



Culture Pot MITO

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▼Photo: Mito Kohmon Festival, Minami-machi Free Square - about to eat takoyaki



"Culture Pot MITO" is a monthly newsletter published by the Mito City International Association which aims to share various living information with the city's foreign residents. In its title, Mito city is likened to a pot stuffed with various cultures which resembles a multicultural city loved by every citizen. We are hoping that this newsletter will be useful in your daily life and that you will feel more attached to Mito City in the near future.



EVEN TS info.



Come and join the Saturday Salon!



Saturday Salon is a gathering held by MCIA every month which is aimed to provide a place for non-Japanese & Japanese residents to communicate. Feel free to join and talk about topics of your choice (ex. daily life, work and hobbies...etc). *TIME/12:30pm~2pm

~English Smoothie~

Who can join?

- Anyone who wants to communicate in English

◆ **every 1st Saturday**
(this month—Oct. 1st)
(next month—Nov. 5th)

Toko-ton Kan-koku ~トコトン韓国~ NEW!

Who can join?

- Anyone from Korea
- Anyone interested in Korea or the Korean language

◆ **every 3rd Saturday**
(this month—Oct. 15th)

Nii-hao Chu-goku ~ニーハオ! 中国~ NEW!

Who can join?

- Anyone from China
- Anyone interested in China or the Chinese language

◆ **every 4th Saturday**
(this month—Oct. 22nd)

WHERE Mito City International Center

FEE free

SIGN UP unnecessary

[INQUIRIES] Mito City International Association, TEL/029-221-1800 Email/mcia@mito.or.jp

Chrysanth Exhibition

As many as 400 pots of chrysanth, the flower of autumn, will be beautifully displayed near Senba Lake. (If you are growing any, it can be included in the exhibition. Contact the ^{Kan-koh-ka}観光課 for details)

WHEN Oct. 22nd (Sat)~Nov. 15th (Tue)
9am-3:30pm

WHERE ^{Senba Koh-en Fure-ai Hiroba} 千波公園ふれあい広場
(the open space in front of the ^{Sakura-da-mongai-no-hen} movie set of “桜田門外ノ変”)



 **[ACCESS GUIDE]** from Mito Station

Take bus from North exit bus terminal #6 ⇒15 mins ride⇒ get off at “^{Senba-ko}千波湖”, 5 mins walk

*Do NOT get on the bus for ^{Kai-raku-en} 偕楽園

[INQUIRIES] Mito city office ^{Kanko-ka} 観光課 029-226-2354

Exhibited flowers will be on sale from Nov. 9th!

Daidara-bo Festival

At this festival you can experience making traditional Japanese play equipment (^{Take-uma}竹馬) & ancient accessories (^{Maga-tama}勾玉), and many more. Vegetables grown by local farmers and freshly pounded rice-cakes are also available at the market!

(^{Daidara-bo}ダイダラボ: the legendary giant man that is said to have created Senba Lake & Sakura River)

WHEN Nov. 13th (Sun) 9am-3pm

WHERE ^{Mito-shi Oh-kushi Kai-zuka Fure-ai Koh-en} 水戸市大串貝塚ふれあい公園

 **[ACCESS GUIDE]** from Mito Station

Take the bus for ^{Naka-minato-eki Shio-ga-saki} 那珂湊駅(塩ヶ先 route) from North exit bus terminal #3

⇒25 mins ride⇒ get off at “^{Tsune-zumi cho-sha-mae}常澄庁舎前”, 5 mins walk

[INQUIRIES] ^{Mito-shi Maizo Bunka-zai Center} 水戸市埋蔵文化財センター 029-269-5090



Take-uma

“Mito-shi Oh-kushi Kai-zuka Fure-ai Koh-en” is a park located in the area where the Daidara-bo is believed to have lived. You will find here various remains from **Jomon Era** (^{Joh-mon-Jidai}縄文時代) and the replica of ancient housings.

Martial Arts Festival

Interested in martial arts?
Feel free to come & watch the competition!

