

The city where everyone wants to live

広報 ひこね (英訳版)

Community  
Newsletter,  
Koho



Nos.1369

Date: February 1, 2017

Published by:

Multicultural Coexistence  
Human Rights Policy Division  
Hikone City Hall

Tel:

0749-30-6113

Translated by:

VOICE Trans. Group

Proofread by:

Walter Klinger

Multicultural Coexistence

Edited by:

Human Rights Policy Division

# HIKONE

(Abridged Edition) <http://www.city.hikone.shiga.jp/english/index.html>

2017.2



Name of Division	Telephone Number
Hikone City Hall (Representation)	0749-22-1411 (Main Number)
<b>Hikone City Hall (JINKEN SEISAKU KA)</b> 彦根市役所 (人権政策課)	<b>0749-30-6113 (Direct Number)</b> 直通番号

**You can ask English Interpreter Service at the reception in Hikone City Hall.**

Please say “English Interpreter please” in Japanese, “*EIGO TUUYAKU ONEGAI SHIMASU*”.

●“KohoHikone” foreign language version by Hikone City is issued once every month.

This newsletter is available at

- |                           |   |
|---------------------------|---|
| * Head Post Office        | * Viva City 2F(near the children play ground) |
| * Yujin Yamazaki Hospital | * Shiga Bank (Oyabu Branch)                   |
| * Jinno Clinic            | * “Gyomu Super Market”(Toga-cho)              |
| * Hikone City Hall 1F     | * Beisia Hikone                               |
| * AEON TOWN Hikone        | * Hikone City Hospital                        |

## Various Services 様々なサービス

●Interpreters are available if you request this service at the reception desk.

Please say this Japanese sentence “*eigotuyakuonegaishimasu.*” 英語通訳お願いします。

(It means “please get me an English interpreter”.) えいご つうやく おねがいます。

We might change the interpreter’s availability.

Hikone City Hall: Weekdays 8:30 a.m. to 0:00 p.m. 1:00 p.m. to 5:15 a.m.

## Japanese Classes



Day	Hour	Location, Place	Organization Name to Contact	Cost
Wednesday すいようび	7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.	Shimin kaikan 市民会館	Hikoneshi Kokusai Kyoukai 彦根市国際協会 Tel (0749)-22-5931 <b>(Not available from Dec. to Feb.)</b>	100yen / lesson 100 円 / 1 回
Saturday どようび	2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.	Naka-chiku Kouminkan 中地区公民館	Hikone Kokusai Kouryu-kai VOICE ひこね国際交流会 VOICE なえむらさん(NAEMURA) Tel 090-7118-5250	100yen / lesson 100 円 / 1 回
Sunday にちようび	10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.	Nishi-chiku Kouminkan 西地区公民館	Volunteer Nihongo Kyoushitsu SMILE ボランティア日本語教室スマイル よしおかさん (YOSHIOKA) Tel (0749)-24-7241	100yen / lesson 100 円 / 1 回
Monday~ Friday (Except for holidays) げつようび~きんようび	① 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. ② 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. ③ 3:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.	Innovation Office “NAYASHICHI” Shiro-machi 1-7-16	“Smile s Satellite”(Weekday Class) NAYASHICHI Tel (0749)-29-5077 or みずのさん(MIZUNO) Tel 070-5661-7345	100yen / lesson 100 円 / 1 回

### 【Hikone International Lounge News】

Computer use is free in the Hikone International Lounge. We are waiting for your use!!

## ☆Waste Reduction & Resource Recovery

### **Let's reduce kitchen garbage.**

The amount of household garbage in the city (as of 2015) is approximately 40,000 tons, and more than three quarters of them are combustible waste. Plus, 40 percent of the combustible waste is “kitchen garbage”. Bringing down the amount of kitchen garbage leads us to an effective and efficient method for waste reduction.

### **How to reduce the amount of kitchen garbage**

#### ①Try not to put out garbage

The first thing you can do is “to think about the way of not putting out garbage”.

- Do not buy more groceries than necessary.
- Avoid cooking too much.
- Use up all the ingredients.

#### ②Get rid of a moisture content in food waste

80 percent of food waste is actually water. By getting rid of a moisture content of waste, you can substantially reduce the total amount of food waste.

- Don't wet food waste.
- Drain off water.
- Make waste dry.

#### ③Fertilize kitchen waste

If you make waste into fertilizers by garbage disposal units, etc, it will be good ones.

When you apply them to a garden or field, the amount of kitchen waste becomes zero.

