

## Utilizing Lighthouse to Create Buzz

### The First Kyogamisaki Lighthouse Festival

On the last day of golden week (May 6<sup>th</sup>), the first “Kyogamisaki Lighthouse Festival” (Kyogamisaki Lighthouse Preservation Society) was held.

This preservation society was established last year by regional residents with the goal of capitalizing on the lighthouse and its surrounding nature to vitalize the region.

A promenade extends approximately 400 meters from the Kyogamisaki Lighthouse parking lot. The preservation society has conducted activities such as removing fallen rocks from the promenade, and installing bamboo sticks made at a workshop together with local elementary school students near its entrance.

At the festival itself, there were treks led by local volunteer guides, as well as Barazushi and Saba Curry made by Ukawa Manufacturing for sale. Also, Kyogamisaki Lighthouse was opened to the public in cooperation with the Coast Guard Headquarters at Maizuru; the venue was bustling as people came in droves from Kyotango City and beyond.

A first-time lighthouse visitor who came to Tango from Kyoto City with his family, Kazunobu Kinugawa, shared the following with a smile: “We were lucky to be able to see inside the lighthouse. I’ll be sure to buy a Kyotango omiyage before going home.”

Representative Masaki Odani commented, “From here on out, we want to liven up the region through these types of projects.”



## **“Wasshoi”-ing for More Than a Century**

### **Children Make Rounds Carrying Portable Shrine, Battle at Sumo Tourney**

On April 5<sup>th</sup>, a children’s sumo tournament and portable-shrine parade (mikoshi) were held at Asamogawa. Underneath the blue sky, the children’s energetic voices echoed throughout the area.

These traditional events have a deep, 100-year-old history and are held every year at Asahi Shrine as a religious festival.

At the portable-shrine parade, residents were enticed by taiko drums and a relentless “Wasshoi!” chanted by the energetic children; they gathered at the side of the road and cheered on the shrine carriers. At the sumo tournament, 47 boys and girls between kindergarten and the second year of middle school were registered for competition. They heartily scattered salt, and spectators roared at the sight of girls throwing around boys.



## Specialty In-Season Veggies

### First Truck-Bed Farmers Market of the Year

A truck-bed farmers market was held near San-in Kinki Expressway Omiya Interchange on April 21<sup>st</sup>. Representative Yumiko Tasaki and 11 members from the volunteer group “Mie & Morimoto Manguruwa” have conducted this festival on a monthly basis starting last July; homegrown vegetables, handmade konjac, and in-season ingredients are sold. The venue was bustling with festival-goers trying to bring some of the merchandise home.

Representative Tasaki shared her experience with a smile: “This was the first time that we launched in April; it is great how we are able to deliver colorful sansei (edible wild plants) and bamboo shoots. Vegetables grown in bamboo-infused soil free of chemicals bear sweet and delicious fruit. I was told by a buyer, ‘The vegetables and konjac from last time were so good that I came to buy them again.’ Being told something like this gets me excited for next time.”



## Raising and Selling Proud Seedlings Together

Over 130 Flock to “Woah, a Spot Sale!”

“Woah, a Spot Sale!” was conducted on April 21<sup>st</sup> at the Mineyama High School Yasaka Campus, where high school students sold self-raised seedlings. This year’s sale marks the 16<sup>th</sup> time the event has been put on. The venue was bustling with visitors from Kyotango and beyond, especially from the Kinki region.

Students belonging to the school’s plantation department handled reception. They sold seedlings in proportion to the amount of orders; the prepared 5,000 summer vegetable seedlings (tomato, cucumber, eggplant, etc.) completely sold out. Everyone proactively called out to the buyers, and even carried seedling to their cars.

A member of the plantation department, Keigo Hosoi, commented, “It was my first time tending to so many guests, so I was having a hard time. But I tried my best to hand out seedlings with big, straight stems. It is wonderful to see the seedlings we grew together being sold.”

Also, an attendee exclaimed, “I heard they had good seedlings so I came for a try. I bought a good one, looking forward to raising it.”



## A Smooth-Sounding Present

### U.S. Army Japan Band's "Fuji Winds" Ensemble

The ensemble "Fuji Winds" of the 42-man U.S. Army Japan Band (Camp Zama, Kanagawa) performed at Yukari Nursery School on April 10<sup>th</sup>.

Visiting schools and other institutions around Japan, the Fuji Winds strive to deepen relations between Japan and America through music. They conduct concerts at over 230 locations a year, and during their two-day trip to Kyotango, they performed at six locations including retirement homes and high schools.

At Yukari Nursery School, six band members played six different songs using woodwind instruments like the flute and clarinet in front of 25 younglings. The younglings were captivated by the smooth harmony, and enjoyed performances of songs from *Anpanman* and *My Neighbor Totoro*, clapping along with the beat.



## International Exchange over Beach Beautification

### Picking up Garbage at Shotenkyo Beach

The Kyotango City International Association, in cooperation with the Kyotango Rotary Club, and both local and foreign residents of Kyotango, tidied up the Shotenkyo coast on April 13<sup>th</sup>.

A Vietnamese participant commented, "I came to Shotenkyo for the first time and found out that there is a beautiful beach here. I am glad to be able to help protect this beach. I want to visit it when summer starts!"

