

**Items of Village Life**

The streets of Toba's traditional villages are full of items related to island life: octopus jars, racks for curing seafood, sturdy metal carts used to transport groceries and supplies, and a variety of amulets adorning the entrances to homes and shops. These include good-luck markings drawn in charcoal, amulets made from dried fish, and elaborately woven bundles of rope made from rice straw. The latter, called *shimenawa*, signal both gratitude for the harvest and prayers for good health.