

## **Climate**

Japan is an island nation located in the northern hemisphere, off the eastern edge of the continent of Eurasia. The Japanese archipelago is comprised of the islands of Hokkaido, Honshu, Shikoku, Kyushu and Okinawa, along with more than 6,800 additional islands, large and small. Although the area of the Japanese archipelago is not large, because it is elongated in a north-south direction it encompasses sub-fringed temperature, and subtropical climate zones.

Climate in Kitakyushu (located in the north of Kyushu) varies depending upon seasons and that may be said for most part of Japan. Consequently, you need completely different types of clothing depending on the season you are in Japan.

Spring is mid-March through mid-June when climate is moderate with temperature of 10 to 20 degrees Celsius.

Before the onset of summer, a unique approximately 40-day-long RAINY SEASON is experienced in Japan excluding Hokkaido. This rainy season usually starts from middle of June and ends around the third week of July.

Summer runs through mid-July to mid-September when the temperature reaches as high as over 30 degree Celsius and humidity is quite high. Air-conditioning is set at 28 degrees Celsius to reduce carbon dioxide emission. You may wish to wear light clothes in and out of the buildings.

Autumn is mid-September through mid-November and temperature is similar to that of spring.

Winter begins in November and continues until mid-March. During the wintertime, the weather is usually cloudy and temperature sometimes goes down below zero degrees Celsius and wind-chill temperature is even lower than that. Snow is observed several times in one winter. Since air-conditioning, this time, is set at 20 degrees Celsius, you would wish to prepare warm clothes even inside of the buildings.

|           | Maximum<br>Precipitation<br>a day (mm) | Highest<br>Temperature<br>a month(°C) | Lowest<br>Temperature<br>a month(°C) | Peak Wind<br>Velocity a<br>month (m/s) | Days over<br>30°C a month<br>(days) | Days below<br>0°C a month<br>(days) | Days over<br>10mm<br>Precipitation |
|-----------|--|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| January   | 27                                     | 14.6                                  | -0.2                                 | 7                                      | 0                                   | 1                                   | 1                                  |
| February  | 21                                     | 14.2                                  | -1.5                                 | 10                                     | 0                                   | 7                                   | 4                                  |
| March     | 35                                     | 19.4                                  | -0.5                                 | 8                                      | 0                                   | 1                                   | 5                                  |
| April     | 15                                     | 30.1                                  | 5.6                                  | 8                                      | 1                                   | 0                                   | 1                                  |
| May       | 59                                     | 28.8                                  | 10.5                                 | 8                                      | 0                                   | 0                                   | 2                                  |
| June      | 48                                     | 33.5                                  | 13.7                                 | 7                                      | 11                                  | 0                                   | 1                                  |
| July      | 62                                     | 34.4                                  | 21.1                                 | 7                                      | 19                                  | 0                                   | 9                                  |
| August    | 5                                      | 35.2                                  | 20.6                                 | 7                                      | 23                                  | 0                                   | 0                                  |
| September | 157                                    | 34.0                                  | 16.8                                 | 8                                      | 11                                  | 0                                   | 3                                  |
| October   | 8                                      | 33.0                                  | 10.1                                 | 6                                      | 1                                   | 0                                   | 0                                  |
| November  | 43                                     | 24.1                                  | 5.5                                  | 6                                      | 0                                   | 0                                   | 5                                  |
| December  | 12                                     | 16.1                                  | -3.6                                 | 9                                      | 0                                   | 8                                   | 1                                  |

**Statistic data in 2005 at Yahata, Kitakyushu City where JICA Kyushu International Center is located**

## **Communications**

TELEPHONE: Each room has a telephone which you can communicate inside JICA Kyushu. While incoming calls may be received, you cannot make telephone calls outside JICA Kyushu. External calls both domestic and international may be made from the public telephones in the lobby.

MOBILE PHONE (Cell-phone): Please note due to different technologies unique to Japan are used for Japanese mobile phone system from your own countries, including GSM phones with SIM cards, mobile phones which you currently use are likely not to work in Japan.

Instead, short time visitors to Japan can rent mobile phones from several companies which have a service counter at several international airports like Narita International Airport (Tokyo) and Kansai International Airport (Osaka).

Normally, mobile phones in Japan are sold in one piece of telephone set in combination with a monthly and yearly (normally two years) contract and only available to residents of Japan. It means that you only can buy a mobile phone set (hardware) of specific companies like “DoCoMo”, “Vodafone” or “au” but you cannot buy a SIM card like card to set your own mobile phone.

