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This is a free monthly English newsletter for foreign residents carrying excerpts from the Japanese newsletter published twice a month by the city of Sakura. Unless otherwise indicated, inquiries over the telephone or at the facilities are handled only in Japanese. If you do not speak Japanese, please have someone who speaks Japanese with you when you make inquiries. Inquiries in English can be answered generally on Mondays and Tuesdays through *Koh'hoh-ka* (the Public Relations Section) at Sakura City Hall.



## 2012 New Year's Message from Mayor of Sakura



### - Towards enrichment of the City Policies While Looking Ahead to the Future -



I cordially wish each and every one of you a Happy New Year.

Taking this opportunity, I also wish to express my deep appreciation for your kind support and cooperation shown towards the city administration.

Last year, we worked hard for rehabilitation and reconstruction from the unprecedented disaster, Great East Japan Earthquake. At the same time, we started to move toward creation of a self-sustaining city with rich creativity in an age of full-fledged local autonomy, and its succession to the next generation with a mid- to long-term perspective, through the development of the Fourth Comprehensive Plan which covers through 2020. In April last year, I was reelected as a mayor. In the four years of my second term, I endeavor to make Sakura City a great place to live, today and in the future, through further implementation of measures and policies which are gaining wide support.

With regard to the pressing issue of securing safe living conditions, we will continue the radiation monitoring of the environment and inspection of school lunch food to evaluate the impact of the nuclear accident of Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant, while accelerating seismic strengthening of schools and facilities. I would like to ask for your continued assistance and cooperation in these matters.

I sincerely wish for the earliest possible recovery of those who have been affected by the disaster, and extend my best wishes to every city resident, hoping that this year will be filled with joy and success for you and your loved ones.

**Kazuo Warabi**

Mayor of Sakura City

### SEIJIN-SHIKI (COMING-OF-AGE CEREMONY)

January 9, at the City Concert Hall

On January 9 (Monday & National Holiday), Sakura City offers the coming-of-age ceremony to those who were born between April 2, 1991 and April 1, 1992. The ceremony is divided into three ones, 30 minutes each, by residential area of the new adults as follows:

- Usui/Chiyoda: 10:00-, ●Shizu: 11:30-,
- Sakura/Negoh/Wada/Yatomi: 13:30-

- Doors open 30 minutes before opening of each ceremony.
- Please present your invitation card at the reception desk.
- Those who do not have the invitation card (who have moved out from the city, moved in after December 1, 2011, or not received or lost the card, etc.) could receive one at the re-issuance desk at the venue.
- No food, beverages, or smoking are allowed at the venue. Cell-phone use is also prohibited.
- Although parking at the Jusco Usui is available for 2.5 hours for free, you are encouraged to take public transportation as traffic jams are usually foreseen around the event site.

Call *Jidoh-seishoh'nen-ka* (The Children & Youth Section), ☎484-6190 for more information.



### NEW YEAR'S GIFTS FOR READERS!

You are cordially invited to apply for our New Year's gifts for 30 people:

- (1) 5 pairs of admission tickets for Kawamura Memorial DIC Museum of Art
- (2) Sakura City Museum's original sketchbook & colored pencils set, for 5 people
- (3) A 'Fortune Bringing Towel' with *Shichi-fukujin* illustration, for 10 people
- (4) A replica of the original picture & a clear plastic folder with illustration of 'Kamuro-chan' for 5 people



Clear folder with signed illustration by Suika-san

To apply, send a postcard, a fax, or an e-mail to "Dokusha Present (gifts for readers)" c/o *Koh'hoh-ka* (the Public Relations Section) at the Sakura City Hall: 〒285-8501, 97 Kairinji-machi, Sakura; fax 486-8720; e-mail: [koho@city.sakura.lg.jp](mailto:koho@city.sakura.lg.jp). The application should contain: your opinions or comments on 'Hello Sakura', your preferred gift, your name, address, age, gender, and telephone number. The application must arrive by Friday, January 13. Only one application and one gift per person is allowed. Winners will receive the gift without prior announcement.

