

HELLO, FRIENDS !!

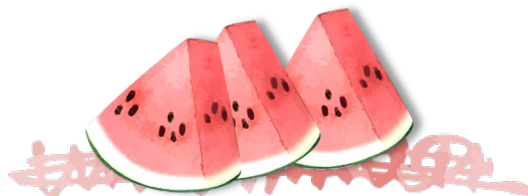
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Hello, everyone.

Welcome to the world of HELLO, FRIENDS!!

From “once every two months” to “once every three months”, the paper is now published quarterly in accordance with the Japanese four seasons. We will have the high summer season soon, but before that, let’s go out and enjoy the beauty of colorful hydrangea blooming here and there around the campus.



\\ Let's meet today's guest!! //



Today's guests are **ANDI MASDIPA san** from Indonesia and **LIU LU san** from China.



*ANDI MASDIPA
san*

Andi san is in his 4th year of the Ph.D. program and belongs to the Department of Ophthalmology. His studies were affected by the pandemic, and he couldn't come to Japan for his first two years. From his story, however, you will know how he has been enjoying his stay in Japan as if he is making up for those two years.



LIU LU san

Liu san is in her 4th year of the Ph.D. program and belongs to the Department of Pediatrics. Like Andi san, I have rarely talked with her in person because of her first two years being badly affected by the pandemic. So, I was really happy to have a good time with her during this interview.



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

Andi san :

I became interested in studying abroad when graduating from senior high school. It was just a dream, though. Then, luck suddenly came while I was working as a lecturer at University Muslim Indonesia. The school has a partnership agreement with Shimane University, and, one day, a delegation of three professors including the then Dean Nabika Toru visited our university to recruit some promising medical doctors, to invite them to study in Japan as a Ph.D student. The departments they offered included the Department of Ophthalmology.

I didn't have a second thought at all about applying for it because I had wanted to be an ophthalmologist. I sent my CV to my future supervisor, Prof. Tanito, and exchanged emails with him several times. He finally accepted me and even said that he would give me whatever I would be looking for in order to be a good ophthalmologist.



Liu san :

About 10 years ago, when I was an undergraduate student of Ningxia Medical University, I first heard about Shimane University. Specifically speaking, it was about the exchange program between our university and Shimane University. Then, my husband, Yang san, took part in the program and experienced the life in Japan through the one-year stay. I also became interested in Shimane University after he told me what it was like.

I advanced to a Master's school in Inner Mongolia to study pediatrics to be prepared for eventually getting into Shimane University as a Ph.D. student. My supervisor, Prof. Taketani, agreed to take care of me as his student without any hesitation, which I appreciated a lot.



I passed the entrance exam in February, 2020, and was very optimistic about my future, until Japan decided to strictly restrict new entries from other countries due to COVID-19. I didn't imagine at that time that I would have to wait for as long as two years.

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

Andi san :

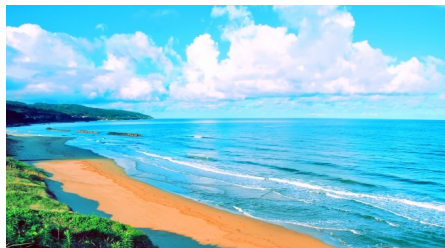
I first came to Izumo to take the entrance exam in February, 2020. At that time, I never thought I would have to wait for two years to come to Japan again. Anyway, my first impression was “quiet”.



Actually, I had some knowledge about what Izumo was like from Tanito sensei and my senior and former Ph.D. student in Shimane University, Visi san. So, I said to myself “Ah, it’s just what they told me it was like.” When it’s 8:00 pm, for example, stores close their doors and it becomes as if it’s midnight.

