



Hyotan

No.156

April. 2005

Edited by Hyotan Editors Club

Publisher: Hitachi International Committee

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Ibaraki Christian University



The campus of the Ibaraki Christian University (IC) looks over the Pacific Ocean and is surrounded by abundant nature. IC consists of a literature faculty, a life science faculty and a nursing faculty. The newly founded nursing faculty is being watched with keen interest because of its upgraded four-year program.

The department of contemporary English is also new, and responds to today's needs by conducting all its lectures in English. IC's education is based on the spirit of Christianity and aims for the growth of total humanity. We'd like to introduce the facilities of IC which are opened to the public and also the international activities of IC.

Special facilities of IC

Library

The library has 220,000 books. To say nothing of general books and magazines, we can enjoy an AV library or view precious books relating to Christianity. The residents out of the campus can also borrow the books if they pay a yearly fee of 1,000 yen.

Kiara-kan

IC is proud of its chapel that was designed by a top architect. You can see the Rose of Anne at the front of the chapel.

Institute of Counseling

This institute was the origin of counseling in Japan. Apart from the study of logic, the counselors deal with about sixty cases a month.

Not only students but also local residents can receive counseling here.

The International activities of IC – IC Buddy
According to a college management magazine, IC was ranked as the ninth University in Japan in the section of universities with international sensibilities. The main activity of the international relations section of IC is the organization of a system for the exchange of foreign students. Today, foreign students from China, Korea, England and the U.S.A. etc. study at IC. The unique volunteer system called the IC Buddy supports the students from abroad during their stays. Japanese students register with the office of international programs as study mates (=buddies) of the foreign students. The activities of IC Buddy range from the management of parties, bus trips and the moving of the foreign students, the finding of apartments, helping them to register for lectures and so on. Helping the foreign students with problems in their lives in Japan is a priceless



experience for the Japanese students. IC Buddy activities include international programs that are started by

students on campus, but even more active participation is being hoped for. The foreign students in IC study Japanese and about Japanese culture. They can experience Japanese life if they are involved in a home stay. IC's foreign students also stay in houses of ordinary local people, too. According to the dean of international programs, they want more host families that are willing to accept students from China and Korea. If you happen to be able to be a host, please call the office of international programs at IC.

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Hitachi, Ibaraki

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Visiting a Local Japanese Sake Brewery



When it comes to Japanese alcoholic drinks, the first one that probably comes to mind is *Sake*, right?

Japanese sake has a history of more than 1,000 years and has been produced vigorously as the traditional liquor. In Japan there are many breweries offering a variety of brands. There are also several local breweries here in Hitachi. So we visited one of them, Morishima Brewery, to get information about the production and features of *sake*.

Japanese sake is produced in about 40 days by extracting the unrefined *sake* "moromi" which is generated in the middle process of fermentation with raw materials of rice, fresh water and malted rice. The key points for good taste are rice cleaning, good malted rice and adequate storage time. They say that higher grade *sake* are produced under the condition of low temperature and a long period of storage because these conditions give the sake a brighter and more fruitful smell and consequently a more elegant taste. Morishima Brewery serves three brands of rich and dry "Taikan-ginjo",

"Taikan-junmairidaiginjo" and

"Taikan-hakushaseisho" based on the "Taikan" which was named after the Japanese artist *Yokoyama Taikan* who was active between 1868~1958 and contributed in creating a prosperous base for Japanese art. The brand name of "Taikan" was born by through the wishes of the third president, Morishima Koichiro, who acquired *Yokoyama Taikan's* approval for using his name for this product.

Now, we can't forget "*Toji*". *Toji* is the chief brewer, an expert in brewing who is responsible for controlling all conditions that ultimately decide the quality and taste of *sake*.

Meanwhile, let's think of the good effects and merits of *sake*. *Japanese sake* is used widely because it is said to have the effect of making the skin beautiful, of inducing perspiration and keeping the body free of bacteria, as well as causing drunkenness. Furthermore, it removes the odor of fish etc. and its affinity with raw fresh foods makes *Japanese sake* one of the best partners for Japanese cooking. They say the best time to drink and consume *sake* is six months after pressing and the higher grade *sakes* should be preserved for 5~10 years at temperature of between 5~10°C, and but it is generally most desirable to consume within about two years.

Recently the popularity for *Japanese sake* has been decreasing and all of the breweries share the belief that they want to raise the quality of *sake*



in response to customer's demands and succeed in improving the taste of *sake* so that it will remain Japan's natural drink

for future generations. They aim to do this by improving the three key points of ① rice cleaning, ② good malted rice and ③ adequate storage time. We recommend you to visit a brewery and see what *Japanese sake* is all about by yourself.

