

- EDITOR'S NEWS -

June marks the return of summer in Japan. But it also marks the return of heat and humidity which is difficult to bear when not used to. Despite these facts, summer offers lots of possibilities to relax while enjoying the many events taking place in Tokyo.

So, during visiting Tokyo, you might take a rest during the hottest hours of the day by enjoying the coolness of Chiyoda's parks, including Hibiya Park which is very practical because of its location in central Tokyo. For more coolness, why not visit one of the many museums of Chiyoda City, including the MOMAT (The National Museum of Modern Art) which by July organize an exhibition devoted to Gauguin. But be careful to not catch a cold because of the great temperature's difference between air-conditioned buildings and outside air. Moreover, remember that it is better to adjust its air conditioning to a constant temperature of 28 degrees than to set it to cold. Thanks to this, you will participate in the fight against global warming to which Chiyoda city participates. You might also be tempted by a fan. Japanese fans are not only useful in your fight against heat, but also are a good



souvenir.

Summer is also the season, in which many festivals and fireworks are organized, attracting crowds, dressed for the occasion in yukata. Among the Matsuri organized in Tokyo throughout the summer, many are held by the city of Chiyoda, as the Mitama Matsuri. Regarding the fireworks, the Sumida's one is probably the most beautiful and best-known and it is advisable to come early to enjoy the show.

Summer in Japan conjure up typical sounds. Two sounds occurred to me when I think to Japanese summer: they are those of the cicadas and the wind-bells. But while the cicadas are unmistakable, the wind-bells have an unfortunate tendency to disappear at the same time as traditional houses disappear.



Former advisor, Baptiste Sevin having left to a new life in Japan, for which I wish him every success, let me introduce myself. My name is Christophe JACQUOT and, as the new advisor, I remain at your disposal and hope you will enjoy reading me.

CUSTOMS

Japanese wind bell

Japanese wind bells known as Fūrin have been produced since the Edo period and are traditional Japanese decorations. It consists mostly of a small bell hanging on the jamb of a window that chimes to the wind. Traditional forms are usually made of glass, metal or ceramics. A small piece of paper on which is written a haiku is often hanged at the clapper of the bell. Many Japanese feel a sensation of freshness (especially in summer) while listening to that sound.

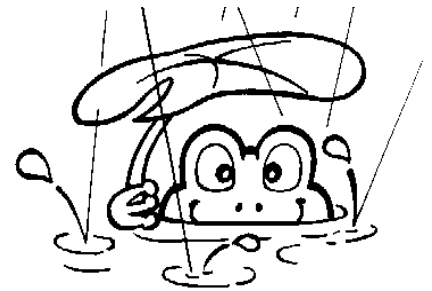


Onomatopoeia 擬声語

Lots of onomatopoeias are used in Japan to describe the weather. The two next will be useful for you during this summer.

MushiMushi (むしむし) is used to describe a hot and humid weather as we have in Japan from July to September.

ZaaZaa (ザーザー) is used when it's raining heavily, as in June in Japan, or when a typhoon strikes. In this case, please remember to be careful and go back home. You can also check the "Tokyo Amesh" website. <http://tokyo-ame.jwa.or.jp/en/index.html>



CULTURAL AGENDA

Gauguin Exhibition

The National Museum of Modern Art, Tokyo

This exhibition will display approximately 50 works of Paul Gauguin (1848-1903), one of the most well-known artists of the 19th century. For the first time in Japan, "Where Do We Come From? What Are We? Where Are We Going?" Gauguin's great masterpiece will be displayed. This exhibition will try to explain the message that Gauguin transmitted to us thru his journeys, from France to Tahiti where his grave can be seen.

Location and time : The National Museum of Modern Art, Tokyo, from July the 3rd until September the 23rd 2009, from 10h A.M. to 5h P.M (8hP.M on Friday / Saturday). 3-1 Kitanomaru-koen, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo. A short walk from the Takebashi subway station (1B exit) on the Tozai line.

More information at the exhibition's website: <http://gauguin2009.jp/english.html>



Self-Portrait with Palette

ca.1894

Private Collection

The alluring world of Kaichi Kobayashi

The New Otani Art Museum, Tokyo

The New Otani Art Museum, which is known for his collection of modern art from France and Japan, along with a considerable number of pieces of Japanese Ukiyo-e art, organize from July 11th an exposition dedicated to Kaichi Kobayashi(1896-1968). Postcards woodcuts and envelopes woodcuts painted at the end of the Taisho period and at the beginning of the Showa period will be exposed.

