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

Apr / May

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: Lecture about Italian wine on March 11th at Mito International Center

Petit Japanese

Let’s introduce ourselves!

In Japan, the school year and the business year start in April, so spring is a season full of new meetings. When meeting someone for the first time, let’s introduce ourselves in Japanese.

① Start with a greeting.

- Hajimemashite
  はじめまして。
  (Nice to meet you.)

② Introduce yourself.

- ○○ ○○と to 申します moshimasu。
  (My name is ○○ ○○.)
- Shusshin wa 出身は ○○です desu。
  (I am from ○○.)

③ At the end of the introduction.

- Yoroshiku onegaishimasu
  よろしくお願いします。
  (Nice meeting you.)

Events

Mito Kanko Kyokai
水戸観光協会
029-224-0441

Mito Azaleas Festival

At Kairakuen 偕楽園, one of the three outstanding parks in Japan, about 380 shrubs of various azaleas can be enjoyed, and at Mitoshi-shinrin-koen 水戸市森林公園 more than 10 thousands of azalea shrubs.

【**WHEN**】April 16 (Sun) – May 7 (Sun)

【**WHERE**】①Kairakuen 偕楽園, ②Mitoshi-shinrin-koen 水戸市森林公園

【**TRANSP**】Mito Sta, N Exit⇒①take bus "Kairakuen-iki 偕楽園行" to get off at "Kairakuen-mae 偕楽園前" ⇒②take bus "Hirakue-keiyu-Ishizukasyako-iki 開江経由石塚車庫行" to get off at "Shinrin-koen-nishiguchi 森林公園西口" and walk 10 mins.

Pottery Festival 「Kasama-no-himatsuri 笠間の陶炎祭」

More than 200 of potters, potteries, and local dealers exhibit original ceramic art for sale. There will be many interesting food stalls and events by potters.

【**WHEN**】April 29 (Sat) – May 5 (Fri) 9:00am – 5:00pm

【**WHERE**】Kasama Geijutsu-no-mori Koen 笠間芸術の森公園　Address: Kasama-shi 笠間市 Kasama 笠間 2345

【**TRANSP**】①From Kasama Sta (Mito Line), walk 30 mins or take bus*

*¥100 per ride (on May 1&2, ¥170)

②From Tomobe Sta (Joban Line) North exit, take bus*　*¥100 per ride

※For details visit: http://www.himatsuri.net/access-jr.php (In Japanese only)

Nemophila Harmony

About 4.5 millions of Nemophila flowers cover the hills of Miharashi-no-oka みはらしの丘 in Hitachi Seaside Park. You can see an amazing view of the sky, the sea and the Nemophila flowers melting into one. Don't miss it!

【**WHEN**】April 22(Sat) – May 14(Sun), 9:30am～5:00pm

【**WHERE**】Kokuei Hitachi Kaihin Koen 国営ひたち海浜公園(Hitachi Seaside park)
Address: Hitachinaka shi Mawatari Aza Onuma ひたちなか市馬渡字大沼 605-4

【**TRANSP**】Mito Station ⇒ (Joban Line, 5 mins) ⇒ Katsuta Station ⇒ Take a bus from Katsuta Sta, East exit, Terminal ♯2 ⇒ Get off at Kaihin Koen Nishi-guchi 海浜公園西口(Hitachi Seaside Park west gate) or Minamiguchi 南口 (south gate)　(23 mins)

What is "Golden Week"? GW

Ogatarenkyu
"Golden Week(大型連休)" is a long vacation where many holidays continue from the end of April to the beginning of May.
Why is it called "Golden Week"? In the old days, a movie released during this period, made a huge hit, a lot bigger than those released during New Year's day and Obon holidays.
Because of that, the movie company wanting people to go out to watch movies during such long vacations, then, started to use "Golden Week" to describe the vacation.
During this period, people go out to many places where events are to be held. So, keep in mind that places and roads will be crowded.

2017 Golden Week			
Day		Holiday	9 days vacation if you take 5/1 and 5/2 off.
4/29	Sat	Show Day	
4/30	Sun	Holiday	
5/1	Mon		
5/2	Tue		
5/3	Wed	Constitution Memorial Day	
5/4	Thurs	Greenery Day	
5/5	Fri	Children's Day	
5/6	Sat	Holiday	
5/7	Sun	Holiday	

Showa-no-hi
【昭和の日Showa Day】: A day for us to look back over the era of Showa and think about the future of our country.

