



Vol. 280
September
2014

Konnichiwa!

NAGAOKA

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URL: <http://www.city.nagaoka.niigata.jp/> (長岡市ウェブサイト) →
English (Nagaoka International Affairs Center) →
地球広場 (International Affairs Center) → Konnichiwa Nagaoka


The Phoenix Has Brought Us Encouragement and Smiles over Ten Years





The Phoenix 10 Fireworks Wishing for a Complete Recovery stretched over a span of 2.2 kilometers in a line high above the Shinano River for a little over 5 minutes during the 2014 Nagaoka Festival Grand Fireworks Show held on August 2nd and 3rd.

Population and Households
As of August 1, 2014
(compared to the previous month)


279,443
(-112)


136,324
(-49)


143,119
(-63)


104,073
(+6)

Major Features:

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Mayor Kirk Caldwell (left) Mayor Tamio Mori (right)

The Agreement on the Commemorative Project in Commemoration of the 70th Year since the End of the Pacific War was signed. (August 2nd, 2014)

In commemoration of the 70th year since the end of the Pacific War, the Cities of Honolulu and Nagaoka, sister cities, agreed to co-host the Japan-U.S.A. Friendship Commemorative Project, with citizens' participation, scheduled in August 2015, especially focusing on our youths who will play leading roles in the future. It was decided at the first Committee of the Nagaoka-Honolulu Commemorative Project for Japan-U.S.A. Friendship held on August 2nd, 2014. Mayor Tamio Mori and Mayor Kirk Caldwell, the mayors of Nagaoka and Honolulu, were among the attendees representing both cities.

The commemorative project will include a display of Nagaoka Fireworks at Pearl Harbor, Honolulu, Hawaii where the Pearl Harbor attack was commanded by Admiral Isoroku Yamamoto, whose hometown is Nagaoka. Nagaoka was also heavily damaged by the U.S. Forces during the 1945 air raid. Both having experienced the misery of war, the Cities of Nagaoka and Honolulu united as sister cities in 2012. Both mayors expressed their thoughts about forthcoming project.

Mayor Tamio Mori: I believe that the fruit of friendship we have nurtured through our sister city programs will bloom in the form of fireworks during a display of Nagaoka Fireworks at Pearl Harbor, which will mark the 70th year since the end of the Pacific War. The City of Nagaoka is responsible for conveying to our youths the significance of peace with the future in mind.

A Display of Nagaoka Fireworks at Pearl Harbor, Honolulu for the Pursuit of Peace and with the Future in Mind



Mayor Kirk Caldwell's Message went out to a huge number of spectators who gathered to watch the annual fireworks display on the Shinano riverbanks on August 2nd and 3rd, 2014.

White Chrysanthemums sponsored by the Cities of Honolulu and Nagaoka in memory of war victims and for the pursuit of peace



Mayor Kirk Caldwell:

Nagaoka Fireworks are not only beautiful but they have a very special meaning. By watching them and enjoying them, we have responsibility to work together toward everlasting peace. Thank you, Mayor Mori and all the people of Nagaoka, for spreading this important message to the world through these spectacular fireworks displays.

Mayor Kirk Caldwell: The bonds of friendship between our cities have been further strengthened and will continue to grow forever for the pursuit of peace. The display of Nagaoka Fireworks at Pearl Harbor will be a historic event. The Nagaoka Fireworks will be launched to honor war victims and to pray for peace. We will be able to send out to the world our message in which we can express that the Cities of Nagaoka, the hometown of Isoroku Yamamoto who commanded the Pearl Harbor attack, and Honolulu, where the Pearl Harbor attack occurred, have developed wonderful ties of friendship.

The Commemorative Project with the Future in Mind

- A Youth Peace Summit
- A Symposium in Collaboration with the Arizona Memorial at Pearl Harbor, the Nagaoka War Damage Exhibit Hall, and the Admiral Isoroku Memorial Hall
- Exchange Programs between the Nagaoka Institute of Design and the University of Hawaii
- Display of Nagaoka Fireworks at Pearl Harbor



Saying "Aloha" to the citizens of Nagaoka on Ôte Street (August 3rd, 2014)

Mayor Kirk Caldwell Enjoyed his Second Visit to Nagaoka



Presenting a wreath at the Peace Memorial Forest Park (August 3rd, 2014)



Sharing his knowledge about the Nagaoka Air Raid with an accompanying reporter from Honolulu (August 3rd, 2014)