**Inquiries: Citizen's affairs & Environment Department**

**Tel 0749-30-6116 Fax 0749-27-0395**



### **☆Request To Remove The Snow**

In case, the fire hydrants and the fire prevention water tanks are buried under the snow, it is difficult to check the spread of a fire and to keep damages to a minimum when a fire breaks out. The fire station removes the snow around the fire hydrants, but not all of them in the city.

When the neighbors remove the snow, do not bury the fire hydrants. If the fire hydrants are covered with the snows, remove them.

### **☆Please Give Your Cooperation For Moving Emergency Vehicles Smoothly**

When you are driving or you are riding the motorcycle, the fire engine and the ambulance car are approaching you with the siren and the red lamp on. How do you give them the course promptly?

- The crossing and its neighborhood  
Stay away from the area of the crossing and go to the left side of the road and stop.
- The common roads  
When emergency vehicles are getting closer, go to the left side of the road and give them the course.
- The narrow roads  
Make emergency vehicles moving smoothly
- While you are bike-riding or walking  
When you are bike-riding or walking on the road without the sidewalk, stop bike-riding or walking and give them the course.

**Inquiries: Hikone Fire Department, Prevention Division**

**Tel 0749-22-0332 Fax 0749-22-9427**



## ☆A Welfare Commissioner & a Commissioned Child Welfare Volunteer

-To counsel and connect you with proper welfare assistance-

### **A. What are they?**

They are part time local government employees, assigned by the Minister of Health, Labor and Welfare. The number is 230,000 all over Japan. A Welfare Commissioner also works as Commissioned Child Welfare Volunteer. They act voluntarily without being paid. Term of service is three years (term can be extended).

### **B. What are their duties?**

In case you have some difficulties please visit them; they will counsel and give you some advice. They will periodically visit the aged, the differently disabled and children in their area and give necessary assistance. They never settle a quarrel.

### **C. Who are in charge in your area?**

Please inquire to Social Welfare Division. Tel 0749-23-9590, Human rights Policy Division (in English) 0749-30-6113

### **Difficulties/ Problems Relating to:**

#### **1. Daily Life**

- You live alone and feel lonely.
- You need some help for evacuation in case of disaster.

#### **2. Money**

- You don't have money to live.
- You don't have money to educate your children.
- You are worried about lack of money after your retirement.

#### **3. Welfare Service**

- You have some difficulties but you don't know where to go for advice.

#### **4. Elderly Care**

- You are too busy for elderly care to have free time.
- You don't know how to make use of "Public-Nursery-Care Insurance"

#### **5. Raising Children**

- You don't know with whom you consult about raising your children.
- Your child doesn't go to school.

#### **6. Abuse**

- You often hear your neighbor yelling and his/her child crying.
- Your neighbor child wears the same clothes for several days.

#### **7. Neighborhood**

- You have not seen your neighbor.
- Newspapers have been put in the mail box for several days.

- A Welfare Commissioner and a Commissioned Child Welfare Volunteer should perform duty of non-disclosure. Feel free to consult with them.

**☆Prefectural & Municipal Tax and Special Income Tax for Reconstruction And Income Tax Return**

It is expected that the counter will be very crowded around these dates so please go as soon as possible.

● **《Prefectural&Municipal Tax》February 16(Thu) - March 15(Wed)**

Those who are to file a prefectural and municipal tax return will receive “documents for declaration”. You can get the return form at the following venue and you can complete the procedure there. If you need the form in advance, please ask for it at the Tax Division (City Hall 2F). **If you file an income tax return, you do not have to file a prefectural and municipal tax return.**

● **Things required for filing:**

“documents for declaration”, Your seal (HANKO),documents proving the income in 2016,income-and-outgoing detailed statement, documents of deductions from income, documents proving your spouse's income(Those who receive a tax reduction for spouses), booklet for the challenged people (challenged people),confirmation document of Individual Number

You can file a simplified tax return (final return for national pension etc.)

When you are in following categories, please file at Hikone Chamber of Commerce and Industry 4F.

- \*Those who receive a special reduction of housing loan.
- \*Those who have transferred income.
- \*Those who report a blue return.
- \*Those who report a business income for the first time.
- \*Those who receive a statement from tax office.
- \*Those who receive a special reduction of housing for seismic reinforcement, barrier free and energy saving.



**Inquiries: The Tax Division (City Hall 2F) Tel: 0749-30-6140**

● **《Income Tax》February16 (Thu) - March15 (Wed)**

If you file an income tax return, please come to **Hikone Chamber of Commerce and Industry 4F**.

