



Vol. 322  
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2018

*Konnichiwa!*

# NAGAOKA

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English (Nagaoka International Affairs Center) →  
地球広場 (International Affairs Center) → Konnichiwa Nagaoka



## Join Your Voices and Hearts!

In April 2018, the newly-formed Konan Elementary School will start its school year by integrating the 139-year old Muikaichi and Yamayazawa elementary schools. On February 6, “*Hinata*,” a duo of musicians from Nagaoka, introduced the new school song they wrote and composed. Due to the decreasing number of children, Nakanomata Elementary School in the Tochio District will also be integrated into Tochio Minami Elementary School starting in April 2018.

## The 400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Establishment of Nagaoka Chapter 2

In the beginning of the Pre-Modern Era, rulers of the Nagaoka area used to reside in Zaodo Castle situated in the northern part of the town, which was frequently flooded by the Shinano River. In 1618, Naoyori Hori (1577-1639) started to build another castle on the southern plateau, the present-day downtown area around Nagaoka station. However, he was appointed lord of Murakami Castle and left Nagaoka.

Succeeding Naoyori Hori, Tadanari Makino (1581-1654), the first lord of the Nagaoka domain, entered Nagaoka and completed the construction of Nagaoka Castle, which Naoyori Hori began.

Besides the inner, outer, and outermost citadels, the castle had a three-story structure called “*osangai*” (about 23 meters high), 9 watchtowers, and 17 gates. During the *Boshin* Civil War of 1868, Nagaoka Castle fell to the New Government Forces and was burned out. In 1898, Nagaoka Station was built at the former castle site when Hokuetsu Railway Inc. started operations.



Features of the former castle site

Population and Households  
As of February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018  
(compared to the previous month)

273,067 (-229)	133,327 (-85)	139,740 (-144)	106,651 (+13)

### Major Features:

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# Sports Can Bring a New Future to Our Community

## To Further Develop the City with Sports Activities

### In Commemoration of the 2020 Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games

The people of Japan, including Nagaokans, are all excited about the upcoming 2020 Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games. In March 2017, the City of Nagaoka and Swimming Australia Limited signed a Deed of Cooperation, which insures that both parties cooperate with each other. The Japanese government has officially registered our cooperation project with the Australian swimming team into its Host Town Project for the 2020 Olympics.



In order to develop Nagaoka into a sport-oriented community, the city is encouraging citizens to participate in various sports activities. Mayor Tatsunobu Isoda discussed special features that sports can provide, their educational benefits, and regional revitalization through sports activities with Ms. Mai Nakamura (2000 Sydney Olympic 100-meter backstroke silver medalist, the Nagaoka Sport Goodwill Ambassador, and the Head of the Nagaoka Citizens' Sports Cheering Group) and Mr. Daichi Suzuki (1988 Seoul Olympic 100-meter backstroke gold medalist and the Deputy Commissioner of the Japan Sports Agency).

#### Mayor Isoda:

I believe that all sports activities can be an indispensable foundation not only for competition purposes but also education, city development, and health care.

#### Suzuki:

We need to convey to many people, including those who are not likely to take an interest in sports, the power and beneficial aspects that sports activities can bring about.

#### Nakamura:

It used to be impossible for us to watch top athletes' performances first hand in Nagaoka. Now, Nagaoka's children can experience life-changing opportunities while watching and interacting with Australian world-class swimmers during their training sessions in Nagaoka.



Mayor Isoda explaining the city's proposal to the Olympic Organizing Committee with the hope that a design of *Jōmon* pottery, ancient flame-style pottery unearthed in Nagaoka, be used for the 2020 Olympic cauldron



2000 Sydney Olympic Games Public Viewing



A swimming class offered by the Australian swimming team



The Niigata ALBIREX Basketball Team playing at the arena of City Hall Plaza - *Aôre* Nagaoka, its home court



The Inauguration Ceremony of the Nagaoka Citizens' Sports Cheering Group



An aid station along the trail for Echigo Country Trail Running in the Oguni District, which is an event that consists of running and hiking along mountainous trails



A comic book page featuring the arena of City Hall Plaza - *Aôre* Nagaoka, which the Japan Sports Agency published as a case study example of sports activities for the promotion of regional revitalization



Mr. Kenzo Shirai (2016 Rio de Janeiro Olympics gymnastics gold medalist) demonstrating his excellent techniques during the Nippon Sport Science University Competition Gymnastics Exhibition held at the arena of City Hall Plaza - *Aôre* Nagaoka