In addition, foreign residents are requested to present their alien registration cards, which are issued for a persons who will stay in Japan for 90 days or longer by local government offices and immigration offices, and their bank accounts in Japan, which also are needed to present their alien registration cards to open them.

Information regarding the rental mobile phone would be available in the following Inter-Net site.

<http://www.g-call.com/e/rental/dom/rental.html>

or

<http://roaming.nttdocomo.co.jp/service/detail.html>

or

[http://www.vodafone.jp/english/global\\_service/index.html](http://www.vodafone.jp/english/global_service/index.html)

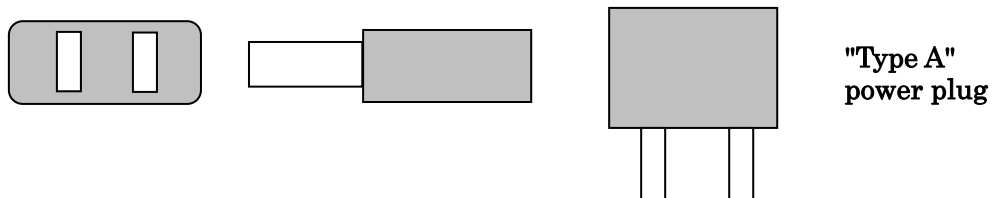
It is advisable to contact your mobile phone companies for details.

FAX: Fax may be received by the Front Desk. You can send fax from the public telephone in the lobby.

INTERNET: There are 18 internet-connected desktop computers in the computer room which is open 24 hours a day. You can connect to internet from your room if you have your own computer.

**Important**

Type of power outlet in Japan is "**Type A**". If the type of power outlet in your country is other than Type A, please bring a Power Plug Conversion Adapter with you, otherwise, it is very difficult to find the adapter in Kitakyushu.



MAIL: You may receive postal mail through the Front Desk. Also you may send mail and parcels form the Front Desk.

## **Computer Facilities**

JICA Kyushu has three types of computer facilities. One of the Computer Room has 18 desktop computers which are connected to internet which you may use 24hours a day.

Typing room has 7 computers which are NOT connected to internet but connected to printers. These may be used in preparing your reports, action plans and any others those do not necessitate internet connection.

Apart from those mentioned above, 12 laptop computers are available for short time rental (maximum 3 nights at a time) through the Library. They are basically stand-alone machines and rented out for preparation of action plan and/or a few special occasions.

See [Communication](#) for more information.

## Dining

At JICA Kyushu, a self-service dining hall is open daily, providing variety of menus even for those participants with different food orientation. Payment in cash or with your meal card is acceptable in the dining hall.

Breakfast is buffet style and free of charge to those who stay at JICA Kyushu on the fixed menu system. (open 06:30 – 09:30 on weekdays, 07:30 – 10:00 on Saturdays, Sundays and Holidays)

Lunch menu, including halal, fish, vegetarian along with Japanese and world-wide food. (open 11:30 – 14:00)

Dinner may be chosen from four different set menus; Japanese, Euro-American, halal and vegetarian. (open 18:30 – 21:00)

Order stop is 30 minutes before the closing time.

JICA Kyushu provides to those participants who stay at JICA Kyushu for their training and is used for everyday dinner and lunch on Saturdays, Sundays and National Holidays of Japan.



Prices of Set Menu  
around ¥550 - ¥600 (lunch)  
around ¥450 - ¥800 (dinner)  
Price of Single Menu  
around ¥250 - ¥800  
(as of October 2006)

# Facilities

JICA Kyushu is equipped with a variety of Facilities that make your stay fruitful and enjoyable.



Front Desk



Seminar Rooms



Training Rooms



Tennis Courts



Gym



Library



Computer Room



Typing Room





Clinic for Medical Consultation



Audio Room



Billiard Tables



Japanese-style Room for tea ceremony



Accommodation (single room)



