

Seeking Tsukuba Environmental Style Supporters

To realize the Tsukuba Environmental Style, the citizens of Tsukuba, companies, research organizations and other groups are participating in an all-Tsukuba activity called "Tsukuba Environmental Style Supporters". If you are eco friendly or love Tsukuba please feel free to participate.

Main Activities: Eco-commuting, Eco-driving lectures, Green Curtain campaign and sharing information on twitter and facebook. **Membership:** Membership is free of charge. Members will be issued a membership card.

Individual membership: People, over age 10, living or working in Tsukuba.

Businesses, group membership: Schools, businesses and groups in Tsukuba. Businesses and groups outside Tsukuba that are related to the Tsukuba Environmental Style.

Supporter Souvenir: Tsukuba Environmental Style cell phone cleaner. Also, a special bonus depending on season. Reception: March 1st (Inaugural meeting is planned for June).

Application: Fill and submit the application form by fax, email or postal mail to the Environmental Management Division or bring it to the service counter.

*The application forms are at the Information corner on 1st floor, Environment Division 3rd floor, Service counters of Tsukuba City Hall, the community centres and on the City Hall homepage. **Contact:** Environmental Management Division Tel: 029-883-1111, Fax: 029-868-7590 Email: evm023@info.tsukuba.ibaraki.jp

Japanese Language Classes Starting in April!

Below are Japanese language classes for foreign residents and their families living, working or studying in Tsukuba offered by the Tsukuba International Association.

Course	For (hours studied)	Day	
		Daytime	Evening
Nihongo 1	beginner	—	(Tues)
Nihongo 2	Over 50 hours	(Wed)	
Reading + writing	Hiragana, Katakana, Kanji	—	(Thurs)
Nihongo 3	Over 100 hours	—	
Nihongo 4	Over 150 hours	(Wed)	(Wed)
Nihongo no kai	Over 200 hours	(Wed)	

Daytime course from 10:00-12:00 at Science Information Center, 16 lessons. Evening course from 18:30-20:00 at Tsukuba Capio, 20 lessons. Fee: 6000 yen (continuing students 5000 yen) plus material fees (not included).

Application: Directly apply using the application form. **Contact:** Tsukuba International Association, Tsukuba-shi, Takezono 1-10-1 . TEL: 029-869-7675

City Chat Café has Ended

The City Chat Café, opened in August 2008 with the support and participation of the many people, ended its services on February 12, 2012. It may be re-opened in a different form, more details will be available after confirmation.

Contact: Tsukuba University International Café Office Email: icafe@sakura.cc.tsukuba.ac.jp URL: http://www.sakura.cc.tsukuba.ac.jp/~icafe/

Municipal Tax Payment Deadline:

April 2

* National Health Insurance Tax (9th Instalment)

Contact: Health Insurance and Pensions Division, Tsukuba City Hall TEL: 029-883-1111

1st Tsukuba Collection

Tsukuba collection is the recognition of high quality products of Tsukuba, with the aim of improving the image of Tsukuba city and promoting trade and economic development. This is the first time for this event and the best product was a selection of processed food.

Recognition seal: Image of Mount Tsukuba

From the 74 seals that were submitted, the design of Shu Kurokawa (黒河周), of Takezono East Junior High School, was chosen. This seal shows a view of Mount Tsukuba from Houjou Oike Pond during sunset, with the reflection of stars in the water.

Banner: Shops selling the Tsukuba Collection products can be recognized by a special "nobori" (banner).