Location and time: New Otani Art Museum, Tokyo, from July the 11 until August the 23rd 2009, from 10h A.M. to 6h P.M (Closed on Mondays). The Garden Court, 6th floor, 4-1 Kioicho, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo. A 4 min. walk from Subway Akasakamitsuke Station or Nagatacho Station.

More information at the exhibition's website (Japanese):

<http://www.newotani.co.jp/museum>



“Her youth” (woodcut postcard)

Ikaho Hoshina Art Museum

Collection, Gunma

Bon Festivities

Bon is a Buddhist custom celebrated for more than 500 years through Japan to honor the spirits of deceased ancestors. Many festivities are held during Bon.

Summer Dance Festival

Chiyoda City offers the possibility to discover Bon Dance (Bon-odori) during the “Summer Dance Festival”. As this dance is easy to dance, do not hesitate to participate and dance to the sound of Taiko (japanese drums).

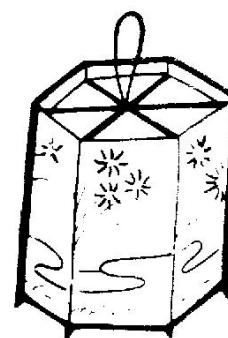
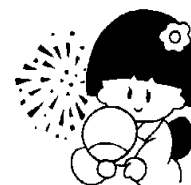
Location: Yasukuni Shrine, Chiyoda-Ku, Kudan Kita 2-1, from July the 13 until July the 16, from 6h30 P.M. to 9h P.M (Cancelled in case of rain)

Lantern Offering Festival 納涼の夕べ

The first day of Obon festivities marks the return of spirits to their former earthly homes. To help guide the returning spirits, lanterns are often used as beacons. In Chiyoda city, lantern ships are float down in the moat surrounding the Imperial Palace. The possibility is offered to rent a boat to participate at this Lantern Offering festival (As the number of boats is limited, a lottery will be organized with 40 boats reserved for people living in Chiyoda City and 20 for people working in Chiyoda city).

Place and time: Chidorigafuchi Boat Arena/Water frontpark. July 13th 2009 around 6:30 pm (Cancelled in case of rain)

Reservation: Send a return postal card (oufuku hagaki) before the 30th of June, to the Chiyoda-Ku Tourist Association with the Names of all the participants (3 per boat), your Address, Phone Number, and “Jousen Kibou” (boat wish) written on it, to the following address : Chiyoda-Ku Tourist Association 101-0054 Chiyoda-Ku, KandaNishikichou, 3-21 Chiyoda Platform Square, 4th floor. Fee for the rent of one boat: 1000¥.



MISCELLANEA

Hibiya Park

Hibiya Park (*Hibiya Kōen*) is situated on the south of the Imperial Palace, near the government district and Yurakucho. The park covers an area of 161,636.66m² and was converted to a public park in 1903 after being used during the Meiji period for army maneuvers. Hibiya Park was the first western-style park in Japan and is famous for the Shisei Kaikan (市政会館), a brick building built in Gothic style in 1929. The park is also known for its open-air concert venue. This park is a good place to relax during hot summer days. Note that the “Marunouchi Bon Dance Festival” takes place in this park in the end of August.



Location: The park is accessible from Kasumigaseki station (Marunouchi Subway Line, Chiyoda Subway Line), Hibiya station (Hibiya Subway Line) or from Yurakucho (JR) station (8 minutes walk). Entrance is free and open year round.



Japanese proficiency tests 日本語能力試験

As every year, if you want to evaluate your Japanese proficiency, don't forget to apply.

Business Japanese Proficiency Test: the 20th BJT test will take place on November the 8th, 2009. From this year, this test, previously organized by the JETRO is now organized by the Japan Kanji Aptitude Testing Foundation

Application Period: From July the 1st until October the 2nd. Application Fee: 7000¥ (Online) 7500¥ (By mail). 入学検定料

For more information see : <http://www.kanken.or.jp/bjt/english/index.html> (English). **Japanese Language Proficiency Test:** the next test for the JLPT will be held, this year, on December the 6th. Next year will introduce changes in this test's form with the introduction of a 5th level.

Application Period : The booklet is planned to be released for sale on mid august 2009, and the application will be registered from August the 28th until October the 2nd. Application Fee: 5500¥.

For more information see: www.jees.or.jp/jlpt/index.htm (Japanese).