

# Chigasaki Breeze

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

No.49

## Culture Day

## 文化の日

November 3 (Sun) is a national holiday called *bunka no hi* (文化の日), Culture Day. It was first held in 1948 to commemorate the official announcement of the post-war Japanese Constitution on November 3, 1946. (The new Constitution itself came into force on May 3, 1947; the anniversary of which is now marked by Constitution Memorial Day.) The purpose of Culture Day, then, is to foster the love of peace and freedom - ideals enshrined in the Constitution - and cultural activities.

Culture Day is also the day of the prestigious Order of Culture award ceremony, held at the Imperial Palace, which acknowledges outstanding contributions in the fields of culture, art or science. Last year, 6 people, including Yoji Yamada and Shinya Yamanaka, were honoured by the Emperor. Yamada is a film director famed for the series 'Tora-san', focusing on ordinary people's joys and sorrows. Yamanaka, a professor at Kyoto University, succeeded in creating iPS cells (artificial stem cells which may one day eliminate the controversial use of embryos) and received a Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine.

By the way, various cultural festivals take place in town on and around the day. How about visiting art museums, theaters or neighboring schools? At school, you can enjoy students' works, performances and snack stands. When seeing lively boys and girls, you will better appreciate the key themes for Culture Day: freedom, peace and culture.

## The Seven-Five-Three Children's Celebration

## 七五三のお祝い

When boys reach three or five years old, and girls three or seven, their parents take them to a shrine, and have them purified in a ritual called Shichi-Go-San (or Seven-Five-Three), praying that their children will grow up in good health. At weekends and on public holidays in October and November, you will see many young families, some accompanied by grandparents, but all dressed in their finest clothes, visiting their local shrines for this part celebration, part rite of passage.

The origin of Shichi-Go-San goes back to the Heian Period, when court nobles celebrated the passage of their children into middle childhood. Over time, a number of rituals were added: children were allowed to wear their hair long from the age of three; boys at five could wear *hakama* (traditional, skirt-like, trousers) for the first time; and girls at seven could start tying their *kimonos* with an adult *obi* (or sash) rather than using simple cords.

The nation's infant mortality rate was quite high until early modern times because of malnutrition, pestilence and many other causes. Hence children were regarded as belonging to the kingdom of God, and were not accepted as members of society until seven. Thus, another purpose of Shichi-Go-San was to celebrate their survival through the vulnerable period of early life.

The current style of visiting a shrine to drive out evil spirits and wish for a long healthy life began in the Meiji Era when it was adopted by common people. The festival was originally held on November 15, when most farm work had finished and people were in a festive mood, celebrating the harvest. However, since this day is not a national holiday, in modern times, the tradition is usually observed on the nearest weekend. And, maybe as a reward for having to wear a heavy *kimono* or *hakama* for several hours during Shichi-Go-San, children are often given *chitose ame* (or "thousand year candy", which symbolizes healthy growth and longevity), typically in a bag decorated with a crane and a turtle (which also represent long life in Japanese culture).

## Collection of Unwanted Small Home Appliances

## 使用済み小型家電の回収

Small home appliances, such as old mobile phones, CD players and games machines, have, until recently, been disposed of as unburnable garbage, but effective October 1, you can now leave them in collection boxes located at fifteen public facilities listed hereunder. The collection boxes have two slots, one for mobile phones and PHS (Personal Handy-phone System) devices, the other accepting larger appliances up to 30cm x 15cm.

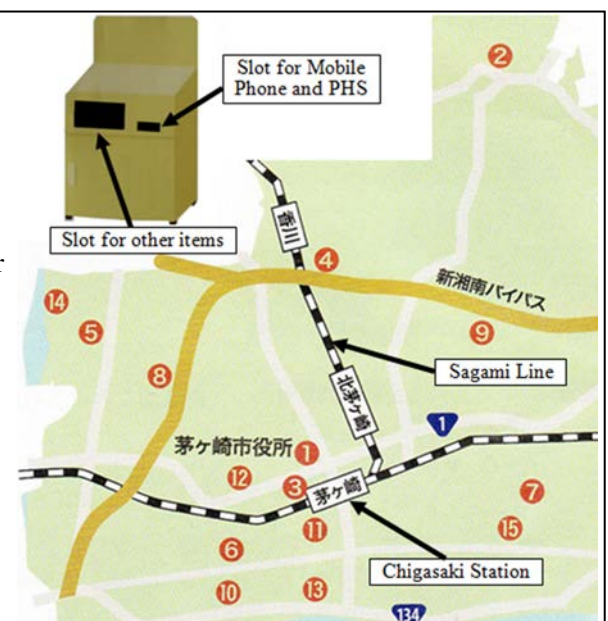
These small electrical appliances contain not only iron or copper but also gold or rare earth metals, so this dedicated collection system will help recycle these precious resources more effectively. In this respect, the City expects cooperation from citizens so that their new system will operate satisfactorily.

