

# W h a t ' s U p , O I T A !

*Bringing the latest from Oita, Japan to all those connected to Oita thriving all across the globe.*

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**Greetings!** from Shunro Hori <hori-syunro@pref.oita.lg.jp>, the Head of the International Policy Division in the Oita Prefecture Planning Promotion Department

Oita Prefecture has the highest number of international students per capita in Japan, and these students are a local treasure. 3,400 international students representing 80 different countries and regions study in Oita, exchange with the locals, and go on to consider Oita a second home after graduating. Last month, an international student business center was opened in Beppu. The center provides support to international students for finding jobs and starting businesses in Oita in the hope that opportunities for international students will continue to expand.

## ALT Aaron's Video Has Won a Prize

As part of the JET Programme 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations, the Council of Local Authorities for International Relations (CLAIR) ran a video contest based on the theme: "Japan's Local Communities as Experienced by JET Programme Participants." There were 107 videos competing from all over the country, and an Assistant Language Teacher in Kitsuki City Oita Prefecture, won the SEASON (autumn and winter) prize for his video: "Little by little, one goes for".

<http://jetprogramme.org/ja/videocontest/>

“It is such an honor for me to be able to share a glimpse of my experience here in Kitsuki through the JET Programme Video Contest. How sincerely grateful I am to be a part of this incredible program and English education in Japan.” – Aaron Jones

【International Policy Division】



## International Rugby Relations Project



In order to ensure the success of the 2019 Rugby World Cup, hosted in Oita, high school students from Rotorua, New Zealand, one of Beppu's sister cities, were invited, practiced rugby with elementary school students, and had an interleague match with Oita Prefecture High School Rugby All Stars on October 10th. Through experiencing Japanese traditional culture and homestays, these high school students, who were visiting Japan for the first time, were largely able to deepen their mutual understanding. We are anticipating that some of the visiting high school students and members of the Oita All Star team will play in the 2019 Rugby World Cup in Japan as well.

【International Sports Attraction & Promotion Office】



# A ☆☆☆ Michelin Onsen Adventure

**Oita's nickname is "Onsen Oita"** because it's known as Japan's hot spring hot spot. Onsen dot the landscape of Oita, and everywhere you go there's guaranteed to be an onsen spot not too far away. This is especially true in Beppu, where onsen are nearly impossible to avoid. In this land of onsen, we decided to visit the best onsen we could find, a three star Michelin onsen called "Hyotan Onsen."

Hyotan Onsen has a long history and was opened in 1922. The man who started it all is the great grandfather of the current proprietor, and he was born in Hiroshima in the Meiji Era. After making a living, he moved to Oita and built Hyotan Onsen by himself at age sixty. Nearly a century later, Hyotan Onsen operates as the only three star onsen facilities in all of Japan.



Hyotan's three stars are no surprise. There are eight types of onsen, including a waterfall that gives amazing pressure massages and an outdoor rotenburo.

After leaving the onsen, you should head off to the onsite restaurant and eat jigoku mushi. Jigoku mushi is a style of cooking that uses steam from onsen to cook food. This cuisine removes a lot of fat, uses lots of vegetables, and makes for very soft and tender meat that's easier to eat. Jigoku mushi is very natural and healthy, and is good for the body. The rice served at the restaurant is also made in-house.

Many foreigners visit Hyotan, and their website is available in English, Korean, and Simplified Chinese as well as Japanese. The Kumamoto earthquakes reduced the number of foreign visitors to the onsen for about a month and a half, but about 70 – 80% of their visitor numbers have returned. The onsen receives about 1,000 visitors on a daily basis, and nearly 1.2 million visitors in a typical year.

**Hours:** 9:00 AM 1:00 AM, daily

**Fees:** 750 yen (adults)



**Hyotan Onsen Rotenburo**  
(Image from [www.hyotan-onsen.com](http://www.hyotan-onsen.com))



**Jigoku Mushi Cuisine**



# Steamy Beppu Adventures



**A famous view of Beppu**



**Jigoku Meguri "Sea Hell"**



**Jigoku mushi eggs  
on the streets of Beppu**

**The sequel to the SynFlow commercial that excited the world is... a youth drama? "Let's Go, SynFlow Team!"**

Oita Prefecture, which boasts Japan's highest number and yield of onsen sources, has released a new Onsen Oita commercial called "Let's Go, SynFlow Team!" to great acclaim. Be enchanted by the performance from magnificent synchronized swimmers who swim in a wide variety of onsen all across Oita in the sequel to the popular "SynFlow" commercial in this warm story of youth whose stage is Oita Prefecture and a local high school SynFlow team. The commercial is aimed at young people who leave Oita after high school or college and has a clear message: even if you leave Oita, "Oita is always awaiting your return."

<http://onsenkenoita.com>

**【Public Relations Division】**

<To watch the commercial in English, please click on the settings button and select "English" under subtitles and closed captioning.>

