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Fukuoka City International Foundation

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A Happy New Year 2019



あけましておめでとうございます

Newsletter title has changed from "Rainbow" to "FCIF"

タイトルが"Rainbow"から"FCIF"に変わりました

Our website address has changed ! <http://www.fcif.or.jp/>

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Happy new year and welcome to 2019. This is the Year of the Boar, which is known in Japan to be a year that brings great change.

As you may know, with the upcoming abdication of Emperor, the Heisei era will come to an end on April 30th. At that time, the Heisei period will have lasted for 30 years and 113 days, making it the fourth longest in history (after Showa, 64 years; Meiji, 45 years, and Oei, 35 years). The new Japanese era will begin on May 1, and the name of the era will be announced in April.

Also, did you know that Golden Week is going to be an extra-long, consecutive-day holiday this year? A ten-day holiday in Japan provides a good opportunity to travel abroad, visit family in the countryside, or invite family to visit Japan.

People planning a trip should make reservations early.

The 10-Day Golden Week Schedule

- April 27 (Sat.) Saturday
- April 28 (Sun.) Sunday
- April 29 (Mon.) Showa Day
- April 30 (Tues.) Citizen's holiday (day between two holidays)
- May 1 (Wed.) Day to commemorate Crown Prince's succession
- May 2 (Thurs.) Citizen's holiday (day between two holidays)
- May 3 (Fri.) Constitution Memorial Day
- May 4 (Sat.) Greenery Day
- May 5 (Sun.) Children's Day
- May 6 (Mon.) Compensation holiday



Tamaseseri Festival

January 3

One of the three major festivals of Kyushu, Tamaseseri is held on January 3 at Hakozaki Shrine, one of Japan's three major Hachiman shrines, located in the eastern part of Fukuoka City. Approximately 300 men are divided into two teams—the Land Team (farmers), to pray for a bumper crop, and the Sea Team (fishermen), to pray for good catches for the year. The men compete to capture two heavy wooden balls, clad in loincloths while being doused with cold water, despite the freezing January weather.

Hakozaki Shrine

1-22-1 Hakozaki, Higashi-ku, Fukuoka

New Year Grand Festival at Toka Ebisu Shrine

January 8 to 11

This is a festival put on by Hakata merchants, held at a Shinto shrine dedicated to Ebisu, the god of business prosperity and one of the Seven Gods of Fortune. The shrine is inundated with visitors who may wait several



hours for a “fukubiki” lottery ticket to win a lucky charm or to catch a glimpse of Hakata Ken-ban geisha as they visit the shrine.

Toka Ebisu Shrine

7-1 Higashikoen, Hakata-ku, Fukuoka

Jojima Sakagura Festival

Sat., Feb. 16 and Sun., Feb. 17

9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Kyushu may be more well-known for the distilled spirit *shochu* than it is for sake, but there are actually many well-established sake breweries in Fukuoka.



Jojima is located in a leading rice-growing area, the Chikugo Plain, and uses the clean water of the Chikugo River, highly suitable for sake brewing. It has been a popular sake-brewing region for hundreds of years.

“Jojima Shuzo Biraki” is an annual festival in which the sake breweries open their doors to the public for tasting and other events. Nishitetsu offers a special train ticket, the “Jojima Shuzo Biraki Kinen Kippu,” for the event—a round-trip ticket that gives visitors a discount for traveling to taste sake at multiple breweries. Location: Jojima Town Park (764 Jojima-machi, Naratsu, Kurume City) and seven participating breweries.

Dr. Nishiyama's Column How to Prevent Medical Mishaps; a Paradox

The trend of the development of medical techniques and modalities, along with the growing demand for a greater success in the medical treatment. Naturally needs a sky rocketing surge of medical budgets. Nevertheless, that has been shrinking these years conversely. This essential contradiction yields a lot of inconvenience in the medical workplace and the degradation of morale among the medical staff. Is their work really important, or just valueless?

The malpractice or accidents in the medical scene seem to take place more commonly in the hospitals of high prestige than in modest ones. Let's think about the reason of this phenomenon from the reality of medical sites.

1) The delay and incomplete communications attributable to imperious doctors.

In a famous medical center, there are many people of expertise with prominent techniques and profound knowledge. There, however, you will feel curious to hear the nurses or clerks call doctors with honorific titles too politely. Here seems underlie the cause of medical errors. It may be difficult to interrupt the sacred business of doctors. So, other medical staff have no choice but wait in patience until the examination or conversation with patients ends, risking large delay and incomplete communication. If someone comes to the doctor, he or she surely has something to tell the to doctor urgently. Doctors should be humble enough to hear other staff, and give appropriate directions promptly.

