

(Press Release)



RAKU×GO

A Rakugo Journey through Japan

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TOKYO, April 26, 2017- As the 2020 Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games get closer, over 20 million tourists per year are coming to Japan. With them in mind, NHK WORLD TV has started *RAKU×GO*, a new type of program to highlight some of the country's attractions. English-speaking performers of Rakugo, Japanese traditional comic storytelling, travel around the nation, meet people, and employ their comic storytelling talents to introduce the appeal of each area.



Our storytellers this time are Kimie Oshima and Kaishi Katsura. Kimie is a Rakugo performer and social linguist who studies the effects of laughter and humor in English-language education. Kaishi is from the Kamigata School of Rakugo. He has performed in the United States and other countries. Kimie travels to Ishikawa Prefecture; Kaishi goes to Saga. In their journeys, they explore lifestyles, nature, industries, food, traditions, and ways of life.

In the castle town of Kanazawa, Kimie looks in on the traditional sweet and cake industry, visits a confectioner at home, and participates in a tea ceremony. Kaishi heads to Arita, a community steeped in the history and culture of ceramics. He watches master potters at work at their kilns and discovers other attractions. After that, the performers present new comic narratives based on their experiences, at a Rakugo theater in Yokohama.

Travel guides can be found all around, but you'll only come across this sort of introduction to Japan in one place: NHK WORLD TV.