This new initiative falls under the Small Home Appliance Recycling Law, and will stay in effect until the end of March, 2016, in the first instance.



### Collection Box Locations

- ① Chigasaki City Hall
- ② Koide Branch Office
- ③ Chigasaki Station-front  
City Residents' Center
- ④ Kagawa City Residents' Center
- ⑤ Hagisono City Residents' Center
- ⑥ Nango City Residents' Center
- ⑦ Kowada Public Hall
- ⑧ Tsurumine Public Hall
- ⑨ Shorin Public Hall
- ⑩ Nango Public Hall
- ⑪ Municipal Library
- ⑫ Youth Hall
- ⑬ Beach Youth Hall
- ⑭ Environment Service Center
- ⑮ Hamasuka Hall



Points to consider: \*Private information should be deleted, possibly by re-initializing the device. \*Once inserted into the collection box, items cannot be taken out. \*All batteries should be removed (batteries cannot be collected by the City). \*Items not listed above should be disposed of following City garbage disposal rules. \*The City will not collect devices that do not fit through the slot (35cm x 15cm).

## Chigasaki Rainbow Festival At Satoyama Park

ちがさき 茅ヶ崎レインボーフェスティバル

Chigasaki Rainbow Festival will take place on November 17 (Sun), from 10:00 to 15:00 at Chigasaki *Satoyama* Park located in Serizawa in the northern part of the City. The festival site is on a hill and includes an outdoor market selling locally-produced fresh fruit and vegetables; a flea market with daily necessities, sundries, handicrafts, etc.; and a kiosk corner for refreshments. There will also be live music playing in the meadow.

A free bus service will run between the park and JR stations in Chigasaki and Kagawa. From Chigasaki, No.1 bus stop in front of Yokohama bank, five buses depart between 09:00 and 10:00, then three buses at 11:00, 12:00 and 13:00. From Kagawa, there are four buses at 11:00, two at 12:00 and so forth. For your return journey, please look at the *Satoyama* bus stop time table.

## New Pupils Invited

にゅうえんじ ぼしゅう  
入園児募集

Seventeen private kindergartens and 28 approved day nurseries in the City are now open for enrollment. On November 1, kindergartens started accepting applications for admission in April, 2014. Application forms are provided by each kindergarten individually. Please ask them for details.

As for day nurseries, children can start attending nursery between December this year and April next year, but the application procedure must be completed by November 15. Guardians should obtain an application form from the Day Care Department (now in the temporary office), and submit their completed applications in person to the same department on a weekday between 08:30 and 17:00. The lower age limit is generally 6 months as of the first day of an enrollment month, although Nakakaigan Hoikuen and Asuku-Chigasaki Hoikuen have set their lower age limit at 57 days.

A complete list of kindergartens and nurseries can be obtained from the Day Care Department (Tel: 82-1111). Please note that guardians who applied before August 15 need to reapply.

## Temporary Disruption to Public Services

しまごくちぎょうむ いちぶきゅうし  
市窓口業務の一部休止

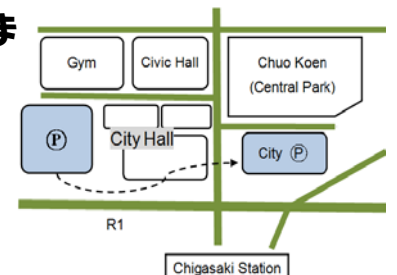
Some counter services at **Chigasaki Station-front City Residents' Center** will be unavailable on November 16 (Sat) while scheduled maintenance of City office electrical facilities takes place. Suspended services include receiving and issuing various applications and certificates, but tax-related services will be carried out as usual. The Center will suspend all services from November 18 (Mon) to November 20 (Wed) for the inspection of air-conditioning systems at the Nespa building where the Center is located. The City appreciates your cooperation and apologizes for any inconvenience caused.

