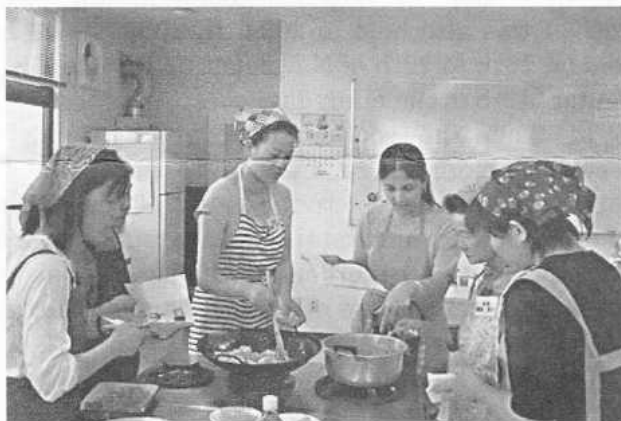


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Visiting a Cooking School in English



English is booming now and cooking school is also popular. How would you like the citizens' course where you can enjoy both of them? Such a plan has been realized as a "Cooking School in English" at the Women's Center. There were more than 40 applications to this course of 24 and finally 23 attendees gathered on September 15 for the first lesson. The teacher is Mrs. Sudipta Nundy Datta who comes from Colcutta India. She came to Hitachi in 2001. She taught English as an ALT of Meishu-Hitachi high school and got an opportunity to teach cooking at several occasions due to the request of the students to teach Indian cuisine at the School's Cultural Festival. There are a total of four lessons being held, the dates are September 15, 29, October 6 and 20. The total fee is 4,900 yen, which includes material cost. The motivation of the attendees varied: "I usually study English conversation but it is useless, then I thought that I could acquire it if I spoke English while cooking." or "I am weak in English but I would like to just study Indian cuisine" and so on. The menu on this day was Chicken Curry and Chai. The lesson began by dividing the class into four groups. A recipe written by the teacher was handed out and it was very clear because the handout was attached with photos and explanation of cooking terminology like "chop", "stir", "fry" and "boil". Most attendee spoke

in Japanese and those who were good at English interpreted the teacher's instruction. Throughout the lesson, everyone seemed to enjoy cooking and conversing. Some attendees looked puzzled when they came across cooking instructions they were not used to, such as marinating the chicken meat before boiling, not using the chicken skin, adding tomato to curry or using spices they are not accustomed to, and adding huge amounts without tasting it first. At the end, each of them was satisfied with the completion of a real Indian cuisine. Mrs. Datta gladly said, "All the members of this class are good at cooking, were very interested and the quality was superior." The next couple of lessons seem to be quite promising thanks to the charming Mrs. Datta and the attendees who are eager to interact with foreigners.

The Women's center where this plan was created was established in 1969 as "Home for Working Women". In 1986 "Tomono Kai (Members Club)" began and now more than



seventy groups are active in the field of cooking, handicraft, decoration, art, tea ceremony, gymnastics,

music, research, volunteering and so on. Courses for development of social affairs and support for job search are also prepared widely and especially recently there are also classes targeted for men.

We hope that the Women's Center will continue to make plans for international exchange courses which are closely connected with the local region in accordance with the promotion of cooperative planning between administration and the citizens.

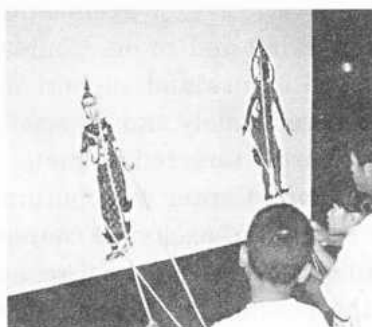
ひたちとアジアの文化交流をすすめる会 Cultural Exchange Society of Hitachi & Asia

The economical growth of Asian countries especially in China has been remarkable recently. It is said that the 21st century will become the age of Asia. In the current trend of rapid



internationalization we have come to see more students and workers with their family from Korea, China, and other various countries in this city. At the time we celebrated the 25th memorial of the Treaty of Friendship between Japan and China in 1997, Hitachi City also had some commemorating events. Taking this opportunity, the City continued to introduce the cultures of other Asian countries. A "Cultural Exchange Society of Hitachi & Asia" was founded to promote the mutual understanding between Japan and those countries through joining events and developing various opportunities among more citizens.

The first five years (1997-2001), the society mainly made efforts to introduce one country for the year through the public performance of their old folk music or dances, exhibitions of pictures or handicrafts, specialists' lectures and so on. In 1998, Korea was introduced. They offered Korean language classes. In 1999, they held the panel exhibition to arouse public opinion about land mines. These activities show us the extensive vision of the society.



