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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.

May 3 (Thu) to May 6 (Sun)

SATUKI-SAI (MAY FESTIVAL) AT KUSABUE-NO-OKA PARK

Free admission for junior high students and younger children on May 5

'Satsuki' is a poetic name of May in the old Japanese lunar calendar. *Kodomo-no-hi* (Children's Day, May 5) is dedicated to all children, hoping for their good health and happiness. Families with sons hang up carp streamers outside their homes as a symbol, and wish for their boys to grow up as strong and brave as carps that swim upstream against the current. Warrior figures are also displayed in their homes on this day. The *Kusabue-no-oka* park, decorated with large carp streamers and brightly colored azalea blossoms, is expected to draw many visitors to the festival. The park is



open from 9:00 to 17:00 daily (no admission after 16:00). Admission fee to the park, including the Rose Garden, is ¥300 for children of junior high & elementary school age, ¥150 for preschool children, and ¥400 for others. On May 5, admission will be free for children up to junior high school age. The park offers exiting events such as "Go-Busters" (children's TV heroes) show (11:00 & 14:00, May 4), street performance (May 3 & 6), Sign Language Dancing (May 5), experience corner of Japanese traditional child plays (May 3 & 5), *Wadaiko* Japanese Drumming performance, and lots more. Animal petting zoo and mini-steam locomotive ride will be available daily from May 3 through May 6. You can also enjoy various workshops including glass painting, pottery, and soba noodle making as well as shopping and eating at stalls selling local agricultural products and street foods. For further information, visit:



<http://kusabue.shiteikanri-sakura.jp> or call *Kusabue-no-oka*, ☎485-7821.

FREE PUTTIGN ON OF KATCHU, SAMURAI ARMOR COSTUME



To celebrate Children's Day, visitors to *Buke-yashiki* on May 5 (Sat) will be offered an opportunity to put on a samurai armor costume for free. Costumes are available for both male and female, adults and children, who are 140cm tall or above. The costumes will be offered from 10:00 to noon and 13:30 to 16:00 at *Kyuh-Tajima-ke-juhtaku* (the former residence of the Tajima samurai family). Registration on-site can be done 30 minutes before each dressing session on a first-come, first-served basis, up to 40 people. Admission to *Buke-yashiki* (¥210/adult, free for children up to junior high students) is necessary. Call *Bunka-ka* (the Culture Section), ☎484-6192 for further information.

THREE CULTURAL FACILITIES OF SAKURA

At *Buke-yashiki* (the old samurai houses), *Sakura Juntendoh Kinenkan* (memorial building), and *Kyu-Hotta-tei* (former residence of feudal lord *Hotta*), free admission for children up to junior high age will be offered on Children's Day, May 5. During the Golden Week holidays, these facilities open from May 1 (Tue) to 6 (Sun). Open hours and the usual admission fees are as shown below:

Admission	<i>Buke-yashiki</i>	<i>Juntendoh Kinenkan</i>	<i>Kyu-Hotta-tei</i>
Students/Children	¥100 (¥70) *	¥50 (¥30) *	¥150 (¥100) *
Others	¥210 (¥140) *	¥100 (¥70) *	¥310 (¥210) *
Common Discount Admission Ticket		Students/Children: ¥260 (¥180) Others: ¥520 (¥360)	
Date of free admission for children up to junior high school age	Saturdays even if it's a national holiday		
Open hours (Admission until)	9:00 – 17:00 (16:30)		10:00 – 16:30 (16:00)

Note: Ticket is valid throughout the day of issue. *() indicates group rate for group of 20 people and more.

SCHEDULED SUSPENSION OF CITY-OFFICE SERVICES

Part of City's services is to be suspended as shown below in order to replace Citizens' Information Systems:

July 8 (Sun)

The City Hall and Shizu Branch Office will be closed

July 7 (Sat) & 8 (Sun)

No certificate can be issued at Citizens' Service Centers (Sakura & Nishi-shizu)

July 2 (Mon) to 7 (Sat)

No certificate can be issued at the City Hall, Usui Information Corner, Yukarigaoka branch office's automatic issuing machine

Call *Shimin-ka* (Registration & Certification Services Section), ☎484-6121 for inquiries.

