

April May June, 2020

The Chiyoda International



Ephemeral Bliss

Every year the same old breeze……. winter ends, and soon, ephemeral white and pink flowering canopies will cause millions of people to gather. Nothing new, the set is well known even for those who have never come to Japan, but still cherry blossoms viewing stays an enjoyable occasion for going out with families and friends. The annual Cherry Blossom in Chiyoda City, now in its final week, is a part of Tokyo tradition.

Sakura Viewing in Chiyoda

Enjoy awesome cherry blossoms and at the same time, why don't you try to touch Japanese spirit of manners and hospitality through various workshops regarding Japanese tradition?

JAPANESE TRADITIONAL INCENSE: the art form is performed in the mental realm by appreciating the natural fragrance of the aromatic trees. Hope you gain a sense of austere beauty that is integral to the Japanese sense of beauty. You can join the cultural programs such as "Incense Ceremony" and "Tea Ceremony" as well. Instruction is available in English on each program. For details, [e-mail]: iy_kami@poem.ocn.ne.jp (Ms. Kamimura of Keifu-kai; We can also organize a private Incense Ceremony at your place.)

GET A FREE HANAMI-GUIDE & MAP (in English / Chinese) at the Tourist Information Center of Chiyoda City Tourism Association. (Location; 1-6-17, Kudan-minami, Chiyoda-ku) Guidance is available in English and Chinese.

For more information ⇒ Chiyoda City Tourism Association:
[URL] <https://visit-chiyoda.tokyo/sakura/>

Edited by Chiyoda City, International Peace & Gender Equality Division

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Photo by Hen Yannay

There are about 3,300 cherry trees in Chiyoda ward including 1,000 trees around Chidorigafuchi Greenway. When the enchantment season arrives, everyone is delighted by these flowering trees. The Somei-Yoshino cherry flowers have been cherished by the residents as the City Flower of Chiyoda City since 1984.

Cloning the original cherry trees

For more than a thousand years, *sakura* has been synonymous with Japan. But how did this infatuation begin---and why has it endured?

Ornamental cherry trees in Japan have an average life span of 40 years, made shorter by the stress brought on by annual flood of visitors, constant traffic compresses the soil around their roots, removing the protective grass and leaving roots exposed. As the trees die, they replace them with other cherry trees. But there is another local government effort that has been underway: cloning the originals.

Taking cuttings of the originals and propagating, cloning trees may sound like a major biotech effort, but it is actually fairly simple and the Japanese have been doing it for hundreds of years.

And there is more!

Chiyoda City is recruiting Sakura Supporters.

Sakura is the cherry trees and those blossoms, voted as the favorite of Chiyoda Ward. We are trying to raise funds to protect Sakura. Sakura Supporters can donate to the Sakura Recovery Fund by paying annual membership fees. Membership fees are 1,000yen per a person/ 10,000yen per a corporation. Your support will help saving beautiful rows of cherry trees and as a result protect scenic places of cherry blossoms in Chiyoda Ward. Thank you very much for your understanding and cooperation.

Contact; **Sakura Supporters Office** in Chiyoda City Office/ Roads and Parks Division

TEL:03-5211-4243

E-mail: dourokouen@city.chiyoda.lg.jp



Every springtime, breathtaking view around the Chidorigafuchi Moat attracts thousands of people both inside and outside Japan.

Photo by k.n./ Chidorigafuchi Moat

Chiyoda without Sakura is inconceivable. The image is wrong.

People in Chiyoda

Ms. Hitomi OKAMURA Founder of the Art Studio Atelier SAKURA

INTERVIEW



Chiyoda SAKURA Supporter/ the board member of the Chiyoda Commerce and Industry Association/ Member of the Chiyoda Tourism Association and the SAKURA Scientific Society

I recently had an opportunity to speak to Ms. Okamura who has greatly contributed to preservation not only of the cherry trees but also of our culture through SAKURA.

Q1. First, could you tell us what made you think so importantly of SAKURA?

A. What we are admiring *Sakura* today can be thought as a memorial of heart-wrenching grief dedicated to those who were deceased during the wartime. In 1960's, as things were getting better, our living was also getting easier. To overcome sorrow, we then started re-building the demolished towns and tried further improving our living conditions. This was the time when *Sakura* trees were planted as *Flowers of Hope* that would help us bloom our living and make our dreams come true. That's why I think precious of *Sakura*, trying to keep "hope" with us forever!

Q2. You are holding the workshops of plant dyeing, using cherry branches after the pruning so that those parts of the trees won't be wasted. Cherishing their lives, do you hold other workshops regarding SAKURA?

