

# Chigasaki Breeze

Truly great friends are hard to find, difficult to leave, and impossible to forget.

No. 58

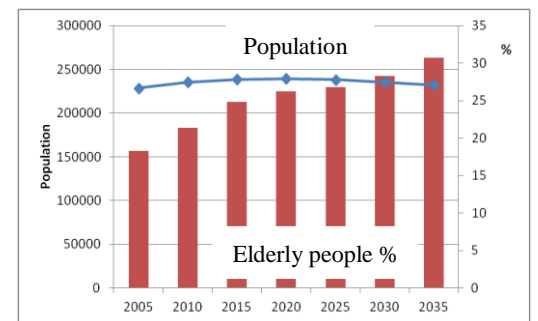
## City Envisages Bright Future

かっき す まち めざ  
活気ある住みよい街を目指して

At the regular meeting of the City Assembly on February 20, 2015, Mayor Nobuaki Hattori explained the City's Administrative Policy for fiscal year 2015. His speech outlined a vision of Chigasaki as a place both willing and able to embrace new challenges. His main points were:

- **The age profile of the city's population will change significantly** in the future (see chart), necessitating a new social structure and ongoing improvement in and expansion of city services.
- **The general account budget will increase by 5.6%** year-on-year, despite the expectation that tax revenues for fiscal year 2015 will flatten.
- **Our living environment will be transformed** as a result of last year's establishment of a sister-city affiliation with Honolulu and this March's completion of the Sagami Expressway.

The mayor asserted that these changes were a good opportunity for Chigasaki to develop much more, and reiterated his desire to push forward in making the city more attractive, aiming at realizing a prosperous long-lived society where everyone can enjoy a rich life with good health. In support of this vision, funding for more than 20 major projects has been approved for the coming fiscal year, including: ① Shimoterao Kanga Remains Preservation Project (Continuing, ¥129m); ② Yanagishima Sports Park Construction Project (Continuing, ¥177m); ③ Michino-Eki Construction Project (New, ¥10m); ④ My Number Promotion Project (Continuing, ¥295m). \*Budgets are shown in round figures.



## Herbal Bath with Acorus Calamus

しょうぶ ゆ  
菖蒲湯

In Japan, May 5 is Children's Day, when people pray for their children's health and happiness. The fifth day of the fifth month is also known as *tango no sekku* (端午の節句), one of the five *sekku*, or seasonal festivals, and, since the samurai era, has traditionally been a day to celebrate boys. Parents with sons display *yoroi* (armor) and *kabuto* (warrior's helmets) as well as May dolls, which portray heroes from Japanese history. You can also see carp streamers, which symbolize strength and success, hanging outside homes, shimmering in the warm breeze as if gliding effortlessly through water.

Another custom, quietly passed down, is *shobu-yu*, or calamus bath. Hearing the name *shobu* may remind you of *hana-shobu*, the sword-leaved iris, often placed beside May dolls. Although the leaves look similar, calamus belongs to the Acoraceae family and iris to the Iridaceae. Acorus calamus has long been used medicinally and aromatically in many countries, including China, where it was once believed to expel evil spirits. First introduced into Japan in the 6th century, 菖蒲 (*shobu*) became associated during the Edo Period with the homonym 尚武 (*shobu*), which can signify respect for the warrior spirit, and so came to symbolize the boys' festival.

Herbal baths with calamus warm and relax our bodies and minds. Unfortunately, wild calamus is now rare, but cultivated leaves are readily available. The sword-leaved iris, however, can be seen here and there, such as in the Himuro Tsubaki Garden in Higashikaigan, around the entrance gate of Samukawa Shrine, and below the Shin-Shonan Bypass in Akabane. Why not enjoy a seasonal Japanese tradition?



## Time Day

とき きねんび  
時の記念日

The first clepsydra, or water clock, in Japan was commissioned in 660 (Saimei 6) by Prince Naka-no-Ōe, who later became Emperor Tenchi (668-671). On June 10, 671 (Tenchi 10), he publicly unveiled a new clepsydra which sounded out the hours with bells and drums. In commemoration of this historical event, and to encourage people to value time, in 1920, June 10 was designated as "Time Day" in Japan.



