The city where everyone wants to live

広報(ひ)

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Multicultural Coexistence

Human Rights Policy Division

Hikone City Hall

Tel: 0749-30-6113

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Multicultural Coexistence

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HIKONE

Community

Newsletter,

Koho

2018.02

FEATURES



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

| Name of Division | Telephone Number |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| Hikone City Hall (Representation) | 0749-22-1411 (Main Number) |
| Hikone City Hall (JINKEN SEISAKU KA) 彦根市役所(人権政策課) | 0749-30-6113 (Direct Number) 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 TSUUYAKU ONEGAI SHIMASU".

• Koho Hikone "foreign language version" is issued every month.

This newsletter is available at:

Various Services

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

Please say this Japanese sentence "eigo-tsuuyaku-onegai-shimasu."

(It means "please get me an English interpreter".) えいご つうやく おねがいします。

We might change the interpreter's availability.

Hikone City Hall: Weekdays 8:30 a.m.to 12:00 p.m. 1:00 p.m. to 5:15 p.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 (Not available from Dec. to Feb.) | 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 ひこわ国際交流会 VOICE なえむらさん(NAEMURA) Tel 090-7118-5250 | 100yen / lesson 100 A / 1 a |
| 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) | ①9:30 a.m. to 10:50 a.m. ②11:00 a.m. to 12:20 p.m. ③1:30 p.m. to 2:50 p.m. ④3:00 p.m. to 4:20 p.m. | Innovation Office "NAYASHICHI" Shiro-machi1-7-16 | "Smile's Satellite"(Weekday Class) NAYASHICHI Tel (0749)-46-5377 or みずのさん(MIZUNO) Tel 070-5661-7345 | 100yen / lesson 100 A / 1 a |

[Hikone International Lounge News]

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



☆Please Give Way for Emergency Vehicles

When you are driving or you are riding the motorcycle, the fire engine and the ambulance car, etc. are approaching you with the siren and the red lamp on. How do you give them the right way 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 right of way.

The narrow roads

Let the emergency vehicles move 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 right of way.

Emergency vehicles have legal obligation to sound the siren when they are moving even at night. We ask your cooperation to allow emergency vehicles to move smoothly.

Inquiries: Hikone Fire Department, Prevention Division Tel 0749-22-0332, Fax 0749-22-9427

☆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 snow, remove them.



☆Hikone City Emergency Report System

This system is to connect you with the emergency center. In case you encounter the emergency, push the button, then the center will act to support you.

Subjects: The seniors and the challenged people who have some difficulties in their daily lives because of a disease.

- a) The senior of or over 65 years old who lives alone.
- b) The household of only the seniors of or over 65 years old.
- c) The challenged living alone with a heavy barrier.
- d) The household of only the challenged with heavy barriers.
- Limited to the people who have home-telephone.

Monthly Fee: Household provided Livelihood Protection (seikatsuhogo): ¥0

Household non-provided Livelihood Protection (seikatsuhogo): ¥124

Application:

- a) Application form and necessary documents are available at Seniors' Welfare Division (*kaigo-fukushi ka*). Please apply there or send the documents by mail to the division. You can download from the Hikone City Website.
- b) There are some conditions for application, such as you need to name three supporters, and so forth.

Inquiries: Seniors' Welfare Division (〒522-0041, Hirata-cho 670, Hikone City)
Tel 0749-23-9660, Fax 0749-26-1768

★Special Article "To Build a City Where Everyone Can Thrive"

Question: Can you guess what the number below stands for?

2,264

Answer: The number of foreign residents living in Hikone. (As of 2017 Oct)

For the foreign residents, the city has been committed to providing information in multiple languages, stationing interpreters at the city office, and so forth. However, there is much left to be done, especially when it comes to academic support and disaster management structure.

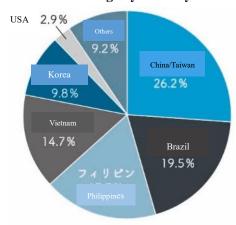
Last May, on the grounds of recognizing a wide range of various perspectives, respecting and understanding one another regardless of race, "The Hikone Multi-Cultural Symbiotic Promotion Plan" was formulated with the aim that all Hikone residents will be able to work together to build a multicultural symbiotic city. So, we respectfully ask you to join us and make the multicultural symbiotic city happen together.

The Current Demographics of Foreign Residents



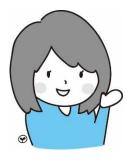


Percentage by Country



The number of foreign residents momentarily tapered off in the wake of the 2008 Financial Crisis and the Great East Japan Earthquake (2011). Despite this phenomenon, the arrival of foreign trainees from China, Vietnam and the Philippines in recent years has reversed the downward trend.

