^{财闭} 全国商業高等学校協会主催

第1回パソコン入力スピード認定試験 (19.2.10) **【英語部門】**

Inaniwa udon's roots date back 300 years ago to the Genroku Era, when a man called Sato Ichibe began making noodles in a village called Inaniwa.

The udon, made using a tenobe technique, is regarded as the best hoshi udon and joins Shikoku's Sanuki udon and Nagoya's kishimen as one of Japan's three most famous udon meals.

The Inaniwa wariko tsukemen bento includes bite-sized amounts of udon served in six compartments. Each mouthful of udon can be easily eaten with different toppings, such as tororo konbu, ikura, tonburi, kinshi tamago and nameko. Of course, negi and wasabi are included in the ekiben, too.

The ekiben also contains soup for the udon. You can pour the soup into an open compartment and dip the udon into it, or pour the soup directly on top of the noodles. Since the udon is separated into small compartments, it never gets hard or dry. This means you can always taste the "al dente" texture of freshly made noodles. What a good idea!

There are more dishes in the Inaniwa wariko tsukemen you can enjoy besides Inaniwa udon. Maitake gohan, also an Akita specialty, proudly occupies a corner of the box. The amount of the rice containing sprinklings of maitake aroma might be a little less than expected, but, more than that, it is the exquisite presentation of the ekiben that makes me want to eat more. Ebi and shishito tempura is another side dish accompanying the rice. The whole ekiben is indeed filling, and I feel bloated by the time I finish.

The ekiben is available only by ordering in advance because its maker wants it served fresh. It is a refreshing ekiben to eat, especially on a hot summer day. And the black box, which makes it look like a bento from a fancy Japanese retaurant, is stylish too.

