



Shinjuku News

Published by: Multicultural Society Promotion Division, Regional Promotion Department, Shinjuku City
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Website <http://www.foreign.city.shinjuku.lg.jp/en/>

Disaster prevention activities

The community reinforces local disaster prevention organizations and training programs to create a disaster-resistant town.



Explanation of how to use a pump

Safety and peace of mind/ crime prevention and traffic safety activities

Everyone in the community pours their efforts into programs and measures that ensure safety and peace of mind, such as spring and fall traffic safety programs, protecting children on their way to and from school, crime prevention patrols and the installation of security cameras.



Patrol programs



AED (automatic external defibrillator) training program



Morning greeting programs

City Planning Overflowing with Smiles

Town Councils and Community Groups Strengthen Community Bonds

Are you familiar with your local town council and community groups?

Local residents organize town councils and community groups, and plan and conduct programs—such as friendly gatherings and activities for safety and peace of mind—to create a better living environment.

Two hundred such groups were conducting programs in Shinjuku City as of October 2018.

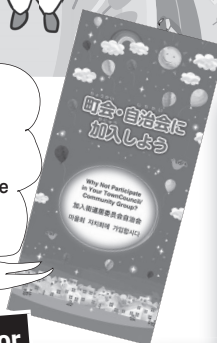
Join your local town council or some community groups and participate in community activities!

If you're interested in your local town councils or community groups, please join and participate in community activities.

Inquiries (in Japanese):
Community Section, Regional Community Division (Shinjuku City Office Main Bldg. 1F)
Tel: 03-5273-4127
Fax: 03-3209-7455

Multilingual pamphlets introducing town councils and community groups are available

Pamphlets published in four languages (Japanese with hiragana, English, Chinese and Korean) are available at the Multicultural Society Promotion Division and Branch Offices.



Cleanup programs

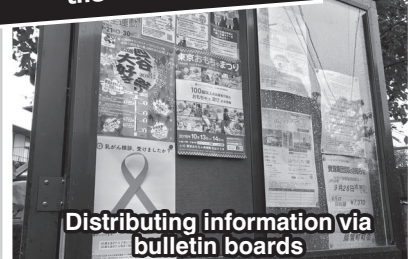
Environment beautification activities



Uchi-mizu cooling water

These initiatives include the collection of recyclable resources such as old papers, bottles and cans, as well as cleanup programs.

Sending out information for the community



Distributing information via bulletin boards

The Shinjuku City Office sends out announcements and distributes helpful information about everyday living through bulletin boards and other channels.



Sports field day

Festivals



Enjoy friendly exchanges with fellow community residents and community activities

Activities such as seasonal events and festivals pass along the culture of the community to the next generation and new residents, helping residents communicate and deepen their friendships.

Main Annual Events in Japan

Fun Seasonal Events

In Japan, plenty of events take place at the same times every year. They give you a sense of Japanese culture and the season, and may also be conducted in local communities. In this issue, we introduce some of these events.

January

Oshogatsu (New Year's)

Oshogatsu is an event that celebrates and welcomes in the New Year. Generally, families get together and have *osechi-ryori* (traditional New Year's food) or go to the shrine for *hatsumode* (first visit of the New Year). Children receive *otoshi-dama* pocket money envelopes.

January

Seijin-no Hi (Coming-of-Age Day)

Second Monday

In Japan, people who turn twenty years of age join the ranks of adults and gain various social rights and personal responsibilities. This day helps young adults become conscious of themselves as adults, and encourage them to live their lives to the fullest.

For Twenty-Year-Olds Come Celebrate Coming-of-Age Day Together!

Shinjuku City also celebrates its new adults. Since you can participate even in informal dress, please feel free to join the celebration.
Date and time: January 14, 2019 (Mon., national holiday), 1 to 3 p.m.
 (The reception desk will be open from noon.)
Location: Keio Plaza Hotel (2-2-1 Nishi-Shinjuku)
Eligibility: Shinjuku City residents born between April 2, 1998 and April 1, 1999
Program: Ceremony and buffet party
Inquiries: General Affairs Section, General Affairs Division (Shinjuku City Office Main Bldg. 3F)
Tel: 03-5273-3505



February 3

Setsubun The Day before Spring Begins

Setsubun is an event to drive out evil with the change of seasons. This is done by throwing toasted soybeans while chanting, "Oni wa soto, fuku wa uchi," (Devils, go outside! Happiness, come in!).

