

**“Exploring Tomorrow, Today” – Tsukuba Municipal Government’s Second Term Begins!**

As a result of this election, I was entrusted with leading the municipal administration for a second term. Having been conferred a great number of votes, I feel a yet greater sense of responsibility. This has reaffirmed my determination to work more diligently than ever before in steering the administration forward.

During the first term, we formulated a roadmap for achieving our 82-clause manifesto. Through close communication we built partnerships with both our citizens and local businesses, and by jointly promoting our manifesto, we achieved an outcome of 90.4% for the categories of “Achievement” and “Promising”. For the second term also, we will implement our 135-clause manifesto conducive to realizing a “Citizens-First Municipality” and to becoming a “City Exploring Tomorrow”. We are now commencing preparations for this road map, and will make an official announcement when it is complete.

Tatsuo Igarashi, Mayor of Tsukuba City

**1. Thorough administrative reform**

In order to actualize a “Citizens-First Municipality”, we will reform the current administrative procedures and offer services more convenient to citizens, so that they can complete various procedures anytime and anywhere. We will also enhance support systems for local community activities and promote citizen-driven community planning as the next phase of encouraging public engagement.

**2. Parenting with peace of mind**

In order to create an environment where parents and carers can raise their children with peace of mind, we will take measures to reduce the number of children on nursery school waiting lists to zero and to improve the childcare environment, as well as preparing an environment supportive of childbirth. Similarly, in addition to preparing an environment where children can learn with peace of mind, we will implement educational reform based on the new education policy with a vision to shift “from teaching to learning”. We will provide high quality learning opportunities while making the most of local characteristics.

**3. Social welfare that citizens can rely on**

To ensure a society where everybody can be one’s usual self, we will redouble existing initiatives to accelerate the shift to an inclusive society where “nobody is left behind”. These will include providing an environment where the elderly can live in peace of mind and where having a disability does not prevent someone from living and learning as herself/himself, and where measures are in place to prevent child poverty.

**4. Convenient Infrastructure**

We are committed to continuous improvement to ensure ever-more convenient public transportation. One aspect of this is providing an environment that allows cyclists to move around safely and comfortably. By providing sustainable infrastructure and promoting the cyclical use of resources, we are enacting measures that are more focused on sustainability than ever before.

**5. Vibrant Communities**

Aiming to turn connections into vigor and to fully bring out the appeal of the region, we will promote initiatives to revitalize the peripheral urban area, alongside promoting horizontal expansion. Coupled with these initiatives, we will further promote measures for the sustainable development of the region. These will include supporting the continuance and development of local industries and the encouraging of local production for local consumption. We are fully committed to supporting citizen's voluntary initiatives and to harnessing their diverse strengths in order to revitalize communities.

**6. Taking pride in our City**

To make Tsukuba an even more attractive city, we will promote initiatives specifically designed to revitalize the city center, while also providing support for cultural/artistic activities and traditional performance arts. Alongside these initiatives, in order to bring in more tourists, we will bolster hands-on experience tourism and guidance services in order to make Tsukuba a city that citizens can be thoroughly proud of.



**Kimono Dressing Club – Join our international cultural exchange activity while learning about Japanese culture**

Why not enjoy Japanese culture while wearing and dressing kimono in this international city of Tsukuba? Anyone can take part regardless of their nationality, age and gender. Sessions start from November, but it is possible to join halfway through. It is also possible to join whenever you can. The participation fee vary depending on the type of kimono, so please inquire for the details separately.

«**Date**»: Thursday Course: December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, January 14<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup> and February 4<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, 2021

«**Time**»: 9:00 – 11:00

Saturday Course: December 5<sup>th</sup> (Sat.), 13<sup>th</sup> (Sun.), 19<sup>th</sup> (Sat.), January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup> of and February 6<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

«**Time**»: 14:00 – 16:00 (Both Thu. and Sat. courses have 10 sessions each.)

«**Venue**»: Kasuga Koryu Center

«**Quota**»: 10 people for each session (first-come-first-served basis)

Please sign up via the registration form or email one week prior to the session.

