

Creating a Buzz with Romantic Landmarks

Kyogamisaki Lighthouse Acknowledged as a “Romance Lighthouse”

Kyogamisaki Lighthouse was given the title “Romance Lighthouse” the other day. This effort is implemented by both the Japan Romanticist Association (general incorporated association) and the Nippon Foundation. Lighthouses worthy of being called a “romance landmark” are tracked down and given the honor. The goal is to increase the number of people who visit lighthouses by creating a buzz around a regions tourism resource. In total, there are 42 lighthouses of this kind throughout Japan.

On October 11th, Katsunori Namifusa, chairman of the Romanticist Association, visited Mayor Misaki at Mineyama City Hall after inspecting Kyogamisaki Lighthouse.

Chairman Namifusa commented, “We are using these “Romance Lighthouses” as venues for various events including *konkatsu* (events designed to help one find a marriage partner). It would make me very happy if we attracted attention to this landmark and more people came to visit Kyogamisaki Lighthouse.”

On October 27th, an opening ceremony will be held at Kyogamisaki Lighthouse. In commemoration of this certification, 100 Kyogamisaki-Lighthouse-themed buttons will be prepared. They are scheduled to be passed out to the first 100 people who attend the event.



Sounds of Taiko, Norito Resound at Fall Festival

Local Students Give Sasabayashi Offering

On October 7th, children displayed a *Sasabayashi* offering at a fall festival in Akeda-ku.

Sasabayashi is a traditional event where children dress up in *ishou* (a special ensemble used for acting) to play the taiko and perform *sasabayashi*. *Norito* (words offered to god in front of a shrine) are sung to show gratefulness for a good crop.

Ever since mid-September, the 8 children practiced daily for this day. Townspeople looked out on them as they departed Akeda Community Center, and afterward, they proceeded to Shinboku Shrine and Wakamiya Shrine and performed *Sasabayashi*.

The ward mayor of Akeda-ku commented, "When it comes time to put on the festival, the town gets really lively. Recently the number of children in our town has decreased, but hopefully the smaller children in attendance today will participate in the future. I would be very happy if we are able to continue doing *Sasabayashi*."



Roadside-Station Cuisine from across the Country

Around 20,000 Attend “#1 Roadside Station Grand Prix 2018”

On September 23rd and 24th, the “#1 Roadside Station Grand Prix 2018” was conducted at Tango Kingdom “Shoku no Miyako”. Around 20,000 people from all over visited during this two-day stretch.

This event was conducted in Kyotango for the first time in two years, and this marked the second time the event has come to this city. There are 1145 roadside stations nationwide (as of April 2018) and this event will decide the number one location in Japan. This year, 19 pre-selected stations participated and sold their local goods. Each station sold one special item that was made with their own local ingredients. Those in attendance enjoyed food and sweets as they ate and compared different dishes from throughout Japan.

Our local Tango Kingdom “Shoku no Miyako” prepared the “TK Sandwich”, a dish where homemade sausage and locally-grown vegetables are stuffed into homemade pizza dough.

Yamamoto Yoshiko, an attendee who came from Kyotanba, said the following while chowing down on a TK sandwich, “The large serving of vegetables make it healthy. This spicy seasoning is also spot-on.”

After the votes were tallied, it became clear that Tochigi Prefecture’s “Yuzu Salt Ramen” shined above the rest as it achieved its third-straight victory in a row.



Praying for Healthy Children

Youth Sumo Tournament at Isobe Shrine

On September 22nd at Isobe Shrine, residents held the “Isobe Shrine Youth Sumo Tournament”, a Shinto ritual of offering where attendees pray for children’s health.

Juraku ward, together with the Kumihama District 1 Community Center, conducted the traditional event which is said to have started around the end of the Edo period. Students from the Kumihama Elementary School area participated; there were a total of 27 children ranging from preschool age to the sixth grade.

As their parents and fellow community members looked on, the sumo children entered the ring wearing ornamental aprons with their sumo names written on them. These sumo wrestlers separated into groups based on their age and engaged in tournament-style competition.

At the venue, wrestlers displayed heroic throws and battled repeatedly with each other as the referee shouted out “Hakkeyoi” and “Nokotta”. With this hot scene in front of them, the audience could not help but cry out in approval.

Kumihama Elementary School 6th grade student, Fuma Morita (sumo name: “Fuma Zeki”), won the upper grade tournament. He was overwhelmed with excitement as he told his story, “I just tried my best to stand my ground and not get beat. This was my last tournament as an elementary school student, so I am really happy that I was able to win.”



Regional Vitalization through Shutter Art

“Komaneko Shutter Art” Unveiled

A Komaneko-themed mural was unveiled at a shop near Kotohira Shrine.

This was an idea proposed by students from Kyoto Sangyo University. Specifically, students from the Prof. Tomitaro Kitami-led “Kyotango City Community Development Support Team” suggested and carried out the task with the approval of cooperative community members. Underneath the supervision of “The Modern-Day Artisan” (Architectural Painting), members of Mineyama High School’s art club worked on the piece. It was finished just recently, and on October 6th, was unveiled in front of staff and residents alike.

Ryogo Uozumi, the leader of the support team and a second year student of the university, said the following in her speech that day, “I am honored to be able to welcome this day; it is all thanks to the many people who lent a hand along the way. With this piece as a start, I want to continue to spread community development to other areas as well.” Hideki Kawada, director of the Minayama Southern Community Center, commented, “Many community members were looking forward to the unveiling. From here on out, we expect more Komaneko-themed efforts to contribute to further regional vitalization.”



A Peak Hole into Taisho & Showa Life: Apparel

Autumn Temporary Exhibition at Municipal Regional Archive

“Dress of the Past ~ Adornment Tools ~”, an Autumn Temporary Exhibition has started at the Municipal Regional Archive.

The spotlight of this exhibition is pointed at “Dress”. Kimono and western clothing used from the Taisho period to the mid-Showa period, as well as accessories such as hairpins and combs are stored in this archive. This is a great opportunity to experience the dress of that time as around 140 of these items are being highlighted.

The exhibition will be open until December 1st. During this time, October 27th, November 3rd, November 17th, and November 24th will be free-to-enter days; no entrance fee will be collected. However, during normal operating hours adults will be charged 200 yen per person, and children (junior high and below) will be charged 100 yen per head.

- **“Regional Archive Festival” 10/27/2018 (9:30 ~ 15:00), the archive will be opened and small events will be planned (Magatama-making; Handloom Experience etc.)**

