

Flea Markets & Bazaars

Place	Salvation Army (救世軍) Bazaar	Meiji Kōen Park (明治公園)	Ajinomoto Stadium (味の素スタジアム)
Date	Every Saturday	Jan. 14 (Sat)	Jan. 22 (Sun)
Time	9:00a.m. - 1:00p.m.	9:00a.m. - 3:00p.m.	10:00a.m. - 4:00p.m.
Number of Stalls		500	800
How to Go	Hatagaya (幡ヶ谷) Keiō New Line (京王新線) Shinjuku(新宿) Tokyo Metro Marunouchi Line take the train for Hōnanchō (東京メトロ丸の内線中野富士見町行) Nakano-fujimichō (中野富士見町) 12 min. walk Kyūseigun-Danshi-Shakai-Hōshi-Center (救世軍男子社会奉仕センター) Salvation Army Men's Social Center) 50 min. walk from JICA Tokyo. ¥280 45 min.	Hatagaya (幡ヶ谷) Keiō New Line (京王新線) Shinjuku (新宿) JR Sōbu Line (JR 総武線) Sendagaya (千駄ヶ谷) 10 min. walk Meiji Kōen Park (明治公園) ¥240 35 min.	Hatagaya (幡ヶ谷) Keiō New Line & Keiō Line (京王新線・京王線) Tobitakyū (飛田給) 3 min. walk Ajinomoto Stadium (味の素スタジアム) Admission ¥300 ¥190 48 min.

Place	Shinagawa Intercity (品川インターシティー)	Yoyogi Kōen-Park (代々木公園)	Tokyo/ Best Flea Market in Tokyo International Forum (東京・ベストフリーマーケット in 東京国際フォーラム)
Date	Indoor Flea Market Jan. 2 (Mon, a national holiday), 8(Sun), 9 (Mon, a national holiday), 15 (Sun), 22 (Sun), 29 (Sun)	Jan. 22 (Sun)	Jan. 8 (Sun)
Time	10:00a.m. - 4:00p.m.	10:00a.m. - 4:00p.m.	10:00a.m. - 4:00p.m.
Number of Stalls	120	800	50
How to Go	Hatagaya (幡ヶ谷) Keiō New Line (京王新線) Shinjuku (新宿) JR Yamanote Line (JR 山手線) Shinagawa (品川) You can go directly to "Shinagawa Intercity" from "the Kōnan Exit" (港南口) of JR/Keikyū Shinagawa Station. The flea market is held in "Atrium". ¥310 38 min.	Yoyogi-uehara (代々木上原) Tokyo Metro Chiyoda Line (東京メトロ千代田線) Meijijingu-mae (明治神宮前) 7min. walk Yoyogi Kōen-Park (代々木公園) (A promenade beside the NHK Hall) ¥160 36 min.	Yoyogi-uehara (代々木上原) Tokyo Metro Chiyoda Line (東京メトロ千代田線) Hibiya (日比谷) 6 min. walk Tokyo International Forum Plaza (東京国際フォーラム 地上広場) ¥190 30 min.

Please be careful when you buy electric appliances such as telephones, video players and computers, etc. They do not have any guarantees. They are made for domestic use and may not be used in your countries because of the different electrical currents, voltages or frequencies.

MUSEUM SCHEDULE

Prachtvolle Porzellane aus Meissen (華麗なるマイセン磁器)

Place: Tokyo Metropolitan Teien Art Museum (東京都庭園美術館)
(7 min. walk from JR Meguro Station, in the east exit of JR Yamanote Line and 6 min. walk from Shiro gandedai Station on the Toei Mita Line)
Dates: Until Jan 22 (Sun)
Closed on the second and the fourth Wednesdays and from Dec. 28 to Jan. 3
Time: 10:00a.m. - 6:00p.m. (Admission till 5:30p.m.)
Admission: ¥,000
Free tickets are available at the JICA Tokyo information desk on a first-come, first-served basis.

At the beginning of the 18th century, Meissen pottery in Eastern part of Germany first succeeded in producing porcelain in Europe. Reflecting the 18th century mature culture, it has its unique style featuring gorgeous paintings and forms full of expressions. People in Europe highly praise Meissen porcelain.

This exhibition is composed of the precious collection by Ms. Naoko Itō, a collector who loved western art and collected Meissen porcelain throughout the latter half of her life. It boasts of both its quality and quantity which are rarely seen in Japan.

The exhibition includes 113 sets of art ranging from tableware such as cups and saucers, figures and indoor objects, mirrors for decorative purposes to a chandelier. Tracing back the art style of each period, 18th century chinoiserie and rococo and 20th century art nouveau and art deco, you will be totally involved in the world of Meissen.



The Impressionist Collection of the Pola Museum of Art 2006 (渋谷で出会うポーラ美術館印象派コレクション展)

Place: The Bunkamura Museum of Art (Bunkamura ザ・ミュージアム)
(7 min. walk from Shibuya Station of JR, Tōkyū Tōyoko, Ginza and Inokashira Lines. 5 min. walk from Shibuya Station on the Shin-tamagawa and Hanzōmon Lines)
Dates: Until February 26 (Sun)
Open everyday during the exhibition.
Time: 10:00a.m. - 7:00p.m.
10:00a.m. - 9:00p.m. (Fridays and Saturdays)
Admission 30 min. before closing
Admission: ¥,300
Free tickets are available at the JICA Tokyo information desk on a first-come, first-served basis.