«**Contact**»: SWiT International Exchange in Tsukuba [ticr928@gmail.com](mailto:ticr928@gmail.com)

**Check our Facebook page:**

<https://www.facebook.com/SmallWorldinTsukuba/>

**Applications for FY2021 Daycare Center Enrollment**

We are now accepting applications for daycare center enrollment to start in April 2021 as well as for change of daycare centers. The **first application** has already been closed on November 30<sup>th</sup>. **Second application** period: From December 1<sup>st</sup> (Tue.) to February 19<sup>th</sup> (Fri.), 2021, 8:30 – 17:15 at the counter of Childcare Institutions Management Division.

Please obtain the application form at the Childcare Institutions Management Division on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor of the Tsukuba City Hall or download from the City Hall's official website (only in Japanese).

**Mt. Tsukuba Ropeway ★ Sunset & Stardust Cruising**

The nightscape from the summit of Mt. Tsukuba is recognized as “Night View Heritage of Japan”. From the summit of Mt. Tsukuba, a sacred mountain in Kanto region and one of “the 100 most famous Japanese Mountains”, you can enjoy the panoramic view of Tsukuba and Tsuchiura, cities located at the bottom of the mountain, as well as the night view of the Kanto Plain with the city lights of Tokyo, Tokyo Tower and Tokyo Sky Tree in the distance.

«**Date and Time**»: Saturdays, Sundays and holidays until February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2021 (Sun.)

Open during daytime only on New Year’s Eve (Dec 31) and New Year’s Day (Jan 1).

Night services are available on December 24<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup>, and 30<sup>th</sup>, and on weekdays.

«**Operating hours**»: December: from 16:40 to 21:00

The last ropeway for going up is 20:40, and for going down it is 21:00.

January and February: from 16:40 to 20:00.

The ropeway runs every 20 minutes.

Ropeway will be operating during daytime as well. Persons who board the ropeway before 16:40 will have no trouble going down the mountain after 16:40. Depending on the weather, there is a possibility that the service will be closed earlier. Thank you for your understanding.

There will be extra shuttle bus services in the evenings during the season: <http://www.mt-tsukuba.com/?p=1723>

Fee		Adult (middle school age and older)	Child (from 6 or older until middle school age)	Younger child (Under 6 y/o)
Charges	Nighttime operation (after 16:40)	1000 JPY	Free	Free
	Ordinary operation (before 16:40)	1,120 JPY	560 JPY	Free

**Help prevent the spread of COVID-19 infection by using “Ibaraki Amabie-chan” and “COCOA”**

**“Ibaraki Amabie-chan”**

As a countermeasure to COVID-19 “Ibaraki Amabie-chan” has been introduced in Ibaraki prefecture. This system has the following initiatives as its goals. We ask both persons



in business and prefecture residents to register.

- To promote operation of shops and events in accordance with the guidelines of infection countermeasures policy.
- If there was a new case of infection,

to alert the persons who might have had close contact with the infected.

**“COCOA”**

COCOA (COVID-19 CONTACT CONFIRMATION APPLICATION) is a smartphone app that provides nationwide notifications about the possibility of having had close contact with a person infected with COVID-19. Available in Japanese, English, and Chinese.

This app provides a notice about the possibility of having been in close contact with a COVID-19 positive person, by using Bluetooth of the smartphone in a privacy secure manner. The user, after being notified about this possibility, can promptly seek for medical examination or support from Health Care Center. Hopefully, an increasing number of users will help to prevent the spread of the infection. Q&A intended for users is announced in English.



**N.B. Available in Japanese only.**

**November 30<sup>th</sup> is “Tsukuba Residents’ Day”!**

"Tsukuba Residents' Day" was established to commemorate the foundation of Tsukuba City on November 30th, 1987. Various establishments offered free admission or discounts on or around this day. Discounts that can still be used in December are for the **Forest Adventure Park: Forest Adventure – “Tsukuba Residents Thanksgiving Campaign”**

»Adventure and Excite Course: per adult ¥4,600 → ¥3,600

»Adventure Course: per adult ¥3,800 → ¥2,800

»Canopy Course : per person ¥2,800 → ¥2,000

\* Advance reservation is necessary (☎090-4755-7800). Cannot be used with other discount tickets. To see the terms of use, please visit the webpage (only in Japanese).

