

# Tōka-Ebisu “Opening of the Gate” Ceremony in Nishinomiya Shrine / EIU for Career Design



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| Keywords | Festivals, Education for International Understanding, Pilgrimage, Modern History |
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| Technical Support Skills | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Providing skills for regional development using festivals and events</li> <li>· Providing solutions for EIU (Education for International Understanding)</li> <li>· Providing some cases about higher education systems in developing nations</li> </ul> |
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## Research Contents Japanese Festivals among local Society EIU for Career Design

### 1, Research about Tōka-Ebisu “Opening of the Gate” Ceremony in Nishinomiya Shito Shrine



Every year on January 10., the main gate (known as the “red gate”) at Nishinomiya Shrine in Nishinomiya City, Hyogo Prefecture, is opened at 6 a.m for visitors to proceed to the main shrine. The event is known as the Tōka-Ebisu “Opening of the Gate” Ceremony. The first three people to arrive at the main shrine are designated *fuku-otoko* (lit. “men of fortune”). The news is announced to the *kami* and then a special rite is performed. More than 6,000 people participated in this ceremony in 2009.<sup>1</sup> Media coverage of the event has increased from year to year, with not just local Kansai-area media but also the national television networks and, in 2008, even the international news organization Reuters filing reports. How did this ceremony originate? How has it changed over the years and due to what factors? The present article seeks to answer these questions through an examination of the historical record. Using such contemporary sources as newspapers and the shrine’s daily logs I will focus in particular on developments in the modern period from later years of the Meiji period (1868–1912) to 1940 [Shōwa 15].. My goals are to show how this ceremony changed in parallel with the transformation of modern society and to conduct an inquiry regarding the meaning that this transformed ceremony came to have in the society of the time.

### 2、 Education for International Understanding (EIU) in Japan, and other nation



Recently, EIU is popular in Japan. Strongly I would like to know how it would activate for middle to higher education systems in Japan. Especially, Also Discourse of “Study Tour (Overseas’ Educational tour)” is talked in the Society of EIU researchers. Therefore, I would like to research and hold some these tours actually.

### Available Facilities and Equipment

none