# CHANGES TO THE BASIC RESIDENT REGISTRATION LAW

## ~Foreign residents will be subject to the Basic Resident Registration Law~



The amendments to the Basic Resident Registration Law will come into effect in July this year, making the Law applicable to foreign residents and help improve their convenience. Also, Immigration Laws were revised in line with the abolishment of the Alien Registration Act. This will replace a certificate of alien registration with a new form of identification, called *zairyu* (residence) card which will be issued at the airport to foreign nationals with legal status of residence. For detailed information, please visit the following websites, or call *Shimin-ka* (Social Service Section), ☎484-6121.

- Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications  
[http://www.soumu.go.jp/main\\_sosiki/jichi\\_gyousei/c-gyousei/zairyu\\_english.html](http://www.soumu.go.jp/main_sosiki/jichi_gyousei/c-gyousei/zairyu_english.html)
- Immigration Bureau of Japan
  - i) For special permanent residents (Japanese language version only)  
[http://www.immi-moj.go.jp/newimmiact\\_2/index.html](http://www.immi-moj.go.jp/newimmiact_2/index.html)
  - ii) For foreign residents other than i) (English version)  
[http://www.immi-moj.go.jp/newimmiact\\_1/en/index.html](http://www.immi-moj.go.jp/newimmiact_1/en/index.html)

## FREE CONSULTATION SERVICES FOR FOREIGN RESIDENTS

- Don't suffer alone! -

Foreign residents who have problems related to daily living, visas, etc., are welcome to call or visit the following facilities for free consultation. Matters discussed will be kept strictly confidential at all times. A call prior to your visit is always appreciated.

### <FREE ADVISORY SERVICES RELATING TO DAILY LIVING>

- **Sakura International Exchange Foundation (S.I.E.F.)**, Rainbow Plaza Sakura, ☎484-6326, provides advice on daily living generally on ●Tuesdays in Spanish, ●Thursdays in English, ●Fridays in Chinese. They are offered during the time of 10:00-12:00 and 13:00-16:00. Reservation is not required. Will be closed from December 23 to January 3.

### <FREE GENERAL CONSULTATIONS>

- **Consultation meeting for foreign residents in Chiba Prefecture** will be held on **Saturday, January 21 13:00-16:00 at Funabashi Chuo Kohminkan**, ☎047-434-5551, 2-2-5 Honcho, Funabashi City (7-minute walk from JR Funabashi Station, 5-minute walk from Keisei Funabashi Station). Consultations will be made by lawyer, administrative scrivener, specialist in social insurance and tax accountant. A translator is also available on prior request. Application is required by Friday, January 13. Please apply by calling *Kudo-san* at Chiba International Center, ☎043-297-0245, or sending fax or e-mail to ☎297-2753 or [kudo@ccb.or.jp](mailto:kudo@ccb.or.jp).



- **Chiba City International Exchange Plaza**, ☎202-3000, ---→ offers wide range of supports for foreign residents including free consultation, open area for communication, information services, etc., at 8<sup>th</sup> fl., 2nd Tower of Chiba Chuo Twin Building, 2-5-1 Chuo, Chuo-ku, Chiba (10-minute walk from JR Chiba Station). Will be closed from December 29 to January 3.

Free consultation at Chiba City International Exchange Plaza		
English	Mon - Fri	9:00 -16:30
	Sat	10:00 -16:30
Chinese	Mon - Fri	9:00 -19:30
	Sat	9:00 -16:30
Korean	Mon, Wed, Fri	10:00 -15:30
Spanish	Tue, Thu	10:00 -15:30
	Sat	9:00 -16:30

- **Telephone consultation by Chiba Convention Bureau and International Center (CCB-IC)**, ☎297-2966, provides advice on ● Mondays through Fridays, 9:00 - 12:00 & 13:00 - 16:00 in English, ● Mondays, Tuesdays, & Wednesdays, 9:00- 12:00 & 13:00-16:00 in Spanish, and ● Tuesdays, 9:00-12:00 in Chinese. Will be closed from December 29 to January 3.

### <FREE LEGAL CONSULTATIONS>

Consultations regarding visas and other legal problems will be provided by lawyers and legal specialists as shown below. Appointment is required for all the session.


