

ICIEF Board

The Monthly
Living Guide
for the Itabashi
International
Community

ICIEF

14th Annual Japanese Speech Festival

Foreign people studying Japanese will give speeches in Japanese about their experiences of daily life in Japan, surprises related to cultural differences and so on. This year 27 participants will appear.

Use this opportunity to come and hear what foreign people living in Japan think and feel.

Time: March 2 (Sun) 13:00~16:30

※ There will be a social mixer after the speeches where you can chat to the participants.

Place: 2F Hall, Green Hall (Sakae-cho 36-1)

Content: Speeches in Japanese by foreign residents (4-5 minutes per person)

Admission: FREE Just turn up on the day!

※ Childcare available for children aged from 43 days to 3 years. If you require childcare, please apply to contact address below by telephone by February 21 (Fri).

Contact: Itabashi Culture & International Exchange Foundation, International Exchange Section ☎ : 03-3579-2015



ICIEF

Report on Japanese Language Classes by ICIEF Advertising Committee

★ Following on from the January edition, we are pleased to present a report on Japanese language classes by the ICIEF Advertising Committee, a volunteer group who assist with the production of ICIEF Board.

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. In last month's issue we introduced two of these classrooms, and so in this month's issue we introduce the remaining classroom, "Koko Club".

In the second installment of our introduction to Japanese language classes in Itabashi we feature "Koko Club", which meets at Itabashi General Volunteer Center near *Itabashi Honcho* station, subway Mita line.

When we visited "Koko Club", the class was being held with 1 teacher and 12 students. What stood out compared to the other classrooms we visited was the teacher Ms. Yuko Suzuki's policy aimed at the acquisition of "living Japanese" rather than just the stereotypical "~desu/~masu" form. With this in mind, in the first half of the lesson she uses a wide range of texts written in the plain style as teaching materials, such as newspaper articles, before using a ready-made text in the latter half of the lesson.

"Koko Club"



On this occasion too, she used revision and simple newspaper articles relevant to everyday life in the first half of the lesson. By reading and explaining them, she imparted a wide range of knowledge to the students. Equally, she took a refreshing approach, leading the class in an energetic style with a lively exchange of words and questions from both teacher and students, and as a result the whole classroom was filled with enthusiasm and excitement.

On the day we visited it was the intermediate class, but we felt that the teacher's intention not to rely on the textbook style of "～desu/～masu" was a brilliant success in terms of its impact on the students' ability to "read," "listen" and "speak".

"Koko Club"

Furthermore, although the class we visited was focused on conversation, we got the impression that the students also possessed reasonable writing ability.

Place	Itabashi General Volunteer Center (Hon-cho 24-1)
Nearest station	7 min walk from <i>Itabashi Honcho</i> station, Toei Mita Line
Time	Tues ~ Fri 10:00 ~ 12:00, 13:00 ~ 15:00
Level/class style	Beginner/Intermediate/Advanced, classroom style
Cost	Photocopying charges only
Can children enroll?	No
Can I bring my children to class?	No
Contact	Kayoko Kimura (Tel 03-3936-4839)

The reason this style of teaching is possible is due to the teacher's in-depth knowledge of the Japanese language and leadership ability, in conjunction with the students' Japanese ability.

On interviewing the students after the class what struck us as completely different compared to the other classrooms was that their top concern was not the language problem but rather the unemployment problem. "We really want to work

but there just aren't any good job openings. We need jobs." They said unanimously. (K.O)

Event

ODF '14 (International Conference on Optics-photonics Design and Fabrication)

ODF is an international forum that aims to promote further development by enabling engineers, technical experts and researchers of optics-photonics design and fabrication to share their opinions and research results with each other.

Itabashi is one of the leading industrial centers in Tokyo, with manufacturing plants that have been producing optical instruments centering on munitions from before the war.

Since the war, the manufacture of optic and precision instruments such as binoculars and cameras has been an important industry supporting Itabashi and to this day there are many companies creating products using optics technology located in Itabashi. Itabashi is hosting ODF 14'ITABASHI TOKYO with the aim of further establishing Itabashi's brand image as an industrial city and disseminating its optics and precision instruments industry to the world.

● To coincide with the forum, the following events are being held for City residents:

(1) 3D film screening		(2) Stargazing party	
Place	Culture Hall, Small Hall (Oyama Higashi-cho 51-1)	Place	Itabashi 1 st Middle School, school ground (Oyama Higashi-cho, 50-1)
Date	February 13 (Thu) from 13:15※	Date	February 13 (Thu) after sunset
Target	Open to all	Target	Open to all
Capacity	100 people per showing	Fee	FREE
Fee	FREE	Other	Cancelled if stargazing is not possible, for example in case of rain
Film title	"Furusato: World Heritage sights seen from space"		

※Film length: 38 minutes. Film will be screened a total of 6 times at hourly intervals.

★Both (1) and (2) no application required. Just turn up on the day!

