

Number of Foreigners in Chigasaki

The registration office reports there are 1,485 foreigners registered with the city as of December 31, 2006. The names of the top 20 countries plus others are as follows:

Country	Total	Male	Female
1. Korea/N. Korea	359 (347)	176 (162)	183 (185)
2. China	264 (249)	98 (96)	166 (153)
3. Philippine	241 (242)	42 (39)	199 (203)
4. Brazil	121 (130)	56 (66)	65 (64)
5. U. S.	82 (92)	58 (71)	24 (21)
6. England	51 (54)	42 (46)	9 (8)
7. Peru	44 (56)	28 (36)	16 (20)
8. Thailand	36 (34)	9 (7)	27 (27)
9. Indonesia	22 (19)	13 (12)	9 (7)
10. Vietnam	20 (24)	12 (14)	8 (10)
10. Canada	20 (24)	14 (16)	6 (8)
10. Australia	20 (14)	17 (11)	3 (3)
11. India	18 (11)	16 (11)	2 (0)
12. Bolivia	15 (16)	11 (12)	4 (4)
13. Malaysia	13 (16)	9 (11)	4 (5)
14. New Zealand	12 (7)	8 (5)	4 (2)
15. Bangladesh	11 (13)	10 (10)	1 (3)
16. Cambodia	9 (9)	5 (5)	4 (4)
17. Pakistan	8 (11)	8 (9)	0 (2)
18. Romania	7 (6)	0 (0)	7 (6)
18. Germany	7 (9)	3 (5)	4 (4)
19. Argentina	6 (6)	5 (5)	1 (1)
19. Columbia	6 (5)	2 (1)	4 (4)
20. Switzerland	5 (5)	3 (3)	2 (2)
20. Singapore	4 (4)	1 (2)	3 (2)
20. France	4 (4)	4 (4)	0 (0)
20. Sri Lanka	4 (4)	4 (4)	0 (0)
20. Ireland	4 (3)	1 (1)	3 (2)
Others	33 (33)	20 (21)	13 (12)
Total:	1,479 (1,485)	688 (702)	791 (783)

*Numbers in parenthesis are of the end of 2005.

"Trio-phone" (Three-Way Calling) Interpretation System Introduced by the Prefecture

The Kanagawa Prefectural Counseling Services for Foreign Residents introduced the trio-phone interpretation system to assist communication between foreign residents and the local/national governments and public institutions.

You can use the trio-phone interpretation system when you consult with the administrative services. The time will be limited to about 10 minutes or so.

Available languages include English, Chinese, Spanish, Portuguese, German, Russian, and Tagalog, but they are subject to the day of consultation, the subject and the specific office. Both the Kanagawa Prefectural Government in Yokohama (K.P.G.) and Yokohama City are involved in handling legal, Educational, labor and general counseling.

Inquiries in Japanese:

International Division, K.P.G. Tel: 045-210-3748

Note: No consultation will be available at this number but they will tell you where to call specifically depending on the subjects you would like to discuss.

If further help is needed, please go to the IAC URL:

<http://7jp.com/iac>

IAC ACTIVITY

CHARITY CONCERT



On September 1, the IAC Charity Concert was held at Kagawa Murashima Memorial Hall at Aletheia Heiwa Gakuen in Fujimi-cho. The violinist Nonoko Okada was the star. She returned to Chigasaki for the summer from North Carolina where she belongs to the Charleston Symphony Orchestra as an active violinist. She grew up in Chigasaki and this concert became a special event for her too because Aletheia Heiwa Gakuen is her alma mater.

The purpose of the charity concert was to contribute revenue to children suffering from poverty in such countries as Laos, Nepal, Cambodia, Indonesia, and Peru.

Ms. Okada played affable pieces of various genres from Handel's classical tunes to Gershwin's opera that consists of African-American music such as blues, jazz, and gospel. Her accompanist was Mr. Hiroshi Taguchi who has been Ms. Okada's musical partner for years. He played piano along with her violin. Their performance was praiseworthy, they harmonized very nicely, and it was very much appreciated by the audience.

Next year again, we may be able to listen to the beautiful sound of her violin.

WAI-WAI FESTA

On August 5 (Sun), **WAI-WAI FESTA CHIGASAKI** was held at Civic Culture Hall. Even though it was such a hot day, more than 300 people joined the international exchange program performed by the IAC and it was highly successful. Although the program was mainly for children to come into contact with world culture, across all the ages they enjoyed various activities with collecting different kinds of **HITODE** (starfish) stamps at eight corners. The participants enjoyed foreign-language picture books, coloring, math puzzles, foreign dessert recipes and a picture-story show about a girl who suffered severe burns in the civil war in Kosovo, Bosnia.

Some children made their own tinplate or fabric pins and photo frames by hand, which was part of a charity to support children in Cambodia. Most exciting of all was playing simple games such as JANKEN (Rock, paper, scissors) and YUBIZUMŌ (thumb wrestling) face-to-face with foreign volunteers who came from China, Colombia, America, the Philippines and Indonesia. As a matter of course, it was great fun for many Japanese to have the opportunity to get to know the people from overseas, but it was also a productive and enjoyable experience for foreign volunteers who enhanced mutual understanding through the program.

