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No.266

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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.

KAKUTEI SHINKOKU (TAX RETURN FILING FOR 2011)

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 personal income. As for the income tax, taxpayers shall calculate the income amount and income tax by themselves with respect to the whole income earned from January 1 through December 31 of 2011 in accordance with their own residential status, file a return to the District Director of Tax Office, and adjust any excess or shortage in tax payment withheld at the source or prepaid on the basis of estimated tax. This procedure is called the filing of the final return. The period for receiving assistance for completing the 2011 final income tax return and filing the tax return is **February 16 (Thu) through March 15 (Thu), 2012**. The due date for payment of 2011 income tax is March 15.



Please refer to the next page for the assistance and filing schedule.

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 only one payer, and the 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/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, 2012, with income earned in Japan during the past 12 months from January through December 2011, 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 salary payment report 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.

For details, please refer to **"2011 INCOME TAX GUIDE FOR FOREIGNERS"** (the homepage of the National Taxation Office, <http://www.nta.go.jp/tetsuzuki/shinkoku/shotoku/tebiki2011/pdf/43.pdf>).

FREE RENTAL RADIATION COUNTERS



PA1000Radi,
manufactured by
HORIBA, Ltd.

To help the citizens assess the radiation levels of surrounding living environment, the City lends out five radiation counters to the residents and local associations in Sakura. Persons eligible are:

- Resident of Sakura City,
- Corporation which has its office in Sakura City,
- Citizens' group in Sakura City, and
- Person who has a building or land in Sakura City

No commercial use is allowed.

Applications will be accepted from February 2 (Thu) and the lending starts on

February 6 (Mon). One person/group can lend only one counter at one time. Lending hours are from 9:00 to noon and 13:30 to 16:30 (limited to three hours per lending for individuals and four days including Saturday & Sunday for citizens groups).

How to borrow: (1) Make a reservation by calling or visiting *Kankyo-Hozen-ka* (Environment Preservation Section, ☎ 484-6150) between 8:30 and 17:00 on weekdays.

(2) Fill out the application form available at the lending desk and submit it when checking out a counter.

● Only one reservation can be done at one time, and 30 days of interval period is required before the next time. ● Before checking out, presentation of your ID document (e.g. drivers license, health insurance card, alien registration card, etc.) is required. Besides, groups need to present a certificate that shows the group is located in the City (e.g. employee ID). Call *Kankyo-Hozen-ka* for further information.

ASSISTANCE IN FILING YOUR TAX RETURN

You can claim tax refunds by declaring deductions for costly medical expenses, housing loans, social insurance premiums, etc. The table below shows where and when you could receive assistance or file tax return for 2011. Forms are accepted also by postal mail at the City Hall Tax Section (resident tax forms only), 97 Kairinji-machi, Sakura-shi, 〒285-8501 or Narita Tax Office (income tax forms only), 1-15 Karabe, Narita-shi, 〒286-8501. If you would like to receive assistance, but you do not quite understand Japanese, please come with someone who can interpret for you. Please note that **neither** acceptance at the Tax Section of the City Hall **nor** assistance at Narita Tax Office is available before March 16 (Fri). Call City Hall Tax Section, ☎484-6115 (for resident tax) or Narita Tax Office, ☎0476 - 28 - 5151 (for income tax forms only) for inquires.



| Location | Date | Time | Service |
|---|---|---|---|
| Narita Tax Office | February 16 to March 15 (except Sat & Sun) | 8:30 to 17:00 | Acceptance of income tax return forms ⁽¹⁾ |
| Aeon Hall (2 nd floor on the Aeon Mall Narita*, 24 Wing-Tsuchiya, Narita) | February 1 to March 15 (except Sat, Sun & national holidays) and Sunday special openings on February 19 and 26 | 9:00 to 17:00 | Acceptance of income tax return forms ⁽¹⁾ |
| | | 9:00 to 16:00** | Assistance in preparing income tax return forms ⁽¹⁾ |
| Sakura City Hall 2 nd floor Lobby of the 1 st bldg. | February 16 to March 15 (except Sat & Sun) | 9:00 to 17:00 | Acceptance of income/resident tax return forms ⁽¹⁾ |
| | Sunday special openings on February 26 and March 11 | | Acceptance of resident tax return forms |
| Sakura City Hall Conference Room on the 6 th floor of the 1 st bldg. | February 16 to March 15 (except Sat & Sun) | 9:00 to 15:00 | Assistance in preparing income/resident tax return forms ⁽²⁾ |
| | Sunday special openings on February 26 and March 11 | | Assistance in preparing the resident tax return forms |
| Citizens' Service Centers (at Nishi-shizu & Millennium Center) | January 30 to March 15 (including Sat & Sun but except Mondays and national holidays) | 9:00 to 17:00 | Acceptance of resident tax return forms (no consultation available) |
| City Branch Offices (including Shizu) | January 30 to March 15 (except Sat, Sun & national holidays) | 8:30 to 17:15 | |
| Shizu Branch Office | Sunday special openings on February 12, 26, and May 11 | | |
| Wada Furusato kan | February 17 | 9:30 to noon (Reception starts at 9:00) | Assistance in preparing the resident tax return forms |
| Yatomi Community Center | February 20 | | |