Contact: Industry Promotion Section, Commerce Promotion Group ☎ : 03-3579-2171



In Japan, mid-February to March 15 each year is tax season.

Your taxes support everything from welfare to education and disaster prevention. Even if you had no earned income, your tax declaration is used as a basis for calculating health insurance premiums and tax exemption certificates, so it is important to submit a tax return.

★Who needs to file a tax return?

Everybody who had a registered address in Itabashi as of January 1 this year, unless one of the following applies to you:

- You usually submit an income tax return
- Your only income during the previous year was from employment income (i.e. salary), and resident tax is deducted automatically from your salary each month by your employer

★If you had no income

Fill in the column for those who had no income (on the back of the form) and return it.



★What you need to submit a tax return

Tax return form, personal seal, passport, breakdown of income and expenses, certificate of tax withheld or payslips (for salary earners), certificates for life insurance payments, personal pension contributions, earthquake insurance, receipts for medical expenses (for those who received medical expenses exemptions during fiscal year 2013), payment certificates or receipts for National Health Insurance, National Pension and other social insurance contributions.

★Where to submit your tax return

Special Tax Return Reception Area, Itabashi City Hall 2F, in front of Taxation Section

※ No reception on weekends

Period: February 17 (Mon) to March 17 (Mon)

Time: 8:30~17:00

★Submitting your tax return by mail

Fill in the relevant sections, enclose the necessary materials for assessment and send using the return envelope provided.



Contact: Taxation Section ☎ : 03-3579-2101

International Salon: Friendship Club Nakama

Come along and spend a fun time with us!

The International Salon is a place for interaction between foreign people and Japanese people held once a month by volunteers. Please come along and participate!

Date: March 8 (Sat) 14:30~16:30

Place: Meeting Room 601, Green Hall (Sakae-cho 36-1)

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

Fee: 200 Yen (includes refreshments)

To apply: 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*).

Citywide Emergency Disaster Drill

On Sunday March 9, emergency disaster drills will be held at 17 locations around Itabashi City. This is disaster response training, simulating a large-scale earthquake in Tokyo with a seismic intensity of 6-upper, where some homes in Itabashi also collapse and fires break out.

Daily preparations are vital practice to prepare for an emergency. Actively taking part in the Citywide Emergency Disaster Drill will help you to be prepared for a sudden emergency, act calmly and rationally, and keep damage to a minimum.

The day of the drill may be cold, so please wrap up warm and don't overdo it!

Date: March 9 (Sun)

Area	Place	Area	Place
Itabashi	Higashi Itabashi Park Little League Baseball Ground (Itabashi 3-50-1)	Funado	Funado Elementary School (Funado 3-6-15)
Nakajuku	Kaga Middle School (Kaga 2-19-1)	Maeno	Maeno Park (Maeno-cho 5-1)
Naka-cho	Yayoi Elementary School (Yayoi-cho 19-1)	Sakuragawa	Sakuragawa Elementary School (Toshin-cho 2-29-1)
Fujimi	Itabashi Friend Center (Fujimi-cho 3-1)	Shimo-akatsuka	Shimo-akatsuka Elementary School (Akatsuka 6-14-1)
Oyaguchi	Oyaguchi Elementary School (Oyaguchi Kita-cho 21-1)	Narimasu	Akatsuka 2 nd Middle School (Narimasu 3-18-1)
Tokiwadai	Heiwa-kouen (Peace Park Tokiwadai 4-3)		Narimasugaoka Elementary School (Narimasu 3-17-7)
Shimizu	Shimura 1 st Elementary School (Izumi-cho 17-1)	Tokumaru	Akatsuka 1 st Middle School (Tokumaru 4-13-1)
Shimura Sakaue	Azusawa Park Baseball Ground (Azusawa 3-8)		Kobai Elementary School (Tokumaru 8-10-1)
Nakadai	Wakagi Elementary School (Wakagi 1-14-1)		Kitano Elementary School (Tokumaru 3-23-1)
	Shimura 5 th Elementary School (Nishidai 3-38-23)		Tokumaru Elementary School (Tokumaru 1-21-1)
Hasune	Shimura 6 th Elementary School (Sakashita 2-18-1)	Takashimadaira	Tokumarugahara Park Baseball Ground (Takashimadaira 8-24)

※Disaster drill times differ according to each area. Please check the Itabashi City homepage for more details.

Main contents of disaster drill:

- Evacuating if your house or local area has become uninhabitable or dangerous
- Setting up an Evacuation Center to receive evacuees
- First-line fire fighting to prevent spread of fire damage
- Rescuing people trapped under collapsed buildings
- Emergency first aid for injured people
- Other training as appropriate for each area



Contact: Disaster Prevention Support Group, Disaster Prevention Measures Section ☎ : 03-3579-2152

★ Consultation Support Center for Foreign Residents TEL:03-3202-5535 / 03-5155-4039

【Time】 Mon~Fri 9:00~16:00 ※No service every 2nd and 4th Wed 【Language】 English, Chinese, Spanish, Portuguese