March 3

Hina Matsuri Doll Festival

Hina matsuri is an event to pray for the health and growth of girls. People set festive decorations, such as *hina* dolls and peach blossoms in place and enjoy traditional foods like *chirashi-zushi* (vinegared rice topped with various ingredients) and *hina-arare* (a type of Japanese confection).

Enjoy Japanese Culture! International Exchange Residents' Gathering Hina Matsuri (Doll Festival)

You can experience various aspects of Japanese culture at this festival, such as dressing in a kimono, flower arrangement, tea ceremony and calligraphy. There will also be a seven-tier *hina* doll display. Why not invite your family and friends and come join the fun?

Date and time: February 23 (Sat.), 2019, 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. (scheduled to close at this time)

Location: Shinjuku Bunka Center (6-14-1 Shinjuku)

3F small hall, 4F meeting room and B1F exhibition room

Fee: ¥500; free for elementary schoolchildren and younger.

Application: None required—just come directly to the site.

Inquiries: Regional Exchange Division, the Shinjuku Foundation for Creation of Future
Tel: 03-3232-5121



May 5

Tango-no Sekku Children's Day

Tango-no sekku is an event at which people pray for the health and growth of boys. It is celebrated by displaying May dolls, such as imitation armor, or setting up *koinobori* (carp streamers). May dolls symbolize the prayers for protecting children from danger, while carp streamers symbolize the prayers for their healthy growth.



July 7

Tanabata (Star Festival)

The origin of *tanabata* can be traced back to China. In Japan, the story of the deities Orihime and Hikoboshi—lovers who are separated by the Milky Way and can only meet once a year on July 7—is well known. The event is celebrated by setting out bamboo leaf decorations, after which people write their wishes on narrow strips of colorful paper and tie them to the bamboo branches. Doing so will reportedly make your wish come true.

Mid-August



Obon Honoring the Ancestors

Obon is the time of year to make offerings for the spirits of those who have recently passed away as well as other ancestors. At this time of year, spirits reportedly return from *Jodo* (the Pure Land) to the place where lived when they were alive. In Japan, many people return to their hometowns at this time of year.

October 31

Halloween

Halloween has become a focus of attention in Japan in recent years. People enjoy dressing up in costumes, such as cartoon characters or goblins, and participating in parades and other events.

November 15

Shichi-Go-San (Seven-Five-Three Celebration)

This event takes place on November 15, and celebrates the healthy growth of boys who are three and five years old and girls who are three and seven years old. Children are dressed in their best clothes or gorgeous kimono, and are taken to the shrine for a visit, where people offer prayers for their continued health.



December 25

Christmas

Christmas in Japan is not necessarily a religious event. Many people who celebrate Christmas simply spend time with their family, girlfriends or boyfriends, or good friends, and eat cake and exchange presents.



Please Follow the Three Rules for Sorting and Disposing of Garbage and Recyclable Resources Carefully!

To avoid causing problems for your neighbors, it is important to follow the rules when disposing of garbage and recyclable resources.

Rule 1 Sorting

Sort recyclable resources, combustible garbage and metal, ceramic and glass items according to type.

- Please note that items other than the recyclable resources and garbage scheduled for a collection day cannot be collected.
- For details on how to sort your garbage, please read the "How to Separate and Dispose of Recyclable Resources/Garbage" flier, which is posted on the Shinjuku City website (in Japanese, English, Chinese, Korean, Vietnamese, Burmese, Nepalese, French, Tagalog, Thai and Arabic).

Rule 2 Location

Be sure to dispose of items at the designated recyclable resource/garbage collection site.

- The collection site for recyclable resources and garbage is maintained by the residents who use it. Throwing away garbage at locations other than the designated collection site is considered illegal dumping. If you do not know where your garbage/recyclable resource collection site is, please ask your neighbor if you live in a single-family house, or the superintendent (or owner) if you live in an apartment or condominium complex.

