Welcome to the Saitama Prefectural Government International Division Newsletter.

This newsletter is designed to help inform Saitama residents of services provided by the Saitama Prefectural Government. It also features useful information for everyday living as well as seasonal tips on places you may want to visit and enjoy with friends and family.

The International Division newsletter is delivered to Saitama residents four times a year in a mail magazine style. Featured articles are displayed in five formats: Japanese using both kanji and kana, simple Japanese in hiragana only, and translations in English, Chinese, and Korean.

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Regarding Pneumonia Caused by New Coronavirus

For more details, please visit the link below. (Information is also available in English and Chinese)

http://www.pref.saitama.lg.jp/a0701/shingatacoronavirus.html
Saitama Prefecture Disaster Multilingual Information Center

In the event that a disaster recognized by the Prefectural Disaster Management Headquarters occurs or is expected to occur in Saitama Prefecture, the International Division will set up a ‘Saitama Prefecture Disaster Multilingual Information Center’ in cooperation with the Saitama International Association in order to support foreign residents. The center will offer the following services:

More information can be found at the following link:
Saitama International Association Aid for Disaster
http://sia1.jp/en/international/disaster/
Please also check out the Disaster-related Information page created by the International Division:

Check Out the Golgo 13 Overseas Safety Manual for Small- and Medium-Sized Enterprises!
The Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) has created the Overseas Safety Manual for Small- and Medium-Sized Enterprises using the dramatic comic strip Golgo 13 (ゴルゴ 13) which is now available for download via the MOFA website. The comic strip follows the actions of the main character, Golgo 13, who travels around the world to countries such as Thailand, Mexico, Germany, and Turkey, instructing businessmen and travelers overseas about safety measures and strategies.
☆ The Golgo 13 Overseas Safety Manual for Small- and Medium-Sized Enterprises is available at:

Stay Safe While Traveling Abroad: Sign Up for Tabi-Regi (Trip Registry)!
The Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) has created a “Tabi-Regi” (たびレジ), a trip registry system, to help Japanese-speaking travelers abroad. If you will be traveling abroad on leisure or business for less than three months, you can register the details of your trip (travel plans, accommodations, emergency contacts, etc.) on Tabi-Regi. While you are abroad, the nearest Japanese embassy will use this system to send you information on safety during any emergency situations and to confirm your safety in the case of a major incident or disaster. Not only will this new system help you stay safe, it will also help with general safety and security of travelers and crisis management. If you will be taking short-term trips abroad, please remember to register on Tabi-Regi before your trip!
☆ To register and for more information (MOFA website): https://www.ezairyu.mofa.go.jp/tabireg/

◆ International Division News

Award Ceremony for the Saitama Global Awards!
The Saitama Global Awards were founded in 2011 to promote the globalization of Saitama Prefecture. The Awards are presented to individuals and organizations with ties to Saitama Prefecture that have been actively involved in internationalization and finding paths to create the new future of local communities in the world. Prizes are awarded to candidates in three categories: Taking on Global Challenges, Investing in the Future, and Globalizing the Community. This fiscal year, one organization and two individuals were selected as Saitama Global Award winners and commemorated during an award ceremony at the Governor's Residence on Friday, January 31, 2020. This year's winners are as follows:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Award Field</th>
<th>Award Winner</th>
<th>Activities</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Taking on Global Challenges</td>
<td>Akiko Shibata (Saitama City)</td>
<td>Holding overseas concerts as a professional whistler: something that is rare even around the world. Also acted as a judge for international whistling competitions.</td>
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<td>Investing in the Future</td>
<td>Omiya Ardija (NTT Sports Community Corporation) (Saitama City)</td>
<td>Consistently organizing soccer clinics in Southeast Asian countries such as Laos and Thailand since October 2014.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Globalizing the Community</td>
<td>Kyoko Matsuo (Miyoshi Town)</td>
<td>Contributed to the creation of ‘Aya &amp; Musashi Workbook,’ a Japanese language textbook with translations in four languages as a Japanese teacher at</td>
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Event in Celebration of the 20th Anniversary of the Sister-State Relationship between Saitama Prefecture and Brandenburg State ~Phase 2~ [Germany-Japan Symposium!]

Since the inception of the sister-state relationship between Brandenburg State and Saitama Prefecture in 1999, we have deepened international relations in a range of areas, such as education and environmental initiatives.

Last year, in celebration of the 20th anniversary of the sister-state relationship between our two regions, a Germany-Japan symposium was held at Dokkyo University in Soka City, focused on the theme, 'The Potential for Further Bilateral Cooperation between Germany and Japan and the Corresponding Role of Local Governments.' At the symposium, Governor of Saitama Prefecture, Mr. Motohiro Ono and President of Dokkyo University, Mr. Tadashi Inui, gave the opening remarks.