- **On February 6 & March 5 (Mondays), 13:00-16:00, at CCB-IC**, 14<sup>th</sup> fl., Marive East, World Business Garden, 2-6 Nakase, Mihama-ku, Chiba (3-minute walk from JR Kaihin-Makuhari Station). Interpretation is available on prior request. Please apply by calling *Kudo-san* at Chiba International Center, ☎297-0245 or sending fax or e-mail to ☎297-2753 or [kudo@ccb.or.jp](mailto:kudo@ccb.or.jp).
- **On January 16, February 20, and March 19 (Mondays), 13:00-16:00 at Chiba City International Plaza**, 8<sup>th</sup> fl., 2nd Tower of Chiba Chuo Twin Building, 2-5-1 Chuo, Chuo-ku, Chiba (10-minute walk from JR Chiba Station). Please apply by calling ☎202-3000 or sending fax or e-mail to ☎202-3111 or [ccia@ccia-chiba.or.jp](mailto:ccia@ccia-chiba.or.jp)

## NEW YEAR GARBAGE COLLECTION

Volume of burnable garbage at the first collections of New Year tends to be very high. Please help us by splitting your garbage into separate collection days between January 4 (Wed) and 9 (Mon). Call *Haikibutsu Taisaku-ka* (the Garbage Control Section), ☎484-6149 for more information.

## REVISED CONTACT INFORMATION FOR AFTER-SCHOOL DAYCARE PROGRAM

Registration for *gakudoh-hoikusho/jidoh-club* (after-school daycare center) for April enrollment is to be accepted **between Friday, January 6 and Thursday, January 19**. Appointment for an interview is required prior to application to public centers. Table below shows changes to the last month's announcement (shaded parts are unchanged). For details other than shown below, please refer to the last edition of Hello Sakura.

NAMES of AFTER-SCHOOL DAYCARE CENTERS (Gakudoh-Hoikusho, G/H)	ADDRESSES	GRADES	CONTACT INFORMATION	APPLICATIONS ACCEPTED BETWEEN
Shizu Jidoh Center G/H	Kami-shizu 1764-6	1-3	Shizu Jidoh Center: 488-0326	9:00-16:00 except Mondays & national holidays 
Nishi-Shizu-shoh Jidoh Club	Nishi-Shizu Elementary School	1-3		
Kita-shizu Jidoh Center G/H	Ino 794-1	1-6	Kita-shizu Jidoh Center: 487-6782	
Odake G/H	Odake Elementary School	1-6		
Nambu Jidoh Center G/H	Oh-shinozuka 1587	1-6	Nambu Jidoh Center: 483-2800	
Negoh G/H	On a premise of Negoh Elementary School	1-3		
Dai-ni- Negoh G/H	Negoh Elementary School	4-6		
San-noh G/H	San-noh Elementary School	1-6	Usui Roh'yoh-no-Yakata: 487-6210	
Usui Roh'yoh-no-yakata G/H	Ohji-dai 6-25-1	1-3		
Chiyoda G/H	Chiyoda Elementary School	1-6		

## SPECIAL EVENTS TO CELEBRATE THE NEW YEAR

### ◆ SHICHI-FUKUJIN STAMP RALLY

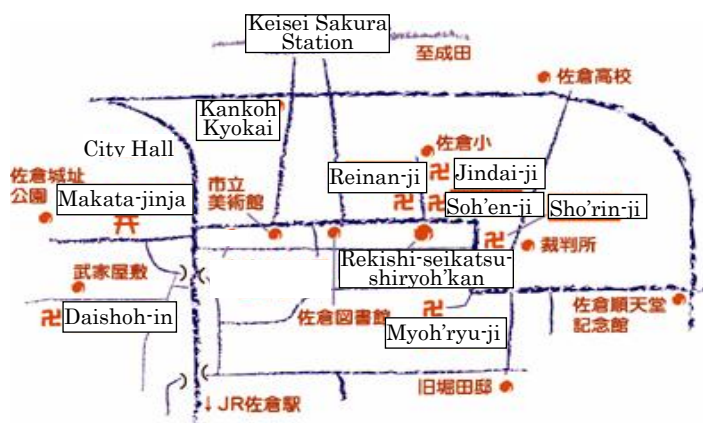


Wouldn't you like to try Shichi-fukujin Stamp Rally when you go 'Hatsu-moh'de' (the New Year's visit to shrine/temple)? Shichi-fukujin, which literally means "Seven Gods of Good Fortune", are said to bring wealth, happiness, and long life.