## Revised City Office Hours

### (1) General Information Desks City Hall Plaza – Aôre Nagaoka

**Starting on April 10 (Tues.)**

Weekdays: 8:30 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Saturdays, Sundays, and Holidays: 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Desks	Hours
Certificates	Income Certificate and Taxation Certificate 8:30 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. (weekdays) 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. (Sat., Sun., and Holidays) Other Tax-Related Certificates 8:30 a.m. – 5:15 p.m. (weekdays) Other Certificates 8:30 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. (weekdays) 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. (Sat., Sun., and Holidays)
Tax	Tax Payment prior to due date 8:30 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. (weekdays) 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. (Sat., Sun., and Holidays) Other tax-related services 8:30 a.m. – 5:15 p.m. (weekdays)
Public Housing Application	8:30 a.m. – 5:15 p.m. (weekdays) 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. (Sat., Sun., and Holidays)
Passport Application	9:00 a.m. – 6:30 p.m. (weekdays) 9:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. (Sat., Sun., and Holidays)

### (2) East Service Center (Riverside Senshu) and West Service Center (Across Plaza Nagaoka)

**Starting on April 10 (Tues.)**

Desks	Hours
Certificates	Income Certificate and Taxation Certificate 10:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. (weekdays) 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. (Sat., Sun., and Holidays) Other Tax-related Certificates 10:00 a.m. – 5:15 p.m. (weekdays) Other Certificates 10:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. (weekdays) 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. (Sat., Sun., and Holidays)

**Starting on April 14 (Sat.)**

Weekdays: 10:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Saturdays, Sundays, and Holidays: 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Desks	Hours
Passport Application	10:00 a.m. – 6:30 p.m. (weekdays) 10:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. (Sat., Sun., and Holidays)

- (3) Passport issuing services at all district offices will be terminated on March 30<sup>th</sup> (Fri.)
- (4) Certificate issuing services at Aobadai Community Center on Saturdays and Sundays will be terminated on March 31<sup>st</sup> (Sat.)
- (5) Teradomari Community Center Starting on April 2 (Mon.) Office Hours: 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

For further information:

Central Service Center, Citizens' Affairs Division

City Hall Plaza – Aôre Nagaoka

Phone: 0258-39-7512

### A Light Automobile Tax Notice



Owners (as of April 1<sup>st</sup>) of motorbikes (mopeds, scooters, and motorcycles), farming vehicles, and light automobiles must pay a light automobile tax. If you receive a light automobile tax notice, please pay the tax by the designated date.

If you purchase a new light automobile and register it as of April 1<sup>st</sup> in 2018, the new tax rate for the 2018 fiscal year will be applied. If you purchase a new light automobile and register it on and after April 2<sup>nd</sup> in 2018, the new tax

rate for the 2019 fiscal year will be applied, which means you do not have to pay your light automobile tax in the 2018 fiscal year.

If you have transferred ownership or discarded the vehicle, please notify the Citizens' Tax Division (Phone: 0258-39-2212) by Friday, March 30<sup>th</sup>, 2018.

For further information about the new tax rates, please contact the Citizens' Tax Division.

Phone: 0258-39-2212

### The Niigata Prefecture Mutual Aid Traffic Casualty Insurance Plan

交通災害共済・こうつう さいがい きょうさい

This plan is a mutual insurance system managed by all the municipalities in Niigata Prefecture. The membership fee is ¥500 a year. A compensation payment is provided when a member is injured in a traffic accident.

The amount of the payment varies ranging from ¥30,000 to ¥1.5 million depending on the number of days that are required for treatment. The compensation payment can be claimed even when you are injured in a bicycle accident.

The application form is available at Aôre Nagaoka, the city's district branch offices, or most banks. You can also get an English version of the information leaflet at the Nagaoka City International Affairs Center, *Chikyû Hiroba* in the Nagaoka Civic Center on Ote Street.

Application Period:

February 1 (Thurs.) – March 30 (Fri.), 2018

(Entry after April 1<sup>st</sup> is also possible.)

For further information:

*Shimin Katsudô Suishin Ka*

(Citizens' Affairs Promotion Division)

Phone: 0258-39-2206



<http://www.sinsogo.jp/koutu/koutu.html>

<http://www.city.nagaoka.niigata.jp/kurashi/cate15/koutusai/kyousai.html>

# The Nagaoka Civic Center

2-2-6 Ote Street, Nagaoka City (Phone: 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 (*Chikyū Hiroba*) (1<sup>st</sup> 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](mailto: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.

## A Relaxing World Tour of Malaysia

~ A Multiracial Country ~



March 17 (Sat.) 1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Limited to: 30 participants, registration is required.

Application Deadline: March 12 (Mon.)

