

March 2009 (Heisei 20)

Bicycle Rental Guide

TX Tsukuba Station and the Tsukuba-sanguchi bus station offer bicycle rental. Renting a bicycle for one day costs 500 yen (in case of elementary school children: 250 yen). Bicycles cannot be rented for multiple days and do not accept reservations.

Bicycle rental at Tsukuba Station
Lending period: Daily (closed from Dec. 29 ~ Jan. 3)

Hours: 9am~6.30pm (rental until 4pm)

Bicycle Number: 25/adults, 5/children
Application procedure: Contact directly at the Information Center at the TX Station. ID is required.

Contact: Tsukuba Information Center: (TEL) 029-855-8155

Tsukuba-sanguchi Bicycle Rental
Lending period: April 1 to Nov. 30
Hours: 9am~6.30pm (rental until 3pm)

Bicycle Number: 16/adults, 2/children
Contact: Kanto Railways Tsukuba North Branch (*kanto tetsudo tsukuba kita eigyojo*) in front of the Tsukuba-sanguchi bus station. ID is required. Kanto Railways Tsukuba North Branch: (TEL) 029-866-0510

Medical Interpreters

Have you ever encountered problems with understanding a doctor or a nurse at the hospital? Tsukuba International Exchange Association provides free medical interpreters to support patients who do not speak Japanese. To apply for an interpreter contact a hospital in advance (dispatch to Tsukuba University Hospital, Tsukuba Medical Center and others).

Interpreting refers to: conversation during health examination, explanation about hospital admission, surgery and payment. Translation of consent form, medical certificate and other documents is also provided.

Languages: English, Chinese, Portuguese

Application: Contact Tsukuba International Exchange Association through staff of the hospital outpatient department or medical consultation room.

Contact: Tsukuba International Association; TEL 029-869-7675; URL: <http://www.tsukubacity.or.jp/inter>

Tsukuba Station bus terminal moved

Due to maintenance works of TX Tsukuba Station Eki-mae Square the bus terminal will be temporarily relocated.

The temporary bus terminal will be located south of the present terminal (on the same side as Right On). For details check information boards of TX exits A3 or A4. Relocation period: March 23~Dec. 2009.

Extended hours at Sakura City Hall

Time: March 30, 31 until 6:30pm; April 1, 3 until 6:30pm; April 2 until 8:00pm

Extended hours are regarding the following :

Citizen's counters (*shimin madoguchi*) 1F, for the following matters:

- issue of certificate of residence (*jūminhyō*)

- issue of family registration certificate (*koseki shōmeisho*)

- issue of certificate of alien registration records (*gaikokujin tōroku genpyō kisai jikō shōmeisho*)

- issue of certificate of a seal (*inkan shōmeisho*)

- submission of moving notification (*jūmin idō todoke*)

- seal registration (*inkan tōroku*)

Children Div. 2F: for child allowance & child support special allowance applications .Health Insurance and Pensions Div. 3F: change of residence

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Tsukuba University Campus

There are many places where you can enjoy cherry blossoms inside the Tsukuba University campus. Between Oikoshi and Hirasuna dormitories a pedestrian mall becomes a 1 km long brilliant tunnel of blossoming cherry trees in spring. You can admire rows of cherry blossom trees beginning from Azuma Junior High School to the north, near the Amakubo Pond which is located close to the athletics stadium of Tsukuba University. Around the Amakubo Pond there are many beautiful mountain cherry trees. We recommend enjoying cherry blossoms while cycling.

Tsukuba Kōen Dōri (from Tsukuba Center Square to Ninomiya Park)

In Kenkyūgakuen there are many roads for pedestrians and cyclers called 'Pedestrian Deck'. Tsukuba Kōen Dōri is a road 12 km long from

Tsukuba Center Square in a direction of Dōhō Park. In cherry blossoms season it becomes an arcade of blossoming Sakura trees. The view is especially beautiful between the back side of International Conference Hall and Ninomiya Park and it is a great spot for enjoying cherry blossoms while taking a walk or cycling.

Tsukuba Science Expo Memorial Park (Tsukuba-shi, Miyukigaoka 6)

There are about 300 cherry trees planted around the pond. In the blossoming season many people enjoy cherry blossoms while having a picnic on the grass. Don't forget to take back your trash when you are leaving.

