

Occupational Injury Insurance: (Continued from page 1)

Occupational Injury Insurance provides compensation for employees or families when accident occurs during work or while commuting to/from work. For example, when medical diagnosis or treatment is needed, it can be provided free of charge at appointed medical institution. If the recuperation period is necessary and paid leave is not obtained, then compensation for the recuperation can be obtained starting from the 4th day of leave. The premium for Occupational Injury Insurance is paid by the employer. Generally, even if there is only one employee working for the company, the company must let the employee subscribe to the Occupational Injury Insurance. Every employee who are receiving payment are qualified, including those who are employed in small scale private business or part time jobs and not qualified for the unemployment insurance or welfare pension can apply for Occupational Injury Insurance. Therefore, please check the particulars on Occupational Injury Insurance in your employment contract.

For foreign residents with children

Child-raising Subsidy: This subsidy is provided to parents who have completed their alien registration, and are raising children of middle-school age or younger, regardless of the amount of income. If a foreign resident is financially supporting a child living abroad and meets certain conditions, he is eligible to receive the subsidy as well. The amount of subsidy is 13,000 yen per month for every child. For application and inquiries, please contact the children division of the city hall. (*in order to receive the subsidy, the applicant must be subscribed to the national health insurance.)

Medical Welfare Subsidy (Maru Fuku): Parents are required to apply for the medical welfare subsidy if they have children younger than primary school age at health insurance and pension division in the city hall. When the application is approved, the child's medical fee within range of coverage of the national health insurance is aided with public expenses. (*it is necessary to be subscribed to the national health insurance in order to qualify for Maru Fuku. Also, income verification is needed at the point of application. Please make inquiries for more information.)

Enrollment in Child Care Center: Child Care Center is a place where children are taken care of for certain hours for the guardians, who may be working in the day or have fallen ill. In order to be enrolled in a child care center, some conditions apply. The application for enrollment in approved child care centers (public or private) are to be completed at the city hall. For more information, please contact to the Children Division.

Enrollment in Kindergarten: There are two types of kindergartens; public or private. In Tsukuba city, children of age four and five are taken care of in the public kindergartens. For private institutions, the age of child, curriculum, and fees differs depending on the kindergartens. Generally, the application for enrollment in April is to be completed in autumn (between October and November) of the previous year. If there are still space available, enrollment is accepted throughout the year. For public kindergartens, the enrollment depends on the current residence of the applicant, while it is not a factor for private kindergartens. The application for enrollment can be completed at the respective institutions. For more information regarding public kindergartens, please contact Tsukuba City Board of Education.

Revision of Child-raising Subsidy from 1st April Onwards

For households with children and are receiving child-raising subsidy, please be informed that the subsidy previously named "Jidō Teate" will be changed to "Kodomo Teate", and the content and condition for receiving the subsidy are revised as well.

Eligibility: Parents who had completed Resident Registration or Alien Registration in Tsukuba, and currently raising children of middle-school age or younger are qualified for the subsidy, disregarding the amount of their income.

Amount of Subsidy: 13,000 yen per child (monthly).

Method of Application:

A notification had been sent to eligible households in the beginning of April. For applicants, please apply at the Childrearing Support Center of the City Hall or at the counter of respective branch office.

*Application is not necessary for households which are receiving the subsidy up until 31st March 2010 and still wish to continue in April onwards.

*Residents who moved into Tsukuba after 1st April or parents of newborns are required to apply within 15 days from the date of move-in or date of birth. (Late application will result in late confirmation of the subsidy eligibility.)

For Enquiries:

Tsukuba City Hall, Childrearing Support Center (*2nd floor, Sakura Branch Office until 30th April, and 1st floor, New Branch Office after 6th May)

Tel: 029-836-1111 (until 30th April)

029-883-1111 (after 6th May)

Japanese Classes in Spring 2010

Every year, there are two organizations which hold Japanese language classes in spring and autumn. There are several classes available depending on the level of proficiency in Japanese Language. The spring classes have already started, but they are still open for registration, so for those who are interested, please send in inquiries to the respective organizations.