The Pola Museum of Art was established in September 2002 at Sengoku-hara in Hakone. It can boast of an extensive collection of 9,500 works: western-style paintings by Impressionists and Japanese artists, Japanese-style paintings, glass handicrafts, make-up sets and oriental china and porcelain.

However, its mainstay is formed by its more than 400 paintings of the 19th-century impressionist and the early 20th-century School of Paris: post-impressionists, Paul Cezanne, Paul Gauguin and Vincent van Gogh and artists of School of Paris, Amedeo Modigliani and Marc Chagall and 20th century artists, Picasso and H. Matisse.

This is the first traveling exhibition of the Pola Museum of Art. The Museum is proud to introduce approximately 80 selected masterpieces with special emphasis on works by such great, popular artists as Monet and Renoir.

Art lovers who have not yet had the opportunity to visit the Pola Museum in Hakone can now view these gems at their leisure in Tokyo. Never miss this opportunity!



Pierre Auguste Renoir
"Girl in a Lace Hat"
1891, Oil on canvas, 55.1x46.0 cm

JICA TOKYO Monthly



New Year's Greetings from the Director General of JICA Tokyo

Happy New Year Participants!

How do you spend the New Year in Japan?

Isn't it quite different from the New Year in your countries? I still have a vivid recollection of my very first Christmas and New Year overseas because I found them truly impressive.

For us Japanese, January has special significance as the first month of a new year. Furthermore, we specially call the first of January Gantan and pay particular attention to the day as the first day of the year. Many people make fresh resolutions to challenge something with great enthusiasm, clearing away the memory of the past year. As you experience the New Year, 2006 in Japan, how about making New Year's resolutions which are different from the previous ones?



Mr. Kimiaki Yamaguchi

Participants, is your training going smoothly?

There is one thing I always ask you every time I welcome you and see you off. That is to make Japanese and participant friends by making the best of the opportunity of your training in Japan. To be sure, it is very important that you make use of acquired knowledge, technology and experience when you go back to your countries. However, it is my sincere wish that you make friends while you are in Japan.

It is the coldest season in Japan. Please take care of your health and enjoy your stay in Japan.

All my best wishes to you and your family, hoping 2006 will be a bright and hopeful year.

Kimiaki Yamaguchi
Director General of JICA Tokyo



Hatsumode, (first visit to the shrine), at Meiji-jingu Shrine
Photo: Kyōdō News

C O N T E N T S

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EVENT CALENDAR

JANUARY

Event	Date	Time	Place	Application/Fee/etc.
Happy New Year <i>Hatsumode</i> Tour	Jan. 1 (Sun)	9:00a.m.-5:00p.m.	Meiji-jingū Shrine & Sensōji Temple	Contact the information desk. See P.5
Japanese Writing Class	Jan. 19 (Thu)	6:30p.m.-8:30p.m.	JICA Tokyo Seminar Room	Contact the information desk. See listings.
Kimono Show	Jan. 27 (Fri)	7:00p.m.-8:30p.m.	JICA Tokyo Auditorium	All participants are invited. See Listings.
Hakone Bus Tour	Jan. 28 (Sat)	5:30a.m.-7:00p.m.	Hakone	Contact the information desk. See listings.

February

Event	Date	Time	Place	Application/Fee/etc.
Nodate (open-air Tea Ceremony) and Music Concerts of Japanese Instruments	Feb. 3 (Fri)	7:00p.m.-8:30p.m.	At the lobby in the main building	All participants are invited.
Homestay	Feb. 4 (Sat) -5 (Sun)			Contact the information desk.
Japanese Writing Class	Feb. 16 (Thu)	6:30p.m.-8:30p.m.	JICA Tokyo Seminar Room	Contact the information desk.
Origami (the art of paper folding) Class	Feb. 17 (Fri)	7:00p.m.-9:00p.m.	Briefing Room	Contact the information desk.
Jocv Language Exchange Meeting	Feb. 18 (Sat) -19 (Sun)	6:30a.m. (Sat) -4:00p.m. (Sun)	JOCV Komagane Institute in Nagano Prefecture	Only for participants who are invited by JOCV.
The Introduction of Participants' Countries (Asian Night)	Feb. 24 (Fri)	6:30p.m.-9:00p.m.	Auditorium	All participants are invited.
Gakuen-Nishimachi Festival	Feb. 26 (Sun)	8:50a.m.-5:00p.m.	Gakuen-Nishimachi Community Center	Contact the information desk.

The schedule is subject to change.
As for events at JICA Tokyo, contact the information desk. tel: 03-3485-0388

Sports Schedule for JICA TOKYO Auditorium

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Ping-pong, Badminton	Basketball	Volleyball	Aikidō (6:30p.m.-8:30p.m.)	Ping-pong, Badminton	Volleyball	Mini-Soccer

JAPANESE EVENING CLASS
Frustrated by the language barrier? A little knowledge of the Japanese language will ease your frustration and make your stay more enjoyable. JICA Tokyo welcomes you all to the Japanese evening classes held on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays, from 6:30p.m. to 8:00 p.m., taught by well-experienced instructors.

