



Vol. 249
February
2012

Konnichiwa!

NAGAOKA

International Affairs Division, Nagaoka City Office
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URL: <http://www.city.nagaoka.niigata.jp/dpage/kokubun/chikyuhiroba>







(Echigo Kawaguchi *Onsen* Hot Spring Resort)

Enjoy a Blissful Moment Sitting in an *Onsen*

The view from the open-air hot spring bath of Echigo Kawaguchi Hotel Sun Rolla is splendid, overlooking a vast landscape of the Shinano River and its terraced riverbanks in the snow. The fine quality of the brownish hot spring water containing sodium chloride is good for recovering from fatigue or improving blood circulation.

Population and Households
As of January 1, 2012
(compared to the previous month)

 282,066 (-114)	 137,713 (-79)	 144,353 (-35)	 101,219 (+43)
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Major Features:

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“Kono Sora no Hana, the Story of Nagaoka’s Fireworks”

(この空の花—長岡花火物語)

~ Expressing our wishes to convert all the bombs of the world to fireworks ~

A film entitled “Kono Sora no Hana, the Story of Nagaoka’s Fireworks” has been completed. It is scheduled to be pre-released across Niigata Prefecture on Saturday, April 7th, before other parts of Japan.

The film, directed by Mr. Nobuhiko Ôbayashi, features Nagaoka’s fireworks, which symbolize restoration and the pursuit of peace. Last August and September, many citizens took part in shooting the film at various locations around the city as extras or backstage staff members.



Photo: The “Nagaoka Eiga”
Production Committee PSC©2011

The citizens’ hardships experienced during the Pacific War and their wishes for a complete recovery from the war devastation and the pursuit of peace are expected to be conveyed to the world in the shape of flowers blooming in the night sky over Nagaoka.



On Saturday, April 7th, the film director and some of the cast will come to Nagaoka and greet the audience at T. Joy Nagaoka, the movie theater at Senshû 2. They are also scheduled to attend the commemorative opening events of City Hall Plaza — Aôre Nagaoka.

Nagaoka’s School Buildings to Function as Evacuation Shelters

In case of an emergency, the city’s school buildings are designated as evacuation shelters. When the 2004 Great Chûetsu Earthquake hit the city, many citizens used school buildings as their evacuation shelters. However, they found it uncomfortable and inconvenient. Conducting regular classroom sessions at those schools was also affected.

In order to alleviate some of the problems of using school buildings as evacuation facilities, the city has been remodeling and reconstructing school buildings. The 50-year-old Miyauchi Junior High School building was reconstructed and classes started in the new building on January 10, 2012.

Based on the lessons learned from the 2004 Great Chûetsu Earthquake and the 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake, the new school building is equipped with various devices and facilities in order to function as an efficient evacuation shelter.



A roofed plaza, kitchen, school nurse’s office, and martial arts gym are all situated adjacent to the main gymnasium, which will be used as an evacuation shelter in case of an emergency.

Emergency relief supplies can be easily carried into the roofed plaza. Relief supply food can be prepared in the kitchen. Evacuees can receive first aid treatment at the school nurse’s office. The martial arts gym with its *tatami* mats can provide a comfortable space for elderly evacuees.

The most important thing is to be able to resume classes as soon as possible even though school buildings are being used as evacuation shelters. In the newly constructed Miyauchi Junior High School building, the areas for education and evacuation are clearly divided by partitions.



The Nuclear Safety Countermeasures Study Group ~ Toward Establishing Practical Disaster Prevention Countermeasures ~

The Nuclear Safety Countermeasures Study Group has set up a working team in collaboration with the prefectural government and specialists from various areas. At the second meeting on January 8, team members discussed a practical plan for safe and smooth evacuation in case of a nuclear accident. The proposal made by the working team will be further discussed at a forthcoming study group meeting in which representatives from all the 30 municipal

governments in Niigata Prefecture are expected to attend.



Representing the study group, Mayor Mori of Nagaoka City and Mayor Shinoda of Niigata City presented a statement requesting a review of nuclear safety countermeasures to Mr. Hosono, the Minister of the Environment
(The Ministry of the Environment
December 26, 2011)

Important Information about Annual Income Reports

~ Tax Withholding Slips and Filing Final Tax Returns ~



If you are a registered resident in Nagaoka City as of January 1st, 2012, you are required to report your annual income to the City Office by Thursday, March 15th 2012.

