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

Aug / Sept

# Culture Pot MITO

CONTENTS


**EVENTS**
- Open-air handicraft fair
- International Party
- Lantern floating

**LIFE**
- Typhoon
- Heat stroke prevention
- National Health Insurance
- Municipal & Prefectural Tax

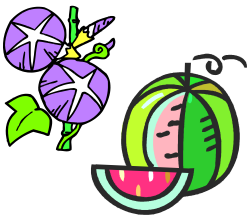
**TOPICS**
- How to wear a YUKATA

**A STROLL IN MITO**
- Old Town Names②

**Attachment**
- Fireworks Festivals in Ibaraki


▼ Photo: MCIA has been awarded a “Minister of Internal Affairs and Communications Award” for its various international exchange programs, especially that with Mito City’s sister city, Anaheim, CA.

“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.



# EVENTS info.

## Aozora-kurafuto-ichi あおぞらクラフトいち / Open air handicraft fair

Jikko-iinkai
実行委員会
**029-255-6026**

Interested in handicraft products? Come take a look at a variety of artworks which will be on display/sale at Art Tower Mito. There will also be workshops and live music/painting performances.

**WHEN** **Sept 21(Sat), 22(Sun), 10am-5pm**

**WHERE** Mito Geijutsu-kan 水戸芸術館 / Art Tower Mito (address: Mito-shi 水戸市 Goken-cho 五軒町 1-6-8)

**TRANSP** Take a bus from Mito Station North exit, bus terminal #4～7, and get off at "Izumi-cho Iccho-me 泉町１丁目"

## International Party

MCIA
**029-221-1800**

Great chance to experience various Japanese cultures such as Japanese calligraphy and origami.
Multicultural dishes to be served, too. Don't miss it !

**WHEN** **Oct 5(Sat), 12:15pm-2:30pm** **FEE** **¥500**

**WHERE** Mito International Center (see map on "A Stroll in Mito" page)

**SIGN-UP** Please e-mail or call us and let us know your ①name ②contact number, together with the name of anyone else who are coming with you, by **September 27th**.

**TEL 029-221-1800 / MAIL mcia@mito.ne.jp**

## Japanese Classes

held in Mito International Center will resume from September.
Class time: 10am-12pm

| Day | Name of Group | Class Levels | Fee per class | First class after recess |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Tue | Orbis | Beginners, Intermediate | ¥500 | Sep 3 |
| Wed | Friendly Neighborhood | Beginners, Upper Intermediate | ¥300 | Sep 11 |
| | MESA Friendship | Free Conversation | ¥300 | Sep 4 |
| Thu | Sophia | Beginners | ¥300 | Sep 5 |
| Fri | MESA Friendship | Beginners, Intermediate | ¥500 | Sep 6 |
| Sat | L'avenir | Beginners, Intermediate, Advanced | ¥500 | Sep 7 |

# EVENTS

## Toro-nagashi 灯篭流し / Lantern floating

"Obon" is when the spirits of ancestors are believed to come back to their hometown. The Obon period differs depending on areas, but is usually a few days around August 15. "Toro-nagashi" is a spiritual ceremony in which lanterns are set afloat in rivers and sea to honor the homecoming spirits. In Mito, this ceremony will be held at Senba Lake and Bizen-bori.