Kenpo-kinenbi
【憲法記念日Constitution Memorial Day】: A day commemorating the fact that the Japanese Constitution was implemented from May 3rd, 1947.

Midori-no-hi
【みどりの日Greenery Day】: A day to get familiar with nature and enrich mind.

Kodomo-no-hi
【こどもの日Children's Day】: A day to wish for children's happiness and healthy growth. Families who have boys, decorate the house with carp streamers and Kabuto (Japanese helmet). During this term, we can see many carp streamers at many places. In Hitachi-Ota city, the famous carp streamers festival will be held at Ryujin O-tsuribashi 竜神大吊橋 every year.

Information about Golden Week

- No entrance fee* on Children's Day (May 5th)
  Oarai Aquarium / Mito Art Tower / Hitachi Seaside Park

***Only kids of junior high school age or younger**

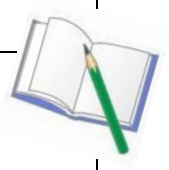
EVENT

Aozora Craft Ichi Mito
「あおぞら クラフト いち Spring in 水戸」(Aozora Craft Market Spring in Mito)
Exhibition and sale of Handmade goods.

【WHEN】April 29 (Sat) • 30 (Sun) 10:00am~5:00pm
【WHERE】Mito Geijutsukan -Hiroba 水戸芸術館 広場 / Art Tower Mito Square (Mito-shi Goken-cho 水戸市 五軒町 1-6-8)

Japanese Classes～first day of classes after spring break～

Day	Name of Group	Class Levels	First Class
Tue	Orbis	Beginners, Intermediate	Apr.4
Wed	Friendly Neighborhood	Beginners, Upper Intermediate	Apr.12
	MESA Friendship	Daily Conversation, Kanji	Apr.12
Thu	Sophia	Beginners	Apr.6
Fri	MESA Friendship	Beginners, Intermediate	Apr.7
Sat	L'avenir	Beginners, Intermediate, Advanced	Apr.8



PLACE: Mito Int'l Center **TIME:** 10am – 12pm (2hrs) **FEE per class:**￥300-￥500

Vehicle Tax / Light Vehicle Tax

Are you either the OWNER（shoyu-sha 所有者）or USER（shiyo-sha 使用者）of the vehicle that you are using? You can check this by taking a look at Vehicle Inspection Certificate. In Japan, the person registered as owner/user as of April 1st will receive a tax note（no-zei-tsu-chi-sho 納税通知書）urging the payment of vehicle tax or light vehicle tax. If you receive a tax note, please take it to a nearby financial institution or convenience store and pay the tax. It is usually due by **the end of May**.

owner / shoyu-sha **所有者**	**user /** shiyo-sha **使用者**	**tax note receiver**
you	unprinted	you
loan agency	you	you
person A	you	person A
person A	unprinted	person A

NOTE **Missing the deadline will lead to paying overdue charges !**

Vehicle tax（jidosha-zei 自動車税）

Applies to cars with white license plate, trucks.

TEL 029-221-6768 / Prefectural Tax office ken-zei-jimu-sho 県税事務所 (In Japanese only)

Light vehicle tax（kei-jidosha-zei 軽自動車税）

Applies to cars with yellow license plate, bikes, motor scooters.

TEL 029-232-9138 / City hall shimin-zei-ka 市民税課 (In Japanese only)

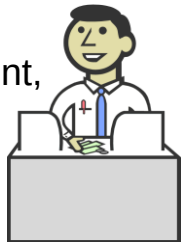
Tokyo Regional Immigration Bureau
Mito Branch Office

In such cases listed below, **Mid- to long-term residents** will need to go to Tokyo Regional Immigration Bureau Mito Branch Office and follow necessary procedures.

1. There is a change in, or correction of: your name, date of birth, gender, nationality/region.

※ ex.) when you change your name or your nationality/region as a result of marriage

2. The expiration date of your resident card is approaching.



※ Applies to those who have a resident status of Permanent Resident, or foreign resident in Japan younger than 16 years old whose resident card's validity expires on his/her 16th birthday.

→ Please be sure to go BEFORE your resident card expires.

3. The organization that you belong to has changed its name or location.
Your contract with an organization came to an end / you have transferred to a different organization.
You have renewed your contract with an organization.

※ Applies to those who have the employment status.
ex.) Engineer, Specialist in Humanities/International Services, Skilled Labor, Researcher, Instructor, etc.