If you do not report your income by submitting a final income tax return form, various documents might not be issued, including income verification certificates, which are necessary when applying for children's enrollment in nursery school, public housing, or business fund loans. Premiums for your National Health Insurance or Nursing Care Insurance and nursery school fees might not be calculated either.



In Japan, income earners are required to pay income tax (*shotokuzei* しょとくぜい・所得税) and residential tax (*juminzei* じゅうみんぜい・住民税). The income tax is customarily deducted from your earnings when a payment is made by your employer. Then, the deducted amount for the income tax is paid to the government's tax office (*zeimusho* ぜいむしょ・税務署). This custom of prior deduction of income tax from your earnings is called *gensen chōshū* (げんせん ちょうしゅう・源泉徴収).

In principle, in the Japanese tax system, income tax is collected in advance through prior deduction and the appropriate annual amount of income tax to be paid is finally computed when all the earnings of the year are determined to find out whether you have paid too much or too little.

In Japan, individual income tax is based on the self-assessment system, under which each taxpayer is required to compute his/her tax base and tax amount, file a final return to a tax office, and pay the tax amount accordingly.

Thus, you are required to file a final income tax return if you have received payments from multiple employers. This filing is called *kakutei shinkoku* (かくてい しんこく・確定申告). For your earnings in 2011, you can file a final income tax return from February 16th to March 15th, 2012.

Tax withholding slips (*gensen chōshūhyō* げんせん ちょうしゅうひょう 源泉徴収票) that were sent to you from your employer(s) are needed when you file a final income tax return. If the total amount of your earnings is relatively small, there is a possibility that you will be able to have some of your income tax returned. This practice is called *kampu* (かんぷ・還付).

On the contrary, you may be required to pay additional income tax if income taxes have not been deducted from relatively large amounts of your other additional earnings.

As for the residential tax, no prior deduction is made. A bill (*nōzei tsūchisho* のうぜい つうちしょ 納税通知書) for the residential tax will be sent to you in June (in June 2012 for earnings in 2011) when your

total amount of earnings is determined. If your total amount of income for the year is relatively small, you will not be required to pay the residential tax. In such a case a residential tax bill will not be sent to you.

Every individual working in Japan is required to pay the residential tax, regardless of his or her nationality. In principle, it is imposed on your total annual income beginning on January 1st of every year.

The residential tax must be paid to the municipality where you were registered as a resident on January 1st of that year. There are two ways of paying the tax. It may be deducted from your monthly wages, or you can pay directly to the city at a financial institution.

When paying at a financial institution, you have the choice of a one-time payment or a four-time installment payment.

The residential tax for this year is calculated based on your total annual income for the year 2011. If you do not report your income by submitting a final income tax return form, the residential tax for the year cannot be determined. Please be sure to report your annual income of the previous year to the Citizens' Tax Division of the Nagaoka City Office or the Tax Division of each district office by March 15th, 2012.

For further information, please contact:
Nagaoka Tax Office/Nagaoka *Zeimusho*
ながおかぜいむしょ・長岡税務署
(0258-35-2070)

(Moved to 1-3-88 Senzai, adjacent to the Civic Disaster Prevention Center)

Citizens' Tax Division, Nagaoka City Office
Nagaoka *Shiyakusho Shiminzei Ka*
ながおかしやくしょ しみんぜいか・長岡市役所市民税課
(0258-39-2212)

National Tax Agency's Web Site:
Japanese
<http://www.nta.go.jp/index.htm>
English
http://www.nta.go.jp/foreign_language/index.htm

The Nagaoka Civic Center

2-2-6 Ôte Street, Nagaoka City (0258-39-2763)

Hours: Every Day Except for the Year-End and the New Year's Holidays

Monday – Friday 8:30 a.m. – 9:00 p.m. Saturdays, Sundays, and National Holidays 9:00 a.m. – 6:30 p.m.



International Affairs Center (*Chikyû Hiroba*)(1st Floor)

Monday – Friday 8:30 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Saturdays, Sundays, and National Holidays 9:00 a.m. – 6:30 p.m.