Apply with your Medical Card at the information desk:
Monday - Friday: 12:00 noon - 8:00p.m.
Saturday, Sunday and national holidays: 9:30a.m. - 5:30p.m.

The Main topics of the Introductory Course

- Greetings/ Self-introduction.
- Asking names of things.
- Ordering at restaurants.
- Asking for directions.
- Asking time.
- Buying tickets at stations.
- Shopping.
- Talking about schedules.

Introductory

- Jan. 10 (Tue) ~ Jan. 25 (Wed)
- Jan. 16 (Mon) ~ Feb. 1 (Wed)
- Jan. 23 (Mon) ~ Feb. 8 (Wed)
- Jan. 30 (Mon) ~ Feb. 15 (Wed)



Akemashite Omedetō Gozaimasu

(あけましておめでとうございます)

Hi, everybody. It is getting colder and colder. It is the busiest time of the year to finish the year off and welcome the New Year. Following are greetings used to celebrate the New Year.

On New Year's day, we say "Akemashite omedetō gozaimasu" (Happy New year) and add "Kotoshimo dōzo yoroshiku one gai shimasu." (May this year bring a good relationship between us.)

Example 1:

Yoshida: Akemashite omedetō gozaimasu. (Happy New Year).
Kato: Akemashite omedetō gozaimasu. (Happy New Year to you, too.)



EVENT CALENDAR LISTING

Hakone Bus Tour

JICA Tokyo is organizing a one-day Hakone bus tour on Jan. 28 (Sat). If the weather permits and Mt. Fuji is clearly visible, the Hakone region can make a wonderful day trip out of Tokyo.

Hakone is a town in southwestern Kanagawa prefecture, located on the Lake Ashi. Hakone developed as one of the post-station towns on the Tōkaidō, which is one of the major highways during the Edo period (1600-1868). A barrier station, Hakone-no-Seki, was established here by the Tokugawa shogunate in 1618. The town is the official center of Fuji-Hakone-Izu National Park, serving as a tourist base for the lake and the mountain Hakoneyama.

The tour will take you to Hakone Shrine, Hatajuku Wooden Mosaic Center and Hakone barrier station. Poking around Owakudani, a smelly volcanic hot water springs and cruising Lake Ashi will give you opportunities to enjoy different aspect of Hakone. Never miss this great opportunity to take a trip to Hakone!



Owakudani (a valley with volcanic hot water springs)



Hakone Shrine



Hatajuku Wooden Mosaic Center

Kimono Show

JICA Tokyo holds a "Kimono Show" on Jan. 27 (Fri). A kimono show will give you all an ample opportunity to appreciate the beauty of the kimono. If you want to enjoy the kimono show more, apply to be a kimono model on the stage. You will have a great opportunity to wear beautiful Japanese kimono.



Japanese Writing Class

JICA Tokyo is organizing a Japanese writing class to give you a chance to learn how to write your name, your nationality and simple greetings in Hiragana, Katakana and Kanji.

Just learning simple Japanese will help you a lot in various opportunities and make communication with Japanese very smoothly. This is a one-day class, so it is ideal for those who do not have much time to spare.



Kotoshimo dōzo yoroshiku onegaishimasu. (May this year bring a good relationship between us.)

Kato: Dōzo yoroshiku onegaishimasu. (Likewise, I hope so too.)

By the way, the expression we introduced today, "Omedetō gozaimasu" is used in various occasions to celebrate something: "Otanjōbi omedetō gozaimasu" (Happy birthday), "Go-kekkon omedetō gozaimasu" (Congratulations on your wedding) and so on. You can simply say "Omedetō gozaimasu".

Example 2:

Sim: Yamashita-san, otanjōbi omedetō gozaimasu. (Happy Birthday, Mr. Yamashita.)

Yamashita: Dōmo arigatō gozaimasu. (Thank you very much.)

Sim: Kore purezento desu. (Here is a present for you.)

Yamashita: A, dōmo arigatō gozaimasu. (Thank you very much.)

Then, everybody, see you in a Japanese language class in January.

Yoi otoshi o. (I wish you a Happy New Year.)

Current Group Training Courses January

The following Training Courses are under way at JICA Tokyo.

