

# The Chiyoda International



## Dusk in Autumn

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Japan is primarily a Buddhist country, but what defines it more than its religion is its rigorous, distinct sense of aesthetics, and one that has been found on a celebration of seasonality. To be in Japan, to be Japanese, is to be engaged in a constant, continual recognition of the changing seasons, an acknowledgment that begins at birth.

Quiet snow falling in the early morning of winter, graceful dawn in spring, scattered fireflies at summer night and deep emotional movement at dusk of autumn.....which has informed Japan's, from its poetry\* to its cuisine.

\*Essays in Idleness by the essayist Kenko Yoshida: in everything, uniformity is undesirable.

As Chiyoda City hopes you experience *to be in Japan, to be Japanese*, the city has installed the information & commentary boards in English at each historical sight. For example, there are some in Kudanzaka Park. (Related article: [Sky goes high, the horses are stout-- Page 2](#)) Hope you enjoy tracing memories of our city while celebrating such an aesthetic season, autumn.

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Edited by Chiyoda City, International Peace & Gender Equality Division

1-2-1 Kudan-minami, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo, zip; 102-8688

URL; <http://www.city.chiyoda.lg.jp>

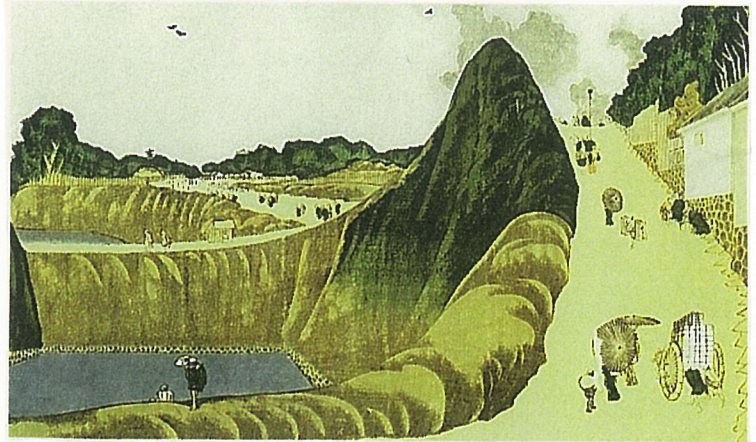


## Sky goes high, the horses are stout

In the past, Kudanzaka slope used to be steep as you can see the printmaking below [A]. It used to be nine sloping steps. According to the Imperial Capital Recovery Plan after the Great Kanto Earthquake (September 1, 1923), Kudanzaka was repaired in order to make the gradient gentle.

[B] Statue of Yajiro Shinagawa: this statue was erected in 1907. Yajiro Shinagawa was born in 1843. He studied in Shoin Yoshida's Shoka Sonjuku Academy and he had improved his skills of swordsmanship at the Rempeikan training hall. Subsequently he joined the Sonno-joi movement.

Hokusai Katsushika [A]



After the Meiji Restoration in 1870, Yajiro was dispatched to Europe, gradually becoming interested in politics and economics. After returning to Japan, he worked for three ministries such as Ministry of Home Affairs,

Agriculture and Commerce and the Imperial Household. In 1891, he was appointed the Home Minister in the cabinet of Prime Minister. He was involved in the formation of schools, credit unions and industrial cooperatives.

Yajiro learned his swordsmanship at Rempei-kan martial arts gymnasium, which was located in current Kudanzaka area, therefore the statue was built near Rempei-kan (in Kudanzaka Park).

[B]



[C] The Lantern Tower: It was placed as the all-night-light at the Yasukuni shrine in 1871. The shrine was then well known as the Shokon-sha.

It was a height of 16.8m with azimuth scale and a weather vane, which was created with the impression of pseudo Western style architecture that was the fashion.

Because it was situated atop Kudanzaka, the light in the Lantern Tower could be seen at night from the Tokyo Bay, serving as lighthouse and landmark for ship sailing on the coast of the Shinagawa Bay.

[C]



Photo (Oct.2019): partial change in planting



## Shake Out

### Preparation is the first step to success. Hope for the best, prepare for the worst.

Just a small bit of effort in your daily life will be a huge help during a disaster. There are some things you can start preparing now.

- ◆ When you go out, check emergency exits in the buildings.
- ◆ Chose useful items to have on hand. Examples of useful items: Cell phone charger, ID, Writing utensils, a memo pad, Family picture, mask, eye drops, bandage, wet wipes, sanitary products, a large handkerchief, hair accessories, snacks & candy, etc., plastic bags, a pocket warmer, a whistle, a flashlight
- ◆ With your family, decide on a meeting place for time when a disaster occurs.
- ◆ Teach your children how to use a pay phone.
- ◆ Stockpile daily necessities. Most people living in disaster-prone areas will keep non-perishable foods and bottled water at home and in the offices. You can also find bread packed in germ-proof packaging that can be stored for up to one year, therefore, they can be used as emergency provisions. Some snack foods available at convenience stores can be emergency foods.
- ◆ Participate in community events. The importance of preparing in advance does not only apply to things. It also applies to communication. Everyday relationships with friends and neighbors will serve as a source of support in times of need.

Disaster preparedness  
education portal



When an earthquake strikes, be sure to check your surroundings and act calmly. Do not start evacuating immediately. The City recommends you first to remain in the building and clearly assess the situation to determine whether the building is safe because most buildings in Chiyoda City are built with noncombustible materials. If necessary, then head to the temporary evacuation area or to the evacuation centers.