### The 44th Senba Lake Toro-nagashi

Mito Kanko Kyokai
水戸観光協会
**029-224-0441**

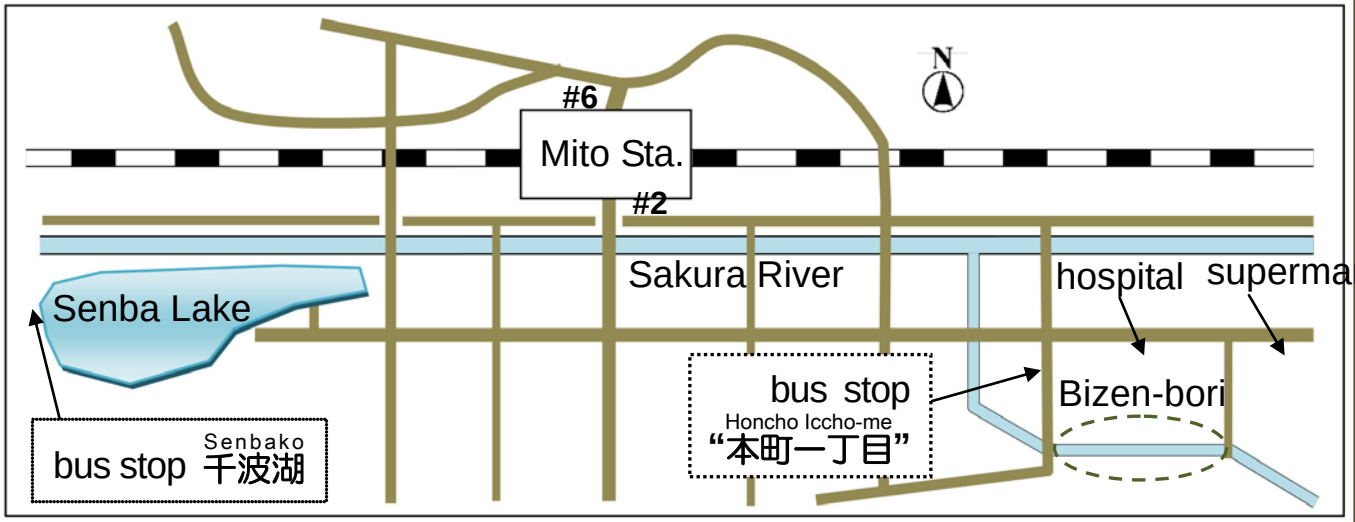
**WHEN** **Aug 16(Fri) 6pm-9pm**

**TRANSP** 20 mins walk from Mito Station, or take a Senba 千波-route bus from Mito Station North exit, bus terminal #6, and get off at **"Senbako 千波湖"**(20min/¥230).

### Bizen-bori Toro-nagashi

**WHEN** **Aug 16(Fri) 4pm-9pm**

**TRANSP** 25 mins walk from Mito Station, or take a Dai-machi 台町-route bus from Mito Station South exit, bus terminal #2, and get off at **"Honcho Iccho-me 本町一丁目"**(10min/¥160).




### International Salon (Free, Reservation unnecessary)

MCIA
**029-221-1800**

Foreign students/trainees/spouses/etc. living in Mito and around, come & join our monthly free-talk gathering. Japanese language proficiency is NOT required. Just relax and enjoy meeting various people!

**12:30pm-2pm**

- **Saturday Salon** (any language) / **Aug.3, Sept.7**
- **Tokoton Kankoku** (in Korean or Japanese) / **Aug.10, Sept.21**
- **Nii-hao ! China** (in Chinese or Japanese) / **Aug.31, Sept.28**

**WHERE** Mito International Center; see map on "A Stroll in Mito" page

## TYPHOON

Typhoon often hits Japan during Summer and Fall. It brings about strong wind and heavy rain, so we must pay much attention when it is approaching Japan. Basic measures to prevent damages are shown below.

### 1. Get typhoon information

"Is the typhoon approaching Japan ?", "When will it hit Mito ?", "How big in size?" – it is important to regularly check typhoon information and know details in advance.

【The Japan Meteorological Agency homepage】updated every 1-3 hours

**Jp http://www.jma.go.jp/jp/typh/ Eng http://www.jma.go.jp/en/typh/**

### 2. To prevent damage

Make necessary preparations before a typhoon hits your area.

- ◆ Bring items inside.
  (Plant pots, bicycle, etc. which can be blown down/away by the strong wind.)
- ◆ Close shutters on the window, if any.
  (Wind-blown objects may break the window glass)
- ◆ Have emergency supplies on hand.
  (Remember that electricity and/or water outage may occur)
  - ・ Flashlight/ portable radio and electric battery, food, drinking water
  - ・ Water for domestic life: fill the bathtub with water for uses such as bathing or flushing a toilet.

### 3. When the typhoon arrives …

- ◆ Stay indoors.
- ◆ If you have to go out, make sure to keep away from fallen power poles or broken cables.

**FLOODS & LANDSLIDES**

Some areas are prone to flood/landslide at times of large typhoon.

Q. Is my place safe ??

A. You can check by looking at the "Hazard Map".

"Hazard Map"(Japanese only) is available below for free.

