



### THE 13<sup>th</sup> WORLD "LEAD-OFF CITY" CONFERENCE 2005 ~CONSIDERING THE FUTURE OF INDUSTRIAL CITIES~

The 13<sup>th</sup> World "Lead-Off City" Conference was held at the Hitachi Civic Center Concert Hall on October 8<sup>th</sup>, 2005, under the auspices of the City and Regional Development Bureau of the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport. The purpose of the conference was to take a step towards promoting a city planning strategy that could serve as a model around the World. This was achieved through :- 1. looking at case studies from cities in Japan and around the world which are making efforts in this area; and 2. information exchange. The title of this conference was "Enjoy! Industrial cities considering the future of Industrial Cities". Under the umbrella of this title, the following seven cities participated:

Chatanooga Tennessee USA, a city proliferating in iron and steel industries.

New Lanark South Lanarkshire Scotland UK, which was the center of the world's largest cotton spinning industry in the early 19<sup>th</sup> Century.

Birmingham Alabama USA, a city specializing in the pharmaceutical industry.

Suzhou Jeng Su China, primary city of science and technology.

Minamata, Kumamoto Japan, which experienced the so-called "Minamata Disease" caused by environmental pollution.

Tsuyama Okayama Japan, which hosted the previous conference.

Hitachi Ibaraki Japan, the current host of the conference and a city which is the base of a world famous electrical and engineering company.

Participating city representatives made presentations based on their own cities' experiences on how to strive toward good city planning. After this, panel discussions were also conducted.

Though the case study presentations were only fifteen minutes in length, they were of immense significance. Much was learnt from them that could be put to use elsewhere.

For example, Chattanooga, once named the "Rust Belt" of America, has revitalized to such an extent that it won an award for sustainable development from the President of USA in 1966. The city regenerated itself by believing in itself and by listening to the wishes of its own citizens. Various projects were carried out in this way such as the renovation of an old bridge into an overpass, or the



remodeling of derelict buildings into restaurants, or the revitalization of the downtown area by planting trees and creating a new, beautiful park, and the building of a state of the art aquarium with private sector funding.

Another example is Minamata Japan. Through an investment program of ¥48.5 billion over 13 years, the Eco Park Minamata and etc. were developed on land that had formally been polluted with buried mercury. The city also organized a forum called "Let's investigate the "Minamata Disease" and this has now met over 300 times. The problem of "environmentally friendly town planning" has been tackled head on, and through the painful experience of the Minamata Disease and through their eagerness to understand its sources, the citizens of Minamata have come together. The city is now sharing information about the efforts it has made to become a "Model Environment City" and it welcomes visits from students as well as businesses and representatives from other local governments.

New Lanark, which once prospered through the Cotton Industry, became a ghost town when the factory closed down in 1968. But now, by utilizing this rich seam of history, it is regenerating itself. It has a tourist facility that enables visitors to experience the Utopian ideals of Robert Owen, and this facility has now been nominated as a World Heritage Site. But it is not only the tourist that has benefited, the town itself has recreated itself with its own citizens' panel and city administration.

Birmingham Alabama has also been successful in recreating itself as an industrial city, despite the devastation during the Great Depression and the Civil Rights Movement in the 1960s. This was achieved by involving all its citizens actively in the process of

redevelopment.

Suzhou China has also been successful by selling to the world both the old aspects of itself and the new. The old features six world heritage sites of unparalleled historic beauty and magnificence, while the new refers to its high-tech industrial zone.

As for Hitachi, its task is to develop its town planning through the use of its abundant manufacturing assets (as supplied by the factories around the town).

We learnt following many things from all these case studies such as:

the importance of the active input of citizens in the development process, since they provide unforeseen creativity and a sense of achievability, learning from the past, theme based rather than short term project based development, dialogue between all parties who have a connection to the planning process in order to encourage inclusivity, city administrative backing for such development projects in order to ensure their attainability,

and lastly and most obviously, sufficient funding for these projects.

Thanks to the sharp chairmanship of the well-known NHK chief commentator Mr. Yoshinori Imai, the audience was able to deepen its understanding of the issues involved in the panel discussion. The panelists exchanged their views freely on how urban regeneration should be promoted. During the discussion, it became clear that there were differences in thinking between the cities stressing further future economic development and those concerned with the sustainability of the global environment. However, both sides agreed that in conjunction with the use of the individual strengths of local people, they should continue to discuss further and exchange information on how to make improvements in their cities' development. We need to employ the knowledge and ideas gained from this conference for the benefit and improvement of our urban environments.