Time-Flow Water Clock  
(Bernard Gitton, 1979)

Despite the appearance of early mechanical, astronomical and spring-driven clocks during the following centuries, water clocks remained the most precise and most-used time-measuring device for a thousand years until pendulum clocks were invented in 1656 by the Dutch astronomer Christiaan Huygens. The next big breakthrough in time-keeping accuracy came in the 1930s with the development of quartz technology, which enabled the design of clocks with a maximum error of plus or minus one second in ten years, and freed people from the monotonous daily task of winding up their clocks.

Quartz clocks were the standard until the Second World War. In 1967, an atomic clock was built that used the vibrations of cesium atoms as its time marker, making it 10 billion times more accurate than the pendulum clock. Nowadays, so-called optical clocks, which are based on the atomic frequency of strontium, are even more accurate, to within one second in 10,000 to 100,000 years.

One may wonder why we need to measure time so accurately, but each new jump in precision has enabled new technologies to be developed, such as car navigation systems and mobile phones. In the future, wouldn't it be incredible if precise time measurement could gauge gravity potentials to reliably forecast an imminent volcanic eruption or tsunami? One thing is for sure, if Emperor Tenchi hadn't realized the importance of time and set up that first water clock in Japan, he wouldn't have had a main-belt asteroid named after him in 1977 by its discoverers H. Kosai and K. Hurokawa of Japan's Kiso Observatory.

## JR Kagawa Station Square

か がわ えき まえ かんせい  
香川駅前にロータリー完成

The station square of JR Kagawa has moved a little to the south and been refitted since April 1. The area around the train station had been congested with cars around the pickup areas, especially during commuting hours and on rainy days. The newly completed area has dedicated spaces where you can pick up a community bus bound for Satoyama Koen or stop your car to pick up / drop off commuters. A taxi stand has also been established. These recent modifications will make the station front safer for pedestrians.



## Specialties of Chigasaki

### Floriculture in Chigasaki

ちがさきはなづく  
茅ヶ崎の花作り

Chigasaki has at least ten floriculturists. Their gardens are comparatively small in scale, but the owners' dedication seems to be great. Among a variety of flowers they grow, sweet pea is a leading item in production and can be considered a specialty of Chigasaki. Lovely little 'Sweet Pink', improved in Kanagawa Prefecture, is dubbed 'Royal Michiko'. Why do you think it came to be called so? Amazingly, that is because a Chigasaki floriculturist was honored to present it to Empress Michiko. Following sweet pea, cyclamen is also popular, and you may be familiar with the Chigasaki-bred hybrid cyclamens that are named Southern Series. Besides common flowers, Chigasaki's floriculturists cultivate many other attractive flowers such as English lavender, Australian sage, Chinese peonies and tropical orchids.

A booklet about Chigasaki floriculturists is available at the Agriculture and Fishery Section in the main City Hall (6F). For example, if you are interested in growing orchids, you can take a course offered by an orchid floriculturist once a year at City Hall. Also, a few producers have stands at the Saturday Morning Market (from 08:00 to 09:00) in Chigasaki Baseball Field.



## Honolulu Week, May 9 - 18 ホノルルウィーク 5月9-18日

The marine season is just around the corner. From May 9 (Sat) to 18 (Mon), Honolulu Week will be held, commemorating the establishment of the Chigasaki and Honolulu Sister-City relationship last year. To promote friendship and goodwill, there will be a variety of events associated with Honolulu or Hawaii, two highlights of which are **Chigasaki Aloha Market** and **The Shonan Festival**. Come to the beach, have fun and help get the sunny season off to a flying start!



The offices of the two events are at the Chigasaki Chamber of Commerce and Industry, contactable on 0467-58-1111.