Mito City Hall「Chiiki-Anzen-ka 地域安全課」(Dept. of Regional Security).

Address／Mito-shi Chu-ou 水戸市 中央 1-4-1　TEL／029-232-9152

Building／"Shimin-kaikan Higashi-gawa Rinji-chosha 市民会館 東 側 臨時庁舎" 1F

(Temporary Office 1F on the east side of previous city hall)

Download:

**http://www.city.mito.lg.jp/000271/000273/000284/000335/p006174.html**

## HEAT STROKE PREVENTION

You can easily get heat stroke (熱中症 Necchu-sho) in July and August. The symptoms include sickness and dizziness, and could even cause unconsciousness. Here are some things you can do to prevent heat strokes.

① Avoid direct sunlight (walk under the shade, wear a hat, use a parasol).
② Wear appropriate clothes (undertone colored, loose-fitting wear).
③ Drink water often (drink before you feel thirsty !).
④ Intake salt after sweating a lot.

### Pay special attention when ・・・

- the humidity is high (you could even get a heat stroke indoor or at night).
- there is a sharp increase in temperature, compared to the day before.

### If you get a heat stroke ・・・

- cool down your body (move to a cool place, apply wet towels on your arms and legs).
- drink water or sports (isotonic) drink.

If you do not have enough stamina, you will be more prone to heat stroke. Eat nutritious foods and sleep well. Give special care to children and elderly.

**National Health Insurance** ☎**029-232-9166** Mito City「国保年金課 Kokuho Nenkin-ka」dpt.

The 2nd phase payment for FY 2013 is due **Sep.2**, and the 3rd phase payment, **Sep.30**. Please take the payment notice to a nearby bank or a convenience store and pay your premium.

Foreign residents covered by Basic Resident Registration System（those with a visa period of more than 3 months） are ought to join a health insurance. If you do not belong to a work-place health insurance, you have to join NHI.

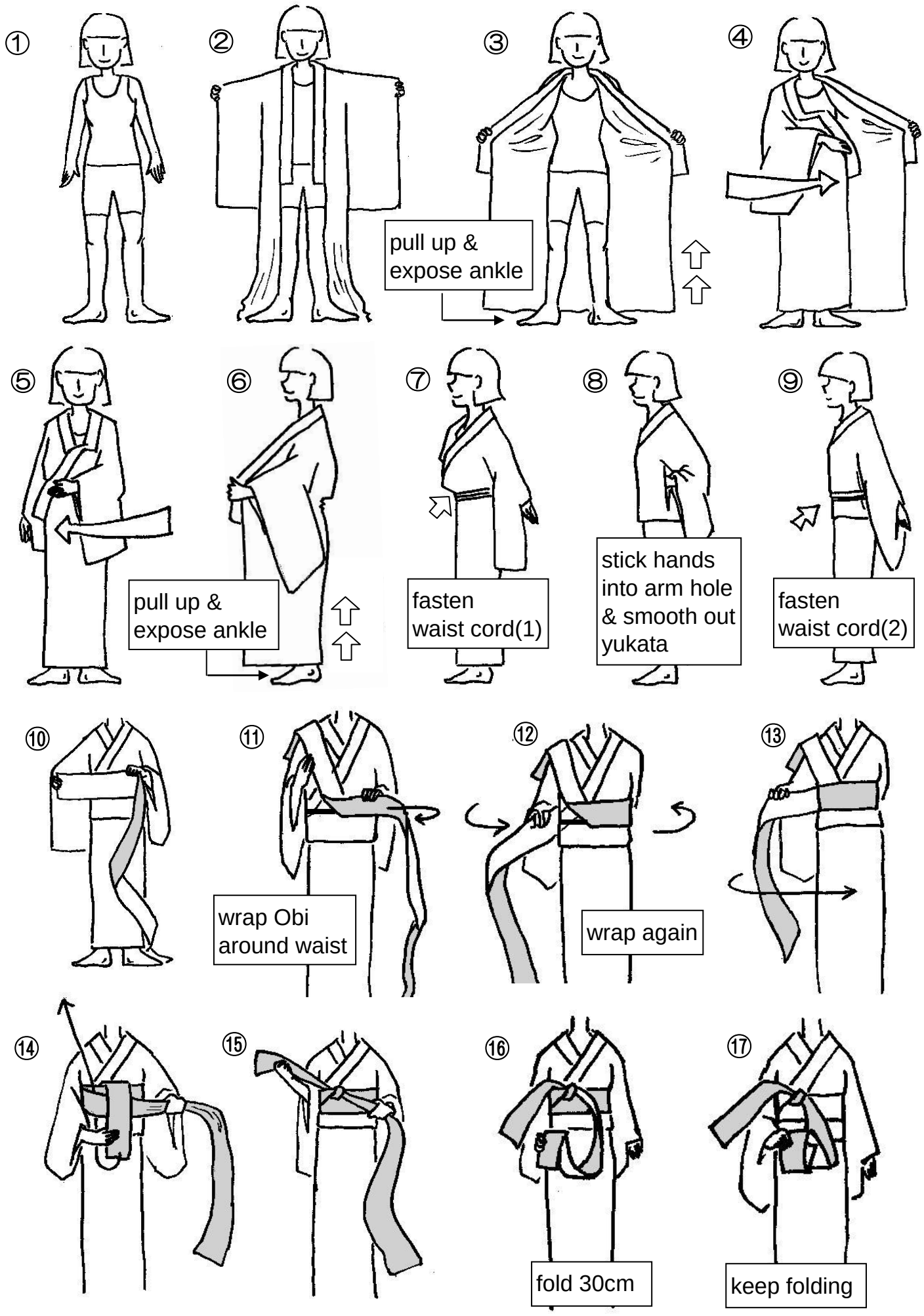
**Municipal & Prefectural Tax** ☎**029-232-9138** Mito City「市民税課 Shimin-zei-ka」dpt.

