



Held in January, this is an annual firefighting and disaster prevention event that has been continuously running since 1659. Traditional items on the bill include: "hashigo-nori" – acrobatic feats performed on a ladder held upright – parades, recitals by the Tokyo Fire Department Band, and demonstrations of fire extinguishing, rescues and first aid. It will also be possible to go for a ride on a fire engine and on a vehicle that simulates the effect of being in a powerful earthquake.

January 6 Held in the east parking lot of Tokyo Big Sight (Koto Ward, Tokyo) がつ むい か 1 月 6 日 とうきょう 取京ビッグサイト東駐車場(東京都江東区)にてwww.tfd.metro.tokyo.jp/写真提供:東京消防庁

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F 特集 とくしゅう eature





Businesses Reviving the Provinces

地方を元気にする

ビジネス

Japan has entered the era of the aging society. Young people, particularly those from provincial towns, tend to move to larger cities in search of work. Therefore, the population of so called productive age – aged 15 to 64 – is decreasing. As a result, economic activity has decreased and it's become a serious problem. However, there are examples of people tackling this problem, and reviving their regions.

SHIRAMIZU Takahiro runs a shop called "Unagi no Nedoko" (Eel's Bed) in the city of Yame City, Fukuoka Prefecture, with HARUGUCHI Shogo, a former college classmate. They deal mainly in products made in the local region of Chikugo, where Yame is located. "From *kasuri* (patterned cloth), Buddhist household altars, paper lanterns, bows and arrows, to artisanal earthenware and woodcraft, the region of Chikugo produces both new and old products," Shiramizu says, outlining Chikugo's characteristics.





SHIRAMIZU Takahiro しらみずたかひろ 白水高広さん

しらみず ちく で とくちょう かた るんです」と白水さんは筑後の特徴を語ります。

"Unagi no Nedoko" also deals in unique products, such as modern style *monpe* made with *kurume-gasuri* (a traditional kind of patterned cloth). *Monpe* are traditional Japanese trousers many women used to wear for physical work in the past. "At first, I thought that both *kurume-gasuri* and *monpe* were for elderly ladies. I changed my mind when I went to a weaver's and saw different fabrics and patterns. I thought that I might be able to wear them myself." This experience led to him organizing a "Monpe Fair." It was an opportunity to let many people find out about the existence of *kurume-gasuri* and about the variety of patterns available.

ね どこ くる め がすり つか げんだいふう うなぎの寝床では久留米絣を使った現代風もんぺなど よっひん あつか おりジナルの商品も扱っています。もんぺはかつて、多



Letter to Emperor Caused a Stir

で、

1. December 23 is the Emperor's Birthday and a National

じゅうに がつ **12** 月

にじゅうさん にち **23 日は**

Juu ni/12 gatsu

nijuu san/23 nichi wa/ha

Tennnou Tanjoubi

しゅくじつ 祝 日 Shukujitsu

です。 desu.

2. The Emperor holds a garden party in spring and autumn every year, and invites 2,000 distinguished guests from a variety of different walks of life.

てんのう 天皇は Tennnou wa/ha えんゆうかい **園 遊 会 を** enyuu'kai o/wo こうろうしゃ **功 労 者** kourou'sha

毎年、 maitoshi,





moyoo shi,

の

にせん にん 2,000 人を

招きます。

ni sen/2,000 nin o/wo manekimasu.

3. At the garden party held this autumn, guest YAMAMOTO Taro, a member of the House of Councilors, handed the Emperor a letter.

先に Saki ni 開かれた hirakareta





で、

de.



招かれた

山本太郎 YAMAMOTO Tarou

参議院議員が Sangiin'giin ga

tegami o/wo

てんのう 天皇に Tennnou ni

渡しました。 watashimashita.

Words in parentheses are not translated from (the) desk [in fact] Words in square brackets are not translated

"Multi-Level Texts"

English furigana notes

into English.

go <come> When the English translation is different to the

Japanese, the original Japanese is placed in

"< >" after the English.

When a sentence is continuing in Japanese, and

> the conjunction is shown in italics. indicates the rest of phrase to follow

"Multi-Level Texts" are also written in Glomaji (Global Romaji).

Glomaji is a concept developed by Hiragana Times. Glomaji is the form of romaji used when inputting Japanese into a PC with the English alphabet.

Glomaji Notes

[Examples] konpyu-tawa/ha

Nihon' bunka

[Examples]

Underlined words represent katakana. "wa" is for pronunciation and "ha" for writing. Apostrophe makes the preceding word adjec-

sanjuui i/31 sai pronounced as "sanjuu issai."



4. Proclaiming his anti-nuclear power stance, Yamamoto was elected for the first time to the House of Councilors in an election held this July.

Yamamoto'giin wa/ha, _{おこな} 行 われた 参 議 院 okonawareta Sangiin だつげんぱつ **脱 原 発 を**



掲げ

kakage

初 hatsu

de

datsu'genpatsu o/wo

やまもとぎいん

山本議員は、

^{うせん} **当 選 しました**。

tousen shimashita.





Japanese TPO 日本語TPO



"You" is not the only translation of "Anata"

「You」

「あなた」 だけ では ない



1. Japanese has a rich vocabulary compared to English, but it can convey delicate nuance.

比べると 日本語には 英語と Nihongo niwa/ha Eigo to kuraberu to たくさんの 語彙 が あります が、 takusan no goi ga arimasu ga, にゅあんす **ニュアンス を** ^{つた} 伝える こと が びみょう 微**妙な** bimyouna tsutaeru koto ga nyuansu o/wo できます。 dekimasu.

2. For instance, the English word "you" is generally translated as "anata," but in actual conversation, many other words are used.



3. Sentence endings also vary in accordance with this.

それに 語尾 も Sore ni tomonai. gobi mo へんか **変化します**。 henka shimasu.

4. "Anata ha ima isogashii desu ka" (Are you busy now?) is used as a standard sentence in Japanese textbooks.



5. However, few people use the word "anata" in daily conversation.



amari tsukaimasen.

6. When a woman says "anata" to a man, it implies that he is her husband or they have an intimate relationship.



7. Instead of using "anata," both men and women generally use surnames, adding "san" at the end.