«**Available during**»: November 28<sup>th</sup> (Sat.) – December 13<sup>th</sup> (Sun.)

«**Intended for**»: currently residing or/and working/studying in Tsukuba (visitors are asked to present an ID upon arrival).

**Recruitment for Assistant Language Teachers (ALT) in Tsukuba City for FY2021**

We are currently recruiting Assistant Language Teachers to assist in elementary schools, junior high schools, and compulsory education schools in Tsukuba City. Please find the details on the multilingual Tsukuba City Hall webpage.

«**Employment Period**»: April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021 – March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2022

«**Quota**»: up to 30 people

«**Application**»: after completing the application form in Japanese (downloadable from City’s official webpage), please bring it along with other required documents directly to the Educational General Affairs Division or send them via post. **The deadline is December 22<sup>nd</sup> (Tue).**

«**Inquiry**» 〒 305-8555 Kenkyū Gakuen 1-1-1, Tsukuba-shi, Educational General Affairs Division, Education Bureau

☎029-883-1111, **Extension: 4611**

**Enrollment Application to Afterschool Childcare Clubs (Jidō Kurabu) for FY2021 has started!**

Afterschool Childcare Clubs aim to promote sound development of children by providing a space to play and spend time afterschool for children whose parents/guardians cannot look after them due to work. Afterschool Childcare Clubs are for children who are capable of group environment and are attending a school in Tsukuba City. Details will be updated on Tsukuba City Hall multilingual website (<http://www.tsukubainfo.jp/>) on December 1<sup>st</sup> in English, Chinese and Korean.

**Consultation Notification for Municipal and Prefectural Tax Return for FY2021 and Final Income Tax Return for FY2020**

To reduce congestion at the venue of the Tax Return Consultations (except for dispatch consultations) that will be held during February and March 2021, **advance reservation via internet or phone is required**. Details about the Tax Return Consultation such as how to make a reservation will be posted on the Tsukuba City Hall multilingual website.

**Tax Return Consultations period and schedule:**

① **Dispatch Tax Return Consultation** (Venue: Kukizaki Koryu Center and Civic Hall Tsukubane)

«**Date**»: February 12<sup>th</sup> (Fri.) and February 15<sup>th</sup> (Mon.), 2021.

«**Eligible for**»: Municipal and Prefectural Tax Return (for those who reside in Kukizaki and Tsukuba districts and have received the Municipal and Prefectural Tax Return form from the City Hall).

\* Please come with someone who speaks Japanese.

② **Tsukuba City Hall** (Meeting Room 201)

«**Date**»: Weekdays through February 1<sup>st</sup> (Mon.) – 10<sup>th</sup> (Wed.), 2021.

\* Consultations are not held on February 12<sup>th</sup> (Fri.) and 15<sup>th</sup> (Mon.), 2021.

«**Eligible for**»: Municipal and Prefectural Tax Return (for persons who have received Municipal and Prefectural Tax Return form from the City Hall); Income Refund Filing (only for those who declare income return refund for income, salary and public pension).

If you are in business (independent businesses, agriculture) and/or a real estate owner, please visit after February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

«**Date**»: Weekdays through February 16<sup>th</sup> (Tue.) – March 15<sup>th</sup> (Mon.), 2021 and a holiday Tax Return Consultation on February 28<sup>th</sup> (Sun), 2021.

«**Eligible for**»: Municipal and Prefectural Tax Return; Final Income Tax Return;



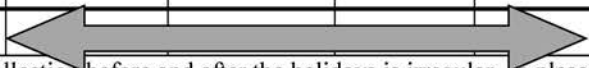
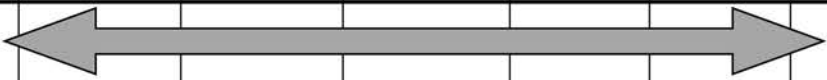

◆ As a COVID-19 prevention measure, we will not set up a space with computers where you can complete your tax returns. Also, please do not bring income tax returns to the Tax Return venue at the City Hall and instead, send it via post to Tsuchiura Tax Office.