The 2nd phase payment for FY 2013 is due **Sep.2**. Please take the payment notice to a nearby bank or a convenience store and pay your tax.

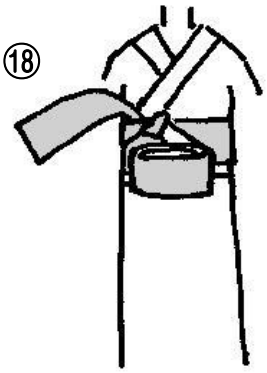
If the address appearing on your “alien registration card” or “residence card” is Mito City (as of January 1, 2013), you are required to pay the Municipal & Prefectural Tax for the year to Mito City.

# How to Wear a Yukata ～in picture～

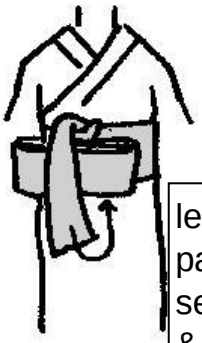
## Woman



⑱

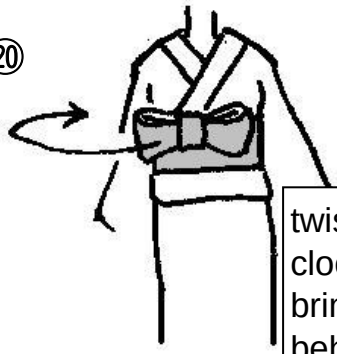


⑲



let the end pass under several times & hide it in

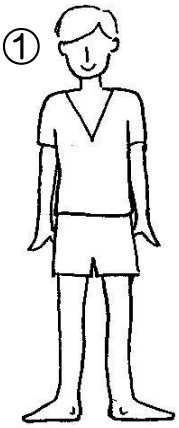
⑳



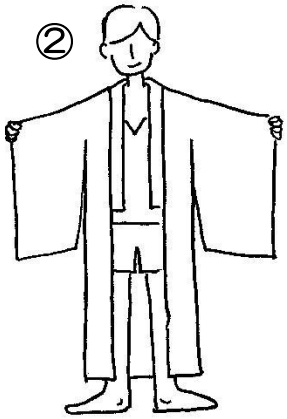
twist Obi clockwise to bring the bow behind

