

# ICIEF Board

*The Monthly  
Living Guide  
for the Itabashi  
International  
Community*

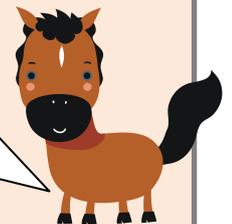


## Report on Japanese Language Classes by ICIEF Advertising Committee

Approximately 16,000 foreigners live in Itabashi. However, many cannot yet converse fluently in Japanese. For the benefit of these people, in Itabashi there are Japanese language classes run by ICIEF with volunteer teachers as well as several Japanese language classrooms run by volunteer groups.

The Advertising Committee visited three of these classrooms which particularly stand out. We introduce two of them below and the last one next month.

This month we feature a report by ICIEF Advertising Committee, a volunteer group who assist with the production of ICIEF Board, on Japanese language classes in Itabashi.



### Itabashi Nihongo Classroom

The distinctive feature of this classroom, which has been running for over 12 years, is that Japanese is taught in students' own languages. For foreigners already resident in Japan who want to reach a certain level of Japanese as soon as possible, teaching in the students' native language can be a shortcut. This is the view of the founders of the classroom, and the volunteer Japanese language teachers registered here speak a wide variety of languages including English, Italian, Spanish, Chinese, and Indonesian.



Furthermore, the teachers not only teach in the students' native languages, but they also give various help and advice in their native language to students who are not accustomed to Japan. For example, Ms. Fujiya, one of the founding teachers, has helped with child delivery three times now, accompanying pregnant women who have gone into labor to hospital etc. Ms. Fujiya and her fellow staff members hope that by receiving such sympathetic help, that foreigners living in Japan will gain a better impression of Japan. This is the "spirit of hospitality".

Moreover, in order to try and meet the various needs of students, teachers and students consult together on an individual basis to try to decide the teaching times and places as flexibly as possible. Trying to be as "flexible" as possible not just in terms of the language they use but also in responding to each student's individual circumstances seems to be the watchword of this classroom. We felt that Itabashi Nihongo Classroom was a meeting place for students who want to get to grips with Japanese language and customs as soon as possible and Japanese teachers who can teach Japanese in a foreign language. If you are a foreigner who wants to learn Japanese as quickly as possible or is looking for a Japanese teacher who can also give you help and advice in your own language, or if you are a resident of Itabashi who speaks a foreign language, is interested in volunteer activities for foreign residents, and has even a little experience of Japanese language education, then why not try contacting Itabashi Nihongo Classroom? (K.Y.)

謹賀



新年

## ICIEF (Tues/Fri Course) "Perapera Club"



ICIEF runs three beginners Japanese language classes for foreigners. This time we introduce "Perapera Club", which meets on Tuesday and Friday afternoons from 6:30pm at Green Hall.

Many of the Japanese language classrooms in Itabashi run by volunteers are split into different levels according to the demands and abilities of the students. However, the Japanese language classes run by ICIEF are all aimed at beginners with the aim of mastering the bare minimum of Japanese necessary for life in Japan.

A feature of ICIEF's Japanese language classes is its leadership system run by kindly supportive volunteer teachers who have completed ICIEF's "Training Course for Japanese Language Teachers". "Perapera Club" classes are also split into three groups within the class according to the students' Japanese levels, each using different teaching materials. Within the class, the three levels are "beginner", "intermediate" and "advanced". At beginner level, where students are getting their first taste of Japanese, the class is designed so that students first get used to seeing Japanese and then gradually become more familiar with it, using an original textbook compiled by ICIEF called "Hello, Itabashi". At the intermediate level, students boost their level of Japanese using "Minna no Nihongo I". At the advanced level, students learn extensively about Japanese grammar, vocabulary and modes of expression using "Minna no Nihongo II".