Phone: 0258-39-2714 Fax: 0258-39-2715

E-mail: kouryu-c@city.nagaoka.lg.jp



Consultations Offered for International Residents

Various services are provided for international residents. The center is a place where international residents can find help and support. The staff members are ready to respond to you either in English or easy Japanese. No appointment is necessary for consultations. Feel free to stop by if you have any difficulties, worries, or questions.



Japanese Learning Programs

Nihongo Kôza

A free trial lesson is being offered. Please call ahead.

Morning Classes (¥300 per lesson)

Tuesdays & Fridays

* **Class I** (Lesson 1 – Lesson 12 of *Minna no Nihongo*)
10:45 a.m. – 11:45 a.m. (60 minutes)

* **Class II** (Lesson 13 – Lesson 25 of *Minna no Nihongo*)
9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. (60 minutes)

Feb.	3, 7, 10, 14, 17, 21, 24, 28
Mar.	2, 6, 9, 13, 16, 23, 27, 30

Sunday Classes (¥400 per lesson)

* **Class I** (Lesson 1 – Lesson 13 of *Minna no Nihongo*)
2:45 p.m. – 4:15 p.m. (90 minutes)

* **Class II** (Lesson 14 – Lesson 25 of *Minna no Nihongo*)
1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. (90 minutes)

Feb.	5, 12, 19, 26
Mar.	4, 11, 18, 25



Detailed information about the 1st term of classes for the 2012 fiscal year (April 2012 - September 2012) will be announced in the March issue.

Hiragana-Katakana Class

(¥1,500 for six lessons or ¥300 per lesson)

Sunday 1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. (90 minutes)

* **February–March Class**

Feb.	19, 26
Mar.	4, 11, 18, 25

Nihongo Hiroba

Volunteers help international residents learn Japanese at this free program during the following sessions:

- Sundays 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
- Tuesdays 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
- Fridays 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.



Recent Events

Cross-Cultural New Year Get-Together



Over 180 participants including international residents from 14 countries and Nagaokans joined the cross-cultural get-together on Sunday, January 15. The event was held at a large open space of a newly built facility named *Machinaka Campus Nagaoka* in the Phoenix Ôte East Building on Ôte Street. They enjoyed a hands-on experience of rice cake pounding and tasting, a *sumô* wrestling game using paper cut-out wrestlers, and a tasting roulette game using pounded rice cakes and *wasabi* (Japanese horseradish).

Choir to Sing Beethoven's Symphony No. 9 in D Minor, "Ode to Joy"

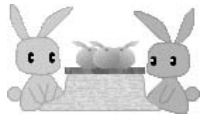
One of the highlights to celebrate the completion of City Hall Plaza – *Aôre Nagaoka* is a concert by a 1,000-member choir alongside professional soloists and an orchestra, which will be held on Sunday, December 16, 2012. Anyone, from 5th grade elementary school children and up, is welcome to join the choir.



Fee: ¥3,000 for adults, other fees for other age groups
Practice Sessions: 1:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Sundays starting from June 3, 2012
Lyric Hall

Registration: Submit application form by March 20, 2012
For further information and registration, please contact the staff of the Nagaoka International Affairs Center, *Chikyû Hiroba*.



Kosodate no Eki, Gun Gun

Nagaoka Civic Disaster Prevention Center, 1st Floor, 1-3-85 Senzai

Phone: 0258-30-1025 Hours: 9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Every Day Except for Tuesdays (Open on Tuesday if it is a national holiday)

* Fureai Time	10:45 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.	Every Day
* Picture Storybook Reading Time	2:00 p.m. – 2:15 p.m.	Every Day
* Gun Gun “Spot Time”	10:45 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.	Every Monday
* Healthy Tea Time	1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.	Feb. 2 (Thurs.) and March 1 (Thurs.)
* Bean-Throwing Time	10:45 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.	Feb. 3 (Fri.)
* Craftwork Cafe	10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.	Feb. 9 (Thurs.), 23 (Thurs.), and March 8 (Thurs.)
* Child-Rearing Salon	10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.	Feb. 16 (Thurs.)
* Happy Birthday Party	10:45 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.	Feb. 17 (Fri.)
* Mini-Lecture: Child Growth and Speech Development		10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Feb. 24 (Fri.)
* Hina Doll Festival	10:45 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.	March 2 (Fri.)
* Lecture and Workshop: The Beginning of a Child’s Self-Awareness	1:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.	March 11 (Sun.)
Free Child-Rearing Counseling	10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.	Feb. 8 (Wed.) Child-Rearing Advisor Feb. 22 (Wed.) Child-Rearing Committee Chief March 7 (Wed.) Nutritionist