By age demographics, the working population ranged in age from 20 to 40 accounts for the highest percentage, many of them being involved in manufacturing industries within the city, which suggests that they are a pillar of the industrial labour force.



So, what's multicultural symbiosis in the first place?

Well, multicultural symbiosis means people from various countries and ethnic groups can live together by understanding and recognizing each other



Hikone Multicultural Symbiosis Promotion Plan

Hikone Where Everyone Can Thrive Together

1 Communication Support

- By making the best use of the website of Hikone and other social media platforms, we spread administrative information and guidelines.
- · Offering necessary support to Japanese language classes conducted by volunteer and civil gro
- Setting up a consultation site and stationing counsellors for the foreign residents.

2 To Shape the Safe and Liveable Environment

- Organizing workshops of Multicultural Social Work (addressing problems that people with different backgrounds might have) for relevant departments and institutions.
- Hosting Native Language Classes and Multicultural Children's Club for foreign-born children and students.
- Placing an interpreter (Portuguese) at the City Hospital.
- Drawing up Foreigner Support Guidelines, Evacuations Manuals, etc., in multiple languages and simple Japanese.

3 To Promote the Multicultural Symbiosis on a Local Level

- Organizing multicultural-symbiosis-themed talks and seminars in times of Human Rights Community Develop gatherings.
- Recruiting city residents as a member of the Multicultural Symbiosis Supporter.
- Offering event and activity information in which the foreign residents are engaging on a wide range of media platforms.



Interviews on the Multicultural Symbiosis

"Hope that the Japanese Will Expand Their Interest into Other Parts of the World, too"





♦ Hikone is the most liveable city.

I left Brazil for Japan to work at the age of 23. In those days, I could hardly understand Japanese, so heartless words were directed at me from time to time at work. Even so, I kept learning Japanese on my own and was beginning to grasp the language.

Of all other regions I have previously lived in, I, for one, believe that Hikone is the most liveable city. The reason lies in the fact that I have come across little discrimination and bias against the foreign nationals in Hikone. What's more, there are a number of services for the foreign residents, and I can sense that the Japanese residents of Hikone make efforts to kindly offer some help without being affected by the language barrier.

◆ I want Japanese people to know more about my country through food.

At the "With Marche", where I saw a chance to familiarize the Japan-born residents with Brazilian food, it became successful to let many visitors know about Brazilian sweets.

Because it was my pleasure seeing and hearing the people saying "So good!" about my home-made Brazilian food with smiles, I am motivated to continue working on the introduction of Brazilian culture through food.

◆ I want the children with foreign roots to be more proud of themselves.

There are foreign students at the school my child goes to, but some of them seem to try to hide their own identities. "From a foreign country" is oftentimes associated with "From America" amongst the Japanese, but there are a great many different countries outside Japan, and each country's culture is distinct from one another. I hope that the Japanese will expand their interest into other parts of the world, too.

It would be wonderful, if the children with foreign roots can talk about their home countries proudly in the near future.



"Nationality is Part of Your Own Individuality"

Mori Yujiro (Lecturer of Seisen University) Committee Chairman of Multicultural Symbiosis Promotion Plan

For the realization of the Multicultural Symbiosis Society, our will power and action on individual levels rather than emphasis of differences in cultural backgrounds and nationalities are needed to build better societies.

Our societies comprise different individuals in terms of gender, age, origin, etc. as well as personality traits, regardless of nationalities and cultural backgrounds. To achieve the concept of the Multicultural Symbiosis Society under such circumstances, measures - not simply designed for "foreigners", but also for "all of us" to be encouraged to get involved – and self-awareness- that you are also a primary part of the Multicultural Symbiosis Society - are required. By doing so, I think that everyone will be respected and societies will become liveable for all in the end.

I firmly hope that one day it will become normal for our Japanese societies to have these notions mentioned above without actually using the word "Multicultural Symbiosis".





Multicultural Symbiosis Forum

Natural Disaster Preparation: Let's think about the management of evacuation shelters and how to spread emergency information for foreign residents

Let's think about the Multicultural Symbiosis together, setting disparities in our nationality aside. This time, we are planning to discuss how to help the foreign residents during a natural disaster from the standpoint of natural disaster prevention.

*Portuguese, English, Chinese interpretation is available. So please let us know in advance if need be.

