City Administration and Major Policies for 2016

On 24th February, a regular meeting of the City Council is held and Mayor Kenichi Ichihara announced the basic city administration policies for 2016. Here are the summary of it.

“Tsukuba, a city that you want to move in, a city that you want to continue to live”

This year marks the 30th anniversary of Tsukuba City. As one of citizens of Tsukuba City, I feel as if I am living in a completely different era with all the changes brought about by the opening of TX. Although the international situation remains unstable and economic condition is still harsh, Tsukuba City stably promotes projects based on the policies of the Comprehensive Strategies and the City Strategic Plan, and aims to make the city itself a place “where people want to live, where people want to continue to live,” and become “Garden City developed by people, nature and science” picturing a bright future of the city.

Basic Policies of City Administration for 2016

Last year, Tsukuba City drew up the “Comprehensive Strategies for the Revitalizing City, People and Employment”. It aims both at boosting the local economy and improving QOL of citizens by bringing out the maximum potential that Tsukuba has, creating a virtuous cycle where jobs bring in people and people bring in jobs and revitalizing the city to support it.

We will make effort to promote various measures to realize the goal of making Tsukuba “a city where people want to live and continue to live”, always valuing the sense of cooperation that is represented by our slogans, “connect people”, “connect regions” and “connect to the future”.

As this year is an important year because it is the second year since “Tsukuba City Comprehensive Strategies” was developed, we will promote the major measures for the four basic goals that were set in the strategic policy.

I. Creating jobs by reinforcing industrial competitiveness with the advantages of Tsukuba
II. Creating an environment that is suitable for marriage, child birth, child raising and healthy life
III. Making interactions and habitat more attractive to bring in people and keep them staying in Tsukuba
IV. Creating a safe and peaceful region that is connected by public transport network

Matsuri Tsukuba 2016

Date: 27th August, 2016 (Sat) 12:00 - 21:00,
28th August, 2016 (Sun) 10:00 - 21:00
※In case of bad weather, the event may be cancelled.
Place: Around Tsukuba Station, Tsukuba Centre Square, Chuo Park, Oshimizu Park and Takezono Park
Parade will be held along Tsuchiuira Gakuen Line between Higashi Odori and Nishi Odori (Both days 16:00 – 20:30)
Access: 5 minutes’ walk from Tsukuba Station

Highlights and Outline of the event:
Apart from “Nebuta” parade and “Mikoshi” (portable shrine) parade, this year’s highlight is “Kanto Festival”. A kanto is formed by a long bamboo pole with bars crossing the main pole (which symbolizes an ear of rice) and paper lanterns attached to it (which symbolize rice bales.) Kanto Festival is a traditional festival of the city of Akita to drive away diseases and malice of the midsummer and to pray for fertility. You can also see the Nebuta of Aomori Prefecture.
Last but not least, you can enjoy dance performances, character shows and street performances called “Art Town Tsukuba” at the special stages, “Fureai Square” held by welfare and voluntary organizations, robot dance show and “Robot Park”, where you can try to operate a humanoid robot, etc.

Please come and enjoy the biggest summer festival which fully utilizes the environment and resources of Tsukuba City.

[Contact] Tourism Division

Renewal of Single Parents Marufuku

Single-Parent Marufuku Card is renewed on 1st July every year. In late June, Tsukuba City checks 2015 incomes of parents (or financial supporters of children) and will send out new Marufuku cards to those who pass the income test.

To those who have not reported their incomes of 2014 or did not live in Tsukuba on 1st January 2016, Tsukuba City will send out a notice to report income before the income test.

[Contact] Medical Welfare and Pension Division
**Temporary Welfare Benefits**

A temporary benefit will be offered to low income households.

- **Eligibility**
  People who have registered as a resident in Tsukuba as of 1st January, 2016 and are not imposed on Municipal Tax (on per capita basis) in 2015.
  - People who are receiving public assistance, and whose supporter is subjected to taxation, are not eligible for applying.

- **Benefit Amount**
  3000 yen per eligible person (one time only)

- **Place and Period of Application**
  28th June (Tue) - 28th December (Wed) 8:30 - 17:15
  - Closed on Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays
  - City Hall 2nd floor, Social Welfare Division, Counter No. 41

- **Application**
  - Please submit an application form (available at Social Welfare Division), copies of residence cards of all applicants and bankbook.
  - Application documents will be verified and the result will be informed later.