WHERE

The ^{Budo-kan} 武道館 located within
Hori-hara Undo Koh-en
堀原運動公園



[ACCESS GUIDE]

from Mito Station

Take the bus for ^{Iba-dai-mae Ei-gyo-sho} 茨大前営業所 from
North exit bus terminal #7 ⇒25 mins ride⇒
get off at the last stop “^{Iba-dai-mae Ei-gyo-sho} 茨大前営業所”

[INQUIRIES]

Hori-hara Undo Koh-en
堀原運動公園 office 029-251-8444

※TIME/around 9am~afternoon ※FEE/watching is free

EVENTS	PARTICIPANTS	DATE	DAY
Karate-do 空手道	+ adults	Oct.30 th	Sun
Kyu-do 弓道	junior high sch. students	Nov.12 th	Sat
Ken-do 剣道	elementary sch. students	Nov.13 th	Sun
Ju-do 柔道	elementary sch. students	Nov.13 th	Sun
Sho-rin-ji Kenpo 少林寺拳法	+ adults	Nov.20 th	Sun
Nagi-nata なぎなた	+ adults	Nov.27 th	Sun

■NOTE■

Please **take off your shoes** when entering the
^{Budo-kan} 武道館. Also, when taking photos, use of flash
may be prohibited depending on the event.



Enjoy the Taste of Autumn

In Japan, autumn is the season when trees bear various
tasteful fruits. Why not visit pick-your-own farmshops!

WHERE ^{Ju-san-zuka Kajiu-danchi} 十三塚 果樹団地 (Ishioka city)

*This is where many farmshops gather.

ENTRANCE FEE

pear /500yen/ mid Aug. - mid Nov.
persimmon, apple /400yen/ late Sept. - late Nov.
tangerine /300yen/ mid Oct. - late Dec.
sweet chestnut /300yen/ early Sept. - mid Oct.



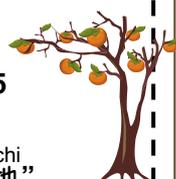
[INQUIRIES]

^{Yasato Kanko Kajiu-kumiai Kanko-ka} やさと観光果樹組合、観光課 0299-43-1111



[ACCESS GUIDE] from Mito Station

- Mito St. → Joban line, 30mins → Ishioka St.
- Buy 1-day passport(1000yen) for the local
sight seeing car, ^{Ishioka-shi Kanko Junkai-sha} 石岡市観光巡回車,
at a tourist information center which you will
see on the left side after exiting the station.
- After 35 mins ride, get off at
^{Ju-san-zuka Kajiu-danchi} “十三塚 果樹団地”



departing time
AM 8:40, 9:55, 11:10
PM 12:30, 1:45, 3:00, 4:15

4:50pm is the final service that leaves
^{Ju-san-zuka Kajiu-danchi} 十三塚 果樹団地 for Ishioka Station.

Naka Sunflower Festival

You can enjoy approximately 250000 sunflowers in full bloom, field maze, amazing view from the
hot-air balloon, character show, Halloween costume contest, unveiling of mascot doll and much more!

WHEN Oct.29th (Sat) 10am - around 5:30pm

WHERE ^{Naka So-go koh-en} 那珂総合公園



[ACCESS GUIDE] from Mito Station

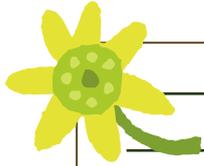
Take the bus for ^{Oh-miya Ei-gyo-sho Uri-zura} 大宮営業所 (瓜運 route) from North exit bus terminal #7
⇒35 mins ride⇒ get off at “^{Tozaki Ju-mon-ji} 戸崎十文字”、20 mins walk

[INQUIRIES] ^{Naka-shi Shoh-ko-kai} 那珂市商工会 029-298-0234



※ About buses - Depending on the time of the day, there could be no services at all for several hours. Make sure to check the time table before you plan your day!!

URL→→→ <http://www.city.mito.lg.jp/view.rbz?of=1&ik=0&pnp=14&cd=5070>



Children can get vaccinated at reduced fee !

Flu season in Japan is usually from December to March. To protect yourself from flu virus, it is important to wash your hands and gargle frequently and to stay away from the crowds.