Visitors to the shrine/temples of the seven gods from 10:00 to 16:00 during the period from January 1 through January 10, or on the 10th day of every month, are invited to join a stamp rally.

Shrine/temples of seven gods are Jindai-ji, Soh'en-ji, Reinan-ji, Shoh'rin-ji, Myoh'ryu-ji, Makata-jinja, and Daishoh-in. Stamping sheets for vermilion seals are available at ¥400 each at any of the shrine/temples, Rekishi-seikatsu-shiryoh'kan (Center of history and folklore), or at the Sakura City Kankoh Kyohkai (1-minute walk from the south exit of Keisei Sakura Station, closed between January 1 and 3). ¥200 will be required per vermilion seal to be stamped on the sheet (¥300 for two seals each at Makata-jinja and Daishoh-in).

● On **January 7 (Sat), 10:00 to 12:30**, a guided tour to visit shrines and temples in Sakura, including the above, will be offered rain or shine to learn their history and Sakura's culture. Limited to 30 people on first come, first served basis. 100 yen will be charged for insurance. Call Sakura Shoh'koh-kaigi-sho (Sakura Chamber of Commerce and Industry), ☎486-6117 for more information.



### ◆ MAKING OF NARIKI-MOCHI (BRANCHES DECORATED WITH RICE-CAKE FLOWERS)

Why don't you join in *Nariki-mochi* making, one of the traditional New Year events to pray for health and a bumper crop for the year? *Nariki*, also called *Mayu-dama* or *Mochi-bana*, is a tree with pink and white *mochi* (rice cakes) stuck on the tips of their branches decorated for *Ko-sho'gatsu*, January 15<sup>th</sup> according to current or former Japanese calendar. *Shizu Jidoh Center* invites citizens from infant through adults to this event on **Saturday, January 14, from 10:00 to 12:00**. Free of charge and no application required. Infants must be accompanied by parents/guardians. Call *Shizu Jidoh Center*, ☎488-0326 for further information.



### ◆ TAKO-AGE TAIKAI (KITE-FLYING CONTEST)

*Tako-age* (kite-flying) is a popular pleasure among Japanese especially during New Year's holidays. Many *Tako-age Taikai* are held all over Japan to celebrate the New Year. In Sakura, an annual contest will be held at the athletic field of *Iwana Undoh Koh'en* (Iwana Sports Park) on **Sunday, January 15 from 9:30 to 11:30**. Kites may be of any size or design, handmade or purchased from stores, although flying a kite with a fishing rod is forbidden because it is dangerous. Prizes will be awarded for kites that are judged to be unique, or those that fly relatively high. Everyone is welcome to participate. Free of charge. Please feel free to participate as there is no need to register in advance. Call *Jidoh-seishoh'nen-ka* (The Children & Youth Section), ☎484-6190 through Friday, January 13, or, on the event day, *Iwana Undoh Koh'en*, ☎484-4375 for further information.

### ◆ MOCHI-TSUKI (MOCHI POUNDING, OR RICE-CAKE MAKING) EVENT AT KUSABUE-NO-OKA

On **Tuesday, January 3**, everyone is invited to the *Mochi Pounding* event at *Kusabue-no-Oka* to fully enjoy the New Year! Admission fee to *Kusabue-no-Oka* is free on the day. You could also enjoy *Zohni*, Japanese traditional soup for New Year containing *Mochi* at the event site among others.



## HEALTH CHECKS FOR CHILDREN

Kenkoh Kanri Center (Health Management Center) ☎485-6711; Seibu Hoken Center (Seibu Health & Welfare Center) ☎463-4181; Nambu Hoken Center (Nambu Health & Welfare Center) ☎483-2812.

