

◆Governor's Column

This month's column, *Saitama the Rikuō: Connecting Us Through the Medieval, Early-modern, and Modern Eras*, can be viewed via the following link: <http://www.pref.saitama.lg.jp/a0306/english-top/column-e.html>

◆Saitama Prefecture News

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/>

Passport Services in Saitama Prefecture

Did you know that in most areas of Saitama Prefecture you can submit your passport application to your local city, town, or village office? Additionally, submitting your passport application to your local office doesn't affect the waiting time until your passport is issued. For details and other enquiries, please contact your local city, town, or village office.

※A list of places accepting passport applications in Saitama Prefecture is available at the following link:

<http://www.pref.saitama.lg.jp/passport/madoguchi/sinseibasyo.html> (Japanese)

The Omiya and Kawagoe branches of the Saitama Prefecture Passport Center have started accepting passport applications on Sundays (excluding some Sundays). You can now apply for a passport without having to miss work or school!

☆ More information can be found at the following link:

<http://www.pref.saitama.lg.jp/passport/madoguchi/uketuke.html> (Japanese)

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

Seeking Participants for the Foreign Exchange Information Seminar (March 23)

Saitama will hold a Foreign Exchange Information Seminar aimed at providing residents of Saitama and senior high school/university students who study within the prefecture with the knowledge required for overseas study. The seminar will include an explanation of the 2019 Saitama Window to the World Scholarship, and aims to support youth who are considering study abroad.

- 1) Date: Saturday, March 23, 2019 14:00 ~ 17:00
- 2) Target Participants: University students, senior high school students, and adults interested in study abroad.

- 3) Venue: Omiya Sonic City Building, 4F International Conference Room
(5 min from JR Omiya Station West Exit)
- 4) Cost: Free
- 5) Registration: Not required
- 6) Schedule:
 - Explanation of the 2019 Saitama Window to the World Scholarship
 - Testimonial Presentations from Former Participants
 - Information Session with Country Ambassadors and Other Guests
 - Individual Consultation Sessions

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 individual and three organizations were selected as Saitama Global Award winners and commemorated during an award ceremony at the Governor's Residence on Wednesday, February 6, 2019. This year's winners are as follows:

Award Field	Award Winner	Activities
Taking on Global Challenges	Kyodoshoji Co., Ltd. (Kawagoe City)	Brewing 'COEDO' craft beer and proactively expanding into the global marketplace.
Taking on Global Challenges	Hiroyuki Hayashida (Ageo City)	Japanese <i>taiko</i> performances around the world.
Investing in the Future	SANE (Sociedad de Amigos del Niño Ecuatoriano) (Hanno City)	Development of educational environment improvement programs and scholarship programs for junior and senior high school students in Ecuador.
Globalizing the Community	LITOWA (Kawaguchi Center for Living Together and Walking) (Kawaguchi City)	Contributing to the realization of a multicultural society in Kawaguchi.

For more information, visit the International Division Website at:

<http://www.pref.saitama.lg.jp/a306/kouryukyoryoku/globalshou.html>



◆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>

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

<http://www.pref.saitama.lg.jp/theme/kankou/index.html>



◆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 200-day mark leading up to the Rugby World Cup 2019, which will be held in September this year. Three matches are even scheduled to take place in Kumagaya City, Saitama. Additionally, there are now less than 500 days left until the Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games! Saitama will host 4 events during this sporting extravaganza also, with basketball, soccer, shooting, and golf competitions to be held at venues within the prefecture. We're sure everyone is looking forward to the matches and enthusiastic atmosphere that the Games will bring.

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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