**Chigasaki Aloha Market 2015:** E-mail: [aloha@chigasaki-cci.or.jp](mailto:aloha@chigasaki-cci.or.jp)

Official Website: [www.chigasaki-cci.or.jp/aloha/](http://www.chigasaki-cci.or.jp/aloha/)

**The Shonan Festival 2015:** E-mail: [shonan@chigasaki-cci.or.jp](mailto:shonan@chigasaki-cci.or.jp)

Official Website: [www.chigasaki-cci.or.jp/shonan\\_festival/](http://www.chigasaki-cci.or.jp/shonan_festival/)

### Chigasaki Aloha Market 2015 on May 9-10

ちがさきはなづく  
茅ヶ崎アロハマーケット 2015 5月9、10日 開催

To introduce the Chigasaki brand and products related to Hawaii, the "Chigasaki Aloha Market 2015" will take place on May 9 (Sat) and 10 (Sun) from 09:00 to 17:00 at Chigasaki Koen.

At this market, more than 90 stalls will be selling Hawaiian products, from foods and beverages to aloha shirts and jewelry. Workshops for Hawaiian music, Hawaiian quilting, hula dance, among others, are also scheduled. Participants can book them beforehand through e-mail (see above).

This market is aimed at getting citizens more familiar with and interested in Hawaiian culture.



### The Shonan Festival 2015 on May 16-17

しょうなんさい  
湘南祭2015 5月16、17日 開催

The Shonan Festival 2015 will take place on Southern Beach Chigasaki on May 16 (Sat) and 17 (Sun) from 10:00 to 16:00, rain or shine. Based on its concept, which is to create enjoyable seaside activities, various beach-themed events will be held.

Hula dancing and live music will be performed on two stages, and around thirty Shonan Girl Contest finalists will compete to win the grand prix. In the flea market area, over fifty stalls will sell various things from foods and beverages to clothes and trinkets. Sports events, including a beach soccer tournament, are also scheduled.



## Chigasaki City Heritage Museum 茅ヶ崎市文化資料館

The newly-planned city heritage museum is to be built at a site in Tsutsumi (northern Chigasaki) which faces Ōoka Echizen Street. The roughly 8,000-sq-m site is surrounded by: shrines; temples, including Jōken-ji temple; important cultural assets such as old folk houses of the Mitsuhashi and Wada families; valleys nurturing diverse biological ecosystems; the Citizen's Forest with its own tree house; and rich archaeology, including shell mounds and ancient tombs. The Municipal government sees this museum as both protector and preserver of the city's nature, history and culture, whilst City Hall hopes the new museum will offer citizens opportunities to investigate, study and disseminate knowledge about Chigasaki's heritage.

## History of Chigasaki

### National Highway 134 (Shonan Promenade)

こくどうごう しょうなんゆうほどう  
国道134号 (湘南遊歩道)

Today's National Highway 134 originates in Yokosuka and terminates in Ōiso, a distance of 61.1 km. However, it used to be called Shonan Yūho-dō (or Shonan Promenade, a path for strolling along to enjoy the view of the sea) as evidenced by a monument close to Yanagishima Memorial Hall. In the Edo Era, the coastal region stretching for about 7 km from the vicinity of the monument to the Katase seashore was supposedly a wasteland, and was being used as a shogunate gunnery range.

In the Taisho Era, afforestation was promoted to create along the seashore a *uotsuki sabōrin* (魚付砂防林), or erosion-control forest against flying sands, whose name suggests that it was also used by fishermen for fish-bleeding. And in the Showa Era, a prefectural road called Katase-Ōiso Sen (which followed the route of Shonan Yūho-dō) was planned to pass through the center of this *sabōrin* from east to west, aimed at encouraging regional development and as a means of providing relief to the unemployed.

Construction work started in 1931 (Showa 6) and finished in 1936 (Showa 11), being officially opened in October of that year. The completed road ran for a distance of 16.7 km from the front of Ryukōji temple in Katase-Mura village (Fujisawa City) in the east to Ōiso post office (Ōiso Town) in the west.

In 1964 (Showa 39), electric street lights were installed along the length of the route in preparation for the Summer Olympics of that year held in Tokyo, and the road was designated as National Highway 134 the following year. (*Ippan kokudō*, or "General National Highways", are distinct from *kōsoku-dōro*, or "Expressways", which are freeway-standard toll roads.) In 1991 (Heisei 3), construction work started to widen the road into the four-lane highway we see today.

Between 1968 (Showa 43) and 1970 (Showa 45), a connecting road was built between Highway 134 at Kugenuma and the coast at Yanagishima Kaigan. The road, covering a distance of 8.4 km, is commonly called "cycling road" and citizens also enjoy rambling and running along it.