Conversely, some staff hesitate to ask a “silly” question to doctors or superiors in fear of exposing their own illiteracy. It is no wonder that no one knows everything. One's own shame should not matter in a medical scene.

2) Misplacing the priorities; absurd reality; A bulk of documents and frequent meetings. The most important mission in the medical field is to protect the safety of the

patients. To our surprise, however, this common knowledge so easily slips out from the mind of medical staff. Lots of documents and “ritual” manuals which are in origin to prevent human errors sometimes bring about entirely opposite result. The problem is that obeying those rules or manuals prevail the actual care leaving the patients only in negligence. In fact, everybody knows this grim reality.

Many kinds of meetings, committees and their records are required these days to show the validity and the objectivity of the medical treatment. Those hospitals with many kinds of meetings and committees in their organization, issuing a bulk of documents are qualified as trust-worthy for Japanese media and government. Despite some merits of original objects, the negative side of this onerous process is to cut off the time of doctors or other staffs to visit the bed-side. Only written forms count there, and whether that is really done or not scarcely matters. The medical staff are busy churning out cumbersome but vapid documents. Without this process, however, hospitals cannot earn money, and will be forced into bankruptcy. Accidents are more liable to happen in a stress stricken work-place.

Once, the author tried to rather defy these trends and kept a “laissez faire” climate in the hospital rather than to obtain the official accreditation. The work place was always filled with chats and laughs. Some nagging patient criticized us that our staff lacked a sense of tension. Although the author then believed that this was not the best, it was much better than stress-stricken work place. Despite the all-day, throughout the year emergency services, we have not experienced a malpractice or subsequent law suits for more than 20 years. Paradoxically, the essential mission was well protected in this free-minded work place.



Tax Return

In Japan, income tax is based on a self-assessment system. In the final tax return, each taxpayer settles totally the income amount earned for a calendar year and calculates the tax amount to be paid with respect to the total amount of income, and then files his/her income tax return.

WHO MUST FILE

You are required to file a final tax return, if;

- (1) Your total employment income in 2018 exceeded ¥20,000,000; or
- (2) You received employment income from one source only, and your total amount of various types of income other than employment income and retirement income exceeded ¥200,000; or
- (3) You received employment income from two or more sources, and your employment income (excluding employment income subject to year-end adjustment) and total amount of various types of income other than employment and retirement

income exceeded ¥200,000; or
(4) You received employment income abroad; or

(5) The amount of tax calculated based on your total income of various types less the total amount of the basic exemption and other deductions from income is greater than your tax credit for dividends.



NOTE: For further information, please refer to the website of the National Tax Agency.

Website of the National Tax Agency
http://www.nta.go.jp/foreign_language/index.htm

WHEN AND WHERE TO FILE

You must file your final tax return with the tax office in the district of your *jusho* (domicile) or *kyosho* (residence) during the period from February 18 (Mon.) to March 15 (Fri.), 2019.

Language Volunteers Needed!

The Fukuoka City International Foundation is seeking volunteers to interpret or translate on occasion. The foundation needs interpreters and translators to assist in nonprofit activities—at schools, local government offices, and the like. All languages are welcome. Please consider using your language skills in volunteer activities and gain valuable kinds of experience.

Types of Volunteering

- Interpreting at school enrollment ceremony information sessions or student career counseling sessions
 - Interpreting or translating to support resident foreigners in Japan
 - Interpreting at the international film festival or sports events
 - Interpreting at free counseling sessions for foreigners on immigration, residence, and nationality
- Plus many other situations

Requirements

- As a rule, you should be living in the Fukuoka municipal area, understand volunteering, and be at least 18 years of age

- Language skills to participate in activities—conversational level in a foreign language, native level in Japanese
- Enough time to devote to volunteer activities

How to Register

A registration application can be picked up at the office of the Fukuoka City International Foundation. Please fill out the application with your contact information, language qualifications, desired type of volunteering, etc., and submit it to the Foundation along with a 3 x 4 cm portrait photo.

After you get volunteer insurance from the Japan National Council of Social Welfare to protect you in case of accident while volunteering, you will be issued a certificate of registration.

Pay, etc.