Tsukuba Collection Products

* *Minanogawa Junmai Daiginjo Funashibori* (Inaba Sake Brewery): Japanese Sake made by hand from selected rice and water, and has excellent taste and aroma. Address: Tsukuba City, Numata 1485. Tel: 029-866-0020

* *Hanasakumineyori Tsukubasan no Umeshu* (Tsukuba Tourist and Convention Association): Made from plums from Mount Tsukuba and locally made pure sake, it is "Jun Tsukuba San" (purely made in Tsukuba). You can enjoy the pleasant taste of plums in this mild sake. Address: Tsukuba City, Tsukuho 1-10-4. Tel: 029-869-8333

* *Fukure gori* (Okashisho Itou): A type of Japanese sweet made from a combination of agar and peelings of fukure oranges. With the outside layer dried, it has a crisp texture with the taste and smell of the fukure oranges. Address: Tsukuba City, Namiki 3-26-17. Tel: 029-851-0281

* *Hojomai Chiffon* (Cote D'azurl): Baked using powdered Hojo rice, it has a sweet smell of rice and a grainy texture. Address: Tsukuba City, Higashi Arai 19-26. Tel: 029-858-3094

* *Amabouki Miso* (Iida Noen) : This product uses ingredients grown in their own farm and home made rice. Address: Tsukuba City, Amabouki 298. Tel: 029-873-3938

* *Watakumo* (Patisserie Maria): Baked using local ingredients such as chicken eggs from Tsukuba-san, local flour, sweet potatoes and green tea, this product has a pleasantly gentle taste. Address: Tsukuba City, Tsukuho 2-8-5. Tel: 029-864-7177

* *Fukure Ponzu* (Numaya honten): Using the two step thermal sterilization, this vinegar made from the Tsukuba-san Fukure oranges keeps the fresh taste. Address: Tsukuba City, Yatabe 2970. Tel: 029-836-1414

Contact: Tsukuba City Hall, Tourism Division, Tel: 029-883-1111

Welsh Onions of Tsukuba has been Re-designated as the Official Local Brand by the Ibaraki Prefecture

The Tsukuba negi (Welsh onion), on January 11, 2012 was renewed as the Ibaraki Prefecture "meigara sanchi shitei" (official brand). The recognition of the onions for Ibaraki prefecture is to Bando City and Tsukuba City. Tsukuba City has the largest production of onions in the prefecture. **Contact:** Tsukuba City Hall, Agriculture Division Tel: 029-883-1111

English Oasis

The "English Oasis" is a place for people to gather. Useful information can be shared in English (participation is free). We hope that this place becomes an oasis for people who would like to meet up and converse in English. The first English oasis will be held on the 24th of March from 14:00-16:00 at the Tsukuba Science Information Center, next to Nova Hall. A scientist and a musician, Dr. Tokio Kenneth Ohsuga will talk about "Cultural Difference you must know while living in Japan. To participate, access: <http://www.tsukuba-network.jp>

The schedule for March 24th is as follows: 14:00 Talk by Dr. Ohsuga, 15:00 Coffee break, 15:10 Free discussion, 16:00 End of meet. **Contact:** Tsukuba Kenkyugakuen Toshi Kouryu Kyougikai. Address: Ibaraki Prefecture, Tsukuba City, Takezono 2-20-5. TEL: 863-2007, Email: Tsuukukyo@tsukuba-network.jp



English Bulletin
March 2012



TSUKUBA CITY HALL
Globalization and
Culture Division

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HP: http://www.city.tsukuba.ibaraki.jp/005511.html, http://www.tsukubainfo.jp Editors: Prakash Ronit, Yeow Li Sa

Cherry Blossom Viewing Spots 2012

The cherry blossoms "sakura" is a symbol of Japan and is deeply connected to the Japanese culture. Some great spots for viewing the sakura in Tsukuba area are:

