

HELLO SAKURA

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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. 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 may be made generally on Wednesdays through *Koh'hoh-ka* (the Public Relations Section) at Sakura City Hall.

KAKUTEI-SHINKOKU (FILING YOUR TAXES FOR 2010)

All residents of Japan are required to pay taxes, which are mainly consisted of income tax (national tax) and resident tax (local tax). Income tax and resident tax are levied according to the amount of your personal income.

INCOME TAX: You are required to file your income tax return if :

- the sum of your total employment income receipts exceeds ¥20 million, or
- you received employment income from one payer, and your total amount of various kinds of income other than employment exceeds ¥200,000, or
- you received employment income from two or more payers, and the total amount of your employment income receipts (excluding employment income subject to year-end adjustment) and various kinds of income other than employment and retirement income exceeds ¥200,000, or
- income tax was not withheld from your wages each month.
- Others. For example, if you have income from sources abroad, you need to file depending on your resident status.



RESIDENT TAX: In Sakura the resident tax is comprised of municipal resident tax (city tax) and prefectural resident tax. Residents of Sakura as of January 1, 2011, with income earned in Japan during the past 12 months from January through December, 2010, need to file a resident tax return form with the City Tax Section at the Sakura City Hall. However, you are not required to file if :

- you plan to file an income tax return with the Narita Tax office, or
- your employer has submitted a withholding statement to the Taxation Section and you had no income from other sources, or
- you are listed as a dependent family member on the tax return form or on the statement of earnings of any other member in the same household.

The tax return forms will be sent in early February to those who filed their tax return last year.

First-time tax payers are required to visit the City Tax Section or city branch offices to obtain the form

◆**Consultation and submission of tax return forms (any kind of taxes, e.g. inheritance tax) are available at the Aeon Hall, on the 2nd floor, Aeon Mall Narita (24 Wing-Tsuchiya, Narita) through Tuesday, March 15, 9:00-17:00** (except Saturdays, Sundays, and national holiday (i.e. February 11). Nevertheless, they are provided and accepted on Sundays, February 20 and 27.). Please note that **the Narita Tax Office now only accepts submission of the forms**. If you mail the forms, please send them to: *Narita Zeimusho, Kojin-kazei-bumon* (or The Individual Taxation Section at the Narita Tax Office), 1-15 Karabe, Narita-shi, ☎286-8501.

◆**Consultation and submission of tax return forms (income and resident taxes) are available at the Conference Room on the 3rd floor of the Social Welfare Center in Sakura's City Hall from Wednesday, February 16 through Tuesday, March 15, 9:00-15:00** (except Saturdays and Sundays. On Sundays, February 27 and March 13, however, consultation and submission of resident tax return are available.). You may claim tax refunds by declaring deductions for costly medical expenses, housing loans, etc. If you would like to have a consultation, but you do not quite understand Japanese, please come with someone who can interpret for you. City branch offices only accept submission of the forms. If you mail the forms, please send them to: *Sakura Shiyakusho Kazei-ka* (or The Tax Section at Sakura City Hall), 97 Kairinji-machi, Sakura-shi, ☎285-8501.

For further information on income tax, call the Narita Tax Office, ☎0476-28-5151; or call the City Tax Section at the Sakura City Hall, ☎484-6115 for further information on resident tax. We recommend you to access the following website **"2010 INCOME TAX GUIDE FOR FOREIGNERS"** written in English (the homepage of the National Taxation Office) for further information on filing of tax returns:

<http://www.nta.go.jp/tetsuzuki/shinkoku/shotoku/tebiki2010/pdf/43.pdf>

SPECIAL PUBLIC VIEWING of *KYU-HOTTA-TEI* (THE FORMER RESIDENCE OF LORD HOTTA) & *BUKE-YASHIKI* (OLD SAMURAI HOUSE) on FEBRUARY 11 (NATIONAL HOLIDAY)



Kyu-Hotta-tei was the residence of the last lord of the Sakura clan, Masatomo Hotta. The main part of the residence consists of five single-storied (though partly two-storied) wooden buildings with tiled hipped roofs, which are connected by corridors. They remain in good condition, almost as they were when completed in 1890. The main part of the residence, the gatekeeper's lodge, and the storehouse were designated as National

Important Cultural Property in 2006. On the February 11 special viewing day, in addition to the usual tour in the house, visitors will be guided through the old house to view the gatekeeper's lodge, the study room, and the living room on the 2nd floor which are normally closed to the public. It is open from 10:00 to 16:30 (admittance is accepted by 16:00).

Admission fees are ¥310/adult and ¥150/student.

Buke-yashiki There are three samurai houses of the Edo Period (1603-1867) along *Buke-yashiki* street of Miyakohji-machi. One of them, the *Kyu-Kawara-ke* (the old residence of the Kawara family), was designated as Chiba Prefectural Cultural Property. At *Kyu-Kawara-ke*, visitors are allowed to enter the rooms on February 11 (Entering the rooms is usually forbidden at *Kyu-Kawara-ke*).

Admission fees are ¥210/adult and ¥100/student. One admission ticket is valid for all three houses.