Child-Rearing Support Facilities



Kosodate no Eki, Senshû (Teku Teku)

1-99-6 Senshû Phone: 0258-21-3860

Hours: 9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Every Day Except for Wednesdays

(Open on Wednesday if it is a national holiday)

- * **Picture Storybook Reading Time**
Every Monday 2:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
- * **Nakayoshi Time**
Every Friday 10:45 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
- * **Teku Teku Mini Concert**
Every Friday 1:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.
- * **Bean-Throwing Time**
10:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Feb. 3 (Fri.)
- * **Playing Games from the Old Days**
10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
Feb. 6 (Mon.) and March 5 (Mon.)
- * **Wai Wai Chatting** 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Feb. 9 (Thurs.), 23 (Thurs.), and March 8 (Thurs.)
- * **Birthday Party** 10:45 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.
Feb. 9 (Thurs.) and March 9 (Fri.)
- * **Lecture for Mothers: Health Care after Childbirth**
10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Feb. 14 (Tues.)
- * **Day for One-Year-Old Kids**
10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Feb. 16 (Thurs.)
- * **Hina Doll Festival**
10:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. March 2 (Fri.)



Free Child-Rearing Counseling 10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
Feb. 16 (Thurs.) Public Health Nurse
Feb. 21 (Tues.) Child-Rearing Advisor
Feb. 27 (Mon.) Nursery School Teacher
March 8 (Thurs.) Experienced Mothers
Temporary Day-Care for Preschool-Aged Children:
¥300/hour

Kids’ Plaza (Chibikko Hiroba)

Phoenix Ôte West 2nd Floor and 3rd Floor

2-5 Ôte Street Phone: 0258-39-2775

Hours 9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. Every Day

- * **Story Telling Time**
Every Day 10:45 a.m. – 11:05 a.m.
Kamishibai (Giant Picture Card Story) Feb. 25 (Sat.)
- * **Bean-Throwing Time**
11:00 a.m. – 11:40 a.m. Feb. 1 (Wed.)
- * **Waku Waku Day for 2-Year-Old Kids**
10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
Feb. 2 (Thurs.), 22 (Wed.), and March 2 (Fri.)
- * **Wai Wai Chatting**
11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Feb. 7 (Tues.) and 21 (Tues.)
- * **Time for Chibikko Kids and Birthday Party**
11:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
Feb. 8 (Wed.), 15 (Wed.), 23 (Thurs.), and March 7 (Wed.)
Birthday Party: Feb. 23 (Thurs.)
- * **Special Day for 2-Year-Old Kids**
10:45 a.m. – 11:25 a.m. Feb. 12 (Sun.)
- * **Mini Lecture: When to Start Oral Care for Babies**
10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
Feb. 16 (Thurs.)
- * **Picture Storybook Reading Time and Let’s Play with Blocks**
10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Feb. 18 (Sat.)
- * **Hina Doll Festival**
11:00 a.m. – 11:40 a.m. March 1 (Thurs.)



Free Child-Rearing Counseling 10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
Feb. 3 (Fri.) Child-Rearing Advisor
March 8 (Thurs.) Child-Rearing Advisor
Temporary Day-Care for Preschool-Aged Children:
¥300/hour

Local Snow Festivals and Seasonal Events

“White Season”

Echigo Kyûryô Kôen (Hillside Park)

Jan. 2 - Feb. 26 9:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Closed: Feb. 6, 13, 20, and 27

- * Trampolines * Skiing * Sledding
- * Snowboarding * Alpine Ski Classes
- * Craft Classes * Games

Admission and Parking:

Free until March 30 (Fri.)

Rope Lift: Free until Feb. 26

Information:

Echigo Hillside Park Management Center 0258-47-8001



Tochio Yûsetsu Matsuri (Playing in the Snow Festival)

Feb. 11 (Sat.) 5:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Feb. 12 (Sun.) 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Michi no Eki (Roadside Station) R 290

- * Candle lights in the snow
- * Fireworks (Feb. 11 8:00 p.m.)

