

## **New Horizon at New School**

Hojo Seishin High School will open in April 2026 as a reorganization of Hojo High School and Matsuyama Higashi High School's correspondence course. It has recently chosen its school emblem and school song. The school emblem was designed by Saki Toda, a third year student at Hojo High School. The school song lyrics were written by Masatomo Tamaru, a short-short story writer who graduated from Matsuyama Higashi High, and composed by Masanori Kato, a composer and pianist who has given many concerts in Ehime.

The school emblem design was collected from students of both high schools. 36 entries were received, and Toda's work with the motif of waves was selected. Toda is a member of the art club. She said, "The name of Hojo is associated with the sea. I hope students grow like the waves that never cease so that they can take on challenges." The school song was created based on the image of the grandeur of Mt. Takanawa, the local mountain, and the calmness of the Seto Inland Sea.

Hojo Seishin High School will offer two types of part-time daytime courses, which is a first in Ehime, and a correspondence course. Students in the part-time course can choose either the morning or afternoon course and attend classes for four hours a day on weekdays. In the correspondence course, students receive instruction online through reports and schooling. All students in the correspondence course at Matsuyama Higashi High School will transfer to Hojo Seishin High School.

(May 15, Ehime Shimbun)

Additional information: Not only in Ehime, but also nationwide, school mergers and closures are ongoing due to the declining birthrate. Now Hojo High School is a full-time high school, but it has been having difficulty meeting its enrollment quotas, so the Ehime Education Board decided to close the high school along with some others. They also aim to diversify the educational environment. Beyond simply reducing the number of schools, mergers and closures are viewed as opportunity to introduce new curricula and distinctive educational programs. This new school is supposed to serve diverse students. It will use the ground and facilities of the current Hojo High School. This is the strong wish of the local people because it is the only high school in the Hojo area.

## **New Local Beer "Diamond Crossing"**

"Diamond Crossing", a canned craft beer, which was developed collaboratively by The DD4F Brewing, a craft beer brewery located in Matsuyama, and the IYOTETSU Group Cop., Ltd., is currently on the market. Only 2,000 cans are available. It has the fresh aroma of lyokan and the bitterness from hops.

"Diamond Crossing" is a beer inspired by "Diamond Cross" being very popular among railfan, which is the rail crossing beside Otemachi station. Even nationwide it is hardly seen where a tram track and a train track are vertically laid.

The can has a design with pictures of a tram car and a train car, and the company logo of the IYOTETSU Group. The stories of this beer and "Diamond Cross" are also found on the can. A 350ml. can is ¥800.

(May 9, Ehime Shimbun Online)

## **Dalemain World Marmalade Awards & Festival in Japan**

The final judgement for the 7th Dalemmain World Marmalade Awards & Festival in Japan was held in Yawatahama on May 7. The number of entries in this competition was 2,115 from 662 people, even from Taiwan, Germany, and Australia, which was the most so far. 12 judges consisting of examiners and specialists compared by tasting. The results were released on May 14, which is Marmalade Day.

The judges evaluated the marmalades by color, clarity, balance of citrus peel and juice, and taste. The varieties of citrus, such as yuzu, lemon, and hassaku used to make the marmalades were diverse.

Yawatahama has hosted the competition which originated in England to promote the city as a Citrus Town since 2019.

Mr. Yahei Suzuki, the owner of Piatto Suzuki in Tokyo, said that the technic and quality of the marmalade was getting higher every year.

Result: <https://www.dalemmain.com/2025-japan-awards-results>

(May 8, Yomiuri Shimbun Online)

## **Trainees from Indonesia Passed the New Test**

Two men from Indonesia, who were accepted last July as technical interns by the Prefectural Forestry Federation, passed the basic level of the forestry skills test for technical training No.2.

The examination consisted of a written test in Japanese about forestry and a practical test using a chainsaw. Until last September, the forestry technical training had only No. 1, but the revision of the system added No. 2 and No. 3. The period of stay for technical internship No. 1 is one year. The two trainees as technical interns No. 2 will have their period of stay extended by 2 years and will be able to work on a wider range of tasks in the mountains.

According to the Prefectural Forestry Federation, there have been foreigners who have worked in wood processing and at factories, but the short period of stay has prevented them from working in the mountains. The technical internship No. 2 could lead them to the status of the specified skilled worker No. 1, enabling them to work for a total of five years. One of the two said, "I would like to become a specified skilled worker here, and to buy my own house in Indonesia in the future."

(May 7, Ehime Shimbun)

## **Bird Inventory in Ehime**

The Wild Bird Society of Ehime published a Checklist of the Birds of Ehime which includes information on the habitat status and trends of increase or decrease of 370 species, based on more than 200,000 observation records since 1950.

They began collecting records and compiling the database around 2007. It was published as part of the association's 50th anniversary project. It consists of 11 chapters. Chapter 4 gives an easy-to-understand list of 361 naturally distributed species and 9 exotic species, by monthly observation numbers, migratory categories, and breeding records. In Chapter 8, the data collected since 1993 was analyzed using statistical software.

Since there are many aspects that could not be determined from the data alone, the observers' comments were also added. As a result, it was found that there has been an increase in non-native species and the great cormorant, which is causing serious damage to the fishing industry. On the other hand, the prefectural bird, the robin, which mainly inhabits Mt. Ishizuchi, and the sparrow, which is a common species in Japan, were found to be

declining, as is the national trend. They said, "We received data and photographs from hundreds of people. The inventory is not an end in itself. We would like the general public to send in any data to our website."

The book sells online; the printed version is 2,750 yen and the electronic version 880 yen. (May 6, Ehime Shimbun)

## **Flights to Shanghai start again in July**

Ehime prefecture announced that China Eastern Airline, which connects Matsuyama and Shanghai and had suspended service since 2020, would resume on July 3rd. International flights departing from Matsuyama will be four, Seoul, Busan, Taiwan and Shanghai, the most so far.

According to the prefecture, the flight to Shanghai will be operated twice a week, Thursday and Sunday. It takes about two and a half hours. The plane will accommodate 156 passengers.

The flight to Shanghai started July 2004, but was suspended since February 2020 due to the COVID19 pandemic. The travel industry in Ehime had been asking for a quick restart since the government of China reinstated the visa exemption program for Japanese temporary visitors in November last year.

Governor Nakamura visited the headquarters of China Eastern Airline in March, and requested a quick resumption. At the same time, the prefecture invited travel agents from Shanghai, and organizing a destination seminar to introduce the sightseeing spots and various activities like cycling, skiing, etc., which can be enjoyed in Ehime. The prefecture is focusing on the inbound market.

Governor Nakamura said that it should be a circuit including not only Matsuyama but also all Ehime for repeater travelers, and also required tour agencies to boost awareness of what Ehime could offer. On the other hand, the strategy to increase Japanese passengers to Shanghai is to encourage about 70 companies in Ehime doing business in China to use China Eastern Airlines for their business trip, and for Ehime prefecture to provide support for young people to acquire passports.

According to the IYOGIN Reginal Economy Research Center, Inc., restarting the Shanghai flights is expected to bring in 1.16 billion yen a year.

The prefecture also announced the increase of the number of flights to Taipei. It will increase to five flights a week, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Saturday, and Sunday, from the current three, from June 28 to August 5.

(April 23, Asahi Shimbun Digital)