

ALIEN TIMES WEBSITE PROJECT

Thank you for volunteering to help with the Alien Times website. Please read over the following instructions and contact me if you have any questions.

Please note that much of this won't make sense until you are actually in the thick of things, coding a page. So just skim this document and pick up the gist. Then let me know when you are done and I will send you your first issue to try out. (Actually, you only need to read the first three lessons before you start.)

Don't worry, it's easy once you've done it once or twice. Honest!

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Lesson 1 – Paragraph Codes

The basic idea of HTML is that you have to put codes around the words and paragraphs to tell the browser how to arrange things on the screen. For now, I think you just need to know a few codes.

`<p></p>`

This is a paragraph marker. The first one (`<p>`) opens a paragraph, and the second one closes it.

`
`

This is a line break. Inside a paragraph, if you need to break the line but not start a new paragraph, you can use this. It is good for making lists, etc.

``

This tells the browser to show the word in **bold** font. The commands must surround the text that you want to show in bold.

``

This tells the browser to show the word in *italic* font. The commands must surround the text that you want to show in italics.

So, if you have paragraphs like this:

Where To Find The Christmas Spirit In Tsukuba

Assuming you're one of the many foreigners who will be stuck in your home away from home during the holidays, please read on. If you are one of the "lucky" ones to have your pricy reservations for a trip home, then Bon Voyage!

Imagine that you're pushing your shopping cart down the aisle at Daiei, humming along with the Muzak-to-shop-by wafting down at you from the PA system: "I'll be home for Christmas... " when the depressing thought hits you that this year, you won't be home!!! Before you slide over the edge into a "Blue Christmas", consider some opportunities which may help to make the season bright.

You should put codes in it like this:

`<p>Where To Find The Christmas Spirit In Tsukuba</p>`

`<p>Assuming you're one of the many foreigners who will be stuck in your home away from home during the holidays, please read on. If you are one of the "lucky" ones to have your pricy reservations for a trip home, then Bon Voyage!</p>`

`<p>Imagine that you're pushing your shopping cart down the aisle at Daiei, humming along with the Muzak-to-shop-by wafting down at you from the PA system: "I'll be home for Christmas... " when the depressing thought hits you that this year, you won't be home!!! Before you slide over the edge into a "Blue Christmas", consider some opportunities which may help to make the season bright.</p>`

Here is another example:

This month's guest is Dr. Chandan Ghosh. Dr. Ghosh taught Civil Engineering for 10 years at the well-respected Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi, and is now engaged in advanced research in earthquake geotechnology at Ibaraki University. In the coffee hour of this month, he will discuss the educational culture in India vis-a-vis the Japanese system and issues related to India's supremacy in information technology.

Date: January 23 (Wed)

Time: 14:00 - 16:00

Place: Tsukuba Information Center 3F

Guest: Dr. Chandan Ghosh

Contact: Chikako Ikeda, Ibaraki International Association

Tsukuba Office (Tsukuba Information Center)

Tel 0298-52-6789, Fax 0298-55-8294, email: www@info-tsukuba.org

This example can be coded like this:

`<p>`This month's guest is Dr. Chandan Ghosh. Dr. Ghosh taught Civil Engineering for 10 years at the well-respected Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi, and is now engaged in advanced research in earthquake geotechnology at Ibaraki University. In the coffee hour of this month, he will discuss the educational culture in India vis-a-vis the Japanese system and issues related to India's supremacy in information technology.`</p>`

`<p>`Date: January 23 (Wed)

`
`Time: 14:00 - 16:00

`
`Place: Tsukuba Information Center 3F

`
`Guest: Dr. Chandan Ghosh

`
`Contact: Chikako Ikeda, Ibaraki International Association, Tsukuba Office (Tsukuba Information Center) Tel 0298-52-6789, Fax 0298-55-8294, email: www@info-tsukuba.org`</p>`

There are lots of other ways to do it, but I want to keep things as simple as possible for you. The most important thing is that the documents are online and people can read them. The formatting can be worked on later, if necessary.

I will list some websites that give more information on HTML. They all teach HTML differently and to a varying degree, so it is up to you whether you want to use them at all. Of course, if you have any questions, you can ask me anytime.

