

Living Information for Foreign Residents in Mito  
 online version  
<http://www.mitoic.or.jp/jp/ass/shiryo/cpm.php>



**June / July**

# Culture Pot MITO

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▼ Photo: Last year's Mito Komon Festival



“Culture Pot MITO” is a bimonthly 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.



# EVENT info



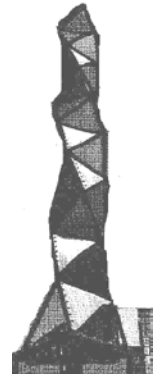
## **ART TOWER MARKET**

**June 23rd (Sat), Sept. 22nd(Sat)**  
**12noon-3pm**

☎ **090-2762-4395** executive committee

(アートタワーマーケット jikko-iinkai 実行委員会)

Flea market on the green in front of Art Tower Mito.  
Handiworks and recycled goods, etc. will be sold.  
(To have your own space, you will need to submit the application form. Please contact the organizer.)



**WHERE** Art Tower Mito  
(address: 1-6-8 Goken-cho, Mito City)

**HOW-TO-GO** Take a bus from Mito Sta. north exit bus terminal #4~7  
⇒get off at “Izumi-cho It-chome 泉町 1 丁目”.

## **TEA CEREMONY at KAIRAKUEN**

☎ **029-224-0441** Mito Tourist Association

**July 1st(Sun), Aug. 5th(Sun)**  
**10am-3pm**

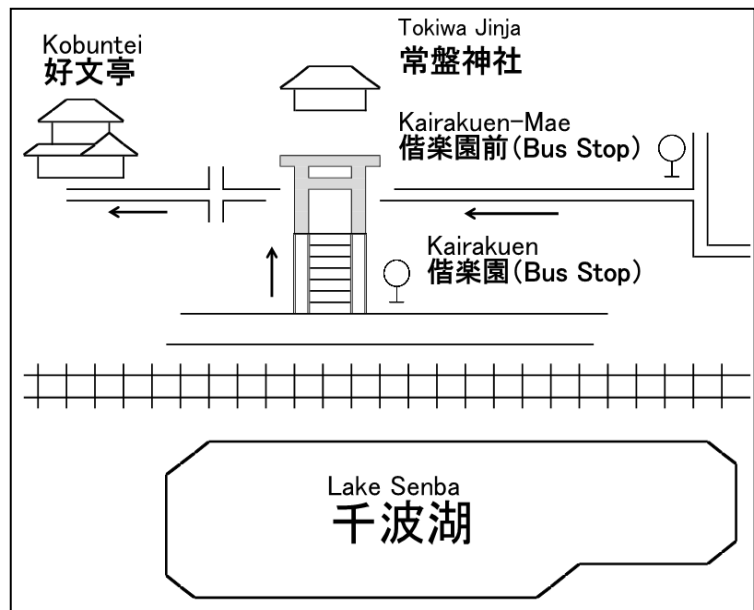
Mito Kanko-kyokai  
(水戸観光協会)

Tea ceremony will be held on first Sunday every month at "Kobuntei", a historical building in Kairakuen park.



**WHERE** “Kobuntei” in Kairakuen Park

**FEE**  
Entrance fee for Kobuntei:  
• Adults ¥190  
• Elementary/Junior high school pupils: ¥100



### **HOW-TO-GO**

1. Take the bus for 「Kai-raku-en 偕楽園」 from Mito sta. north exit bus terminal #4 to “Kai-raku-en-mae 偕楽園前”
2. Take the bus for 「Kai-raku-en 偕楽園」 from Mito sta. north exit bus terminal #6 to “Kai-raku-en 偕楽園”

## **This year's Mito Komon Festival**

**Aug. 3<sup>rd</sup> (Fri): Fireworks Exhibition**

**WHERE** Senba Lake-side

**Aug. 4<sup>th</sup> (Sat), 5<sup>th</sup> (Sun): Komon Parade, etc.**

**WHERE** Mito City

(Along the street from Mito Central Post Office to Daikumachi junction, etc.)



For further events info & time schedule, ask someone around you when the date comes closer.