Note : Morishima brewery : Visit is based on 10 persons under reservation.

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Japanese Culture and Social Customs

Part 2 Dharma (*Daruma*)

I have thick eyebrows and a mustache. I am dressed in red and don't have hands or feet. You know who I am. Yes, I am a *daruma*, a doll made of papier-mâché. However I may be done alone by hard luck, I sit up again without fail. I am your friend and supporter. I will happily help you towards your dreams.

A long time ago, Bodhidharma, who was born in



India and studied Buddhism, crossed over to China to preach there. He was summoned by the emperor and was permitted to teach Buddhism. But to his great regret, he realized that he was still unskilled and could

not enlighten the audience at all. So he retreated into the mountain to the east of the capital and practiced ascetic exercises there. He did the sitting meditation with his legs crossed for nine years, facing a wall. When he eventually attained enlightenment, his legs were paralyzed and unable to walk. This Bodhidharma's sitting meditation posture is said to have been the model for the "*daruma* doll". Bodhidharma was thought to be the founder of the Zen sect, but this has not been certified historically.

When you make up your mind to do something, please get a *daruma* doll with no eyes. Praying for the accomplishment of your project, paint in the left eye. The red clothes of a *daruma* doll are believed symbolize fire that

destroys heresy. After fulfillment of your purpose, paint in the right eye and complete it. It is said that you should get a bigger *daruma* doll for the accomplishment of your next aim.

From late December to early spring, *daruma ichi* (*daruma* doll fairs) are held in the precincts of temples or on town streets all over Japan. The ones held at Shorinzan in Takasaki, Gunma Prefecture and at Jindaiji Temple in Chofu, Tokyo, are the most popular. In Hitachi too, there is one at Taga (on Dec. 28th), Heiwa-dori (on Dec. 30th and 31st), and other places every year.

Letter from a reader

My name is Lech Blazejewski and I came to Hitachi from Poland at the beginning of October 2004. Previously I was studying at Polish-Japanese Institute of Information Technology, and this was the place where I had first serious contact



with Japanese culture. The university had very special "Japanese" flavor, with many Japanese lecturers and surprises. No wonder why the idea of traveling and living in Japan occurred in my mind very quickly.

Soon after finishing my master degree the dream came true. I still remember the day when I received a letter from Japanese embassy informing me about the scholarship. In one moment I knew my life is going to be changed, many plans revoked and new horizons approaching.

I knew I was going to Hitachi, I have read and heard a lot of stories about living in Japan, but how many of them were true? My expectations, based mostly on stereotypes, how do those relate to the real life, real people and common situations? After six months I have a "feeling" of how it is. I feel really great and comfortable but I am really far to judge on anything.

Everything is totally different. With every day of careful watching, listening and opening my mind wide to understand the surrounding I still have the smashing feeling it is a matter of years to get to know the culture so different to mine. This is so interesting to be in the place where the deep Japanese privacy and pure traditional lifestyle coexists with the vision of western-like look and style in the social life. Interesting how carefully Japanese people chose certain parts of western culture, leaving their privacy untouched, the inner and the outer life, one so modern and close to me and the other, exotic and

in many ways untouched in it's historical origin. Few months ago I visited the Kansai region, maybe it was the best moment - the season of *momiji* (scarlet maple leaves season) Nara - the garden capital left me with the impression of the most beautiful city I have seen in Japan so far, the historical origin, the heart of Japan as I was told, really makes the influence with it's 1500 years history. The bronze Buddha dating 600AD gives the best impression of Japanese achievements of those times.

But travel and sightseeing is nothing comparing to everyday life. Everyday matters, friends, common problems, and people I meet and talk to, create a unique view and very special environment that flows directly through all my perception. Those evenings spent with new friends trying to understand, to break the highest wall of all the language. The true and sincere interest of my Japanese, Korean, Russian or Mongolian friends helping me with first sentences, teaching me kanji sometimes deep in the night. These things are never to be forgotten, those people are truly the best ambassadors of their own country, and I owe you all a gratitude and respect. It is great to be here in Japan.

Visitors from a sister city "Tauranga"

Mr. Stuart Crosby, Mayor of Tauranga Newzealand with ten citizens is coming to Hitachi during April 8 to 12.

The purpose of their visit is to discuss about a new sister city exchange program of both citizens, exchange students program, assistant language teachers, industrial products, tourism and so on. They will also join Sakura matsuri festival, Sakura road race with Hitachi mayor.

