

Hyotan

No.144

Edited by Hyotan Editors Club
 Publisher: Hitachi International Committee
 Phone: 0294-22-3111 ex534 Fax: 0294-24-5302
 E-mail: kokubun@ray.hidnet.ne.jp
 URL: <http://www.city.hitachi.ibaraki.jp/>
 Office: Community Relations Section
 Hitachi City Office
 1-1-1 Sukegawa-cho, Hitachi 317-8601
 Office Hours: Mon. - Fri. 8:30 a.m. - 5:15 p.m.
 Closed: Sat, Sun, National Holidays and
 New Year Period

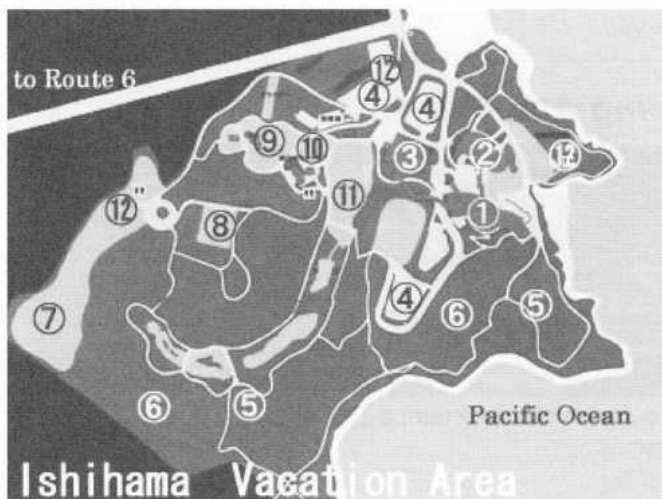
ISHIHAMA VACATION (REST AND RECREATION) AREA

Panoramic View of Ishihama



If you drive along Route 6, approximately 10 km north of Hitachi city, you will come to Ishihama Vacation Area (伊師浜国民休養地) which holds 15 hectares of extensive woodland. As you can see in the guide map below, there are many attractions and facilities for recreation in this area. If you are a nature lover, we recommend you to try a walk around the promenade, that takes about an hour. While walking, you can enjoy a spectacular view of the Pacific Ocean and do some bird watching. Also the Ishihama coast is famous for cormorants used for fishing which are exported all over Japan to be used for a traditional method of catching fish by using tame cormorants [鵜飼]. If you are lucky, you might see a few cormorants resting on the rocks beyond Ishihama beach. If not, please stop in at 'Cormorant Paradise' (鵜の楽園). Here, there are 9 cormorants

housed in a large cage. You may even be able to see cormorants eating fish. Unfortunately the sheds which had been used for cormorant hunting collapsed last June, but they are going to be rebuilt in the near future. Here we would like to introduce you to the following two spots.



LEGEND (for each no. on the guide map)

① 'Unomisaki' Public Hotel ② Restaurant 'Shiosai' ③ 'Uranoyu' Hot Spring ④ Parking ⑤ Promenade ⑥ Grove ⑦ Lawn ⑧ Tennis court ⑨ Adventure playground ⑩ Cormorant Cage ⑪ Water lily pond ⑫ Toilet

◆ The Public Hotel “Unomisaki” [国民宿舎 鵜の岬]

Public Hotels (inexpensive hotels operated by local governments) have been built with the idea of providing places for the general public to enjoy recreation, and to hold meetings and training camps whilst staying in pleasant surroundings. ‘Unomisaki’ is the most popular out of all the 194 Public Hotels in Japan and it has held the No 1 position in terms of usage over the last 12 years thanks to its location, tasty food and warm hospitality. Above all, the view of the ocean from the hot spring bath on the 8th floor is beyond description. Usually, hotel reservations can be made by phone call (0293-32-2202) but during special holiday seasons such as Dec. 30 – Jan. 5 and July 20 – Aug. 31, you are requested to apply for reservation by a reply-paid postcard(往復はがき) and the success of your application is decided by drawing lots.. It seems very difficult to get a chance to stay this hotel, but you can stop in at the coffee shop on the 2nd floor (9:30 – 18:00) and at the restaurant ‘Shiosai(しおさい)’ which has an outstanding vaulted ceiling, for lunch (11:00 – 14:00).