Interpretation, translation, and other services are to be performed without pay. Transportation to and from the activity will be paid by the organization requesting the service (the Foundation).

Specialized Counseling

	Legal Counseling	Immigration, Residency, and Nationality	Personal (Psychological) Counseling
	1st Saturday 3rd Wednesday	2nd Sunday of every month	Mon., Tue., Thur.
Dates	Jan. 16th	Jan. 13th	Monday: 8:45~17:45 Tuesday: 8:45~11:45 Thursday: 8:45~12:45
	Feb. 2nd, 20th	Feb. 10th	
Time	Saturday 10:30~13:30 Wednesday 13:00~16:00	13:00~16:00	
Appointment	Required	Not Required (Reception until 3:30)	Required
Language	An interpreter is available upon request.	English & Chinese interpreters are available.	An English speaking professional is available.

2019 Events (and more) in Fukuoka

Fukuoka Art Museum to Reopen on March 21, 2019

The Fukuoka Art Museum, which has been closed for the last two and a half years, will reopen on March 21.

A café and other facilities have been newly built on the first floor, including the museum shop, and the design makes it easy for visitors to enter via the new entrance on the Ohori Park side. In future issues of FCIF newsletter, we will write more about the museum's renovation.

G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors' Meeting in Fukuoka June 8 – 9, 2019

The G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governor's Meeting is set to be held in Fukuoka. This meeting provides a forum for key countries in the international financial system to discuss major international economic issues and to coordinate to achieve the stable and sustainable growth of the global economy.

Rugby World Cup 2019

The Rugby World Cup competition is held once every four years in Asia. Next year it will be held for the first time in Japan. At the Rugby World Cup 2015 in South Africa, Japan scored what is considered to be the biggest upset in history over South Africa, sparking a rugby boom in Japan. Do not miss this opportunity to see the rugby matches of the strongest countries in the world !

Match Schedule in Fukuoka

Sept. 26 (Thurs.) Italy vs. repechage winner

Oct. 2 (Wed.) France vs. USA

Oct. 12 (Sat.) Ireland vs. Samoa



Last year, the Fukuoka City International Center held many events, including exchange events for international students and Japanese citizens, as well as events for children aimed at boosting their international awareness. We plan to organize various events this year, as well, and will post notifications of such events on the Foundation website, so please be sure to have a look.



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<http://www.fcif.or.jp/>

Setsubun Festival in Fukuoka (February 3)

Many Setsubun events (including bean-throwing rituals) will be held at shrines and temples around Fukuoka.

**Tochoji Temple** (2-4 Gokusho-machi, Hakata-ku, Fukuoka)

Access: 1 minute on foot from Gion Station on the subway
Tochoji Temple was the first temple built by Kukai in Japan. It is known for the "Fukuoka Daibutsu," Japan's largest wooden statue of Buddha seated on a pedestal, inside of which is a representation of the Buddhist realms from heaven to hell realms that visitors can walk around to view. Tochoji Temple's Setsubun Festival attracts nearly 30,000 people every year. A fire purification ritual is held on the eve of festival on February 2. On the day of Setsubun, international students from Kyushu University dress in costumes as the Seven Gods of Fortune. They toss the traditional roasted soybeans, but also mandarin oranges, chocolate, and candy. The temple has an important cultural property—its thousand-armed Kwan Yin statue—that can be viewed by the public three times a year.

Kushida Shrine (1-41, Kamikawabata-machi, Hakata-ku, Fukuoka)

Kushida Shrine, the grand tutelary shrine of Hakata, is famous for its display of shrine floats that appear in the summer

Hakata Gion Yamakasa festival.

Every year for a few days leading up to Setsubun on February 3rd, three large Otafuku masks are set up as walk-through gates at the shrine, each with a different facial expression. Passing through the mouth of a mask to enter the shrine is said to bring good fortune.

On the day of Setsubun, a stage is set up in front of the main shrine, and men and women born in the same year as the year's Chinese zodiac sign are joined by kabuki actors from the nearby Kabuki theater on stage to throw roasted beans at the crowd.

Sumiyoshi Shrine (3-1-51 Sumiyoshi, Hakata-ku, Fukuoka)

The Oniyarai ritual to ward off evil spirits has been held at the shrine since the 12th century. The ritual is followed by bean-throwing on the hour every hour from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Some of items thrown to the public have Fukubiki lottery tickets inside, which provide a chance to win a stay at a hotel.

A special area for children is also set up to allow the entire family to enjoy the day!