## EVENTS

### **SATURDAY SALON, a meet-up for foreign & Japanese residents**

12:30pm-2pm

 029-221-1800 Mito City Int'l Association

- **English Smoothie** (in English) / June 2<sup>nd</sup>, July 7<sup>th</sup>, August (cancelled)
- **Tokoton Kankoku** (in Korean or Japanese) / June 16<sup>th</sup>, July 21<sup>st</sup>, August 18<sup>th</sup>
- **Nii-hao ! Chugoku** (in Chinese or Japanese) / June 23<sup>rd</sup>, July 28<sup>th</sup>, August 25<sup>th</sup>

**WHERE** Mito International Center; see map on History page


※Dates may be changed.

Free! Reservation unnecessary!

※English Smoothie will end in July, replaced by a new gathering from September.  
Please check our HP or call us directly to confirm the newest information.

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### **ART TOWER MITO recommendations**

 029-227-8111 Art Tower Mito  
Mito Geijutsu-kan  
(水戸芸術館)

#### ■ **GALLERY: The 44<sup>th</sup> Mito City Art Festival**

May 27<sup>th</sup>(Sun)~June 8<sup>th</sup>(Fri) :

Japanese & western painting, sculpture, applied arts

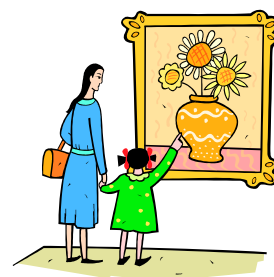
June 13<sup>th</sup>(Wed)~June 24<sup>th</sup>(Sun) :

calligraphy, photograph, design, installation

**TIME** 9:30am-5:30pm      **FEE** Free

JP <http://arttowermito.or.jp/gallery/gallery01ex.html>

ENG [http://arttowermito.or.jp/index\\_en.html](http://arttowermito.or.jp/index_en.html) (coming up soon)



#### ■ **CONCERT: The 44<sup>th</sup> Mito City Art Festival**

August 26<sup>th</sup>(Sun)

**TIME** 2pm-4pm      symphony orchestra  
4pm-4:30pm      grand finale



※ Please check the website ↓ for fees and other up-to-date information.

JP <http://arttowermito.or.jp/hall/hall01.html>

ENG [http://arttowermito.or.jp/index\\_en.html](http://arttowermito.or.jp/index_en.html) (coming up soon)

**WHERE** Art Tower Mito (address: 1-6-8 Goken-cho, Mito City)

**CLOSED** Mondays, July 17<sup>th</sup>(Tue)

**HOW-TO-GO** Take a bus from Mito Sta. north exit bus terminal #4~7

⇒ get off at “Izumi-cho It-chome 泉町1丁目”





## The Rainy Season

<sup>Tsuyu</sup>  
梅雨 is the rainy season around June and July during which the air becomes extremely humid.

- Futon, clothes and shoes could easily get mold, so it is recommended that you use products (<sup>Joshitsu-zai</sup>除湿剤) which absorb humidity inside the closets or wardrobes. These are sold at home centers and super markets.

- Rice and breads could also get mold, so keep them in the fridge. Buying a smaller pack of rice will help.



- Once-opened bottle of drinks should be kept in the fridge if you could not finish them by the end of the day.





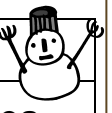
- A room with much humidity and no wind is the worst condition for laundry



to dry up. Dry them under the air conditioner or use a fan to prevent them from getting bad smell.

## Niju-shi-sekki 二十四節氣

Niju-shi-sekki is the 24 seasonal divisions of the old calendar which derived from China, each of them named according to seasonal features.

Risshun 立春 Feb4	beginning of spring 	Rikka 立夏 May5	beginning of summer 
Utsu 雨水 Feb19	snow starts to melt	Shoman 小滿 May21	plants grow well 
Keichitsu 啓蟄 Mar5	insects come out	Boshu 芒種 June5	time to seed awned crops
Shunbun 春分 Mar20	day/night time is equal	Geshi 夏至 June21	longest day time
Seimei 清明 Apr4	clear sky, blooming flowers	Shosho 小暑 July7	rain lessens/ becomes hot
Koku-u 穀雨 Apr20	rain falls on the fields	Taisho 大暑 July22	extremely hot
Risshu 立秋 Aug7	beginning of autumn 	Ritto 立冬 Nov7	beginning of winter 
Shosho 処暑 Aug23	summer heat dies down	Shosetsu 小雪 Nov22	snowfall in some area
Hakuro 白露 Sep7	dew falls in the morning	Taisetsu 大雪 Dec7	heavy snow on mountains
Shubun 秋分 Sep22	day/night time is equal	Toji 冬至 Dec21	longest night time
Kanro 寒露 Oct8	cold dew falls	Shokan 小寒 Jan5	starts to get cold
Soko 霜降 Oct23	weather becomes frosty	Taikan 大寒 Jan20	extremely cold

※This is the Niju-shi-sekki of 2012. Dates differ slightly depending on the year.