⁽¹⁾ Tax return forms for income tax, inheritance tax, etc.

⁽²⁾ Assistance at the City Hall is limited to addressing the following matters;

- Resident tax (City tax and Prefectural tax) return
- Filing of medical expenses deduction
- Declaration by pensioners and who have not completed the year-end adjustment due to retirement or other reasons

* Between 9:00 and 10:00, please use the dedicated "C" entrance on the 3rd floor of the multilevel parking lot connecting to the 2nd floor on the Aeon Mall.

** Between 12:00 and 13:00, you might be kept waiting longer because staffs take lunch breaks in turn.

- Please note that the venue at the City Hall is moved from the Social Welfare Center this year.
- Those who suffered damages from the Great East Japan Earthquake are entitled to special tax treatment including special provision for deduction for casualty losses.
- Also, there are cases that donation relating to the East Japan Earthquake deemed to be deductible. For detailed information, please contact Narita Tax Office.

CONGRATULATORY MONEY FOR SINGLE-PARENT FAMILIES



The city of Sakura will present a congratulatory monetary gift to single-parent families if they have children who enter elementary, junior, or senior high school, or start to work after completing junior high school study in April 2012. Also, families where people other than parents are bringing up the children are entitled to this gift of ¥10,000 per child. In January, application forms were sent out to the households which are recipients of Child Rearing Allowances or Medical Expense Subsidies for Single Parent Households. Please contact *Jidoh-Seishoh'nen-ka* (Children and Youth Section), ☎484-6140 if you have not received the application form yet, or in case you are not receiving those allowances. Application form must be submitted no later than **Wednesday, February 29** without fail, since any delay results in no pay.

TERMINATION OF SUBSIDY FOR INFANT CAR SEAT

Please make sure you apply for the subsidy for purchasing an infant car seat no later than **March 30 (Fri)**, as the subsidy will be discontinued as of March 31, 2012. Up to ¥5,000 for the cost of car seat purchased in Sakura for an infant up to the age of one year will be paid by the City. Call *Koh'tsu-boh'sai-ka* (Transportation & Disaster Preparedness Section) ☎484-6130 for further information.



MUNICIPAL HOUSING VACANCIES

The application for municipal housing will be accepted from **February 1 through February 15 (Wed)**. This time, three apartments (one 1DK and two 2DKs) are available at Ohja-machi, five-minute walk from *Koh'kaidoh-mae* bus stop. Eligible citizens are those who fulfill all the following conditions:

- i) live in Sakura for one year or more
- ii) have paid city taxes without delinquency
- iii) have one or more relatives to live together (however, those who are at the age of 60 or more can apply without a cohabiter)
- iv) evidently be in need of housing
- v) meet the income criteria (under 158,000 yen/month, or under 214,000 yen/month for households with certain conditions such as aged households, disabled households, etc.)
- vi) have a cosigner who can prove regular monthly income of at least same as the applicant
- vii) neither the applicant nor the cohabiter be a gangster

● Monthly rent is to be determined every year based on the tenants' income and the individual housing conditions. ● A deposit equivalent to three-month rent is required. ● Application leaflets are available at *Kenchiku-shidoh-ka* at the City Hall, city branch offices, and Nishi-shizu/Sakura Citizens' Service Centers. Call *Kenchiku-shidoh-ka* (Construction Guidance Section), ☎484-6168 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, tornadoes, 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, 2012 and end on March 31, 2013.

HOW TO ENROLL Program leaflets and application forms in Japanese are available at *Koh'tsuh-boh'sai-ka* (Traffic & Disaster Prevention Section), city branch offices, and service centers. Application can be done also at these offices. Please note that application by post mail is not accepted. Call *Koh'tsuh-boh'sai-ka*, ☎484-6131 or visit the following website for further information; <http://www.city.sakura.lg.jp/kotubosa/bosaikankei/saigaikyosai/saigai-kyousai23.html> (Japanese only).