SAKURA FLOWER FESTA 2012

In Sakura, you can enjoy beautiful flowers in all seasons year round. Wouldn't you like to visit popular flower sites in the City to enjoy and admire those flowers?

Exhibition "Flowerscapes"

Period: Apr. 28 (Sat) to July 22 (Sun)

Venue & Sponsor: *Kawamura Memorial DIC Museum of Art*

Rose Festival at Rose Gardens of *Kusabue-no-Oka*

Period: May 26 (Sat) to Jun. 3 (Sun)

Sponsored by: *Sakura Kusabue-no-Oka*

International Heritage Rose Conference

Period: May 31 (Thu) to Jun. 3 (Sun)

Venue: *Sakura Kusabue-no-Oka*,

Reki-Haku (National Museum of Japanese History)

Sponsored by: The Conference Organizing Committee,

☎486-9356 (Please call in advance to participate.)

Iris Festival in Sakura Castle Town

Period: Jun. 16 (Sat) & 17 (Sun)

Venue: *Sakura Joshi-Koen Castle Park*

Sponsored by: Iris Festival Organizing Committee

Sunflower Garden in Sakura

Period: Around July (To be determined)

Venue: *Sakura Furusato Hiroba Square*

Sponsored by: Sakura City



Call *Noh'sei-ka*,
☎484-6141,
Sangyoh-shinkoh-ka,
☎484-6146, or
Sakura City Kanko
Kyokai,
☎486-6000 for further
information.

FREE LEGAL CONSULTATIONS FOR FOREIGN RESIDENTS

Consultations regarding legal problems including divorce, accident, inheritance, etc. will be provided by lawyers and legal specialists for free. Interpreters are available upon 10 days prior request. Please make reservation in advance by calling the Chiba International Center, ☎297-0245, or by sending an e-mail to kudo@cch.or.jp.

May 2012*	Jun	Jul**	Aug	Sep*	Oct	Nov*	Dec	Jan 2013**	Feb	Mar
14 (Mon)	4 (Mon)	21 (Sat)	6 (Mon)	3 (Mon)	1 (Mon)	5 (Mon)	3 (Mon)	19 (Sat)	4 (Mon)	4 (Mon)

*At the sessions with *mark, consultation regarding immigration, visa, and business starting-up can be provided by administrative procedure specialists.

**July and January sessions are "Comprehensive Consulting" where consultation regarding pension, insurance, labor problems can be provided by specialists in social and labor insurance.

Time: 13:00 to 16:00 (45 min/person)

Place: Chiba International Center, 14th Fl. Marive East, World Business Garden (WBG)

2-6, Nakase, Mihama-ku, Chiba (5 min. walk from South Exit of *Kaihjin Makuhari Station*)



TIPS FOR YOUR SAFE RETURN HOME

—In case of a large-scale disaster when you are away—

When the Great East Japan Earthquake struck last year, millions of commuters run into trouble returning home. To respond appropriately in the event of a great earthquake, it is necessary to be prepared in advance. Keep in mind that you should not start to move in a rash moment in the aftermath. Keep calm, check traffic/disaster information, and try to act properly.

Do not start to move in a rash moment

- First of all, ensure your safety
- Do not start to move in a rash moment
- Confirm safety of your family and house
- Gather information about damages to transportation and roads
- Put safety first and act according to the situation

How to walk home safely

- Take a portable radio and local road maps with you
- Prepare walking shoes, a flashlight, gloves, drinking water, emergency food, etc. at your worksite
- Discuss and decide with your family in advance the place to meet and how to confirm each other's safety
- Check the road conditions in advance along your return-home route on foot or by bus
- Try to remember locations of convenience stores and gas stations (There is agreements between these businesses and municipalities that they provide water, toilet, traffic information, etc. to the evacuees in case of emergency)



To help citizens prepare for disasters, **Sakura Disaster Prevention Map** is distributed at *Koh'tsu-boh'sai-ka* (the Transportation & Disaster Preparedness Section), city branch offices, and Citizens' Service Centers.