- ① **Houjou Oike** (Houjou 1477-1): There are around 300 Sakura trees near Oike.
- ② **Tsukuba University** (Ground): You can enjoy naturally grown sakura as there are wild Yamazakura trees on the sides of the ground.
- ③ **Tsukuba University** (Beside Hirasuna, Oikoshi Dormitory). 1km walking pathway turns into cherry blossom tunnel during full bloom.
- ④ **Kagaku Bampaku Kinen Koen** (Miyukigaoka 6): There are clusters of Sakura trees beside the Botchan Lake.
- ⑤ **Akatsuka Koen** (Inarimae 11): With Maple Hill, Forest of Flowers, Waterfront Forest, Wild Flower Slopes and more, this park is blessed with nature.
- ⑥ **Nourin Kenkyu Danchi** (Kannondai): With about 500 Sakura trees, it is considered one of the best viewing spots in Tsukuba. Enjoy the fascinating contrast of colours with "field mustards" in the background.
- ⑦ **Takasaki Shizen no Mori** (Takasaki 1078-1): There is a lane of Shibazakura trees inside the park and Yamazakura trees at the Sakura no Mori.
- ⑧ **Kukizaki Undo Koen** (Shimo Iwasaki 2160-10): Blossoming of the Someiyoshino is exceptionally beautiful, when admiring the view towards Ushiku Pond. **Contact:** Tsukuba Tourism Convention Association, Tel: 029-869-8333

Changes to Tsukubus Stops and Establishment of New Common Pickup and Drop off Points for Tsukutaku

From April 1st, some regions will have common pickup and drop off areas for Tsukutaku.

Region	New Pickup/Drop off Areas
Tsukuba Ward	B2 Ichihara Byoin B14 Oho Madoguchi Center B35 Tsukuba Kinen Byoin
Kukizaki Ward	E4 Asse Entrance (moved to inside the property of Asse) E 107-1 Tsukuba Kinen Byoin

From April 1st, there will be changes to the following bus stops.

New or moved bus stops	Line	Place
【New】Makizono	Nanbu Shuttle	(Towards Tsukuba Station) "Chikusan Souchi Kenkyujo" stop. (Towards Kukizaki) Established new stop at Chikusan Souchi Kenkyujo entrance
【Shift】Seibu Kougyou Danchi	Yoshinuma Shuttle Jiyugaoka Shuttle	Moved to about 300m to the south. (in front of Hodogaya Kagaku Kougyo)

Contact: Transportation Policy Division Tel: 029-883-1111

Illegal Parking of Bicycles: Prohibited Areas

Bicycles parked illegally near the train stations are a hinderance to people with visual impairment or on wheelchairs, as well as pedestrians. For the safety of the public and for smooth rescue operation in case of disasters, the City is imposing prohibited areas for parking bicycles and other two-wheel vehicles. Please park your bicycles at designated areas.



Bicycle parking by definition is when a person leaves the bicycle at a place and moves away, even for a short time. The following areas are prohibited for bicycle parking: Public places near TX Tsukuba station, Kenkyugakuen Station, Bampaku Kinen Koen Station and Midorino Station. Illegally parked bicycles will be immediately removed, in case this happens: 1. The city will keep the bicycle for 6 months. 2. The city will notify the registered owner of the bicycle. 3. A fee will be charged for the returning of the bicycle. The fee for bicycle return is 1000 yen, and for mopeds is 1500 yen.

Contact: Tsukuba Chuo Bicycle Parking Area Office TEL: 029-853-8019. Tsukuba City Hall, Urban Facilities Management Department TEL: 029-883-1111

Events

1) 1st Anniversary of the Tsukuba Child Raising Support Centre

Date & time: March 24 from 11:00-14:00

Place: Tsukuba Child Raising Support Centre. **Contents:** Exciting Shows (Ninja shows, magic shows, Mama-san brass band), introduction of child raising clubs, balloon art, booths for agricultural products, bread and coffee. **For:** Families with children who have not started school. No Reservations needed.