Being amazed by the excellent collection of ancient pottery at the Umataka Jōmon Kan (Kaen Doki Museum) (August 3rd, 2014)

The Progress of Developing Bonds of Friendship



The Arizona Memorial at Pearl Harbor



Junior High School Student Exchange Program (January 2014)



A group of Nagaoka's junior high school students visiting Pearl Harbor (January 2014)



At the Signing Ceremony for the Sister City Affiliation (March, 2012) Then Honolulu Mayor Peter Carlisle (left) Mayor Tamio Mori (right)



An estimated 1.03 million spectators enjoyed watching the Nagaoka Fireworks during the two nights of August 2nd and 3rd. The largest number of spectators filled the Shinano riverbank area, probably because this year's shows were held on Saturday and Sunday, which allowed us to welcome more spectators from out of town. Thanks to everyone's great cooperation and the city's safety measures, this year's shows concluded smoothly, safely, securely, and successfully.

(1) Ms. Ayaka Hirahara, a singer/song writer, started singing her piece "Jupiter," the theme song for the Phoenix Fireworks Wishing for a Complete Recovery, at 7:00 p.m. on August 3rd when approximately 500,000 spectators were waiting for the beginning of the show. They all burst into cheers with her enthusiastic performance of singing the lyrics, which start with "Every day I listen to my heart, ...You are not alone..."



- (2) The legendary Phoenix flew in the night sky over Nagaoka in expression of the citizens' appreciation and hope for a complete recovery from disasters. Overwhelming all the spectators, the magnificent scale of the Phoenix 10 Fireworks symbolized the strength of Nagaoka stepping toward the future.
- (3) It could be said that the record-high number of spectators were looking at the same sky where the war-devastated citizens of Nagaoka watched the fireworks of the 1947 Nagaoka City Festival for Restoration from War Devastation, which is the origin of the present-day fireworks show.
- (4)(5) Four shots of three-foot-diameter shells (*Shô-Sanjakudama*) and *Kono Sora no Hana* (The Story of Nagaoka Fireworks) also shared the stage with the Phoenix Fireworks.

City Hall Plaza – *Aôre* Nagaoka Received the 55th BCS Award



Nursery school children and their parents having a picnic at *Aôre* Nagaoka

City Hall Plaza – *Aôre* Nagaoka has been playing a leading role in making the downtown area a popular and an attractive place since its opening in 2012.

Being highly evaluated for its unique architectural features, *Aôre* Nagaoka received the BCS Award followed by the two awards previously presented by the Architectural Institute of Japan and the City Planning Institute of Japan.

Aiming to contribute to the promotion of culture and environmental conservation, the Japan Federation of Construction Contractors established the BCS (Building Contractors Society) Award in order to recognize buildings that function as excellent architectural resources.

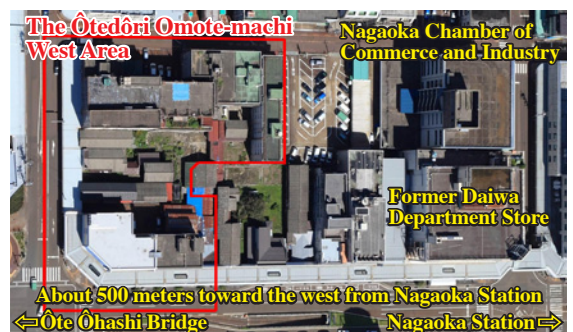
Citizens are always welcome to visit *Aôre* Nagaoka to create their own projects or to have a relaxing time.

Another Downtown Renovation Project Underway

At the Ôtedôri Omote-machi West Area, building demolition has started in order to renovate the area with a new high-rise building. Construction will begin within the 2014 fiscal year aiming to be completed in 2016. The 55-meter high 14-story building will be headquarters of various organizations related to social welfare programs. It will also include a nursing home and condominiums.



An artist's conceptual drawing of the new high-rise building



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.



