作りを出まる生きがで親切にない、場合を記憶する先々で親切に変内してもらったことと、温暖な気候と自然の素晴らしさということでした。また、高知が和紙の原料となる楮や三椏の大生産地なので、原料から和紙を作ることができることも、高知で和紙作りを始める大きな要因となったようです。

現在のに仁定別時間に定住を決め、いの町と上佐市の職人を 現在のに仁定別時間に定住を決め、いの町と上佐市の職人を で改めて訪ねて技術を『見て盗み』、独学で原料報培からの紙 作りの修業を始めました。その後、工房の水源地の開発や 子供の成長に伴い、さらに理想的な場所を読め県内のいく つかの候補地を訪ねられたようですが、梼原町に落ち着い たのは、たまたま梼原町で伝統舞踊の神楽を見て、この町 の文化のかりになる。 cultivated in Niyodogawa to his new home, performed root division on the wild $k\bar{o}zo$ around his house, cultivated those plants, took their seeds, and planted them again. By repeating this process many times, the area around his workshop has become absolutely full of these plants.

When asked if he had any hardships while living in Yusuhara, Rogier laughed and responded, "Although I have been through a lot, I wouldn't call any of it 'hardship'." He says that the reason is that

the local community is like one big family. From grasscutting to funerals, the locals do everything together and they help each other no matter what.

On the other hand, one of his biggest joys in Yusuhara has been spreading the word about the wonderful world of washi and getting more people to be interested in traditional paper. Of course, visitors to the workshop can try out making their own washi. However, they also have the option to stay at the bed & breakfast. Here, you can experience timeless Japanese culture and eat food made from local river fish and mountain vegetables.



The dining room with impressive shades made of washi.

和紙製の電笠が印象的な食堂

Finally, when asked for advice for other foreigners looking to work in Kochi, he offered that "when you're feeling stuck (or even if you're not), you should go to the mountains and/or the ocean. Kochi Prefecture faces the Pacific Ocean and has 84% mountain coverage, the most in the nation. Having so little flatland may seem like a drawback, but if you turn this into a positive, then soon you will find your way."

Contact info for Rogier Uitenboogaart's workshop Kamikoya

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HP: http://kamikoya-washi.com/ (English Available)

また、梼原がもともと全国的な三椏の生産地だったこともこの町に移 **〈 ねんまえ もらない カート げんりょうせいさん た約20年前、町内では和紙の原料生産はほとんどなくなっていたそうで す。そこで、仁淀川町で栽培していた三椏や楮の苗を持込み、また家の また。 ・ * せい か 周りで野生化していた楮を株分けし、それらを栽培し、種を取り、また

に至っています。

ロギールさんに梼原町での生活で苦労されたことを 。 聞くと、「いろいろあったが苦労とは思っていない」と ゎ。 笑って答えられました。理由を尋ねると、大家族のよう な地域住民とのつながりだそうです。草刈りや葬式など は集落の住民総出で行い、何にしても皆で助け合うのだ

の素晴らしさを多くの人に伝えることにより、より多く の人に和紙を好きになってもらえることだそうです。エ ぽう カーレづく たいけん 房での和紙作り体験はもちろん、工房併設の民宿に宿泊 することにより、地元で採れた川魚や山菜を使った料理 を味わうことができ、この地で古来より継承されてきた 日本文化を全て体験することができるということです。

まいて、こうち、かつやく 最後に、高知で活躍しようと考えている外国人に対 してアドバイスを求めたところ、行き詰った時は(たとえそうでない時 でも)、高知の山や海に行きなさいということでした。太平洋に面した高

デオる言葉に聞こえました。

ロギール・アウテンボーガルトさんの工房と民宿「かみこや」の連絡先

ロトィてん 弱点をプラスに捉えて前向きに行動すれば、いつか道は開けることを暗

(する) しょ しゅうはらちょうちゃ た ど 住所:梼原町太田戸1678 TEL:0889-68-0355

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Foreigners Working in Kochi (3)

Mie Seki (Kochi City, from Shangdong Province in China)

The last person we will introduce is of the nationality that likely occupies the top spot for number of foreign spouses of Japanese people in Kochi and maybe even Japan. Mie Seki came to Kochi from China, had children here, and now works hard every day to balance her work and family.