Takasaki Natural Forest (Tsukuba-shi, Takasaki 1078-1)

The park is a wonderful place to take a walk and is a spot where the rich nature can be enjoyed in every season. In spring cherry trees blossom in the cen-

ter of the park, where in 'Sakura Forest' you can enjoy Shibazakura trees and Yaezakura with rich pink petals.

Fukuokazeki Sakura Park (Tsukuba Mirai-shi, Fukuokaaza, Kitayama 2633-7)

It takes 10 minutes by car from the TX Midori Station to reach this water park near the Kokai River. The park has 4500 cherry trees planted 1.5 km along the river. There is the Sakura Festival held in early April and many people come to enjoy cherry blossoms viewing. In the park there is also a big playground for children.

Otonuma Park (Tsuchiura-shi, Ōaza, Otto)

The park has about 900 cherry trees which are planted nearby the pond richly endowed with nature. Most of the sakura trees are Somei Yoshino Cherry and yaezakura. The latter blossoms later than the most of cherry trees and it can be enjoyed until the middle of April.

Spring Japanese Language Courses

Every year Japanese language classes begin in spring and autumn. There are several classes available depending on the level of proficiency in Japanese language.

Tsukuba Cultural Foundation

Participants: Foreigners living or working in Tsukuba City and their families

Period of time: April 7~Sept. 8; Tue (levels 1, 2, 5) April 2~Sept. 10; Thu (levels 3, 4, 6)

Number of lessons: 20

Place: Tsukuba Capio (Tsukuba-shi, Takezono1-10-1)

Time: 18:30~20:00

Fee: 6000 yen plus costs of educational materials (for those who will continue attending classes 5000 yen) Classes fee is paid while applying for a course. The fee will not be refunded for any reason.

Class Levels:

Level 1: Complete Beginners

Level 2: Can read hiragana & katakana & introduce themselves

Level 3: Can write hiragana & katakana & understand noun modification

Level 4: Can speak in full sentences and express wish & opinions

Level 5: Reading and Writing Class

Level 6: JLPT level 3 and above

Application: Fill the application form and submit to Tsukuba Cultural Foundation. The application form can be downloaded from the website.

Contact: Tsukuba Cultural Foundation (*tsukuba toshi shinkō zaidan*); Tsukuba-shi, Takezono 1-10-1 (inside Tsukuba Capio);

(TEL) 029-869-7675 (FAX) 029-851-9797

(E-mail) class@tsukubacity.or.jp

Open: 9:00~17:00, closed on Mondays.

(URL) <http://www.tsukubacity.or.jp/info/modules/tinyd3/index.php?id=2>

Keyaki no Kai

Participants: Foreigners living in Tsukuba City and suburbs

Period of time: April 16~Sept. 17 (every Thursday)

Hanami 2009

Annually the best time to view cherry blossoms is in late March and early April. This season you can enjoy cherry blossoms at many parks and places in Tsukuba. Below are some major cherry

blossom-viewing spots.

Nōrin – Kenkyū – Danchi (Tsukuba-shi, Kannondai 2 chō-me ~3 chō-me)

This research park of Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Japan is situated on both sides of the road and it spreads 2 km long. The park has

about 500 cherry trees. You can find there Tsukuba Research Gallery, fields of flowers and vegetables. In the season of cherry blossoms it is a perfect place for a picnic as well as a spot for enjoying beautiful flowers. (Be careful about traffic jam in the weekends.)

Number of lessons: 17 (No classes in July and August)

Place: Tsukuba Gakuin University (Tsukuba Azuma 3-1)

Time: 12:30~14:30

Fee: 3000 yen textbooks fee (¥1200—¥1500)

Class Levels:

Introductory: Complete Beginners

Beginner 1: For those able to read and write hiragana & katakana and can hold simple conversations

Beginner 2: For those who have studied Japanese for more than 6 month and can conjugate verbs and adjectives

*Please contact Keyaki no Kai for details regarding textbooks for each level.

Application: The students need to go in person and have a interview at the cafeteria on 1F (on the right from the main entrance) of the Tsukuba Gakuin University between 1 and 2 pm April 9. Those who cannot apply on April 9 will be able to do it directly during a class (contact beforehand)

Contact: Tsukuba-shi Nihongo Kyōshitsu 'Keyaki no Kai' TEL) Kuruta-san 029-887-7221 (after 19:00), Hattori-san 029-852-3483; (E-mail) nihongo0311@yahoo.co.jp

Kenkyū Kōryū Center, Tsukuba Science Expo Memorial Foundation

Participants: Foreigners working or doing research at research institutes, universities or public institutions in Tsukuba City and their families (above 15 years old) who are able to participate in classes twice a week (Tuesdays and Thursdays). Foreigners who study in Tsukuba may not participate in these classes.