Laundry and Ironing facility



Dining Hall



Free Bicycle Service



## **Health Care**

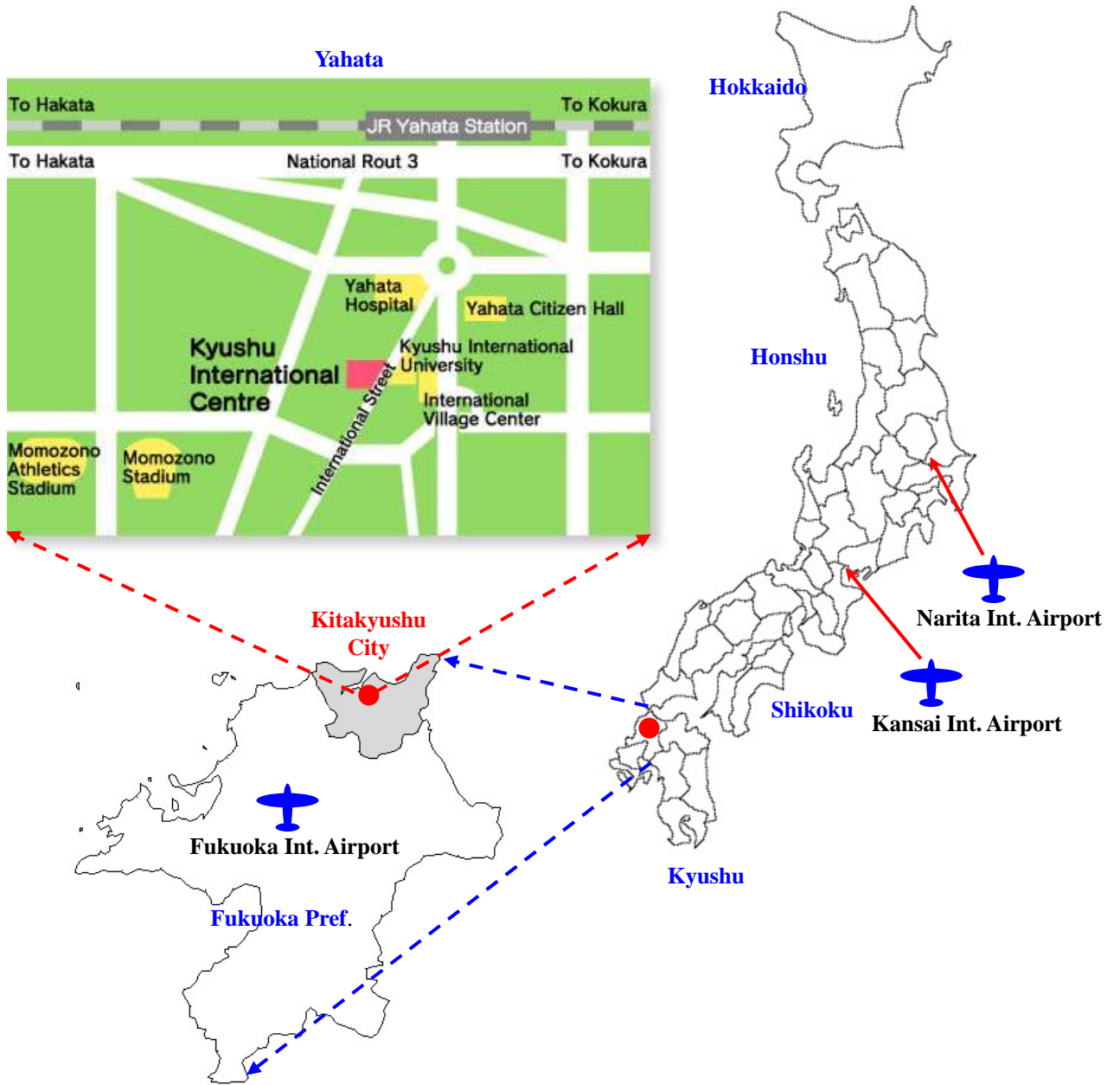
All participants are covered by the medical insurance policy that JICA takes out and that includes doctors' consultation as well as prescribed medication. However, the following expenses will not be covered by medical insurance and must be borne by yourself.

- (1) Medical treatment for illness or injury caused by willful misconduct.
- (2) Medical treatment of pre-existing illness.
- (3) Corrective surgery that is not immediately required.
- (4) Cosmetic surgery
- (5) Immunization, or routine medical examinations and vaccinations.
- (6) Any medical treatments related to and resulting from pregnancy and/or childbirth
- (7) Dental treatments that are not immediately required.
- (8) Purchase or repair of corrective eye glasses.
- (9) Medical treatment over 180days commencing from the date of the accident.

When you become ill or get injured, there are many clinics and hospitals that you may visit. In order to assist communications, often times a training coordinator will accompany you when you visit doctors.

Apart from outside medical facilities, JICA Kyushu has a medical consultation room on the walk-in basis to which general practitioner attends once a week for minor and non-emergency medical consultation. Specialist also attends the consultation room once a month for your mental health related consultation. You may be referred to external medical facilities when necessary.

# M A P



## **Money Matters**

As it is said in the KENSHU-IN GUIDEBOOK, JICA will provide participants with allowance. Allowance is expected to suffice the costs of your lunch and other expenses that make your stay comfortable and fruitful.

