

Hot Info Paper for International Students

Hello, everyone. Welcome to the world of HIPIS.

The new academic year has started!! First year students must be excited and a bit nervous in the completely new environment. But rest assured. If you need any help, please ask someone around you. Izumo jin (people in Izumo) are very kind and they will spare no effort to give you a helping hand. You will find yourself at home before you know it !!

1 Hello, friend!!

Today's guest is **Andy Visi Kartika**- san from Indonesia. She is now in her 3rd year of the Ph.D. course and belongs to the Microbiology Department. She joined the interview with her close friend, **Irna Diyana Kartika Kamaluddin**- san from the Immunology Department, who is also a Ph.D. student and the contributor to the issue's "Let's try Student's recipe".



1. First, may I ask why you became interested in Shimane University to study as a Ph.D. student?

* **Visi-** One of my friends, who was studying here, invited me to join his department, Microbiology. At first, I felt hesitant because my major is Pathology. After several times communicating with the professor, Hironori Yoshiyama, he didn't object with my background. He said that it is good to have a team where people with different backgrounds come together and share their knowledge. We can produce better results. In addition, their research project is related to my field, therefore, I wasn't too worried. I was happy that Prof. Yoshiyama kindly accepted me. Thanks to the memorandum of understanding between Shimane University and University of Muslim Indonesia, the procedures to settle here were also easier. I am proud to be part of this university, especially the Microbiology Department.





2. What was your first impression when coming to Izumo?

* **Visi-** Before coming here, I had an impression that Japan is a sophisticated urban country. I felt a little bit flustered. But the impression was happily overturned when I saw the scenery from the windows on the bus from Izumo airport to JR Izumo-shi station. Rice fields, traditional Japanese houses, their beautiful gardens, rivers, mountains and so on.... Izumo is a peaceful place and far safer than my hometown. This place has a decent learning environment. Now, I'm assured with the environment Izumo supplies for us.

3. What's your biggest culture shock after coming to Japan?

* **Visi-** I was very surprised at the garbage disposal system here. Not just the combustibles and incombustibles, we have to classify our waste into more detailed categories.

* **Irna-** But I think we are accustomed to it 100 %, now. A funny story is that when we went back to our country, we couldn't realize that it is unnecessary to classify the garbage until Visi- san's son pointed it out....hahaha...LOL. You know, Indonesia has a different system to recycle the garbage.

4. What's your favorite Japanese food?

* **Visi-** Takoyaki, definitely!!



Where did you eat it for the first time?


* **Irna-** It's a long story. One of the staff members in my department held a Takoyaki party. He brought his Takoyaki cooker and showed us how to make it. I loved the taste so much that I gave some Takoyaki balls to Visi-san. That's the moment she fell in love with it.

5. What's your favorite Japanese word?

* **Irna-** "*Docchi demo ii desu*". My husband taught it to me. Another funny story is when Visi- san and I were on board, the flight from Indonesia to Japan in July last year, our seat was two of the three seats side by side. The other person was a guy wearing a mask. During that time, Visi-san asked me which seat I preferred, I said, "*Docchi demo ii desu*". The guy was pleasantly surprised, opened his mask, and asked me if I spoke Japanese in Japanese, which, from then we recognized him as a Japanese. We, Visi-san and I, were taken aback. The man introduced himself as a student who studied Indonesian culture at one of the famous universities in Japan. Then a joyful conversation between the three of us started, mixed with English, a little of Japanese, and a little of Indonesian. Yeah!!.... We have a new Japanese friend from Osaka.



6. Would you introduce an example of interesting onomatopoeia in your country, Indonesia?

- * **Visi-** “Tokek” It’s the name of a creature, a kind of gecko and also cries. It lives in urban areas, but mostly the countryside, and cries several times at once like “tokek..., tokek..., tokek...”. When we hear its cry, our common response is to ask each other about how many “tokeks” it cried. Its appearance is  a bit creepy, but some people pay a lot of money to get it. They believe it works well for their health.

7. What’s your favorite sightseeing spot in Japan?

- * **Visi-** The bridge, I forgot the name, it’s in Iwakuni-city in Yamaguchi prefecture, the famous one.
Oh, it’s “Kintaikyo”.



- * **Visi-** I also love places with lots of greenery such as Yuushien, Matsue Vogel Park, or Tottori Prefectural Flower Park (Tottori Hanakairo). Now I’m dreaming of one thing, climbing Mt. Fuji!! If I can finish my study here earlier, I want to carry it out before going back to my country. There is this idiom that said that “We have never been to Japan if we haven’t climbed Mt. Fuji”. So, let’s climb!



8. What do you picture in your mind as a career path after graduation?

- * **Visi-** I was dispatched here to improve my skills to conduct research, focusing on basic research on cancer related to infection. After completing the program, I will go back to my university and continue my career as a lecturer and pathologist. I will teach the students and share my knowledge and skills to the laboratory staff as well as researchers in my place. Of course, I would keep doing experiments in a much more brushed-up manner. I’m sure that I will be able to make the most of the experience I gained here to develop my career.

Thank you, Visi-san and Irna-san. I noticed that you are close friends just after your enrollment because you were always together and looked so relaxed. Having a close friend is one of the greatest treasures in life. Please keep studying hard while cherishing your friendship and enjoying life in Izumo.