AGES OF CHILDREN	January '12	TIMES	PLACES
Health consultation for children of 4 months, born in August 2011	24 (Tue)	9:30-10:30	Kenkoh Kanri Center
		13:30-14:30	
	31 (Tue)	9:30-10:30 13:30-14:30	Seibu Hoken Center
	6 (Fri)	13:30-14:30	Nambu Hoken Center
<i>Mogu-mogu</i> (munching) Class for children of 8 months, born in April 2011	10 (Tue)	9:30-9:45	Kenkoh Kanri Center
	27 (Fri)		Seibu Hoken Center
For 18-month-old children born in July 2010	17 (Tue)	13:15-14:15	Kenkoh Kanri Center
	20 (Fri)		Seibu Hoken Center
	11 (Wed)		Nambu Hoken Center
For 3-year-old children born in July 2008	18 (Wed)	13:15-14:15	Kenkoh Kanri Center
	19 (Thu)		Seibu Hoken Center
	12 (Thu)		Nambu Hoken Center
Dental check for children born in January or July 2009 or in January 2010 * On the days with * mark, Consultation on Speech Development is also available.)	13* (Fri)	13:30-14:30	Kenkoh Kanri Center
	26 (Thu)		
	16* (Mon)		Seibu Hoken Center
	30 (Mon)		
	25* (Wed)		

### ANTENATAL CLASS FOR EXPECTANT PARENTS

An antenatal class for couples expecting a baby will be held on **January 14 (Sat), 9:00-13:00, at Kenkoh Kanri Center**, to provide expectant parents with knowledge on life with a newborn baby and basic baby care, in addition to an experience bathing a baby. Number of participants is limited to 20 couples on first-come, first-served basis. Application required.

### HEALTH CONSULTATIONS

**Child development consultation for preschoolers (*Suku-suku Hattatsu Sohdan*)** is available on **January 5 (Thu) and February 2 (Thu), 9:00-12:00 at Kenkoh Kanri Center**. If you feel distressed about your child's developmental or behavioral disorders, such as attention deficit disorder, do not suffer alone. Application required.

**Consultation with public health nurse for all ages** is available on **January 26 (Thu), 9:30 - 11:30, at Seibu Hoken Center**. Consultation on health check results and how to live a healthier life, nutritional guidance, and health check including blood-pressure measurement can be provided. Application required.

**Telephone counseling with public health nurse or nutritionist** is available at each center, 8:30-17:00, Monday - Friday. Dental hygienist or speech therapist are also available at Kenkoh Kanri Center.

### HOLIDAY & NIGHTTIME EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

Always be sure to bring your health insurance certificate!

#### **HOLIDAY & NIGHTTIME CLINIC FOR CHILDREN'S DISEASES IN ACUTE & EARLY STAGE (Pediatrics)**

For children under 16 years of age. Open year-round for treatment at Kenkoh Kanri Center from Monday through Saturday, 19:00-6:00 (next morning). On Sundays, public holidays, and year-end/New year holidays (12/29-1/3) 9:00-16:45 & 19:00-6:00 (next morning). Call ☎485-3355 for details.

#### **DAYTIME TREATMENT ON SUNDAYS, PUBLIC HOLIDAYS, & YEAR-END/NEW YEAR HOLIDAYS**

Consultation with doctors will be available at the doctor's office who is on duty in a rotation system. Call ☎484-2516 to learn the doctor on duty.

●Surgeon: 9:00-16:30, 19:00-21:45 ●Physician, dentist: 9:00-16:30 ●ENT doctor: 19:00-21:45

#### **NIGHTTIME TREATMENT ON SUNDAYS, PUBLIC HOLIDAYS, & YEAR-END/NEW YEAR HOLIDAYS**

Internal medicine & dental treatment are available at Kenkoh Kanri Center, between 19:00 and 21:45.

### THE POPULATION OF SAKURA CITY

As of the end of November 2011, the Japanese population of Sakura was 176,138 (87,130 males and 89,008 females) in 71,423 households. Registered foreign residents accounted for 2,072. The combined population of Sakura City was 178,210.