

The Citizens' Omotenashi (Hospitality) Newsletter

The 13th Edition
Summer Edition

Scan code
to experience
Toyota City's
warm hospitality!



by Carl Taffe

Meet TIA's New Japanese System Coordinator, Ms. Tokunaga!



The Japanese Language Learning Support System for Toyota City has a new program coordinator. We delightedly take this opportunity to get our foreign community acquainted with her. Effective April 1, 2020, Ms. Miho Tokunaga, has assumed leadership of the program, which she had been with for some time as a volunteer up until March of this year, when the program was being run by Nagoya University.

As of April 1, 2020, the beginning of this fiscal year, TIA has taken over the reins, and Ms Tokunaga is now on board as a member of the TIA staff. She hails from Nagoya City and is passionately sharing her knowledge and experience with the foreign residents of Toyota City through the program. She is working full-time, in her own words, "to contribute to the building of a platform where Japanese and foreigners living or working in Toyota City can find a common fundamental ground for understanding to take root through Japanese language communication." She stresses that the objective of the program is to provide foreign nationals with the basic opportunity to acquire the Japanese Language, as well as to equip the volunteers with the know how to effectively communicate with their foreign friends and neighbors using Japanese as a tool.

It all started when Toyota City recognized a vast communication gap existing between the citizens and the incoming residents from overseas and, in an endeavor to bridge it, employed the expertise of Nagoya University. The city started the pendulum's swing in 2007 and the program has since undergone a number of improvements; nonetheless, the acquisition of the Japanese language by foreign residents, in order to create an ease in their collective living experience in Japan remains the unanimous focus.

Having benefited from the program myself, after my arrival in Japan, I strongly recommend it to anyone seeking to start their journey into learning and embracing the culture. TIA also provides information on some of the other Japanese language programs throughout the city in a handbook that newcomers to these surroundings might find quite convenient. The guidebook is printed in multiple languages, including Japanese, Portuguese, Chinese, Indonesian, Mongolian, Nepali, Korean, Thai and Vietnamese, and is easy to use. Users can choose based on the contents each institution offers, the schedule, and the geographical location. If you wish, you can swing by the office at TIA to get a copy for yourself. The following URL offers access to the online version: <https://www.tia.toyota.aichi.jp/en/Japanese/information-on-the-language-classes-in-toyota-city/>

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

*TIA observes October 1st as 'International Day' in Toyota City annually.

Tour Toyota City's Natural Asset, the Yanami Wetland!



Nature lovers, for a limited time only, Toyota City opens up the Yanami Wetland for public observation. Each year, for a period of about one week, we are given the rare opportunity to visit this wetland, whose designation comes from the Ramsar Convention. We are delighted to announce that we will again be offering a tour to foreign residents and visitors to Toyota City. TIA, in collaboration with Toyota City, in the effort to boost hospitality in the city towards our foreign residents and guests, has repeatedly chosen this spot, in west-rural Toyota City, to be introduced as one of the city's many natural assets. The wetland is home to plants and wildlife that are indigenous only to this geographical region, where some 300 types of plants and about 500 types of wildlife can be observed in their natural habitat.

Board a hydrogen fuel-cell bus, one of Toyota Motor Corporation's newest installments to its enormous fleet of eco-friendly vehicles, for an adventure into the lush hills of the Yanami area. Come and observe this rich and abundant nature that Toyota City has been nurturing to its optimum potential for many years.

The tour is open to foreign residents and visitors and will be supported by volunteer guides in English. We recommend this experience for every foreigner, whether residing here or just visiting!

When: Saturday, October 10, 2020. **Time:** 9:30 am to noon (please be at Toyota Eco-ful Town by 9:15 a.m.). **Contact:** Call TIA at 0565-33-5931, or send an email to tia@hm.aitai.ne.jp. **Meeting Place:** TIA. **Access:** A 3-minute walk, east of the main exit of the Shin-toyota station. **Limit:** 20 people, on a first-come, first-served basis. **Cost:** Free. *Note that the deadline to apply is Friday, October 11, 2019. Contact TIA with all your inquiries.