◆ “Urarano-Yu” Hot Spring [うららの湯]

The Public Hotel ‘Unomisaki’ as already mentioned is so popular that local people sometimes used to complain that they could never make reservations. On these grounds, ‘Urrano-Yu’ was opened in April, 2001 as the Juo town- run hot spring (onsen) facility, located just a little further up on the right side of the Hotel. This facility is available to everybody without a reservation, and you can enjoy an onsen at anytime. This type of onsen is called a “day trip hot spring” (higaeri-onsen). You can take a bath, take a rest and eat something

there all day long. This facility has two bathrooms, one for men and the other for women, two resting rooms, amusements, and Japanese style restaurant. And there are four different types of bathtubs, such as a spacious inside bath, a bubble bath, a dry sauna, and an open-air bath (roten- buro). From the open-air bath, you can get a good view of the ocean, white sands and a pine grove. In the warmer weather, you can also enjoy a cup of coffee outside in the sea breeze after bathing, sitting down on chairs located just outside the resting rooms. Nowadays,



‘Urarano-Yu’ is well frequented in the evenings (after 4 pm). Many people come just to take a bath instead of using their baths at home, because the evening admission fee is half price. People seem to enjoy bathing here in the same way that they enjoy the atmosphere of the “sento” public baths. There is a natural alkalinity in the water of this onsen, which is effective in the treatment of neuralgia, muscle pains and skin diseases. The Japanese islands lie on the site of considerable volcanic activity, so there are many hot spring resorts each place. And these onsen are being used for cure of a disease and healing a wound as well as a place of recreation and relaxation.

Hours: 10:00 a.m. ~ 9:00p.m. Closed: 1st and 3rd Tues. every month Tel: 0293-32-1126

Fee: Weekday: adults 800 yen, children 400 yen, Sun. and Sat.: adults 1000 yen, children 500 yen

Night (4 p.m. ~ 9:00p.m.): adults 500 yen, children 250 yen

~ Children Performing Arts Fair ~

When ▶ Feb 28 (Sat) 11:00~16:00
~Feb 29 (Sun) 10:00~16:00

Where ▶ Hitachi Civic Center

Fee ▶ Free

Contents ▶ Display corner (Sculpture, Digital photographs etc), Challenge corner (Ikebana – Japanese flower arrangement, Go-Japanese checkers, Tea ceremony etc), Live performances (Noh drama, Koto-Japanese zither, Buyo-Japanese style dance etc)

Enquiries ▶ Community Relations Section Hitachi City Office

Phone ▶ 0294-22-3111 (ex535)



Hyotan Readers Questionnaire

The Results

You may remember that last summer in Hyotan 140, there was a questionnaire asking for your views on life in Hitachi. There were three aims for this questionnaire:-

1. To provide a chance for foreigners residing in Hitachi to voice their opinions on Hitachi to Japanese people;
2. Conversely, to give Japanese residents of Hitachi the opportunity to understand the feelings of non-Japanese residents;
3. And, possibly, to improve Hitachi for both Japanese and foreign residents, by providing both groups with the chance to talk to each other freely.

But how were the results of the questionnaire to be made publicly available. The initial idea was to create a display featuring your opinions which would be part of the Hitachi Kokusai Bunka Matsuri 2003 (Nov 22, 2003). From the results of the questionnaire, a display was put together and it was available for public viewing in the week leading up to and on the day of the Hitachi Kokusai Bunka Matsuri, November 22nd, 2003. However, it is unsure how successful this display was in achieving the three aims outlined in the above paragraph. Therefore an outline of the main results of the questionnaire will here again be put forth in this edition of Hyotan.

The Respondents

Overall 59 Hyotan readers completed the questionnaire. 23 respondents were from China, 8 from Korea, 7 from the USA. The other countries represented were Thailand, Mongolia, New Zealand, Australia, the United Kingdom, India, Canada, Taiwan, Denmark, the Philippines, and Malaysia. Many of the respondents were students (24), but other occupations such as engineers or English teachers were well represented.

The Questions

Q1. What do you like about Hitachi?

A variety of different views were offered in answer to this question. But some clear main themes did emerge:- the beach and sea; the mountains and nature in close proximity to the city; Heiwa Street at the time of the Cherry Blossom festival; the general feeling of quietness and orderliness; and the kindness and helpfulness of local people. The Saturday "Night Bazaar" was also very popular. The following quote sums things up pretty well:-

"I like the location of Hitachi, between the sea and the mountains. Also there is Hitachi Company which sponsored my visit to Japan. The people in Hitachi are very helpful and caring. The Civic Center helped me to get to know various Japanese

people and people from other countries too, like China etc. I've also learned a lot about Japanese Culture through the Civic Center.

I like the sakura of Heiwa Street in front of the station.

I have learned self-discipline and neatness from Japanese people"
(M. Muthuraman, India)

Q2. What don't you like about Hitachi?

There was a resounding thumbs down to the By-pass road that is being built along the beach, especially from Westerners (New Zealand, America, Australia etc). They could not believe that Hitachi's great beaches were being ruined by a road! Others complained about traffic congestion. Other problems were the lack of chances for foreigners and Japanese people to meet each other and get involved in cultural exchange. Also it was said that sometimes Hitachi feels "dead", a town with no heart (center) because it is so spread out. And that there was a lack of places of entertainment to have fun or hang out.

"I don't like the new freeway which is being built across the beach. One of the great things about Hitachi is the beaches, which will be ruined with the freeway"
(Maryon Fijnvandraat, Canada)

Q3. What could be improved about Hitachi?