  **Contact** Social Welfare Division

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**City Tax Payment Deadline**

Please make sure that taxes are paid by the deadline.

- **Municipal Tax / Prefectural Tax (1st Period / Whole Year)**
  - Deadline: 30th June (Tue)
  - **Contact** Municipal Tax Division / Tax Collection Division

- **Fixed Property Tax / City Planning Tax (2nd Period)**
  - Deadline: 1st August (Mon)
  - **Contact** Property Tax Division / Tax Collection Division

- **National Health Insurance Tax (1st Period / Whole Year)**
  - Deadline: 1st August (Mon)
  - **Contact** National Health Insurance Division

- The individual residence tax, together with the prefectural tax, is referred to as the Municipal / Prefectural Tax, or residency tax. In principle, the residence tax is imposed on those residing in Tsukuba City as of 1st January, 2016. The amount of residence tax is calculated according to the previous year’s income.

- Fixed Property Tax is imposed on those who possess fixed properties as of 1st January every year. Tax rate fluctuates with value of each property.

- City Planning Tax is used to fund city development projects and land allocation / reallocation projects.

- National Health Insurance Tax imposed on the head of a household that has a member who is under National Health Insurance. Together with subsidies from the national and the prefecture governments, the tax collected will be used for covering medical expenses for treatment for illness or injury, childbirth, and death.

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**“Human Rights of Children 110” Reinforcement Week**

In order to cope with problems that violate human rights of children such as bullying and children abuse, Ministry of Justice and National Association for the Protection of Human Rights enforce the “Human Rights of Children 110 Reinforcement Week” all over Japan. Consultation service is offered to children and parents with trouble.

All information discussed at the consultation will be kept confidential.

Consultations will be conducted in Japanese. For those who need interpretation, please visit with someone who can speak Japanese.

**Submit the Current State Report of Child Allowance**

In order to receive the Child Allowance for June 2016 and onwards, a current state report must be submitted. A current state report form will be sent to those who are currently receiving the Child Allowance. Please submit the form together with other necessary documents.

- **Application Period & Place**
  - 20th June (Mon) - 24th June (Fri) City Hall, 2F, Meeting Room for Disaster Measures 9:00 - 17:00
  - 25th June (Sat) - 26th June (Sun) City Hall, 1F, Children Services Division 9:00 - 17:00
  - 27th June (Mon) - 1st July (Fri) City Hall, 1F, Children Services Division 8:30 - 17:15

  For submission through mail, please use the envelope for reply enclosed with the current state report form (Postage stamp fee is at one’s own expense).

**About Certificate of Income**

Income of the recipient and spouse will be confirmed when submitting the current state report. When income cannot be confirmed, a recipient may be asked to declare his/her income of 2015.

For those who fall under the following categories, please prepare an original document of “Heisei 28-nendo Jido teate yo shotoku shomei sho” 平成 28年度児童手当用所得証明書 (An Income Certificate of 2015 for Receiving Child Allowance for the fiscal 2016).

- Recipient and spouse who have not registered as resident in Tsukuba as of 1st January, 2016 (When a recipient’s income certificate indicates that his/her spouse is a dependent family member, the spouse’s income certificate is not required to be submitted.)
- People who have registered as resident in Tsukuba City and who are subject to taxation in other municipalities

**Necessary items to be listed on an Income Certificate:**

- Income of 2015
- Number of dependent family members
- Amount of exemption

**Children living in other municipalities**

Please prepare a copy of the child’s Residence Certificate (jumin-ho) that includes information of all household members, relationship and permanent address.

**Necessary documents**

Notification of other necessary documents (apart from the Certificate of Income and Residence Certificate) will be enclosed with the current state report form.

**Contact** Children Services Division

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Tsukuba City Hall  TEL: 029-883-1111
<<Bicycle Town Tsukuba
～Enjoy a New Start to Cycling Life～>>

At Tsukuba City, we are encouraging the use of bicycles as a mode of transport in order to promote environmental friendliness and to improve fitness. The next time you go to work, the shops, or on a trip with family or friends, why not try going by bike?