Education	Health and Medical Care	Governance	Transport	Private Sector Development	Urban/Regional Development	Energy	Information Technology	Pollution Control	Ecomanagement
Country Focused Training Course: Leading Afghan Women Educators	Clinical Laboratory Technology	Modules on Core Official Statistics	Railway Management Planning	Law Enforcement for Intellectual Property Rights	Urban Community Planning and Design	Nuclear Power Generation Basic Course	International Telecommunications network- "Fiber Optics -Cable Engineering"	Waste Disposal Infrastructure and its Operation for the Countries South East Europe	Afforestation Planning
Jan. 1-Jan. 31	Nov. 6-Feb. 4	Sep. 26-Mar. 18	Jan. 10-Feb. 11	Jan. 1-Jan. 31	Jan. 1-Jan. 15	Jan. 9-Feb. 28	Jan. 10-Feb. 18	Jan. 15-Feb. 11	Jan. 12-Jan. 28
	Health Service Management	Forum on Evaluation of Development Policy	Management of National/Provincial Highway	Obtaining the Skill of Project Finance			Advanced Television Programme Production	Seminar on Ozone Layer Protection	
	Jan. 15-Jan. 31	Jan. 1-Jan. 10	Jan. 22-Feb. 2	Jan. 9-Feb. 4			Jan. 10-Mar. 18	Jan. 15-Feb. 18	
	Health Administration	Supporting in Drafting Civil Code, Code of Civil Procedure and Related Laws		Management of Chambers of Commerce and Industry				Seminar on Ozone Layer Protection	
	Jan. 15-Feb. 11	Jan. 1-Jan. 31		Jan. 10-Jan. 28				Regulation and Type Approval System for Safety and Environmental Protection of Motor Vehicle	
	Seminar on Parasite Control Administration for Senior Officers -A Step Towards primary Health Care	Statistical Information Processing		Seminar for Supervisors over Securities and Futures Market in China				Jan. 24-Mar. 3	
	Jan. 17-Feb. 11	Jan. 1-Jan. 31		Accession to WTO					
	Hospital Administration and Health Services Management	Statistical Survey Methodologies		Private Sector Initiative in Public Service					
	Jan. 17-Feb. 25	Jan. 1-Jan. 31		Seminar for Staff Training on Evaluation Management of National R&D Project					
		Jan. 1-Jan. 28		Operation on Understanding on Rules and Procedures Governing the DSU, WTO Agreement					
		Development Policies							
		Jan. 10-Feb. 27							
		Seminar on Governmental Human Resource Management (Middle Level Official's Course)							
		Jan. 24-Feb. 18							
		Seminar on International Cooperation for Sudan							
		Jan. 25-Feb. 10							



あけまして おめでとう ございます
Akemashite Omedetō Gozaimasu

Happy New Year to All JICA Participants at JICA Tokyo!

If you stay at JICA Tokyo during New Year's holidays, you may wonder how Japanese families celebrate the New Year. *Shōgatsu* or the New Year's holidays in Japan is the most important time of the year, reminiscent of Christmas. People clean their houses, decorate them with *Shimenawa*, a straw festoon and *Kadomatsu*, pine boughs and prepare traditional dishes. The air is filled with the same excited bustle as the holiday nears. People normally have a week-long holiday to prepare and celebrate the New Year. Since this is a rather long holiday for Japanese aside from Golden Week, there is a variety of ways to spend it: many people go abroad or travel in Japan or enjoy *Onsen* at Japanese hot spring resorts.



Kagami-mochi

However, people place a higher priority on family re-union, celebrating *Oshōgatsu* with family members at home in a relaxed manner. Those who have hometowns in rural areas, visit their families for a re-union.

On the first day of *Oshōgatsu*, people make *hatsumōde* or the first visit to a temple or a shrine to pray for happiness for the year. In their homes, after toasting with *sake* or *Otoso* (sake spiced with herbs), people eat *Osechi* (traditional New Year dishes) and *Ozōni* (a soup containing rice cakes with vegetables, chicken and other ingredients). Reading *nenga-jō* or New Year's greeting cards is another fun. Children get small gifts of money called *otoshidama*.

At the end of December, you will find some special decorations also at JICA Tokyo. *Kadomatsu* is set up on both sides of the front entrance. It comprises pine boughs which are symbolic of longevity and bamboo stalks which are symbolic of prosperity. Inside the building at the lobby, *kagami-mochi* is decorated. It consists of two pieces of round rice cake, the smaller placed atop the larger. It is normally decorated with objects with auspicious connotations: A bitter orange called a *daidai* is put on the top signifying prosperity, accompanied by dried persimmons (joy), lobster (long life) and dried *konbu* seaweed (joy).



Kadomatsu

New Year's Celebration in Participants' Countries

Here at JICA Tokyo, participants from various countries all gather together to celebrate the New Year. They have a different climate, religion, customs and traditions. They have their own ways and manners to celebrate the New Year. It is a great fun to observe how people



celebrate the New Year in different countries.

We would like to introduce the New Year of the participants' countries by the essays written by the participants staying in and outside of JICA Tokyo.



Fiji

"Bula Vinaka"(Hello!) to all the readers and this greetings come all the way from the "friendly island of the Fiji islands".

Fiji welcomes the New Year with much preparation and merry making whereby this could start from Dec. 25th and follows through to early January.

Local root crops such as taro, cassava and yams are cooked in our traditional way called **lovo*. And a variety of local delicacies such as seafood are also prepared for this special occasion. Drinking of **kava* (*yagona*) by the men will follow after the feast.

On New Year's eve, most families attend the 10 p.m.-church service wearing their nicest clothes. As soon as the New Year dawns, everyone welcomes the New Year with hugs and continues singing that goes on until morning. Children would beat the *lali* (traditional gong), play with light bamboo guns and splash water on each other.

This is also the time when many people have New Year's resolutions but they never come to fruition as the months go by.

I wish everyone a fruitful and blessed New Year!

**Lovo*-Fijian name for a feast cooked in the earth and has meat food that taste like barbecue.

**Kava* (*yagona*)- is regarded as the National drink made from bare root of a pepper tree, pounded into fine powder and mixed with fresh water.

