



The Hitachi Environmental Fair 2004

The 15th Hitachi Environmental Fair will be held over two days on June 26th and 27th at Patio Hitachi. Hitachi citizens, a variety of private companies as well as organizations promoting the event will be involved. The purpose of the Fair is to promote environmental awareness among local people during Japan Environment Month.

◆ 2003 Environmental Fair

The theme of the last fair was "Environmental Awareness in Action". Many families had a great time participating in the event. Over 17,000 people attended the fair. There were several different events and displays going on:

Patio Hitachi: There was a puppet show parodying the concept of energy saving and handicraft stalls displaying items made from natural materials, such as nuts and tree leaves, which were very popular with children, and "building a solar car" workshop for kids. After completing the solar car, the kids enjoyed racing it.

Marble Hall: There were a number of displays put on by private companies involved in manufacturing and technological developments relating to the environment, such as a competition to produce a trial rain water storage pool and the sale of a variety of biodegradable waste processors.

Marble Hall Conference Room: In this room, visitors learned how to make post cards from milk cartons, shopping bags called "My Bag" and notebooks.

Civic Center: There was an exhibition of the prize-winning photographs from the Natural Environment Photographic Contest, as well as paintings from an Elementary and Junior High School Environmental painting competition. The Globe Theater and the Science Museum offered free admission and showed the movie "Lost Animals" on a large screen. 2,100 people visited the Civic Center during the two-day event.



◆ 2004 Hitachi Environmental Fair

The theme of this year's fair will be "Preserve nature and the environment for our future".

Dates: June 26 (Saturday) and 27 (Sunday) from 10am to 5pm (closing 4pm on Sunday).

Location: Hitachi Civic Center, Patio Hitachi, Marble Hall and its Conference Room.

Displays: Environment-related products; eco-friendly products such as stationary; local bird and plant life; school painting exhibition on nature and on volunteer group garbage reduction and recycling. Admission to the Civic Center's Globe Theater and Science Museum will be free. As last year, a solar car workshop and race will also be on offer.

◆ Waste Disposal in Hitachi – the current situation

The Hitachi Environment Fair will promote waste disposal reduction. This is a big issue for Hitachi City these days. Since June 2002, Hitachi City has employed a garbage collection which sorts household generated garbage into burnable, unburnable and large items. The processing of large garbage incurs a cost. The quantity of incinerated garbage in 2002 was 86,000 tons,

which was a decrease in the amount of garbage incinerated in previous years (according to the data released by Hitachi garbage incineration Center – “Ecoclean Kamine”) – But on the other hand, recycled waste and dumped waste quantities are increasing. Waste disposal processing costs are 17,000 yen per ton, including the collection, transportation, incineration and dumping of waste, amounting to an annual cost of

1.44 billion yen.

◆ “The 3-Rs Campaign”

Ibaraki is promoting the “3-Rs Campaign (Reducing, Reusing and Recycling)” to reduce the creation of garbage and to prevent illegal dumping, whilst trying to establish the idea of good waste disposal practice amongst the general populace.



The Hitachi International Street Performance Festival 2004

The International Street Performance Festival was held in Hitachi and Hitachi-Taga on May 8th and 9th. This festival has a history of over 10 years. Once again this year the streets were filled with artists, spectators, and shops organized by local people. The evening

event named “Party in the Moonlight” turned out to be very successful, with almost a romantic feeling.

Most interesting were performances of artists from abroad. The circus group from China gathered a crowd of people by the preciseness and tension of their high quality acrobatics. These acrobatics, performed at third story height, were ones of life or death, and the success of these was met with thunderous applause.



The performances seemed

to differ from country to country. The “Rue de Teatre” from France, displayed beauty, technique, and comedy all at once. The golden giant with giraffe-like legs looked like a statue whilst stationary but turned into a monster and then changed into a baby, when begging for balloons which children were holding. This silent performance was broadcast on TV in the evening. The other artists from France appeared on to the stage as clowns. But when their performance reached its climax, they showed great skill on swings in the air. This



spectacle was a mixture of laughter, excitement and relief.

The key to street performances is communicating with the spectators. And the champion of this field seemed to be the Argentinean comedian. His tools were just toys and several Japanese words, but almost no one would leave his stage. A British musician mentioned, “I like Hitachi’s environment and atmosphere. People in Hitachi are very friendly. I’m also entertaining my self.”



The festival itself made us feel the power of the people who had prepared for this event. Most of the Japanese artists are comedians. It was heart-warming to see fathers, who seem to be keen businessmen on weekdays, being forced into

performances. It will be a good memory for their families to see their “daddies” become heroes. There were young performers who made blunders, but the spectators cheered them for trying again. That kindness was so encouraging.

We want to thank all the artists and staff who participated in the festival. And we hope Hitachi will be a city full of vitality when we gather again at the International Street Performers Festival in 2005.



The Hitachi Municipal School for Disabled Children



Visiting the school located in Ayukawa District the Taga High School, we the HYOTAN staff interviewed the principal and observed every class and all the facilities of the school.