Inquiries: City Residents' Section in charge of Civil Registration on 0467-87-6666

## City Hall Visitors' Parking Lot to Move

しやくしよちゅうしゃじょうか  
市役所駐車場がかわいま

Due to the construction of a new municipal hall, the current visitors' parking lot, west of the hall, is to be closed for about two years starting in December 2013. During this period, visitors can use the Chigasaki City parking lot, south of Chuo Kōen (Central Park). Show your parking ticket at the municipal section you visit, and you will be exempted from having to pay the parking fee. Physically disabled people can continue to use the designated parking spaces on the north of the prefabricated building and the annex to the main hall. Where possible, please use public transportation when you come to City Hall as this is considered more environmentally friendly.



## HISTORY OF CHIGASAKI

### The Oldest Kōshintō Monument in the City

しなさいこ こうしんとう  
市内最古の庚申塔

In the Kamakura era, the area comprising the present-day districts of Enzo, Nishikubo, Yabata and Hamanogo was called Futokorojima, and was the stronghold of Ōba Kageyoshi, a retainer of Yoritomo (the first shōgun of that era). In the district, there is a Shingon Buddhism sect temple called "Rinkōji", and within its grounds lie two one-meter-high stone Kōshin monuments, one of which, with its upper part shaped like the prow of a ship (see left of top photo), has been designated an important cultural asset by the City.

Kōshin refers to the fifty-seventh term of the Chinese sexagenary cycle, also called Stems-and-Branches, used to record both days and years. "Kō-shin" literally means the seventh stem (gold) of the monkey branch. A *kōshin* day itself is called "Kano-e-Saru" or "gold monkey". A Taoist tradition says that, every sixty days, on the night of *kano-e-saru*, three worms believed to dwell in the human body escape while you are asleep and report your sins to God, who may then shorten your life as punishment. To prevent the worms from escaping, you have to stay awake throughout *kano-e-saru* night, a custom called "Kōshin-Machi" or "Kōshin Vigil". Buddhism in Japan also regarded *kōshin* days/years to be times of great misfortune and had its own rituals to ward off evil influences, protect against sickness and misfortune, and to cure illness.

The custom of *kōshin-machi* became popular in the Muromachi period (1336-1573), whereby ten or so neighbors would take it in turns to host an all-night party, talking and feasting until daybreak, and was still practiced enthusiastically in the Chigasaki area up until the Second World War. There was also a superstition that a person born on *kano-e-saru* would become a thief, but this could be prevented by giving them a name related to gold, metal or money. Did you know that the famous Japanese novelist, Natsume Sōseki, was born on *kano-e-saru* and his real name was Kinnosuke ("Kin" means gold)?

In the late Muromachi and Edo (1603-1867) eras, as part of the observance of *kōshin-machi*, it became common to display stone pillars and towers called "Kōshintō" (*kōshin* towers) along roadsides with carvings of the *kōshin* deities (right of top photo): *Shōmen Kongō* – who protects against diseases caused by demons; and three *kōshin-zaru* (Kōshin monkey) called "Mizaru" (don't see), "Kikazaru" (don't hear) and "Iwazaru" (don't speak), each of which covers either its eyes, ears or mouth with its hands. Presumably, these three monkeys prevent the three worms from seeing and hearing your sins, and from speaking about them to God. Since the monkey also represents Sarutahiko, the long-nosed earthly Shinto deity who protects travellers, *kōshintō* were also used as signposts and guardian deities for travelers (similar to *dōsojin* stones and statues).

Kōshin monuments are said to be among the earliest kinds of stone monument in the City. Earlier monuments have images carved on them, but later ones usually only have inscriptions. Apparently, until 20 years ago, there were still 94 monuments remaining in the City, 80 of which were erected before the Meiji era (1868-1912). Indeed, Chigasaki is home to many of the oldest *kōshintō* in Japan, including ones in Amanuma (dated 1654), Namegaya (1655) and Yabata (1656), and the *kōshin* monument of Rinkōji temple, inscribed with the year 1640 (Kan'ei 17), is believed to be not only the oldest in the City, but also the oldest such monument nationwide featuring the three monkeys of *Mizaru-Kikazaru-Iwazaru* carved in relief. However, the inscription on this *kōshin* monument has not yet been deciphered and it is a little strange that the monkeys are wearing *Eboshi* or noble's headgear. Two other similar *kōshintō* monuments, one in Nikko City, Tochigi Prefecture, said to be the oldest, dated 1636 (Kan'ei 13), and another erected in 1641 (Kan'ei 18), show only two monkeys, suggesting that the depiction of *Mizaru-Kikazaru-Iwazaru* was not yet familiar in those days.