Senibua Wainiqolo, Fiji
Clinical Laboratory Technology
Nov. 6, 2005-Feb. 4, 2006



Zimbabwe

In Zimbabwe, people start to celebrate the New Year from Christmas day, December 25 to January 2 of the following year.

It is summer season usually with plenty of rain, vegetation is green, flowers blooming bright and shiny. It is the time when workers employed in industries and school children are on holiday. They migrate to rural homes to celebrate the New Year with beloved relatives and friends. It is also the time to celebrate weddings.

Of interest to note is that all people celebrate the New Year in new clothes and indicate to start New Year with prosperity. Religious people attend prayer on New Year's eve at their churches to praise God and seek prosperity in the coming New Year. Joyous celebrations continue until midday of the New Year with different dishes being cooked.

The main meal is rice and chicken and salad: *braii*-chiken, beef or fish (roasted), *sadza* (grand corn) with bones (boiled).

It is a happy moment whereby even the poor can afford to have a descent meal.

This is the time to give presents to dear friends and relatives. It is also the time to make resolutions which are usually objectives of success.

Veterai Nyaradzo, Zimbabwe
Traffic Police Administration Seminar
Oct. 5-Nov. 19, 2005



Philippines

Every Filipino would eagerly celebrate New Year as that of the Christmas Eve. Even in times of economic crisis, Filipinos would always possess a positive outlook in life.

At the stroke of 12 a.m. of January 1st, Filipino families would gather outside of their gates/houses. They would welcome the New Year with different display of assorted fireworks of different noises. The louder the kind of fire crackers, the better. Continuous and spontaneous sounds from the cars, radios and cheers of the young and old could be very well heard. Also most of the Filipinos, particularly the women, if possible, would wear polka-dot clothing at the stroke of midnight and the whole day of January 1st. We would also make sure our pockets were full of coins if not bills. Moreover, coins were placed on all windows and doorsteps. Some well-to-do would hang pieces of grapes on the doors. Filipinos believe that these practices would let prosperous blessings to come in from the beginning of the year to its end. Everyone would hope and wish for a smooth life. For the children, they were advised to jump at the stroke of midnight. It is believed that they would get taller. New Year resolutions are reflected as well. But of course life would always be good depending on our ways and lifestyles.

Filipino would prepare assorted food on their tables in every house. For some especially in the provinces, would have native delicacies and the setting up of twelve (12) kinds of assorted fruits. These fruits need to be round in shape. It is a belief that the lord would always be our source of supply the whole year round. Another very special practice is the preparation of *palitaw*. It is a grinded rice of good quality, formed into small sizes and poured over boiling water. The *palitaw* would eventually settle upward and be placed in a saucer. It needs to be garnished or blended with sugar. This is done at the stroke of midnight of January 1st as well. There is no harm in following these beliefs and this is what I have learned and have been doing so every year. I can say that I became aware of these particular ways since then and will still be shared from one generation to another.

"MANIGONG BAGONG TAON SA INYONG LAHAT!"
(English version- HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL!)
"MARAMING SALAMAT SA JICWELS & JICA TIC".
(Thank you very much to JICWELS & JICA-TIC).

Maria Luisa L. De Sagun, Philippines
Study Programme on Manufacturing Control of Essential Drugs
Nov. 9-Dec. 9, 2005



Sri Lanka

In Sri Lanka while the majority are Sinhalese Buddhists, there are other ethnic and religious groups such as Tamils, Muslims, Hindus, Christians etc. The Buddhists and Hindus in Sri Lanka celebrate their New Year either on the 13th or 14th of April. This is called "the Sinhala/Tamil New Year" and this is the National New Year. The Sun moving from the House of Pisces to the House of Aries signals the dawning of it. For the Christians in both communities the New Year is the 1st of January.

However, Sri Lankans celebrate the 1st of January also to some extent. From the 31st December the whole country seems to be getting ready to celebrate the New Year. Musical parties are everywhere on the night of the 31st night and they continue until the New Year dawns. A special item in the New Year is the fire crackers. Usually there are tons of crackers shot by everyone from about 11.55p.m. to 12.15a.m. And it is also common that almost everybody wears new clothes on this day.

On the morning of the 1st of January the smell of *kiribath* comes swirling out of every kitchen in neighborhoods and the spirit of a happy New Year fills the area. Milk rice or *kiribath* in Sinhalese is a special kind of rice prepared by adding coconut milk to the rice. This rice is eaten with *Katta Sambola*, a hot dish prepared with dried chilies, salt, onion and moldivefish. In my country it is customary to share the *kiribath* prepared by each house with the neighbors on special days like New Year.

WEERASOORIYA Geetha Nandani, Sri Lanka
A long-term participant,
Master's Degree in Road Traffic Engineering
August 21, 2005-September 30, 2007



Costa Rica

In Costa Rica, December is the month of parties all the time "fiesta time", because all the workers get bonus at the beginning of the month, so they have a lot of money around this month.

On December 31st, we prepare a special meal for our relatives and friends. People start coming to the house around 9 p.m. and have some snacks before the main dish, for example *gallitos* (something like tortilla, a piece of thin flat bread made from corn and eggs) of potatoes, chicken or meat with coca cola or different kinds of juice. The main dish varies: *arroz con pollo* (rice with chicken), the traditional leg of pork with a delicious sauce, white rice and salad. They are accompanied with wine, beer or some natural juice. People start to eat around 11 p.m. and talk about what happened this year.