A. I'm occasionally holding cultural classes called "Sakura Cooking". We can get together in the classes, enjoy cooking and also learn history of our *Sakura in this beautiful Chiyoda I love*. I'm trying to tell everyone how important the preservation of *Sakura* is.

Q3. When the cloth is dyed with the bark of cherry trees, sensitive pink appears. It is a mystery. This shows that pink is not only the color of the flowers but also the color of entire body of SAKURA trees. How do you like this pink?

A. Not only beautiful light pink of cherry blossoms but *Sakura* actually brings us also various colors in different seasons. In May, you may see its fruits, which contain red, purple or blue pigment at that moment. In November, the leaves start falling and those give us a warm orange color, which is good for plant-dyeing. In January, branches of *Sakura* turns to orange, then to pink. So, it is quite interesting that *Sakura* goes through various seasonal colors all year round.

Q4. What do you like to do in your free time?

A. let me see, I sometimes go out for a walk, to the places where I can enjoy watching the plants and the trees or even somewhere I can collect some plants.

----- Happy to know you. Thank you very much.

Owing to the efforts of the Chiyoda Sakura Supporters like Ms. Okamura, the number of people involved has been markedly increasing in Chiyoda Ward. As of December 31, 2019, there are 496 people, 7 organizations and 109 companies, registered. The Sakura Supporters have been studying and investigating on cherry trees. It seems their activities have also taught them how profound Japanese culture is.

Please vaccinate your dog against rabies

Register and vaccination

Please note that the owners of dogs, which are 91 days of age or older, are required to have their dogs registered at the municipal office, branch office or Public Health Center in Chiyoda Ward.

Registration Fee: 3,000 yen per a dog

Dog owners are also required to have their dogs vaccinated against rabies once a year during the period between April and June. Rabies vaccinations are available throughout the year in veterinary clinics (please note that the cost of vaccination may vary depending on the veterinary clinic). Chiyoda City has designated veterinary clinics carrying out vaccination.

Inquiries; Chiyoda City Animal Protection Division 03-6256-8177

Miscellaneous

The Guide to Excellent Stationery in Japan / part 4

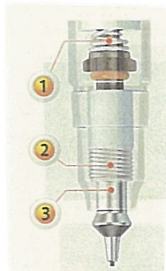
Japan has a plethora of smart pieces of stationery. Here is a recommendation to take home with you as a souvenir. They are practical and have a sophisticated design. They will certainly satisfy your demand and enrich your daily life.

Mechanical Pencil: There are various kinds of mechanical pencils. And I found one which is literally a very mechanical pencil. DelGuard (=Unbreakable) does not give you frustration of broken lead often while you are writing. The mechanics within the pencil protects the lead.

① **Vertical Direction:** The vertical pressure and force on the lead triggers the lead to release upwards, adding protection.

② **Oblique Direction:** Angled force on the lead pushes the nose piece forward, adding protection.

③ **Hard to Jam.**



Mending tapes: The Decorative tapes in a variety of colors and patterns to add personality to any projects.



They are removable:
Decorate on wood,
paper and glass!



A Bit about Culture

It is interesting. Some "English words coined in Japan" refers to Japanese language expressions that superficially appear to come from English, but in fact do not. These words were originally borrowed loanwords deriving from English but have become so embedded into the Japanese lexicon that they are refashioned to create a novel meaning diverging from their original intended meaning as well

as compound words and portmanteaus that do not exist in English (even though the individual elements of the word do).

Incomprehensible English  ⇒ (it means)

リクルートスーツ *recruit suits* ? ⇒ dark suits for job interview (job fair)

サラリーマン *salary man* ? ⇒ company employee

スキンシップ *skinship* ? (incorrect) ⇒ physical contact

ノートパソコン *note persocom* ? (incorrect) ⇒ Laptop

ライブハウス *Live House* ? ⇒ music pub

ジェットコースター *jet coaster* ? ⇒ roller coaster

オートバイ *auto-bye* ? ⇒ motorcycle

プレイガイド *play guide* ? ⇒ ticket agency

ガッツポーズ *guts pose* ? ⇒ raise my fists in triumph

Rainy Season

In Japan, we have comparatively more rainy days from spring to summer, than during the other times of the year. We call this season, TSUYU (which means rainy season).

In June, we see the beautiful flowers native to Japan, hydrangeas, called AJISAI in Japanese language. The colors of the flowers varies from white, pale green, pale blue, purple and pink. Hydrangeas that bloom during the rainy season are special for Japanese people, so that a lot of events with Hydrangeas as the theme, are held in many places. Let's enjoy the rainy season when they are bursting into bloom.



[hydrangeas in the Kitanomaru Park]