



# KCP eZasshi 雜誌 January 2010

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Happy New Year, Japan-lover! Here's how the new year looks, from KCP International Japanese Language School.

## KCP T shirt finalists chosen

We've chosen the finalists for the first-ever KCP T-shirt design. Please vote for one of the four finalists at our [blog](#). Prizes will be awarded to the winner.



## Namahage demons

Oga no Namahage / Oga Namahage Festival

On New Year's Eve, strange deities waving cooking knives go around to

homes in Oga City (Akita Prefecture, in northern Honshu). This is an event passed down from ancient times. Namahage is the name of the demon-like deity, known as oni.



A group of 2 or 3 village youths disguised as the rather grotesque deity Namahage, wearing large masks, straw raincoats, and waist-bands, and holding wooden knives and pails, dance along as they give out strange cries: "Any children crying?" "Any children disobeying their parents?" or "Any lazy daughters-in-law neglecting their work?"

The Namahage deities are received by the head of the family in formal dress, who offers sake and mochi rice cakes. Appeased by the warm hospitality, they take leave of that house, promising that the family will be blessed with good health, a large catch, and a rich crop in the New Year, and then set off to visit the next home.



The Namahage event is derived from the belief that a deity bringing good fortune makes a visit to the village from elsewhere in the New Year. Similar events take place in other regions of Japan. The red mask represents a male ogre and the blue mask, a female ogre.

Photos courtesy Oga City Tourism Division

## Study abroad scholarships :: PART 2

For the second half of the study abroad funding topic, here is a list of "database" websites that have study abroad funding. Start the New Year right--go get it!

### Websites

#### [StudyAbroadFunding](#)

From IEE, this valuable funding resource allows search by country or subject to find study abroad funding information. Their comprehensive database includes study abroad scholarships, fellowships, and grants. Our primary source of funding information.

#### [IEFA](#)

International Education Financial Aid. IEFA provides financial aid information for students wishing to study in a foreign country. A comprehensive listing of grants, scholarships, loan programs, and other information to assist your pursuit to study abroad.

#### [Finaid.org](#)

All about aid, advice on finding aid, and a special section on financial aid for study abroad. A good general resource is the Financial Aid Information Page.

#### [Embark](#)

A site for finding colleges and financial aid. Includes sources of financial aid, advice for students, and specific information for high school, college, graduate, transfer, and international students. Information for parents as well.

#### [Fastweb](#)

Do your own free search using this web site, with a database of over

180,000 scholarships and loans.

### [College Board](#)

News and up-to-date information on financial aid, a scholarship search, and links to financial aid resources.

### [Collegenet](#)

An excellent resource for information on financial aid and scholarships. It includes factual information, defines the types of financial aid, and answers questions about the FAFSA, scholarships, private aid, and other forms of financing.

### [Direct Loans](#)

The federal government's Direct Loan website, with information on accounts, entrance counseling, and loan consolidation.

### [Freschinfo](#)

Do a free scholarship search.

### [GoCollege](#)

Links to a free scholarship search, as well as information about government loans.

### [USNews](#)

Offers information on types of financial aid available, 10 best-value colleges, steps and tips to get financial aid, student's recession guide, and an aid letter decoder.

### [ED.gov](#)

The U.S. Department of Education site for financial assistance.

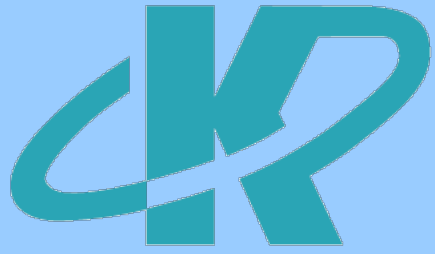
Good luck in your scholarship hunt. For more information on KCP costs, budgeting, and financial aid, [click here](#).

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**Learn Japanese through proverbs**



水に流す

Romaji--mizu ni nagasu

Literally--Let flow in the water.

Meaning--Forgive and forget; water under the bridge.

## Summer deadlines coming up

Apply by February 23 for our Summer short-term, and by March 6 for our Summer semester program.



### [Applying to KCP](#)

Happy beginnings,  
**Mike and the KCP International team**

***KCP Japanese Language School . . .  
full immersion for the motivated student.***

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