

◆ Governor's Column

This month's column, *Health and Longevity According to AI Analysis*, can be viewed via the following links:

<http://www.pref.saitama.lg.jp/a0301/sainokuni/sainokuni-kensei-4p3012.html> (Japanese)

<http://www.pref.saitama.lg.jp/a0306/english-top/column-e.html> (English)

<http://www.pref.saitama.lg.jp/a0306/chinese-top/column-c.html> (Chinese)

◆ Saitama Prefecture News

The Saitama Prefectural Government Official Website: Now Accessible in a Range of Languages

In order to more accurately provide information to foreign residents, visitors to Japan from abroad, and other non-Japanese speakers, the Saitama Prefectural Government Official Website will now be accessible in several languages (English, Chinese (Simplified and Traditional), Korean, Vietnamese, Spanish, and Portuguese) via machine translation.

How to Access the Website in Other Languages via Machine Translation:

At the top of the page click **Foreign Language** and select your desired language from the available options in the **Foreign Language (Machine Translation)** section. A notification will be then be displayed. Click **OK** to proceed. Webpages you access on the site will then be translated into your selected language automatically via machine translation. Please feel free to make use of this service for a range of information about Saitama Prefecture! A link to the Foreign Language selection page has been included below:

<https://www.pref.saitama.lg.jp/foreignlanguage/index.html>

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* (ゴールゴ 13) which is now available for download via the MOFA website. The comic strip details 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:

http://www.anzen.mofa.go.jp/anzen_info/golgo13xgaimusho.html

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/>

Information about Disaster Prevention Preparation

Japan is a country which frequently experiences earthquakes. In the event of a large earthquake, objects and furniture in the home can fall over and cause injuries, main utilities such as water and gas can become unusable, and supplies at stores can run out, resulting in customers not being able to purchase the food items they require. In addition to this, Japan is a mountainous country, with many streams and rivers. Because of this geographical makeup, natural disasters caused by extreme rain or strong winds often occur. In particular, the typhoons (hurricanes) that form especially often during the period from summer to autumn, featuring heavy rainfall as well as intense winds, are very dangerous and can cause extreme damage.

It is very important to make sure that you are well prepared in advance for these and other types of natural disasters and take appropriate disaster-minimization steps during everyday life. More information on avoiding and preparing for the danger of natural disasters such as heavy rain and strong winds can be found at the following link:

<http://www.pref.saitama.lg.jp/a0306/english-top/fuu-suigai-en.html>

◆International Division News

Let's Study Abroad in our Sister States!

Applications Open for 2019 Sister State Scholarships in Mexico!

We are currently accepting scholarship applicants who have a strong connection to Mexico and the desire to promote sister-state relationship for a study abroad program sponsored by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) to study in Mexico in 2019. This comprehensive program offers a range of appealing benefits such as exemption from tuition fees at your study abroad institution, round-trip airfare from Tokyo to Mexico City, and compensation for a portion of your stay at your study abroad location!

Potential candidates include students with a passion for learning who, as representatives of Saitama Prefecture, will serve as the foundation for the continued development of friendly relations between Saitama Prefecture and our sister states. We look forward to receiving your applications! (Deadline: applications must be received by January 7, 2019)

For more information, please refer to the following website:

Saitama Prefecture Mexico-Japan Exchange Program for the Strategic Global Partnership

<http://www.pref.saitama.lg.jp/a0306/nichiboku-shogakusei.html>

For additional information or other inquiries, please contact the International Strategies Group in the International Division of Saitama Prefectural Government.

Tel: 048-830-2713 E-mail: a2705-09@pref.saitama.lg.jp

The 2018 Saitama International Fair: A Great Success!

Saitama Prefecture's ever-popular International Fair was a huge hit again this year, attracting many guests to Saitama Super Arena on October 14! Visitors were able to try cuisine from around the world, watch traditional dance performances, discover various arts and crafts stalls, and learn about the activities of various non-governmental organizations. The International Division booth hosted a new and improved multicultural quiz, and was pleased to welcome a large number of eager participants. Thank you to everyone for taking the time to drop by and learn about Saitama Prefecture and the International Division!