Note Groups of 20 people or more will get group discount. **It would be money-saving if you buy a common ticket covering *Kyu-Hotta-tei*, *Buke-yashiki* and *Sakura Juntendoh Kinenkan* (Juntendoh Memorial Building).** The common ticket is available for ¥520/adult and ¥260/student at any of these facilities. Please note the ticket is valid only on the day of issuance. Call *Bunka-ka* (the Culture Section) ☎484-6191 for further information.

RESIDENTS' DISASTER MUTUAL AID INSURANCE

The city of Sakura sponsors an inexpensive insurance program (*Sakura-shi Saigai Kyoh'sai*) that offers limited coverage for personal injuries, death, and house damage (for residential building only) caused by fires, lightning strikes, gas explosions, rainstorms, tornados, floods, etc. Damage caused by earthquakes, snowfalls, hailstorms, or decrepitude of houses are excluded. Also, damage of decorations, electric appliances, ancillary facilities, and store buildings are not covered. Heads of the households who are registered as Sakura citizens (including foreign residents) are eligible to enroll in this program.



BENEFITS The benefit of this insurance will be given separately from your other insurance.

★**HOUSE DAMAGE:** The maximum benefit for total loss by fire or complete collapse of houses: ¥1.2 million for owner-occupied house; ¥0.6 million for rented house. Lower benefits will be given for partial loss.

★**PERSONAL INJURIES & DEATHS:** The maximum benefit is ¥1.2 million for death. Lower benefits will be given for injuries.

PREMIUMS ¥1,000/household.

DURATION OF INSURANCE Coverage will start on April 1, 2011 and end on March 31, 2012.

NOTE Program leaflets and application forms are available in Japanese at *Koh'tsuh-boh'sai-ka* (the Traffic & Disaster Prevention Section), city branch offices, and service centers.

Call *Koh'tsuh-boh'sai-ka*, ☎484-6131 or visit the web-site:

<http://www.city.sakura.lg.jp/kotubosa/index.htm> (written only in Japanese) for further information.

CONGRATULATORY MONEY TO SINGLE-PARENT FAMILIES

The city of Sakura will present a congratulatory monetary gift to single-parent families if they have children who will enter elementary, junior, or senior high school, or start to work after completing junior high school study in April, 2011. Also, families where people other than parents are bringing up the children are eligible to apply. A monetary gift of ¥10,000 will be presented per child. Applications must arrive no later than Monday, February 28.

Call *Jidoh-Seishoh'nen-ka* (the Children and Youth Section), ☎484-6140 for further information.



SPECIAL CLOSING DAYS OF SHIZU LIBRARY



In addition to the usual closing days on every Monday and every 1st Tuesday, Shizu Library will be closed for the special inventory from February 2 (Wed.) through February 6 (Sun.). While the library is closed, please return books and magazines to 'book return post boxes'. As to audio visual items, you are requested to return them directly to the library desk on the library opening day. Never put them back into the 'return post boxes', in order to protect the items from getting damaged.

RECRUITMENT OF CITY TEMPORARY WORKERS

The city of Sakura is now recruiting a wide range of skilled and unskilled staff such as librarians, sanitation workers, nursery staff, custodians, cooks, nurses, etc. Any nationality is welcome. Many of them are required to have proficiency in the Japanese language and particular qualifications such as teaching certificate, librarian certificate of Japan. Details of the recruitment are found on the fifth page of the February 1st issue of '*Kohoh Sakura*' (municipal newsletter written in Japanese).

Here, we present positions which do not require special certificates.

Employment period is from April 1, 2011 until March 31, 2012.

★COOKS/CUSTODIANS AT PUBLIC NURSERY SCHOOLS IN SAKURA

Working hours: 3 days/week, 7 hours/day; or 5 days/week, 5 hours/day. Hourly wage: ¥840.

Applicants are required to have skills in reading and writing kanji, as well as good Japanese communication skills, because they prepare food according to the recipe.

Application deadline is Tuesday, February 15. Bring the resume (photograph attached), or send it by post to *Kosodate-shien-ka* (the Child-rearing Support Section), 97 Kairinji-machi, Sakura-shi, 〒285-8501. Successful applicants will be selected after the screening of documents and interview.

Call *Kosodate-shien-ka*, ☎484-6246 for further information.

★CUSTODIANS AT SAKURA ROH'YOH'-NO-YAKATA (CENTER FOR CHILDREN & SENIOR CITIZENS)/SHIZU JIDOH CENTER (CHILDREN'S CENTER)

5 days/week, 4 hours/day. Hourly wage: ¥800.

Applicants are required to have good Japanese communication skills, so that they can understand the instructions and make themselves understood. Application deadline is Thursday, February 10. Bring the resume (photograph attached), or send it by post to *Sohmu-ka* (the General Affairs Section), 97 Kairinji-machi, Sakura-shi, 〒285-8501. Successful applicants will be selected after the screening of documents and interview around mid-February. Call *Sohmu-ka*, ☎484-6210 for further information.

