

Standing Craft Beer Bar at Matsuchika Town

Arai Co., Ltd. operating the Garyu Brewing in Ozu, which brews and sells craft beers using the local agricultural products in the prefecture, and Matsuyama-shiekimae-chikagai Co., Ltd. operating the Matsuchika town jointly opened craft beer stand where various craft beers brewed in the prefecture are available.

The Stand Sevens Garyu Brewing is located in front of the golden clock in Matsuchika town. This is the first bar out of Ozu for Garyu Brewing, and is currently offering 15 varieties of craft beers brewed by them. They will expand their menu including beers brewed at other breweries in the prefecture in November. There will be a maximum of 25 types of beers to enjoy.

Mr. Yukihiisa Hayashida, employee of Garyu Brewing, said that they had been considering to open a bar in Matsuyama since they had been asked if there were any places in Matsuyama where their beers were available. They hope that the bar will be recognized as a place where the local beers of Ehime can be enjoyed. They also want to contribute to the craft beer market in the prefecture.

A man who visited the bar from Imabari said that he enjoyed a craft beer flight because each beer represents the regional characteristic. He hopes that even foreign visitors would come and enjoy Ehime's local beers.

The bar opens from 2:00 pm to 9:00 pm (10:00 pm on Friday and Saturday).
(October 13, Ehime Shimbun Online)

Dogo Vibrant with Art

"Dogo Art" opened on October 10 in the Dogo area. A photographer and film director, Mika Ninagawa, and a creative team "EiM," are in charge of the exhibition.

At the Dogo Onsen Main Building, the *shoji* screen and glass have been decorated with 36 photographs of seasonal flowers, allowing visitors to enjoy the fusion of tradition in this area and art. The main building is lit up at night, creating a different atmosphere. The entrance curtains are decorated with works using motifs such as flowers and Japanese umbrellas, with a focus on camellias that Ninakawa photographed in the city.

Across from the building, the Ichiroku Honpo shop was renovated to open the first official shop for Dogo Art. They sell about 30 items including Ichiroku tarts with packaging designed by Ninakawa and original merchandise.

This is Ninakawa's fourth time participating in this art project. The exhibition runs until the end of February, 2027.

(October 11, Ehime Shimbun)

JICA Cancelled the "Hometown" Project and Apologized to Imabari

On October 3, the officials of JICA, Japan International Cooperation Agency, visited Imabari City Hall to apologize to the Imabari mayor, referring to its decision to cancel the "Hometown" project planned in Imabari and three other cities to promote exchanges with African countries.

False information about the project, such as "an increase in immigrants will deteriorate public safety," spread on social media, leading to a flurry of protests and inquiries to the city hall for about a month. The JICA officials apologized for placing a heavy burden on the city employees and for failing to share information more clearly.

Mayor Tokunaga said, "In order to realize a multicultural society amid the population decline, I would like the national government to carefully design a system." He added, "We will continue to try to alleviate the concerns of foreigners living in the city."

Regarding the Hometown Project, Imabari City Deputy Mayor Doi stated at the fall meeting of the Prefectural Association of Deputy Mayors held in Ozu on the same day, "Misinformation led to a barrage of harsh criticism. About 4,000 foreigners live in Imabari. While we work to create a multicultural society, some foreigners may feel anxious or uncomfortable, wondering, 'Is that what most Japanese people really think?' We will take good care of them to alleviate their uneasiness."

(October 4, Ehime Shimbun)

Ehime University Established "Imabari Satellite"

Ehime University established an "Imabari Satellite" at the Imabari Local Industries Promotion Center. This is intended to be a hub for students attending the Maritime Industry course in the Faculty of Engineering which will be added next spring.

The unveiling ceremony for this campus was held on October 3. Mr. Hiroshige Nishina, University President, said that their goal for the new course was to nurture talented individuals for the maritime industry for which Imabari is world-famous. Mr. Shigeki Tokunaga, Mayor of Imabari, said that he hoped that this place would be a center for students venturing out into the world.

According to the university, they will welcome the first 20 freshmen for the Maritime Industry course in April next year. A postgraduate program will be prepared and established in April 2028. The students will be educated in AI and robot technology, and the maritime business as well as shipbuilding technology. The second to fourth floor of the five-story building will be for laboratories.

The university has already set up the South Ehime Fisheries Research Center in Ainan town, and the Paper Industry Innovation Center in Shikoku-chuo city, which should function as a center to work together with regional communities to collaborate with local businesses.

(October 4, Asahi Shimbun Digital)

Matsuyama Shinonome Women's College Becomes Coeducational

Matsuyama Shinonome Women's College which is the only women's university in Shikoku announced that it would become a coeducational university and change the name to Matsuyama Shinonome University (tentative name). They will newly establish a teacher training course for elementary school teachers, and believe that this new course will attract male students in the prefecture who want to be elementary school teachers.

Mr. Hitoshi Mizushiro, University President, stated at the press conference held on October 2 that it was said that there were three words for the financial challenges universities face: "Countryside", "Small-scary", and "Women's College". And he explained the reason why it was decided that the university would become coeducational was that there were many concerns for their future because all three words could be applied to the college now.

Matsuyama Girl's School was founded in 1886 and Matsuyama Shinonome Women's College was established in 1992.

The Department of Child Psychology in the Faculty of Humanities is the only course provided. There are 264 students attending as of May 1.

According to the university, the number of freshmen dropped drastically in the fiscal year of 2023 and 2024. The enroll rate became less than 50% although it had been about 70% in the past. The admission capacity was changed to 80 from 110 in the fiscal year 2025, so that the rate recovered to 95%. However, it is obvious that the student enrollment will decrease in the future. It was determined that becoming a coeducational university would be an essential to existence in the future.

(October 2, Asahi Shimbun Digital)

Ehime University Researchers Synthesized Nanodiamonds

On September 19, a research group at Ehime University announced that they successfully synthesized diamonds from paraffin, the main component of candles.

Synthesized under high pressure and temperature, they obtained nanodiamonds that are less than 10 nanometers (1 nanometer = 1 millionth of a millimeter) and virtually free of impurities. They have the potential be used in medicine and biotechnology as transmitters to bind and deliver drugs to affected areas of the body.

The research results are planned to be presented at an international conference to be held in Matsuyama from September 28 to October 3. (September 20, Ehime Shimbun)