

Hyotan

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Let's Reconsider *Kyoraku-kan*



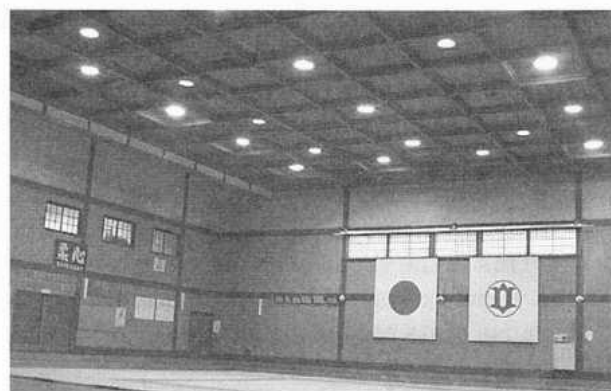
Kyoraku-kan was registered as the sixth national corporeal property in Ibaraki Prefecture in July 1999. The condition of the property registration is based on following three items: "Contribution to the historical scenery", "To be standards of attainment" and "Reconstruction is not easy".

Kyoraku-kan was constructed as the second theater of Hitachi Mining Company for the facility of employee's welfare in 1917. Up-to-date and cabin-structure design was based on those of Imperial Theater and Kabuki Theater buildings, and it was completed in only nine months with taking in much unique idea and technique.

Kyoraku-kan is the primitive scenery of Hitachi city together with the *Big Chimney* for exhaustion and it was not only the recreation center for the employee and their families but the dispatch base of culture opened to the citizen as well. In the New year and the *Sanjin-sai* (Festival of The God of Mountain) *Kabuki* play etc. was performed with free

of charge. Moreover, cheap entrance fee and selected performance articles cultivated the culture of Hitachi basically. Especially, it had much to do with school education, to be the frontier of cultivation of sentiments through students' literary arts exhibition and film shows and so on.

Together with 88 years the social environment has changed so much and *Kyoraku-kan*, which was a magnificent play booth reputed as the top theater in Japan except *Kabuki* Theater at that time of construction, was transferred to Hitachi City in



1967. Still now it is used as a municipal gymnasium for Judo, Kendo and so on.

A group of "Reconsider *Kyoraku-kan*" was organized in 1993 from the viewpoint of high cultural value of industrial heritages scattered alongside Miyata river and they are aiming at promotion of a *new town* with practical use of these facilities including *Kyoraku-kan*. We want all of the citizens to consider about the revival of *Kyoraku-kan* as a play theater once more.

Hitachi Popular Eating Spots (Part V South Area)

When you want to eat out with your friends or your family, where do you go? We would like to introduce several spots you can enjoy different type of food in each area.

Restaurant "Pastel"

As you drive along Route 245, you'll see a distinctive pale pink building on the opposite side of the road to Port Hitachi. This is "Wel Sunpia Hitachi", which has hotel rooms, a hall for wedding, an ice rink, etc. On the first floor of this

building, there is a restaurant "Pastel". It has a spacious bright interior. The tables covered with white cloths, the vigorous green foliage of the plant decor and pretty flowers in the silver bud vases on each table, are all very refreshing.

Various Japanese and Western dishes are



served here, such as *sashimi*(¥1000~), *tempura*(¥800~), pilaf(¥900), beef steak(¥1750~), spaghetti(¥660), etc. At lunch time (11:00am~2:00pm) on week days, they serve a set meal comprising of one main dish, rice, soup, salad and coffee at ¥577, though limited to 30 servings. The owner's recommendation and popular among customers is the seasonal special. It changes four times a year with the seasons and costs ¥1300. The staffs select best ingredients in accordance with the season and cook them excellently for customers to enjoy. The next seasonal special is being arranged now for April". Wel Sunpia Hitachi has tennis courts, swimming pools, an ice rink and public baths, so you can enjoy your meal all the more after physical exercise. For a group use, private room or even a hall are available (catering for up to 200 members from ¥3000).

This is the great place for every one because of the variety of menu bath, food and drinks, and because of its cozy atmosphere.

Kaiten-Sushi Restaurant "Ippei-sushi" (回転寿司 一平鮎)

Sushi is one of the most popular dishes in Japan. When ordering at the counter table of a sushi restaurant, you can really enjoy the good taste of sushi freshly made by a chef. This is a luxurious way to eat sushi while at the same time a little bit thrilling as you don't know how much you will be charged as the menu says "current market fish price". The appearance of *Kaiten-sushi* cleared away such anxiety over payment. We can choose sushi according to our taste from the conveyor belt and yet we can know the price of each sushi right away by checking the plate color or design used for

serving sushi.