Information: Tochio Tourism Association 0258-51-1195



Snow Festival in Koshiji

Feb. 11 (Sat.) 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Naride Sport Park

Snow Sculpture Competition

(10:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.)

Fireworks (5:30 p.m.)

Information:

Koshiji Branch Office 0258-92-5903



Nagaoka Yukishika Matsuri

“Yukishika” was the name of a store that used to preserve snow in a pyramid-like structure throughout the year. They sold this snow for refrigeration up until 1950s.

Feb. 18 (Sat.) 10:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Feb. 19 (Sun.) 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Senshûgahara Furusato no Mori and the Hive Nagaoka Area

- * Jumbo Snow Slide
- * Snow Wall Climbing
- * Helicopter Rides (tentative)
- Feb. 18 (Sat.) 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
- Feb. 19 (Sun.) 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

* Illumination and Fireworks (Feb. 18 6:10 p.m.)

* Making Snowmen

* Stage Shows

* Food, Drinks, and Regional Products

* Many Fun Programs

Information:

Tourism Division, Nagaoka City 0258-39-2221



Ojiya Fûsen Ikki

(hot air balloon competition)

Feb. 25 (Sat.) 8:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.

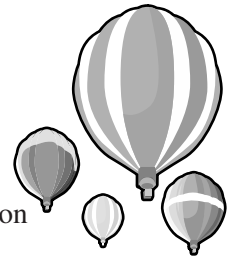
Feb. 26 (Sun.) 8:00 a.m.

Nishinaka, Ojiya City

10-minute drive from JR Ojiya Station

Information:

Tourism Association, Ojiya City 0258-83-3512



A Guide to Local Onsen (Hot Spring) Resorts

Relaxing in an *onsen* hot spring bath is recommended especially in cold winter months. There are some *onsen* hot spring resorts in Nagaoka City. You can also enjoy a day trip to *onsen*, which is known as “*higaeri onsen*” at some facilities. Many brochures about hot spring resorts in Nagaoka and Niigata Prefecture are available at the Nagaoka Civic Center on Ôte Street. If you want

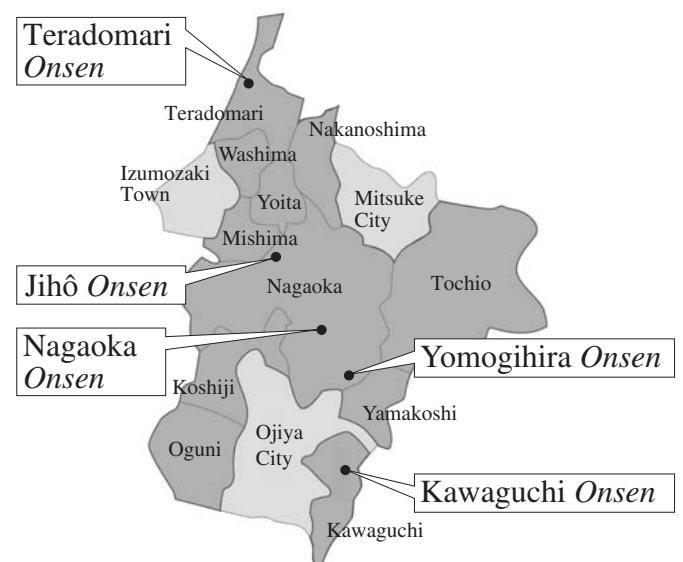
to know how to get to these hot spring resorts and their fees, please contact the Nagaoka City International Affairs Center, *Chikyû Hiroba* (see p.4), or each hot spring bath facility.

The 2012 Campaign for Days in Sado

If you plan to stay in Sado for a vacation in March, you can enjoy a special benefit under this campaign. You can get discounts on accommodation and transportation fees. There will be a variety of events during the campaign. You can apply for this campaign five days prior to your stay at an accommodation facility where you are going to stay. For further information :

Sado Tourism Association
0259-27-5000

<http://www.visitsado.com>



**Echigo Kawaguchi
Setsudô (snow hut)
Hibotarusai (Firefly Festival)**

Feb. 25 (Sat.) 12:00 p.m. — 7:30 p.m.