- archive.ncsa.uiuc.edu/General/Internet/WWW/HTMLPrimerAll.html
- www.davesite.com/webstation/html/
- www.wdvl.com/WebRef/Help/Begin.html
- ccat.sas.upenn.edu/jod/primer.html

Lesson 2 – Headers, Footers, and Titles

Please insert this code at the beginning of your file:

```
<!DOCTYPE html PUBLIC "-//W3C//DTD XHTML 1.0 Transitional//EN"
"http://www.w3.org/TR/xhtml1/DTD/xhtml1-transitional.dtd">

<html>
<head>
<title>Alien Times September 2001(change date as necessary)</title>

<meta http-equiv="content-type" content="text/html; charset=iso-8859-1" />
<meta name="description" content="Alien Times: Tsukuba's English newsletter created for
and by the foreign residents of Tsukuba since 1989" />
<meta name="keywords" content="alien, times, alientimes, japan, tsukuba, ibaraki,
newsletter" />

<link rel="stylesheet" href="../style/style.css" type="text/css" />

</head>

<body>

<h2>Alien Times October 2000(change date as necessary)</h2>
<p class="volume">Volume 14, Number 9(change volume and number as necessary) </p>
```

(The next line will be the title of the first article.)

Please use this format for the title of articles:

```
<a name="japanese(first word of title)"></a><h3>Japanese Classes: Fall 2001(change title
as necessary)</h3>
```

This format is necessary so I can link the articles to the yearly index and the subject index.

Please insert this code at the end of your file:

```
<p class="footer">Updated September 29, 2002
<br /><a href="http://www.alientimes.org" target="_blank">www.alientimes.org</a>
<br />email  alientimes.org </p>
</body>
</html>
```

Lesson 3 – How This is Going to Work

The editor of the newsletter sends me the files in MS Word format. The articles for a single issue are all in separate documents because the editor makes the files and then sends them to someone else to do layout. So, when I send you an issue to put online, I will actually be sending you a collection of MS Word files. These files may or may not be a perfect match for the articles that actually appeared in the newsletter. The layout person usually chooses from the files that were sent to him by the editor, but doesn't always use all of them. Occasionally, he even adds new files, which means that those files are missing completely from our collection. (When this happens, just put the title where the article is supposed to go and I will fix it later.)

So, I am going to send you a number of files in MS Word format. I think the best thing to do is open a blank document in NOTEPAD (not MS Word, because Word adds extra codes), add the header and footer (by copying and pasting) from Lesson 3, and then open the other files one by one and copy and paste them into the NOTEPAD document.

I will also send you a list of the articles that actually appeared in the paper version of the newsletter. Before starting this project, I went through every newsletter (1987-2003) and wrote down the title of every article. This list is to be considered the standard (it is what appears on the website when you go to a year where the actual issues haven't been put online yet). As I mentioned above, you may receive extra files or not enough files, but the list that appears on the website (and which I will send to you each time) is considered to be the final version, as it matches the paper copies.

Please use the titles that I have given to the articles, even if the title of the document is a bit different. The titles need to be the same so that the issue is compatible with the yearly index and the subject index.

Here is an example of the kind of list that I will send you.

November 2001

Volume 15, Number 10

Tsukuba International School Benefit Concert

Christmas Comes Early

Coffee Hour: Minnesota

Religious Activities in English

Get in Touch with Traditional Japanese Culture

Kasama Chrysanthemum Festival

True Love

Redefining Words: New Definitions

How Many Church Members Does it Take to Change a Light Bulb?

Kindergartener

Ibaraki English Teacher: Chapter 13

Alien Scientist: If Alien Centipedes Could Count

Pregnancy and Giving Birth in Japan

Tsukuba Walking and Mountaineering Club

You may find that the article about the Minnesota Coffee Hour is actually called "International Exchange Coffee Hour: Minnesota is really cool" or something like that, but please replace that title with the correct version that I send.

Continue adding the articles until you have a complete version of the newsletter in the Notepad document. Once that is done, you can go in and add the necessary paragraph codes.

Once you finish coding the document, save your file and give it a name like november2001.html. The name must end in .html for it to be recognized by a browser as a web page. (Actually, .htm and .html are both acceptable, but I have chosen .html, so it is better if all files have the same extension.)

Once you have saved the file, you can see your progress by clicking on the file from "my documents" or wherever you have saved it.

By the way, the website includes something called "stylesheets" which makes the pages look like they do. All colour and special formatting is added this way. Don't worry if the file you make doesn't look the way the other issues do online. Once it is uploaded, it will.