Additionally, Dr. Klaus Vietze, Minister and Deputy Chief of Mission from the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany in Japan, was kind enough to give the keynote speech. His highly interesting presentation was focused on an introduction to German national and international diplomatic relations as well as the momentous occasion of the 30th anniversary of the destruction of the Berlin wall this year, representing a pivotal turning point in the unity of the Republic of Germany.

Mr. Reiner Kneifel-Haverkamp, Director General for European and International Affairs at the Ministry of Justice for European Affairs and Consumer Protection also made a presentation which provided a comparison of Brandenburg State with Saitama Prefecture while outlining the advantageous location of Brandenburg.

Subsequently, Associate Professor of German Studies at Dokkyo University Department of Foreign Language Studies, Ms. Lila Okamura, gave a lecture. Professor Okamura, who specializes in political science, spoke about similarities between Brandenburg and Saitama, as well as common problems and current political measures being implemented by Saitama Prefecture as a means of solving these issues. Professor Okamura also spoke in depth about the future roles of local governments considering that, although the major cities close to both our regions feature a high concentration of residents, the surrounding areas are characterized by declining populations. She specifically mentioned that, "the local governments of urban areas and nature-rich regional areas that are located on the border of the nation's capital feature a wealth of strengths, such as technology, tourism opportunities, academics, and natural spectacles. In order to take advantage of this myriad of assets, the assistance of local governments is, of course, invaluable, however, the cooperation and active participation of residents is also highly important."

Following the presentations by esteemed guests, an exchange of opinions was held between the presenters and the audience, with both Dr. Klaus Vietze and Director Kneifel-Haverkamp being joined by Matthias Von. Gehlen, Head of the Language Department at Goethe-Institut in Tokyo, as well as Mr. Kimio Wada, Director of the International Division of Saitama Prefectural Government, to answer the audience's many questions. Approximately 250 people, including students and members of the public participated in the event.

More information is available via the following link:
About Brandenburg State (Saitama Prefectural Government, International Division Website):
http://www.pref.saitama.lg.jp/a0306/b bran.html
Saitama Prefecture has created A Guide to Living in Saitama which residents can use to easily look up matters such as information concerning daily life and multilingual consultation centers. The guide can be accessed in 8 languages: English, Chinese, Spanish, Portuguese, Korean, Tagalog, Vietnamese, and Japanese. A list of consultation help desks and other places that can address questions and concerns can be found in chapter 12, so please visit the link below for more information and let your fellow foreign residents know about this helpful resource.

*The Vietnamese version is scheduled to be updated in April, 2020. Currently only chapters 11 and 12 are available.

★ The most recent version of A Guide to Living in Saitama can be found on the International Division homepage at:  

◆ Outing Guide and Events

**Saitama TV and Radio Broadcast Stations**

Saitama Prefectural Government Radio Station

FM NACK5 broadcasts *Morning Square* every Monday to Friday morning from 8:15 am to 8:25 am, offering listeners good music as well as public messages on government services and events. To access past broadcasts, you can visit http://www.pref.saitama.lg.jp/a0301/morning-square/

**Saitama Websites for Tourism and More**

*Saitama Doga* presents videos introducing the best that Saitama has to offer, from entertainment to sightseeing to tourism and more: https://www.youtube.com/user/prefsaitama


**Welcome to Sai-no-Kuni! Saitama Tourism and Fun Information**


**Introducing International Exchange Events Inside and Outside the Prefecture (Saitama International Association)**

http://sia1.jp/event/

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◆ Editor's Column

The weather is finally starting to warm up now that we've entered March. We hope all our readers are feeling healthy and enjoying the favorable weather.

We recently passed the 150-day mark leading up to the 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games which will be held in July this year, and the 200-day mark leading up to the 2020 Tokyo Paralympic Games. Saitama Prefecture will also act as one of the hosts for four sporting events: basketball, soccer (football), shooting, and golf. I am excited just thinking about the
matches, cheering, and enthusiastic atmosphere that the Olympic and Paralympic Games will bring, much like last year's Rugby World Cup.

We look forward to providing you with more insightful information about Saitama throughout the next year. We hope you continue to enjoy reading the International Newsletter and we look forward to hearing your valuable feedback and ideas! Please accept our best wishes for a successful and pleasant year.

Editor (M.S.)

If there are any articles that you found interesting in the International Division Newsletter, or if you wish to suggest a topic that you would like us to feature, please send your thoughts to the Saitama Prefecture International Division via the contact details below:

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