## Man

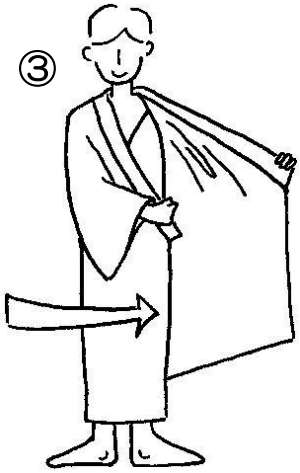
①



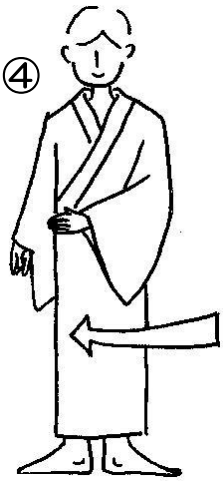
②



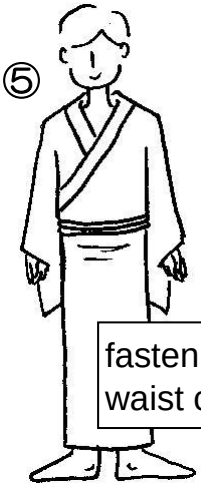
③



④



⑤

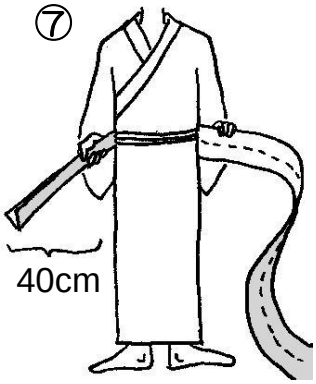


fasten waist cord

⑥

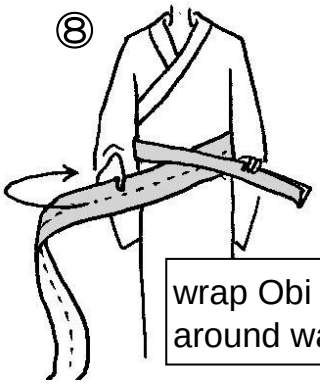
fold 40cm along end

⑦



40cm

⑧

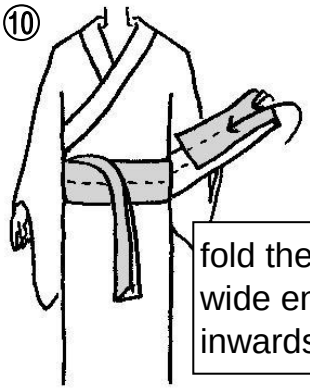


wrap Obi around waist

⑨

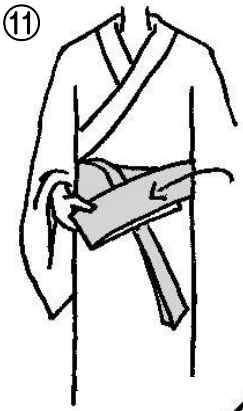
wrap again

⑩

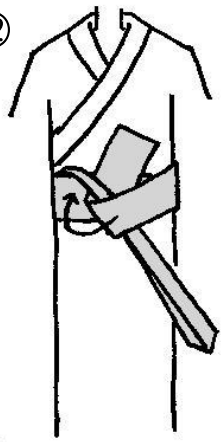


fold the wide end inwards

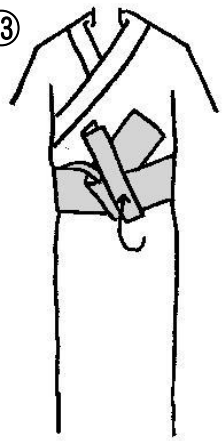
⑪



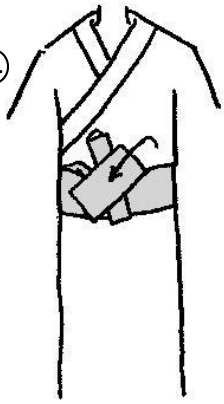
⑫



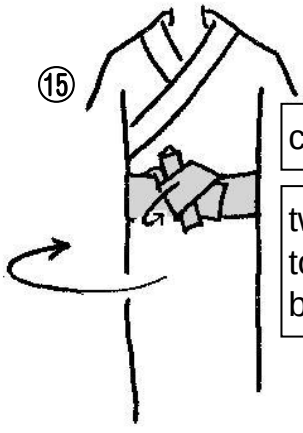
⑬



⑭



⑮



complete the knot

twist Obi clockwise to bring the knot behind

# 2013

# Fireworks Festivals in Ibaraki

## ●第５３回 水戸黄門まつり 花火大会
Dai-gojusan-kai Mito Komon Matsuri Hanabi-taikai

**Mito**【4,500 fireworks】

Date／August 2 (Fri)

