

What's New in Yokosuka

<http://www.city.yokosuka.kanagawa.jp/0140/english/welcome/documents/cultureinfo.pdf>

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The International Youth Forum



This summer, we have students from Yokosuka's sister cities—Corpus Christi, U.S.A.; Brest, France; and Medway, U.K.—to visit Yokosuka! High school students in Yokosuka and from overseas will be making a presentation on fair trade. After presentations, there will be an exchange party and you'll get the chance to speak with all the presenters! A great international exchange opportunity you won't wanna miss!

When: July 20th (Fri.) 14:00 – 16:00

Where: Werk Yokosuka 6th flr. Hall (ヴェルクよこすか6階ホール)

Fee: Free

[Yokosuka International Association 046-827-2166]



• What exactly is fair trade?

Perhaps some of us have heard about “fair trade” but not sure what it is exactly. Fair trade not only promotes sustainability for lives of producers, farmers, and children in developing countries but also provides benefits to us by buying items that are more sustainable.



Fair trade goods include coffee, chocolate, tea, and handicrafts. These items are labeled “fair trade” and can be found in Yokosuka.

To learn more, come to the International Youth Forum!

Anyone is welcome!



Fair trade coffee booth at one of Yokosuka's International Ceremonies; the booth reads Fair Trade Nepal Coffee

UPCOMING SUMMER EVENTS

Yokosuka Umikaze Carnival 2012 (横須賀うみかぜカーニバル2012)



※ For everyone's safety, there will be a short explanation of safety instructions before riding. For those who do not understand Japanese, please come with someone who can interpret the information for you.

When: July 21st (Sat.) – July 22nd (Sun.) 10:00 – 15:00

(Signing-up for the ride will begin at 9:30)

Where: Umikaze Park (うみかぜ公園)

Fee: Free

[Port Planning Division 046-822-9802]

What better way to spend a hot summer day than going out to sea! At Umikaze Carnival you can enjoy some exciting marine sports that even kids can enjoy! The event includes free ride on a motorboat, wet bike, banana boat, or Super Kids Boat (inflatable motor boats).

There will also be a Jet Sports Freestyle Contest that can be observed on both days. This will be a perfect opportunity to experience some marine sports and feel the sea breeze along the coast of Yokosuka.



Image above is the Jet Sports Freestyle Contest; it is not part of the free rides

Yokosuka Kaikoku Festival 2012 & Kaikoku Fireworks

(2012よこすか開国祭・開国花火大会)

An annual event celebrating Yokosuka's history is not only a one day event! The Kaikoku Festival will be running for one full week featuring performances, dance contests, food stands, and stores selling local products! Below are the details for the week of the festival.

Kaikoku Dance Dreams: A dance team competition from Yokosuka and neighboring cities representing their high-spirited energy through dance!

Kaikoku Wai Wai Hiroba: Stage shows and food and drink booths in Shiyakusho-mae Park! (front of City Hall)

Kaikoku Fireworks: This day will become the finale of the 2012 Yokosuka Kaikoku Festival! Fireworks that can only be seen in Yokosuka!

When: Dance Dreams // July 29th (Sun.) 14:00 – 19:00

Wai Wai Hiroba // July 30th (Mon.) – August 3rd (Fri.) 17:00 – 20:00

Fireworks // August 4th (Sat.) 19:15 – 19:45 (will be held on the 5th in the case of foul weather)

Where: Shiyakusho-mae Park (市役所前公園) for Kaikoku Dance Dreams and Kaikoku Wai Wai Hiroba; Umikaze Park (うみかぜ公園) and Mikasa Park (三笠公園) area for Fireworks

[SUKA navi i (Yokosuka Sightseeing Information 046-822-8301)]



Saving Electricity



This summer is another year of saving electricity. Turn off lights you don't need; minimize use of air conditioning; unplug appliances you are not using, especially the TV; and turn your refrigerator to a lower setting and keep it cleaned out. Your small action makes a difference!

Uraga Port Festival (第60回浦賀みなと祭)



This year marks the 60th annual festival at the historic port town of Uraga! There will be traditional Japanese dances and music with many carnival booths traditional in Japanese culture. Fireworks are to begin from 19:30 until 20:00. Bring along your family and friends on this fascinating day!