Date& Time Feb 12th (Mon/Holiday) 10:00 – 12:00

Venue: Daigaku Satellite Plaza Hikone (F6 of Al Plaza Hikone)

Application Due Date: Feb 7th (Wed)

Entry: Via Phone or Fax

Please apply to the Human Rights Policy Division



Join Us to Realize the Multicultural Symbiosis Society

Hikone Multicultural Symbiosis Supporters

The Multicultural Symbiosis Supporters are people who help the foreign residents to feel more comfortable residing in Hikone. Being able to speak a foreign language is not a requirement, so anyone is more than welcome as a member of the Hikone Multicultural Symbiosis Supporters.

♦ What activities can they get involved in?

The Multicultural Symbiosis Supporters are asked to accompany children and students with foreign roots for educational field trips, help them out with their study, and take part in more multicultural activities during the Summer & Winter Multicultural Children's Club.

There are also some other activities and events you can join and help, the Language Class, Multicultural Cooking Lesson, to name a few.



If you are interested in the registration of the Hikone Multiple Symbiosis Supporters, please fill in and submit its application form available at the customer service counter of the Hikone Human Rights Policy Division.

Inquiries: Human Rights Policy Division

Tel: 0749-30-6113, Fax: 0749-24-8577, Email: kokusai@ma.city.hikone.shiga.jp

☆Prefectural & Municipal Tax, Income Tax Return and Special Income Tax for Reconstruction

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 (Fri) - March 15 (Thu)

Those who are to file a prefectural and municipal tax return will receive by mail the "notification to fill tax return". You can get the tax return form at the any of the venues cited below and you can complete the procedure there. If you need the form in advance, please ask for it at the Tax Division (3rd Floor in the Provisory City Hall). If you did not receive the "notification to fill tax return" but think you can receive a tax refund, you can apply personally for a tax return at any of the venues mentioned here.

- * You can file the prefectural and municipal tax return directly at City Hall from February 16 to March 15.
- * If you file an income tax return (see P 8), you do not have to file a prefectural and municipal tax return.
- * Those who are self-employed, farmers or are receiving money from rental properties must show a statement of their earnings and expenses at the time of the tax return application. Please prepare this document beforehand.

• Things required for filing a tax return:

- ► The "notification to fill tax return" sent by mail
- ► Your seal (HANKO)
- ▶ Documents proving your income in 2017 (for example, the GENSEN CHOUSHU HYO and etc.)
- ► Your earning and expenses detailed statement (for self-employed, farmers and rental properties owners)
- ▶ Documents stating deductions from income (national insurance expenses statement, life insurance expenses statement, nursing-care expenses statement, medical expenses statement, statement of money send abroad to parents and etc.) ※For medical expenses deduction, please see page 9 for more information.
- ▶ Documents proving your spouse's income (for those who receive a tax reduction for spouses)
- ► Booklet for the challenged people (challenged people)
- ▶ Documents to confirm one's identity and Individual Number (My Number) Card

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

If you belong to one of the following categories, please file a simplified tax return at the Hikone Chamber of Commerce and Industry 4th Floor.

- *Those who receive a special reduction of housing loan.
- *Those who make capital gains.
- *Those who will file a blue return.
- *Those who will report a business income for the first time.
- *Those who received a statement from tax office.
- *Those who receive a special reduction of housing for seismic reinforcement, barrier free and energy saving.

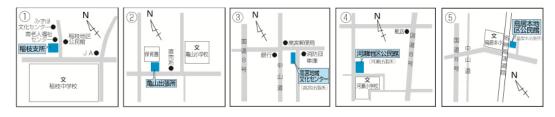
Please pay attention to the following points:

- *Those who can receive the tax deduction from national pension premiums need to show a "statement of deduction for national pension" when filling a tax return. The "statement of deduction for national pension" premiums will be sent by mail. If you did not receive your statement, please contact the Hikone National Pension Office (TEL 23-1114).
- *When filling for deductions from medical expenses, you will need to fill beforehand the "statement of medical expenses deduction". Please check page 9 for more details about this statement.
- *When filling for a tax deduction at the Hikone City Office, you cannot bring the tax deduction form from any other place. You will need to fill all the details personally at the venue.

Other places besides Hikone City Office where you can fill a tax return:

If you cannot come to Hikone City Office during February 16 to March 15, you can fill a tax return at the following venues on the days stated below. <u>All the venues are open from 9:00 to 12:00 and from 13:00 to 16:00 on weekdays.</u> The venues are closed on Saturdays & Sundays and on weekdays during 12:00 to 13:00.