Period: not decided (classes start in late April or early May)

Place: Kenkyū Kōryū Center (Tsukuba Takezono 2-20-5)

Time: 9:30~11:30

Fee: 5000 yen plus educational material costs

Capacity: 15 (first-come basis)

Application: Contact Kenkyū Kōryū Center through the institute you are part of. For details check the website.

Contact: Kenkyū Kōryū Center (TEL) 029-851-1331

(E-mail) koryu-c@mext.go.jp

(URL: website of Tsukuba Science Expo Memorial Foundation): <http://www.tsukuba-banpaku.jp/gogaku.html>

Announcements

Recruiting Guidance for International Students

This orientation session is open to all students enrolled in college, university, and graduate school who are due to graduate in March 2010. The organizers, Tokyo Foreigners Employment Service Center, offer professional counseling and information about employment for non Japanese Residents.

Date: Mar. 25, 2009; 10am-12pm

Place: Hello Work Shinagawa, Tokyo Foreigners Employment Service Center; Tokyo, Minato-ku, Roppongi 3-2-21, Roppongi Job Park, 2F

Program:

*Job hunting in Japan

*Changing residence status and choosing a job

*Job hunting manners

*Registering as a member of the Tokyo Foreigners Employment Center. (Bring student ID; Alien registration card and pencil)

Apply: directly by phone→03-3588-8639; or by filling in the online application form and e-mailing it→<http://www.tfemploy.go.jp/>

The 50th International Speech Contest in Japanese

This is a national speech contest taking place since 1960. This year's anniversary edition will take place in Hakodate, Hokkaido. All participants will be provided with return transport fee

and board while in Hokkaido. Those wishing can participate in a two days homestay after the contest.

Date: May 30, 1pm~

Place: Hakodate Citizen's Hall

Pre-selection: All participants are required to send a cassette tape or CD recording of their speech (7 min.) for a preliminary selection. The finalists (12 in total) will be announced by the end of April.

Application Method: Submit the necessary documents and recording of your speech by post until April 9, 5pm (late applications will not be accepted). For more information and application forms visit the URL below: <http://www.nichibei.ac.jp>

Mailing Address and Contact: International Education Foundation; 160-0004, Tokyo, Shinjuku-ku, Yotsuya 1-21; Tel: 03-3359-9620 (Mon—Fri; 9am-5pm); E-mail: benron@nichibei.ac.jp

Looking for Participants in the Tsukuba International Fair

With food and drinks from around the world and a variety of performances this event taking place every May has become a trademark of Tsukuba. At the moment we are looking for participants in this year's event (people who would like to stage a performance, open a stall, or simply volunteer to help with the organization)

Dates: May 9 (noon—6pm); May 10 (10am—5pm)

Place: Tsukuba Center Pedestrian Deck

Participants:

1. Open Stage Performances (May 10): 10 groups; singing/dancing/other performances.

2. Stalls (May 9-10): 23 groups; Food Stall Fee→¥13000; Other Activities Stall Fee→¥8000

3. Volunteers: High school students and up; May 9—5 pers.; May 10—10 pers.

Application: Submit application form in person at the Tsukuba International Association before March 31

Contact: Tsukuba International Association (inside Tsukuba Capio); Tel: 029-869-7675; URL: <http://www.tsukubacity.or.jp/inter/>

Tsukuba Matinee Chamber Concert 2009

A music and reading performance by musician in Tsukuba. This year's theme is "Fairytales for Adults".

Date: March 27, 10:30am—11:30am

Place: Tsukuba Ars Hall

Ticket: ¥1000

Content: Story—The Cat that Lived a Million Times; violin, flute and piano collaborations; clarinet performance



Notice Regarding the Delivery of the National Health Insurance Card

The National Health Insurance Card for 2009 will be delivered by registered mail in the second half of March. Given that you have to sign in order to receive your insurance card it cannot be delivered in your absence. If you are absent when the mailman delivers your card you can receive your it by:

1. **Having it re-delivered:** inform the post office by phone when you would like to receive your card.

2. **Collecting it at the post office:** inform the post office by phone that you will be collecting your insurance card directly from them. You will need to present an ID and sign in order to receive it.