Contact: Child Raising Support Centre, Tel: 029-857-9037

2) Tsukuba City Environmental Beautification Forum

Date & Time: March 24 from 15:00-17:00. **Place:** Tsukuba International Congress Centre, Main Convention Hall. **Contents:** Part 1: Activities of the City Beautification committee. Part 2: Lectures by Noguchi Ken (Alpinist). Part 3: Panel discussion (Panel members: Noguchi Ken, Lou Oshiba, Tsukuba City Mayor Ichihara Kenichi)

Maximum number of participants: About 1200, first come first serve basis (Group: up to 5 members, if there are more, contact the organizing committee). **Participation:** Free of charge (children below school age are not allowed). **Application:** Submit address, name, phone number and number of participants by phone, fax or by email. **Apply to:** Tsukuba City Beautification Committee. Tel: 080-6660-0298, Fax: 029-864-8894, Email: info@kireikirei-tsukuba.jp
Contact: Tsukuba Environmental Management Division
Tel: 029-883-1111

3) Mount Tsukuba at Night “Stardust Cruising”

You can go up Mount Tsukuba at night via ropeway and watch the beautiful night sky and stardust. The ropeway will operate at night, from 17:00-21:00 (every 20 minutes) during the weekends and public holidays (except during bad weather) in March. Events: **March 24:** Illumination, true or false quiz on Mount Tsukuba, performances by monkeys. **March 31:** Illumination, rice cake competition, games with prizes. **Fees:** Adult 1000yen/round trip (primary school and younger children free of charge).

Contact:

Tsukuba Tourism Convention Association, Tel: 029-869-8333

Tsukuba Tourist Railway Company, Tel: 029-866-0611

Hitokoto Nihongo

The topic for March is “History of Tsukuba and the 6 Districts. Lets remember this to inform the new residents of Tsukuba.

Since Tsukuba City is a combination of ...Oho Machi, Toyosato Machi, Yatabe Machi, Sakura Mura, Tsukuba Machi and Kukizaki Machi, Tsukuba can be divided into 6 districts.

* **Yatabe District:** Located in the western part of Tsukuba City, it covers a large area including Kenyugakuen station, Bampakinenkoen station and Midorino station. About one third of the population of Tsukuba live in this district. It also includes Kasuga, Ninomiya and Matsushiro area.

* **Sakura District:** This district is located in the eastern part of Tsukuba city and includes the Tsukuba station, Tsukuba Center, Tsukuba University and Tsukuba kenkyugakuentoshi area. Azuma, Takezono and Namiki also belong to this district. About one quarter of the population of Tsukuba City live in this ward.

* **Oho District:** Including the Tsukuho and hanabatake area, this Oho district is located in the central to northern part of Tsukuba City. KEK is also located in this district.

* **Toyosato District:** Located in the north-western part of Tsukuba City, Toukoudai and Toyosato No Mori also belong to the Toyosato district. There is also Toyosato Yukari No Mori in this district.

* **Tsukuba District:** Located in the Northern part of Tsukuba City, it includes Hojo and Kami Ohshima. It is at the foot of Mount. Tsukuba

* **Kukizaki District:** Located in the southern part of Tsukuba City, it includes Takamihara and Mori No Sato. The Takasaki Shizen No Mori (Takasaki Natural Forest) and the Fureai Plaza are also located in this ward.

Seeking Tent Exhibitors and Volunteers for the Tsukuba Festival 2012 International Exchange Fair

Date: May 12 (12:00-18:00), May 13 (10:00-17:00)

Place: Tsukuba Centre Plaza

* **Tent Exhibitors: 23 members, group.** Tent fee:

1) 13,000 yen for Food stalls and refreshment booths.

2) 8,000yen for displays and participatory programmes.

* **No recruitment for stage performers this year**

* **Volunteers Wanted:** For people above Junior High. 5 members for May 15 and 10 members for May 16. **Application:** submit the application form in person to the Tsukuba International Association by March 29.

Application and Contact: Tsukuba International Association, Tsukuba City, Takezono 1-10-1. TEL: 029-869-7675

What is “Kukai”?

A “Kukai” is a community development independent organization formed by the citizens, with the aim of making it a better place to live. Kukai is entrusted with providing administrative information by distributing circulars and more. The Kukai is expected to be a cooperative system of citizens for community development and to act as a complementary system in case of disasters. When you are in need, the most help comes from your neighbours.

To Join a Kukai: Irrespective of a person living in a house or an apartment, people can join upon request. However, depending on the Kukai, the registration procedures may differ. Please ask a neighbour, or a Kukai member.

