

Chigasaki Wave

Chigasaki Wave Club

茅ヶ崎 ^{ウエーブ} 波 倶楽部



Sea breezes are like precious friends, easing your mind, and whispering encouragement to you.

The Great Kanto Earthquake and disaster prevention (1)

Japan witnesses natural disasters almost every year. Typhoons and linear rainbands bring about torrential downpours that cause floods in some areas during summer and fall, and earthquakes occur once in several years somewhere on the Japanese archipelago.

The Great East Japan Earthquake and devastating tsunami in March 2011 really terrified the nation. But for residents in Chigasaki and the Kanto area, the Great Kanto Earthquake of September 1 in 1923 might have had a bigger impact than any other earthquake ever recorded. Its epicentral area was Matsuda at the northern end of the Sagami Trough, approximately 30 kilometers northwest of Chigasaki. The earthquake with an estimated magnitude of 8.2 severely hit the whole of the Kanto area, especially Tokyo and Kanagawa, at 11:58 am when most households were preparing lunch. The death toll of the quake reached 105,000 in Kanto, and 87 percent of them died in fire. One lesson to be learned from the quake says the first thing to do in present society is to turn the gas off and to switch off the circuit breaker to prevent a fire during the aftershocks.

Municipal documents show that 100 people in total were killed in the quake in Chigasaki, and all of them were found under their wrecked houses. In the four and a half months that followed, by January 15 the following year, six big quakes had destroyed about 80% of the city's 4,725 houses in those days. Fortunately, however, there were no fires, excluding just one case in Samukawa.

What caused the huge quake? The Philippine Sea Plate moved to the northwest and subducted beneath the North American Plate, on which the Kanto Plane spreads, along the Sagami Trough in the Sagami Bay. The movement of the two plates accumulated strain along the trough which extended to the Tokyo Bay. When the enormous strain energy was released, the southern part of the North American Plate rose about seven meters on average, and the Boso, Miura and Izu peninsulas about two meters. The deformation of the seabed caused tsunami. The 6-meter-high tsunami, and a second wave that exceeded six meters, hit the Chigasaki coast, but no damage was recorded. Sand dunes along the coast might have weakened the waves.



From the website of the MEXT

The liquefaction phenomenon caused by the earthquake will be introduced in the next issue.

A symbol of peace - thousand paper cranes in City Office

Strings of a thousand paper cranes were exhibited on the first floor of the municipal hall in mid-August. These paper cranes were folded and strung by voluntary citizens. School students in the city usually take these cranes to Peace Memorial Park in Hiroshima with them when they participate in the peace memorial ceremony in Hiroshima each August.

This year, however, these cranes are to be sent by mail as the attendance of students was cancelled for fear of coronavirus infection. Have you seen one of Sadako's paper cranes placed on the same floor? The small transparent crane in a plastic case has been exhibited near a pillar since 2017.



Sadako's paper crane in City Hall

The season of grapes

Vine growers were busy harvesting, shipping and selling their grapes until the end of August. Early in the morning they collect grapes plunging from shelves at their vineyards. First thing in the morning, they prepare the grapes to be sent to distant customers before trucks come to pick them up. Then, they display bunches of grapes on the counters near their yards, or warehouses.

Mr. Yotsuguruma in Miyayama grows Ryuho, Queen Nina (the photo at the lower left), Azuma-shizuku (the one at the lower right), Steuben, and several other varieties. He displays these grapes and other farm produce, including pears and vegetables, on the table in his lot on the corner of a crossing near Samukawa Shrine. Passers-by, regular customers and neighbors drop in and buy the fresh and juicy fruits. They are usually sold out by early in the afternoon.

As is often said, freshness equals quality. These grapes are sweeter, juicier and slightly cheaper than those sold at supermarkets.

As for pears, another fruit of the season, a cold spring retarded their growth, and provided growers with poorer harvests than last year. Most of the stalls closed in early September.



History of Chigasaki

Yanagishima Village (2)

Yanagishima Minato was called Suka Yanagishima ai Minato, or Suka* and Yanagishima Port, in the early Edo period (1661 – 1673). *Suka is today's Suka Port in Hiratsuka, located on the other side of the Sagami River.