Do not go to the Hikone tax office.

Please keep in mind that taxes in arrears and additional tax may start when you do not file by the deadline.

Reception date: February16 (Thu) - March15 (Wed)

Reception time: 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. reception time will change depending on situation.

● **Individual Number required for filing in 2016**

When you file an income tax return, please write down Individual Number and show confirmation document of Individual Number.

《Confirmation document of Individual Number》

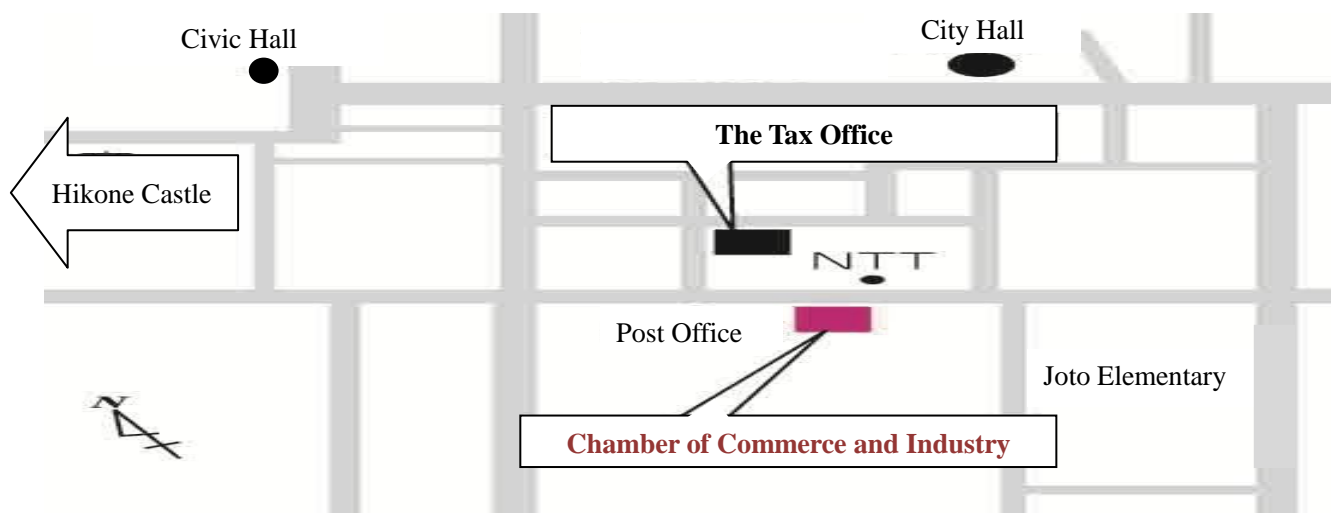
\*Those who have Individual Number Card: **Individual Number Card**

\*Those who don't have Individual Number Card is required ①and ②

① Notification card, copy of resident card or resident card matters

② At least one document: drivers' card, insurance card, passport, booklet of challenged people or resident card

**Hikone Tax Office (Tachibana-cyo5-20) Tel: 0749-22-7640(automatic voice guidance)**



**☆Revision of the City, Citizen of the Prefecture Tax Comes into Effect in 2017**

**Attached document is required in case you have supporting family or relative living oversea.**

You need the following documents ( ①、 ②) when you declare.

\*If the document is written in a foreign language, document translated into Japanese is needed.

**①Documents related to your family ( the paper shows that the target person is your family )**

- ▶Document issued by government or local government and copy of a passport
- ▶Document issued by foreign government or its local government

**②Documents related to money transfer ( the paper shows money transfer such as living cost)**

- ▶Documents issued by financial institution or a copy.
- ▶Documents issued by credit card company or a copy.

**Overhaul of the amount of the deduction of earned income**

The upper limit of the deduction of earned income is reduced in the revision of 2016

	Now	From 2017
Applied earned income	¥15,000,000	¥12,000,000
The upper limit of deduction	¥2,450,000	¥2,300,000

**Special deduction for capital gains of unoccupied house.**

The new system is introduced for special deduction of ¥30,000,000 from capital gains under certain conditions.

**My Number Confirmation**

You have to submit a copy of My Number personal identification when you submit a final income tax return or you have to submit My Number personal identification when you declare residence tax. Please bring following documents or a copy of the paper.