Let’s Go Cycling!

You can check out the course map via:

1. Website “Tsukuba Cycling Guide” (Opened April 2016) <http://www.tsukuba-cycling.net/>

Bike Rental

1. Tsukubasan-guchi Rental Cycle (Numata 283 ℡ 029-866-0510)
2. BiVi Tsukuba Rental Cycle (Azuma 1-8-10 ℡ 029-879-5298)
3. Yukari no Mori Rental Cycle (To-higashi 676 ℡ 029-847-5061)
4. Kukizaki Athletic Park Rental Cycle (Shimo-Iwasaki 2160-10 ℡ 029-876-6600)
5. Kukizaki Komorebi Rokuto no Mori Rental Cycle (Rokuto 1002 ℡ 029-876-1222)

Let’s Cycle Safely Abiding the Rules

In Tsukuba City, we enacted the “Tsukuba City Safety Regulations Concerning the Promotion of Proper Use of Bicycles”, which has been in effect since April 2014.

Five Rules of Safe Bicycle Use

1. Bicycles are to be ridden on the road as a rule, and on the footpath as an exception.
2. Ride on the left side of the road.
3. On the footpath, pedestrians have priority. Bicycles are to commute with care on the roadside of the footpath.
4. Keep the safety rules.
5. Children are to wear helmets.

Contact: General Transportation Policy Division

<<Residents’ School Lunch Center Tour>>

Date and Time: 29th June (Thu) 10:30-, dismissed after tasting session

Place:

1. Tsukuba Sukoyaka School Lunch Center, Toyosato, Koya 1197-17 (Limit 40 people)
2. Tsukuba School Lunch Center, Kangori 1222 (Limit 30 people)

Served on a first come basis, max. 4 people per application.

Program: Watch the school lunch center in operation, and try out the school lunch that the children eat. Those with allergies, check the menu in advance.

Eligibility: Residents of Tsukuba City. Non-parents are also welcome.

Participation Fee: 300 yen (Cost of taste testing) (Please bring your own chopsticks)

How to Apply: Submit your address, name, phone number, and number of participants to the school lunch center of your choice via either phone or fax.

Tsukuba Sukoyaka School Lunch Center, Toyosato ℡ 847-6789 FAX 847-6625
Tsukuba School Lunch Center ℡ 867-5411 FAX 867-5412

<<Takasaki Shizen no Mori Blueberry Market 2016!>>

Date and Time: Every Saturday 9:30 - 12:00 until August 13th (May be cancelled without notice in the case of wet weather)

Place: Takasaki Shizen no Mori (Honobono Hiroba)

Contents: We will be holding a blueberry morning market as a PR event for the Tsukuba City special produce blueberries. You can find the highly popular blueberry ice cream, daifuku, jam, not to mention the large plump fresh berries. You can also have a go at berry picking at the hands-on blueberry garden.

Berry Picking Sessions: ①10:00 - 10:25 am ②10:30 - 10:55 am ③11:00 - 11:25 am

Eligibility: Primary school students and older

Capacity: 30 people per session (First come basis)

Participation Fee: 200 yen

How to Apply: Register at the venue. No reservations accepted.

Contact: Agricultural Administration Division

<<A New National Holiday: Yama no hi (August 11th)>>

As of 2016, there will be a new national holiday: Yama no hi, or Mountain Day.

How did this new national holiday come about? Marine Day has been observed as a national holiday since 1996 as a day of gratitude for the blessings of the oceans and for hoping for the prosperity of the maritime nation that is Japan. The Japanese Alpine Club lobbied to have a national holiday on which to appreciate Japan’s mountains. In 2014, a bill was passed in parliament establishing August 11th of every year to be a new national holiday, Mountain Day.

Why not celebrate on August 11th this year with family or friends atop Mt. Tsukuba?

Source: http://www.yamanohi.net/ (Japanese)
**36th Tsukuba Marathon:**
November 20th (Sun)

Type and Eligible participants: Full marathon (42.195km) = 15,000 people, 10km = 3,500 people
Course: Start at the Tsukuba university loop, finish at the Tsukuba University athletic field.
Participation fee: Full marathon = 7,000 yen, 10km = 4,800 yen
(100 yen from each person's participation fee will go towards environmental preservation activities within Ibaraki Prefecture.)
For more details, refer to the Tsukuba Marathon HP <http://www.tsukuba-marathon.com/> or inquire at the Tsukuba Marathon Office.