## LIFE

### Quick Tip Corner



#### Use potatoes to clean your kitchen sink

If you polish your sink with peel of potatoes, the sink will become clean.

Peel of potatoes includes ingredients which give hardware a good shin. Keep peels after making dishes and have a try!



### Restaurant guide ~Enjoy the tastes of the world~

#### Beer House BIBERE

<http://www.beerhouse-bibere.com/>



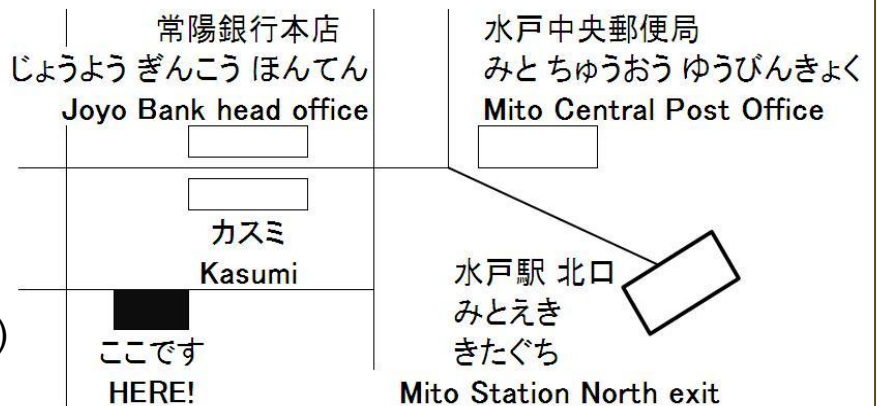
★European, Asian, American...you can enjoy various kinds of beer.

★You can also enjoy food from many countries.

Open: Tuesday-Sunday,  
6pm-0am

Seiyoclub-building 2F  
2-3-32 Minamimachi,  
Mito City  
(10mins walk from Mito Sta.)

029-226-5600



### Consult in your own language <FREE>

Any problems regarding law, labor, marriage, education and life in general? Consultations in 8 different languages are available at Foreign Consultation Center.

**Consultation line / 029-244-3811**

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

**Mon-Fri** / Japanese, English

**Mon** / Portuguese (am), Chinese (pm)

**Tue** / Spanish, Korean

**Wed** / Chinese, Thai

**Thu** / Portuguese, Tagalog

**Fri** / Indonesian, Thai

029-241-1611 Ibaraki International Association  
(different from Mito City International Association)

## TOPICS

### Alien Registration System to be abolished

Alien Registration System will be abolished, replaced by a new system starting from July 9<sup>th</sup>.

#### 【NEW SYSTEM】

Foreign residents\* will be covered by Basic Resident Registration System just like the Japanese. This will make various procedures smooth and easy. For example, when there is a change in your address, you will only need to go to the city hall, or when there is a change in the status or duration of your visa, you will only need to go to the regional immigration office.

#### Governmental Telephone Consultation (6 languages)

weekdays 8:30am-5:30pm

- 03-6301-1337(IP/PHS)
- 0570-066-630

in Japanese, English, Chinese, Korean, Spanish, Portuguese.

Until : March 29, 2013

#### \*Foreign residents

- Medium to Long Term Residents.  
(basically, those with a visa of more than 3 months duration, such as students from overseas, company employees, technical intern trainees, those who are married to a Japanese, Japanese descents, permanent residents)
- Special Permanent Residents.
- Persons granted permission for temporary refuge or provisional stay.
- Babies within 60 days of birth or persons within 60 days of having lost Japanese nationality (=persons entitled to stay in Japan transitionally).

### Foreign residents will receive a tentative Resident Record (仮住民票) around May

1. Please read through your tentative Resident Record.
2. If anything in the record is wrong or not up-to-date, you must go to Mito City Office's 「<sup>Shimin-ka</sup>市民課」 by June 8<sup>th</sup> and make necessary change.

### Foreign residents who DID NOT receive a tentative Resident Record around May

The registered address may not be up-to-date.