Liu san :

One of the things which surprised me the most was that everyone goes back home early. Stores and restaurants start closing their doors at 8:00 at night and it gets pitch dark and quiet around town. In my hometown in China, people are still active at 8:00pm, doing activities such as shopping or eating out. So, the atmosphere is really vibrant, completely different from here. Another thing that I like about Izumo is the proximity to the beaches. I love swimming and even just lying down on the beach. My favorite beach is Kirara in the Taki area in western Izumo. Meanwhile, my hometown is far from the sea, and if we want to go to the beach, we have to take a plane or long-distance train.



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

Andi san :

I still keep the status of a lecturer at University Muslim Indonesia. So, I'm going back to the university after graduation. I want to teach my students the knowledge I gained here and nurture young students so that they can develop their potential to the fullest. By doing so, I think I will be able to contribute to the improvement of medicine in Indonesia.

Liu san :

I have accumulated lots of knowledge about pediatrics. After completing the Ph.D., I'm going to go back to China, and teach students as a lecturer in a school of medicine.

I owe a lot to the Department of Pediatrics and this university. So, I want to return my appreciation by facilitating interaction between students in Shimane University and my future educational institution.



Thank you both. It is very interesting that both Andi san and Liu san mentioned the quietness of Izumo after 8:00pm. Anyway, the two seemed to be completely accustomed to the life in Izumo even though they have lived here for only one year and a few months.



This corner, "Let's meet today's guest!!" 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.



My Recommended Sightseeing Spot //



Lake Togo Area 東郷湖周辺

Today's information provider is Imawaka Shuko san of our faculty's General Affairs Division, This is the second part following the first one.
[Vol24.pdf](#) (shimane-u.ac.jp)

Activity 2

Hot springs

There are many elegant hotels in the vicinity, but the long-established “Yozyokan” hotel offers a hot spring with a retro Show-era atmosphere, and you can enjoy the bathing without an overnight stay.

Also, in the Matsuzaki shotengai shopping street, there is an unmanned, nice, hidden hot spring called “Kotobuki-yu”.

Pay the 200-yen bathing fee to the owner of “Barber Shimizu” next door, and walk through the entrance, which is 50 centimeters wide and extremely narrow.



The water is hot at 45°C, so you have to adjust the temperature by adding cold water by yourself. The average daily number of the customers is only eight, and it is facing a survival crisis without a successor, although it has been popular among enthusiastic public bath fans.

The area surrounding Lake Togo is home to an increasing number of attractive cafes that have been opened by young people who came back to their home towns after having spent several years in cities.

Activity 3 Visiting cafes



I especially recommend “HAKUSEN”, “KOYA(湖屋)”, and “ippo”, because they are stylish, and offer delicious meals. You can spend the time leisurely while enjoying the nice view of the lake. “KOYA” is popular for its pizzas, and glamping is also available there.



I also recommend the gelato at “ALOHA CAFÉ” in “Michi-no-eki Hawaii (道の駅はわい)”. Their seasonal original menus, such as “black beans and yuzu citrus fruit” in winter, are superb. Just to explain, “michi-no-eki” literally means a road station, but actually is a kind of resting place set up along national highways and other major roads, and offer local specialties and sightseeing information.

In addition, there is an abandoned school called “Kyu (meaning “old”) Sakura elementary school” on top of a small hill overlooking the lake.

Here, there is a cafe “HAKUSEN No.2 ” on the first floor, a dried flower & variety goods store, “W & Co.”, on the second floor, and a movie theater on the third floor. This place where children used to smile has been transformed into a warm and wonderful space. There are lots of “bae” cafes, indeed!! (“Bae” is a term for youngsters, meaning “looking good”.)



Thank you for reading about my recommended spot - the active, nostalgic, and new area around Lake Togo.



“HELLO,FRIENDS!!” is created by **The English Project Team**.
If you have any comments or questions, please contact us:
gakumh04@jn.shimane-u.ac.jp (addressed to Yuko Okada)
The English used on “HELLO,FRIENDS!!” is supervised
by our English teacher, Ms. Murphy, Lynne.