Ms. Fairoza from Malaysia will introduce Malaysian traditions and culture.



## A New Publication

A revised version of A Guide to Living in Nagaoka was completed. The booklet is full of various information useful for your daily living in Nagaoka. Copies of the booklet are available at the Nagaoka City International Affairs Center, *Chikyū Hiroba*, in the Nagaoka Civic Center on Ote Street. The city website also has pages introducing the contents of the booklet.



Visit [http://www.city.nagaoka.niigata.jp/kurashi/cate13/chikyuhiroba\\_en/index.html](http://www.city.nagaoka.niigata.jp/kurashi/cate13/chikyuhiroba_en/index.html)

## Japanese Learning Programs

### Nihongo Kôza

The 1<sup>st</sup> term of classes for the 2018 fiscal year will be offered from April 2018 to September 2018. A free trial lesson will be offered. Please call ahead.

#### Weekday Classes (Tuesdays & Fridays)

##### Basic Level I - Class 1

*Minna no Nihongo* Basic Level Vol. I

(Lesson 1 – Lesson 12)

9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. (60 minutes)

##### Basic Level I - Class 2

*Minna no Nihongo* Basic Level Vol. I

(Lesson 13 – Lesson 25)

11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. (60 minutes)

March	2, 6, 9, 13, 16, 20, 23, 27	¥1,600
April	3, 6, 10, 13, 17, 20, 24, 27	¥1,600
May	1, 8, 11, 15, 18, 22, 25, 29	¥1,600
June	1, 5, 8, 12, 15, 19, 22, 26, 29	¥1,800
July	3, 6, 10, 13, 17, 20, 24, 27, 31	¥1,800
Aug.	7, 10, 17, 21, 24, 28, 31	¥1,400
Sept.	4, 7, 11, 14, 18, 21, 25	¥1,800

### Nihongo Hiroba

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

- Sundays 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
- Mondays 9:15 a.m. – 10:15 a.m. (intermediate level)
- Tuesdays 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
- Fridays 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.



Basic Level I



Basic Level II



#### Sunday Classes

##### Basic Level I - Class 1

*Minna no Nihongo* Basic Level Vol. I

(Lesson 1 – Lesson 12)

9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. (120 minutes)

##### Basic Level I - Class 2

*Minna no Nihongo* Basic Level Vol. I

(Lesson 13 – Lesson 25)

2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. (120 minutes)

##### Basic Level II - Class 1

*Minna no Nihongo* Basic Level Vol. II

(Lesson 26 – Lesson 36)

11:45 a.m. – 1:45 p.m. (120 minutes)

March	5, 12, 19	¥1,200	June	3, 10, 17, 24	¥1,600
April	1, 8, 15, 22	¥1,600	July	1, 8, 15, 22, 29	¥2,000
May	6, 13, 20, 27	¥1,600	Aug.	5, 19, 26	¥1,200
			Sept.	2, 9, 16, 30	¥2,000

## Kosodate no Eki, Gun Gun

Nagaoka Civic Disaster Prevention Center, 1<sup>st</sup> 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** 10:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m. Every Day
- \* **Picture Storybook Reading Time**  
3:00 p.m. – 3:15 p.m. Every Day
- \* **Spot Time** 10:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Every Monday  
**Helpful Tips for Times of Disaster** March 12 (Mon.)  
**Happy Birthday Party** March 19 (Mon.)
- \* **Health Talk Tea Time**  
1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. March 8 (Thurs.)
- \* **Mini-Library** 10:45 a.m. – 11:45 a.m. March 14 (Wed.)
- \* **Handicraft Cafe**  
10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. March 15 (Thurs.)
- \* **Mothers' Chat Cafe**  
10:45 a.m. – 11:45 a.m. March 2 (Fri.)



**Free Child-Rearing Counseling** 10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.  
 March 14 (Wed.) Child-Rearing Advisor



## Kids' Plaza (Chibikko Hiroba)

Phoenix Ote West 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor and 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor 2-5 Ote 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)** March 16 (Fri.)
- \* **Smiley Kids' Day** 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.  
 March 2 (Fri.), 9 (Fri.), and 30 (Fri.)
- \* **Time for Chibikko Kids and Birthday Party**  
 11:00 a.m. – 11:15 a.m. March 5 (Mon.) and 12 (Mon.)  
**Birthday Party** March 26 (Mon.)
- \* **Let's Play to the Rhythms**  
 11:00 a.m. – 11:15 a.m. March 7 (Wed.)
- \* **Wai Wai Chatting**  
 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. March 13 (Tues.)
- \* **Let's play with Animals**  
 9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. March 16 (Fri.) – March 25 (Sun.)
- \* **Chatting Time for Expecting Mothers**  
 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. March 16 (Fri.)
- \* **Let's Play with Blocks**  
 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. March 17 (Sat.)
- \* **Making Your Own Picture Storybook (Ehon no Tane)**  
 11:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. March 18 (Sun.)
- \* **Mothers' Chat Cafe**  
 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. March 19 (Mon.)