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## Harmonica Lovers' Circles

In Hitachi, there are numerous circles and clubs for the enjoyment of cultural activities. The members that belong to these are active in various areas. For September's article, let us introduce to you the harmonica lover's circle. The harmonica is a kind of wind instrument that belongs to the group of 'Organ' and 'Accordion'. There are many opinions of the origin of the harmonica and it is said that the model for the present type was created in 1800 through various forms. Playing the harmonica is quite popular nowadays because it is small in size, easy to play and also harmonizes well with other kinds of instruments.



The Harmonica lovers' circles in Hitachi consist of the following eight groups: Cherries, Himawari Club, Harmony Friends, Kohno Takashige (individual), Harmonica Seven, Yoku Culture, Yuyu Harmony and Subaru Echoes. All of these groups enjoy great satisfaction of providing listeners with healing and comfort while they themselves enjoy playing the harmonica. Let's

take a look at one of them.

Harmony Friends has been active for 9 years. This circle began at Kujicho Hitachi in September 1996 and consists of six members of two First Harmonica players, two Second, one Code and one Bass player. They practice four times a month, 2.5 to 3 hours each time. They have about 30 opportunities of overseas presentations a year. Mainly they perform at welfare facilities, hospitals and primary schools. They joined the Ibaraki Prefecture Harmonica Association in October 2003. They had the honor of meeting the mayor of Ibaraki Prefecture at their social activity "Meeting with lovable citizens of Ibaraki Prefecture" in May 2001 and for their performances at welfare facilities for many years they had the honor of having the president of the "Hitachi City Social Welfare Conference" in June 2002.

Their repertoire consists of mainly children's songs, pop songs and movie theme songs making it more than 40 melodies. During the interview they kindly played us three melodies, a children's song, a pop song and a theme song from a TV drama. We were impressed with the comfort and beauty of their performance.

The harmonica concert is held at least once a year in Ibaraki Prefecture. Why not go and listen to the harmonica playing? The latest event was the "Charity Harmonica Concert 2005". It was held on September 3 at the Hitachi Civic Center.

## Japanese Culture and Social Customs

### Part 9 The Monkey (Saru 猿)

What do you think of a monkey? Do you think of an animal with a red face and red haunches or a being that is a lot like us? Since olden times, in India and Africa monkeys are considered sacred animals and in China, creatures of mystery. They often appear as heroes in old tales and legends because their figures and movements are like human beings. Even in Japan, monkeys are believed to be messengers of god. They are also known to be symbols of good luck because the Japanese word for monkey, "saru", has a lucky sound. "Saru" means removing misfortunes. Furthermore, monkeys were also believed to be animals that protected horses from diseases and there was a custom which monkeys were kept in the horse stables in the Muromachi Period (1392-1573).



has a carving of the three wise monkeys on the wall of a sacred white horse stable. The carving is a masterpiece illustrating monkeys representing the three points to live by in this world," see no evil (mizaru), speak no evil (iwazaru) and hear no evil (kikazaru)". The verb-ending "zaru" sounds like

There is a famous shrine called Nikko Toshogu which



"saru" as monkey.

Which animal would you want to see first when you go to the zoo? Is it a panda, an elephant or some rare animal? Which animal would you spend the most time looking at? Many people would certainly choose to see monkeys, playing in a

playground. Visitors surely enjoy watching a variety of monkeys' expressions and motions such as baby monkeys playing innocently while their mothers take care of them and the boss sits at the top in a dignified manner and stares at others.

By the way, do you know that there is a monkey with white hands in Hitachi Kamine Zoo? This monkey was born there three years ago. It was one of fourteen monkey births. The monkey with white hands is so rare that people used to worship them as the lucky ones. The people at Kamine Zoo think that this monkey will bring them something lucky. It is now running about cheerfully in the zoo. You can distinguish it from the others as it often plays with the chains in the center of the playground.

## Hitachi International and Cultural Festival

Date: Nov. 19 (Sat.) 10:00 am ~6:00 pm

Admission: Free

Place: Hitachi Civic Center

1F: Kid's zone (Exhibition & games)

2F: Talking zone (Japanese Speech Contest)

4F: Eating zone (Asian popular food stall)

5F: Culture zone

(Tea ceremony, Flower arrangement,

Try-on of folk costumes, etc.)

For details, contact to Hitachi Civic Center.

Tel: 24-7711

Photographs were taken last year.





