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1. Tokyo National University of Fine Arts & Music to Commence Graduate Course in Animation

- First Graduate-Level Course of Its Kind at a National University in Japan -

The Tokyo National University of Fine Arts & Music, Graduate School of Film and New Media will begin offering an animation major in Yokohama in April 2008, the first graduate-level course of its kind at a national university.

2. Launch of Videophone Interpreting Service for Korean and Chinese at City Tourist Information Offices

Yokohama Convention & Visitors Bureau has started an interpreting system for Korean and Chinese that utilizes videophone at four tourist information offices in the City. etc

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Featured Topics

1. Tokyo National University of Fine Arts & Music to Commence Graduate Course in Animation in April - First Graduate-Level Course of Its Kind at a National University in Japan -

The Tokyo National University of Fine Arts & Music, Graduate School of Film and New Media will begin offering an animation major in Yokohama in April this year, which will be the first graduate-level course of its kind at a national university in Japan. Following on from the film major and new media major already established in the City, this is the third major that the City of Yokohama attracted to the City with the aim of realizing “Creative City Yokohama,” which promotes the concept of an “image culture” city.

Holding up as an ideal the wide-ranging development of expression and research relating to motion video with animation at its core, through its application to the creation of contents including communications and broadcasting, the animation major institutes the four domains of 3-D animation, two-dimensional animation, project construction (production), and narrative construction (script, etc.).

The academic foundation is shaped by the nurturing of talent that ensues from the production of works through an alliance of creator, producer, and researcher. The four professors appointed include Yuichi Ito, renowned as the creator of the claymation *Knyacki!*; Koji Yamamura, director of the short animated film *AtamaYama*, highly acclaimed at film festivals in Japan and overseas; and movie critic Takehito Deguchi.

*About “Creative City Yokohama”

This refers to the creation of a city that promotes sustainable urban development, building on Yokohama’s greatest strengths that lie in its unique history and culture surrounding a port by utilizing the creativity that art and culture offers to generate new value and appeal.

<Inquiries> 150th Anniversary of the Port Opening & Creative City Headquarters TEL 045-671-4241

Tokyo National University of Fine Arts & Music, Graduate School of Film and New Media TEL 050-5525-2673

<Website> <http://www.city.yokohama.jp/me/keiei/kaikou/souzou/new/071204.html> (Japanese)



2. Launch of Videophone Interpreting Service for Korean and Chinese at City Tourist Information Offices

From December 4 last year Yokohama Convention & Visitors Bureau introduced an interpreting system for Korean and Chinese languages that utilizes videophone at four tourist information offices in the City. With the introduction of the videophone interpreting system, interpreters standing by at call centers are linked by videophone to tourist information offices, to provide tourist information by conversing with visitors.

Until now, tourist information offices in the city offered tourist information in Japanese and English. However, with the trend in recent years toward increasing numbers of visitors to Yokohama from East Asia inquiries in Korean and Chinese have also increased. In response, the new service was launched with the aim of ensuring a more comfortable stay for tourists from these countries.

<Tourist information centers> Yokohama Station, Shin-Yokohama Station, Sakuragi-cho, Sangyo Boeki Center
<Inquiries> Yokohama Convention & Visitors Bureau TEL 045-211-1202

3. Major events to be held in 2008 ahead of the 150th anniversary of the opening of Yokohama Port next year

With the opening of the port on July 1, 1859, Yokohama, isolated until then, became a window to the world beyond Japan's shores, attracting art, culture, and people from both elsewhere in Japan and overseas, and continuing to develop around the hub of the port until its formation as the large city it has become today.

Next year (2009) will be the 150th anniversary of the opening of Yokohama as a port. A number of major events will be held in Yokohama this year and next year to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the opening of the port.