Pregnant women, infants and elderly people need to get vaccinated especially because their symptoms could become severe once they catch the virus. The vaccine takes 3-4 weeks to come into effect, so it is better to get vaccinated between October and December. Children between 1 to 13 years old who are registered* to Mito city will receive the vaccination ticket (予防接種券) around October.

* resident registration (住民登録) OR alien registration (外国人登録)



● Want to use the vaccination ticket? see below.

【Qualifying age】 Children between 1 to 13 years old

【Vaccination Frequency】 Twice , with an interval of 2 to 4 weeks

【Period】 Oct. 15th 2011- Dec. 31st 2011

【Hospitals】 List of hospitals that accept tickets will be written on your child's ticket.

【Bring with you】 Vaccination ticket, maternal & child health handbook (母子健康手帳)

【Fee】 Differs depending on hospitals. You can get 1,000yen discount up to 2 times.

【Inquiries】 Healthcare center (保健センター) 029-243-7311

◆ In case you get flu...

- Consult your doctor **over the phone**
- If you do not have a particular doctor to rely on, find a nearby hospital with the phonebook and consult a doctor **over the phone.**

When the hospital is closed, **call** the Emergency Medical Information Control Center

(救急医療情報コントロールセンター) and seek advice. 029-241-4199 Available 24 hours a day.

Before going to a hospital, make sure to make a telephone call and check the clinic hours or which entrance to use. Please wear a medical mask so that you will not spread the virus.



Any language problems regarding law, labor, marriage, education and life in general ?

Consultations in 8 different languages are available at the **Foreign Consultation Center** located within Ibaraki International Association.

TEL / 029-244-3811

Hrs / 8:30am-12:00 noon, 1:00pm- 5:00pm

Mon-Fri / Japanese, English
Mon / Portuguese (am), Chinese (pm)
Tue / Spanish, Korean
Wed / Chinese, Thai
Thu / Portuguese, Tagalog
Fri / Indonesian, Thai



* Age 4...those born between April 2nd, 2007~April 1st, 2008

* Age 5...those born between April 2nd, 2006~April 1st, 2007

LIFE



Enrolling your Child into a Municipal Kindergarten



There are 19 municipal kindergartens in Mito city. Children whose age will be 4 or 5* as of April 1st, 2012, can enroll.

[Enrolling from April 2012]

Get an application form at the kindergarten you wish to enroll your child in and fill in necessary parts. Applications will be accepted at the same kindergarten from November 1st, 2011.

[Enrolling from other months]

You can enroll your child any time as long as there are openings. Get the application form at the kindergarten you wish to enroll your child in, and submit the form when you have filled in necessary parts.

[Fees]

- Enrollment fee 2,000yen
- Childcare fee 6,000yen/month

* There is a financial-aid system for parents.

Please consult the School Education Division for details.



After-hours childcare service

Kindergartens provide after-hours childcare service for those enrolled. They will look after your child from around 1:30pm to 4pm for 500yen/day. Reservation necessary.

INQUIRIES:

School Education Division gakko-kyo-iku-ka 学校教育課 (029-306-8673)

Municipal Kindergartens

Goken yoh-chi-en 五軒 幼稚園	029-221-7971
Joto yoh-chi-en 城東 幼稚園	029-221-9220
Hamada yoh-chi-en 浜田 幼稚園	029-221-5268
Tokwa yoh-chi-en 常磐 幼稚園	029-221-6426
Midori-oka yoh-chi-en 緑岡 幼稚園	029-241-1319
Migawa yoh-chi-en 見川 幼稚園	029-241-1926
Koto-buki yoh-chi-en 寿 幼稚園	029-241-4595
Ishi-kawa yoh-chi-en 石川 幼稚園	029-252-2990
Senba yoh-chi-en 千波 幼稚園	029-243-1022
Kunita yoh-chi-en 国田 幼稚園	029-239-7401
Sakado yoh-chi-en 酒門 幼稚園	029-247-7980
Iitomi yoh-chi-en 飯富 幼稚園	029-229-8251
Ume-ga-oka yoh-chi-en 梅が丘 幼稚園	029-253-0097
Yoshida-ga-oka yoh-chi-en 吉田が丘 幼稚園	029-247-8145
Kasa-hara yoh-chi-en 笠原 幼稚園	029-243-4124
Inari-dai-ichi-yoh-chi-en 稲荷第一 幼稚園	029-269-2108
Inari-dai-ni-yoh-chi-en 稲荷第二 幼稚園	029-248-2766
Uchi-hara yoh-chi-en 内原 幼稚園	029-259-2833
Tsuma-sato yoh-chi-en 妻里 幼稚園	029-259-2624



National Health Insurance; Deadline for 2011 October payment is October 31st.