- ① February 20 February 22 & March 13 March 14: Branch Office of Inae (Inae Shisho)
- ② February 27: Branch Office of Kameyama (Kameyama Sutyosho)
- 3 March 1: Takamiya Chiiki Bunka Senta
- 4 March 6: Kawase Chiiku Kouminkan
- (5) March 8: Torimoto Chiiku Kouminkan





FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT "PREFECTURAL & MUNICIPAL TAX" PLEASE CONTACT:

Inquiries: City Tax Division (Provisory City Office, 3rd Floor) Tel 0749-30-6140. Fax 0749-22-1398

● 《Income Tax》 February 16 (Fri) - March 15 (Thu)

If you want to file an income tax return, please come to **Hikone Chamber of Commerce and Industry 4F.**<u>Do not go to the Hikone Tax Office.</u> Please keep in mind that if you do not file the income tax return by the deadline or make mistakes when filling the form, you may have to pay overdue taxes or additional taxes.

Reception date: February 16 (Fri) – March 15 (Thu) (Closed on Saturdays & Sundays) **Reception time:** 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. (Reception time may change depending on situation)

Individual Number required for filing tax return in fiscal year 2017

When you file an income tax return, please write down your Individual Number. You will need a document to confirm your Individual Number.

≪ Confirmation document for Individual Number ≫

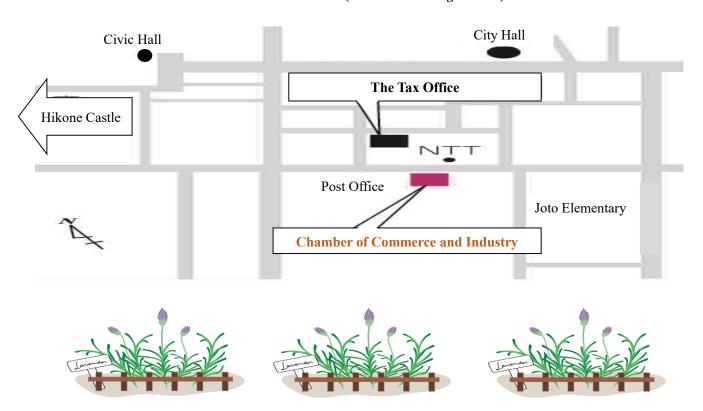
- ► Those who have Individual Number Card: **Individual Number Card (My Number Card)** (※the Individual Number Card includes your photo and address)
- ► Those who don't have Individual Number Card will need to provide ① and ②
- ① Individual Number Notification Card **OR** a copy of resident certificate with your Individual Number printed on it (MAI NAMBA GA KISAI SARETEIRU JUMIN-HYO);
- 2 At least one document to confirm your identity: residence card (zairyu card), drivers' license, health insurance card, passport or booklet of challenged people.

Please pay attention to the following points (medical expenses deduction):

- *When filling for deductions from medical expenses, you will need to fill beforehand the "statement of medical expenses deduction". Please check page 9 for more details about this statement.
- *Starting from this year the "Self-Medication Taxation System" has begun. If you have bought between 12,000 to 88,000 yen in self-medications in the pharmacy last year, you can file for a tax deduction. Please bear in mind that if you apply for this deduction, you will not be able to receive a tax deduction from the "statement of medical expenses deduction".

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT "INCOME TAX RETURN" PLEASE CONTACT:

Hikone Tax Office (Tachibana-cho 5-20) Tel: 0749-22-7640 (automatic voice guidance)



☆Revision of the City & Prefecture Tax (Medical Expenses Deduction)

You have to attach the document "statement of medical expenses deduction" to your 2017 tax report. You do not need to attach receipts for medical expenses, but you must keep your receipts for 5 years.

How to fill the "statement of medical expenses deduction":

Please write the followings matters:

- ▶Name of the person who receives medical treatment
- ►The name of payment destination such as a hospital or a pharmacy
- ▶The amount of expenses
- ▶The amount of coverage which an insurance company provides
- * You can describe all at once if you have some receipts in the same hospital.
- * You need to report it individually if you declare medical expenses for more than one person who is your family member or relative living within the same household.
- * You can download the form of receipt from the website of The National Tax Agency (http://www.nta.go.jp) or come directly to Tax Division counter (any form is acceptable).

Revision of the amount of the deduction of earned income

The upper limit of the deduction of earned income is reduced in the revision of 2017.

| | NOW | FROM 2017 |
|------------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Applied earned income | ¥12,000,000 | ¥10,000,000 |
| The upper limit of deduction | ¥2,300,000 | ¥2,200,000 |

Electric Transmission of Tax Return

Final tax return will be sent to National Tax Office as an electronic data. Please bring "a copy of report" or "notice from taxation office" if you got a user identification in order to use "E-tax" before.