1) The 4th Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD IV) – Held outside Tokyo for the first time -

The Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD) is an international conference which the Japanese Government jointly hosts with the United Nations, the World Bank, and other organizations under the theme of African development. Held in Tokyo every five years since 1993, this is the first time it will be held in a city other than Tokyo. With the message of "Towards a Vibrant Africa: Continent of Hope and Opportunity," the themes of this year's 4th Conference include consolidation of peace and environmental initiatives.

<Date> Wednesday, 28 – Friday, 30 May
<Inquiries> 150th Anniversary of the Port Opening & Creative City Headquarters TEL 045-671-4349
<Website> <http://www.city.yokohama.jp/me/keiei/kaikou/jigyuu/ticad/index.html> (Japanese)

The 1st Hideyo Noguchi Africa Prize Award Ceremony to be held as part of the events

One of the important events held during TICAD IV will be the 1st Hideyo Noguchi Africa Prize Award Ceremony. Following in the footsteps of Dr. Hideyo Noguchi, this Government prize aims to honor individuals and organizations with outstanding achievements in the fields of medical research and health services in Africa, thus aiming to contribute to the prosperity of humankind and world peace. It is planned to select the recipients of the award in around March.

<Inquiries> Hideyo Noguchi Africa Prize Unit, Cabinet Office TEL 03-3539-8902
<Website> <http://www.cao.go.jp/noguchisho/index-e.html>

2) Yokohama Triennale 2008 – A large-scale festival of art encompassing the City of Yokohama -

This is the third exhibition of the Yokohama Triennale, an exhibition of contemporary art first held in 2001. This time, a diverse range of artworks—including videos, photography, paintings, and sculpture—by some 60-70 selected artists from many countries will be put on display. While showcasing newly-released artworks of cutting-edge contemporary art from around the globe, the Triennale will also feature many site-specific works highlighting the

distinctive charms of the exhibit sites and locations.

- <Date> Saturday, 13 September– Sunday, 30 November
 <Site> Shinko Futo Venue, Akarenga Park 1st Building, BankART Studio NYK etc
 <Inquiries> 150th Anniversary of the Port Opening & Creative City Headquarters TEL 045-671-4309
 <Website> http://www.yokohamatriennale.jp/2008/index_en.html

3) Port Town Festival – The exchange event of the five port city that ushered Japan into the modern age

In 1858, the Five Treaties of the Ansei Era, which were the amity and commerce treaties between Japan and the five countries (US, the Netherlands, Russia, U.K., France) respectively, were concluded. Based on these five treaties, five ports (Yokohama, Hakodate, Niigata, Kobe, and Nagasaki) were opened as international trading ports. The year 2008 will mark the 150th anniversary of the conclusion of the five treaties. As one of commemorative events, Port Town Festival will be held in June. It comprises a joint meeting of the mayors of these five port cities, exchange events, and so forth. Through such events, people would realize again that these five port cities were the starting points in Japan's modernization. At the same time, the current advanced state of their development would be recognized widely both in Japan and abroad, and their brand power would be further strengthened.

- Meeting of the mayors of the five cities Saturday, 21 June Yokohama Red Bricks Warehouse No.1, 3rd floor
 Based on the results of an opinion poll of and meetings of the five city citizens, the five mayors will discuss urban issues and other matters of common concern for the next generation, and issue a “Five Mayors Joint Appeal.”
- Meeting of citizens of the five cities Saturday, 14 (tentative) and Friday, 20 June Yokohama Red Bricks Warehouse No.1, 3rd floor and Yokohama Port Opening Memorial Hall
 Citizens of the five cities will come together and hold meetings on themes relating to issues such as tourism volunteers and the environment.
- Indoor exhibitions Saturday, 14 – Sunday, 22 June Yokohama Red Bricks Warehouse No.1, 1st and 2nd floor
 The five cities and the five countries will hold exhibitions introducing their culture, history, art, and so forth.
- Outdoor events Friday, 20 – Sunday, 22 June Yokohama Red Bricks Warehouse Event Plaza
 Fair and cultural performances of the five cities and the five countries, “Presentations on home towns” by senior high-school students of the five cities, and so forth.