Rule 3 Collection day

Take out your garbage/recyclable resources by 8 a.m. on the designated collection day.

- It is prohibited to dispose of garbage at night on the day before the designated collection day, or on days after collection is completed.
- The collection days depend on the area where you live. Please read the "The correct way to dispose of recyclables/waste" PDF booklet (in Japanese, English, Chinese and Korean) posted on the Shinjuku City website.

Website: http://www.city.shinjuku.lg.jp/seikatsu/file09_02_00001.html



How to Dispose of Oversized Garbage (reservations required; fees charged)

- (1) Measure the size of the item you would like to dispose of and check what it is made of before applying for a collection date. Please make a reservation with the Oversized Garbage Reception Center.

Oversized Garbage Reception Center

Tel: 03-5296-7000 (Monday through Saturday, 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.)

Internet reception (available on a 24-hour basis):

<http://sodai.tokyokankyo.or.jp/Sodai/V2Index/0/1/>

- (2) Purchase the designated amount of Shinjuku City oversized garbage handling fee tickets, attach them to your oversized garbage, and take your item to the designated location by 8 a.m. on the designated collection day.

What Is Oversized Garbage?

Oversized garbage includes items from households—such as furniture, bedding, electric devices and bicycles—that measure more than thirty centimeters on any side. Items that cannot be collected as oversized garbage: Air conditioners, TVs, refrigerators/freezers, laundry machines/dryers, personal computers, motorcycles, car tires, pianos, fireproof safes, fire extinguishers, concrete blocks, etc.



Are You Familiar With the

"Minna no Medal (A Medal for Everybody)" Project Toward an Innovative Future for All



Tokyo 2020 Medal Project: Toward an Innovative Future for All

Precious metals from small electric devices that are no longer being used—such as cell phones and digital cameras—will be turned into gold, silver and bronze medals for the Tokyo 2020 Olympics/Paralympics. Please cooperate in the recycling of our world's limited resources.

Collection period: Until around spring 2019
(Reception may close when the necessary amount of metal is collected.)

For more information on the Medal Project

Please visit the Tokyo 2020 Organization Committee Medal Project's official website.

Website: <https://tokyo2020.org/en/games/medals/project/>

Sponsors: Tokyo 2020 Organization Committee, Ministry of the Environment, Japan Environmental Sanitation Center, NTT DoCoMo, and the Tokyo Metropolitan Government



Shinjuku City is also participating in the project! Your cooperation would be deeply appreciated.

Nine types of items are being collected: Cell phones; portable videocameras; digital cameras; portable music players; portable game devices; electronic dictionaries; portable car navigators; electronic calculators; and accessories such as remote controls, AC adaptors and cables.

For information on collection locations and precautions, please visit:

Website: http://www.foreign.city.shinjuku.lg.jp/en/seikatsu/seikatsu_29/

Inquiries: Operation Section, Shinjuku Waste Collection Office
Tel: 03-3950-2962



Collection box on the first floor of the Shinjuku City Office Main Bldg.

Celebrate the 500th Day before the Tokyo 2020 Olympics and Paralympics

Experience sports with Olympians and Paralympians, explore Japanese culture experience booths, and share your enthusiasm about the Tokyo 2020 Olympics/Paralympics!

Date and time: March 3 (Sun.), 2019, 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Program: Please check the Shinjuku City website for details.
Website: <https://www.city.shinjuku.lg.jp/kusei/index30.html>
Fee: Free of charge



Locations:

Nishi-Shinjuku Elementary School (4-35-5 Nishi-Shinjuku)

Inquiries: Shinjuku City Tokyo Olympics/Paralympics Division
Tel: 03-5273-4220 (Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.)

Hearts That Understand Each Other and Grow Closer Together

Living Together in Harmony



共に生きる

Bridges between Korea, Vietnam and Japan



Sangbum Park

Park came to love Vietnam while working there. He later established a trading company, making use of his skills in the Japanese and Vietnamese languages. Since he himself was a foreign student in Japan, he enthusiastically supports students from Vietnam.