Many restaurants and hotels prepare parties for everyone but you have to reserve in advance, they serve a good meal with a music group and different shows are presented.

On New Year's Day, people start to talk about their dreams or projects for the coming year and hug everyone and wish a good year. For children, the New Year is like being in a party because their parents let them stay overnight and nobody cares about what they are doing. They play some electronic games or watch television until late at night without any supervision so it is very exciting for them.

If you go to beaches to celebrate the New Year, you will see everybody on the streets just waiting for the change of the year. Some probably drink, others talk, and then when the count down ends people start hugging each other and fireworks are shot up in the sky displaying different shapes and colors. Then on the radio and TV, the National Anthem is sung.

For us, New Year Day means hope, new dreams, and a new way to see things; it is like start all over again.

So have a Happy New Year everyone from Costa Rica "Pura Vida"(I hope you will be happy).

Maria Antonieta Ozols-Rosales, Costa Rica
Promoting Social Integration through Sport of Person with Disabilities
Oct. 4-Nov. 26, 2005



Hatsumōde, the First Visit to Temples or Shrines

In Japan, there is the custom of making a first-of-the-year pilgrimage to the tutelary shrines or temples in the neighborhood to pray for a long life and happiness during the year. Some people visit shrines or temples even later during the first week, wishing for happiness in the coming year.

To take a glimpse of the scenery of the New Year, JICA Tokyo is organizing a *Hatsumōde* tour on Jan. 1, 2006. We are planning to visit Meiji-jingū Shrine in Shibuya which boasts the highest number of visitors during the New Year and Sensōji Temple in Asakusa. You will be surprised to find the huge crowd visiting the shrine and temples.

In 2005, visitors to the aforementioned temples or shrines during the first three days are as follows.

- 1) Meiji-jingū Shrine (Tokyo) 3.1 million people
- 2) Naritasan-shinshōji Temple (Chiba) 2.65 million people
- 3) Kawasaki-daishi Temple (Kanagawa) 2.62 million people
- 8) Sensō-ji Temple (Tokyo) 2.00 million people

Happy New Year Hatsumōde Tour

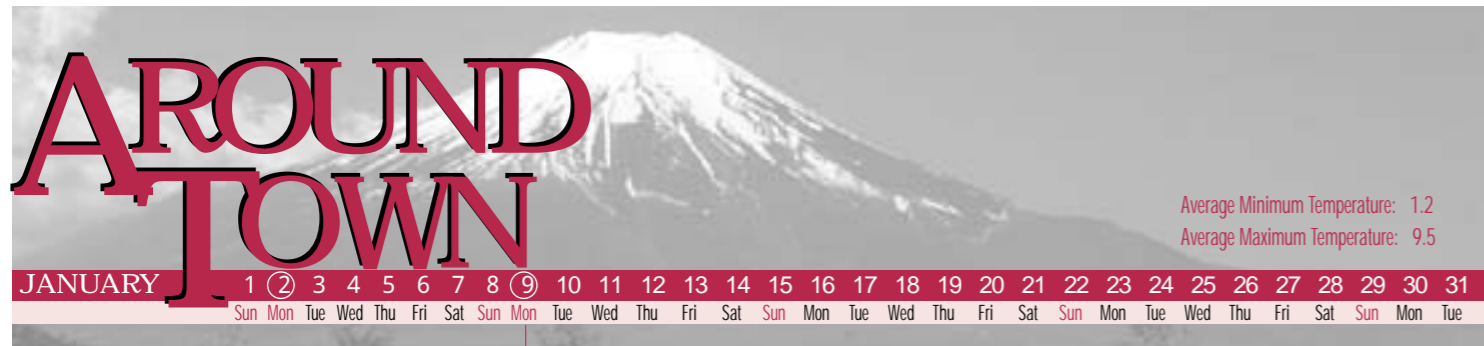
JICA Tokyo is organizing a Hatsumode Tour on Jan.1 (Sun)

Mr. Kobayashi, in charge of the information desk will accompany you during the tour.

If you are staying at JICA Tokyo and do not have a proper idea how to spend the New Year, how about joining the tour to see the traditional Japanese custom?



Visiting Sensōji Temple on Jan. 1, 2005



Seijin no Hi (成人の日 Coming-of-Age Day)

The Year-end and the New Year Guide-Where to Go and What to See During the the Year-end and the New Year Holidays (年末・新春ガイド)

The year 2006 is approaching. If you are not sure where to go during the long holidays, how about spending the year-end and the New Year in special spots in Tokyo? **During the night from Dec. 31 (Sat) to Jan. 1 (Sun) almost all the railway companies have all-night train service.**

The approximate time for the sunrise on New Year's Day is 6:51a.m. in Tokyo.

The Observatory of Tokyo Metropolitan Government Building (東京都庁第一庁舎展望台)

On Jan. 1, people are allowed to enter the observatory (202m) in the order of arrival from 7:30a.m. to 5:00p.m. If the weather is fine, it commands a fine view of a snow capped Mt. Fuji.

Date: Jan. 1 (Sun)
Time: 7:30a.m.-5:30p.m. (Jan. 1)
(Admission 30minutes before the closing time)

Closed: Dec. 29 (Thu)-Dec. 31 (Sat)
Jan. 2 (Mon)-Jan. 3 (Tue)

7 min. walk from West Exit of Shinjuku Station.