At *Ippei-sushi*, located in Hitachi-minami Drive-in, you can choose your favorite sushi freshly made by chefs (not by robot sushi machine) from a conveyer belt. Since this restaurant is run by Tobikan Suisan company, a wholesaler of seafood, located



in Kuji-cho, various kinds of seafood such as sea bream, yellowtail, horse mackerel, squid, scallop, salmon roe, flounder, and sea urchin are available. There are so many kinds that it'll be hard to know what to try first. For instance, as for *Maguro* (tuna), you can choose *Otoro* (fatty tuna), *Chutoro* (medium fatty tuna) or *Akami* (no fatty tuna) according to your taste.

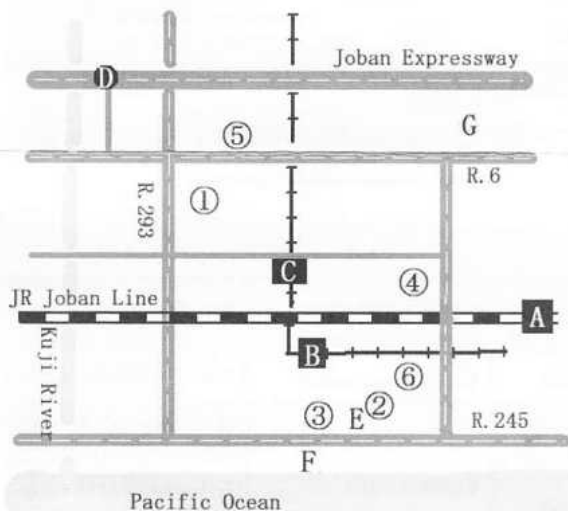
In addition, the chefs are very particular about the water they use to prepare the sushi. They use purified water called RO water (Reverse Osmosis water) which is well known for its use at NASA in USA. The price range is from ¥88 to ¥840 per each plate. You can also order side dishes like *Miso* soup and *Chawanmushi* (savory steamed egg custard with assorted ingredients).

Here is some good news for sushi lovers. They have events "*Tabehodai*" (all you can eat) offers twice a month. In March, they are planning for the second and the forth Friday (3/11 & 3/25). You can enjoy a wide variety of sushi, fruits, desserts and drinks (all you can eat) within the time limit of 30 minutes. They charge ¥1050 for men, ¥850 for women and ¥480 for 4-years-children to elementary school age children. This event was once showcased on a TV program. If you are fond of sushi and are a glutton, you simply have to visit this restaurant.

No. Category	Name/ Phone	Open hours/ Holiday	Note
① Ja	Ippei-sushi 一平鮎 0294-28-1015	11:00am~8:00pm 10:00am~(Sat. & Sun.) Monday	Various kinds of sushi from ¥88 to ¥840 per plate. Can accommodate about 100 people. P: 300
② Ja. & Wes.	Pastel レストラン "パステル" 0294-53-8000	11:00am~9:00pm No holiday	With other equipment in the building, stylish atmosphere enjoyed. P: 130

③ Ja.	Hamazen 濱膳 0294-54-1919	11:00am~9:00pm No holiday	At 2F in Hitachi Osakana Center (fish market). Recommended fresh seafood at reasonable price. Lunch ¥600~ P:200
④ Wes.	Pulcino プルチーノ 0294-53-7783	Lunch time:11:00am~3:00pm Dinner:5:00pm~9:30pm Monday	Cozy and domestic restaurant with 40 seats. Genuine Italian dishes are served. Lunch ¥1000 ~ Course menu ¥2000 ~, P:20
⑤ Ja.	Keyaki けやき 0294-53-0866	11:00am~11:00pm No holiday	Covers Japanese dishes generally (eel, meat, fish, sushi, noodles, etc.). On Friday set menu for ladies is discounted. P:30
⑥ Wes.	Cara Calla カラカラ 0294-53-1885	11:00am~10:00pm New year holidays	Various Italian dishes are available. Pizza, pasta ¥580~¥1030. Lunch ¥830. Course menu ¥1500~¥2000. P:31

Ja.: Japanese Wes. : Western



A : Omika Station (JR)
 B : Kujihama Station (Hitachi Dentetsu Line)
 C : Minamikoya Station (Hitachi Dentetsu Line)
 D : Hitachi Minami Interchange
 E : Wel Sunpia Hitachi
 F : Hitachi Port
 G : Hitachi Research Laboratory

① : Ippei-sushi
 ② : Pastel
 ③ : Hamazen
 ④ : Pulcino
 ⑤ : Keyaki
 ⑥ : Cara Calla

Japanese Culture and Social Customs Part1 Good luck symbols

What is your favorite good luck symbol? In Japan, there are several symbols which are believed to bring good luck. In this series, we would like to introduce some of them.