- Confirmation documents to apply in person (either① or ②)
  - ①My Number Card
  - ②Notification card and identity confirmation papers, such as driver license, health insurance card, or passport
- Confirmation documents to apply by a representative (both③and④)
  - ③a copy of applicant's My Number Card or a notification card
  - ④Representative's identity confirmation paper

\*You also need a letter of delegation to apply by a representative. See page 8 on January issue, Newsletter Hikone for more information.



**Inquiries: City Tax Division: Tel 0749-30-6140 Fax 0749-22-1398**

**☆The Premiums Of National Pension—If you have failed to pay:** Hikone Pension Office

“Five-Year-Delayed Payment Plan” is a plan to pay the premiums you have failed to pay for past five years, and you will get pension closer to the full amount; this plan is valid until September 30, 2018. Those who get the Senior’s Pension are exceptions. You need application; please inquire for the details

**Inquiries: National Pension Dial 0570-003-004,  
National Pension Division, Hikone Pension Office 0749-23-1114**

**☆Attention:**

- A deduction certificate which Hikone pension office mail you is required when you receive deduction of national pension insurance premium. If you don’t receive the certificate, please ask the pension office.  
(Tel 0749-23-1114)
- Attachment of specification of medical expenses with declaration form is required when receiving deduction for medical expenses. Please make the specification in advance.
- When you declare a final tax return and submit the form at City Tax Division, we cannot put acceptance seal on copies (for you) of the declaration form. If you need the acceptance seal, please submit the form at Hikone Chamber of Commerce and Industry 4F. Also the document style of declaration form at the Tax Division is different from at Hikone Chamber of Commerce and Industry 4F.

**☆Notice Of Closed Days ——HIKONE City Library**

Closed days period: Thursday, February 15 - Thursday, February 23



**Inquiries: HIKONE City Library      Tel 0749-22-0649 Fax 0749-26-0300**

**☆Some Senior Citizens Can Get A Deduction For Challenged People**

You can make a deduction for challenged people against income tax or prefectural/municipal tax if you are approved by the Welfare Office that you meet the following three conditions, even if you don’t have the “Identification Booklet for the physically challenged “ or “Identification Booklet for the Intellectually Challenged “ or “Identification Booklet for the Mentally Challenged”.

**Requirements of qualification:**

1. Those who are 65 years old or over and have a residence in Hikone city
2. Those who qualify for Nursing –Care Insurance
3. Those who have medium level or worse condition of dementia or need a help in everyday life



**Application:**

Please bring one’s own Certificate of Insured Person of Public Nursing-Care Insurance and the *inkan* of the applicant (oneself or the family) to the Senior Welfare Division.  
The result will be given in about ten days.

**Inquiries: The Senior Welfare Division      Tel 0749-23-9660 Fax 0749-26-1768**



## RECRUITMENTS & EVENTS

### ☆A Class For Making Sweets

Contents: Let's enjoy the making the sweets easily.

Date & Time : Saturday, Feb 11 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

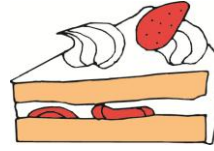
Place: Citizen's Exchange Center (Satone- cho) at a meeting room and a cooking room

Target: Elementary school students who lives in Hikone city.

Fee: 100 yen

Capacity: First 20 children

Application time; Wednesday, Feb 1 9:00 a.m.-



**Apply &Inquiries: Citizen's Exchange Center Tel & Fax: 0749-23-3582**

**\*Please apply by phone or Fax.**

### ☆Cooking Class From Around The World

#### Let's make genuine taste of Indonesia dishes!

Contents: You can enjoy food culture and eating habit in Indonesia

through the cooking genuine taste of Indonesia dishes

Date: Saturday, February 25 11:00 a.m. -2:00 p.m.

Place: Gender Equality Center "WITH" (Hirata-cho)

Target: People living in, working or schooling to Hikone

Capacity: First 16 people

Fee: ¥1,000

Application Period: Monday, February 6 ~Friday, February 17

Things to bring: a kerchief or bandana, an apron and a dishcloth

Nursery service: free of charge (number of capacity is limited, so please ask us when you apply)

In addition: Please contact us by Wednesday February 22 if you cancel the class.

**Apply & Inquiries: Human Rights Policy Division Tel 0749-30-6113 Fax0749-24-8577**

**\*Please apply by phone or Fax**

### ☆“HIKONE DE ASAICHI” (The Fresh Morning Market in Hikone)

Selling local fresh vegetable, bean curd, local lake sea foods, and soy sauce under the concept "Safety food" "Local production for local consumption" "Handmade".

