

By talking with each other and changing together, we can create new strength. Let's proceed from the premise that we *can't* understand each other.

To celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Inuyama International Association, we invited playwright Hirata Oriza to give a lecture. The following is an excerpt.

### What communication skills are necessary in today's world?

Communication during cross-cultural exchange is a constant stream of mistakes. Rather than seeking the right answer, it's important to have the ability to bounce back. It's fine to say: "You thought that? Sorry, sorry, I misunderstood," or "What the heck, you should've told me!" / "I did tell you!" What matters is whether you can have this kind of exchange in a friendly, easy-going way. That is the true meaning of global communication skills.



Held on 12 October 2025 at  
the Inuyama Community  
Center.

While debating and speech skills are fine, the ability to make mistakes and find the right context\*1 – saying, "Oh, I see, I misunderstood" – is far more important.

\*1 Context: Information that helps us understand things, including the context, background, and situation.

### The importance of making small differences visible

It's important to make our differences visible to each other. It's difficult to see the differences that occur in everyday life, but it's vital to engage in lots of interaction to make those differences apparent. If we're aware of the differences between us, they won't be such a big problem. By being able to see small differences, we can prevent major conflicts from occurring later.

### The importance of creating an environment where people feel comfortable talking

It's important to have a place where it's easy to start a conversation and build relationships where people feel comfortable speaking up. While the ability to explain things is important, it's equally important to create an environment which sets the stage for conversation.

### I don't agree, but I try to understand.

It's important to say, "You and I are different, but let's work together to build this society." In the society of the future, empathy\*2 – which means trying to understand even if you don't agree – will likely be crucial.

\*2 Empathy: The ability to imagine yourself in someone else's position and try to understand from their perspective.

### What is important for a leader

Just as important as the ability to speak logically is the ability to understand the feelings of people who can't speak logically. If leaders don't understand the context of the socially vulnerable, divisions in society will only increase. Going forward, we will need leadership education that enables people to understand the context of the socially vulnerable.

### Making diversity our strength

It may seem pointless to explain things when you can't intuitively understand each other, but fascinating things will happen from there. What's important is whether you can enjoy that fascination. Rather than following the way things have always been done, I think that by incorporating new opinions, we can become more rational and compatible with each other. This is what it means to turn diversity into strength. I hope that everyone will think in this way as they look towards the future.

# Rules and manners while riding a bicycle

## 1. Follow the traffic rules.

- ◆ Ride in a single file along the left edge of the roadway. Riding side by side is dangerous.
- ◆ Please obey traffic signals.
- ◆ Wear a helmet to protect yourself.
- ◆ At night, turn on your lights for safety.
- ◆ Riding with two people on one bicycle, riding while holding an umbrella, or riding after drinking alcohol are dangerous.
- ◆ Using your smartphone or cell phone while riding is dangerous.
- ◆ Listening to music at high volume through headphones while riding is risky.
- ◆ Excessive speed is dangerous.

## 2. If you're not enrolled in Bicycle Liability Insurance, you may have to pay a large amount of money in the event of an accident.

- ◆ If you damage property or injure someone else while riding a bicycle, you may have to pay a large amount of money.
- ◆ You can complete the enrolment process at bicycle shops displaying the "TS Mark."

## 3. For your peace of mind, we recommend registering for theft prevention services.

- ◆ Completing the anti-theft registration increases the possibility of getting your bicycle back if it's stolen.
- ◆ Registration procedures can be completed at bicycle retailers.

## 4. Be sure to lock your bicycle and park it in the designated bicycle parking areas.



Helmets protect your head!



Dangerous!!



Locking gives you peace of mind!

# What is the pension (*nenkin*)?

Japan's public pension system is a social insurance program designed to support livelihoods.

## ◆ You can receive a pension in the following situations:

When you become a senior citizen (※)



When a disease or injury results in a severe disability



When the breadwinner passes away



※ The Basic Old-Age Pension (*rourei kiso nenkin*) is available from age 65 if you have a total of 10 or more years of qualifying periods (including periods during which premiums were paid and periods during which premiums were exempted).

## ◆ Types of pensions

1. **Japanese National Pension:** All residents of Japan aged 20 to 59 are enrolled.

2. **Employees' Pension Insurance:** Company employees and civil servants enrol in this scheme as a supplement to the National Pension.

3. **Private pension schemes:** These include corporate pensions and iDeCo, which serve to supplement public pensions.

## ◆ For questions or inquiries about your pension

※ Available languages for interpretation services: English, Chinese, Korean, Portuguese, Spanish, Tagalog, Vietnamese, Indonesian, Thai, Nepali, Burmese.

### 1. Visit the pension office

● Ichinomiya Pension Office  
(<https://www.nenkin.go.jp/section/soudan/aichi/ichinomiya.html>)

※ If you make a reservation by phone in advance, you can receive interpretation services without waiting.  
(☎0586-45-1418) <Monday to Friday from 8:30AM to 5:15PM>

### 2. Inquire by phone (call charges will apply) <Monday to Friday from 8:30AM to 5:15PM>

- About receiving pensions ⇒ ☎0570-05-1165
- Enrolment in the Japanese National Pension (*kokumin nenkin*) ⇒ ☎0570-003-004
- Enrolment in the Employees' Pension Insurance and Health Insurance (*kousei nenkin hoken*) ⇒ ☎0570-007-123
- About your Pension Statement and Pension Net ⇒ ☎0570-058-555



## Let me introduce a lady who's working hard at Inuyama Japanese Language Class



Ms. Gandhi Leli Prasasti Arum, Nationality: Indonesia, Date of arrival in Japan: March 2025

I'm from Bali. Bali is famous for its beautiful seas and Kecak dance. Before coming to Japan, I learned Japanese for about half a year at school. I also learned hiragana and simple kanji. Currently I work at a nursing home for the elderly. The facility users are all kind, and some have even told me I'm like a daughter to them.