Maneki Neko

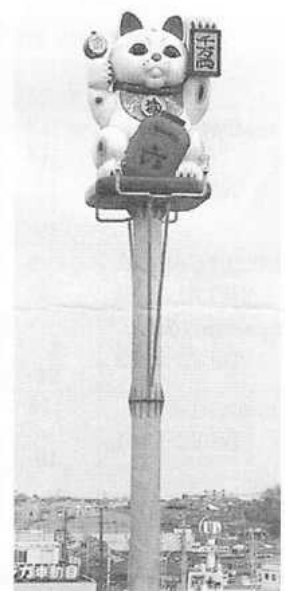
If you see the figure of a cat sitting with one paw raised to its ear and the other one holding an old gold coin or an old fashioned money book, it is the famous good luck symbol known as "*Maneki Neko*". A *Maneki Neko* is usually put on the counter or in the lounge of a shop. Some cats are used to decorate the exterior of shops. If you want to see one in reality, drive about 2km north from the city municipal office to Namekawa-cho along the Route 6. You can see an extra large *Maneki Neko* looking in front of you on a high tower. (see the picture)

The *Maneki neko* beckoning with its right paw is supposed to bring in money, and the one beckoning with its left paw is believed to attract customers. A white cat is supposed to protect good luck, a black one protects us from evil, and a golden one brings monetary fortune. The history of *Maneki Neko* goes back to the Edo period. There are several stories relating to the good fortune

brought by cats, like the one that notes a cat saving the life of a man who had got lost by beckoning him in the right direction. It has been believed locally that when a cat washes its face, it attracts customers.

And it became the custom in to put up cat entertainment districts figure in the pose of in order to attract customers. According to cat researchers, they use their whiskers as sensors. Cats rub their whiskers when it gets humid before rain or when they feel

stress from someone approaching. This face washing was misconceived as signifying the invitation of customers. *Maneki neko* may be a mere superstition, but they are those who believe that they have actually been helped through this belief. These days, there are even shops using a blue-eyed *Maneki neko*, which are called "Dollar Cats", for the benefit of westerners.



Date	Event & Main Attractions	Place	Admission	Inquiry
Mar.12(Sat.) 13:30-15:30	Sakura Lecture "Blessing of the Nile, Egyptian Culture"	Hitachi Civic Center Conference Room 502	¥500	Community Relations Sec. (22)3111 Ext.534
Mar.16(Wed) 18:00~	Opera Concert IX with video	Multipurpose Hall in Civic Center	Free	Civic Center (24)7711
Mar.20(Sun) 14:00~	Periodical Concert by Self-defense Army Katsuta	Music Hall in Civic Center	Free	ditto
Mar.26(Sat)	Arrangement of Yoshida's Melody Brass Band Concours	ditto	Free	ditto
Mar.27(Sun) 10,15,18	Movie "Ping-pong"	Yu-yu Juo J Hall	Free	Yu-yu Juo J Hall 0293(32)7111
Apr.9(Sat) 12:00~	"Agasuke Dance Show" of Yamanobe Dance Festival	Civic Center Plaza	Free	Community Relations Sec. (22)3111 Ext.534
Apr.9(Sat)~ Apr.10(sun)	Cherry blossom Festival	Kamine Park & Heiwa Ave.	Free	Tourism Sec. (22)3111 Ext 406

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
Sakura (Kanji)	Kyoiku Plaza	Thursday 10:00-11:30	¥1,800/semester	
		Friday 10:00-11:30	¥1,000/semester	
Anzu	Shichokaku Center	Tuesday 19:00-20:45	¥300/month	Mr. Shichizoh Kohsaka Tel/Fax (0294) 35-3989 Kohsaka73@ybb.ne.jp Ms. Keiko Kanaoka Tel/Fax (0294)42-8176
	Kyoiku Plaza	Friday 14:00-16:00		

Movies in March

Theater	Day	Titles (Original Titles)
Cinefesta 1&2 Tel:21-7472	-12	Makoto[J]
	-12	Alexander[E]
	12-	Rockman Exe[J]
	12-	Duel Master[J]
	19-	Inu no Eiga[J]
Hitachi Central Tel:21-1386	-5	Howl's Moving Castle[J]
	5-	Lorelei [J]
Aigakan 1&2 Tel:23-2323	-5	Shark Tale[J]
	5-	One Piece[J]
	26-	The Aviator[E]
Theater Isejin Tel:22-1761	-18	The Phantom of the Opera[E]
	19-	National Treasure[E]
	-	The Bourne Supremacy[E]
	-	Ocean's Twelve[E]

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.

Surgeons

Ma.	Hospital Name	Address	Tel
6	Shimada Geka-in	Omika-cho	53-4888
	Takigawa Iin	Takahagi-shi Kasuga	0293 23-3100
13	Shinohara Clinic	Suwa-cho	34-6800
20	Sasaki Ichougeka	Orikasa-cho	43-0333
21	Hitachi Sakura Clinic	Tajiri-cho	43-2000
27	Hitachi-kita Clinic	Kawajiri-cho	43-6555

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 welcome. We are looking forward to receiving your letter.

Have you visited Hyotan Home Page.
<http://www.city.hitachi.ibaraki.jp/upload/english/index.htm>
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Physicians, Pediatricians and Dentists seven days a week: Hitachi Medical Center (5-1-1 Higashitaga-cho Tel 0294-34-2105