

# The Citizens' Omotenashi (Hospitality) Newsletter

The 14<sup>th</sup> Edition  
(Autumn 2020)

by Carl Taffe

## Deck the Stalls with Lots of Goodies... at the X-mas Market!



What's your favorite time of the year and what memories of 2019 have you been clutching on to carry you through the incredible year that 2020 has been? The 2019 Christmas Market in Toyota was the first of its kind in the city and it, no doubt, created some wonderful memories and opportunities for many of us here. TIA is happy to announce that the event will be held this year as well!

For those who weren't aware of the event last year, and for those who wish to relive the awesomeness that was, you are able to be part of the history of this city. You can expect around 60 shops to be erected in a beautifully decorated venue, this year, which will boast a towering wooden Christmas tree, the likes of which you won't see anywhere else, to help us cop some more pleasant moments for 2020.

There will be lots of enticing goodies on sale at the shops and you won't want to miss the attractions and hands-on-experiences available at the art and craft booths, nor the workshops providing you a chance to create Christmas cards and decorative Christmas ornaments at the TIA booth. There will also be an opportunity for patrons to take part in an "international games" segment, so be sure to mark your calendars and bring the entire family along for the excitement.

Come and create some beautiful memories this year's end at the Christmas Market in Toyota event. Looking forward to seeing you there!

**When:** Saturday, December 5, 2020. **Time:** 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. **Where:** Toyota Ecoful Town (471-0024, 3-11 Motoshiro-cho). **Access:** A 10 to 15-minute walk from the Toyota-shi Station. **Attendance:** Entry is free of charge and participation in the events will not incur any charges (please note, however, that there will be lots of items and food on sale at the event). **Target:** Anyone can attend.

\*Body temperature checks will be conducted automatically upon entering the gate. Guests will not be allowed in unless they are wearing a mask and we ask that you observe such protocols like maintaining physical distancing, disinfecting your hands, and properly covering your mouth and nose when sneezing or coughing. Also, if you are sick on the day of the event, please refrain from participating.

\*TIA observes October 1<sup>st</sup> as 'International Day' in Toyota City annually.  
Contact TIA to discover more about this year's International Day.

## Book a Guided Tour to the Future at Toyota Ecoful Town!



Toyota Ecoful Town, in the heart of downtown Toyota, offers a hands-on experience into the future where technologies of tomorrow are on display at the fingertips of the citizens. All year round, the venue showcases locally developed inventions, which have been designed to ensure a sustainable existence leaving a low-carbon footprint on the environment. The venue is also known to have attracted thousands of visitors from over 70 countries worldwide.

Take advantage of this inspiring opportunity by reserving a tour in English, including a test drive of a mobility vehicle, free of charge, and learn more about this impressive gem right here in our own neck of the woods.

**When:** Tuesdays to Sundays (closed on Mondays (except national holidays) and between Dec. 28 and Jan. 4). **Time:** 9:00 am to 5:00 pm.

**Where:** Toyota Ecoful Town (471-0024, 3-11 Motoshiro-cho). **Access:** A 10 to 15-minute walk from Toyota-shi Station. **Contact:** Call Ecoful Town at: 0565-77-5669 (you can visit their website, for information available in multiple languages, at: [https://toyota-ecofultown.com/en/guide\\_tour/](https://toyota-ecofultown.com/en/guide_tour/) (for the English site)). **Cost:** Free.

\*The tour takes approximately 1 hour to be completed.

For more fun activities and experiences to embrace the hospitality of the citizens of Toyota City by visiting: [https://tia.toyota.aichi.jp/fun\\_programs](https://tia.toyota.aichi.jp/fun_programs)

Fun Programs & Events for You to Explore!

