

# 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.



## A New Year's Message from Sakura's Mayor -So that Sakura's residents will feel happy living here -



明けましておめでとうございます



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

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

I have welcomed the New Year as mayor of Sakura for the fourth time. While I have been mayor, I have pursued better welfare services, such as expanding subsidy system for infant medical expenses and increasing the number of private nursery schools and special nursing-care home for the aged. As for improvement of our citizens' living environment, I helped start demand-responsive transport service in the southern district, and took sweeping measures to make progress on 'the Shizu Cemetery issue' (a longstanding issue of transfer of Shizu Cemetery, in order to construct a bypass road connecting Shizu to Katsuta-dai. This bypass will help ease the traffic jam on the Route 296.). For the younger generation, we improved the earthquake-resistance of city school buildings, and completed reconstruction of *Yatomi koh'minkan* (community center). Establishment of the Industry Promotion Act and revival of the annual fireworks show have helped invigorate local industry and the economy. I have been able to fulfill many of my political promises declared in my first campaign, thanks to citizens' cooperation and understanding, and believe I achieved some positive results so far. This year, I am determined to keep making every effort to improve and enhance these measures.

So that Sakura's residents will feel happy living here, I will work through the city government administration to re-energize various spheres of the city – such as industry, environment, education, culture, and the arts. Your continued cooperation and support will be highly appreciated.

In closing, I would like to extend my best wishes to every city resident, and hope that this year will be filled with joy and success for you and your loved ones.

*Kazuo Warabi*  
Mayor, Sakura City

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

“*Seijin-no-hi* (Coming-of-Age Day), which falls on Monday, January 10 this year, is dedicated to the nation's young people who have reached the age of 20. It is the age when Japanese people are defined to attain legal maturity, and after that, they are eligible to vote. The Day is observed as a national holiday, and municipal governments celebrate it for their 20-year-old residents. It is meant to be an auspicious event to celebrate and encourage the people who are to realize that they become adults and make up their mind to live their life independently.



In Sakura, the City offers a 30-minute celebratory ceremony at the City Concert Hall on January 10 for the residents of: Usui/Chiyoda Districts from 10:00; Shizu District from 11:30; and Sakura/Negoh/Wada/Yatomi Districts from 13:30. Invitation cards were sent to the people who were born between April 2, 1990 and April 1, 1991. No food, beverages, or smoking are allowed at the event site. 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 66 people! :

- (1) A guidebook for absolute beginner walkers, written by Mr. Yoshio Koide, a well-known marathon coach who trained many marathon medalists. With his autograph. For three people.
- (2) 10 pairs of admission tickets for National Museum of Japanese History.
- (3) 10 pairs of admission tickets for Sakura City Museum of Art.
- (4) Papercraft (also called paper model) of 'Old Sakura Castle' for 10 people.
- (5) A 'Fortune Bringing Towel' with *Shichi-fukujin* pictures for 10 people.
- (6) A paperboard with illustration of '*Kamuro-chan*', the official mascot of 'Sakura 400 Years as a Castle Town' project. For three people.

(6) A paperboard with illustration of '*Kamuro-chan*'



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 personal particulars such as name, address, age, gender, and telephone number. The application deadline date is Friday, January 14. Only one application and one gift per person is allowed. Winners will receive the gift without prior announcement.

## SPECIAL EVENTS TO CELEBRATE THE NEW YEAR

◆ **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 16 from 9:30 to 11:30. Everyone is welcome to participate and it is free of charge.



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. The event will be cancelled if it rains. Please feel free to participate as it is not necessary to register in advance. Call *Jidoh-seishoh'nen-ka* (The Children & Youth Section), ☎484-6190 for further information.

◆ **NEW YEAR'S EVENT AT KUSABUE-NO-OKA:** Various events will be held as follows:

● On Monday, January 3 (admission is free on this day): *mochi* (rice cakes)-making, *tako-age* (kite-flying), sales of *zoh-ni* (traditional New Year's soup with *mochi* and vegetables), etc.



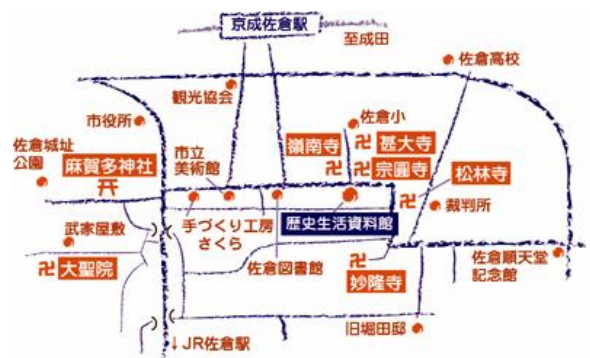
● On Saturday, January 15 & Sunday, January 16: Good luck events such as lottery and quiz associated to this year's zodiac animal, rabbit.

Admission to Kusabue-no-oka is ¥300 for junior high school & elementary school students, ¥150 for preschool children, and ¥400 for others. Call Kusabue-no-oka, ☎485-7821 for more information.

◆ **SHICHI-FUKUJIN STAMP RALLY:** Why not join *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. To Japanese people, the first dream of the New Year is very meaningful. Since the 15<sup>th</sup> century, Japanese have believed their fortunes for the coming year are told in the first dreams of the year. To ensure they will have good dreams on the New Year's night from the 1<sup>st</sup> to the 2<sup>nd</sup> of January, they put pictures of the Seven Gods of Fortune under the pillows (although it is now less common to do so than before).



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 at *Makata-jinja* and *Daishoh-in*). Call Sakura *Shoh'koh-kaigi-sho* (Sakura Chamber of Commerce and Industry), ☎486-6117 for more information.