7:30-8:30pm

In case of rain／August 9 (Fri)

Place／千波湖 lake ＜水戸 Sta.＞
Senbako Mito

Contact／水戸観光協会
Mito Kanko-kyokai

TEL／029-224-0441

## ●ひたち河原子 海上花火大会
Hitachi Kawarago Kaijo Hanabi-taikai

**Hitachi**【1,000 fireworks】

Date／August 3 (Sat)

7:30-8:30pm

In case of rain／August 4 (Sun)

Place／河原子 海岸 beach ＜常陸多賀 Sta.＞
Kawarago Kaigan Hitachi-taga

Contact／日立市観光協会
Hitachi-shi Kanko-kyokai

TEL／0294-22-3111

## ●第８回 古河 花火大会
Dai-hakkai Koga Hanabi-taikai

**Koga**【20,000 fireworks】

Date／August 3 (Sat)

7:20-8:50pm

In case of rain／August 4 (Sun)

Place／古河ゴルフリンクス ＜古河 Sta.＞
Koga Golf Links Koga

Contact／古河 花火大会 実行委員会
Koga Hanabi-taikai Jikko-iinkai

TEL／0280-92-3111

## ●東海まつり 花火大会
Tokai Matsuri Hanabi-taikai

**Tokai**【3,000 fireworks】

Date／August 10 (Sat)

7:00-8:30pm

In case of rain／August 11 (Sun)

Place／阿漕ケ浦 公園 park ＜東海 Sta.＞
Akogigaura Koen Tokai

Contact／東海まつり実行委員会
Tokai Matsuri Jikko-iinkai

TEL／029-283-2141

## ●第６０回 とりで 利根川 大花火
Dai-rokujukkai Toride Tonegawa Daihanabi

**Toride**【7,000 fireworks】

Date／August 10 (Sat)

7:00-8:15pm

In case of rain／August 11 or 12

Place／取手市 緑地 運動公園＜取手Sta.＞
Toride-shi Ryokuchi Undo-koen Toride

Contact／取手市 観光協会
Toride-shi Kanko-kyokai

TEL／0297-74-2141

## ●那珂湊 海上花火大会
Nakaminato Kaijo Hanabi-taikai

**Hitachinaka**【1,600 fireworks】

Date／August 12 (Mon)

7:00-8:30pm

In case of rain／August 13th(Tue)

Place／Nakaminato fishing port＜那珂湊Sta.＞
Nakaminato

Contact／ひたちなか市 観光振興課
Hitachinaka-shi Kanko-shinkoka

TEL／029-273-0111

## ●Daigo-machi Hanabi-taikai & Toro-nagashi 大子町 花火大会 と 灯篭流し

**Daigo**【3,450 fireworks】

Date／August 14(Wed) 7:15-9:00pm

In case of rain／August 24(Sat)

Place／where Kuji River and Oshikawa River meet ＜Hitachi-daigo 常陸大子 Sta.＞

Contact／Daigo-machi Kanko-kyokai 大子町観光協会

TEL／0295-72-0285

## ●Dai-sanjukyu-kai Gozenyama Noryo Hanabi-taikai 第39回 御前山 納涼 花火大会

**Hitachi-omiya**【1,000 fireworks】

Date／August 14(Wed) 7:30-9:00pm

In case of rain／August 15 (Thur)

Place／river bank near Nakagawa Ohashi 那珂川大橋 bridge ＜Hitachi-omiya 常陸大宮 Sta.＞

Contact／Hitachi-omiya-shi Shokokai Gozenyama shisho 常陸大宮市 商工会 御前山支所

TEL／0295-55-2408

## ●Mitoshi Uchihara Shoko Natsu Matsuri Hanabi-taikai 水戸市内原商工 夏まつり 花火大会

**Mito**【700 fireworks】

Date／August 18 (Sun) 8:30-9:00pm

In case of rain／August 19 (Mon)