The currency in Japan is Japanese Yen and NO other currencies, including US dollars are accepted in Japan. Credit cards are accepted in shops and restaurants, but not every place. You may exchange currency at the airport of your disembarkation or some banks. It is advisable to exchange you currency at the airport when you arrive for the amount needed for the first few days in Japan. Usually, allowance is made available to you on the second day of your arrival during the briefing session.

JICA will assign a bank account to which the allowance is deposited. The participants may withdraw money by using Automatic Teller Machine (ATM) which is located at JICA Kyushu and the branch of the particular bank. This account shall only be used for transaction of JICA allowance and participants may not deposit, receive remittance other than from JICA or wire transfer any funds. It means that you will not be able to receive any type of money transfer to your JICA bank account from your country or any other places.

Consumer price in Japan is quite high; a can of soda and train ride for one station costs approximately one US dollar. For details, please refer to your KENSHU-IN GUIDEBOOK.

## Neighborhood

JICA Kyushu is located in the town called Yahata, being 10 kilometers west of the city center of Kitakyushu city, Kokura. JICA Kyushu's immediate neighborhood is international and academic, with Kitakyushu International Exchange Village Center and a Kyushu International University. There are supermarkets, convenience stores, markets, discount stores, rental video shop, clinics and hospitals etc. If you walk about 10 minutes to the train station, you can easily reach neighboring towns by trains where you find sightseeing spots, department stores, electronic stores and more variety of restaurants. There is also an amusement park named "Space World" at around five minutes train ride. Kitakyushu information may be found in following web sites;

<http://www.city.kitakyushu.jp/~english/index.html>

<http://www.kcta.or.jp/english/index.html>.

If you wish to stretch and visit other cities and/or towns, Fukuoka city, the biggest commercial city in Kyushu, is about one hour train ride distance where you will find even more urbanized community. You may find whereabouts of Fukuoka city through the websites:

<http://www.city.fukuoka.jp/index-e.html>

<http://www.yokanavi.com/eg/index.html>.

Front desk and your training coordinator will also help you to move around the neighborhood upon your arrival. In some courses, Japanese language lessons are included in your program and you will learn useful conversation to get around.

\*Useful site: Japan National Tourist Organization (JNTO)

<http://www.jnto.go.jp/>

## Rooms

JICA Kyushu's accommodation building rises 6 stories and has 136 single rooms, 2 barrier free rooms and 5 twin rooms. All of them are furnished with bed, desk, chair, TV, video, radio, room lamps, safety box and bathroom facilities. They also have telephone set which enable you to call inside KIC and receive all incoming calls including international calls. Towels and toiletries are not available and therefore you are strongly advised to bring your own towels and toiletries along with you. If you have your own computer and LAN connector, you can connect to internet from your room. (LAN cables are available at the front desk.)

Japan uses 100V AC and for plug shape and size, please refer to your KENSHU-IN GUIDEBOOK.

Accommodation building is also equipped with laundry room on each floor. Use of washing machine and dryer is free and irons are available in the front desk when needed.

Although cooking facility is not available and cooking in the room is strictly prohibited, hot and cold potable water is always available on each accommodation floor for your convenience.

## **Useful Items during your stay**

**OUTFIT:** It is recommended to bring suitable clothing to the season, especially ensure to have warm enough clothes if your course runs through the winter (November through March). Dress code is casual for the most of the training course, however there are a few occasions when formal clothing is requested. You may also wish to bring your national dress for cultural exchange activities that you are likely to join. Any other items that may be used to exhibit your culture are welcomed. If your course involves in plant visit or industrial practices, suitable uniform will be provided by JICA upon arrival.

**DAYLY LIFE:** For participants whose course includes overnight trips during the training course, a medium size travel bag becomes useful. Even though JICA Kyushu Library has selection of books for technical reference and entertainment, they are usually in English. Therefore, bring some books if wish to read in your own language. For those who are taking medication, ensure to bring your medicine. Although all JICA participants are eligible for medical service through the JICA insurance policy, preexistent illness will NOT be covered by said insurance. In addition, over-the-counter medication is limited and much of drugs require doctors' prescription.

**DATA FOR YOUR ACTION PLAN:** At the end of the training course, participants are usually requested to prepare and present action plan that will be implemented after returning their work places. It is likely that you wish to prepare your action plan that involves various quantitative indicators, and therefore it is recommended to bring potentially useful data and/or information that may be useful for your realistic and substantive action plan.