Incidentally, the next *kano-e-saru* falls on Dec 20 (Fri). A good excuse for an all-night *kōshin-machi* party, isn't it?



Rinkōji Temple stone monuments



## Chigasaki Health Care Center Courses

### ちがさきほけん 茅ヶ崎保健センターの講座

- Mothers' class for first-time mothers. 11/5 (Tue) 11/11 (Mon) 11/25 (Mon)
- Fathers' class for first-time fathers (mothers welcome). 11/2 (Sat) 11/19 (Tue)
- Baby food workshop for four- to six-month-old babies. 11/7 (Thu) 11/28 (Thu)
- Food and teeth care for babies born last Nov or Dec. 11/18 (Mon)

Please submit an application form to attend a course.

Inquiries: Child-rearing Consultation Section of City Hall on 82-1111

### IAC ACTIVITY

## Friendship Festival at Central Park

### しみん 市民ふれあいまつり

The IAC will participate in an autumn festival called *Fureai Matsuri* on November 3 (Sun) at Chuo Kōen. The annual civic festival will feature more than seventy tents where you can find various kinds of goods that are easy to buy, such as food, drinks, young potted plants, second-hand clothes, toys and so on. In addition, there will be dancing and music performed on the stage. Many of these tents are set up by volunteer activity groups in the City so it is a chance for you to see what activities are taking place in the community. The IAC are looking forward to welcoming you to their stand where they have brochures and drinks. Why don't you drop in?

## University Students from Australia

### だいがくせい オーストラリア大学生が茅ヶ崎に

Eight Australian students, four ladies and four men, will stay in Chigasaki from November 22 (Fri) to November 25 (Mon). During their stay, they are to visit Hamasuka Junior High School on the Friday, will experience a tea ceremony wearing kimono and attend a welcome party on the Saturday, and then spend a whole day with their host family on the Sunday. Their stay in Chigasaki is just one leg of their tour of Japan, which includes the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum and Toyota's headquarters in Aichi prefecture, before their departure on December 9 (Mon).

## IAC Year-End Party イヤーエンドパーティ

The IAC year-end party will be held on December 15 (Sun) at the City Hall annex 'Community Hall'. The party will be open to everybody, so we hope many foreign people in Chigasaki will join us and enjoy chatting over wine and dinner. Details are not available yet, although there will be an entrance fee, but if you are interested, please join us on the day. For more information, please call 090-1557-7789.

## People in Town

### Magda L. Kitano from the USA

*I have confidence in Japan; a peaceful, safe environment to raise children and live your life.*

Magda L. Kitano comes from Boston, Massachusetts, and has lived in Japan since 1992. Her home is in Saitama prefecture but she commutes to Namegaya, Chigasaki, four days a week to lecture at the International Studies faculty of Bunkyo University, teaching several English-related classes of Writing, Expression, and Translation, in addition to spoken English. Her seminars are on the topics of "Culture and Media".



We found out that she knew a Japanese family in her neighborhood when she was 7 years old, attending the same school as one of their children. Later, as a college student, she dreamed of joining a Japanese company in Japan. Actually, Magda's husband is an elder son of that same Japanese family who she had been close friends with as they grew up. Now she has a daughter who is a third-year junior high-school student, which Magda feels very happy about.

She used to work in Tokyo, but has been working at the Shonan campus of Bunkyo University for two years now. She likes working in Chigasaki even though she has to spend a couple of hours commuting each way, but she takes her laptop with her and works on the train, so it doesn't feel like a long time. She sees herself as a busy woman, just like a typical Japanese worker.

As well as living in Japan for 21 years, she studied Japanese for about five years in America, and now speaks fluent Japanese. She is interested in movies, dramas, and music, although this relates to what she teaches at university.

She is too busy to participate in community activities, either in Saitama or Chigasaki, but commented that Chigasaki Breeze was a great way to share information with English speakers in the community, and added that she had never seen such a newsletter in Saitama.

She recalls that she saw people smoking everywhere when she first came to Japan, but now she understands it is hard to find acceptable places to smoke, making it difficult now to be a smoker in Japan. She feels that Chigasaki is different from cities in Saitama and she said she likes the clean air in Namegaya.

## So many Countries, so many Customs!

### どころか 所変われば、しな 品変わる

## The Spirit of Christmas クリスマスの精神

I was asked recently about the meaning of Christmas. Well, the main purpose of Christmas is to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. Christians give praise to their god, believing that Jesus was a gift from God to mankind offering a path to salvation and eternal life. During this season, churches are decorated with candles, greenery and scenes of the Nativity (the birth of Jesus). Many Christians attend church services, such as the Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve, where they listen to gospel readings about the story of Christmas, sing carols (such as Silent Night), and hold candlelight vigils.