Establishing Kukai: To establish a Kukai in a region without one, get ideas from households who understand the purpose of the Kukai, elect representatives and members, fill in the appropriate forms and submit it to the Tsukuba City Kukai Office.

Supporting Kukai: * Donations for building and maintenance of Regional Meeting Halls : Community Development Division. *Donations for maintenance and electricity charges of street lamps: Public Safety Division. * Donations for setting up garbage collection locations: Waste Management Division
Contact: Tsukuba City Kukai Office (Community Development Division). TEL: 029-883-1111

Library Carrel Use During Spring Break

Due to congestion during the period March 24-April 5, there will be a reshuffle of morning and afternoon schedules. Those who wish to use window side carrels must take a “ticket” on that day, from the counter. **Utilization time:** Morning 9:30-13:00, Afternoon 13:30-17:00 (reception for afternoon from 12:30). Reception is done at the Library Counter. Keep in mind that: 1. Seats can not be reserved or chosen. 2. Continuous use from morning to afternoon is prohibited. 3. After 5 pm it can be used without number tickets. 4. Need number tickets using anytime during morning and afternoon. 5. If something is left at the library, it will be collected by the library staff. 6. Can not use during holidays. * When the carrels on the 1st floor are full, the study rooms may be opened for use (9:30-17:00). First come first serve basis. Contact: Tsukuba Public Library TEL: 029-856-4311.

Library Information

TEL: 029-856-4311. Open : Tue/Thu/ Fri: 9:30-19:00,

Wed/Sat/Sun/Public Holidays 9:30-17:00. There are library rooms at Yatabe, Tsukuba, Onogawa and Kukizaki Community Halls as well.(Tue - Fri: 10:00 - 18:00). **Library closed on:** March 19, 20, 26. April 4, 11, 18, 21, 25, 29

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 ID with your address on it. 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.

HEALTH

Preventative Vaccination

Polio Vaccination

Time: 13:30 ~ (reception time: 13:00 ~ 14:20)

*No reservation required, vaccination given in order of reception. **Eligibility:** Child between 3 months ~ 90 months

* Children over 1 who are yet to get measles and rubella vaccinations should get these two vaccination as a priority.

Things to bring: Mother and Child Health Handbook, Polio Vaccination ticket . **Place and Date:** Yatabe H.C.: April 12, 24.

Sakura H.C.: March 23, April 6, 23

Oho H.C: March 22, April 16

Measles and Rubella Vaccination

These vaccinations are given as described below. ②-⑤ vaccination period is until 31 March 2012. ⑤ applies to only those who are required to go abroad on school excursions or school related events. Others may wait until the 3rd year of high school to receive vaccination.

Contact: Sakura Health Center Tel: 029-857-3931

Medical Check-up for Babies

Irrespective of residential area, babies can receive the check-ups at Sakura Health Center or Yatabe Health Center. A notification is sent in the month prior to the check-up date. Contact the health centers or Tsukuba City Hall, Health Division for more information. **Reception time:** 12:45-13:30; **Check-up:** 12:45 ~ **Contact:** Sakura Health Center [TEL] 029-857-3931, Yatabe Health Center [TEL] 029-838-1100, Tsukuba City Hall Health Division [TEL] 029-883-1111

Check-up for 18 month old Babies Born in:

September 2010: Sakura H.C. April 11, 13.

Yatabe H.C. April 18

Check-up for Age 3 Babies Born in:

February 2009: Sakura H.C. March 27

March 2009: Sakura H.C. April 5, 10. Yatabe H.C April 25

Assistance for Fertility Treatments

Tsukuba City provides assistance for part of the cost of fertility treatments. Treatments that qualify for this assistance are in vitro fertilization and micro insemination. 50,000 yen per treatment, maximum of two treatments/year and maximum of 5 years of assistance may be given.