Please take the payment notice to a nearby bank or a convenience store and make the payment.

In Japan, every resident is required to have health insurance. If you do not belong to a workplace health insurance program, you should sign up for the National Health Insurance. Foreign residents who have made the alien registration and are entitled to stay in Japan for one year or longer are applicable.



INQUIRIES: Mito City office kokuho-nenkin-ka 国保年金課 (029-232-9166)

Municipal and Prefectural Tax; Deadline for 2011 third phase payment is October 31st.

Please take the payment notice to a nearby bank or convenience store and make the payment.

If you are registered as a resident of Mito city on your alien registration card as of January 1st 2011, you are required to pay the Municipal and Prefectural Tax (Resident Tax) for the year to Mito city.



INQUIRIES: Mito City office shi-min-zei-ka 市民税課 (029-232-9138)

<Autumn is the season for sports!>



October has come and the weather is getting cooler, more like autumn.

This year's National Sports Day is Oct. 10th. With its fine, cool days, autumn is just the right season to enjoy sports activities. Sports festivals are usually held in this season too. Here are some facilities where you can do some exercises in Mito city.

How about moving your body and getting some refreshments?

Sakura-no-maki Sports Center
桜の牧 スポーツセンター

[Fee-based facilities] golf range, batting practice range, pitching range, futsal court, basketball facilities (3 on 3 court, shooting range, etc)

●Opening Hours

Weekdays 10am-11pm, Holidays 9am-11pm (golf 5:30am~11pm) 7 days a week

●Fee

- golf/ball male...9am-8pm (1st floor ¥7, 2nd floor ¥6) 5:30am-9am & 8pm-11pm (all ¥5)
female...9am-8pm (1st floor ¥6, 2nd floor ¥5) 5:30am-9am & 8pm-11pm (all ¥5)
- golf/3hrs unlimited driving range 9am-5pm (¥1200) 5pm-11pm (¥1300)
- batting/pitching/basketball shooting/game ¥250
- futsal/court weekdays 9am~6pm(¥8400) 6pm~11pm (¥9450)
holidays 9am~6pm(¥9450) 6pm~11pm(¥10500)
- basketball 3on3/court
weekdays 9am-6pm (up to 6 people, ¥2100)(7 or more people, ¥3150)
6pm-11pm (up to 6 people, ¥3150)(7 or more people, ¥4200)
holidays 9am-11pm (up to 6 people, ¥3150)(7 or more people, ¥4200)

※If you become a member, some facilities can be used at a cheaper rate.

※Futsal match participants wanted! Consult the center if interested.

[access] from Mito station; take the bus for Mito-Iryo-center 水戸医療センター from North exit bus terminal#4
⇒20mins⇒ get off at "桜ノ牧 高校前、" 8-mins walk.

[Inquiries] Sakura-no-maki Sports Center 029-241-9009

Sakasa-gawa Ryoku-chi

逆川緑地 / Sakasa River Green Space is one of our recommendations too!

[Free space] There is 1.5 km - long green area alongside the river where you can enjoy forest bathing easily. The area extends from Medical center to Senba lake.

[access] from Mito station; take the Senba-junkan 干波循環 bus from North exit bus terminal #8 ⇒15mins⇒ get off at "メディカルセンター前" (map reference <http://www.mito-park.net/park/sakagawa/>)

[Inquiries] Mito Park Association 029-244-2888

Hori-hara Undo Koh-en

堀原運動公園 / Hori-hara Sports Park

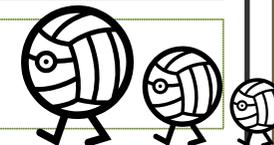
[Fee-based facilities] volleyball, badminton, table tennis

- Open 8:30am~9pm (closed/the first Wednesday of every month)
- Fee 2 hours ¥150/person
 - Reservation necessary
 - You may need to pay extra fee for lighting.
 - You need to line the court with tape if necessary.