SPECIAL CLOSING DAYS OF CITY LIBRARIES



In addition to the usual closing days on every Monday and every 1st Tuesday, all the City Libraries will be closed for an overall system update **from February 16 (Thu) through February 29 (Wed)**. During this period, the browsing of the homepage of the city library cannot be done either. Please return books and magazines to 'book return post boxes' during the closing period. As to audio visual items, you are requested to return them directly to the library desk on opening days. We apologize for the inconvenience in advance.

Exhibitions of Puppets for Sakura's Dashi Floats and Hina dolls

● At **Sakura City Museum of Art**, the six large puppets to be mounted on the Dashi floats at the event of *Sakura-no-Aki-Matsuri* (Sakura autumn festival), graphically tell us Sakura's historical culture and its close connection with Edo, will be displayed all together between **February 7 (Tue) and March 4 (Sun)**. Also at the Museum, **On March 3 (Sat)**, **Ohayashi recitals**, festival music played on Japanese traditional instruments, will be held four times between 10:45 and 16:00. No admission fee required. ● At *Kyu-Hiraike-Jyuh'taku* on *Shin-machi* street, a beautiful set of traditional Hina Dolls will be displayed **from February 7 (Tue) to March 3 (Sat)**. Call Culture Section, ☎484-6191 for details.



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 '12 | TIME | PLACE |
|--|--------------|-------------|---------------------|
| Health consultation for children of 4 months born in September, 2011 | 17 (Fri) | 9:30—10:30 | Kenkoh Kanri Center |
| | | 13:30—14:30 | |
| | 21 (Tue) | 9:30—10:30 | Seibu Hoken Center |
| | | 13:30—14:30 | |
| | 24 (Fri) | 13:30—14:30 | Nambu Hoken Center |
| <i>Mogu-mogu</i> (munching) Class for children of 8 months born in May, 2011 | 20 (Mon) | 9:30—9:45 | Kenkoh Kanri Center |
| | 27 (Mon) | | Seibu Hoken Center |
| | 24 (Fri) | | Nambu Hoken Center |
| For 18-month-old children born in August, 2010 | 14 (Tue) | 13:15—14:15 | Kenkoh Kanri Center |
| | 13 (Mon) | | Seibu Hoken Center |
| For 3-year-old children born in August, 2008 | 15 (Wed) | 13:15—14:15 | Kenkoh Kanri Center |
| | 9 (Thu) | | Seibu Hoken Center |
| Dental check for children born in February or August, 2009, or in February, 2010 | 6 (Mon) | 13:30—14:30 | Kenkoh Kanri Center |
| | 23 (Thu) | | |
| | 8 (Wed) | | Seibu Hoken Center |
| | 17 (Fri) | | |
| | 16 (Thu) | | |

HEALTH CONSULTATIONS

- **Child development consultation for preschoolers (*Suku-suku Hattatsu Sohdan*)** is available on **Thursdays, February 2 & March 1**, 9:00-12:00 at Kenkoh Kanri Center. If you feel distressed about your child's developmental/behavioral disorders, such as attention deficit disorder, do not suffer alone. Application required.
- **Consultation with public health nurse for all ages** is available on **Thursday, February 2**, 13:30-15:30, at Kenkoh Kanri Center, and on **Wednesday, February 15**, 9:30-11:30, at Nambu Hoken Center. Consultation on ways to get healthier and the health check results, 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** and **speech therapist** are also available at Kenkoh Kanri Center.

FREE ANTENATAL CLASSES

For expectant mothers and fathers to have the **first baby between May and July 2012**, the free antenatal classes will be held at **Nambu Hoken Center** on February 10 (Fri) and March 4 (Sun). The program will include instructions on life with a newborn baby, baby bath practice, pregnancy experience simulation for fathers, etc. Attendance at only one session is allowed and attendance by expectant fathers is recommended especially for the second session. There is a limit of 35 people in a class. Application required.

| LESSON | DATES | TIMES |
|-----------------|---------------|------------|
| 1 st | Feb. 10 (Fri) | 9:00-15:00 |
| 2 nd | Mar. 04 (Sun) | 9:00-12:30 |

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 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 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 22:00 (reception is available until 21:45.). Call ☎485-6711 for further information.

THE POPULATION OF SAKURA CITY

As of the end of December 2011, the Japanese population of Sakura was 176,188 (87,169 male and 89,019 female) in 71,464 households. Registered foreign residents accounted for 2,088. The combined population of Sakura City was 178,276.