Complete Medical Checkup:“Ningen Doc” Assistance

Those who get medical examination setup by Tsukuba City, may qualify for partial assistance. It is once per year for complete medical checkup and once in three years for brain and comprehensive checkups. **Eligibility:** Those covered under the National Health Insurance or the Health Insurance for People over 75.

Type	Assistance	Age
Complete Checkup	17,500yen	Over 30
Brain Checkup	25,000yen	Over 40
Comprehensive Checkup	37,500yen	

Application Deadline: March 29, 2013

Application Method: After making an appointment with a cooperating medical institution (check Life Plan Sukoyaka), apply at Health Centres (Oho, Sakura, Yatabe), Service counters (Tsukuba, Toyosato, Kukizaki) or directly to the Health Insurance and Pension Division at the Tsukuba City Hall.

Things to bring: Health Insurance Card, name seal (hanko).

Contact: Tsukuba City Hall, Health Insurance and Pension Division. TEL: 029-883-1111

Breast Cancer Examination

Age Limit for Mammography will Change

Up until now, women over the age of 40 who had not taken mammography in the previous year were eligible. However, from this year the following conditions apply:

* Women over 40 whose age is an even number

* Those who have a free mammography ticket

※ For those whose age is an odd number:

* For 2012, those who did not take mammography in the previous year are eligible.

* People with free mammography ticket may take the examination consecutively

The following medical examinations may be taken depending on age:

Ultrasound examination: People in their thirties and people whose age is an odd number between 40 to 56.

Mammography + Ultrasound examination: People whose age is an even number between 40 to 56. Those who do not wish to take mammography may take only ultrasound.

Mammography: People whose age is 57 or an even number above 57 .

Clinical Breast Examination: People in the age range 40-56

Contact: Tsukuba City Hall, Health Division. Tel: 029-883-1111

Clinics Open During Sundays and Holidays

Emergency medical institution check up times 9:00-17:00pm.

The dates below may change, in case of emergency call the fire department Tel: 029-851-0119. (Add 029 in the beginning of phone numbers)

March 18 Komatsu Naika Clinic, Kamiyokoba 1178, Tel: 838-2400
Tsukuba Centre Clinic, Takezono 1-6-1 Tsukuba Mitsui Building 4th floor, Tel: 851-9001

March 20 Tougou Iin, Tateno 636, 837-1785

Tsukuba Byoin, Sasaki 1761, Tel: 857-0777

March 25 Jinai Naika Iin, Onozaki 785-1, Tel: 855-4577

Takezono SC Clinic, Takezono 3-18-2 Takezono Shopping Center, Tel:851-4635

April 1 Tsukuba Soai Byouin, Takasaki 1008, Tel: 873-2511

Ichihara Byoin, Ozone 3681, Tel: 864-0303

April 8 Higashi Geka Naika Iin, Higashi 2-26-16, TEL:856-7070

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

April 15 Narushima Clinic, Tateno 363, Tel: 839-2170

Terasaki Clinic, Yoshinuma 1437-1, TEL:865-0034

April 22 Nemoto Clinic, Onigakubo 1108, Tel: 847-0550

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

April 29 Maeshima Ladies Clinic, Matsushiro 4-10-12, Tel: 859-0726

Shibahara Iin, Yoshinuma 1151, Tel: 865-0511

April 30 Yokota Iin, Yatabe 2980, Tel: 836-0025

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

Changes to the Tsukuba City Foreign Consultation Service

The Thai and Korean consultations will be closed from April, 2012 until further notice. However, English, Chinese and Japanese consultations will carry on as usual.

Tsukuba City Consultation Service for Foreign Residents:

Tsukuba City Hall 2nd floor, counter 39. Open between 10:00-12:00 and 13:00-16:45 on Tuesday and Wednesday (closed on public holidays and year end-new year). Consultation available in English and Japanese on Tuesday and Chinese and Japanese on Wednesday. Tel: 029-868-7700 (Consultation only)

Consultation Method: By phone or in person. If you wish to consult in person, please confirm by phone on the day of the consultation). This service is free of charge and personal details will be kept strictly confidential.