Kawaguchi Sport Park

10-minute drive from Echigo Kawaguchi IC

5-minute taxi-ride from JR Echigo Kawaguchi Station

- * Recreational activities in the snow
- * Snow Piling Contest
- * Stalls serving food with locally grown ingredients
- * Illumination in the snow

After sunset, approximately 20,000 candles in the snow will create a mystical world of lights.

- * Fireworks (7:30 p.m.)

Information: Kawaguchi Branch Office 0258-89-3113



**Taiko Drumming Performances
Sôshun no Jin (Literally: Early Spring Formation)**

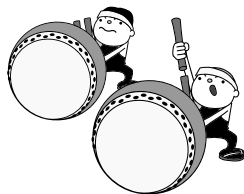
March 3 (Sat.) 1:00 p.m. — 5:00 p.m.

Aobadai Elementary School

Admission: Free

The city's several groups of *taiko* admirers will perform.

Information: Okada-San
080-118-6937



**Oguni Yuki Matsuri and
Oguni Setsujô Enduro Taikai**

Feb. 25 (Sat.) 5:00 p.m.

Oguni Sport Park

- * Illumination in the snow

Feb. 26 (Sun.) 8:15 a.m. — 3:30 p.m.

- * Motorcycle Race in the Snow
- * Stalls for Local Products

30-minute bus ride from JR Tsukayama Station
10-minute drive from Nagaoka IC

Information: Oguni Branch Office
0258-95-5906



**Koshi no Himatsuri
(Bonfire Festival)**

March 10 (Sat.) 11:00 a.m. — 5:00 p.m.

Tanesuhara, Yamakoshi District

- * Bonfire (25 meters)
- * Fun Programs in the Snow
- * Stage Shows
- * Bullfighting in the Snow
- * Food, Drinks, and Local Products

Information: Yamakoshi Branch Office
0258-59-2343



A set of *hina* dolls owned by the Makino Family (Nagaoka Grand Hotel)

**Echigo Nagaoka Hina Doll Displays
Saturday, February 25 - Sunday, March 18**

Time-honored *hina* dolls, which have been preciously kept and cherished for many years by their owners, will be displayed in hotels and show windows at approximately 60 locations around Ôte Street. There will be a stamp rally with prizes to visit these display sites.

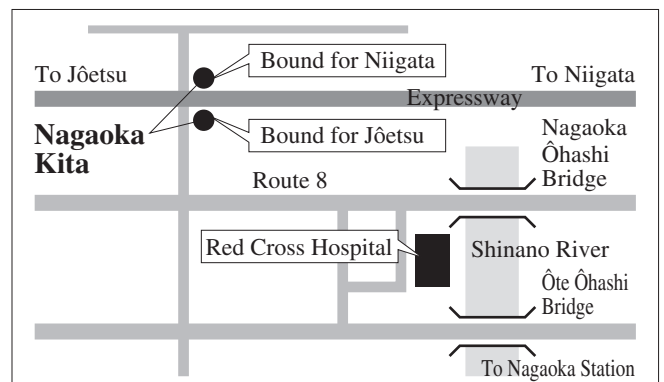


Many sets of *hina* dolls created by Ms. Taka Nagumo (Nagaoka Civic Center)

The Express Bus Service to Niigata Airport

If you need to go to Niigata Airport for traveling or visiting the Niigata Branch Office of the Tôkyô Immigration Bureau, a very convenient bus service is available. The express bus service between Jôetsu and Niigata has been extended to Niigata Airport until March 31st, 2012. This direct route to the Niigata Airport could be convenient for you.

You can catch this express bus at Nagaoka Kita, an express bus stop in Nagaoka. For further information, please contact the Nagaoka City International Affairs Center, *Chikyû Hiroba*. (see p.4)



Major Emergency Medical Facilities

Major General Hospitals

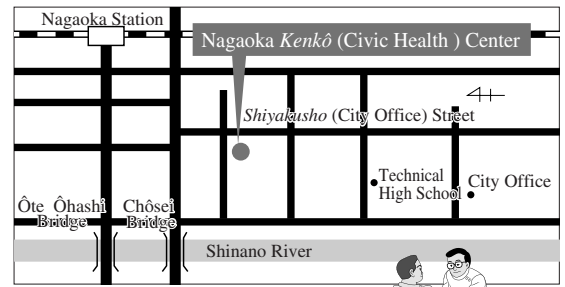
Nagaoka *Chûô Sôgô Byôin* (Central General Hospital) 0258-35-3700