You could also download the map (divided into northern and southern part) from:

http://www.city.sakura.lg.jp/cmsfiles/contents/0000004/4907/Map_north.pdf.

http://www.city.sakura.lg.jp/cmsfiles/contents/0000004/4907/Map_south.pdf

Call *Koh'tsu-boh'sai-ka*, ☎484-6131 for inquiries.

Start of a New Residency Management System



Effective July 9, 2012, the Basic Resident Registration Law which currently does not apply to foreign nationals will be revised making it applicable to foreign nationals. Consequently, foreigners with legal status of residence who reside in Japan for more than three months will be listed on the Basic Resident Registration Book along with Japanese residents and a Resident Card (*Zairyu Card*) will be issued. At the same time, the alien registration system will be abolished. For detailed information, copies of an English booklet issued by Immigration Bureau are distributed at *Shimin-ka* (Registration & Certification Services Section) of the City Hall and city branch offices. You could also visit the following websites:

- Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications
http://www.soumu.go.jp/main_sosiki/jichi_gyousei/c-gyousei/zairyu_english.html
- Immigration Bureau of Japan
http://www.immi-moj.go.jp/newimmiact_1/en/index.html

For inquiries, please call *Shimin-ka*, ☎484-6121.

ROUTINE VACCINATION SCHEDULE

There are two categories of vaccination in Japan. One is routine vaccination designated by the Preventive Vaccination Act, the other is voluntary vaccination. Municipalities in Japan are required to offer vaccinations listed below and registered foreign residents are eligible to receive them. When receiving a vaccination, bring along your *Boshi- Techoh* (Mother/Child Health Book) and vaccination slip filled in with necessary information. Please make sure it is signed by a parent, a guardian, or a relative who has a letter of attorney (the form for a letter of attorney is available at each Health Center and the City's website). Otherwise, the vaccination will be excluded from the subject of *Relief System for Injury to Health with Vaccination*, a national compensation system. Also, please obtain approval of the child's doctor in advance if the expected recipient is under medical treatment.

Kinds of Routine Vaccinations: ●BCG ●Polio (oral) ●DPT or DT (diphtheria and tetanus vaccination with or without pertussis vaccine) ●Measles and Rubella vaccination (mixed (MR) or individual)

●Japanese Encephalitis

Voluntary Vaccinations offered by the City: ●Hib ●Pediatric pneumococcal pneumonia

●HPV (type 16 & 18 with or without type 6 & 11)



SCHEDULE FOR MASS POLIO VACCINATION

Polio (poliomyelitis) is a serious illness caused by the polio virus which infects the gut, travels to the nervous system leaving lasting damage to nerves (which can cause paralysis of arms or legs), affects breathing in some case and can be fatal. To eradicate Polio, mass vaccinations are scheduled as shown below, where oral polio vaccines (OPV) is given to children aged from 3 months up to 7.5 years who have taken vaccination less than twice before. 41 days or longer interval is required between the 1st and the 2nd dose. Note that eating and drinking are not allowed within 30minutes before and after the vaccination. Call *Kenkoh Kanri Center*, ☎485-6711 for further information.

PLACE	HOURS	DATE						
		May '12	Jun '12	Sep '12	Oct '12	Nov '12	Dec '12	Mar '13
<i>Kenko Kanri Center</i>	13:30 to 14:20	11 (Fri)	15 (Fri)	3 (Mon) 19 (Wed)	23 (Tue)	2 (Fri)	14 (Fri)	15 (Fri)
<i>Seibu Hoken Center</i>		7 (Mon) 23 (Wed)	4 (Mon)	6 (Thu) 24 (Mon)	1 (Mon)	5 (Mon)	3 (Mon)	4 (Mon)
<i>Nambu Hoken Center</i>		14 (Mon)	11 (Mon)	10 (Mon)	15 (Mon)	19 (Mon)	10 (Mon)	11 (Mon)

* Please use public transportation instead of driving to Seibu and Nambu Hoken centers where the number of parking lots is limited.