## IAC ACTIVITIES

### Be Prepared for a Possible Big Earthquake

おおじしん そな  
大地震に備えよう！

Four years have elapsed since the Great East Japan Earthquake occurred off the Pacific coast of Tohoku, the northeastern region of Honshu, claiming many precious lives and causing unprecedented damage to our homeland. So many earthquakes occur in Japan as it is located on the boundaries of several tectonic plates. The Headquarters for Earthquake Research Promotion forecasts that there is a very high possibility that a Tokyo Metro Earthquake or a Tokai Earthquake with a resultant tsunami will occur within the next 30 years. Accordingly, we have to learn more about earthquakes and tsunamis and prepare for them very seriously.

Future issues of Chigasaki Breeze will carry a series of articles written by the IAC which will advise foreign residents what they should do before, during and after an earthquake or a tsunami. For example, the next article will focus on what steps you can take to prepare for such an event, such as being well-informed about what risks you face in your area, securing and strengthening your house to increase your chances of surviving an event, and making sure your family knows what to do should they need to evacuate in a hurry.

### Japanese Speech Contest for Foreigners — Results

がいこくじん にほんご たいかい けっか  
外国人による日本語スピーチ大会 結果

The 18th Japanese Speech Contest for Foreigners was held on March 15 (Sun) at the Community Hall 6F co-sponsored by the International Association of Chigasaki (IAC) and City Hall. Thirteen contestants, mostly Vietnamese and Indonesians, but including one Filipina and a Frenchman, all of whom are studying at the IAC's Japanese language classes, spoke enthusiastically on their chosen topics for three minutes.

Nguyen Thi Mai from Vietnam, who has been in Japan for two and a half years and made a speech on her life in Japan, was awarded the IAC and Popular prizes.

The Mayor's prize went to Mac Phuong Thao, who also came from Vietnam two and a half years ago. He talked about his experiences in Japan. The International Soroptimist Chigasaki prize was captured by Guendoline Fujino, who came to Japan from the Philippines five months ago, for her speech entitled 'I married a Japanese man.' The guest speaker, last year's Soroptimist prize winner Tran Thi Quyen, addressed her speech about puppet shows in Vietnam.



### Ten French Students to stay in Chigasaki

だいがくせい ちがさき  
フランス大学生が茅ヶ崎に

The IAC has annually accepted homestays for French university students. This year from June 27 (Sat), eight male and two female students from the French Space Aeronautics Engineering University known as ISAE (Institut Supérieur de l'Aéronautique et de l'Espace) will stay at homes in Chigasaki. While here for a month, they will attend the IAC's Japanese language classes to brush up their Japanese, experience Japanese culture such as wearing *kimono*, tea ceremony, and *zazen* (or "seated meditation") at a temple in Kamakura. They will also visit a junior high school, as well as Bunkyo and Keio Universities to deepen mutual understanding.

## People in Town

### Kaitlyn Burton from Australia

*Japan seems very much a land of convenience and almost like an efficient, organized, chaos.*

Kaitlyn Burton came to Chigasaki at the end of January utilizing the gap year and working holiday system. This is the first time that she has stayed in a foreign country for an extended period of time.

She is currently studying for a Bachelor of Arts degree at a university in Perth, a city in southwestern Australia.



Her hometown of Collie, located about 200 kilometers south of Perth and having a population of 7,000, is two-hour's drive from the world-famous Margaret River Wine Region.

Kaitlyn has been interested in Japanese culture since her first Japanese lesson in primary school and is learning Japanese at the IAC's Japanese language class.

Some of her first impressions of Japan are: ubiquitous vending machines and convenience stores as well as a lot of small-sized cars on the extremely narrow streets neither of which has she seen in her homeland. Another surprise was learning about how waste materials are classified into burnable, metal, glass and plastic before they are thrown away. Life in Japan, she feels, seems to be a combination of convenience and chaos, but even the chaos is organized efficiently.

Coming straight from an Australian summer with daytime temperatures in excess of 35°C to a Japanese winter was quite a shock and she feels Japanese houses are cold in winter. (Many houses in Kanto are actually colder than those in northern Japan.)