FREE VACCINATIONS FOR CERVICAL CANCER, HIB, & PNEUMOCOCCAL DISEASE

From April 1, 2011 until March 31, 2012, free vaccinations against the above diseases will be given to the following children by public funds. Vaccinations before March 31, 2011 are not offered free of charge. In late March, the city of Sakura will send notes of invitation and preliminary medical examination lists to the eligible children. For receiving vaccinations, make an appointment with the designated medical institution. Call *Kenkoh-Zoh'shin-ka* (the Health Promotion Section), ☎485-6711 for further information.

★CERVICAL CANCER VACCINES (also called HUMAN PAPILLOMA VIRUS or HPV VACCINES)

Three injections for girls between the ages of 13 years and 16 years.

★HIB (HAEMOPHILUS INFLUENZA TYPE B) VACCINES

For children between the ages of two months and 4 years (until the child become 5 years old).

Times of injections differ according to the starting age of injection (In most cases, four injections will be given).

The HIB vaccine protects your child against severe bacterial infections such as bacterial meningitis (also called HIB meningitis - an infection of the membrane covering the brain and spinal cord) that mostly affect babies and children under 5 years old. HIB meningitis causes death in one out of 20 children and permanent brain damage in 10 to 30 % of those who survive.

★PEDIATRIC PNEUMOCOCCAL VACCINES

For children between the ages of two months and 4 years (until the child become 5 years old).

Times of injections differ according to the starting age of injection (In most cases, four injections will be given.)

The pediatric pneumococcal vaccine protects your child against such diseases as bacterial meningitis and otitis media (inflammation of the middle ear).



HTLV-1 ANTIBODY TESTING FOR EXPECTANT MOTHERS

HTLV-1 (human T-cell leukemia virus type 1. Also called human T-cell lymphotropic virus type 1) is a type of virus that infects T-cells (a type of white blood cell) and can cause leukemia and lymphoma. The virus is spread by sharing syringes or needles, through blood transfusions or sexual contact, and from mother to child during birth or breast-feeding. The city of Sakura offers subsidy to expectant mothers who had a test to detect the presence of HTLV-1 antibodies in the blood after October 6, 2010. Only Sakura residents on the day of the test are eligible to receive the subsidy. For further information, call one of the health management centers (telephone numbers are listed on the top of the next page).



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	FEBRUARY '11	TIMES	PLACES
Health consultation for children of 4 months born in September, 2010	9	9:30-10:30	Kenkoh Kanri Center
	8	13:30-14:30	Seibu Hoken Center
	23	13:30-14:30	Nambu Hoken Center
<i>Mogu-mogu</i> (munching) Class for 8-month-old children born in May, 2010	2	9:30-9:45	Kenkoh Kanri Center
	3		Seibu Hoken Center
	23		Nambu Hoken Center
For 18-month-old children born in July, 2009	17	13:15-14:15	Kenkoh Kanri Center
	16		Seibu Hoken Center
For 3-year-old children born in August, 2007	18	13:15-14:15	Kenkoh Kanri Center
	24		Seibu Hoken Center
Dental check for children born in February & August, 2008 & in February, 2009	15	13:30-14:30	Kenkoh Kanri Center
	21		
	10		Seibu Hoken Center
	28		
	2		

HEALTH CONSULTATIONS

Child development consultation for preschoolers (*Suku-suku Hattatsu Sohdan*) is available on Thursday, February 3, 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 ●Feb. 10, 13:30-15:30, at Kenkoh Kanri Center, and ●Feb. 24, 9:30-11:30, at Nambu Hoken Center. Appointment is required. Public health nurse will help you to develop a healthier lifestyle. Application required.

Telephone counseling with public health nurse or nutritionist is available at any of the centers, 8:30-17:00, Monday - Friday. If you need a consultation with dental hygienist or speech therapist, call Kenkoh Kanri Center.

FREE ANTENATAL CLASSES

Free antenatal classes will be held at Nambu Hoken Center in February and March for expectant mothers to have the first babies between May & July, 2011. The program will include instructions on how to raise a healthy child, preparation of nutritious baby food, a lecture by a dentist, etc. There is a limit of 35 people in a class. To attend, application is needed by calling Nambu Hoken Center.

LESSON	DATES	TIMES
1 st	Feb. 15	9:00-15:20
2 nd	Mar. 6	9:00-13:00

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 15 years old or younger. 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) 9:00-17:00 (reception is available until 16:45) & 19:00-6:00 (next morning). Call ☎485-3355 for further information.

DAYTIME TREATMENT ON SUNDAYS, PUBLIC HOLIDAYS, & YEAR-END/NEW YEAR HOLIDAYS Consultation with doctors (surgeon, physician, and dentist) 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.

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 22:00 (reception is available until 21:45.). Consultation with surgeons and ENT doctors will be available at the doctor's office who is on duty in a rotation system. Call ☎485-6711 to learn the doctor on duty.

POPULATION OF SAKURA CITY

As of the end of December 2010, the Japanese population of Sakura was 176,128 (86,978 male and 89,150 female) in 70,786 households. Registered foreign residents accounted for 2,029. The combined population of Sakura City was 178,157.

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