"Friendship Talk in Hitachi for Uniting the World". It ended successfully and left a seed for

Standing on the fruit of those five years, it was clear that a direct exchange amongst people should be promoted in the next three years (2002-2004). In 2002 they had a

"International Festival in Hitachi" held in the following year under the joint auspices of other International Exchange groups. In this festival, people from various countries got together and introduced their culture in their own way. Many people who took part in this event were able to happily gain new knowledge and have exchanges with people from overseas. They are convinced that the warm feeling they had then was really the first step of mutual understanding. The festival was also held in 2004. In 2005, it will be held on 16th to 20th of November at Hitachi Civic Center (19th is the main day).

In 2005 the society aims at preparing a network among more citizens to get them to participate in these activities, and of course the usual action to understand Asian countries will also continue. In order to realize the above purposes, members are now enjoying their work in the following five groups:

1. Cooking Salon
2. Research and Inspection
3. Lecture
4. Public Information and Network
5. Coordinating International Festival

They are working to plan and carry out each event through issuing PR pamphlets or making homepages to promote the network.

Thanks to the members' devotion, so far there have been many participants taking part in these events. It is hoped that these participants, especially young foreigners, will continue to have cultural exchanges with one another for the benefit of the future. Members of the society say that they must find a way for the young to easily join as members. Preparing a network for about 1400 foreigners in Hitachi is also their dream. Their vision for the future is sound and big.

More than 240 members are registered. If you have a dream to realize an ideal Hitachi in the future through working with cross-cultural exchange, the society will welcome you. A membership fee is not needed now. The office is in Civic Center. Tel.:0294-24-7711



Ibaraki Prefecture Mito Lifelong Learning Center

Lifelong learning is a study to pursue a better life, which covers a wide range of activities. In our lifelong learning program, there are two main respects. The first respect of lifelong studying is to study for pleasure in order to live an active life. The second is to brush up your skills and acquire knowledge for improving your career, which enables you to be of use to society.

The lifelong learning center established in 1993 performs programs to support you in both respects and the programs are:

- 1 Kenmin daigaku (prefectural college)
- 2 Atago juku ("juku" means "private school")
- 3 Ibaraki-ken Yu-yu college ("yu-yu" means "leisurely" , it began as a long-lived school in 1989)

- 4 Omoshiro rika sensei (amusing science teacher)
- 5 Personal computer class instructed by volunteers

Among these programs, Kenmin-daigaku and Yu-yu college are open in Hitachi City.

Kenmindaigaku Omika School (at Ibaraki Christian University, accepts application twice a



year)

Social science, education, welfare courses:

- How to raise children
- Nursing to support healthy life

Environment and health course

- Food education class II

International relationship course

- Fun English conversation class

Industry, technology, science course

- Introductory class on personal computer and internet .

Ibaraki-ken Yu-yu college basic course (Ibaraki Christian University) North Ibaraki district school.

The subjects you are able to take are living, health, literature, history, art, social studies and so on .

Basic courses are also open at other district schools in Mito, Rokko, South Ibaraki and

Western Ibaraki. In addition, there are five specialized courses, which are art, local history, gardening, welfare and health, open at schools in Mito and suburb of Mito

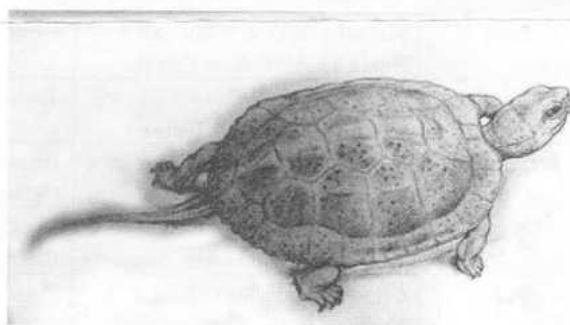
Tel: 029-228-1313

Address: 4-1 Atago-cho, Mito

Japanese Culture and Social Customs Part 8 Good luck symbols

The Tortoise (Kame 亀)

What do you think of when you think of a tortoise? Do you think of a slow moving animal, carrying a tortoise shell on its back or a timid creature that ducks its head into the shell when it happens to meet enemies? Even so, a tortoise



always heads for its goal crawling slowly in a straight line.

In ancient China, tortoises are considered very lucky animals, as they are messengers of the holy mountain, Hourai. Legendary wizards lived there, and their place was believed as the site of the perennial youth and long life. Tortoises are also believed as happy animals, which symbolize longevity of ten thousand years in Japan. For example, rearing a live tortoise in the home is said to ensure that the head of a family lives to a ripe old age. And tortoises are also a symbol of protection. What is behind such power? It seems to originate in a tortoise shell. The outer shell is formed with scales of hexagonal patterns and the bottom of a shell is formed with a bone, and the two are jointed firmly. In China, because the outer shell curves just like the heavens, and the bottom of a shell is flat as the earth, a tortoise is often compared to a creature that carries the world on its back. There are various opinions about why a tortoise shell forms a spherical shape by nature, however generally speaking the spherical shape of a tortoise shell has the ability to absorb large amounts of energy from the universe. This may be the source of the tortoise's force.