However, Christmas today is more than simply an act of worship, and includes many customs, such as gift-giving and merrymaking, which pre-date Christianity, having their origins in European winter solstice festivals, but which were absorbed into Christmas as pagan cultures were converted to Christianity. The traditional Christmas tree, for example, probably derives from pagan tree worship, as evergreen trees symbolized eternal life. In Britain, Christmas trees were introduced from Germany in the early 19th Century, but only became popular when a newspaper showed a picture of Queen Victoria and her family standing around one in Windsor Castle.

Even that most famous symbol of Christmas, the jolly, slightly overweight, white-bearded, sleigh-riding bringer of gifts, Santa Claus, is based on earlier characters: the 4th Century Saint Nicholas who had a reputation for secret gift-giving (though only to deserving children); and even Odin, the supreme god of Norse mythology, who rode the midwinter sky on his eight-footed steed Sleipnir, visiting his people with gifts.

To me, though, the meaning of Christmas is not found in its symbols or religious observances, but in its modern emphasis on family gatherings, seasonal merriment, generosity and compassion. Surprisingly, this is largely the result of efforts by the English author, Charles Dickens, to revive the "spirit" of Christmas during the Victorian era. His famous novella, *A Christmas Carol*, tells the story of the bitter and miserly Ebenezer Scrooge who is visited by the Ghosts of Christmas Past, Present, and Yet to Come and is transformed into a man with joy and love in his heart.

So, this Christmas, remember that the act of giving should bring joy to both the giver and receiver. For what is appreciated is not just the gift itself, but the thought that has gone into choosing the gift. Or, as Mother Theresa put it: "It's not how much we give, but how much love we put into giving." Merry Christmas!



The Queen's Christmas tree at Windsor Castle (1848)

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

## Number of Foreign Residents in Chigasaki

### ちがさきしないうがいこくじんすう 茅ヶ崎市内在住外国人数

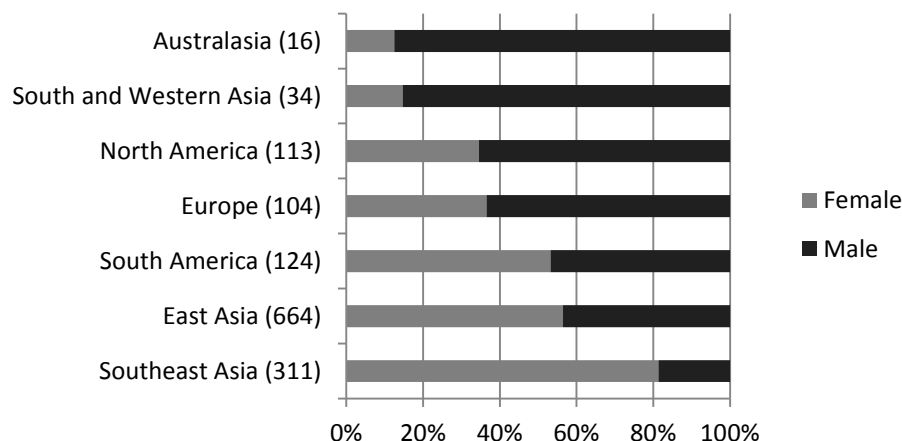
As of December 31, 2012, there were a total of 1,463 foreign residents in Chigasaki, nearly 60% of whom originated from either China (24%), the Korean Peninsula (21%) or the Philippines (14%).

Representing more than 35 countries of citizenship, foreign residents make up just 0.62% of the total population of Chigasaki (estimated to be 236,177 as of June 2012). This compares to a national figure of approximately 2.5 million foreign residents (or 1.96% of the total population of Japan).

In Chigasaki, 43% of foreign residents are male and 57% are female, which reflects the corresponding data from the East Asian countries of China and Korea. However, the male/female split varies depending on which region of the world foreign residents came from, based on available data (see chart). For example, of those originating from Southeast Asian countries (311 in total), only 19% are male and 81% are female, whereas from South America (124), it is roughly fifty-fifty, and from North America (113) and Europe (104), the split is two-thirds male and one-third female. From South and Western Asia and Australasia, albeit with fewer numbers, 6 out of 7 foreign residents are male.