Nagaoka City 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 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 (Tuesdays & Fridays)

* Class I

(Lesson 1 – Lesson 12 of *Minna no Nihongo*)

11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. (60 minutes)

* Class II

(Lesson 13 – Lesson 25 of *Minna no Nihongo*)

9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. (60 minutes)

Sept.	2, 5, 9, 12, 16, 19, 26	¥1,400
Oct.	3, 7, 10, 14, 17, 21, 24, 28, 31	¥1,800
Nov.	4, 7, 11, 14, 18, 21, 25, 28	¥1,600
Dec.	2, 5, 9, 12, 16, 19, 26	¥1,400
Jan.	6, 9, 13, 16, 20, 23, 27, 30	¥1,600
Feb.	3, 6, 10, 13, 17, 20, 24, 27	¥1,600
Mar.	3, 6, 10, 13, 17, 20, 24, 27	¥1,600

Sunday Classes

* Class I

(Lesson 1 – Lesson 12 of *Minna no Nihongo*)

1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. (120 minutes)

* Class II

(Lesson 13 – Lesson 25 of *Minna no Nihongo*)

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. (120 minutes)

Sept.	7, 14, 21, 28	¥1,600
Oct.	5, 12, 19, 26	¥1,600
Nov.	2, 9, 16, 23, 30	¥2,000
Dec.	7, 14, 21	¥1,200
Jan.	4, 11, 25	¥1,200
Feb.	1, 8, 15, 22	¥1,600
Mar.	1, 8, 15, 22, 29	¥2,000

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.



The 9th Annual International Athletic Meet

~Sports Festival with Our Friends from around the World~



The Nagaoka City International Affairs Center, *Chikyû Hiroba* will organize an athletic meet in which international residents and Nagaokans can join together. Everyone is welcome. It will be a great opportunity for you to meet with friends from various countries through enjoying sports.

Date: Sunday, September 28

10:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Venue: Nagaoka Civic Disaster Prevention Park

Participation Fees (drinks and other necessary materials):

¥300 for junior high school students and above

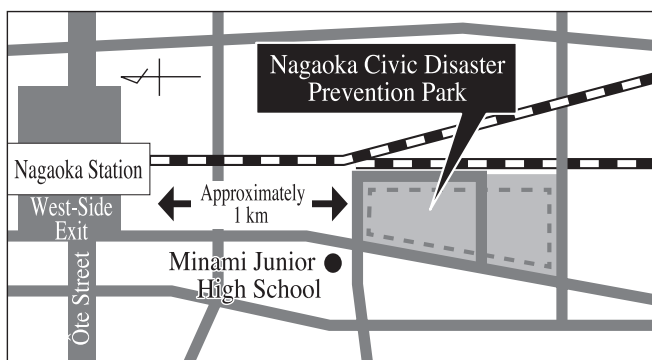
¥200 for elementary school children and under

Application Period: Aug. 22 (Fri.) – Sept. 21 (Sun.)

Detailed information will be given when you sign up at Nagaoka City International Affairs Center, *Chikyû Hiroba*

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

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





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**
3:00 p.m. – 3:15 p.m. Every Day
- * **“Spot Time”** 10:45 a.m. – 11:15 a.m. Every Monday
- * **Evacuation Drills** On the morning of Sept. 1 (Mon.)
- * **Healthy Tea Time** Sept. 4 (Thurs.) and Oct. 2 (Thurs.)
1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.
- * **Mini-Lecture: Child’s Speech Development and Communication**
10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Sept. 5 (Fri.)
- * **Autumn Family Concert** 11:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Sept. 7 (Sun.)
- * **Let’s Make Hand-Made Toys**
10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Sept. 10 (Wed.) – 12 (Fri.)
- * **Craftwork Cafe** 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
Sept. 11 (Thurs.), 25 (Thurs.), and Oct. 9 (Thurs.)
- * **Waku Waku Time** 10:45 a.m. – 11:15 a.m. Sept. 17 (Wed.)
- * **Toy Plaza** 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Sept. 18 (Thurs.)
- * **Child-Rearing Salon** 10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Sept. 18 (Thurs.)
- * **Happy Birthday Party** 10:45 a.m. – 11:15 a.m. Sept. 19 (Fri.)
- * **Mini-Lecture: Playing to the Rhythms**
10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Sept. 24 (Wed.)
- * **Kira Kira Time: Playing to the Rhythms**
11:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Sept. 26 (Fri.)
- * **Workshop: First Childbirth for Expecting Parents**
10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Sept. 28 (Sun.)
- * **Consultations about Vaccinations and Health Checkups**
11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Sept. 29 (Mon.)
- * **Mothers’ Chat Cafe** 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Sept. 29 (Mon.)
- * **Mini-Athletic Meet** 10:45 a.m. – 11:45 a.m. Oct. 3 (Fri.)
- Free Child-Rearing Counseling** 10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
Sept. 10 (Wed.) and Oct. 8 (Wed.) Child-Rearing Advisor