Tortoise figures are used for many celebrations such as a wedding gift in Japan. When you decorate these figures in your house, the best place to put it is in the north corner from where lots of good fortune will be brought.

Events

Date	Event & Main Attractions	Place	Admission	Inquiry
7 th (Fri.) ~ 9 th (Sun.)	Hitachi Autumn Festival	Hitachi Civic Center, Patio Hitachi and other places	Free	Hitachi Civic Center Tel.24-7711
8 th (Sat.) 17:00-20:00	Night Bazaar at Hitachi Ginza (open on 2 nd Sat. every month)	My Mall & Hitachi Ginza Mall	Free	Commerce & Industry Sec. in CH Ex.566
8 th (Sat.)9:30 ~16:00	The 13 th World "Lead-off" City Conference	Hitachi Civic Center Music Hall	Free	Planning and Coordination Section in CH, Ext.348
8 th (Sat.)-9 th (Sun.) 9:00-	"Autumnal Wild & Mountain Grass" Exhibition and Bazaar	Narusawa Public Hall	Free	Mr. Mashiko Tel 52-5645
8 th (Sat.)-9 th (Sun.) 9:00-	Cultural Festival in Izumi-ga- mori District	Izumi-ga-mori Public Hall & Gymnasium	Free	Izumi-ga-mori Public Hall Tel. 52-3225
9 th (Sun.) 13:00-15:00	"BONSAI (dwarfed trees)" Lecture Class	Hitachi Public Hall (Join with your bonsai)	Free	Mr. Kanazawa Tel. 42-4587
10 th (NH) 9:30-	Citizens' Japanese Archery Tournament (by Dan & Class)	Nikko "Shido-kan" Archery Exercise Hall	¥500	Hitachi Athletes Assoc. Tel. 36-6661
15 th (Sat.) 11:00-	Karaoke Heat to "Shinjuku Koma Theater" from Ibaraki	Hitachi Shimin-kaikan	Free	Hitachi Shimin-kaikan Tel. 22-6481
15 th (Sat.)-16 th (Sun.) 10:00-	Josei (Women's) Center Festival (Exhibit. & Bazaar)	Josei (Women's) Center.	Free	Josei Center Tel. 36-0554
18 th (Sun.)-23 rd (Sun.)10:00-	Watercolor Paintings Exhibition by Mr. A. Suzuoki	Hitachi Civic Center Gallery	Free	Hitachi Civic Center Tel. 24-7711
22 nd (Sat.)-23 rd (Sun.) 10:00	"Taga Public Hall" Festival (Exhibition, Snack bar, Bazaar)	Taga Shimin-kaikan (Dentetsu Plaza)	Free	Taga Shimin-kaikan Tel. 34-1727
30 th (Sun.) 9:00-	Citizens' Male Table Tennis Tournament by Age	Shimin-undo-kohen Central Gymnasium	¥300(junior.) ¥500(senior.)	Hitachi Athletes Assoc. Tel. 36-6661

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. Yukiko Katsuki Tel (0294) 35-3475
	Kyoiku Plaza	Thursday 10:00-11:30	¥1,800/semester	
Sakura (Kanji)		Friday 10:00-11:30	¥1,800/semester	
Anzu	Shichokaku Center	Tuesday 19:00-20:45	¥300/month Ms. Keiko Kanaoka Tel/Fax (0294)42-8176	Mr. Shichizoh Kohsaka Tel/Fax (0294) 35-3989 Kohsaka73@ybb.ne.jp
	Kyoiku Plaza	Friday 14:00-16:00		

Movies in October

Theater	Day	Titles (Original Titles)
Cinefesta 1&2 Tel:21-7472	-	Initial D [J] Nana [J]
	-7	Soreike Anpanman [J]
	8-	Kono Mune Ippai no Ai wo[J]
Hitachi Central Tel:21-1386	-	Semi-Shigure[J]
Aigakan 1&2 Tel:23-2323	-	Shigatsu no Yuki[K]
	-	Yokai Daisenso[J]
	-	

J: Japanese E: English K:Korean

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

Oct.	Hospital Name	Address	Tel
2	Hara Clinic	Sakuragawa-cho	28-5566
9	Shimada Geka	Omika-cho	53-4888
10	Heiwadai Shinohara Clinic	Suwa-cho	34-6800
16	Sasaki Icho Geka	Orikasa-cho	43-0333
23	Hitachi Sakura Clinic	Tajiri-cho	43-2000
30	Hitachi-kita Clinic	Kawajiri-cho	43-6555

Physicians, Pediatricians and Dentists seven days a week:Hitachi Medical Center (5-1-1 Higashitaga-cho)
Tel 0294-34-2105 HP : Hospital

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

You can read the Hyotan with color photographs anytime, anywhere in the world.

Thank you for reading the Hyotan. Inquiries and comments can be sent either by letter, fax or e-mail. We look forward to hearing from you.