Place／Uchihara 内原 Sta. North Exit, Deai-no-hiroba 出会の広場 park (Next to AEON Mall Uchihara)

Contact／Mito-shi Uchihara Shokokai 水戸市 内原 商工会

TEL／029-259-2803

## ●Dai-sanjugo-kai Kashima-shi Hanabi-taikai 第35回 鹿嶋市 花火大会

**Kashima**【10,000 fireworks】

Date／August 23 (Fri)

7:30-9:00pm

In case of rain／August 24 (Sat)

Place／Ofunatsu 大船津(Kitaura Lake)＜Kashima-jingu 鹿嶋神宮Sta.＞

Contact／Kashima-shi Kanko-kyokai 鹿嶋市観光協会

TEL／0299-82-7730

## ●Hitachinaka Matsuri Hanabi-taikai ひたちなか祭り 花火大会

**Hitachinaka**【3,000 fireworks】

Date／August 24 (Sat) 7:30-8:30pm

In case of rain／August 26 (Mon)

Place／Ground Self-Defense Force Camp Katsuta ＜Nikko-mae 日工前Sta.＞

Contact／Hitachinaka Matsuri Jikko-iinkai ひたちなか祭り 実行委員会

TEL／029-272-0540

## ●Inashiki Natsu Matsuri Hanabi-taikai 2012 いなしき 夏まつり 花火大会

**Inashiki**【12,000 fireworks】

Date／August 24(Sat) 7:00pm-8:30

In case of rain／August 25(Sun)

Place／Edosaki Sogo Undo-koen 江戸崎 総合運動公園 park ＜add: Inashiki-shi Aranuma 稲敷市 荒沼 3-1＞

Contact／Inashiki Natsu Matsuri Jikko-iinkai いなしき 夏まつり 実行委員会

TEL／029-892-2000

## ●Joso-kinugawa Hanabi-taikai 常総きぬ川 花火大会 2013

**Joso**【7,000 fireworks】

Date／August 31(Sat)

6:30-8:20pm

In case of rain／September 1(Sun)

Place／Hashimoto Undo-koen 橋本 運動公園 park ＜Mitsukaido 水海道 Sta.＞

Contact／Joso Kinugawa Hanabi-taikai Jikko-iinkai 常総きぬ川 花火大会 実行委員会

TEL／0297-22-2121

## ●Dai-hachijuni-kai Tsuchiura Zenkoku-hanabi-kyogi-taikai 第82回 土浦 全国花火競技大会

**Tsuchiura**【20,000 fireworks】

Date／October 5 (Sat)