While in Japan, Kaitlyn will be working as a nanny to Richard Pitter's children (see this column of the previous issue). She also intends to visit other cities such as Kyoto, Osaka and Hiroshima to learn more about this country and experience as much Japanese culture as possible. Saying that, so far she has felt very welcome and is really enjoying life in Japan.

## So many Countries, so many Customs!

ところか しな  
所変われば、品変わる

### May Day メイ デイ

In many cultures, May is a time of hope, a time to celebrate fertility in all its forms, and a time to welcome the coming of summer. May Day originally fell on May 1, but moved to the first Monday in May when a new May Day bank holiday was created in 1978. During this long weekend, families can enjoy many traditional May Day rites and celebrations, including dancing around a maypole, Morris dancing, and crowning a May Queen.

On village greens around the country, school children, particularly girls, skip around a tall pole holding brightly-coloured ribbons which are suspended from this so-called *maypole*. To the sound of traditional folk songs, they dance in different directions around the maypole, plaiting the ribbons into a complex pattern of colours. Reversing the path of the dance unwinds the ribbons again.

Another traditional form of dancing is Morris dancing; a rhythmic, somewhat comical, folk dance performed by small groups of men or women dressed in white with coloured belts across their chests, and bell-pads attached to various parts of their costumes. These Morris dancers face each other in two lines or a circle and shake white handkerchiefs, or bang short wooden sticks against each other, as they dance. The dancing is accompanied by accordion players, fiddlers, drummers, or maybe a band, depending on the region, but in any event, the music is loud, lively and cheerful.

May Day can probably be traced back to the Roman festival of Flora, the goddess of fruit and flowers, which marked the beginning of summer. Today, in many towns and villages, a beauty contest is held to choose and crown a May Queen as a living image of the goddess Flora. Wearing garlands of flowers and sitting on a flower-decked throne, she is paraded through the streets, surrounded by her entourage of flower girls and attendants, enjoying the spectacle of maypole and Morris dancing performed by her subjects for the day.



Note: This letter was written by Adrian Wilson, an English teacher from London, England, now living in Chigasaki.



## Walking in Northern Chigasaki 茅ヶ崎北部の散策

'Chigasaki' will remind most people of the beach, but it also has bucolic scenery in the northern area. In olden days, most Japanese people lived in small valleys coexisting with nature, and such a natural environment, with hills, ponds, woods, and so on, was known as *satoyama*. Early summer is a pleasant time of the year for walking in and around Satoyama Koen. Here is an example of a 2.5-km circular walking route.

- ① **Park Center** [starting and finishing point] A map of the park is available here.
- ② **Zenkoku-ji Temple** Built in 1578 (Tenshō 8) and said to have had a constant stream of visitors in the Edo Period.
- ③ **Viewpoint for Mt. Fuji**
- ④ **rice paddies**
- ⑤ **Serizawa Pond** An irrigation pond for rice paddies. Wild ducks can be seen here.
- ⑥ **Valley House (yato-no-ie)** A type of old farmhouse with a sunken hearth, kitchen stove and wooden veranda. Around May 5, a warrior's helmet is displayed here.
- ⑦ **Dosojin - travelers' guardian deity**
- ⑧ **Chestnut Space (kuri-no-ki-hiroba)** Good views of carp streamers over *Naka-no-yato* (Middle Valley) Pond around May 5.

Parking is available, or take a No.50 bus bound for Bunkyo University from the north side of Chigasaki Station, get off at the Serizawa-iriguchi bus stop, and walk for 5 minutes.



## Sagami Expressway – Benefits

### さがみ縦貫道路の効果

The final stretch of the Sagami Expressway, part of the KEN-O Expressway, was opened to traffic on March 8 (Sun). Completion of this expressway is expected to reduce congestion on local roads as well as traveling times to sight-seeing spots in the Northern Kanto, Nagano and Yamanashi areas. In addition, in times of disaster, it will facilitate improved access for emergency transportation.

The table below shows time-savings resulting from the direct access to three major expressways provided by the completed Sagami Expressway.

