

What's New in Yokosuka

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

Inquiries in English: Yokosuka City, International Relations Division 046(822)8138

* The schedule posted may be subject to change.

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The International Youth Forum



This summer, students from four of Yokosuka's sister cities will be visiting our city!

At this International Youth Forum, high school students in Yokosuka and from the sister cities will be giving exciting presentations about their hometowns, including information on the cities' fair trade activities.

Afterwards, there will be a chance to speak with all the presenters!

A great international exchange opportunity you won't want to miss!

When: July 19th (Fri.) 15:00 – 17:00

Where: Sogo Fukushi Kaikan Hall 5th flr. (総合福祉会館5階ホール)

Fee: Free [Yokosuka International Association 046-827-2166]

• **What is fair trade?**

Fair trade aims to help producers in developing countries live a sustainable life by selling and buying items at a fair price.

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 EVENTS

Yokosuka Umikaze Carnival 2013 (うみかぜカーニバル2013)



What better way to spend a hot summer day than going out to the sea! At Umikaze Carnival 2013, you can experience exciting marine sports that even kids can enjoy! The event includes free rides on a motorboat, wet bike, banana boat, or Super Kids Boat (inflatable motor boats). There will also be a Jet Sports Freestyle Contest and beach volleyball events. This will be a perfect opportunity to experience some marine sports and feel the sea breeze along the coast of Yokosuka.



Jet Sports Freestyle Contest
(Not part of the free rides)

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

When: July 20th (Sat.) – July 21st (Sun.) 10:00 – 15:00

(Ride sign-up will begin at 9:30)

Where: Umikaze Park (うみかぜ公園)

Fee: Free [Port Planning Division 046-822-9802]



Dobuita Bazaar (どぶ板バザール)

A flea market with over 100 stalls, a food court set up, and stores selling fresh vegetables!

When: July 27th (Sat.) 10:00 – 20:00 and July 28th (Sun.) 10:00 – 17:00

Where: Dobuita Street area (どぶ板通り周辺)

[Honcho Merchants Association 046-824-4917]

Yokosuka Kaikoku Festival 2013 & Kaikoku Fireworks (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 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: The finale of the Yokosuka Kaikoku Festival 2013! Fireworks that can only be seen in Yokosuka!

When: Dance Dreams // July 28th (Sun.) 14:00 – 19:00

Wai Wai Hiroba // July 29th (Mon.) – August 2nd (Fri.) 17:00 – 20:00

Kaikoku Fireworks // August 3rd (Sat.) 19:15 – 19:45 (will be held on the 4th 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)]



Uraga Port Festival (第61回浦賀みなと祭)

There will be traditional Japanese dances and music with many carnival booths traditional in Japanese culture. Fireworks are to begin at 19:30. Bring along your family and friends on this fascinating day!

When: August 17th (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 contact 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 Japan Self Defense Force Camp Takeyama. Many people gather here as it is a facility usually not open to the public. Come and enjoy the various food stands and glorious fireworks that will light up the night sky.

When: August 24th (Sat.) 16:30 – 21:00 (will be held the following day in the event of foul weather)

Where: JGSDF Camp Takeyama (陸上自衛隊武山駐屯地)

Fee: Free [Nishi Administration Center 046-856-3157]

Eco-friendly ways to stay cool this summer



Summer in Japan is very hot and humid, and there are many Japanese customs for warding off *natsubate*, or feeling dull and lethargic from the heat rather than blasting the air conditioner. Here are a few eco-friendly ways of how Japanese people stay cool in the summer.

- Japan has customs in order to feel cooler psychologically. One is hanging up little chimes called *furin* (image to the left), so people can hear the nice chime and thus, feel cooler.

- Green curtains! A “green curtain” creates natural shade made by allowing vine-type plants (such as bitter melons or morning glory) to grow outside houses and balconies. In this way, the plants prevent the room's temperature from rising.

- Have you ever seen people sprinkle water around their houses or shops? This is called *uchimizu*, a traditional custom that creates a cooler atmosphere by wetting the hot pavement.

Enjoy the summer beach at Sarushima Island!



Sarushima Island is the only natural island in Tokyo Bay containing many historical legacies of the early-modern age, including ruins of various buildings and batteries. It's also a fun and exciting place for fishing, swimming, and barbecuing!



Sarushima Beach Info:

Open: July 13th (Sat.) – August 31st (Sat.) from 9:00 – 16:00

Fees to use the changing and shower room: 4 years old – Elementary school students // 300 yen

Middle school students and older // 600 yen

Round-trip Ferry Ticket: Elementary school students // 600 yen

Middle school students and older // 1200 yen

Japanese Survival Tips

They're more than just mascots

As some of you may have noticed, “cuteness” is invaluable in Japan. You can never be too old to dress like a Lolita doll or have plush dolls hanging from your bag. The term “kawaii” (cute) may even rank number one as the most commonly used compliments. The world famous Hello Kitty is one classic phenomenon. When you visit souvenir shops in various prefectures, you'll find several Hello Kitty products that can only be bought from that particular region.

Today, there is an even bigger trend called “yuru-kyara” (ゆるキャラ). “Yuru” is shortened for “yurui” which means loose, and “kyara” is shortened for “character.” In English, these would be called “loose characters.” Yuru-kyara are cute mascots created by local governmental organizations for the purpose of attending local events and attracting tourists in order to revitalize their town. For example, local souvenir shops sell yuru-kyara items such as folders, towels, t-shirts, snacks, key chains, cell phone charms, etc. These mascots are not only limited to governmental offices but also food corporations, waterworks departments, television companies, and more. Many areas create “yuru-kyara” as an economic boost and have reached a point where they can hold competitions to determine the most popular mascot. Some are so popular that they have their own Twitter and Facebook page!

Personally, I find it interesting how they play a big role in their town. In the U.S., mascots are generally icons of schools, sports games and theme parks, but these mascots don't compare to that of Japanese mascots. The fact that the mascots created by the Japanese local governments gain so much fame reflects the overall national culture of cuteness. As Hello Kitty reigns as Queen of mascots as the eternal icon of cuteness, it might even seem natural that the Japanese society would favor more adorable characters. If you're a frequent traveler, then perhaps yuru-kyara would be something to look out for on your next trip within Japan or even look for Yokosuka's mascot, Sukarin!

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.

横須賀が好き!



YOKOSUKA CITY SINCE 1907

SUKARIN

Event Calendar

JULY		AUGUST		SEPTEMBER	
15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aicle Fair (10:00 – 15:00, Aicle) • Animal Protection Center Open Day (10:00 – 15:00) 	28	• Kaikoku Dance Dreams	14	• Cosmos Garden Opening (Kurihama Hana-no-Kuni Flower World)
19	• International Youth Forum	29	• Kaikoku Wai Wai Hiroba (-8/2)		
20	• Umikaze Carnival 2013 (-21 st)	3	• Kaikoku Fireworks		
22	• Exhibition of awarded photographs in “Taura Sightseeing Photo Contest” (until 7/26, 1 st flr. exhibition corner of city hall)	17	• Uraga Port Festivals		* <i>What's New in Yokosuka comes out again on September 10th!</i>
		24	• Nishi District Summer Fireworks		* <i>The schedule posted may be subject to change.</i>

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