# >>>>> INFORMATION November 2005 >>>>>

## EVENTS in HITACHI in NOVEMBER

Date	Event & Main Attractions	Place	Admission	Inquiry
5 <sup>th</sup> (Sat) 14:00-	Special Show of the Film Classic "Shane" (118 min.)	Shichokaku (Audio-Visual) Center	Free	Shichokaku Center TEL 35-1215
5 <sup>th</sup> (Sat) 9:30-13:00	"Herb Class" in Kiara-no-sato (Cookies & Scones with Herbs)	Kirara-no-sato Kirara Kan (Hall)	¥800 incl. Admission	Kirara-no-sato Tel 24-2424
6 <sup>th</sup> (Sun) 9:00-15:00	Children's Festival in Hitachi (Snack Stands, Cinema, etc.)	Civic Sports Center (Central Gymnasium)	Free	Youth Section in C.H. Tel35-1466
6 <sup>th</sup> (Sun) 10:00-	Citizens' Bowling Tournament (Individual Match, by Classes)	Hitachi Bowl-Crane (Ayu-kawa-cho)	Adult ¥2000 Stud. ¥1050	Mr. Takahashi Tel 34-0101
6 <sup>th</sup> (Sun) 14:00-	"Hitachi City in the Showa Era" on the Screen (73 min.)	Shichokaku (Audio-Visual) Center	Free	Shichokaku Center Tel 35-1215
12 <sup>th</sup> (Sat) 18:00-20:50	Let's Dance at "Fukiage Charity Ball"	Kuji Public Hall Archery Exercise Hall	¥1000	Mr. Gorai Tel 53-5550
12 <sup>th</sup> (Sat) 11:00-14:00	"Ciao! Flea Market" (100 Stalls Invited)	Hitachi New City Plaza	¥500 per 2m x 3m	Civic Center (24-7711) <a href="http://www.civic.jp">http://www.civic.jp</a>
12 <sup>th</sup> (Sat)~13 <sup>th</sup> (Sun) 9:00-16:00	Hitachi City Industrial Fair	Civic Sports Center	Free	CH ext. 445
19 <sup>th</sup> (Sat) 13:30-15:00	"Unicycle Class" by Mr. Saito for Unskilled School Children	Suehiro Jido-kan (Cent. Branch of C.H.)	Free	Suehiro Jido-kan Tel 34-1912
21 <sup>st</sup> (Mon) 13:30-	Lecture on "World of European Traditional Black Smiths"	Hitachi Public Hall (Capacity: first 50)	Free	Civic Cultural Assoc. Tel 22-6481
27 <sup>th</sup> (Sun) 9:00-16:30	Short Course in Making Traditional "Yatsu-Dako (kite)"	Kyodo-Hakubutsu-Kan	¥1800 (Elder than 3 <sup>rd</sup> Gr.)	Hitachi Local Museum Tel 23-3231

NH: National Holiday CH: City Hall (TEL: 22-3111)

## Japanese Language Classes

NAME	LOCATION	DATE & TIME	Fee	Contact
<b>Sakura</b>	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	
<b>Sakura (Kanji)</b>		Friday 10:00-11:30	¥1,800/semester	
<b>Anzu</b>	Shichokaku Center	Tuesday 19:00-20:45	¥300/month	Mr. Shichizoh Kohsaka Tel/Fax (0294) 35-3989 <a href="mailto:kohsaka73@ybb.ne.jp">kohsaka73@ybb.ne.jp</a> Ms. Keiko Kanaoka Tel/Fax (0294) 42-8176
	Kyoiku Plaza	Friday 14:00-16:00		

## 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

Nov.	Hospital Name	Address	Tel
3	Shimazaki H.	Benten-cho	22-5051
6	Takayama Seikeigeka	Namekawa-cho	24-5005
13	Kujichinone H.	Kuji-cho	52-2119
20	Hitachi Kou H.	Kuji-cho	52-3576
23	Yamate H.	Chikoku-cho	33-2121
27	Hitachi Kousei	Ayukawa-cho	34-1241

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

## Movies in November

Theater	Day	Titles (Original Titles)
Cinefesta 1&2  Tel:21-7472	-18	Kono Mune Ippai no Ai wo [J]
	-11	Nana[J]
	-	Watashi no Atama no Naka no Keshigomu [K]
	-	Haru no Yuki[J]
Hitachi Central Tel:21-1386	-	Mada Mada Abunai Deka [J]
Aigakan 1&2 Tel:23-2323	-11	Shigatsu no Yuki[K]
	-4	Semi-Shigure[J]
	12-	Curtain Call[J]

J: Japanese K: Korean

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