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

☆Notice of Closed days-----Hikone City Library

Closed days period: Wednesday, February 14 - Thursday, February 22

* When you return the book during those closed days, please use the book post at the entrance of the library.



Inquiries: Hikone City Library Tel 0749-30-6116, Fax 0749-27-0395





☆"HIKONE *DE ASAICHI*" (The Fresh Morning Market in Hikone)

Selling local fresh vegetable, bean curd, local lake sea foods, local *SAKE*, and handcrafted general goods, under the concept "Safety food" "Local production for local consumption" "Handmade".

Date & Time: Sunday, February 18 8:00~12:00 **Place:** GOKOKU- *JINJYA* (shrine) (Osue- cho)

Inquiries: "HIKONE *DE ASAICHI*" Executive Committee **Tel:** 0749-24-4461 **E-mail:** hikonedeasaichi55@gmail.com

☆14th BNN Network Japanese Contest for Foreigners

We will hold a speech contest for foreigners. There will be an exchange meeting with the panelists.

Date: Sunday March 4, 12:40~16:30

Place: Hikone Sun Palace

Fax: 077-523-1061 E-mail: bnn.biwako@gmmmail.com



Information from the Health Promotion Division, Kusunoki Center (Hassaka-cho) Tel 0749-24-0816, Fax 0749-24-5870

☆Vaccination about Pneumococcal Disease for the Elderly

This vaccination will be finished on Saturday March 31, 2018.

- Elderly people (over 65 years old) are able to have the vaccination one time by the public money furtherance at the
 recommended age (between Oct, 2014 the fiscal year 2018).
- Only the people aged 65 years old will be able to have the vaccination one time by the public money after the fiscal year 2019.

Qualification for the fiscal year 2017:

- ① People aged 65, 70, 75, 80, 85, 90, 95, 100 years old (from April 2, 2017 to April 1, 2018)
- 2 People 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 April 2017.

Please make a reservation for receive the vaccination to medical institution. Those who lost the questionnaire or become residents of Hikone City after last April, please ask the City Health Promotion Division.

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

☆ Shiga Prefecture Cancer Week: Sunday, February 4 – Saturday, February 10

Having 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. Early detection and cure often can lead to a complete recovery from cancer. Therefore, keep in mind healthy lifestyle and before developing symptoms, you should receive a cancer check regularly.

- ► Five habits to prevent cancer
 - 1 No smoking.
 - **2** Moderate drinking.
 - 3 Balanced diet.
 - 4 Moderate exercise.
 - Seep proper weight.

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

★Natalia's Room (No.43)



Choice Between Family and Work

Last year, I went to a Foreign Language Speech Contest with my friends. At that Speech Contest, I encountered one impressive speech made by a Japanese high-school girl. The gist of the speech was "Why do women have to make a choice between work or family?" I have oftentimes heard life concerns or obstacles voiced by Japanese women since I came to Japan; nevertheless, uncertainty for the future expressed by this high-school girl was a reminder of how life-changing the choice between family and work can be in Japan.

While listening to the speech, it also reminded me of one Japanese woman I met back in Brazil. She was working at a company in Brazil while living separately from her family. All her family members were in Japan at that moment, so when I asked her how come she did not go back to Japan, her response was "Brazil's labour environment is way friendlier towards female employees." We cannot say that Brazilian society has been rendered into a perfect gender-equal society, yet she appeared to have found working in Brazil better than in Japan.

In the case of Japan, more women have commenced joining the workforce for various reasons, but in a country like Brazil, where a long-lasting economic depression is present, it has been ubiquitous for women to work. For this reason, there are not simply single women, but also a great many married women who are active in today's Brazilian labour market. What's more, a wide range of different jobs are open for these female workers: usual clerical positions, specialist positions, corporate executive positions, to just name a few. Some women are also juggling work and childcare, which plays a positive role among women who desire to work.

Since I grew up in this kind of environment, I, for one, want to balance out work and family, too. It would be tough to do so, but, having witnessed a plethora of successful examples, it is not entirely out of the question. Of course, cooperation from society, families, partners, etc. is indispensable. Otherwise, "the choice between work and family" will remain entrenched in Japan unless both the society side and family side take strong action, such as flexible working hours, sharing household chores, 100% success in parental leave, and so forth.

All in all, the trouble of making a choice between work and family is not only a women's issue. Making a contribution to society through work while supporting one's family is an invaluable thing for both men and women. As Japan is facing "Work-Life Balance" and "Work Style Reforms", the grassroots should pay more heed to what others, like the high school girl at the Speech Contest and the woman I met in Brazil, think, and help each other to change Japan for the better.

"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 difference of cultures and living in Japan as a foreigner.