**Advance entry** (Residents, workers and students in Tsukuba City)

How to Apply:
1. Web entry: until June 28th (Tue) 24:00
   (Google “RUNNET” or “Sports Entry”,
   0570-550-846)
2. Special entry sheet (Limit of one per person)
   June 25th (Sat) 8:30-12:00
   June 27th (Mon), 28th (Tue) 9:00-17:00

**Place of Distribution:** Tsukuba City Hall 2F Sports Division

**Things to Bring:** Documentation providing proof of residential address or work address (driving license, employee ID card, student ID card, etc.) (Business cards are not accepted.)

N.B. Every year, it gets very crowded during the distribution of the special entry sheet. Please be aware that you may have to queue in line for a long time. It is recommended that you register online via web entry.

**Standard Entry** (First come first served basis until capacity is reached. Subject to termination without prior notice.)

How to Apply:
Web entry: Commences July 24th (Sun) 20:00
(Google “RUNNET” or “Sports Entry”,
0570-550-846)

Contact: Tsukuba Marathon Office (03-5166-0287),
Sports Division

**Tsukuba Chibikko Hakase 2016**
Primary school students get the chance to explore and experience the exhibitions and events held by the various research institutions. You will receive an explorer’s passport, which you can fill with special stamps at the various research institutions. Participate in the stamp rally to become the next ‘Tsukuba Chibikko Hakase,’ and get participation prizes! For more details, refer to the Japanese version of the July issue of the City Newsletter. To view it in other languages, go to <http://www.tsukubainfo.jp/>, and the Tsukuba Kids HP <http://www.tsukuba.ed.jp/~298kids/>.

Date: July 23rd (Sat) - August 31st (Thu)
Contact: Educational Guidance Division

**Summer Art / Day Camp**
First started in 2008, this event is held every year by Tsukuba University’s Art Faculty, as part of a social action program through art. Primary, junior high and senior high school students draw pictures in the university and participate in the “art exploration team” to look at the artworks and studios within the university, all accompanied by teachers and students from Tsukuba University. Pictures drawn by the students will be displayed at the Ibaraki Prefecture Art Museum from August 23rd - 28th.
To apply, refer to the Japanese version of the July issue of the City Newsletter. To view it in other languages, go to <http://www.tsukubainfo.jp/>.

Date: July 16th (Sat), 17th (Sun)
Contact: Culture Promotion Division

**Mt. Tsukuba Tanabata Festival**
800 metres above sea level, at Miyukigahara in front of the Mountain Top Station of the Mt. Tsukuba cable car, around 20 tanabata decorations sway in the wind and provide a splendid summer scenery on Mt. Tsukuba. Come and write your wish on a strip of Tanzaku paper at the summit of Mt. Tsukuba!

Date: July 15th (Fri) - 18th (Mon, National holiday)
Contact: Tsukuba Tourism Convention Association (029-869-8333) HP <http://www.tcea.jp/>

**Bon Odori at Worldwide Tsukuba**
“Bon Odori at Worldwide Tsukuba” is an annual event started in 2010, where all people come together to form a circle and enjoy Bon Odori. Come and be reminded of thoughts of your home town. There will also be a Bon Odori Creative Contest. It is a contest that emphasizes fun, creativity and team work, irrespective of skill level. We look forward to your participation!

Date: July 23rd (Sun), DAYZ TOWN level plane parking lot (Takezono 1-9-2)
Contact: Bon Odori at Worldwide Tsukuba 2016 Executive Committee

**Hirasawakanga Historical Ruins “Restoration Light Up”**
A light up of the restoration of a nationally designated historical landmark dating back to the Nara/Heian Period. An event where you can satiate yourself in the atmosphere of ancient Japan while immersing yourself in the history.

Date: August 27th (Sat) Hirasawakanga Historical Ruins History Plaza (Hirasawa 353)
Contact: Cultural Heritage Division

Tsukuba City Hall TEL: 029-883-1111