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** 11:00 a.m. – 11:15 a.m. Every Day
Kamishibai (Large Picture-Card Story) Sept. 11 (Thurs.)
- * **Wai Wai Chatting** 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Sept. 2 (Tues.), 30 (Tues.), and Oct. 7 (Tues.)
- * **Time for Chibikko Kids and Birthday Party**
11:00 a.m. – 11:15 a.m. Sept. 3 (Wed.), 10 (Wed.), 17 (Wed.),
24 (Wed.), Oct. 1 (Wed.), and 8 (Wed.)
Birthday Party: Sept. 24 (Wed.)
- * **Smiley Kids’ Day** 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Sept. 5 (Fri.), 12 (Fri.), 19 (Fri.), 26 (Fri.), and Oct. 10 (Fri.)
- * **Let’s Play with Grandmothers**
11:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Sept. 8 (Mon.)
- * **Reading Picture Storybooks and Playing Time (Ehon no Tobira)** 11:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Sept. 9 (Tues.)
- * **Teaching about the Preciousness of Life**
10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Sept. 16 (Tues.)
- * **Chatting Time for Expecting Mothers**
2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. Sept. 19 (Fri.)
- * **Let’s Play with Blocks** 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Sept. 20 (Sat.)
- * **Treasure Hunt with Big Brothers and Sisters**
10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Sept. 21 (Sun.)
- * **Let’s Play to the Rhythms**
11:00 a.m. – 11:15 a.m. Sept. 22 (Mon.)
- * **Making Your Own Picture Storybook (Ehon no Tane)**
11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Sept. 23 (Tues.)
- * **Laughter Yoga** 11:00 a.m. – 11:40 a.m. Sept. 25 (Thurs.)
- * **Mothers’ Chat Cafe** 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Sept. 29 (Mon.)
- * **Autumn Festival for Little Kids**
10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Oct. 4 (Sat.)
- * **Consultations by Maternity Nurse**
10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Oct. 6 (Mon.)
- * **How to Start Oral Care for Babies**
11:00 a.m. – 11:40 a.m. Oct. 9 (Thurs.)
- Free Child-Rearing Counseling** 10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
Sept. 4 (Thurs.) and Oct. 2 (Thurs.) Child-Rearing Advisor
Sept. 18 (Thurs.) Nutritionist



Temporary Day-Care for Preschool-Aged Children: ¥300/hour

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)

- * **Story Telling Time**
1:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. Every Monday
- * **Enjoy Drawing Pictures** 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Sept. 1 (Mon.) and Oct. 6 (Mon.)
- * **Nakayoshi Time** 10:45 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
Sept. 5 (Fri.), 19 (Fri.), 26 (Fri.), and Oct. 3 (Fri.)
- * **Mini-Concert** 12:30 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. Every Friday
- * **Playing Games from the Old Days**
10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Sept. 6 (Sat.) and Oct. 4 (Sat.)
- * **Wai Wai Chatting** 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Sept. 11 (Thurs.), 25 (Thurs.), and Oct. 9 (Thurs.)
- * **Mothers’ Chat Cafe** 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Sept. 11 (Thurs.) and Oct. 9 (Thurs.)
- * **“Toy Hospital” for Fixing Broken Toys**
10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Sept. 12 (Fri.) and Oct. 10 (Fri.)
- * **Smiley Birthday Party**
10:45 a.m. – 11:15 a.m. Sept. 12 (Fri.) and Oct. 10 (Fri.)
- * **Pony Ride** 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Sept. 13 (Sat.)
- * **Lecture for Fathers and Mothers:
How to Start Baby Food**
10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Sept. 16 (Tues.)
- * **Let’s Play at the Kids’ Land**
10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Sept. 18 (Thurs.)
- * **Child-Rearing Festival**
9:30 a.m. – 3:30 a.m. Sept. 21 (Sun.)
- * **Look-and-Touch Time (things from the Shinano River)**
10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Sept. 27 (Sat.)
- * **Picture Storybook Reading Time**
10:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Sept. 30 (Tues.)
- * **Digging for Sweet Potatoes**
10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Oct. 6 (Mon.)