# 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 counseling. Matters discussed will be kept strictly confidential at all times. A call prior to your visit is always appreciated. National holidays and the 'year-end through New Year holidays' are excluded from consultation days.



## <FREE ADVISORY SERVICES RELATED TO DAILY LIVING>

- <Sakura International Exchange Foundation> (S.I.E.F.), Rainbow Plaza Sakura, ☎484-6326, 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.
- <Chiba International Center, telephone counseling> at ☎297-2966, 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.
- <Chiba City International Association>, ☎202-3000, ---→ 8<sup>th</sup> fl., 2nd Tower of Chiba Chuoh Twin Building, 2-5-1 Chuoh, Chuoh-ku, Chiba City.

Chiba City International Association		
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

## <FREE LEGAL CONSULTATIONS>

Consultations regarding visas and other legal problems will be provided by lawyers and legal specialists as follows:

- <Chiba International Center> Interpretation is available on prior request. The application is accepted by calling the Chiba International Center, ☎297-0245, Fax: 297-2753, or by e-mail: [kudo@ccb.or.jp](mailto:kudo@ccb.or.jp).
  - ◆Venue in Mihama: Once a month on Mondays. Dates through March are: February 7 and March 7, 13:00-16:00. The Center is located on the 14<sup>th</sup> fl., Marive East World Business Garden, 2-6 Nakase, Mihama-ku, Chiba, 3-minute-walk from Kaihin-Makuhari Station of JR Keiyoh Line.
  - ◆Venue in Funabashi City: On Saturday, January 22, 13:00-16:00. At Funabashi-shi Chuh'oh Koh'min-kan (7-minute walk from JR Funabashi Station, or 5-minute walk from Keisei Funabashi Station). The application deadline date is Friday, January 14.
- <Chiba City International Association> On Mondays, January 17 and March 28, 13:00 - 16:00. 10-minute-walk from JR Chiba Station. Appointment is required by calling ☎202-3000, fax: 202-3111, or by e-mail: [ccia@ccia-chiba.or.jp](mailto:ccia@ccia-chiba.or.jp) Chiba city residents have priority over others in making an appointment for consultation.

<NOTE> You can get various useful information such as salon activities, lecture courses, volunteers, etc. at the English website of Chiba International Center: [http://www.mcic.or.jp/e\\_index.htm](http://www.mcic.or.jp/e_index.htm)

## GLOBAL FESTA CHIBA

- What you can do for the world -

Chiba Convention Bureau & International Center, Chiba Prefecture, JICA, and Chiba branch office of UNICEF Japan will jointly organize this event on Sunday, February 6, 10:00 - 16:00, at Chiba University *Keyaki Kaikan*, 1-33, Yayoi-choh, Inage-ku, Chiba City (7-minute walk from JR Nishi-Chiba Station, or from Keisei Midori-dai Station). There will be various events related to international exchange and cooperation: Lecture presentations, presentation booths introducing international exchange activities in Chiba Prefecture, gathering of UNISEF, stamp rally, and lots more. Participation is free of charge. Call Chiba International Center, ☎297-0245 for more information.

## A CHANGE IN THE DATE

### WHEN THE *JIDAI MATSURI* (FESTIVAL OF THE AGES) WILL BE HELD

The annual Festival of the Ages has thus far been held every April. This year, however, it will be held in early December. The exact date is to be announced later. Call *Sangyoh-shinkoh-ka* (Industry/Tourism Promotion Section), ☎484-6146 for further information.

## SPECIAL CLOSING DAYS OF SAKURA CITY LIBRARIES



In addition to the usual closing days on every Monday and every 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday, Usui Koh'minkan Library Room will be closed for the special inventory from Tuesday, January 18 to Friday, January 21; and Kita-Shizu Children's Center Library Room, from Tuesday, January 25 to Friday, January 28. While the libraries are closed, please return books and magazines to 'book return post boxes'.

## 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	Jan. 2011	TIMES	PLACES
Health consultation for children of 4 months born in August, 2010	25	9:30—10:30	Kenkoh Kanri Center
		13:30—14:30	
	12	9:30—10:30	Seibu Hoken Center
		13:30—14:30	
	20	13:30—14:30	Nambu Hoken Center
	<i>Mogu-mogu</i> (munching) Class for 8-month-old children born in April, 2010	21	9:30—9:45
24		Seibu Hoken Center	
For 18-month-old children born in June, 2009	18	13:15—14:15	Kenkoh Kanri Center
	26		Seibu Hoken Center
	13		Nambu Hoken Center
For 3-year-old children born in July, 2007	19	13:15—14:15	Kenkoh Kanri Center
	27		Seibu Hoken Center
	14		Nambu Hoken Center
Dental check for children born in January or July, 2008, or in January, 2009	12	13:30—14:30	Kenkoh Kanri Center
	31		
	17		Seibu Hoken Center
	24		
	21		

### HEALTH CONSULTATIONS

**Child development consultation for preschoolers (*Suku-suku Hattatsu Sohdan*)** is available on Thursday, January 6, 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 18, 9:30-11:30, at Seibu Hoken Center. Appointment is required. Public health nurse will help you 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 Seibu Hoken Center on Sunday, January 16, 9:00-13:00 for expectant mothers to have the first babies between March and May, 2011. The program will include maternity exercises, instructions on how to raise a healthy child, preparation of nutritious baby food, etc. There is a limit of 35 people in a class. To attend, application is required by calling Seibu Hoken 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 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 November 2010, Japanese population of Sakura was 176,124 (86,971 male and 89,153 female) in 70,761 households. Registered foreign residents accounted for 2,039. The combined population of Sakura City was 178,163. Printed on recycled paper.