Mie originally came to Japan in 1999 to complete a training program in electronics and spent a total of 3 years living in Tosa City and Okayama Prefecture. She met her current husband during this period, and after spending a year back in China after her training, returned to Kochi to start married life.

Mie passed the N2 level of the Japanese Language Proficiency Test while in China, so she already had good Japanese when she first came to Japan and didn't face many language difficulties while completing her training. However, once she started her married life, she had trouble understanding Tosa-ben (Kochi dialect) and didn't know any fellow Chinese people in the area like when she was studying electronics before, so she felt isolated and homesick.



Mie interviewed at home. 取材に応じる碩さん(自宅で)

(高知市在住、中国山東省出身)

まいて 最後に紹介するのは、外国出身者の中で はおそらく高知、いや全国で最もその数が多 いであろう日本人配偶者として来日し、高知 で子供を授かり、仕事と家庭を両立させるた ひびぶんとう ちゅうごくしゅっしん せきみ え め日々奮闘している中国出身の碩美恵さんで

世巻 ゑ ぇ をんは、元々、1999年に電子関係 の研修生として初来日し、岡山県と土佐市に 通算3年間在住しました。研修中に現在のご 主人と知り合い、研修修了後いったん帰国し た後、1年ほどして高知での結婚生活のため 再来日しました。

ラッシラニヘ にほんごのラリュイ レ けん ホッシ ごラカッヘ 中国で日本語能力試験の2級に合格してい た碩さんは、初来日前にすでに日本語が上手 だったので、研修生時代は日本語での会話に それほど苦労しなかったそうですが、結婚直

を しんせいかつ と た さべん が ま と 取れず、 しかも研修生時代と違って周囲に サルクニヘ、ーニ 中国語のできる人もおらず、孤独のためホームシックにかかったそうで

この息が詰まるような閉塞感を打開するため、頑さんは自ら動きだし ました。アルバイト情報誌で見つけたラーメン店の求人に応募したので す。アルバイト先で友人を作り、ホームシックは自然と消えていきまし

Mie knew she had to take action to break out of the suffocating rut in which she found herself. She got a job at a ramen shop that she saw an ad for in a part-time job magazine. There she was able to make friends, and her homesickness naturally melted away.

Next she enrolled at a computer and accounting school on her husband's recommendation and gained several qualifications in those fields. Mie says that the knowledge and qualifications she gained at this school later helped her find work.

After experiencing computer and design jobs, Mie had two children, and is currently juggling raising her kids, taking care of her home, and working part-time during the week at a company that designs, makes, and sells measuring devices.

When asked about hardships she has faced, Mie quickly brought up having children. She has no choice but to take time off from work when her children get sick. In China, she could rely on her parents and relatives without hesitation, but now they live too far away. One time she had to take off a whole week. She now works extra hard every day to make sure that she doesn't cause more trouble for her company.

Mie says that she has even cried in public before when she was having trouble with her children. She was able to resolve her issues by making friends with other mothers in her neighborhood and at her children's preschool. Although many Chinese people prefer to solve their own problems by themselves, Mie describes her own personality as needing to tell her problems to others.

Finally, when asked what advice she would give to other foreign mothers with circumstances similar to her own, she said "Be brave and go outside. Make friends, and don't be afraid to ask for help when you need it." Although taking the leap to live in another country certainly requires courage, we were able to see from our interview that Mie has her bright and positive personality and her husband's understanding to support her all the way.

その後、ご主人の勧めもあって、コンピュータや簿記を学べる専門学 ニラ ニッラがヘ 校に入学し、これらの分野に関するいくつかの資格を取得することがで きました。この専門学校で得た知識や資格が後の就職活動に有利に働い たと頓さんは振り返りました。

その後、コンピュータやデザインなどの仕事を経験した碩さんは、 ま、せっけいせいぞうはんばいがいしゃ 器の設計製造販売会社でパートタイムの仕事をこなしています。

これまで苦労したことを尋ねると、「育児」という言葉がすぐに出て きました。近くに気兼ねなく頼ることができる実親や親戚がいないため、 とく ことも がらき 特に、子供が病気になった時に仕事を休まざるを得ず、長い時は1週間も ゃす 休んでしまって、会社にこれ以上迷惑をかけまいと毎日必死に仕事をし ているそうです。