Free Child-Rearing Counseling

10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Sept. 9 (Tues.) Child-Rearing Advisor

Temporary Day-Care for Preschool-Aged Children: ¥300/hour

Kosodate no Eki, Tochio (Suku Suku)

Tochio Sangyô Kôryû Center, 2nd Floor 1765 Miyazawa, Tochio
Phone: 0258-51-1022 Hours: 9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays

- * **Fuwa Fuwa Plaza**
10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Sept. 3 (Wed.) and Oct. 1 (Wed.)
- * **Nakayoshi Plaza**
9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Sept. 5 (Fri.) and Oct. 3 (Fri.)
- * **Suku Suku Tea Time**
11:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Sept. 5 (Fri.) and 17 (Wed.)
- * **Tips for Disaster Prevention**
10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Sept. 10 (Wed.)
- * **Wampaku Plaza**
9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Sept. 17 (Wed.)
- * **Birthday Party** 11:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Sept. 24 (Wed.)
- * **Bus Tour** Sept. 25 (Thurs.)



Free Child-Rearing Counseling

10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Sept. 3 (Wed.) Maternity Nurse
10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Sept. 19 (Fri.) Public Health Nurse

Seasonal Events

Yoita Jûgoya (Full Moon) Festival

Sept. 12 (Fri.) – Sept. 14 (Sun.)

Noboriyatai Float: Sept. 13 and 14 7:15 p.m.

Tsuno Shinto Shrine

The highlight of this annual festival is the exciting event in which the 250-year-old tradition of dedicating a *noboriyatai* float to Tsuno Shinto Shrine takes place.



Spectators line the road to the shrine, and cheer and praise the bearers of the float for their hard effort in pushing and pulling the huge float, which is full of locals, up the slope to the shrine.

For Further Information: Yoita Branch Office
Phone: 0258-72-2303

Nagaoka International Festival

Sept. 13 (Sat.) and Sept. 14 (Sun.)

10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.



Nagaoka University of Technology Campus Courtyard
The international students from the Nagaoka University of Technology will host the Annual Nagaoka International Festival during the *Gidaisai*. Dances from several countries will be performed. You can also purchase ethnic dishes. The event will be a wonderful opportunity for you to get to know more about various cultures of the world while living in Nagaoka.

For Further Information: Nagaoka University of Technology
Phone: 0258-47-9285

Sekihara Festival

Sept. 13 (Sat.) – Sept. 15 (Mon., Holiday)

Sekihara Park and Umataka Jômon Kan

- * Folk Dance Parade
- * Karaoke
- * Fireworks Show
- * Many Other Fun Programs

For Further Information:

Sekiharachiku Shôkôkai

(Sekihara Area Commerce and Industry Association)

Phone: 0258-46-2170



Cosmos Festival

Sept. 13 (Sat.) – Oct. 19 (Sun.)

Echigo Kyûryô Kôen (Hillside Park)

Approximately 300,000 cosmos plants of 15 different species will be on display.

For Further Information:

Echigo Hillside Park

Phone: 0258-47-8001



The 19th Nagaoka Film Festival

Sept. 13 (Sat.) – Sept. 15 (Mon., Holiday)

Nagaoka Lyric Hall

(3-1356-6 Senshû Phone: 0258-29-7711)

Tickets: in advance, ¥1,000 for one film
¥5,000 for all films

at the door, ¥1,200 for one film

Ticket Outlets: Bunshindô Bookstore (CoCoLo),

Aeon Nagaoka, Nagaoka Municipal Auditorium, etc.

A total of 10 films from China, France, Japan, Korea, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Palestine, and the U.S.A. will be shown. There will be talk sessions by guests and international students. The detailed program information is available at the Nagaoka City International Affairs Center, *Chikyû Hiroba* in the Nagaoka Civic Center on Ôte Street. (see p. 4)

For Further Information: Community Cinema Nagaoka

Phone/Fax: 0258-33-1231

<http://www.mynet.ne.jp/~asia/>



A Guided Bus Tour to Oguni

Enjoy visiting Oguni blessed with historic sites and local traditions.

Sept. 27 (Sat.) 9:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Meet at:

- Echigo Kôtsû Bus Terminal Nagaoka Station East Exit

- Saiwai Plaza in Saiwai-chô

Fee: ¥1,000 (includes lunch)

Registration:

Sept. 10 (Wed.) – Sept. 19 (Fri.)

Toshi Keikaku Ka

(Urban Planning Division)

Phone: 0258-39-2225



Enjoy taking a footbath (*ashiyu*) at the Hôsue Area

Digging for Renkon (Lotus Roots)

Sept. 27 (Sat.) 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Digging for *renkon*, cooking class, and art class

Renkon lunch will be served.