**Free Child-Rearing Counseling** 10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.  
 March 8 (Thurs.) Child-Rearing Advisor

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



## Child-Rearing Support Facilities

### March

#### Kosodate no Eki, Senshu (Teku Teku)

1-99-6 Senshu 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)

- \* **Let's Enjoy Singing Together** Every Monday  
 10:45 a.m. – 11:15 a.m. March 5, 12, 19, and 26
- \* **Picture Storybook Reading Time with Babies**  
 10:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. March 8 (Thurs.)
- \* **Wai Wai Chatting** 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.  
 March 8 (Thurs.) and 20 (Tues.)
- \* **"Toy Hospital" for Fixing Broken Toys**  
 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. March 9 (Fri.)
- \* **Nakayoshi Time** 10:45 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.  
 March 9 (Fri.), 23 (Fri.), and 30 (Fri.)



- \* **Disaster Prevention Lecture**  
 10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. March 10 (Sat.)
- \* **Let's Enjoy Drawing Pictures**  
 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. March 12 (Mon.)
- \* **Mothers' Chat Cafe**  
 10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. March 13 (Tues.)
- \* **Lecture for Expecting Mothers: "Maternitybics" (fitness)**  
 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. March 15 (Thurs.)
- \* **Smiley Birthday Party**  
 10:45 a.m. – 11:15 a.m. March 16 (Fri.)
- \* **Toy Box Sunday**  
 10:45 a.m. – 11:45 a.m. March 18 (Sun.)
- \* **Teku Teku Walk**  
 10:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. March 22 (Thurs.)
- \* **Let's Play at the Kids' Land**  
 10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. March 27 (Tues.)



**Free Child-Rearing Counseling** 10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.  
 March 6 (Tues.) Childcare Committee Chief  
 March 20 (Tues.) Child-Rearing Advisor

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

#### Kosodate no Eki, Tochio (Suku Suku)

Tochio Sangyō Kōryū Center, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor 1765 Miyazawa, Tochio  
 Phone: 0258-51-1022 Hours: 9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.  
 Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays

- \* **Baby Massage**  
 1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. March 13 (Tues.)
- \* **Suku Suku Tea Time**  
 11:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. March 14 (Wed.)
- \* **Let's Learn about Emergency First Aid**  
 10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. March 14 (Wed.)
- \* **Birthday Party** 11:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. March 20 (Tues.)
- \* **Let's Play in the Temari Hall**  
 10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. March 23 (Fri.)



**Free Child-Rearing Counseling** 10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.  
 March 7 (Wed.) Maternity Nurse  
 March 16 (Fri.) Public Health Nurse







## Fitness Classes at *Shimin Taiikukan* City Gym

1-2-1 Gakko-cho Phone: 0258-34-2700

April - June



The city gym will offer various classes such as pelvic exercises, Pilates exercises, technical hula, yoga, healthy calisthenics, aerobics, shape-up boxing, hip-hop dancing, lower backache prevention exercises, taichi, rhythm exercises, etc. Sign up by March 16<sup>th</sup> (Fri.) with an application form at City Gym.

For further information and registration, please contact the staff of the Nagaoka International Affairs Center in the Nagaoka Civic Center on Ote Street. (refer to p. 4)

## Current Topics in Nagaoka



A Group of four high school students and their chaperone visited Nagaoka from Hilo, the Island of Hawaii. During the Nagaoka *Yukishika* Snow Festival, they enjoyed sliding down a jumbo snow chute and making snowmen. They were excited about playing in the snow as if they were little kids. (February 17)



The city and Sompo Japan Nipponkoa Insurance Inc. signed an agreement on cooperation in promoting regional disaster prevention measures. They will collaborate in collecting information by using drones in case of an emergency and in sharing disaster prevention ideas with the citizens. (February 15)



From late January to mid-February of this year, Nagaoka experienced unusually heavy snowfall, almost twice as much as usual even in the urban areas. The national government applied the Disaster Relief Act to the Oguni and Kawaguchi Districts. The prefectural government applied the Disaster Relief Ordinance to Yamakoshi and Tochio Districts. Mayor Tatsunobu Isoda visited with Mr. Masanobu Ogura (Parliamentary Secretary, Minister of Internal Affairs and Communications) and requested further financial support for the city. (February 9)