These figures have remained stable over the past three years, and suggest, at least in overall numbers, that the Great East Japan Earthquake of March 2011, the subsequent devastating tsunami and the meltdown of three nuclear reactors at the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant have not deterred foreign residents from choosing to live their lives in Chigasaki.

Region of Origin (no. of foreign residents) by Sex



## Fujisawa International Festival

### こくさいこうりゅう ふじさわ国際交流フェスティバル

Fujisawa City will hold the 10th Fujisawa International Festival on November 10 (Sun) at Fujisawa station's *Sunpearl* Square (similar to Chigasaki station's pedestrian deck) near the north exit of the station building. There will be stalls offering cuisine and folk craft from around the world, including America, Argentina, Canada, China, El Salvador, Korea, Nepal, Peru, and Sri Lanka. And, on a stage located at the north end of the Square, international music and dance will be performed, including jazz, folklore, hula and Bali dance. The festival opens at 11:00 and closes at 15:00, weather permitting.

Inquiries: Heiwa Kokusai-ka or Peace and International Affairs Division of Fujisawa City Office on 0467-25-1111

## Saturday Music Salon at Hagisono

### はぎそのどよう 萩園の土曜ミュージックサロン

On Nov 16 (Sat), from 13:45 to 14:45, the guitar singer Jyonosuke Fūma will perform some familiar and not so familiar songs at Hagisono-ikoi-no-sato. Saturday Music Salon is held every other month, and admission is free.

## Disused Article Bank 不用品バンク

The City provides a facility, called Disused Article Bank, for finding new owners for disused articles, either for free or at a reasonable cost. You can offer or request many kinds of articles such as baby beds, bicycles, closet drawers, kindergarten uniforms, and musical instruments. Details of articles offered, including some pictures, are available on the City's website.

Go to: <http://www.city.chigasaki.kanagawa.jp/> → Foreigners Guide → Start Translation (below your preferred language) → Handbook for living in Chigasaki → Citizen consultation, consumer life → Discarded things bank

You can also contact the Consulting Services for Citizens' Section, Consumer Life Center on 82-1111. If an item interests you, they will put you in touch with the owner directly. If you are offering or requesting an article, they will help you register the details and any pictures. So, why don't you have a look?

## Useful Japanese Expression

### やくたにほんご 役に立つ日本語

### OKOGAMASHII おこがましい

*Okogamashii* is translated into such English adjectives as presumptuous, impertinent, impudent, intrusive, etc. which could mean, respectively, *deshabari* (出しゃばり), *namaikina* (生意気な), *atsukamashii* (厚かましい), and *jamaninaru* (邪魔になる). So, it might sound as if it is used in a negative way, but actually it is more commonly used when you want to say something modestly like: "It may not be my place (may be *okogamashii*) to say this, but I would like to suggest that you ...". In this manner, *okogamashii* can indicate the heartfelt or sincere feelings of the speaker, but without trivializing the importance or urgency of the advice being offered.

Also, the adverbial form, *okogamashikumo*, can be used when you did something which will have an effect on someone else, but without asking their permission. For example, in English, you might say: "I took the liberty of correcting your essay.", but in Japanese you could say: "I did it *okogamashikumo* or presumptuously."

### TONCHINKAN 頓珍漢 (とんちんかん)

It happens sometimes that you say something to a friend, but they don't understand a word of it. *Tonchinkan* can be used in such situations. For example: "I tried to tell him how I felt, but the words came out *tonchinkan* (all wrong)."

The adjective form is *tonchinkan-na*, and can be translated as absurd, bizarre, incoherent, irrelevant, etc. used in such ways as: "She asked a *tonchinkan-na* (bizarre) question"; or "We have been working at *tonchinkan-na* (cross) purpose - I meant next year, not this year".

## Japanese Proverbs and their English Equivalents

### にっぽんせいよう 日本と西洋のことわざ

- 思い立ったが吉日  
OMOI-TATTA GA KICHIJITSU  
(The time when you think of it is a lucky day.)  
There is no time like the present.
- 高嶺の花  
TAKANE NO HANA  
(an unattainable flower)  
One may point at a star, but not pull at it.
- 忠言 耳に逆らう  
CHŪGEN MIMI NI SAKARAU  
(Good advice is often resisted by one's ears.)  
Bitter pills may have blessed effects.
- 馬鹿と子どもは正直  
BAKA TO KODOMO WA SHŌJIKI  
(Fools and children are honest.)  
Children and fools tell the truth.
- 不言実行  
FUGEN JIKKŌ  
(to put into practice without saying)  
Deeds, not words.