(Source: Yokohama National Road Office)

Destination (Expressway)	Traveling Time Now	Time Saving
Kofu (Chuo)	2 hours 10 mins	40 mins
Karuizawa (Kan-Etsu)	2 hours 50 mins	80 mins
Nikko (Tohoku)	3 hours 10 mins	80 mins

## Saturday Music Salon at Hagisono

### 萩園の土曜ミュージックサロン

On May 23 (Sat), from 13:45 to 14:45, a brass band, "Brass five α", will be performing at Hagisono-ikoi-no-sato. The brass band belongs to the *Japan Air Self-Defense Force Central Band* and travels around the country, performing in different cities at the request of citizens.

This time, their program will include popular titles such as "The Washington Post" march, *Amazing Grace*, and a medley of *Japanese Enka songs*.



Admission is free, so why not come and enjoy some stirring ensembles?

## Japanese Proverbs and their English Equivalents

### 日本と西洋のことわざ

#### ●親の因果が子に報う

OYA NO INGA GA KO NI MUKUU  
(The karma of the parents will be suffered by the children.)

The sins of the father shall be visited upon the children.

#### ●鶏口となるも牛後となるなかれ

KEIKŌ TO NARU MO GYŪGO TO NARU NAKARE  
(It is better to be the mouth of a chicken than the buttocks of a cow.)

Better be the head of a dog than the tail of a lion

#### ●人を見て法を説け

HITO WO MITE HŌ WO TOKE  
(See the person first and then advise the way.)  
All meat pleases not all mouths.

#### ●下手な鉄砲も数撃ちや当たる

HETA NA TEPPŌ MO KAZU UCHA ATARU  
(Though you are poor at shooting, if you shoot many times, you will hit the mark.)  
He that oft shoots at last shall hit the mark.

#### ●耳は大なるべく口は小なるべく

MIMI WA DAI NARU BEKU KUCHI WA SHŌ NARU BESHI  
(Open your ears wide but keep your mouth narrow.)  
Keep your mouth shut and your eyes open.

## My Big Apple Experience 私のNY体験 個性は魅力

The following letter was written by senior high school student Chihiro Watanabe, a prize-winner at the 1st English Speech Contest that we reported on in Issue No. 56.

I stayed in New York for eight days this spring vacation and learned a lot from conducting a survey at Columbia University, and by watching a Broadway musical.

In my survey, I asked people why they felt they were New Yorkers. I was surprised by the diversity of answers. One man said just being in the city defined him as a New Yorker, whilst for another it was being very busy because the city never sleeps. Each respondent had their own unique perspective and seemed quite satisfied with that.

I also watched the musical "Kinky Boots" at a theater. This story is about a drag queen and a man who reluctantly inherits his father's shoe factory. I was so impressed by the energetic songs. Having unusual people like drag queens in this musical made me appreciate the importance of tolerance.

One thing I realized was that New Yorkers don't think being different is bad, but actually find it rather attractive. So, I'd like to become more accepting of differences in other people as well as in myself.

## Disused Article Bank 不用品バンク

Interested in an item offered for free or at a reasonable cost, such as this electric piano? How about taking a look at the City's official website?

Go to [www.city.chigasaki.kanagawa.jp/](http://www.city.chigasaki.kanagawa.jp/) → Click on Foreigner's guide (top of the initial screen) → Select a language and start translation → Civic consultation, consumer life → Discarded things bank → We hand over registration information.

This then shows a list of items, some with pictures.



## Useful Japanese Expressions 役に立つ日本語

### OSEKKAI ・ SEWA-ZUKI お節介 ・ 世話好き

Everybody appreciates a kind comment, a helping hand, an offer of assistance, etc., but if you overdo it, people may feel that you are intruding or meddling in their affairs. This is OSEKKAI! An OSEKKAI-NA HITO is therefore a meddlesome person, a nosy parker, or a busybody. If you are OSEKKAI, someone may say to you "Mind your own business!" or "You are always nosing into what doesn't concern you!" Of course, this is a serious matter, but, as you can imagine, it is also used jokingly in daily conversations, too.

However, if you are always willing to help others without being OSEKKAI-NA, then someone may call you SEWA-ZUKI. SEWA means "care", so this term means helpful, obliging, accommodating, and so on. So, be helpful, but not too helpful!