Tsukuba Cultural Foundation

Time and date: 18:30 - 20:00, from 1st April till 2nd September, classes on every Tuesday or Thursday.

Number of Lessons: 20. Venue: Tsukuba Capio, Takezono 1-10-1. Inquiries: Tsukuba International Association, Takezono 1-10-1. Tel: 029-869-7675 Fax: 029-851-9797

Email: class@tsukubacity.or.jp

Reception hour is 9:00 - 17:00 and is closed on Monday.

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

Keyaki No Kai

Time and date: 12:30 - 14:30, from 15th April till 16th September, every Thursday. *No classes in August.

Number of Lessons: 17. Venue: Tsukuba Gakuin University (Tsukuba, Azuma 3-1). Fees: Miscellaneous fee 3000 yen + Textbooks cost 1500 yen

Inquiries: Kuruda-san (tel: 029-887-7221, 19:00 onwards), or Hattori-san (tel: 029-852-3483)

Email: keyakinokai@gmail.com

URL: <http://yaplog.jp/keyakinokai/>

* Please do not make inquiries at Tsukuba Gakuin University.



the **tsukuba**

April 2010

bulletin

TSUKUBA CITY HALL
International Affairs Division
City Hall- Sakura Branch Office
1979 Konda, Tsukuba, Ibaraki 305-0018
TEL: 029-836-1111 (ext. 5154).
Email: ctz031@info.tsukuba.ibaraki.jp

To new foreign residents in Japan

Here are some useful information for foreign newcomers.

Are you subscribed to a health insurance plan?

The National Health Insurance is a must for ones who are not subscribed to the employment insurance plan or other insurance coverage. Therefore, unless other health insurance plan have been subscribed to, foreigners with status of resident for one year and above must join the National Health Insurance plan. Person without health insurance coverage is responsible to pay full amount of the expenses when receiving medical treatment or diagnosis in a medical institution. However, people with the national health insurance coverage, in general, would be only charged 30% of the total medical cost. The national health insurance can be applied at the city hall, in which the applicant's alien registration is completed. Insurance premium must be paid for the National Health Insurance, unlike the employment insurance of which the general insurance fee is deducted from the salary. Some people refuse to subscribe to the national health insurance to avoid the payment. However if they were to suffer severe illness or get into an accident, a tremendous amount of medical expenses will have to be shouldered on them. Therefore, it is highly recommended to subscribe to a health insurance plan. It is mandatory to join in health insurance upon arrival in Japan, therefore please be informed that the national health insurance fees is retroactive to the day of arrival in Japan.

Doing part-time job with student or dependant visa

It is illegal to work in Japan without an employment visa, but with student or dependent visa, foreigners are allowed to be engaged in certain degree of part-time work if the application of 'the permission to engage in activity other than that permitted under the status of residence previously granted' is approved by the Regional Immigration Bureau.

For currently employed foreigners

Foreigners who are employed with a working visa or with permission for working part-time jobs should keep in mind of the following points in case of problems occurring during work.

Double check the contents in the contract of employment:

Employment is valid on the premise where both the employer and employee agree on a set of conditions regarding service, wages, duration, and then bounded with the contract of employment. Therefore, it is utmost important to have full grasp on the contents of contract, understand it clearly and keep the contract safely. The details of employment conditions may be stated in a different form other than the contract itself, therefore it is best to go through all the documents and understand thoroughly. It is very dangerous to work without clear knowledge of the conditions, especially when the contract is written in languages other than one's mother tongue. Therefore, make sure to ask others who are fluent in the language to understand the employment

Minimum Wage: The wage may be issued in hourly, daily or monthly form, however the salary should not be lower than the minimum wage set by the prefectural labor department respectively. Even if the employees agree with the employer to work for a rate below the minimum wage rate, the contract is invalid and the wage must be the same as the minimum wage rate. The minimum hourly rate is fixed as 678 yen starting in April 2010.