Sangbum Park's life of cultural exchanges started when he was young, and his overseas ties also extend far back in time. He came to Japan to study during his college years, and found a job in Tokyo after graduating. The trading company where he worked sent him to Vietnam for about five years. During that time he helped coordinate between local staff and the company's Tokyo headquarters, and worked with people of various countries. He experienced the complexities of multicultural living.

Park now runs a company in Japan, yet still actively supports people from Vietnam. How is he making use of his experience living abroad from the time he was young? We talked with him about living in a country where the language and culture is completely different.

INTERVIEW

What were your thoughts when you first came to Japan?

I was surprised at how clean the city streets were. My first impression of Japan was that it was a beautiful country, since I didn't see any trash on the streets.

Did you have any difficulty living in Japan?

The apartment superintendent often scolded me because I didn't sort my garbage properly. I couldn't understand why he was scolding me, but now I know: there are rules, aren't there? When I first came to Japan, I didn't know the rules at all, so I was throwing garbage away at the wrong place and I wasn't sorting my garbage correctly. Of course, now I follow all the rules (laughing).

Did you have difficulty living in Vietnam?

My biggest problem was that there was nothing to do for leisure. Since I was working in the countryside, all I could do on my days off was take a walk. During my second year of assignment, a family restaurant opened in the neighborhood, so I was really happy about that. My favorite thing to do was to go to that restaurant once a week.

Do you have an interesting story about working with people overseas?

When I was assigned to work in Vietnam, the local people said, "We can't tell if you are Japanese or Korean." Apparently, Vietnamese people had the image of Japanese people being quiet, and Korean people being loud and cheerful. When I was quiet, the locals said, "Today, you are like a Japanese person." Perhaps because I lived in Japan for a long time, I absorbed the personality and characteristics of the people of Japan without realizing it.

Can you tell us what you do specifically to support Vietnamese people?

I publish a free paper once a month in Vietnamese called *Ja Vi Times*. It includes information on living in Japan, restaurants and stores offering Vietnamese food in the Shinjuku area, and the latest news from Vietnam. I have no experience writing or editing for a magazine, but I continue to do this, thinking that it may help foreign students from Vietnam adjust to life in Japan based on my own experience of intercultural exchange. The publication is available at Vietnamese restaurants and stores in the Okubo area, so

if you see it, please feel free to take a copy.



Ja Vi Times

Finally, do you have any advice or words of encouragement?

I think the key thing to remember when talking with someone from another country is that you must understand cultural differences and deal with them. When I first came to Japan, I remember growing angry when I saw a man smoking a cigarette in front of his parents. In my country, smoking in front of your parents is taboo.

To be in a different country means that the culture and values are naturally also different. When you encounter values different from your own, you shouldn't try to force your own values on other people. Always consider the other person's culture and values. Of course, in an ideal relationship, you mustn't forget to express your own side as well.

column What Kind of Country Is Vietnam?

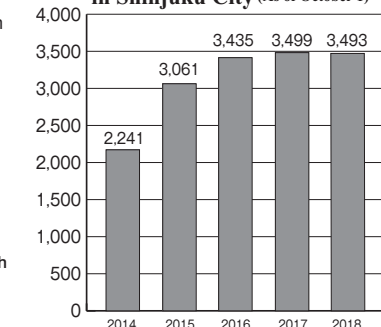


- Official name: Socialist Republic of Vietnam
- Capitol: Hanoi
- Population: About 93,700,000
- Area of land: About 330,000 sq. km (about 90 percent of that of Japan)
- Language: Vietnamese
- Currency: Dong

Vietnam—Motorcycle Heaven

There are about 40 million motorcycles in Vietnam, meaning around one out of every two people owns a motorcycle. Motorcycles are such a daily necessity that people in Vietnam say, "You can sell your home, but you don't sell your motorcycle."

Vietnamese Population in Shinjuku City (As of October 1)



As of October 1, 2018, Shinjuku City had 42,849 foreign residents, or about 12.4 percent of the city's population. The Vietnamese are the fourth-largest group, following the Chinese, Korean and Nepalese.