◆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/>

TBS Radio

TBS Radio's *Masaaki Horio & Friends Asaichi Saitama Rally Squad* is a 5-minute program where Saitama officials speak live on seasonal events and local attractions. It is broadcast every Saturday morning from 7:50-7:55 am on TBS 954AM Radio.

For more information, please visit: <http://www.pref.saitama.lg.jp/a0301/asaichi/index.html>

Saitama Websites for Tourism and More

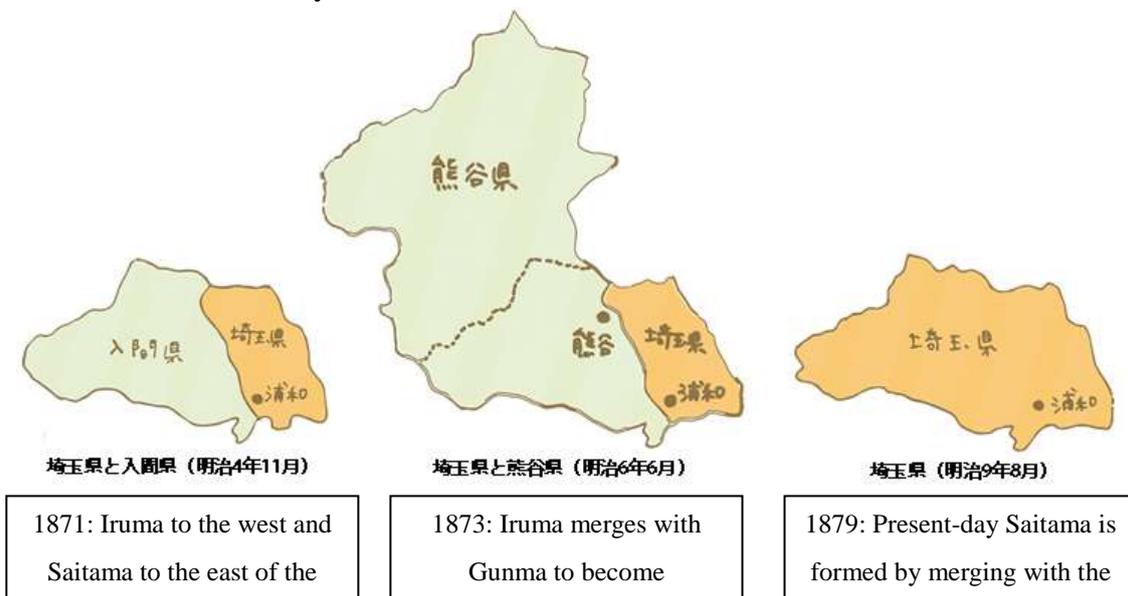
Saitama Doga presents videos introducing the best that Saitama has to offer, from entertainment to sightseeing to tourism and more: <https://www.youtube.com/user/prefsaitama>

Choko-Tabi Saitama (A Little Trip to Saitama) provides general and tourist information about Saitama in Japanese, English, Chinese, and Korean: <http://www.pref.saitama.lg.jp/chokotabi-saitama/index.html>



◆Editor's Column

Saitama Prefecture's 147th Birthday



November 14th is Prefectural Citizens' Day in Saitama and marks the birth of the Prefecture on the same day back in 1871. Saitama in its early years was a little different from the Saitama we all know and love today. Saitama was initially much smaller and was limited to the land on the east side of the Arakawa River. More than half of present-day Saitama was once known as Iruma Prefecture and consisted of the land to the west of the Arakawa River. Two years later, Iruma Prefecture merged with Gunma Prefecture and was renamed Kumagaya Prefecture. In 1879, Kumagaya Prefecture was split into the present-day Gunma Prefecture and the former Iruma Prefecture, the latter of which then merged with Saitama Prefecture to become the Saitama of today. The population at the time was 896,107 people. In 1971, Saitama turned 100 and "Prefectural Citizens' Day" was introduced to commemorate the milestone anniversary. 147 years on, the population in Saitama has increased eight-fold and we are continuing to develop rapidly as a prefecture.

We hope all of our newsletters this year have helped widen your knowledge of Saitama as well as inform you of all the great opportunities our prefecture has to offer. The next issue of the International Division Newsletter will be released in February 2019. We would like to wish all of our readers a happy holiday season and we look forward to providing you with more insightful information about Saitama throughout the next 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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