また、育児で悩み、どうしてよいのか分からなくなって、人目をはば からず泣いたこともあるそうです。そんな時は、子供が通う保育園で仲 良くなった「ママ友」や同じ年齢の子供がいる近所のお母さんに相談し、 しようとしがちだが、自分は、悩み事は誰かに言わずにはいられなくな ると、碩さんは自らの性格をこう語ってくれました。

まいて、 せき おな もまうぐう がいこくしゅうしん かき 最後に、碩さんと同じ境遇にある外国出身のお母さんやこれからお母 さんになる人のためにアドバイスを求めたところ、勇気を出して外に出 て、友達をたくさん作って、困った時は助けてもらいなさい、というこ とでした。異国の地で一歩を踏み出すには確かに勇気が必要ですが、取 ずい なか なか あか くまれ で せき せき しょいかく くれ こくご主人の理 材をしている中で、明るく前向きな碩さんの性格と、加えてご主人の理 がい 解がそれを後押ししているのだと窺い知ることができました。

Kochi Life Q&A: New Year's Cards (Nengajo)

の生活Q&A「年賀状

At New Year's I've received some unfamiliar-looking postcards. What are these? What should I do about them?

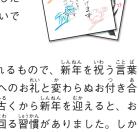
These postcards are called nengajo. They are greeting cards sent out at the New Year to say "Happy New Year," thank the recipient for their friendship in the previous year, and express hopes for the relationship to continue in the future. In the olden days, it was customary in Japan to go around the neighborhood at New Year's and give your greetings in person. However, partly because it was difficult give in-person greetings to people who lived far away, it became common to send New Year's greetings in a letter instead. As the Meiji Period began, the nengajo postcard as we know it today gained popularity.

It is important to send a response as soon as you receive a nengajo. Good etiquette recommends that nengajo arrive within the first week of the New Year. You can purchase the special postcards at post offices or convenience stores. They can be decorated with pictures, or they can be blank-pick whichever you like best. Also, the postcards let you enter a raffle called *otoshidama-kuji*, which usually takes place in January. Your chances of winning are very low, but if you do win you can get wonderful prizes. This is one fun motivation for sending and receiving nengajo.

In recent years, because computers and cell phones have become common, the number of people who skip sending the postcards and just send New Year's greetings by email has risen, but receiving mail on New Year's still makes people very happy, so please give it a try this year! Just remember that it can seem tasteless to send a typed postcard, so make sure to hand-write a personal greeting. You will be sure to leave a good impression.

元旦に見慣れないはがきが届きました が、これは何ですか?どうすればいいで

すか?



そのはがきは、「年賀状」と呼ばれるもので、新年を祝う言葉 そのはかきは、「午負小」 こうはつこと れいからぬお付き合とともに旧年中お世話になったことへのお礼と変わらぬお付き合 いをお願いするあいさつ状です。日本では古くから新年を迎えると、お せた。 世話になった方々に直接年始のあいさつに回る習慣がありました。しか し、遠方に出向くことが難しいこともあり、あいさつ回りに代わるもの として書状でのあいさつが始まり、明治に入って年賀はがきを使用した 年賀状が広まりました。

般的に1月7日まで)に届くように出すのがマナーです。作賞はがきは、 ୭ラ೮ルセミィ 郵便局やコンビニエンスストアで購入できます。年賀はがきには絵入り のものや無地のものがありますので、お好みで選んでください。また、 なんが 年賀はがきには、お年玉くじがついており、例年1月に抽選が行われま す。確率は低いですが、当せんするとステキな賞品が当たります。こち らも年賀状をやり取りすることの楽しみのひとつです。

gueral function for a fee a 」となる。 新年のあいさつをする人が増えていますが、元旦に年賀状が届くとうれ しいものです。印刷だけの年賀状は味気ないので、ぜひ手書きのコメン トを入れて、印象に残る年賀状で年始のあいさつをしてみてはいかがで しょうか。

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Tosa wave Blog: http://tosawave.blogspot.com/ (See full articles and color photos here.)

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