Tokyo City View -The Observation Deck in the Heart of Tokyo (六本木ヒルズ大展望台)

Tokyo City View is an observatory located on the 52nd floor of the Mori Tower. It is 250 meters above the sea level and offers 360-degree-views of the bustling metropolis. The complex is located almost in the center of the city and enjoys unhindered view of Tokyo's constantly evolving landscape during the day and in the evening.

Location: 52nd floor of Mori Tower
Date: Open everyday all through the year
Time: 9:00a.m.-1:00a.m. (Admission until 12:00 midnight)
Admission Fee: ¥1,500
3 min. walk from Roppongi station on the Toei Ōedo Line.

Sunshine City 60 Observatory (サンシャイン 60 展望台) Count-down Special 2006

Date: Dec. 31 (Sat), 2005
Admission Fee: ¥620

Time: 10:00a.m.-1:00a.m. (Admission until 12:30a.m.)
6:30p.m. - DJ Time (60th-floor-observatory)
9:30p.m. - Performance and Shows (60th-floor-observatory)
10:00p.m. - Magic Show (60th-floor-observatory)
11:30p.m. - Count-down events and shows (Sky Deck and the 60th-floor-observatory)
12:00a.m. - Count-down and fireworks

You can enjoy various kinds of events such as DJ music and performances by actors on the 60th-floor-observatory (227m). At the count down, fireworks will be set off on the rooftop observatory (240m). The number of visitors to enter the "Sky Deck" is limited to 1000.

The Sunrise on New Year's Day

Date: Jan. 1 (Sun), 2006
Time: 5:30a.m.-6:30p.m. (Admission until 6:00p.m.)

You can greet the first sunrise of the year in the observatory of the 60th floor (227m). However, the number of visitors to the rooftop "Sky Deck" is limited to 500, so you are requested to come early. Dog-shaped soaps will be given to the first 500 visitors to the Sunshine 60 observatory.

Admission Fee: ¥620

8 min. walk from Ikebukuro station on the JR Yamanote Line.

Tokyo Tower (東京タワー)

Count-down Special 2005 - 2006

To celebrate the year of 2006, at a special stage in front of the main entrance, a count-down event is conducted. At 12:00 midnight, the number "2006" appears on the wall of 150m-observatory and 2006 balloons will be released into the sky. A Year-end and the New Year DJ show will be held in front of the 1st floor entrance.

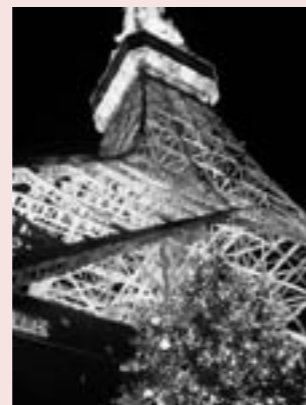
Date: Dec. 31 (Sat)-Jan. 1 (Sun)

Time: On Dec. 31, Tokyo Tower opens from 9:00a.m.-11:00p.m.
The Special Event: 11:30p.m.-12:30p.m.



The Sunrise on New Year's Day

On January 1, the main observatory (150m) and the special observatory (250m) opens from 6:00a.m. However, only 80 visitors will be allowed to the special observatory. Numbered tickets for the special observatory will be handed out to visitors from 4:00a.m. Two-thousand-six commemorative medals inscribed with the New Year date will be given to the first 2006 visitors. Japanese rice wine, sake from barrels will also be served from 7:00a.m. in front of the entrance.



Date: Jan. 1 (Sun)
Time: 6:00a.m.-10:00p.m.
Admission Fee: ¥820 for the Main Observatory (150m), another ¥600 for the special observatory (250m).
From Jan. 2 (Mon) Tokyo Tower opens from 9:00a.m. to 10:00p.m.

7 min. walk from Kamiya-chō Station on the Tokyo Metro Hibiya Line.

The Aquarium

Tokyo Sea Life Park (東京葛西臨海水族園)

Date & Time: 10:00a.m.-5:00p.m. (Tickets sales end at 4:00p.m.)
Closed on Wednesdays except National holidays.
Closed from Dec. 28 (Wed) to Jan. 1 (Sun)
Admission: ¥700

5 min. walk from Kasai-Rinkai-Kōen Station of the JR Keiyō Line



Sunshine International Aquarium (サンシャイン国際水族館)

Date & Time: 10:00a.m.-6:00p.m. (from Monday to Friday)
10:00a.m.-6:30p.m. (Sunday, Saturday, national holidays and Dec. 31-Jan. 9)
(Admission 30 minutes before the closing time)
Open everyday throughout the year.
Admission: ¥800

Special Show
Divers wearing special kimono will feed fish in the water.

Mitsui Memorial Museum

三井記念美術館

The Special Exhibition-Nihonbashi (特別展「日本橋絵巻」)

To commemorate the opening of the Mitsui Memorial Museum, the special exhibition is scheduled to be held from Jan. 7 (Sat) to Feb. 12 (Sun). The exhibition is composed of approximately 50 selected pieces of works including colored woodblock prints and ukiyoe depicting Nihonbashi Bridge in the Edo period (1603-1868). The main feature of the exhibition is "Kidaishōran": a 12m-long picture scroll, depicting 1691 people, possessed by the Berlin Oriental Museum in Germany.