Pay slip: According to the Income Tax Laws in Japan, the employer is obligated to give the employee pay slip for every payment received. The gross amount of payment, amount of payment after tax, insurance deposit and other deductions should be stated clearly in the pay slip as well. Since subscription to social insurance is stated in the pay slip, be sure to obtain your pay slip along with the payment. If payment is on a monthly basis, the pay slip will be issued monthly too.

Work record: More often the troubles in employment are related to nonpayment of wages and overtime work. In order to claim for wages and overtime payment, a record which can clearly prove the status of service provided is required. In most workplaces, there is a punch card machine for recording time of coming, leaving for work and overtime working hours. If this is not provided, it is recommended for an employee to keep a record of his working time such as time of reporting to work, leaving off work and intermission time.

Tax Certificate Slip: Tax certificate slip is a document which states the total amount of tax, social insurance and other reductions from one's payment throughout a year from January to December. It is issued by the employer, and the same content is reported to the tax division in the municipal hall. Thus the tax certificate slip is a statement of the total amount of income tax an employee has paid, which is usually issued in January for the previous year's portion. For applicants of subsidies, it is to be noted that a tax report based on the tax certificate slip is necessary in most cases, therefore please make sure you have received your tax certificate slip every year from your employer. (*Employers are obligated to issue the employees the tax certificate slip). Furthermore, if an employee leave the job in the middle of the year, request can be made to the place of employment to issue the tax certificate slip before January of the following year.

Unemployment Insurance

For the employees who are subscribed to unemployment insurance and fulfill certain conditions, they are eligible to unemployment benefits. In order to qualify for the insurance the following 2 conditions should satisfied:

1. The appointed working hours have to be more than 20 hours per week.
2. The employment duration is estimated to be a year or more.

Once these conditions are met, regardless of the nationality, part-timers are eligible to subscribe to unemployment insurance. *For more information, please consult the nearest Labor Standard Inspection Office.

Tsuchiura Labor Standards Inspection Office General Labor Counseling Corner (Tel) 029-821-5127

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EVENTS THIS MONTH

1. Tsukuba Festival 2010

As usual the topic of this year is Science and International Exchange. There will be scientific shows, sale of local products and an International Exchange Fair, where you can see dance performances and enjoy international food stalls.

This year there will be a Karaoke Contest for foreigners to sing in Japanese on 16th May (14:00 – 15:30, cancel in case of rain). Application is done on a first come first serve basis, thus for those who are interested please apply via phone call or email by 7th May (Friday). **Schedule:** 15th May, 12:00 - 18:00 16th May, 10:00 - 17:00. **Venue:** Katsuragi Park (Nearby Tsukuba City Hall New Branch Office). **Inquiries:** Tsukuba City Hall, Tourism Division, 029-836-1111. **Application for Karaoke Contest:** Tsukuba International Association (Tel: 029-869-7675 Email: inter@tsukubacity.or.jp)

2. Ceramics Festival

The Ceramics festival is held every year at Kasama City which is famous for Kasamayaki (ceramics). This festival gathers many ceramicists and attracts many visitors. Visitors can enjoy events such as a live concert, pottery making and they can buy some of the ceramic items too. **Schedule:** 29th April to 5th May, 9:00 - 17:00. **Venue:** Event Plaza, Kasama Geijutsu no Mori Park (Kasama City, Kasama 2345). **Inquiries:** Kasamayaki Tourism Association (TEL: 029-673-0058)

3. Mount Tsukuba Azalea Festival

Mount Tsukuba is home to more than 3,000 azalea trees, and the late-April, mid-May season is the best time to catch some azalea blossoms. Mt. Tsukuba Tsutsuji Matsuri (Azalea Festival) is held every year in conjunction with the azalea blooming season, where there will be various events around the ropeway cable car station. **Schedule:** 24th April till 16th May. **Inquiries:** Tsukuba Tourist Railroad (URL: <http://www.mt-tsukuba.com/> Tel: 029-866-0611)

Tsukuba Tourism Association

(URL: <http://www.kanko-tkb.net/hp/tsutsuji/>)

4. Kasama Azalea Festival

In Kasama Tsutsuji Park, there are about 8500 azalea trees, and it holds an amazing sight during the full bloom period. Besides, it will be crowded with people enjoying various events during the weekends and holidays of the Golden Week.