Again the respondents from Western countries quite forcefully wanted the deconstruction of "the Road being built across the beach". In general, more environmental awareness was felt to be needed ie more green spaces and the protection of wildlife and nature. Also, people wanted Hitachi to become more culturally exciting by having "Free concerts" in the Civic Center, by revitalizing the beach front, and by more summer outdoor events. More chances for cultural exchange between Japanese people and foreign residents were also felt to be needed, so as to reduce preconceptions and prejudices between the two. Also traffic and public transport were pinpointed as areas in need of improvement ie the lack of designated bicycle lanes and clear walking paths, and the confusing and expensive bus system!

Q4. What experiences of interest have you had in Hitachi?

"Karaoke without a doubt. I also enjoyed meeting the locals and using my crap Japanese on them, it made for a good laugh. It's amazing what you can

do with limited Japanese. I think getting hijacked by drunk locals and being asked by strangers to join them in their homes for dinner or lunch always blew me away"

(Warner Cowin, New Zealand)

"None! I've had to work hard all the time!"

(Trainee, China)

"Taking part in Hanami on Kamine Park with my Japanese and non-Japanese friends was one of the funniest experiences of my life!"

(Ian Platford, UK)

"I took part in the "Sakura" Japanese Speech Contest for Foreigners. It was a great experience"

(社 方、中国)

Conclusions

It was very interesting reading the results of the questionnaire, so I would sincerely like to thank all those who took part. Certainly, many good things and some things that need improving about Hitachi were brought to light by this questionnaire. However, it was very small scale, so may be this exercise could be repeated again in the future on a much larger scale, so that the results could be of some real use! Hopefully, there will be more chances in the future for Japanese and foreign residents of Hitachi to exchange their ideas on the issues raised through the Hyotan Questionnaire.

Ian Platford

Hitachi City Assistant Language Teacher (ALT)

(Member of the Hitachi Kokusai Bunka Matsuri 2003 Executive Planning Committee)

»»»» INFORMATION ««««

JAPANESE LANGUAGE CLASSES

NAME	LOCATION	DATE & TIME	Fee	Contact
Sakura	Shichokaku Center	Saturday 10:00-11:30	¥1,800/semester	Ms. Ryoko Mori Tel/Fax 53-6663
		Thursday 10:00-11:30	¥1,800/semester	
Sakura (Kanji)	Kyoiku Plaza	Friday 10:00-11:30	¥1,000/semester	
Anzu	Shichokaku Center	Tuesday 19:00-20:30	¥300/month & ¥1,500 (text)	Ms. Kyoko Kamada Tel/Fax 33-3399
	Kyoiku Plaza	Friday 13:00-16:00	¥300/month & ¥1,500 (text)	

Movies in February

Theater	Day	Titles (Original Titles)
Cinefesta 1&2 Tel:21-7472	-6	Godzilla [J]
	-6	Hamutaro [J]
	7-	Akai Tsuki [J]
	14-	The Lord of the Rings
	-	Gege [J]
	-	Timeline [E]
Hitachi Central Tel:21-1386	-13	Finding Nemo [E]
	14-	The Lord of the Rings [J]
Aigakan 1&2 Tel:23-2323	-13	Han Ochi [J]
	14-	Finding Nemo [E]
	-	Chakushin Ari [J]
Theater Isejin Tel:22-1761	-	Last Samurai[E]
	-	Seabiscuit [E]
	-	Hollywood teki Satsujin Jiken
	-	(Hollywood Homicide) [E]

[E]: English with Japanese subtitle

[J]: Japanese

Emergency Doctors on Duty

Hitachi uses a system called "TOBAN-I". The doctors in the city take turns standing by for emergency patients from 9:00 to 16:00 on Sundays and national holidays. This system includes surgeons, physicians, pediatricians and dentists.

Be sure to bring your money and health insurance card

Surgeons

Day	Hospital Name	Address	Tel
1	Kawasaki Ichoka Komonka Byoin	Sakuragawa-cho	36-1800
8	Koizumi Ichoka Geka Iin	Wakaba-cho	22-5960
11	Hitachi Seikeigeka Iin	Kashima-cho	21-0063
15	Hitachi Kosei Iin	Ayukawa-cho	34-1241
22	Seirei Memorial Byoin	Nakanarusawa-cho	35-7171
29	Shimazaki Byoin	Benten-cho	22-5051

Physicians, Pediatricians and Dentists

Seven days a week: Hitachi Medical Center

(Address: 5-1-1 Higashitagawa-cho Tel: 34-2105

Fax: 34-3718 E-mail: webmaster@hitachi-medical.or.jp)

Have you visited Hyotan Home Page?

<http://www.city.hitachi.ibaraki.jp/upload/english/index.htm>

You can read Hyotan with color photograph anytime,anywhere in the World.



Editor's Note

Thank you for reading the Hyotan. If you'd like to inquire about anything, please send us a letter, fax or e-mail. Any subject is welcomed. We are looking forward to receiving your letters!