"Perapera Club" is an evening class, so the students work during the daytime and dash to class after work has finished. For that reason alone, when we visited the class we were struck by the students' palpable enthusiasm for learning. When we interviewed the teacher and advanced level students the teacher mentioned the challenge of teaching students at the beginners' level of "Hello, Itabashi". As they steadily move up to the advanced level, the teacher mentioned admiration at the students' rapid improvement in such a short amount of time and the joy as the class becomes easier to teach. From the students we heard many opinions about the difficulty of the Japanese language and in particular the confusion caused by *kanji* (Chinese characters). This confusion over *kanji* seemed to be a common concern in all the classrooms we visited. Our over-riding impression of "Perapera Club" was of a bright, friendly classroom. (K.O.)

### This month's featured classrooms

Classroom	Itabashi Nihongo Classroom	ICIEF Japanese Language Class (Tues/Fri course "Perapera Club")
Place	Kami-itabashi Gymnasium (Sakuragawa 1-3-1)	Green Hall (Sakae-cho 36-1)
Nearest station	Kami-itabashi station (Tobu Tojo line)	Oyama station (Tobu Tojo line), Itabashi kuyakusho-mae station (Toei Mita line)
Time	Mon~Sun 10:00~11:45	Tues & Fri 18:30~20:30
Level/class style	Beginner/intermediate/advanced, one-on-one/small group style	Beginner/classroom style
Cost	500 Yen per class	4,800 Yen (6 months) * An additional 2000 Yen or 2500 Yen will be charged for textbook fees
Can children enroll?	Yes	No
Can I bring my children to class?	Open to negotiation	No
Contact	Michiyo Fujiya (Tel:03-3932-9773 E-mail: milkyMichy@hotmail.com)	Currently not enrolling new students. Next application period for new students is March 2014. Details will be posted in ICIEF Board and on ICIEF homepage.

## Event

### 12<sup>th</sup> Total Environment Fair

The Total Environment Fair introduces the environment-conscious activities, products and projects of various organizations. There will also be a hands-on corner for children and a Swap-shop Bazaar where you can swap unwanted toys. We look forward to seeing you there!

**Time:** February 1 (Sat), 2 (Sun) 10:00~16:00 **Cost:** FREE

**Place:** Ecopolis Center (Itabashi-ku, Maeno-cho 4-6-1)

**Access:** 15-minute walk from Shimura-sakaue station (Toei Mita line) or Tokiwadai station (Tobu Tojo line)



Content	Display corner	Introduction to companies' environment-conscious projects and products as well as volunteer organizations' activities and school projects
	Environment workshop, hands-on corner	Recycling activities aimed at children, quiz rally, mini hands-on corner
	Swap-shop Bazaar (on the 2 <sup>nd</sup> only)	Swap your unwanted but still useable toys for points and then swap the points for more toys. ("Points" can be earned by participating in workshops and quiz rally so you can join in even if you do not bring any toys)
	Bring-and-buy Raffle (on the 2 <sup>nd</sup> only)	A raffle awarding presents of "unwanted items from home (nearly-new)" donated by exhibiting organizations etc.

**Contact:** Environmental Strategy Section, Environmental Cooperation Promotion Subsection ☎ : 03-5970-5656

## Admin

### Applications for Tokyo Public Housing

Tokyo Metropolitan Government plans to accept applications for its public housing in early February.

**Eligible households:** Families (point system), Single persons, Silver peer

※Point system is limited to applications from single-parent families, elderly people, people with physical disabilities, families with many children, families with wheelchair users etc.

Details (application period etc.) are yet to be decided, but will be announced at the end of January via *Koho Itabashi*, *Koho Tokyo*, and the Tokyo Housing Supply Corporation Recruitment Center's telephone service (03-6418-5546) and homepage (<http://www.to-kousya.or.jp/>)

**Contact:** Tokyo Housing Supply Corporation Recruitment Center ☎ : 03-3498-8894

Itabashi City Housing Policy Section, Housing Policy Development Group ☎ : 03-3579-2186

## Event

### International Salon: Friendship Club *Nakama*

The International Salon is a place for interaction between foreign people and Japanese people held once a month by volunteers. Everybody is welcome to participate, so please come along! We're looking forward to meeting you! ♪

**Time:** February 8 (Sat) 14:30~16:30

**Place:** Green Hall, Meeting Room 504 (Sakae-cho 36-1)

**Access:** 5-minute walk from Itabashi Kuyakusho-mae station (Toei Mita line) or Oyama station (Tobu Tojo line)

**Cost:** 200 Yen (includes refreshments) **Application:** None necessary. Just turn up on the day.

**Contact:** ICIEF International Exchange Section ☎ : 03-3579-2015

※Friendship Club *Nakama* has a homepage! It is full of information about the club's staff and activities. Find it by searching for 「フレンドシップクラブ 仲間」 (Friendship Club *Nakama*).