The original model of ornamental cap on the Nihonbashi bridge post, called giboshi is also on display for the first time in Japan as well as the ukiyoes depicting giboshi by Hiroshige.

Nihonbashi, the center of economy and culture of Edo and the starting point of Five Highways is one of the famous places in Japan. First class painters like Hokusai, Hiroshige and Kiyonaga depicted the area around Nihonbashi. It was always crowded with merchants, craftsmen, priest and artists.



"Kidaishōran" picture scroll (command a view of Mt. Fuji from the Nihonbashi bridge), possessed by the Berlin Oriental Museum in Germany.

In this exhibition, the typical scenery of Nihonbashi with Mt. Fuji and the Edo Castle as well as the scenery of all walks of people crossing over Nihonbashi are on display: a daimyō procession and people of all ages. The pictures depicting the manners and customs of people in the Edo period all gathered under

one roof: a large scale shop of "Mitsui-echigoya", lively fish market, and hina-doll markets. We will look back on Edo, 200 years ago. This is also a rare opportunity for precious art existing in Germany to come back to Japan.

Date: Jan. 7 (Sat)-Feb. 12 (Sun)

Closed: Mondays and Jan. 29 (Sun)

Time: 10:00a.m.-5:00p.m. (Admission 30 minutes before the closing time)

Admission: ¥,000

Free tickets are available at the JICA Tokyo information desk on a first-come, first-served basis.

Hamarikyū - Garden (浜離宮恩賜庭園)

Hamarikyū Garden is a landscape garden at the mouth of the river Sumida in Chūō ward. The garden, now a municipal park, was once the site of a villa of the local feudal lord in the Edo period (1601-1868). In 1704, it became a shōgun's second residence and was called "Hama Goten (sea side palace)". In the Meiji period (1868-1912), it came into the possession of the Imperial Household and was used as a detached palace. Through the Edo and Meiji periods, it received a variety of guests from home and abroad. It has a land area of 25ha and a typical Edo period setting. Located on the waterfront, it changes the views of the ponds and the garden, being influenced by ebb and flow of the sea.

On Jan. 2 (Mon) and 3 (Tue), 2006, Hamarikyū Garden has a various kinds of events to celebrate the New Year. Falconry, lion dance and tea ceremony...you can enjoy traditional Japanese culture in a superb atmosphere. The garden is full of flowers and greenery at the backdrop of the newly built "Shio-site" buildings.



Falconry

Falconry is a hunting technique which uses falcons to hunt wild birds. It is said to have started in Central Asia, about 400 years ago. Hamarikyū was the center of Falconry during the Edo period (1603-1868). The first Tokugawa shōgun, Ieyasu, was an avid fan of falconry and is said to have often hunted at this garden. It is a rare occasion for the public to see this demonstration, so don't miss this opportunity. On the first day, you can also see the falcon flying down from the top of the Dentsū Building.

Date: Jan. 2 (Mon) & Jan. 3 (Tue)

Time: Two performances daily (10:30a.m. - , 2:00a.m. -)

Place: Uchibori Hiroba

Lion Dance (Shishi-mai)

Performance of Lion Dance by a group representing Nanto City, Toyama prefecture.

Date: Jan. 2 (Mon) Time: 12:00 noon - , 3:00p.m. -

Place: On the turf beside the Shioiri-no-ike Pond.

It will be cancelled in case of rain.



Edo Dai-Kagura (江戸大神楽)

Traditional folk entertainment from the Edo period: lion dance and various acrobatics.

Date: Jan. 3 (Tue) Time: 12:00 noon - , 3:00p.m. - Place: In front of the 300-year-old pine tree
It will be cancelled in case of rain.

Tea Ceremony

You can enjoy tea and sweets while observing the tea-ceremony.

Date: Jan. 2 (Mon) & Jan. 3 (Tue)

Time: Application for tea ceremony starts at 10:30a.m. Numbered tickets will be handed out to the first 180 applicants to join the ceremonies on each day.

Place: Hōbaitē House

Fee: ¥,000



The Exhibition and Sales of Arts and Crafts of the Edo Period

Date: Jan. 2 (Mon) & Jan. 3 (Tue)

Time: 10:00a.m.-4:00p.m.

Place: In front of the 300-year-old pine tree

Amusement Place

Date: Jan. 2 (Mon) & Jan. 3 (Tue)

Time: 10:00a.m.-4:00p.m.

Place: Open Square

You can experience traditional Japanese plays such as battledore and shuttlecock (hanetsuki) and a top (koma-mawashi) under the guidance of the staff.

Serving local sake (Japanese alcoholic drink) to the public.

Date: Jan. 2 (Mon)

Time: 10:00 a.m. -

Place: In front of the 300-year-old pine tree

How to Go

Hatagaya (幡ヶ谷)

↓ Keiō New Line (京王新線)

Shinjuku (新宿)

↓ Toei Ōedo Line (都営大江戸線)

Tsukiji-shijō (築地市場)

↓ 7 min. walk

Hamarikyū Garden (浜離宮恩賜庭園)



¥380
55min.