Fees: ¥2,000 - ¥3,000

Sign up by Sept. 16 (Tues.) by sending a postage-paid return postcard with your name, address, age, phone number, etc.

to: 954-0192 *Chiiki Shinkô Ka*, Nakanoshima *Shisho* (Branch)

(Regional Promotion Division)

Phone: 0258-61-2010



The 26th Annual Japanese Speech Contest for Non-Native Speakers

Hosted by *Mutsumi Kai* and

Nagaoka International Exchange Association

The contest will be followed by a party for the speakers and the audience to get together.

Date: Saturday, September 27th 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Venue: Nagaoka *Shôkô Kaigisho* Building 2F

(Nagaoka Chamber of Commerce and Industry

Building) 2-1-1 Sakanoue-machi

Phone: 0258-32-4467

Party Ticket: ¥500

For Further Information: Ms. Miwako Kobayashi

Phone: 0258-36-0114



Nagaoka Agricultural Festival

Sept. 28 (Sun.) 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Aguratte Nagaoka and Higashiyama Family Land
(Suyoshi-machi, next to the Municipal Ski Area)

- * Rice Harvesting
- * Pony Riding
- * Tasting Regional Specialties
- * Sale of Locally-Grown Vegetables
- * Sale of *Natane* (rapeseed) Cooking Oil
- * Collecting Used Cooking Oil
- * Sweet Potato Digging
- * Handicraft Classes

For Further Information: *Nôsei Ka*

(Agricultural Affairs Division)

Phone: 0258-39-2223

Nagaoka Pony Carnival

Sept. 28 (Sun.) 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Yûkyûzan Park

For Further Information:

Kodomo Katei Ka (Child and Family Affairs Division)

Phone: 0258-39-2300



Echigo Nagaoka Sake no Jin (Sake Tasting Event)

Enjoy tasting a variety of *sake* produced
exclusively by 16 local sake breweries.

Oct. 4 (Sat.) 11:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

11:20 a.m. Traditional *Kagamibiraki Sake*
Cask Opening

Tickets: in advance, ¥1,000 for 11 sheets
at the door, ¥1,000 for 10 sheets

Tickets can be purchased from Sept. 12 (Fri.) at:
Machinaka Kankô Plaza (next to *Aôre Nagaoka*)

Phone: 0258-31-5202



Civil Engineering Festival

Oct. 5 (Sun.) 9:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Echigo Kyûryô Kôen (Hillside Park)

Phone: 0258-47-8001

Displays and Demonstrations of Civil Engineering and Disaster
Prevention Machinery

For Further Information:

Doboku Seisaku Chôsei Ka

(Public Works Policy Coordination Division)

Phone: 0258-39-2307

米百俵まつり *Kome Hyappyô Matsuri* (One Hundred Sacks of Rice Festival)

Oct. 4 (Sat.) 11:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Ôte Street, Suzuran Street, and Central Street

The Spirit of One Hundred Sacks of Rice is a concept
stressing that city development is dependent on education.
Nagaokans take pride in and draw courage from this teaching,
which originated in a historic event that took place after the
end of the civil war of 1868.

The festival will have many fun-filled programs including
street performances, a 35.6-km relay, and a flea market. There will
also be a parade (starting around 3:00 p.m.) of approximately
500 people dressed in *samurai* warrior costumes from the
Boshin Civil War of 1868 and ancient gorgeous costumes of

the Makino Clan going up to Edo
(present-day Tokyo) for alternate-
year attendance to the *Shôgun*.
A skit dramatizing the historic
One Hundred Sacks of Rice story
will also be performed.

For Further Information:

Matsuri Shinkô Ka (Festival Promotion Division)

Phone: 0258-39-2221

<http://www.city.nagaoka.niigata.jp/>



Enrollment in Kindergartens and Nursery Schools

Enrollment in Nursery Schools

(保育園・ほいくえん/*Hoikuen*)

Applications for enrollment in nursery schools for the 2015
fiscal year (from April 2015 to March 2016) will be accepted
from October 1st (Wed.), 2014. Eligibility extends to infants
and preschool-aged children whose parents or guardians
cannot take care of them at home due to employment duties
or medical reasons. Some nursery schools accept infants aged
two months old and above.