Inquiries: Sakura City Hall Branch Office, National Health Insurance and Pension Div., Tel: 029-836-1111

Monthlies

Library

Tsukuba Central Library

TEL: (856) 4311

Open Tue thru Fri: 9:30-19:00, Sa/Su/PH 9:30-17:00

Library closed on:

March: 2, 9, 16, 20, 23, 30

April: 6, 13, 20, 27, 29

Moving

If you are moving out of Tsukuba city please make sure that you have return all books and audio-visual materials to the library. You can use the drop-in box for books only. Also if you are changing your address please make sure you inform the library of these changes.

Story telling

The library organizes story telling meetings in the "Story Room" at the back of the Children's Corner. Stories are told by volunteers. Schedule: Every Saturday from 3 to 3.30 pm (4th Sat. also from 3.30 to 4 pm)

Medical Check-ups

Irrespective of residence area you can receive the check-ups at the Sakura Health Center or Yatabe Health Center. A notification will be sent to you in the month prior to when the check-

up is supposed to be administered.

Sakura Health Center: 029-857-3931

Yatabe Health Center: 029-838-1100

Check-up at 1year and 6 months

Sakura Health Center: April 7, 8

Yatabe Health Center: Mar. 18, April 22

Check up at 3years of age

Sakura Health Center: April 2, 14

Yatabe Health Center: Mar. 19, April 23

Polio Vaccination

Qualifying age: 3 months ~ 90 months. Reception hours: 1pm ~ 2:20pm

*Children of age 1 to 2, who haven't been vaccinated, should get the measles and rubella vaccine as a priority. Sakura Health Center: Mar. 17; Apr. 9, 21, 28

Yatabe Health Center: Mar 24, Apr. 13

Oho Health Center: Apr. 6

Measles and Rubella (MR vaccine)

Boosters

Children who have not yet been vaccinated should do so before March 31 at any designated medical institution in Tsukuba. (Reservation needed). You will have to pay for vaccinations done after this date.

Eligibility: *Children entering Elementary school in April; *1st grader

Junior High; * 3rd Grader High School Contact: Sakura Health Center: 029-857-3931

Clinics open on holidays

Consultation hours: 9.00am – 5.00pm (subject to unexpected changes)

March 20

Kushida In. Kamigou 2783-1, 847-2355; **Kanou In.** Hanamuro 860, 857-2981

March 22

Toukoudai Naika Ichouka Clinic. Toukoudai 4-19-4, 847-8468; **Kurata Naita Clinic.** Kurihara 3443, 857-8181

March 29

Onomura Clinic, Kouya 1155-2, 837-0041; Shibuya Clinic, Konda 2029-1, 863-5252

April 5

Miyakawa Naika Icho-ka In, Ninomiya 2-2-26, 855-8777; Tsukuba Byoin, Sasagi 1761; 855-0777

April 12

Oota In, Teshirogi309-4, 838-5333; Minami Oodori Clinic, Takezono 2-16-24; 851-2697

April 19

Oono In, Shimana 634, 867-1211; Tsukuba Chuo Byoin, Hojo 5118; 867-1211

Regarding Taxes for Bike/Scooter/Light Vehicle Owners

Light Vehicle (<600cc), Motor Vehicle (<125cc), Scooter (<125cc) owners have to pay a Light vehicle tax. This tax will be levied by the municipal office if you own the vehicle on April 1 of the year.

Please do not forget to go through the required procedures for registering a newly bought vehicle or for discarding an old vehicle. Even if you have discarded an old vehicle but have not completed the required procedures by April 2 you will be required to pay tax. If you have handed over your vehicle to someone or if someone has handed over a vehicle to you please perform the ownership change procedures.

Inquiries: Tsukuba City Hall, Municipal Tax Division; Tel: 029-836-1111

Counseling Service for Foreigners

1. Counseling service provided by the City Hall in your preferred language, via phone or interview.

Phone: 029-857-1870,

Hours: 10am-12pm, 1pm-4:45pm

Tue: Japanese, English, Thai

Wed: Japanese, Chinese, Korean

(*closed on national holidays)

2. Counseling service provided by the Ibaraki Prefecture International Association, via phone or interview.

Phone: 029-244-3811

Hours: 8.30am-12pm; 1pm– 5.15pm

Japanese/English: Mon thru Fri; Chinese: Mon (afternoon), Wed; Portuguese: Mon (morning), Thu; Spanish: Tue; Korean: Tue; Thai: Wed, Fri; Tagalog: Thu