As the Sagami River shifted closer to Yanagishima Village later, its residents asked the Tokugawa shogunate to allow them to expand their shipping business. However, Suka Village opposed the plan, and arguments over the port's management rights began between the two villages. The shogunate arbitrated between them and gave equal rights to the two villages in 1691.

Materials coming down the Sagami River on small ships were transferred to cargo vessels at the port and were conveyed to many places. After the vessels were unloaded at their destinations, they were refilled with local specialties, and brought them back to Yanagishima. The backhaul cargo was loaded onto small boats, which went up the river. In this way, the port prospered till the end of the Edo period.

Yanagishima has a folk song named *Encoro bushi*. Sailors prayed and gave thanks for a safe voyage by singing the song at departure and arrival. The song is still sung to celebrate events such as weddings and house-building. The song was designated as an important cultural asset of the city in 1976, and was selected among 50 local songs of Kanagawa. It is sung at the folk entertainment festival held every autumn.

The Toma Family once kept shipping business at the Yanagishima port. Zengoro Toma (1801 - 83) served as the chief official of the village in the late Edo period. He had the pen name *Ryoan*, and is noted as a calligrapher and a writer. In 1980, he was selected one of the one hundred people who best represented Kanagawa. The monument is in the nearby Hachimangu, and his tomb is in Zenpukuji Temple. On the property of the Toma family, there is the

Toma Museum, which was donated to the city in 2017.

To the east of the Yanagishima memorial public hall, on the beach along R-134, stand three monuments, 1) *the gun training ground and Yanagishima minato*, 2) *Shonan road*, and 3) *Good conduct person*. In 1728, the Tokugawa shogunate established a gun training ground extending from Katase in Fujisawa to Yanagishima. In a picture drawn in the Edo era, the two end points are depicted: one near the Katase River, and the other on the beach in Yanagishima.

Yanagishima was troubled by floods for a long time. But *Fudokiko* says the peaks of Mts. Fuji, Hakone and Oyama rise near the village, and the boundless ocean merges with the sky. The description indicates villagers had an unparalleled view of nature.

Toma Museum photographed in June 2019



Interested in Japanese proverbs?

1)物は八分目

(MONO WA HACHIBUNME)

MONO means something that is tangible or intangible, **WA** to be, and **HACHIBUNME** 80 percent.

The proverb advises us to be moderate in everything. Everybody likes to eat plenty. But a feeling of fullness often makes you negligent. Furthermore, such eating habit will increase your risk of having metabolic syndrome. Likewise, when people want to buy stocks, they should never invest money beyond their means, but do so more modestly. A moderate amount of stress can be beneficial, but too much stress can exhaust people. Too much is as bad as too little. An old Roman proverb says virtue takes the middle course. If virtue becomes excessive, it can easily turn into a vice, according to my English textbook. A sentence similar to this is in *Furyukyokujamisen*, a novel describing ordinary people's lives in the Edo period.

Its English equivalents are:

- Measure is treasure.
- The half is more than the whole.
- There is a measure in all things.

2)やらずぶったくり

(YARAZU BUTTAKURI)

YARAZU means not to give things to people, and **BUTTAKURI** to make excessive profits.

It's all take and no give. What lies behind this saying, however, seems to be more serious. Since the middle of the Edo period, rice riots have often erupted due to sharp rises in the rice prices. Angry crowds assaulted rice shops, police stations and the residents of wealthy persons. Rioters said rice merchants had raised rice prices unreasonably, making excessive profits by robbing them.

Today, people say this saying when sellers charged exorbitant prices for things they have long coveted.

Interestingly, this proverb has appeared about 100 times in the Diet Record since the first Diet in 1947, according to a lexicographer. The members of the Diet used this proverb more than once every year.

Its English equivalents are:

- He would all have and nought forgo.
- Many bring the rake but few the shovel.
- He is better with a rake than a fork.

Chigasaki was ranked the 5th best small city to move to in the world.