>>>> INFORMATION >>>>

Events

Date	Event & Main Attractions	Place	Admission	Inquiry
1 st (Fri)-20 th (Wed)	Hitachi Sakura Matsuri (Cherry-blossom Festival)	Heiwa-dori Av., Kamine Park, etc.	Free Adm.charged	Citizens' Activities Sec. in C.H. Tel: Ex.535
3 rd (Sun) 9:30-	Citizen's Trio (a team of 3 pers.) Bowling Mass Meeting	Hitachi Bowl Crane (Ayukawa-cho)	¥6000 For one team	Mr. Takahashi Tel 34-0101
3 rd (Sun) 10:00-14:30	Kirara-no-sato Kids' Games Meeting in Spring Vacation	Kirara-no-sato Sports Hiroba(Square)	Adm. fee will be charged	Kirara-no-sato Tel 24-2424
9 th (Sat) 9:30-13:00	"Herb Class" in Oku-hitachi Kirara-no-sato	Kirara-no-sato Kirara Kan(Hall)	¥500 incl. adm. fee	Kirara-no-sato Tel 24-2424
9 th (Sat) 14:00-	A Special Show of Well-known Films "Sakura" 1994, 109 min.	Shichokaku (Audio-Visual) Center	Free	Audio-Visual Center Tel 35-1215
10 th (Sat) 9:00-	Hitachi Sakura Road Race (2, 5, 10 km to Half Marathon)	Hitachi Sintoshi Sq. (main meeting place)	Free For onlooker	Hitachi Athletic Assn. Tel 36-6661
17 th (Sun) 7:30-17:00	"Nature Study Class" for the middle-aged and elderly	Hitachi Public Hall (the meeting place)	¥1000 + bus charge	Hitachi Public Hall Tel 22-6483
20 th (Wed) 13:00-	Let's Enjoy Handicraft with Mr. Masato Kubota from NHK	Hitachi Public Hall	¥2500 (a parent + kids)	Oyako-Gekijo Office Tel 22-3023
24 th (Sat) 10:30-	Japanese Dancing Recital	Taga Public Hall	Free	Taga Public Hall Tel 34-1727
29 th (NH) 14:00-	Regular Concert by Hitachi 1st High School Brass Band Club	Hitachi Civic Center Music Hall	Free	Hitachi Civic Center TEL 24-7711

NH: National Holiday

C.H.: City Hall(TEL: 22-3111)

Japanese Language Classes

NAME	LOCATION	DATE & TIME	Fee	Contact
Sakura	Shichokaku Center etc.	Saturday 10:00-11:30	¥1,800/semester	Ms.Haruko Yada Tel/Fax (0294) 36-3529
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 Ms. Keiko Kanaoka	Mr. Shichizoh Kohsaka Tel/Fax (0294) 35-3989 Kohsaka73@ybb.ne.jp
	Kyoiku Plaza	Friday 14:00-16:00	Tel/Fax (0294)42-8176	

Movies in April

Theater	Day	Titles (Original Titles)
Cinefesta 1&2 Tel:21-7472	-	Howl's Moving Castle[J]
	-8	Rockman Exe[J]
	-8	Duel Masters[J]
	9-	Meitantei Konan[J]
	-	Inu no Eiga[J]
Hitachi Central Tel:21-1386	-15	One Piece[J]
	-15	Tokyo Tower [J]
	16-	Kureyon Shin-chan[J]
Aigakan 1&2 Tel:23-2323	15	Lorelei[J]
	16-	Mask 2 [E]
	-	Shark Tale[J]
	26-	The Aviator[E]
Theater Isejin Tel:22-1761	-	National Treasure[E]
	-	The Very Long Engagement[E]
	-	Bridget Jones' Diary[E]
	-	

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.

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

Apr.	Hospital Name	Address	Tel
3	Imura Geka Iin	Omika-cho	52-2191
10	Owada Geka Iin	Okubo-cho	33-2367
17	Kawasaki Ichokomonka	Sakuragawa-cho	36-1800
24	Hitachi Kosei Iin	Ayukawa-cho	34-1241
29	Koizumi Ichogeka Iin	Wakaba-cho	22-5960

Physicians, Pediatricians and Dentists seven days a week:Hitachi Medical Center (5-1-1 Higashitaga-cho)

Have you visited Hyotan Home Page.
<http://www.city.hitachi.ibaraki.jp/upload/english/index.htm>

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