An employment opportunity seminar was held at Akihabara, Tokyo, introducing various firms located in Nagaoka. Students studying in the Tokyo Metropolitan area asked about possible job opportunities and advantages of working in Nagaoka. (February 9)



The Echigo Nagaoka Hometown Fair was held at Nihonbashi, Tokyo, where agricultural products from Nagaoka were on display for tasting and purchasing. The event organizers, who are originally from Nagaoka, are currently living in the Tokyo Metropolitan area. (February 7)



The Niigata-Nagaoka Data Center of Data Dock Inc. opened in Nagaoka. Mayor Tatsunobu Isoda attended its inauguration ceremony. The center features a snow-utilizing server-cooling system. The company appreciated the city's enthusiastic support and expressed that Nagaoka with its abundant snow is convenient to the Tokyo Metropolitan area. (January 22)

# Major Emergency Medical Facilities

## Major General Hospitals

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

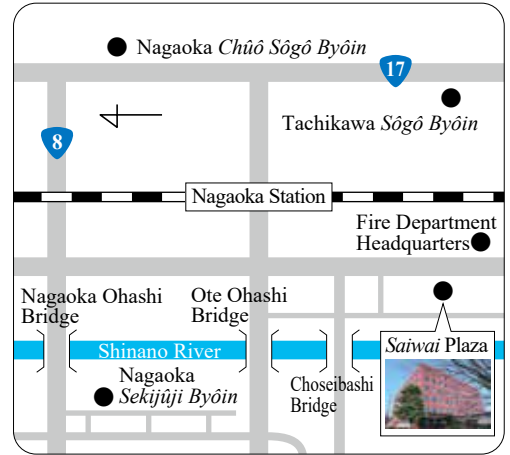
Nagaoka *Sekijûji Byôin* (Red Cross Hospital) 0258-28-3600

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

Civic Health Center (*Saiwai Plaza*) 0258-39-7508

## Information about clinics in charge of specific Sundays or holidays:

- Clinic for Sundays, Holidays, and Nights (Phone: 0258-37-1199) (in *Saiwai Plaza*)
- Nagaoka Medical Society (Phone: 0258-22-5600)
- Nagaoka Fire Department Headquarters (Phone: 0258-36-0119)



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

Facilities	Departments	Hours
Clinic for Sundays, Holidays, and Nights (0258-37-1199)  For obstetric and gynecology ( <i>san fujin ka</i> ), the staff at this facility will give information about clinics in charge of specific Sundays or holidays.	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.
	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.
Chuetsu Center for Children's Emergency Treatment (0258-86-5099)	Pediatrics ( <i>Shônika</i> )	(Monday – Saturday) 6:45 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.

## This Month's Useful Japanese Expressions

In this section, you can get information useful for your daily living and learn related Japanese expressions.

### *Nadare* (avalanche)

なだれ・雪崩

### *Nadare Chûihô* (avalanche watch)

なだれちゅういほう・雪崩注意報

*Nadare* means avalanche, a phenomenon in which snow slides down hillsides. Avalanches happen when there is a heavy snowfall or the temperature suddenly rises. When skiing or mountain climbing, keep an eye on the different kinds of snowfall and pay due attention to temperature changes. You are also advised to be careful when driving along slopes with accumulated snow.

If a lot of snow starts falling and accumulating, weather forecasts often announce *nadare chûihô* meaning avalanche watch. Avalanches may happen even on clear days without any snowfall.

You are advised to check the areas in your neighborhood where avalanches are likely to happen. The disaster prevention map on the Niigata Prefecture Disaster Website shows locations where possible *nadare*, or avalanches, are likely to happen. You can also access the map via your smartphone. You are advised to check for any hazardous areas around you with this map.



### *Kasô Tsûka* (virtual currency)

(かそう つうか・仮想通貨)



*Kasô Tsûka* means virtual currency. Virtual currency is designed to work as a medium of exchange. Bitcoin is the most recognized digital currency to date. There are a lot of online merchants that accept Bitcoin as a form of payment. Bitcoins can be used to pay for hotel accommodations, flights, jewelry, apps, computer parts, and many other things.

However, virtual currencies are a high risk investment because their market value fluctuates drastically. Any virtual currency exchange can potentially be hacked.

Once you buy virtual currency, you need a way to store it. All major exchanges offer a wallet online or on your own hard drive or mobile device. However, wallets are not always safe. There are possible risks for your currencies to be stolen.

Even though virtual currency seems to be convenient and popular among many people, you should have fundamental knowledge of virtual currency if you would like to use it.