Business Insider, a US-based business website, carried an article on Dec. 28, 2019 entitled "Forget New York and Paris: These are the 11 best small cities to move to in 2020", in which Chigasaki was ranked 5th, following Hobart, Australia and ahead of Bolzano, Italy.

The article says, "Quieter than Tokyo and just an hour away by train; proximity to the mountains and ocean; easy to bike on streets and to the beach; famous for its surfing; restaurants throughout the whole city; wide range of international cuisine; mild temperatures; safe," and recommended the city to young families.

On the other hand, the writer pointed out that the shortage of reasonably priced coworking spaces and offices was the biggest drawback. (Source: Monocle)

<https://www.businessinsider.com/best-small-cities-to-live-in-relocate-travel-2019-12>

The original article was on Monocle, a UK global affairs and lifestyle magazine. It selected these cities from those with a population of around 200,000, and having close connection to an international airport, decent public transport, and progressive local government as well as welcoming residents. Crime rates, life expectancy, and quality of universities together with intangible things were also taken into consideration.

<https://monocle.com/magazine/the-forecast/2020/small-packages/>

(The picture was reprinted from Business Insider.)



The cycling road has been repaired

The cycling road collapsed when typhoon No. 19 hit the Kanto area on October 12, 2019. The fence and pavement were blown and washed off along an over 300-meter stretch of the road in the Hishinuma Kaigan area.

The repair work took about nine months, and the road was reopened on July 31. The whole stretch of the Shonan beach was closed this summer, but the road is as crowded as usual with walkers, joggers and cyclists.

The road provides good scenery: the blue ocean, Oshima Island on a fine day, mountains in Miura, on the Izu Peninsula and in Hakone as well

People in Chigasaki (17) Seiichi Hirota

(A bimonthly serial)

The East Beach in Chigasaki City used to be a barren and sandy area in the 1900s. Seiichi Hirota decided to plant more than 20,000 pine trees, and change it to a greenery beach, when he built his second house there to live and cure his illness in 1911. He had also contributed to the city's development, including the construction of the south exit of Chigasaki Station in 1923.

He was an electrical engineer and teacher, who was born in Hiroshima on December 2, 1871. After graduating from the Imperial College of Engineering in 1896, he worked at German Siemens & Halske AG while he was employed by the Takada Trading Company in Tokyo. Returning to Japan from Germany, he founded Denki Gakkō (Tokyo Denki University, at present) in Kanda, Tokyo in 1907 to educate young engineers for the advancement of Japan's industrialization. Also, he published an electric journal, '*OHM*' in 1914. Furthermore, he had been interested in developing electric automobiles. It's said that he was the first Japanese who drove the automobile in Japan, which was sent to the imperial house when then Emperor Taisho married in 1900. He also made an automobile on his own, and it was displayed in electric expositions in Osaka and Tokyo in 1926.

While he struggled to plant pine trees, he also planted Cytisus (Enishida in Japanese, the photo at the lower left) and Beach pea (Hama-endo, the one at the lower right) on the beach. Cytisus has spread across the Shonan areas and was registered as the flower of Kanagawa Prefecture at that time.

He passed away in January 25, 1931 at the age of 60. His favorite maxim was 'stick-to-it-iveness'. It's a quote from Thomas Edison who he had looked up to as his mentor, "The three great essentials to achieve anything worthwhile are, first, hard work; second, stick-to-it-iveness; third, common sense."



Cytisus



Beach pea

Sunflowers in Samukawa

Winter sunflowers have been televised since several years ago. The picture was taken on August 19 in the farmland about 50 meters south of Samukawa Shrine. The seeds were sowed on July 3, and this variety flowered in only 45 days. The artificial variety grows much faster than ordinary ones.

Samukawa-machi Tourism Association will sow the seeds again in September. The farmland will be opened to visitors in November when the plants are in full bloom. Several TV stations will air them then.



Diamond Fuji in Autumn

Around September 22 (Tues), Autumnal Equinox Day, you may be able to see the Diamond Fuji phenomenon if the western sky is clear in the evening.