Date & Time: Sunday, February 19 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Place: GOKOKU- JINJYA (shrine) (Osue- cho)



**Inquiries: “HIKONE DE ASAICHI” Executive Committee**

**Tel & E-mail 0749-24-4461 hikonedesaichi55@gmail.com**

## ☆Hikone City Youth Assembly

Join us to think and talk about “human rights” together for building better human relationships.

Eligibility: For foreigners, Japanese communication abilities are required.

Theme: “Offensive Remarks You Have Been Told”

Date & Time: February 12<sup>th</sup>, Sunday 9:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m. (Registration begins at 9:00 a.m.)

Place: Hikone Bunka Plaza (Nose-cho), Messe Hall

Contents: Panel Discussion, Opinion Exchange

What to Bring: Stationeries

Day Care: Yes, only for 0-year-old to preschool children. (Advance reservation required – by February 3<sup>rd</sup>, Friday)

**Inquires: Tel 0749-24-7976 Fax 0749-23-9190 (Japanese Only)**



## ☆Recruitment From Children’s Center

### ①Let’s look up a constellation of winter

Date & Time: Friday, February 10 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Target: For everyone (A guardian accompanies elementary school student and under)

Capacity: 30 people (First-come-first-served basis)

Fee: 300 yen (Preschool child are free)

Application Period: Saturday, February 4 - Sunday February 12

\*When it rains or be cloudy, the event will be cancelled. Please ask after 4:00 p.m. if it will be held or not.



### ②Let’ make paper airplanes

Date & Time: Sunday, February 26 1:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Target: Elementary school student and junior high school student

(Guardian accompanies from elementary school first grader to elementary school third grader)

Capacity: 15people (First-come-first-served basis)

Fee: 200 yen

Application Period: Saturday, February 4 - Wednesday, February 22

### ③Let’s enjoy an easy Yoga in parent and child

Date & Time: Tuesday, February 14 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Target: Child who was born from January in 2014 to September in 2016 and its guardian

Capacity: 20 groups(First-come-first-served basis)

Fee: 200 yen per one group

Application Period: Saturday, February 4 ~ Saturday, February 11 \*There is no day-care service

### ④Junior Astronomy Club

Content: Learning and observation on astronomy

Date & Time: Sunday, February 19 2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Target: Elementary school first grader - elementary school third grader (Accompanied by a guardian)

Capacity: 10 groups

Fee: 200 yen per one group

Application Period: Saturday, February 4 - Sunday, February 12

\*If you want to know detail, please ask to **Children’s Center**(Tel 0749-28-3645 Fax 0749-28-3646)

### **☆Vaccination About Pneumococcal Disease For The Elderly**

This vaccination will be finish on Friday March 31 for the fiscal year 2017. If you do not receive them at the recommended ages, you will have to pay for it individually.

\*Elderly People (over 65years old) be able to have the vaccination one time by the public money furtherance at the recommended age.(between Oct, 2014 - the fiscal year 2018)

#### **Qualification for the fiscal year 2016**

- ①People aged 65,70,75,80,85,90,95,100 years old( From April 2, 2016 to April 1,2017)
- ②People aged 60 - 64 who have defect on heart, kidney or respiratory, or who have defect on a function of immunity by human immunodeficiency virus.



Hikone City already sent the questionnaire sheets to receive the vaccination to the eligible people on last April. If you haven't had 23 values Streptococcus pneumonia vaccination and want to have it, please receive it early. Those who lost the questionnaire or become residents of Hikone City after last April, please ask the City Health Promotion Division.

**Inquiries: The City Health Promotion Division    Tel: 0749-24-0816 Fax: 0749-24-5870**

### **☆Gathering Of Expectant Mothers “ La La La”**

Date & Time: Friday, Feb 24    1:30 p.m. -3:00 p.m. (Reception 1:15 p.m.- 1:30 p.m.)

Place: Kusunoki Center 1F ( Next to Hikone Municipal Hospital )

Eligibility: Expectant mothers ( more than 16 weeks ) who have a Residence Record in Hikone City

What to bring: Maternal and Child Health Handbook

\*There is no nursery.

\* No need to apply.

**Inquiries: The City Health Promotion Division    Tel: 0749-24-0816 Fax: 0749-24-5870**

### **☆Class For New Parents**

Contents: Guidance & experience about baby care (how to bathe, change a diaper, and hold your new baby )

Date & Time: Saturday, February 25    9:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. (Acceptance 9:15 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.)