The IAC hopes to continue developing such programs to create an opportunity for children to know and understand culture in the other countries and desires to see foreign people as well so they can enjoy participating in such activities.

WAI WAI FESTA was sponsored by the city in commemoration of its 60 year anniversary this year.

A GOOD LITTLE THING

ちょっといい話

In a community, there are always some people who do some work voluntarily. It is not for the community necessarily but for themselves, personally.

On *Teppo-michi*, you will see an elderly person every day in the very early morning.

After retirement in January 2001, he decided to do walking for his health. Soon after he got out from home to the street, though, he saw cigarette butts and other litter here and there. This motivated him to do some cleaning by himself. At the beginning, his walking distance was only from his home to where Hamasuka primary school is located, but it gradually extended and has reached now about 3km both ways; from Higashikaigan Kita 5-chome to the crossing at Heiwa Gakuen. What he does is to clean up the street by picking up butts, wastepaper, etc., again strictly as an individual volunteer. With the exception of rainy days, he does it for two hours roughly from 4:30 in the morning. It's a really respectable thing, but regrettably it also means that there still are a number of people who don't care about littering.

If we can be more considerate in such issues, all the streets in town will become cleaner and it will entice more people to choose Chigasaki as a comfortable place to live.

Talking about such street cleaning, there is also an aged man who is always walking following a parade of miniature shrines during the **HAMAORI** Festival. He picks up all the cigarette butts one by one that many youngsters carrying or following the miniature shrine throw away. He is a group leader living in Yanagishima district, but he started doing it by himself years ago.

Some other people have started to follow his lead, and the number has gradually increased year by year.

People In Town

Maria Enderle Wada

I feel more Japanese than American.....



Maria Enderle Wada was born in the U.S. and has lived in Chigasaki since she was eight years old. Her grand parents came to Chigasaki from Germany. She is presently raising four sons with her Japanese husband in Higashi Kaigan. Maria sees herself as a third-generation Chigasaki-JIN (Chigasaki citizen). She feels that Chigasaki has changed in many ways since she was growing up. She thinks people are more open to show their "uniqueness" and are more confident to express themselves. She also feels that people are more tolerant of others—especially of those who do not quite "fit in." She is happy to see that more and more families with diverse backgrounds live here in Chigasaki. In 2003, she moved temporarily to Los Angeles with her family to work as a social worker. She wanted her children to experience life in another country. She worked at a non-profit organization that assisted impoverished families who came mostly from Mexico.

Two and half years later, her family returned to Japan. She felt relieved from the stress at work and life in a "foreign" country. She also missed Chigasaki.

Living abroad and raising her children there made her see her hometown in a different light and made her love Chigasaki even more.

Population exceeded 230,000 this year!

The Chigasaki city population was 230,294 as of August 1, 2007 with males numbering 114,109 and females numbering 116,185. The number of families was 90,491.

The Sagami line was originally for gravel transportation.

The Sagami Line is operated today by the privatized Japan Rail Co., but originally it was constructed for investment by a group of people who lived in Chigasaki. It was, therefore, a purely private company aimed at carrying passengers as well as gravel from the Sagami river. Their name was the Sagami Tetsudo Railroad, SOTETSU in abbreviation. They started the transportation service in 1921, the 10th year of Taisho era, between Chigasaki and Samukawa. The distance is only 5.1 kilometers but the line was the main business of the SOTETSU railroad which also operated a railway from Yokohama to Yamato.

The company had no adequate funding at the beginning, and to operate the line they bought very old steam locomotives and passenger and freight cars from the then railroad ministry. However, their service heavily depended on the gravel transportation for the first four and half years. In 1923, a major earthquake called the Great Earthquake of Kanto occurred, and the gravel demand substantially increased almost reaching uncontrollable levels.

To cope with such a demand increase, they constructed a gravel unloading facility at Shiodome station in Tokyo and bought 100 new 15 ton freight cars to be used exclusively for gravel transportation. Also, they extended the line from Samukawa to Kurami in April 1934, and further to Atsugi in July of the same year, connecting the line to Odakyu Private railway.

In 1922, the company's income coming from gravel transportation turned 3.4 times as much as that of passenger transportation, and it became 20 times as much in 1927. The reason was an abundant resource of gravel available at the Sagami river and its geographical advantage that they were close to the heavily populated area of the Keihin district in Kawasaki and Yokohama. In order to carry a huge amount of gravel, they laid sidings from Samukawa, Kurami and Atsugi to dry riverbeds, and the loading work had been carried day and night. There was also a branch line running between Samukawa and the Sagami river bank and it remained operative even after World War II, but it was taken out in 1984.

Today, there is nothing left anymore to remind us of the existence of those old branch railways which carried gravel years ago.