On Vernal and Autumnal Equinox Days, the sun rises in due east and sets in due west. As the latitude of the Shonan area is close to that of the summit of Mt. Fuji, the sun looks as if it sets on the mountain.

The photo on the left was taken on March 25, 2020 on the bank of the Sagami River.

Chigasaki City Museum of Art

The late Tsunero Kokuryo's works were exhibited from July 1 (Wed) to August 30 (Sun). Commemorating the 100th anniversary of the oil painter's birth, an exhibition entitled "The Quiet Scenery with Sand" was held. He was a member of the Japan Art Academy. He often visited sand dunes in Totori, Yamagata and Shizuoka prefectures. He also came to the beach in Chigasaki in his later years. He was noted for depicting sand dunes. Pictures in air-conditioned rooms made visitors feel quietness and solitude.



Civic Center

The 9th exhibition of Sueko Yoshioka's dyed goods was held at Civic Center from August 26 to the 31st. In addition to many dyed kimonos, small works, including masks, were displayed. She has held this scale of exhibition in every Olympic year, and has put on her works at charity bazaars of her alma mater once a year. She has lived in Chigasaki for nearly 50 years. She specialized in dyeing at an art university. Upon graduation she learned to draw designs for kimonos for a year. Since then she has enjoyed dyeing, while working as an office worker.



Citizen Gallery

No exhibition was held in August
However, you can enjoy an online exhibition:
go to
https://www.city.chigasaki.kanagawa.jp/bunka_shogai/gallery/1005639.html

Kana-Phil Concert in Chigasaki

Kanagawa Philharmonic Orchestra (KPO) has resumed its concert tour, commemorating the 50th anniversary of its foundation. KPO held its first concert at the Civic Hall in Chigasaki on August 30.

The program consisted of familiar numbers for classical music fans: La Gazza Ladra Overture by Rossini, A Midsummer Night's Dream by Mendelssohn, and Beethoven Symphony No.7. Hosting staff drew visitors' attention to social distancing, and asked them to sterilize their hands with antiseptic solutions and take their temperature with noncontact thermometers at the entrance of the hall. The audience sat in every other seat.

KPO reduced the number of players, specifically those of wind instrument players, to less than 50. However, performances led by conductor Masahiro Ueno, a native of Chigasaki, were energetic and the entire audience thoroughly enjoyed them. (Photo: from KPO's home page)



Events in September

Citizen Gallery (☎ 0467-87-8384) at the exhibition room on the 4th floor of N'EST-CE PAS Chigasaki
Admission free!

Art, photo and craft exhibition, the 15th Yuki-kai Exhibition: Sep. 29 (Tues) 13:00 ~ 18:00, the 30th (Wed) to Oct. 3 (Sat) 10:00 ~ 18:00, the 4th (Sun) 10:00 ~ 17:00

The 13th Higanbana Festival

Higanbana Festival will be held at three places along the Koide River on September 21 (Mon, Respect for the Aged Day). The three-kilometer stretch from Daikoku to Ondashi Bridges is covered with red flowers of Higanbana, or cluster-amaryllis, during the season. At the three venues for the festival in Endo, Uchimodori and Ozo, foods and fresh vegetables will be sold from 10:00 to 15:00. The event is to be held on only one day, but the flowering season will continue until early October.

The area is in the north of Chigasaki Satoyama Park. Farm land spreads on the gently-sloping grassland, which is another scenery of the city by the sea.



From the brochure of the museum

Aloha Shirt Exhibition at the city museum

Commemorating the fifth anniversary of the establishment of the Honolulu-Chigasaki sister city relationship, an aloha shirt exhibition called *the Charms of vintage aloha shirts* is now underway at Chigasaki City Museum of Art. These shirts were selected from the collection of Mr. Kobayashi, president of Toyo Enterprise Corp. They were produced from the 1930s to 1950s, and it would be very rare to see these shirts on the street.

The exhibition will be held until November 8 (Sun). Admission fee (yen): adult 800, univ. student 600, citizen of 65 and older 400, high school student and younger, and disabled people free.

Thanks for reading our stories. See you soon!