Place: Kusunoki Center 1F (Next to Hikone Municipal Hospital)

Eligibility: Pregnant Women, over 24 weeks pregnant and their partners having a resident registration in Hikone City

Capacity: 18 couples- Mothers who expect their first child delivery sooner have a priority

Things to bring: Your Maternal or Paternal and Child Health Handbook

Application: Wednesday, February 1<sup>st</sup> - Friday, February 10

Call the Health Promotion Division Tel 0749-24-0816 or Fax 0749-24-5870

\*There is no nursery

### ☆Dental Check-up For Pregnant Women

Let's check your teeth and receive the guidance for the proper way to use toothbrush.

Exchanging experiences about pregnant and making friends.

Date & Time: Thursday, Feb 23 1:30 p.m.- 3:30 p.m. (Acceptance 1:15 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. )

Place: Kusunoki Center 1F (Next to Hikone Municipal Hospital)

Eligibility: Pregnant women, over 16 weeks pregnant having a resident registration in Hikone City

Application: Wednesday, Feb 1 - Friday, Feb 10

Things to bring: Your maternal and Child Health Handbook, Mirror, toothbrush, cup and towel

\*There is no nursery.



**Inquiries: The Health Promotion Division Tel.0749-24-0816 /Fax 24-5870**

### ☆Eating Habit Consultation

\*Advice about your eating habits by a dietitian manager with your health checkup result.

Date & Time : Mar 6 (Mon) ① 9 : 00 a.m. ② 10 : 30a.m.

Capacity: 1 person each time slot (Reserved)

Place: Kusuniki Center 2F (Next to Hikone Municipal Hospital)

\*Any consultations concerning your meals are also available at anytime.

**Inquiries: The Health Promotion Division Tel.0749-24-0816 /Fax 24-5870**

### ☆Shiga Prefecture Cancer Week Saturday, February 4 - Friday, February 10

**A little knowledge about cancer is a dangerous thing.**

\*Prevent a cancer

One of two people suffers from a cancer, and one of three people dies of a cancer. Therefore, keep in mind healthy lifestyle like no smoking and so on.

\*Receive the cancer check regularly

Early detection and cure often can lead to a complete recovery from cancer. Before developing any symptoms, you should receive a cancer check regularly.



## How to Use Emoji



Since I came to Japan, I have been dogged by one quandary. That is I do not really know how to talk to people my age. The Japanese language I learnt for the first time was the polite language, so I still have a moment to speak to others politely, regardless of how old they are and how close we are. On top of that, I do not fully understand the language that is commonly used by the young. To tell you the truth, I got to know “A-zaa-su”: a short version of “A-ri-ga-to-u-go-za-i-ma-su (Thank you)” casually used for close friends, just a few months ago. Maybe, unknowing of colloquialism and expressing myself somewhat formally even on a casual occasion have made me look a bit weird to other Japanese people numerous times.

In addition, there is one more thing that has been giving me a hard time to figure out: Japanese emoji. Around one year after I came to Japan, I was told by my Japanese friend, “I thought you were in a bad mood because you used no emoji in the messages”. I was not grumpy or anything whatsoever, but it was just normal for me not to use any emoji characters then. Actually, this event enabled me to realize how much the young Japanese use this kind of characters.

It goes without saying that we have emoji, emoticons and so on in Brazil, but the truth is we do not use them as much, and however close people are, we simply type only words and send messages. As oppose to how ubiquitous the use of emoji is in Japan, using symbols could leave an immature impression on others. This is why Brazilian adults are having hesitation to use emoji, emoticons, etc.

When I encountered the fact that people here casually use them, it was absolutely new to me. In fact, the very first introduction of these digital images or icons happened in Japanese societies, and I suppose that the Japanese have found this way of communication easier to understand one another, considering that the Japanese language can be very equivocal at times.

In my case, since the day my Japanese friend told me about my texts, I always try to use some emoji characters more often and double-check if I wrote any formal expressions before sending messages. I still do not completely know how to communicate with the people in my age group and could leave an unfriendly impression on you, so I would be more than happy if you teach me a variety of other communication ways.



“Natalia’s Room” is a monthly column published in the Japanese version of Koho Hikone Newsletter since June 2014. Natalia is from Brazil and has been working as Coordinator of International Relations of Hikone since coming to Japan in 2014. This column features topics related to multicultural coexistence, such as differences in cultures and living in Japan as a foreigner.