6:00-8:30pm

In case of rain／October 6 or 12 or 13 or 14

Place／near Gakuen-ohashi 学園大橋 bridge ＜Tsuchiura 土浦 Sta.＞

Contact／Tsuchiura Zenkoku-hanabi-kyogi-taikai 土浦 全国花火競技大会

TEL／029-826-1111 Jikko-iinkai 実行委員会

# A Stroll in Mito ～Old Town Names ② ～

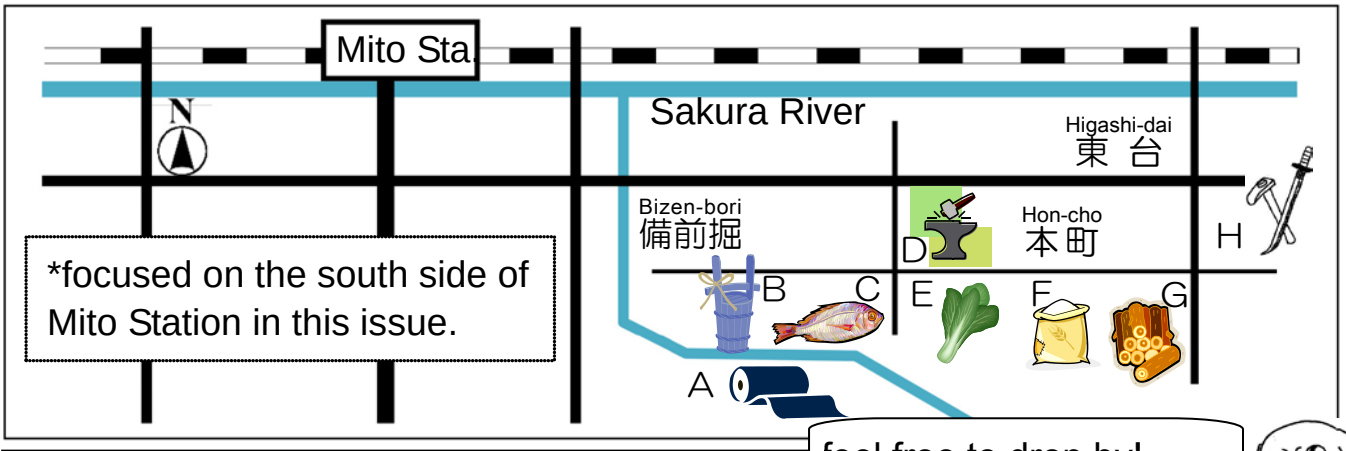
Some towns in Mito used to be named after jobs of people who lived or worked there. If you look at the old town names, you will see what kind of people were in Mito during Edo Period (1603-1868).

[#1, #2, #3 …Number of city districts. (ex.) #1 = 1丁目(chome) ]

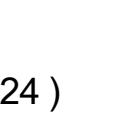
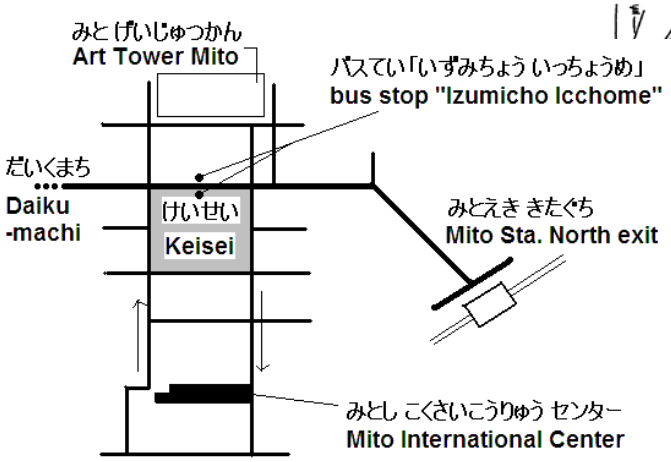
| Old name | Present name | Then existed workers/shops |
|---|---|---|
| A Konya-cho 紺屋町 | Hon-cho 本町 #1、#2 | Dye shops (=紺屋 konya) |
| B Himono-cho 檜物町 | Hon-cho 本町 #1、#2 | Woodcrafters (woodcraft=檜物 himono) |
| C Sakana-machi 肴町 | Hon-cho 本町 #2 | Fish merchants (fish= 肴 sakana) |
| D Shirogane-cho 白銀町 | Hon-cho 本町 #3、Higashi-dai 東台#1 | Silver/gold craftsmen (silver= 白銀/*shirogane* or *hakugin*) |
| E Aomono-cho 青物町 | Hon-cho 本町 #3 | Vegetable merchants (vegetables= 青物 aomono) |
| F Shio-cho 塩町 | Hon-cho 本町 #3 | Salt merchants (salt= 塩 shio) |
| G Zaimoku-cho 材木町 | Hon-cho 本町 #3 | Timber merchants (timber= 材木 zaimoku) |
| H Kaji-cho 鍛冶町 | Higashi-dai 東台#2、Hon-cho 本町 #3 | Blacksmiths (iron forging= 鍛冶 kaji) |

Nowadays written as 魚 *sakana*

Often refers to green vegetables. 野菜 *yasai* is a more general term.




feel free to drop by!

**Mito City International Association (MCIA)**
**Tuesday-Sunday, 9am-9pm**
(Closed : Mondays,
Aug 11-24, Sep17 & 24 )
Add:〒310-0024 Mito-shi 水戸市 Bizen-machi 備前町6-59
Mito International Center
**tel** 029-221-1800 **fax** 029-221-5793
**mail** mcia@mito.ne.jp
**HP** http://www.mitoic.or.jp

Please forward us any opinions or suggestions you may have!