You must soon go to Mito City office's 「<sup>Shimin-ka</sup>市民課」 and make necessary change.

### Under the new system, you will need to fill in the respective documents when doing the following:

- Moving within Mito City ⇒ fill in the <sup>Tenkyo-todoke</sup>転居届 within 14 days after moving
- Moving in to Mito City from abroad or from other city  
⇒ fill in the <sup>Tennyu-todoke</sup>転入届 within 14 days after moving
- Moving out of Mito City ⇒ fill in the <sup>Tenshutsu-todoke</sup>転出届 before moving out

(please inquire of 「<sup>Shimin-ka</sup>市民課」 for further detail)



029-232-9156

<sup>Shimin-ka</sup>市民課



Records and Certification Section

Sannomaru temporary office 1F (1-5-48 Sannomaru, Mito city)

## TOPICS

### Municipal and Prefectural Tax



If you are registered as a resident of Mito city on your alien registration card as of January 1<sup>st</sup> 2012, you are required to pay the Municipal and Prefectural Tax (often called Resident Tax) for the year to Mito city.

The amount of payment depends on your net income (所得金額 <sup>sho-toku-kin-gaku</sup>) of 2011.

#### Payment procedure

1. In mid June, you will receive this year's tax notice
2. Take the tax notice to bank counters or convenience stores and pay your tax.

#### Payment deadlines

Payment is to be made four times total, each with a deadline as follows. Note that there will be overdue charges if you miss the deadline.

- ① July 2<sup>nd</sup> ② August 31<sup>st</sup> ③ October 31<sup>st</sup> ④ January 31<sup>st</sup>(2013)

#### Automatic deduction service

You can choose to have them deducted automatically from your bank account. Take the tax notice, bankbook and your personal seal (inkan) that you used upon creating the account to the bank counter, and fill out the necessary documents.

#### Leaving Japan?

If you are planning to leave Japan, consult Mito city office's 「市民税課」 <sup>shimin-zei-ka</sup> as you will need to decide how to make the payments.

(see bottom for contact number)


#### **[Those who currently have a job]**

Have a look at your payslip; if there is any deduction in the name of 住民税 <sup>ju-min-zei</sup> or 市民税 <sup>shi-min-zei</sup>, it means that the company is collecting 1/12 of your annual Resident Tax every month starting from June 2012 and ending in May 2013. In such case your Resident Tax is paid to the government via your company so you do not need to make payment by yourself.

# 1min.HISTORY

## National Health Insurance

Deadline for the 1st payment, 2012, is July 31st. Please take the payment notice to a nearby bank or a convenience store and pay the premium.

 Every **resident** is required to have health insurance in Japan. If you do not belong to a work- place health insurance program, you should sign up for the National Health Insurance.

- 1.Those who are registered as an alien and are entitled to stay in Japan for one year or longer, *OR*
- 2.Those who are covered by Basic Resident Registration System(→TOPICS page)

 **029-232-9166** kokuhō-nenkin-ka 国保年金課/ National Pension Section

## ■The Okushi Shell Mound and the Giant “Daidarabo”■

During the Jomon period, which dates from 12,000-2,400 years ago, people gathered shellfishes and caught fishes from the sea, ate them, and threw the shells and bones away which created shell mounds.

Here in Mito as well, there is a shell mound in Okushi (=Okushi Shell Mound). Around this mound is now a historic park and there sits a great statue of a giant called “Daidarabo”. Why is there a statue of a giant?

In the historic record called “Hitachi-no-kuni Fudoki” (721 A.D.) is written the legend of a gigantic man who was said to have existed on the hill of Okushi. The people of this time wondered why there is a shell mound in a place far away from the sea, and guessed that an extraordinarily big man had been stretching his arm all the way to the sea to eat shellfishes and fishes.

**【The REAL reason why there is a shell mound in Okushi】**



Okushi is currently far away from the sea, but it used to be very close during the Jomon period when temperature was warmer and the sea level was higher !

**Mito City International Association**  
**Tuesday-Sunday, 9am-9pm**  
(Closed : Mondays, National Holidays)

Bizen-machi 6-59, Mito City, 310-0024  
Mito International Center

tel 029-221-1800 fax 029-221-5793

mail [mcia@mito.ne.jp](mailto:mcia@mito.ne.jp)

HP <http://www.mitoic.or.jp>

Please forward us any opinions  
or suggestions you may have!