Schedule: 17th April till 9th May, 8:00 – 18:00

Venue: Kasama Tsutsuji Park (Kasama-shi, Kasama 616-7)

Entrance Fee: 500 yen

Inquiries: Kasama Tourism Association (Tel: 029-672-9222)

5. Tulip World and Nemophila Harmony

Hitachi Seaside Park (Kokuritsu Hitachi Kaihin Koen) is famous for its flowers in every season. From the middle of April until the beginning of May there are 200,000 tulips blossoming, and from the end of April until the end of May you can enjoy the view of 4 500 000 nemophilas. The view of the hills covered with blue nemophilas especially attracts many visitors every year.

Schedule: Tulip World April 17th - April 29th.

Nemophila Harmony: May 1st - May 23rd

Opening hours: 9:30 - 17:00, closed on Mondays (Opens every day in May). **Place:** Hitachi Seaside Park (Hitachinaka-shi,

Mawatari Aza Onuma 605-4). **Entrance fee:** 400 yen

Contact: Hitachi Park Administration Center,

Tel: 029-265-9001

6. Tsukuba “Havrynbayar” Mongolian Festival

From the demonstration of building a Ger (Mongolian portable house), introduction of the ecological way of living of the Nomads, performance of the Morin Khuur (Mongolian string instrument), folksongs, dances and food from Mongolia as well as interesting cultures can be experienced in this festival, with no

entrance fee required.

Schedule: 25th April, 10:00 – 17:00

Venue: Central Park (Azuma 2-7-5, near the Central Library)

Inquiries: Tsukuba “Havrynbayar” Mongolian Festival Organizer. Tel: 090-8496-5984 (*mobile number of the president of the organization, Mr. Ganbaatar)

E-mail: tsukuba_havrynbayar@yahoo.co.jp

Clinics open on Holidays (9am~5pm)