- <Inquiries> 150th Anniversary of the Port Opening & Creative City Headquarters TEL 045-671-4347
 <Website> <http://www.city.yokohama.jp/me/keiei/kaikou/jigyuu/kaikoufivecity/index.html> (Japanese)



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New Year in Yokohama – Japanese and Chinese New Year

In Yokohama one can experience New Year twice and, what is more, a New Year that is different from that in other cities. The first is the one corresponding to January 1st on the Western calendar. Like other countries, New Year is celebrated in Japan too. In Yokohama, boats moored in the port of Yokohama greet the New Year by blowing their sirens in unison. This year too, all kinds of boats, from small pleasure craft to large passenger ships and cargo vessels, sounded out a harmony of different tones.

The second is the New Year according to the lunar calendar. In China, this lunar New Year is referred to as “*Shunsetsu*,” and is celebrated in the same way as the New Year. *Shunsetsu* falls on a different date depending on the year, somewhere between early and mid-February, this year falling on Tuesday, February 7. In Japan's largest Chinese quarter, Yokohama China Town, *Shunsetsu* is celebrated by firecrackers ringing out and the lighting of illuminations, candles, and the like. A range of events are also held, such as the Chinese Lion Dance, celebration dance parades, Chinese acrobatics, and Beijing opera.



Shunsetsu Events Schedule

Date	Time	Event Name / Place	Description
Fri. 1 Feb. - Sun. 2 Mar.		<i>Shunsetsu</i> Exhibition / China Town80	Exhibit of lions used in the lion dance and dragon used in the dragon dance
Wed. 6 Feb.	23:30-	<i>Shunsetsu</i> Countdown / Yokohama Overseas Chinese School	Countdown with firecrackers and lion dance
Thu. 7 Feb.	16:00 - 20:00	<i>Tsuaichin</i> Procession / All over China Town	The lion dance, known as " <i>Tsuaichin</i> ," goes around to each shop, praying for commercial prosperity
Fri. 8 Feb.	16:00 - 17:30	Folk Costume and Dance Parade / Inside China Town	A folk costume parade of people dressed in imperial garb, lion dance, etc.
Sat. 9 - Mon. 11, Sat. 16, Sun. 17 Feb.		<i>Shunsetsu Goryakuhoen</i> / Yamashita-cho Park	Recitals of Chinese traditional performance arts such as Beijing opera and acrobatics
Thu. 21 Feb	17:30 - 19:00	<i>Genshosetsu-torosai</i> / Kantei-byo	At <i>Genshosetsu</i> , which is the last day of <i>Shunsetsu</i> , prayers and dreams are written on candles in hanging lanterns and offered at Kantei-byo
Mon. 3 - Sun. 16 Mar.		<i>Shunsetsu</i> Children's Art Exhibition / China Town80	Pictures and paintings on the theme of <i>Shunsetsu</i> by pupils of Yokohama Overseas Chinese School and Yokohama Yamate Chinese School are exhibited

<Inquiries> Yokohama Chinatown Development Association TEL 045-662-1252

<Website> <http://www.chinatown.or.jp/news/shunsetsu08/> (Japanese)

What's On Events & Info

◆Event in association with TICAD IV

Citizens of the Earth Lectures for Youth "Understanding Africa Lectures – International Cooperation Course"

Many of the problems currently facing international society, such as famine, poverty, and HIV/AIDS, are concentrated in Africa. In the lead-up to the Conference on African Development (TICAD IV) which will be held in Yokohama in May 2008, activities in which international agencies have been engaged recently in Africa will be introduced.