S.I.E.F. JAPANESE LANGUAGE COURSES

The city of Sakura always welcomes you to join the Practical Japanese Classes for foreign residents. This year, Sunday classes are newly added as shown below. All classes are conducted free of charge, except for the cost of ¥1,000/term for textbooks and materials used in the class. Call Sakura International Exchange Foundation (S.I.E.F.), ☎484-6326, for inquiries and registration.

PLACE	DAY	TIME	LEVEL	BABY SITTING
Shizu Community Center	Thursday	10:30 — 12:00	Intermediate	Not available
		13:00 — 14:30	All levels	Available
		15:00 — 16:30		
Millennium Center Sakura	Friday	19:00 — 20:30	Introductory to Intermediate	Not available
Sakura Chuo Kominkan	Sunday (New!)	9:00 — 10:30	Intermediate	
		10:30 — 12:00	Beginner to Intermediate	
Rainbow Plaza		9:20 — 10:20	Introductory to Beginner	
		10:30 — 12:00		

In addition, Japanese classes by volunteers are available at *Negoh Kohminkan* on **Fridays**. Please call Ms. Kohno, ☎486-7928 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.

AGE OF CHILDREN	May '12	TIME	PLACE
Health consultation for children of 4 months, born in December 2011	30 (Wed)	9:30-10:30	Kenkoh Kanri Center
		13:30-14:30	
	25 (Fri)	9:30-10:30	Seibu Hoken Center
13:30-14:30			
<i>Mogu-mogu</i> (munching) Class for children of 8 months, born in August 2011	9 (Wed)	9:30-9:45	Kenkoh Kanri Center
	29 (Tue)		Seibu Hoken Center
For 18-month-old children born in November 2010	15 (Tue)	13:15-14:15	Kenkoh Kanri Center
	18 (Fri)		Seibu Hoken Center
	21 (Mon)		Nambu Hoken Center
For 3-year-old children born in November 2008	16 (Wed)	13:15-14:15	Kenkoh Kanri Center
	17 (Thu)		Seibu Hoken Center
	22 (Tue)		Nambu Hoken Center
Dental check for children born in May or November 2009 or in May 2010 * On the days with * mark, Consultation on Speech Development is also available.)	8* (Tue)	13:30-14:30	Kenkoh Kanri Center
	25 (Fri)		
	10* (Thu)		Seibu Hoken Center
	14 (Mon)		
	24* (Thu)		

FREE ANTENATAL CLASSES

For expectant mothers and fathers to have a baby between **July and December 2012**, free antenatal classes, “**Mom’s Class**” and “**Mom’s and Pop’s Class**,” will be held as shown to the right.

●**Mom’s class** gives instructions on how to lead a healthy life during pregnancy, and nutrition and oral hygiene education.

●**Mom’s and Pop’s Class** gives instructions on life with a newborn baby, baby bath practice, experience of pregnancy simulation to fathers, etc. Parents in their first pregnancy have priority. Application required. Please call the respective center to sign up.

CLASS	TIME	DATE	PLACE
Mom’s*	9:00-14:20	Jun. 07 (Thu)	Seibu Hoken Center
Mom’s and Pop’s*	9:00-12:15	May 12 (Sat)	Kenkoh Kanri Center
		Jun. 17 (Sun)	Seibu Hoken Center
		Jul. 22 (Sun)	

(*): The same contents will be covered at the multiple sessions for each class.

Child development consultation for preschoolers (*Suku-suku Hattatsu Sohdan*) is available on **May 17 (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 **May 30 (Wed), 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, 8:30-17:15, 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 during the hours shown below 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.

POPULATION OF SAKURA CITY

As of the end of March 2012, the Japanese population of Sakura was 176,072 (87,064 male and 89,008 female) in 71,665 households. Registered foreign residents accounted for 2,115. The combined population of Sakura City was 178,1187.