This corner, “Hello, friend!!” is now recruiting volunteer interviewees. Please contact me, Yuko Okada, at gakumh04@jn.shimane-u.ac.jp or come to my office if you can take time for the interview. If we have no volunteers, we will ask someone to be the next interviewee.



2 Let's try Student's recipe !!



TAHU ISI "Indonesian spelling"
is a dish of fried filled tofu

Today, I am introducing an Indonesian appetizer called "**TAHU ISI**" (fried filled tofu) with many variants. The most popular variant of tofu in Indonesia is battered and deep-fried tofu filled with bean sprouts, carrots, and sometimes, minced meat (chicken or beef). You can easily find this snack in every food stall selling snacks along the street in Indonesia. It is commonly eaten with *cabai rawit* (bird's eye chili).

Here's the recipe if you want to make it yourself. It's easy and doesn't need so much time to cook.



Ingredients (for 1 to 2 people)

- ◆ 6 medium tofu, each of them cut into triangles, fried half done



For Filling:

- ◆ 150 gram of minced beef/chicken/prawn
- ◆ 2 carrots cut into small cubes
- ◆ 1 medium onion, finely chopped
- ◆ 2 cloves of garlic, chopped
- ◆ pepper to taste
- ◆ salt to taste or 1/2 beef seasoning cube



For Flour Mixture :

- ◆ 100 g of flour
- ◆ 3 cloves of garlic, crushed
- ◆ 1 teaspoon coriander, pan-broil
- ◆ 1/2 teaspoon turmeric powder
- ◆ salt to taste
- ◆ 125 ml water

Cooking time : 15 – 30 minutes

How to cook

1. Heat the oil in a deep wok and fry the tofu until brown on both sides. Set aside. When they are already cold, scoop out the middle part to make a hole for filling.



2. **Make the filling:** in remaining oil, stirfry the onion and garlic. Add the meat, stir well until brown. Then put carrots inside. Pour some water, just enough to make the carrots tender. Add salt and pepper to taste. When it is about to be done, mix corn flour with water and pour it into the filling to make it thicker. Cook for about 10 minutes, or until the water is absorbed.

3. Take a spoon of it and stuff it into the hole of the tofu one by one until all is done. Put it aside.

4. **Make the flour mixture :** In a small bowl, mix all ingredients. Add a little water if necessary.




5. Dip the stuffed tofu into the flour mixture before frying it (to get crunchy skin) .

6. Deepfry the stuffed tofu under medium heat until brownish.


<by Irna Diyana Kartika Kamaluddin, 3rd year of the Ph.D. program>

3 Let's say in Japanese!!

How to count things in Japanese.

 : Small things such as apples, eggs, or watches


1	2	3	4	5
ikko / hitotsu	niko / futatsu	sanko / mittsu	yonko / yottsu	goko / itsutsu

 : Something thin such as sheets of paper, CDs, or plates


1	2	3	4	5
ichimai	nimai	sanmai	yonmai	gomai

 : Books, notebooks, or dictionaries

1	2	3	4	5
issatsu	nisatsu	sansatsu	yonsatsu	gosatsu

 : Something long such as pencils, bananas, or umbrellas

1	2	3	4	5
ippon	nihon	sanbon	yonhon	gohon

 : Vehicles such as cars or bikes, or electric appliances such as TVs or washing machines

1	2	3	4	5
ichidai	nidai	sandai	yondai	godai

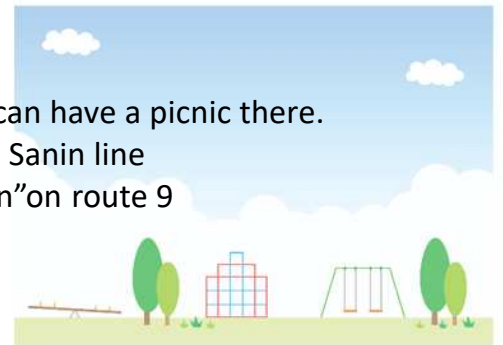
4 Events, Sightseeing, & Gourmet spots

Tebikigaoka park (手引ヶ丘公園)

<http://www.kazenoko-taki.com/tebiki/index.html>

It's a wonderful playground with lots of equipment. You can have a picnic there.

Access: by train 7-min. walk from "Tagi" station on JR Sanin line
by car 5 km west of "Kirara Taki road station" on route 9



Momen Kaidou (meaning cotton road) <http://momen-kaidou.jp/>



The area used to thrive thanks to cotton production and still keeps the nostalgic atmosphere from the Edo period. There are a traditional mansion, ginger candy shop, tranquil shrine and some other good spots. If you want to explore by yourselves, first visit "Momen kaido koryukan" (木綿街道交流館) and get the map and some information.



Access to Momen Kaido koryukan: 10-min. walk from "Unshu-Hirata" station on Ichibata line. They offer tour guides for free.

For details, please visit

<http://momen-kaidou.jp/?m=wp&WID=13209>.

HIPIS is created by *English Project Team*.

If you have any comments
or questions, please contact us:
gakumh04@jn.shimane-u.ac.jp
(addressed to Yuko Okada)