I'm attending Inuyama Japanese Language School with the aim of taking the Japanese Language Proficiency Test (level N3). Because I love Japan, I want to get my Certified Care Worker License so I can live here permanently.

To do that, I first need to pass the N3 level of the Japanese Language Proficiency Test. Then I have to complete the Care Worker Basic Training (3 months) and the Practical Care Worker Training course (5 months). If I obtain a Certified Care Worker License, I'll be able to bring my family over from my home country.

Japan is a beautiful country. Japanese people are kind and have a wonderful way of working. However, I'd say Japanese people are a little strict about time. When I first started living in Japan, I struggled with sorting garbage, but my neighbors kindly showed me how to do it.

On my days off, I study Japanese and meet up with friends. I like Doraemon. I want to understand Japanese culture more. I'd be happy if Japanese people could also learn more about Indonesian culture.

### Comment from the volunteer in charge: Goto Yoshimi ↓



Leli came to Japan, leaving her two children behind in her home country. I was impressed that she'd studied Japanese for six months in her home country and is now fluent in it. Furthermore, she's very polite. In a nursing job that also involves night shifts, she seems to pay close attention to how she interacts with the elderly. At the Japanese language class, she's studying for the Japanese Language Proficiency Test. She's probably often tired from work, but she keeps going. She's interested in all kinds of things. For example, she invited me by saying, "I'd love to try a hot spring. Why don't we go together?" I'd really love for her to experience "Japanese hot springs."

### Common Indonesian phrases

"Hello" → 'Selamat Siang', "Thank you" → 'Terima Kasih', "You're welcome" → 'Sama-sama', "How are you?" → 'Apa Kabar', "I'm fine" → 'Kabar Baik'

## At Inuyama Japanese Language Class, you can learn Japanese every week.

This is a Japanese class for foreigners living in and around Inuyama to develop conversational Japanese skills.

- Day and time: Every Sunday, 10:00-11:45AM
- ※ First-time visitors should arrive at 9:40AM
- Place: Inuyama Community Center "Freude," 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, Room 203
- Tuition fee: 100 yen per session
- Class: Join a class that suits your level and goals
- ※ For more information on dates and classes, please click here:
- Contact information:

Inuyama International Association (IIA)

Open: weekdays 9:00 AM-5:00 PM

(closed on Saturdays/Sundays/Public Holidays and the 2nd and 4th Mondays of the month)

Address: 4-21 Matsumoto-Cho Inuyama City

Tel: 0568-48-1355

E-mail: [iia@grace.ocn.ne.jp](mailto:iia@grace.ocn.ne.jp)



You can learn Japanese in your spare time. "Connecting and Expanding: Living in Japanese"

### "Tsunagaru Hirogaru"

A Japanese language learning site for "foreigners as residents"

<https://tsunagarujp.mext.go.jp/>



While getting to know each other's cultures, we'll discuss creating a town that is more livable for everyone.



Each session lasts one hour, with discussions in Japanese on predetermined topics. Participants learn about each other's cultures and customs through exchanging their own thoughts. Participants make new discoveries through discussion with people from different backgrounds.

※ Sessions are held alternately on weekdays and Saturdays.

Apply for the "Multicultural Chatting Club" →



<https://forms.gle/eMH9iucNB2Nx4ecS9>

Please refer to these websites or social media pages for further details on IIA events.

Homepage



Facebook



X



## It's fun to learn Japanese onomatopoeia!

Do you know what "onomatopoeia" is? Onomatopoeia are words that express a state or movement by mimicking real sounds. Learning Japanese onomatopoeia will make your Japanese conversations more enjoyable. Give it a try!

**gatsu-gatsu**



The appearance or sound of devouring food greedily.

**muzu-muzu**



An itchy feeling, as if small insects are crawling on you.

**bosa-bosa**



The appearance of messy hair.

**choro-choro**



1. The sound or appearance of a small amount of liquid trickling.  
2. The appearance of a child or a small object moving around quickly.

## Cool Japan

**Bonsai**



Bonsai is the traditional Japanese art of growing trees in pots to express the grandeur and beauty of nature. It has a history of over 1,000 years. Within the limited space of a pot, the tree's growth is arranged through care such as pruning and wiring; in this way, the appearance of a large tree growing wild in nature is recreated in a miniature form. Bonsai isn't just about growing plants; it's also enjoyed as an art form that expresses the natural landscape and the worldview of the creator. Bonsai reflects the Japanese aesthetic sense and love for living plants. Since these are living plants, there is no perfect form – they're constantly growing and changing, which is part of their charm.

Recently, bonsai has also become popular overseas and is enjoyed by many people around the world.



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※Data Version⇒