***In case of Emergency, Call the Tsukuba Fire Department**

Tel: 851-0119

April 18 Toukoudai Naika Ichoka Clinic,

Higashikoudai 4-19-4, Tel: 847-8468

Watanabe Naika Clinic, Namiki 3-11-9, Tel: 851-5901

April 25 Komatsu Naika Clinic, Kamiyokoba 1178,

Tel: 838-2400

Tsukuba Center Clinic, Takezono 1-6-1 Tsukuba Mitsui

Building 4 floor, Tel: 851-9001

April 29 Kikuchi Naika Clinic, Yatabe 5915, Tel: 838-5070

Namiki Naika Clinic, Namiki 4-4-2-203, Tel: 869-6969

May 2 Takezono SC Clinic, Takezono 3-18-2 Inside

Takezono Shopping Center, Tel: 851-4635

Shoujin Sanfujinka Shonika Iin, Yatabe 1562, Tel: 836-0405

May 3 Jin Ai Naika Iin, Onozaki 785-1, Tel: 855-4577

Tsukuba Byouin, Sasagi 1761, Tel: 855-0777

May 4 Shibahara Iin, Yoshinuma 1151, Tel: 865-0511

Tsukuba Gakuen Byouin, Kamiyokoba 2573-1, Tel: 836-

1355 May 5 Tsukuba Hakua Clinic, Mase 918-1, Tel: 837-0208

Ichihara Byouin, Ozone 3681, Tel: 864-0303

May 9 Tougou Iin, Tateno 636, Tel: 837-1785

Nakagawa Iin, Shinozaki 2272-1, Tel: 864-7760

May 16 Hayashi Clinic (Inarimae), Inarimae 5-6, Tel: 859-0550

Tsukuba Kinen Byouin, Kaname 1187-299, Tel: 864-1212

May 23 Higashi Geka Naika Iin, Higashi 2-26-16, Tel: 856-7070

Houjou Iin, Hanabatake, 3-28-8, Tel: 864-0006

May 30 Narushima Clinic, Tateno 363, Tel: 839-2170

Minano Clinic Naika Kokyukika, Nishi Hiratsuka 318-1,

Tel: 850-4159

The Tsukuba City Hall Will Be Open On Weekends

Tsukuba City Hall is currently divided into 7 branches, however from May 6, all 7 branches will merge into a new branch which will consist of almost all the departments from the 7 branches. The new City Hall will also be open during the weekends (except on public holidays, between Dec 29~Jan 3), providing only certain services. The following are some of the services which would be provided during weekends:

*Issuing of Certification of the registered information on the alien registration.

* Issuing of Certificate of Seal Registry

* Application, cancelling or payment regarding sewerage and water systems.

* Issuing of Tax Payment Certificate, Taxation Certificate, Tax Exemption Certificate, Income Tax Certificate.

* Receipt of City Tax or National Health Insurance Tax

* Receipt of Child care fee of the child care center

* Contact the City Hall for information regarding other services.

Location of the new branch office: Tsukuba-Shi Karima 2530-2

(Tsukuba Kenkyugakuen D32 block 2) * 7 minutes walk from the TX Kenkyugakuen Station.

Phone number for the new branch office

(*after May 6): 029-883-1111

Dear Readers,

This year the editors of the Tsukuba Bulletin are Yeow Lisa and Ronit Prakash. We have set up an email address and welcome any feedbacks, questions or complaints. Please do not hesitate to contact us. **Email: tsukubabulletin@gmail.com**

Have you received your new health insurance card?

The issuing of the National Health Insurance card by registered mail has ended. People (households) who are enrolled in the national health insurance system, but have not received their card are asked to come and collect it as soon as possible. Moreover, people whose visa expired before April 10 should pick it up from the Health Insurance and Pensions Division after renewing their visa.

How to get the card? The head of the household should come and pick the card up in person. If somebody else apart from the head of the household comes to get the card, they should have an authorization letter with them.

Place of issuing: Tsukuba City Hall, Health Insurance and Pension Division, (3rd floor of the Sakura branch office)

Necessary items: one's seal (if one does not have it, a signature will be sufficient), 2009 health insurance card and an ID card (ex. Alien Registration card etc.)

Inquiries: Health Insurance and Pension Division,

TEL: 029-836-1111 (Until April 30)/ 029-883-1111 (from May 6)

Useful Information for Foreigners new to Tsukuba

The following are some useful information for foreign residents of Tsukuba to make friends or to make daily living easier.

1. **International Café (City Chat Café):** Organized by the Tsukuba University, this is a place where people from different cultural backgrounds can mingle with each other. It is held twice a month between 2pm~4pm, at the Lala Club on the 1st floor of Lala Garden. No reservations or fees required. The dates for the next gathering will be posted on the website below. The schedule for April and June are as follows: April 18, 24. May 22, 30. June 13. The dates may change so please check at the website.

Contact:(E-mail) icafe@sakura.cc.tsukuba.ac.jp

(URL) <http://www.sakura.cc.tsukuba.ac.jp/~icafe/>

2. **International Women's Network (IWN):** IWN is a group made of women from different International backgrounds. There are events such as potluck parties, book swap, etc once a month. Newcomers are warmly welcome. The communication language is mostly English or Japanese. To participate or for more information please check the following website. (URL) <http://tsukubawomen.wordpress.com/> (E-mail) tsukubawomen@gmail.com

3. **TAIRA (Tsukuba Area International Research Association)**

This is a mailing list for foreign residents, and provides useful information. Members can post and comment on various topics. The language used is mostly English but there are many people from many different backgrounds. To become a member one has to sign up at the following website: <http://eve.bk.tsukuba.ac.jp>

4. **Tsukuba City Global Information Corner:** This will be available at the new City Hall from May 6, and will provide bulletins in 6 languages plus pamphlets in many languages for Foreign residents.