※ Applies to those who have the learning status.
ex.) College student, Trainee

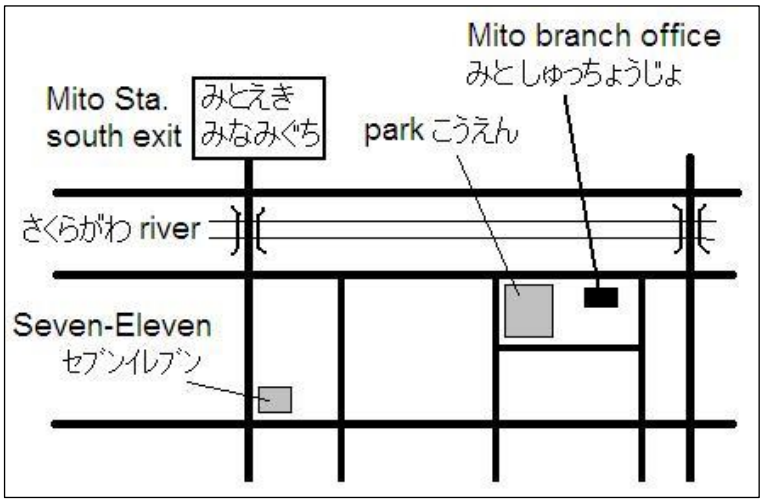
4. You have lost your spouse due to divorce or his/her death.

※ Applies to those who have a resident status of Dependent, Designated Activities, Spouse or Child of Japanese National, Spouse or Child of Permanent Resident.

5. Your resident card is lost, stolen, severely damaged or defaced.

Take your **resident card** and **passport** when going to the office. (passport, in case of 5.)

In case of 1, 3, 4 & 5, you must go within **14 days**.



Address Mito-shi 水戸市 Jonan 城南 2-9-12 TEL 029-300-3601

Monday to Friday (except holidays), 9am-12pm & 1pm-4pm

Topic on Japan

It's spring – the time for お花見(Hanami)(cherry blossoms viewing)!!!

There are many people around the world who enjoy the beauty of flowers. But appreciating the visit of spring while viewing cherry blossoms as well as cherishing the falling flowers is a really unique Japanese culture.

It is said cherry viewing was started by noble people in the Heian period (794-1185). They gathered together under cherry trees while serving sake each other, playing Japanese instruments, and exchanging poems - it was their refined pastime. In the peaceful Edo period (1603-1868), it became popular among the common people. Nowadays, people hold お花見(Hanami) parties with their family, friends and coworkers. Especially in Japanese companies, young newcomers are often assigned to pick a viewing spot for their coworkers.

The best viewing period lasts only 1-2 weeks. In southern Japan blooming starts in late March, in northern Japan in early May, and in Mito between March end and early April. During this period the weather forecast predicts every day when and where cherry flowers will bloom, so that we can not miss out on the peak bloom.

Today, we hear about bad manners during お花見(Hanami) – too much drinking, shouting, littering, etc. We need to behave well and respect others for us all to enjoy.

There are many nice お花見(Hanami) spots around Mito. Now is the season. Let's get お花見弁当(Hanami-benbto) and go out to view the stunning blossoms!

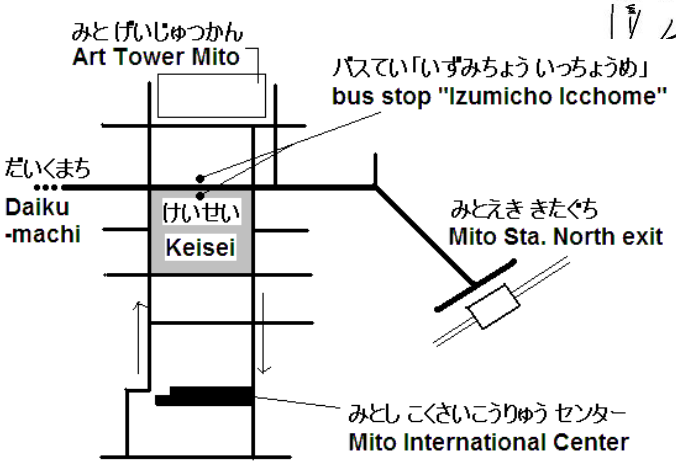
Feel free to drop by!

Mito City International Association (MCIA)
Tuesday-Sunday, 9am-9pm
(Closed: Mondays, May 3-5)

Add 〒310-0024 水戸市(Mito-shi) 備前町(Bizen-machi)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(Izumicho Icchome)"