

A Stroll in Mito



~Natto of Mito



Oushu

【How did Natto come about?】

There are many stories on the origin of natto. Here, we will introduce the most famous story in Ibaraki.

In 1083, the Lord General ^{Minamoto-no-Yoshi-ie} 源義家 was heading for the battle in ^{Oushu} 奥州 (mainly the current Tohoku area) with his troops. On their way to the destination, they packed boiled soy beans in bundles of straw, so as to feed their horses afterwards. A couple of days later, however, the straw gave off an odd smell, so the soldiers opened them and found out that the boiled beans had fermented. They tried the taste and liked it very much, and offered some to the Lord General.

【Natto in Ibaraki】

Since the Nakagawa (river) watershed would often flood on occasions of typhoon, natto made from tiny soy bean has been predominant in Ibaraki, as they are more resistant to floods and can be harvested before the typhoon season.

【Why did Mito become famous for Natto?】

In the old times, Nattos were sold by venders who went around houses for sale. In 1889, when the current Mito Line started its service and many people began using Mito Station, Natto venders took advantage of the flow of people and started selling in the station, which turned out highly successful. Gradually, Mito Station came to be known as the place where delicious natto made from tiny soy beans are sold.

Participate in Natto Eating Contest!

March 22nd, 10am-1pm (meet up at 9:30am)

near ^{Kobun Cafe} 「好文カフェ」, Senba Lake-side

Trial round : rice & natto

Final round : only natto !

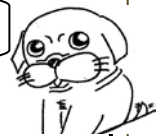
- Gorgeous Prizes
- Souvenir for all

SIGNING UP? Inform us your

- (1) name
- (2) country
- (3) gender
- (4) TEL#

to the contact below.
(E-mail title must include 「なっとう」 or 「NATTO」)

feel free to drop by!



Mito City International Association (MCIA)

Tuesday-Sunday, 9am-9pm

(Closed : Mondays, Feb.11)

Add: 〒310-0024 ^{Mito-shi Bizen-machi} 水戸市 備前町6-59

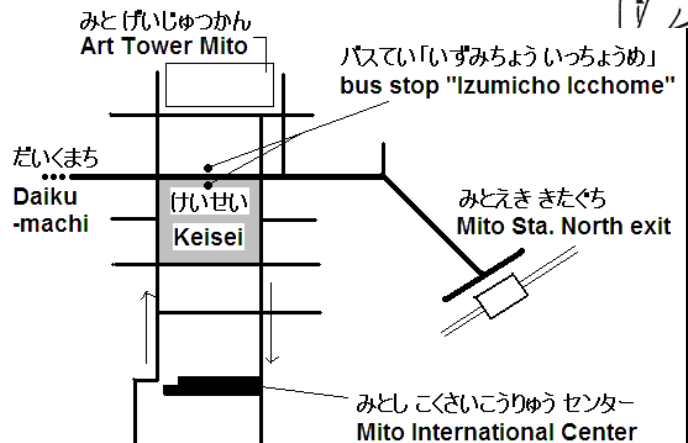
Mito International Center

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!



Take a bus from Mito station North exit, bus terminal #4~7 ⇒ 5mins ⇒ ♀ “泉町一丁目”

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



Feb / Mar

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A STROLL IN MITO

- Natto of Mito

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- 1 day Ski Lesson • Jp class

▼ Photo: Learning how to use fire hydrant (Disaster Drill Dec.14, Int'l Center)



“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.