

Japanese Customs



Tsukimi
月見

“Tsukimi” means moon-gazing: the act of enjoying a beautiful full moon. This time, we will introduce its significance and how to enjoy the event.

Chushu-no-meigetsu Ju-go-ya
中秋の名月/十五夜

According to the lunar calendars, the season of autumn is defined to be from July to September. Its middle date, August 15th, is called ^{Chu-shu} 中秋 (=mid-autumn), and the moon that is seen on this night is called ^{Chushu-no-meigetsu} 中秋の名月 or ^{Ju-goya} 十五夜. September 8th is the day of ^{Chushu-no-meigetsu} 中秋の名月 / ^{Ju-goya} 十五夜 for 2014.



What customs are followed?

People offer “dango” (rice dumpling),

“susuki” (Japanese pampas grass) and some seasonal fruits

to the moon, by placing them where the moon can be seen. These offerings are to be eaten after gazing at the moon. But why make offerings? Many typhoons strike Japan in this season, which could ruin rice crops with strong wind and rain, so this is part of making a wish upon the moon for calm weather.



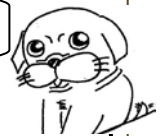
“Rabbits living on moon”

Since there is a pattern on the moon that looks like a rabbit

pounding the rice cake, in Japan, there is a saying that rabbits are living on the moon. On the other hand, the pattern of the moon is likened to a crab or an elderly woman in Europe, and to a profile of a woman in the United States.



feel free to drop by!



Mito City International Association (MCIA)

Tuesday-Sunday, 9am-9pm

(Closed : Mondays & Sep16, Sep23)

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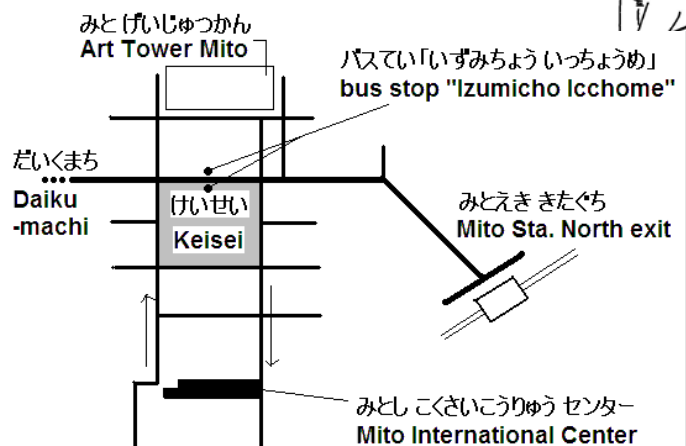
Mito International Center

Tel 029-221-1800 Fax 029-221-5793

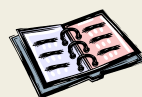
Mail mcia@mito.ne.jp

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”



Culture Pot MITO

In the title “Culture Pot MITO,” 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.

▼ Photo: Disaster Preparedness Seminar, July 12 at Mito International Center



FORMAL

In a business situation or with someone you do not know well

ちょっと Japanese



CASUAL

With your friends

“^{aizuchi,}相槌” is the interjections during a conversation that shows the listener is paying attention to the speaker.

A: 昨日、偕楽園へ行ったら、旅雑誌の撮影が
^{arimashite}ありまして…(Yesterday when I went to
 Kairakuen, a photo-shoot of a travel
 magazine was taking place...)

B: ええ (←^{aizuchi}相槌)(uh-huh)

A: 歌手の××さんが来ていたんですよ
 (and the singer ××-san was there)



A: 昨日、偕楽園へ行ったら、
^{tabi-zasshi no satsuei ga atte}旅雑誌の撮影が あって…
 (Yesterday when I went to Kairakuen,
 a photo-shoot of a travel magazine was
 taking place...)

B: うん (←^{aizuchi}相槌)(uh-huh)

A: 歌手の××さんが来ていたんだよ
 (and the singer ××-san was there)

※ There are more than 40 types of aizuchi;
 this is just an example of the
 frequently-used ones.