[Free facilities] free space, children's play ground

- Open 24 hours a day



[access] from Mito station; take the bus for Iba-dai-mae Eigyo-sho 茨大前営業所 from North exit bus terminal #7 ⇒25mins⇒the last stop "茨大前営業所"

[Inquiries] Hori-hara Sports Park office 029-251-8444

Mito-shi Shin-rin Koh-en

水戸市森林公園 / Mito City Forest Park

[Free facilities] This park is large enough to enjoy walking.

There are play equipments, real size dinosaur objects, a farm where you can touch goats... etc. It should be fun for children as well!

- Open 8:30am~5:15pm (between Oct. 1st and Mar. 31st)
6am~7pm (between Apr. 1st and Sep. 30th.)

※Park is open every day but the shops and activity centers are closed every Monday.

Various events are held every month.

[Events in October]

Making rose brooch (Fee-based) ※20people maximum, reservation necessary

8th (Sat) 10:30am~12pm and 1:30pm~3pm

Making raccoon dog with chestnuts (Free) ※40people maximum

22nd (Sat), 23rd (Sun) 10:30am~12pm and 1:30pm~3pm

[Access] From Mito station ⇒Joban line, 5mins⇒ Akatsuka station

(take a taxi from Akatsuka station. approx 10km, 15-20 mins ride)

[Inquiries] Mito City Forest Park 029-252-7500



Tweet from MCIA

Tweet from staff



ATSUSHI

I recently took my summer vacation and visited Taiwan. The trip included visiting a couple of historical sites, but basically it ended up being an eating tour. Everything we ate tasted just great, especially the Xiaolongbaos (soup dumplings). When I put the dumpling into my mouth, the wrapper tears and the hot soup runs out of dumpling. It could almost burn my mouth, but the taste is so good that you would want to eat it again and again. If anyone is planning to go to Taiwan, please feel free to ask me where to go for delicious dishes !



Tweet from a foreign resident in Mito

Pragasen Chetty <South Africa>

I marvel at how the Summer, Autumn, Winter and Spring are so distinct in Japan. What has especially touched me is how people find something beautiful to celebrate in each of the seasons. The challenges of mother nature and the sometimes extreme weather do not dim the strong and optimistic spirit of people.



History of Mito ~ Tokugawa Nariaki and the Kou-dou-kan

Previously we have introduced the second lord of Mito Domain, ^{Mito-Kohmon}水戸黄門 (also known as ^{Tokugawa Mitsukuni}徳川光圀). Although he was planning to build a school to educate the samurais in Mito Domain, he was too busy compiling the "Great History of Japan" to make it come true. It was the ninth lord of Mito Domain, ^{Tokugawa Nariaki}徳川斉昭, who carried out Mitsukuni's wish and built the "^{Koudoukan}弘道館". The school was one of the largest in Japan at that time, such that can be called university nowadays. ^{Nariaki}斉昭's son ^{Yoshinobu}慶喜, who later became the fifteenth ^{Shogun}将軍 (warlord) of Edo Shogunate, used to go there to receive the special education since he was 5 years old.

"^{Koudoukan}弘道館" is located next to an elementary school ^{Sannomaru-Shogakkou}三の丸小学校 which is about 8 mins walk from Mito station. Unfortunately it does not accept visitors inside due to the effects of the earthquake. 【INQUIRIES: ^{Koudoukan}弘道館 office 029-231-4725】

Mito City International Association

Bizen-machi 6-59, Mito City, 310-0024
 Mito International Center
 tel 029-221-1800 fax 029-221-5793
 mail mcia@mito.ne.jp
 HP <http://www.mitoic.or.jp>
 Closed : Mondays, National Holidays

Please forward us any opinions or suggestions you may have!