# Event

## Event Guide: Itabashi Science and Education Hall

### All-Japan Junior Inventions Exhibition

~My Idea, Our Design~

**Date:** 1/25 (Sat)~2/23 (Sun)

**Content:** A display of creative and imaginative inventions by children from around the country.

**Place:** IF Hall

**Host:** Tsukuba Expo Center

### New Year Science Festa

☆Honorary Curator Mr. Yumoto's Science Show☆

**Date:** 1/4 (Sat) 13:00~13:30

**Place:** IF Hall

**Cost:** FREE

### ☆Workshop☆

**A** Let's make and fly a hand-made helicopter!

Capacity: 30 people (5 people per time/6 times per day)

Cost: 500 Yen

**B** Let's make a mini tea-serving doll!☆

Capacity: 15 people (5 people per time/3 times per day)

Cost: 1000 Yen

A and B:

**Date:** 1/5 (Sun)~7 (Tues)

**Place:** IF Hall

**Target:** From age 5 and up★

**Tickets:** On sale at Reception from 10:45 on the day

★Elementary school pupils grade 3 and below must be accompanied by an adult

### Science Park

**C** Let's make a pocket warmer!

Capacity: 30 people (5 people per time/6 times per day)

Cost: 400 Yen

**D** Meteor Hunter

Capacity: 30 people (5 people per time/6 times per day)

Cost: 500 Yen

C and D:

**Date:** 1/11 (Sat)~13 (Mon)

**Place:** IF Hall

**Target:** From age 5 and up★

**Tickets:** On sale at Reception from 10:45 on the day



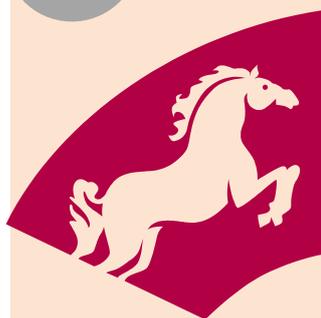
See the museum's homepage for details: <http://www.itbs-sem.jp>

**Contact:** Itabashi Science & Education Hall

Itabashi Tokiwadai 4-14-1 ☎ 174-0071 ☎ 03-3559-6561 E-mail: [itakk@itbs-sem.jp](mailto:itakk@itbs-sem.jp)

# Event

## Itabashi Historical Museum



### 1. Special Exhibition "Itabashi & Horses"

This year is the Year of the Horse according to the Chinese zodiac calendar. The exhibition will introduce the history of horses, which have been used for many purposes from ancient times, and horses which lived in Itabashi.

**Exhibition Period:** January 25 (Sat)~March 23 (Sun)

**Place:** Itabashi Historical Museum, 1F, 2F Exhibition Halls

### 2. Old Folk House Annual Event "Mayudama-kazari"

"Mayudama-kazari" is a traditional decoration used to pray for an abundant harvest made by threading pink and white cocoon-shaped *dango* (rice flour dumplings) on tree branches.

**Exhibition Period:** January 11 (Sat)~19 (Sun)

**Place:** Itabashi Historical Museum, Old Folk House

※Both 1 and 2 are FREE of charge to enter.

※Opening hours: 9:30~17:00 (Last entry 16:30) ※Closed on Mondays (Open on Mon nat. hol. closed following Tues)

**Contact:** Itabashi Historical Museum Akatsuka 5-9-16 ☎ 03-5998-0081 Homepage: <http://www.k5.dion.ne.jp/~kyoudo/>