TIA: [Tel: 0565-33-5931 Fax: 0565-33-5950 Email: [tia@hm.aitai.ne.jp](mailto:tia@hm.aitai.ne.jp)]

Website URL: <http://www.tia.toyota.aichi.jp>



## Important Municipal Notification for All Bicycle Users in Toyota City, as of April 1, 2020

This information is a bit dated, however, there's a relatively new law of which bicycle users in Toyota City must be aware. Effective **April 1, 2020**, it has become mandatory for cyclists to wear a helmet, and to enroll in a bicycle insurance (Personal Injury Insurance). Also, as of **October 1, 2020**, the law of enrollment in a bicycle insurance plan took effect as a means of traffic safety. Everyone appreciates the convenience of having bicycles to get us around whether for running errands, sporting, or as a means of transportation to and from work. This very convenience gives rise to an increase in road accidents, which has probably made it necessary to regulate the use of bicycles. You are also being urged to familiarize yourself with the traffic rules for bicycles, which include refraining from riding on sidewalks, riding on the left-hand-side of the roadway, giving priority to pedestrians and keeping to the side of the road, the need to use lights at night, as well as observing the traffic lights, road signs and symbols.

It is imperative that we adhere to these mandates. You can find a PDF of the rules on Toyota City's homepage, using the following URL: [https://www.city.toyota.aichi.jp/\\_res/projects/default\\_project/\\_page\\_/001/037/344/e.pdf](https://www.city.toyota.aichi.jp/_res/projects/default_project/_page_/001/037/344/e.pdf). You can also scan the QR code on the right using a code reader application, or your phone camera, to gain access to an elaborate and easily understandable YouTube video, which offers scenarios depicting the right and wrong ways to ride your bicycle along the city's roadways.



Please check out these available tools to educate ourselves so we do not to end up on the wrong side of the law or injured.

\* \* \* \* \*

## Regarding the Use of TIA, & Important Information in Relation to the COVID-19 (Coronavirus) Pandemic

- It is mandatory for everyone using the facilities of TIA to wear a mask and disinfect their hands when entering and leaving the premises.
- Those who turn up without a mask will be required to make one using a basic kit provided at the entrance of the building, if they want to enter the premises.
- You are required to have a handkerchief on your person, and please use it to cover your mouth and nose when you cough or sneeze.
- The capacity of the meeting rooms and gathering spaces has been reduced to 1/2 the regular number, with individual seating to be placed about 1 meter apart.
- Avoid direct or indirect contact, and sharing items with other users outside of your family is not recommended.
- To avoid crowding, parents or acquaintances who come to pick up or drop someone off are being asked to wait outside in the car, or at a different location.
- If you are sick and have a fever of over 37.5 degrees Celsius, please refrain from participating in the programs being held at TIA until you're fully recovered.

\* \* \* \* \*

### In relation to concerns you may have about COVID-19, kindly keep the following telephone numbers and contact information handy:

- For consultations regarding the coronavirus, visit: <https://www.city.toyota.aichi.jp/kurashi/kenkou/eisei/1037648.html>
- Regarding those with symptoms like a fever, etc., call: **0565-34-6586** (on weekdays, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm), or **0565-31-1212** (on weekends)
- For those who have difficulty paying the rent for their municipal housing, visit: <https://www.city.toyota.aichi.jp/kurashi/kenkou/eisei/1037739.html>
- Regarding the extension for renewal of visas: [www.tia.toyota.aichi.jp/en/report/the-deadline-for-renewing-visas-has-been-extended/](http://www.tia.toyota.aichi.jp/en/report/the-deadline-for-renewing-visas-has-been-extended/)
- For foreigners working in companies, who are facing employment issues, contact Hello Work, at: **0565-31-1400**
- Regarding information on the proper disposal of trash, visit: [www.tia.toyota.aichi.jp/en/report/lets-be-careful-of-how-we-dispose-of-our-trash/](http://www.tia.toyota.aichi.jp/en/report/lets-be-careful-of-how-we-dispose-of-our-trash/)

**WINTER BREAK ANNOUNCEMENT:** For your information, TIA will be closed for the winter break from December 26 to January 4, 2021



Contact Information for TIA:  
 Toyota International Association  
 Toyota City, Kozaka Honmachi 1-25  
 Toyota Industry & Culture Center (3rd Floor)  
 471-0034  
 TEL: 0565-33-5931  
 FAX: 0565-33-5950  
 Email: [tia@hm.aitai.ne.jp](mailto:tia@hm.aitai.ne.jp)  
<http://www.tia.toyota.aichi.jp>  
 • Parking at TIA is free for up to 3 hours