**Evacuation area** is a place to evacuate staying safe from spreading fire and other dangers. (e.g., large parks, public space) → for non-residents Inquiries: Disaster Countermeasures/Crisis Management Division Tel; 03-5211-4187  
**Evacuation Centers** are places that temporarily accommodate disaster victims who live in Chiyoda City. (e.g., schools, community centers, etc.)

Confirming the safety of others, use the Disaster Emergency Message Dial (171) and Disaster Message Board (web171)

How to use the Disaster Emergency Message Dial-----Dial 171.

Press 1 to leave a message. Press 2 to listen to a message. Then follow the instruction to leave or play a message.

How to use web 171-----



Posting and reading messages on web171-----



## Emergency Contact & Information

- ◆ Foreign Language Information Service on Medical Institutions; English/Chinese/Korean/Thai/Spanish  
Tokyo Metropolitan Health & Medical Information Center: TEL 03-5285-8181 Open; 9 – 20 : 00
- ◆ Emergency Telephone Consultation Center in Tokyo Fire Department;  
Information on medical facilities, emergency first aid procedures TEL 03-3212-2323 (24/7)



## Information Resources Multi-language Website

- ◆ Tokyo Fire Department Information for Foreigners; <http://www.tfd.metro.tokyo.jp/>
- ◆ Foreign Residents Support Center (FRESC);  
[http://www.moj.go.jp/nyuukokukanri/kouhou/nyuukokukanri10\\_00055.html](http://www.moj.go.jp/nyuukokukanri/kouhou/nyuukokukanri10_00055.html)
- ◆ Living information for Foreigners; <http://tokyo-icc.jp/>

## A BIT ABOUT CULTURE

In Japan, there is a custom of eating soba, buckwheat noodle, on New Year's Eve, known as Toshikoshi-Soba. The long, thin noodles are considered auspicious. By having them, people wish for longevity and good fortune for their families, also wishing misfortunes be severed from them just like soba noodles are easily cut apart. They are regarded as a special kind of food imbued with people's wish.



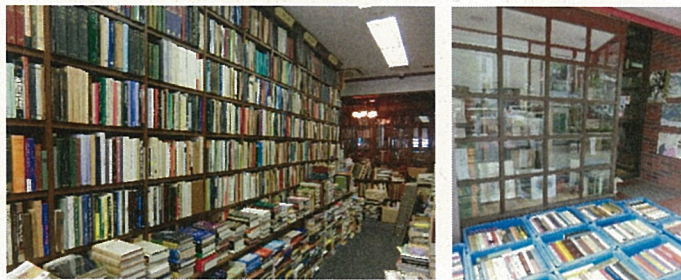


# Miscellaneous

One Fine Day

## Kanda-Jimbocho BOOK STREETS

Why don't you take a walk and discover your favorite places in Chiyoda?



Kanda-Jimbocho is famed as one of the world's largest bookselling districts. It is easy to lose oneself wandering amid the many specialty shops stocking old Edo-period books, foreign medical texts, literature or philosophy. Manga can also be found at some stores. The staffs are the book-specialists so that they give you some advice which shops specialize in particular subjects. It is worth for book lovers to visit there during Book Fair.

Some shops take COVID-19 countermeasures such as making their business hours shorter. Before you visit, make sure to check the latest information on the respective website. <http://jimbocho.info/index.html>



I always like to have a seat in the quaint Café and enjoy the book I have just found in Jimbocho used book district.



Office closure: Please be informed that Chiyoda City Hall will be closed from 29<sup>th</sup> Dec to 3<sup>rd</sup> Jan, 2021 due to Japanese year-end / new-year office closure. We will be back on January 4, 2021.

Counseling in foreign languages

## Counseling on the phone

### ◆ Consultation Support Center for Foreign Residents in Shinjuku Multicultural Plaza:



(General everyday living, immigration, visa procedures)

☎ 03-3202-5535 / 03-5155-4039

Chinese and English	Monday through Friday
Spanish	Mondays Tuesdays Wednesdays
Portuguese	Mondays Tuesdays Wednesdays
Indonesian	Tuesdays
Vietnamese	Mondays and Wednesdays
Tagalog	Fridays

Open: 9:00a.m.- 4:00p.m., except lunch break (12:00-1:00p.m.)

Closing on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday

### ◆ Tokyo Metropolitan Foreign Residents' Advisory Center: (General everyday living, Information)

English	Mon. through Fri.	☎ 03-5320-7744
Chinese	Tue. and Fri.	☎ 03-5320-7766
Korean	Wednesdays	☎ 03-5320-7700

Open: 9:30a.m.- 5:00p.m., except lunch break (12:00-1:00p.m.)

### ◆ Police Department Consultation for Foreign Residents: (consultation for victims of crimes)

Chinese & English Mon. through Fri. ☎ 03-3503-8484

### ◆ Tokyo Coronavirus Support Center for Foreign Residents (TOCOS)

English & twelve other languages Mon. through Fri.

Open: 10:00a.m.- 5:00p.m ☎ 0120-296-004 (toll free)

### ◆ Immigration Information Center: ☎ 0570-013904

(Information about status of residence, Work/Employment, Housing, etc.) Weekdays Open: 8:30a.m.- 5:15p.m.

## Editor's Greeting

Dear readers,

Thank you for picking up this copy of the Chiyoda International Newsletter today. I am trying my best to make this Newsletter rich in colors, informative and interesting. If there is anything you would like to see in this Newsletter, please do not hesitate to contact me at

[kokusaidanjo@city.chiyoda.lg.jp](mailto:kokusaidanjo@city.chiyoda.lg.jp) Also, I will

be pleased if you write some of your thoughts and share it in this newsletter. May you have a happy and healthy New Year!