The principal said as follows:

The teachers have a desire to guide the children to be able to live on their own. (There are 67 teachers and 7 volunteer helpers for the primary school section, the junior high school section and the high school section of the school)

The school is equipped with an elevator for children in wheelchairs and is barrier-free throughout its interior to a greater extent than any other school in Hitachi.

One of the features of the school is to adopt frequent hands-on learning, for example, horse riding, bon-dancing, sightseeing, depositing money in a post office, going to and from the school without assistance, on-the-job training (for high school students), etc.

There are 91 different curriculums for 91 disabled children.

Disabled children mirrors the adults and the circumstances around them, because they don't judge but accept the world around them. So it is necessary to change those surroundings, for example, even their parents, so as to enable the children to function normally in their local community.

Foreigners who have registered in Hitachi City can apply to send their children to the school. Autistic children, however, usually go to regular schools.

Only one or two out of one class of about 10 children can get a regular job for non-disabled persons. There is now only a very small need for disabled people in the workplace because of recent economic depression in the business world.

We visited 18 classrooms (9 in the primary school section, 5 in the junior high school section, and 4 in the high school section) and several rooms such as the music room, the cooking room, the art room, and the library. Every room was bright and tidy and the children were lively except one or two who were in a bad mood that day. Each child has a different handicap and must be taken care of in a particular manner specified for each child. This is why 67 teachers and 7 volunteers are necessary. However this is still not sufficient for 91 children. There were traffic signals along the path between the gymnasium and the entrance so as to train the children to observe traffic rules on their way to and from the school.

We happened to be in the school when they had an earthquake drill there. The children wearing protective hoods over their heads were guided by their teachers. They completed their drill slowly but in good order according to the instructions of the school public address system.

I saw a girl with a handicap in her hip joint at a class in the primary school section. To my surprise, she was the same girl who until she was 6 years old, had attended a nursery school where one of my grandsons is still attending. She looked like she had a stronger hip joint than before judging from the stability of her walking. She was definitely getting more accustomed to the surroundings thanks to the right training by the right trainer. And I was urging her to keep trying in the depths of my heart!

EVENTS in HITACHI

We are **collecting your QUILTS** for exhibit on **"The Friendship Quilt Exhibition"** in **October 8-14, 2004**. Would you voluntary exhibit your quilts whatever you want? All quilts shall be return when the exhibition closed. This event will be set as a commemoration of the sister city relationship between Hitachi and Birmingham Alabama USA. We are looking forward to your wonderful properties.

Collection close: June 30 (Wed). **Contents:** Any kinds of Quilts (tapestry, bedspread, bag, rug and so on.)

Enquires: Friendship quilt exchange committee. 22-3111 (ext. 534)

The Hitachi Environmental Fair 2004

When: Sat. May 26, Sun. 27

Where: PATIO HITACHI (in front of The Hitachi Civic Center), Marble hall

Contents: Introduction of environmental related products, technique and environmental preservation movement of citizens' organization.

Enquires: Environmental Preservation Section, Hitachi City Hall. 22-3111 (ext. 297)

JAPANESE LANGUAGE CLASSES

NAME	LOCATION	DATE & TIME	Fee	Contact
Sakura	Shichokaku Center etc	Saturday 10:00-11:30	¥1,800/semester	Ms. Reiko Tsuru Tel (0294) 53-4558 reiko_tip@yahoo.com
	Kyoiku Plaza	Thursday 10:00-11:30	¥1,800/semester	
Sakura (Kanji)		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 (0294) 33-3399
	Kyoiku Plaza	Friday 13:00-16:00	¥300/month & ¥1,500 (text)	

Movies in May

Theater	Day	Titles (Original Titles)
Cinefesta 1&2 Tel:21-7472	-4	Mei Tantei Konan [J]
	-4	Kill Bill Vol. 2 [E]
	5-	Tengoku no Honya [J]
	14-	The Passion of The Christ [E]
	14-	Crimson Rivers 2 [F]
Hitachi Central Tel:21-1386	-11	Sekai no Chushin de Ai wo Sakebu [J]
	12-	Umizaru [J]
Aigakan 1&2 Tel:23-2323	-4	Casshern [J]
	-4	School of Rock [E]
	5-	The Day After Tomorrow [E]
	29-	Shimozuma Monogatari [J]
Theater Isejin Tel:22-1761	-25	Troy [E]
	-25	The Ladykillers [E]
	26-	Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban [E]
	26-	Brotherhood [K]

[E]: English with Japanese subtitle [J]: Japanese

[F]: French with Japanese subtitles

[K]: Korean with Japanese subtitles

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

June	Hospital Name	Address	Tel
6	Seirei Memorial Byoin	Nakanarusawa-cho	35-7171
13	Simazaki Byoin	Benten-cho	22-5051
20	Takayama Seikei-geka Iin	Namekawa-cho	24-5005
27	Kuji Chinone Byoin	Kuji-cho	52-2119

🏥 Physicians, Pediatricians and Dentists

Seven days a week: Hitachi Medical Center

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

Fax:34-3718 E-mail:

webmaster@hitachi-medical.or.jp)

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 letter.*

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