Hours differ for each nursery school and fees differ
depending on each household's previous year's income.
For further detailed information, please contact the nursery
school in which you wish to enroll your child or the Child-
Care Division of the Nagaoka City Office.

For Further Information: *Hoiku Ka* (Child-Care Division)

Saiwai Plaza

Phone: 0258-39-2219

Enrollment in Kindergartens

(幼稚園・ようちえん/*Yôchien*)

Applications for enrollment in kindergartens for the 2015
fiscal year (from April 2015 to March 2016) will be accepted
from November 1st (Wed.), 2014. Children aged three,
four, and five years old as of April 1st, 2015 are eligible for
enrollment. Hours and fees differ for each kindergarten. For
further detailed information, please contact the kindergarten
in which you wish to enroll your child. Your application can
be submitted directly to the kindergarten in which you wish
to enroll your child.

For Further Information: *Hoiku Ka* (Child-Care Division)

Saiwai Plaza

Phone: 0258-39-2219



Major Emergency Medical Facilities

Major General Hospitals

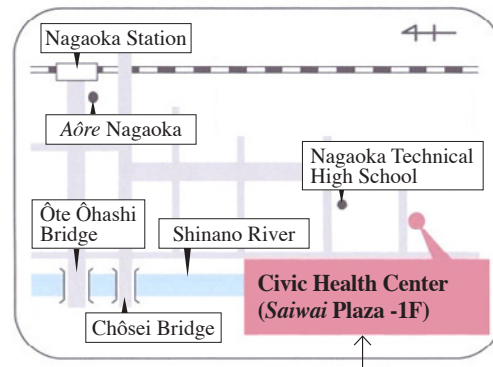
Nagaoka *Chû Sôgô Byôin* (Central General Hospital) 0258-35-3700

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

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

Civic Health Center (*Saiwai Plaza -1F*)

2-1-1 Saiwai-chô (0258-39-7508)



Civic Health Center (*Saiwai Plaza -1F*)

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. – 4:30 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. – 4:30 p.m.
	Surgery (<i>Geka</i>)	(Sundays and Holidays) 9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. 1:00 p.m. – 4:30 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.

Telephone Calls Regarding Overdue National Health Insurance Premiums

The National Health Insurance System is a mutually supporting system in which members share their premiums to cover their medical expenses for injuries or illnesses.

Company employees or organization members can use employees' health insurance policies. Those who are not members of these insurance policies are required to apply for National Health Insurance.

Registered foreign nationals whose authorized period of stay is one year or more are required to apply for the National Health Insurance Policy.

The notice regarding premiums for Fiscal 2014 was mailed out in the middle of July. If your premium is paid by being deducted from your pension or if your premium is transferred from your bank account, you do not receive a notice.

Please be sure to pay your premium for each term by the due date. If your premium is overdue for more than two months, you will receive a telephone call, in Japanese, from the Call Center for Nagaoka City's National Health Insurance Premium Payment. An operator from the call center will inform you of the overdue amount and for which term.

If you receive such a call, please complete your overdue payment as soon as possible. The operator will never give you any instructions about how to transfer your payment into a certain account or how to operate an ATM, Automated Teller Machine.

If it is difficult for you to pay your premium, please contact *Kokuho Nenkin Ka*, the National Health Insurance and Pension Division, or the Citizens' Affairs and Service Division of each district branch office.

If you need any assistance, please contact the staff of the Nagaoka City International Affairs Center, *Chikyû Hiroba*. (see p. 4)

For Further Information:

- *Kokuho Nenkin Ka*
(National Health Insurance and Pension Division)
Phone: 0258-39-2220
- The Citizens' Affairs and Service Division of each district branch office

This Month's Useful Japanese Expressions (*Shûchû Gôu* しゅうちゅう ごう・集中豪雨)



"*Shûchû Gôu*" means local downpours or heavy rains that fall locally in a short period of time. Local downpours often cause a rise in river water levels, floods, or landslides. You are advised to avoid driving through roads in low areas, such as underpasses, where rainwater is likely to accumulate during or soon after a local downpour, making driving through difficult.

Local downpours may cause some damage even before *chûihô* (a cautionary announcement or advisory) or *keihô* (an alert) are issued. You are always advised to act well in advance by collecting information about weather forecasts.

Disasters are unpredictable. We hope this section that provides Japanese expressions and information about disasters helps you protect yourself from disasters.

Retraction:

The editor apologizes for the incorrect spelling in the August issue. In the title of page 2, "Message" was misprinted as "Massage."