

## ENVIRONMENT

### How to Maintain the Beauty of the Beach

#### 【Status quo】

Chigasaki Beach has been attracting many people because of its beautiful contrast between the sand and black pine trees that have been growing along the beach since old times. However, the sandy beach, which used to be as wide as 50 meters, is now on the verge of disappearing due to erosion. The government tried to construct a headland a bit offshore thinking it would change the sand movement, but it seems to have been in vain.

#### 【A Cause of the dwindling sands】

The origin of the sand in Chigasaki beach is in the outskirts of Mt. Fuji. The sand flowed down a long way to Sagami Bay along the Sagami River via Yamanaka Lake and the Katsura River in Yamanashi Prefecture before two artificial lakes were constructed upstream of the Sagami River. The two lakes, Sagami Lake and Tsukui Lake were constructed for a power generation and water supply but at the same time these hampered sand flow and began causing the dwindling of the beach.

#### 【An effect of the upstream dam】

When it comes to the artificial lakes, they blocked the smooth flow of earth and sand, which began piling up on the lake bed, and since 1990, it caused flooding whenever typhoon hit those areas. To remove earth and sand, it costs more than 2 billion yen. Blue-green algae explosively thrived and oxygen shortage occurred in the lakes because of stagnant water. The ecology of a river fish *AYU* or sweetfish has also been affected.

A government committee has started studying how to cope with the troubles and is trying the experimental methods but has not yet found any solutions.

#### 【How to tackle】

A civic group tackling the maintenance of Chigasaki beach considers that sandy beach has lapsed into dwindling and various kinds of troubles created it when its path was changed from its origin in Mt. Fuji to its destination of Sagami Bay. Concerned parties feel they have to make an effort to restore the benefits which nature has bestowed upon people.

The leader of the active group Eisaku Hirose cites two points as concrete measures. First, creating a way for sand to pass through dams and drain into the Sagami River. Second, to do research on how sand is eroded and in which direction it goes to. To control the force of nature, it is necessary to understand the force of nature.



## IAC ACTIVITIES

### A Lecture by Professor Miyahara of Bunkyo University

#### WORLD FOOD SITUATIONS:

*“Natto will keep this country safe in the long run.”*

On February 24, professor Tatsuo Miyahara of Bunkyo University made a lecture and impressed the audience so much. It was about keeping yourself healthy and how it will eventually help Japan remain sustainable in the long run. Due to the changing composition of the family it will become necessary for fewer numbers of active generations to support the growing number of elderly people in the near future.

Japanese food self-sufficiency today is only 40% on a calorie basis versus 74% in England, 96% in Germany, 125% in the U.S., 132% in France and 161% in Canada while the number of people aged 65 or older is forecasted to share roughly 40% of total population in 2055 compared to 20% in 2005. That means only 1.3 active generations are going to sustain 1 aged person.

In the meantime, aging can be a cause of various health problems and that requires lots of medical care and cost. So, it is important to be healthy by any means. In other words, the Japanese future social security cannot be maintained without HEALTH. He explained that *Natto* or fermented soy beans or anything made of soy beans together with fish, fruit and vegetables would keep the perfect balance of health. He also added that bad eating habits are a larger cancer causing element than smoking, quoting a report by a British doctor.

Naturally, the current major change in climate may cause unexpected troubles around the globe and it's not certain if it's possible to maintain even the current status of 60% food dependency in the future. He stressed that the Japanese will have to make every effort to better their agricultural environment by increasing their farming scale, growing organic farming, increasing hydroponics, etc.

In order to ascertain the future social security, the positive effect of *Natto* was explained in detail showing video which Professor Miyahara recorded while he was visiting a local village in Kweichow Province, China, renowned for being heavily dependant on *TÔFU* or other soy bean based food stuffs.



## Ōoka-Sai Festival Parade

April 29, 2007 13:00 ~ 15:00

Starts from Chigasaki primary school and finishes at Emeroad Dōri via the street between Ito Yokado and Yamada Denki. Ōoka-Sai is one of the major events of the year and also has a number of foreigners participating.



## Free Japanese Classes in Chigasaki

As of April 1, 2007

	Time*	Place*	Group Name	Contact	Language
Tue.	13:30 ~15:00	COOP Kanagawa Asahigaoka Branch	SUMIRE	Ms. Inai 0467-58-4392	Japanese English
Wed.	18:00 ~19:30	Josei Center	AIAU	Ms. Hirayama 0467-82-6360 Ms. Matsui 0467-51-2754	Japanese English
Thu.	10:00 ~12:00	Civic Gallery	International Association of Chigasaki	Ms. Suzuki 0467-82-0759 <a href="mailto:suzuyoko@dream.ocn.ne.jp">suzuyoko@dream. ocn.ne.jp</a>	Japanese English
Sat.	15:00 ~17:00	Josei Center	Nihongo-no-Kai	Ms. Ishiguro 0467-85-4574	Japanese English Chinese
Sun.	13:30 ~16:00	Chigasaki-chiku Community Center	International Association of Chigasaki	Ms. Fujino 0467-86-2468 <a href="mailto:iac@7jp.com">iac@7jp.com</a>	Japanese English

Remarks: (1) Time and place are subject to change. Please confirm with above-mentioned coordinator before you join.

(2) Information on Japanese classes in Kanagawa Prefecture is available in the homepage: [www.k-i-a.or.jp/classroom/](http://www.k-i-a.or.jp/classroom/)

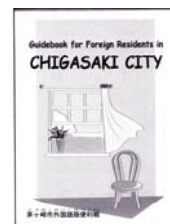
## Public INFO

### A New Guidebook for Foreign Residents

A new English guidebook for foreign residents in Chigasaki City will be available from April 2, at Bunka Suishin-ka (Cultural Promotion Section, Planning Division, Chigasaki City).

Tel. 0467-82-1111

URL <http://www.city.chigasaki.kanagawa.jp/>



### Changing Garbage Collection Point

From April onward, the garbage collection points for bottles, cans, and plastic (pet) bottles are going to be collected at the same point as 「Old papers, Corrugated paperboard, Cardboard, Drink cartons, and Cloths/Clothes.」 (This has been executed at some districts already.)

【Garbage Collection Center  
Tel. 0467-57-0200】