Nagaoka *Sekijûji Byôin* (Red Cross Hospital) 0258-28-3600

Tachikawa *Sôgô Byôin* (General Hospital) 0258-33-3111

Nagaoka *Kenkô* (Civic Health) Center 0258-32-5000

2-5-1 Nishi Senju



Nagaoka Kenkô (Civic Health) Center

Facilities	Departments	Hours
Clinic for Sundays, Holidays, and Nights (0258-37-1199)	Internal Medicine (<i>Naika</i>)	(Monday — Friday) 6:45 p.m. — 9:30 p.m.
		(Sundays and Holidays) 9:00 a.m. — 11:30 a.m. 1:00 p.m. — 5:30 p.m.
For obstetrics and gynecology (<i>san fujin ka</i>), the staff at this facility will give information about which clinic is assigned for each Sunday or holiday.	Pediatrics (<i>Shônika</i>)	(Sundays and Holidays) 9:00 a.m. — 11:30 a.m. 1:00 p.m. — 5:30 p.m.
	Surgery (<i>Geka</i>)	(Sundays and Holidays) 9:00 a.m. — 11:30 a.m. 1:00 p.m. — 5:30 p.m.
Dental Clinic for Sundays and Holidays (0258-33-9644)	Dentistry (<i>Shika</i>)	(Sundays and Holidays) 9:00 a.m. — 11:30 a.m. 1:00 p.m. — 3:30 p.m.
Chûetsu Center for Children's Emergency Treatment (0258-86-5099)	Pediatrics (<i>Shônika</i>)	(Monday — Saturday) 6:45 p.m. — 9:30 p.m.

Warnings against Infectious Diseases

The infectious diseases known as *intô-ketsumakuen / puru-netsu* (pharyngo-conjunctival fever) and *maikopurazuma-haien* (mycoplasma pneumonia) are likely to spread especially during these cold and snowy months. Here is some information to help you protect yourself from suffering from these infectious diseases.

	Pharyngo-Conjunctival Fever	Mycoplasma Pneumonia
Cause	adenovirus	pneumonia mycoplasma (bacteria)
Incubation Period	5 - 7 days	2 - 3 weeks
Symptoms	fever, fatigue / weariness, lack of appetite, sore throat, red eyes, and eye mucus * These symptoms may last for 3 - 5 days.	fever, fatigue/weariness, and coughing * Severe symptoms may lead to pneumonia. * Coughing may continue for 3- 4 weeks even after your temperature returns to normal.
Preventive Measures	* Avoid contacting infected persons. * Gargle and wash your hands.	* Wear a surgical mask. * Gargle and wash your hands.

Apology

The editor would like to apologize for any inconveniences that may have been and may be caused by the delays of the January issue and the March issue of *Konnichiwa Nagaoka*, respectively. The reason for these delays is that there were not and will not be sufficient business days at the editor's office and our contract printing office during the Year End and New Year's holidays as well as in February and March.

Information from the Niigata Labor Bureau

Thursdays 8:30 a.m.- 4:30 p.m.(English and Japanese)
(Please call us in advance to make sure the consultants are available.)

Department of Inspection (*Kantoku Ka*), Labor Bureau 3F
1-56 Kawagishi-chô, Niigata City 951-8588

Phone: 025-234-5922 Fax: 025-234-3151

(Please write, "Attention to *Kantoku Ka*".)

Q&A for resolving conflicts between employers and non-Japanese employees from abroad

Q: I've been working at a company for about one month as a temporary worker. Before completing my three-month contract with my contractor (a dispatching company), the company I was sent to has gone bankrupt. What should I do?

A: The contract between a temporary worker and the contractor who dispatched that worker is valid even after the company to which the worker was dispatched goes bankrupt. The dispatching company is obliged to pay the wages for which the temporary worker has already worked. The dispatching company is also responsible for dispatching the worker to another company based on the initial contract between them. According to the Civil Law, when a temporary worker cannot be dispatched to another company, the worker has the right to charge the dispatching company for all the wages he or she is supposed to earn for the remainder of the contract. However, the Labor Standards Law stipulates that a temporary worker shall be paid an allowance equal to at least 60 percent of the worker's average wage during a period of business suspension for reasons attributable to the dispatching company. (Article 26)