<Date/ Theme/ Site> 14:00 – 17:00 / Yokohama Association for International Communications and Exchanges

Saturday, 2 February: "The famine faced by Africa"

Saturday, 16 February: "Bio-energy and the problem of food supplies in Africa"

Thursday 20 March (holiday): "Current situation of Africa and education for sustainable development"

<Inquiries> Yokohama Association for International Communications and Exchanges TEL 045-222-1174

<Reference> <http://www.yoke.or.jp/yokeblog/diarypro/archives/65.html> (Japanese)

◆Creative City Exchange Symposium

Yokohama is implementing a creative urban exchange project as an initiative to promote "Creative City Yokohama." This year is the third such exchange, and the City will hold a symposium with invited lecturers from the Netherlands, where intermediary organizations such as NPO's and companies that support cultural and artistic activities play a major role in creative city promotion. The symposium will hear about cases from the Netherlands and discuss the outlook for the creative city through the activities of intermediary organizations and other bodies in Yokohama.

<Date/ Site> Friday, 25 January 14:00 – 18:00 / Akarenga Park 1st Building 3rd floor hall

<Inquiries> Yokohama Arts Foundation TEL 045-222-0212

<Reference> <http://www.city.yokohama.jp/me/keiei/kaikou/souzou/en/project/bring/about.html>



◆Yokohama Dance Collection R2008

Launched in 1996, the Yokohama Dance Collection is now in its 13th year. Today, it is developing into a competition that transmits the work of budding choreographers from Asia to the world, with the aim of creating the dance market of Asia.

<Date / Site> Friday, 8 – Monday, 11 February / Akarenga Park 1st Building 3rd floor Hall

<Inquiries> 150th Anniversary of the Port Opening & Creative City Headquarters TEL 045-671-3864

<Reference> <http://www.city.yokohama.jp/me/keiei/kaikou/souzou/new/071012-02.html> (Japanese)

◆Yokohama High School Hot Wave Festival

This is a home-made music festival for and by senior high-school students, which ran for 19 years from 1981 to 1999. This is the 20th festival and its first comeback in 10 years.

<Date / Site> Sunday, 10 February 15:00 - / Kannai Large Hall

<Inquiries> TEL 080-3512-5296

<Reference> <http://www.hotwave20.jp/> (Japanese)

◆The First Nissan Stadium Ekiden– Stadium 10th Anniversary Project

This year, to commemorate the 10th year of its opening, an ekiden relay for resident runners is being held. The race will be divided into five categories, covering a distance of 4 sections totaling 21.095km.

<Date / Site> Saturday, 23 February 10:00 - / Shin-Yokohama Park

<Inquiries> Nissan Stadium TEL 045-477-5006

About Yokohama

Yokohama lies on the peninsula around Tokyo Bay, approximately 30 kilometers (18 miles) southwest of the capital of Japan. Home to over 3.62 million people, Yokohama is Japan's second largest city. The GDP of Yokohama is about 12 trillion 6.8 billion yen (roughly 112.2 billion US dollars) with main industries being electronic machinery, transportation machinery and service industry. Since its opening in 1859, the port of Yokohama has supported the development of Japan's economy as Japan's base for distribution of goods and production, and boasts the highest number of foreign ships entering Japan's ports.

The city sincerely welcomes foreign enterprises, international conferences and a wide variety of international events. Today, the city has 8 Sister-Friendship Cities (San Diego, Lyon, Mumbai, Manila, Odessa, Vancouver, Shanghai, Constantza) and 6 Sister-Friendship Trade Cooperation Ports (Oakland, Vancouver, Shanghai, Melbourne, Dalian, Hamburg).

In 2009, Yokohama celebrates 150 years since its opening as a port, and out of a sense of gratitude of the City of Yokohama as a whole for the achievements of the port and our predecessors, and to use this opportunity for Yokohama to become a town filled with dreams and aspirations, we are carrying out a variety of projects including a commemorative ceremony. This year (2008), the 4th Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD IV) will be held in May, the Port Town Festival in June, and the Yokohama Triennale 2008 from September to November.

Please address any inquiries or feedback to this newsletter to the following persons:

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