When: August 18th (Sat.) 10:00 – 20:00

Where: Uraga Port area (浦賀港周辺)

Fee: Free

[Uraga Sightseeing Association 046-841-4155; or for on-the-day confirmation call the Yokosuka Call Center 046-822-2500]

Nishi District Summer Fireworks (西地区納涼花火大会)

This is an exciting fireworks event that'll be held at JSDF Camp Takeyama Playing Field. The glorious fireworks will light up the night sky. This area will be filled with food stands and people dancing the traditional "Bon Odori" dance. You can find a summary of "Bon Odori" on the last page of this newsletter.

When: August 25th (Sat.) 19:30 – 20:00 (will be held the following day in the event of foul weather)

Where: JSDF Camp Takeyama Playing Field (自衛隊武山駐屯地グラウンド)

Fee: Free

[Nishi Administration Center 046-856-3157]



Local Production for Local Consumption (*Chisan Chisho*)

"Sukanagosso" Farmers Market (すかなごっそ)



The only direct-selling farmer's market in Yokosuka! JA Hayama brings in local fruits and vegetables harvested by local farmers every single day! Some seasonal fruits and vegetables after July include cucumbers, eggplants, tomatoes, pumpkins, watermelons, melons, soybeans, mulukhiyah, bell peppers, and bitter squash.

If you're hungry for dessert on your way out, try their special ice-cream that uses ingredients from local dairy farmers. There's also strawberry flavored shaved ice which uses local homemade strawberries. We look forward to your visit!

Address: 1-15-15 Nagai, Yokosuka

Opening Hours: 9:30 – 18:00

Closed: Wednesday (Opened in this case of holiday); December 31st – January 5th

Parking Available

Japanese Survival Tips

Have you ever heard of a Japanese custom called *Obon* (お盆)? Every July or August, during *Obon*, families and relatives gather to welcome the spirits of their ancestors coming back to their home. *Obon* celebration varies but on the first day, people lit lanterns to welcome the spirits (*mukae-bi*) and are lit once again on the last day (*okuri-bi*) to see them off. *Obon* is not considered a national holiday, but many stores and restaurants will be closed around this time of year which people call "*Obon yasumi*" (お盆休み), *yasumi* means break; holiday.

During *Obon*, there is also *Bon Odori* (盆踊り) which is a traditional Japanese dance and are frequently seen at summer festivals. However, this dance is not limited to certain music with a certain dance but varies among regions having their own style. A typical *Bon Odori* involves people lining up in circles around a *yagura* (tower where musicians perform) and dancing in circles. At these summer festivals, many wear a *yukata* (浴衣), a summer *kimono* made of cotton. These are much easier (and light!) to wear than the many-layered *kimono*.

A few of us may already be familiar but when wearing a *kimono* or a *yukata*, remember that the left side goes over the right. You only put the right side over the left when dressing a body at a funeral. A cultural encounter I experienced when I tried my first *yukata*!

Miho Tanaka, a native of Georgia, U.S.A., is Yokosuka City's Coordinator for International Relations. "Japanese Survival Tips" in every issue of What's New in Yokosuka features fun information useful for everyday life and cultural encounters in Japan.



Event Calendar

JULY				SEPTEMBER	
15	• Oppama Festival (11:00 – 18:00, Oppama Ginza Street)	29	• Kaikoku Dance Dreams	15	• Cosmos Festival (until 10/28, Kurihama Hana-no-Kuni Flower World)
16	• Mikasa Park Summer Festival (17:00 – 20:00, Mikasa Park)	30	• Kaikoku Wai Wai Hiroba (until 8/3)	23	• Kitashitaura Summer Hometown Festival (11:00 – 17:00, Prefectural Miura Shiratori-en)
	• Animal Protection Center Open Day (10:00 – 15:00)	AUGUST			
20	• International Youth Forum	4	• Kaikoku Fireworks		
21	• Yokosuka Umikaze Carnival 2012	18	• Hamayu Hall ☆ Open Day (10:00 – 16:00, Hamayu Hall)		
23	• Exhibition of awarded photographs in "Taura Sightseeing Photo Contest" (until the 27 th , 1 st flr. exhibition corner of city hall)	25	• Nishi District Summer Fireworks		* <i>What's New in Yokosuka comes out again on September 10th!</i>
					* <i>The schedule posted may be subject to change.</i>

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