Address: 471-0034, Toyota City, 1-25 Kozakahonmachi, Industry & Culture Center (3rd Fl.) URL: <http://www.tia.toyota.aichi.jp>

Fun Programs & Events for You to Explore!

Become an English Guide Volunteer at TIA and Guide Foreign Guests at Events in Toyota City



We are recruiting English speakers, including native-speakers, to volunteer as hospitality guides to the foreign guests that we expect to visit Toyota City for various occasions and events being held here. The photo on the left features two of our guides assisting a guest during last year's rugby games in the city. The upcoming events, at present, may include the World Rally Championship, which concludes in Japan, including our own, Toyota City. The roles of our guides is undecided, at the moment; nevertheless, we would love to have you onboard to extend the warmth of our city to those coming from afar. Please also contact TIA to attend our English Guide Seminar, the purpose of which, is to prepare our volunteers for the task of guiding our guests.

When: Visit TIA to sign up as a guide anytime during our opening hours (see our website for details). The seminar is scheduled on September 12, 2020, starting at 13:00 pm. **Where:** At TIA (a 3-minute-walk from the Shin-toyota station). **Contact:** Call TIA at:

0565-33-5931, or send us an Email at: tia@hm.aitai.ne.jp. **Application Deadline:** Please apply for the seminar by Thursday, September 10, 2020. **Fee:** Participation in the seminar, and as a volunteer, is free of charge but for the safety of each volunteer, there is an annual registration fee of 500 yen per person, for insurance purposes.

* * * * *

Apply Now! Upcoming Japanese Language Classes Receiving Applications at TIA

No.	Name of Program & Schedule	Level/Status	Duration	Application (Phone: 0565-33-5931 for TIA)
1	Nihongo Hiroba (Fri. 1:30-3:00 & Sat. 10:00-11:30)	Beginner/Pending	Aug. 28, 29 to Oct.	*Call TIA to apply, as of August 5, 2020
2	Nihongo Salon (Wed., 10:30-12:00)	Varies/Pending	Oct. 21 to Mar.	* Come to TIA on the starting date to apply

*Kindly note that the classes listed may incur a small fee for participation, depending on the volunteer group in charge, and please also be informed that all the classes are conducted by volunteers. See the address and contact information for TIA at the bottom right hand side of this page if interested.

* * * * *

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 to disinfect their hands when entering and leaving the building.

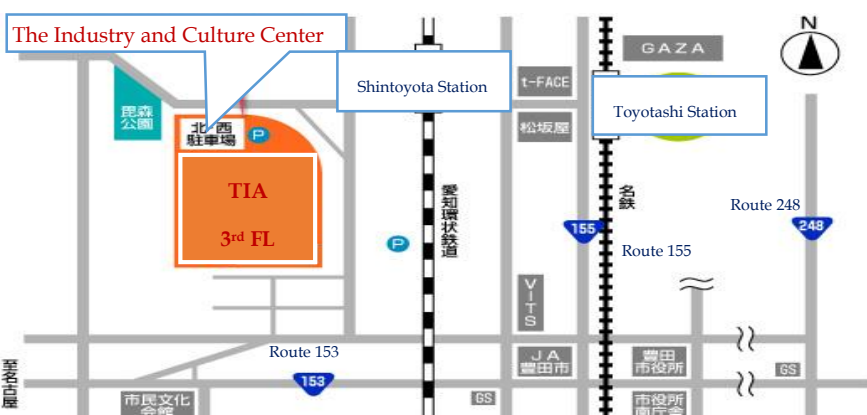
- Those who turn up without a mask will be required to make one using a basic kit provided at the entrance of the building, if they want to enter the premises.
- You are required to have a handkerchief on your person, and please use it to cover your mouth and nose when you cough or sneeze.
- The capacity 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 with other users outside of your family.
- 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.

***For your information, TIA will be closed for the Obon break, from August 10 to August 17, 2020**

* * * * *

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)
- Regarding the ¥100,000 benefit for residents of Japan, call: **0565-34-6974** (kindly note that the application deadline is **August 31, 2020**)
- 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/
- For foreigners working in companies and are facing employment issues, contact Hello Work, at: **052-855-3770**
- 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/



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
<http://www.tia.toyota.aichi.jp>
 ● Parking at TIA is free for up to 3 hours