5. **Tsukuba Community Support Centre:** Located on the 1st floor of Tsukuba Centre Building (Azuma 1-10-1, Tsukuba City), it provides space for putting posters and pamphlets for free, and also people can see other activities. However, it can not be used for political, religious or business purposes.

Free Consultation Service For Foreigners

1. **Tsukuba City Consultation Centre for Foreigners**

Consultation in English and Thai every Tuesdays, Chinese and Korean on Wednesdays. (Except on national holidays) from 10am~12.00 noon, 1pm~4:45pm. Consult in person or by phone. Ph: 029-857-1870. Phone number will change from May 11 to 029-868-7700

2. **International Consultation Centre**

(Ibaraki International Association): Consultation in English or Japanese from Monday to Friday from 8.30~12.00, 13.00~17.15. Chinese: Mon, Wed., Portuguese: Mon, Thur. Spanish: Wed. Thai: Wed. Tagalog: Thur. Consult in person or by phone. Ph: 029-244-3811

Library Information

Tsukuba Public Library.

PH: (856) 4311. Open: Tue ~ Fri: 9:30-19:00,

Sat/Sun/Public Holidays 9:30-17:00

There are library rooms at Yatabe, Tsukuba, Onogawa and Kukizaki Community Halls as well. (Tue - Fri: 10am - 6pm).

Library closed on: April 19,26,29,30. May 5,6,10,17,24,31

When borrowing from the library...

When borrowing books and other materials from the city libraries you will need a “Member’s Card”. If you are a resident of Tsukuba, you can simply apply at the central library or community center libraries by presenting some documents that state your address. Even if you do not live in Tsukuba, but work or study here, you can apply for a card, but you will also need to present a work or student ID.

Books in Foreign Languages: The Tsukuba Public Library has more than 10,000 books in English, Chinese, Hangul. There also practical books (travel guide, recipe books, etc) and novels and kids books (left side of the entrance) in about 17 languages. Foreign magazines are also available.

Story telling: The library organizes story telling meetings in the “Story Room” at the back of the Children’s Corner. Stories are told by volunteer story tellers. April 17. May 1,8,15,29: 15:00 – 15:30

April 24. May 22: 15:00 – 15:30; 15:30 – 16:00

Medical Check-up for Babies

Regardless of residential zone, please attend the medical check-ups for babies at the Sakura or Yatabe Health Centers. A notification will be sent to you in the month prior to the check-up day. For more information, contact the health centers or the City Hall, Health Promotion Division. Sakura Health Center: 029-857-3931. Yatabe Health Center: 029-838-1100

Check-up at 18 months

April: babies born in September 2009: (Already finished for April)

May: babies born in October 2009: May 12,26 Sakura Health Center. May 19 Yatabe Health Centre.

Check up at 3years of age

April: babies born in March 2007: April 21 Yatabe Health Centre.

May: babies born in April 2007: May 6,11 Sakura Health Center. May 21 Yatabe Health Centre.

Vaccinations for Infants

In Tsukuba, immunization for infants are scheduled and regulated by law. Individual immunization can be inoculated at any participating medical institution with reservation.

There are scheduled group immunization at health centers. These immunization are free for qualifying age.

Polio Vaccinations (Group Vaccination)

For siblings who are yet to be vaccinated against polio it is best to get it together. (Children between 3months~90 months)* No prior reservations needed, vaccination will be given in the order of application. Choose a date and a location that suits you best. If a child is yet to be vaccinated against Measles and Rubella, the child should get the Measles and Rubella Vaccination as a priority.

April 15, 26. May 13, 24 Sakura Health Center.

April 20, May 17, 25 Yatabe Health Center

May 10 Oho Health Centre

“Tsukubus” Time and Routes have Changed from April 1

The routes and time of Tsukubus have changed from April 1. Please check the Tsukuba City Bus Map for April 2010. This can be found at City Halls, Community Centres and general Information services desk such at TX station.