◆ **We ask for your cooperation to file a tax return online or via post.**

The Tax Return venue at the City Hall becomes congested every year. For the prevention of COVID-19, please file your income tax returns online using your personal computer or smartphone. For the Municipal and Prefectural Tax Return, please send it to the City Hall Municipal Tax Division via post after completing the form.



## Public Institutions will be closed during New Year Holidays

Holidays Period	December 28 <sup>th</sup> (Mon)	December 29 <sup>th</sup> (Tue)	December 30 <sup>th</sup> (Wed)	December 31 <sup>st</sup> (Thu)	January 1 <sup>st</sup> (Fri)	January 2 <sup>nd</sup> (Sat)	January 3 <sup>rd</sup> (Sun)	January 4 <sup>th</sup> (Mon)
<b>City Hall</b>	 Notifications regarding family registration (marriage, birth, etc.) will be accepted.							
<b>Central Library</b>								
<b>Garbage Collection</b>	 Schedule of garbage collection before and after the holidays is irregular, so please check the garbage calendar of your area.							
<b>Direct Carry-in to the Clean Center</b>	<b>Until 16:30</b>							<b>From 8:30</b>
 For the general household waste, please use the designated collection point in accordance to the schedule of garbage calendar. If you wish to bring a large amount of garbage, please avoid the congested New Year Holidays period and instead, bring it on weekdays which are relatively quiet. In the case of direct carry-in to the Clean Center, you will be charged a collection fee. You have to be inside of the Clean Center premises before the end of the reception hours, otherwise you will not be able to throw away your garbage. At the time of Carry-in please have an ID such as driver's license or residence card to confirm your address.								

**Please refer to the Immigration Bureau's website for the latest information including restrictions on traveling to and from Japan**

Please check here for the latest information regarding the restrictions of entering Japan as well as information about residing in Japan amid the COVID-19 pandemic: <http://www.moj.go.jp/isa/covid-19>

### When you have symptoms of fever, etc.

In Ibaraki prefecture, the medical care and examination system for patients with fever has been revised to prepare for the simultaneous prevalence of the seasonal flu and the COVID-19. Persons with symptoms of fever, etc., should **first contact by phone** a nearby medical institution in the area with a family physician to arrange for medical examination. In case there is no family physician, for the medical institutions providing with the medical care and examination please inquire at the Examination-Consultation Center:

**[Medical Examination-Consultation Center]** (available only in Japanese)

- 1) Ibaraki Prefectural Office 029-301-3200 (direct)  
8:30 – 22:00 (incl. Sat., Sun., and HOL.)
- 2) Tsukuba Health Care Center 029-851-9287 (direct)  
9:00 – 17:00 (weekdays)

### [Please keep in mind when using medical institutions]:

- Prior to the medical examination make sure to have a consultation by phone to arrange the time of arrival to the hospital.
- Please make sure to be on time and wear a mask.

### Cultural Information

During New Year Holidays in Japan a set-cuisine called "Osechi" is enjoyed. Each dish that is included in the "Osechi" has its own meaning. New Year dishes are usually placed in a multi-layered food box and the layers themselves have a meaning of "stacking up with happiness".

**First Layer** – Kamaboko (Fish paste), Kurikinton (Candied Chestnut with Sweet Potatoes), Datemaki (Sweet Rolled Omlet), Tadzukuri (Candied Sardines), Kuromame (Black Soybeans), Kazunoko (Herring Roe), Kinpiragobo (Fried Burdock Root).

**Second Layer** – fried fish such as carp and yellowtail. Other seafood such as shrimp.

**Third Layer** – foods such as vinegared carrot and radish salad are placed.

**Fourth Layer** – fruits of the land are used – taro, arrowhead, lotus root and carrot are simmered and decorated in the box.