If you want me to send you a copy of the current stylesheets, please ask. I changed them regularly, though, so they will be out of date fairly quickly, but they might give you a better idea of what the page will look like when uploaded.

When you are finished, send the file to me. I will have a look at it, make any necessary changes to make your page look like the rest of the site, and then upload it to the site. Please have a look at www.alientimes.org for the final version. Go to the page for the issue, right click the page, then you will see an option called "View Source". This will let you see the final version of the HTML.



Lesson 4 – Conventions Used on the Alien Times Site

Here are a few conventions that we all need to stick to in order to make this website coherent. These points are all nitpicky, but important. Please have a read through them so you know to look back here later if you have a question about a certain coding technique or practice.

Naming the Titles

`<h3>Japanese Classes: Fall 2001(change title as necessary)</h3>`

When choosing the "first word of title" use the actual first word unless it is:

- a, an, the
- repeated somewhere else in that month's titles (for example, Tsukuba Mother's Network and Tsukuba Information Network)

In these cases, use the second word. Also, if the first word includes an apostrophe (for example mother's), take out the apostrophe (use mothers).

The word that you chose acts as an "anchor" to link to other pages, so it has to be a unique marker for that place on that page. Also, because there are so many anchors on the page and in the website in general, the anchors have to be based on some kind of rule just to make our lives easier. (In actual fact, you can choose anything to be an anchor – numbers, special codes, or whatever you like, as long as they are unique, but we will stick to this method to make working as a team easier.)

Linking websites

Please use the following code whenever someone lists a website in an article.

`www.funkysite.org</p>`

It is important to use the target="_blank" code to force the browser to open the link in a new page.

By the way, inserting this code will automatically make the links turn the colour of all links on the page, so you won't have to use underlining or colour changes. (Colours are controlled by stylesheets on this site.)

Linking websites

We have decided to avoid listing email addresses when at all possible. Email addresses can be harvested from websites and sold to spammers who bombard people with junk mail. Try to direct people to websites rather than listing email addresses. If people want to list their email addresses on their own websites, that is their own problem – but we should do our best to avoid the possibility that we are contributing to the spam problem by offering up everyone's addresses on our site.

Bold and Italics

Please use `` instead of `` when you want to put a word in **bold**.

Please use `` (meaning emphasis) instead of `<i>` when you want to use *italics*.

Both `` and `<i>` will work, but they are being phased out.

Paragraph break

Please use `
` instead of `
`. The first one is newer than the second one. The first one is a part of XHTML which has stricter rules than normal HTML. The `/` means that this command can appear alone.

Capital Letters/Small Letters

In the commands, I have chosen to use all small letters. In fact, you can use either one as long as you are consistent. (In XHTML, which will soon be the standard, only small letters are permitted, which is why I chose small letters.) So, when you include the first word of the title in a command, please type the whole word in small letters, including the first letter.

```
<a name="coffee"></a><h3>Coffee hour: International Marriage</h3>
```

Paragraph closing

Please don't forget to close all paragraphs with `</p>`. It seems like a very small thing, but it makes a difference mainly when linking. If there is no closing mark, the links sometimes go to the wrong place.

http://

You don't have to include `http://` in the text part, only in the command. For example, it is necessary to use `http` in the command to make an external link like this.

```
<a href="http://www.jistec.or.jp/house" target="_blank">www.jistec.or.jp/house</a>
```

But usually, you won't need to make external links (as they only appear on the links page). Internal links don't need it at all.

```
<a href="./topics/topics.html#ninomiya">www.jistec.or.jp/house</a>
```

So when you include a web address as the text that the person will see, you can just start with `www...` or whatever the address starts with.



Lesson 5 – Problems with the Original Documents

Sometimes there are English mistakes in the original documents. Also, sometimes the layout is not very good. This is because the guy who hands in the articles isn't worried about layout. He just sends the files to the layout guy and that person does the layout. So, if you think that the layout should be fixed, then go ahead and fix it. Also if you notice English mistakes, you can fix them too. I will always check the document after you send it to me, so if there are any mistakes left over, hopefully I will find them. (So don't worry about finding all of them.)

Yen

Sometimes the original articles use the yen sign (¥) but many computers can't read that sign. So, if you notice that someone has used a yen sign, please change it a **Y** or just erase the sign and type **yen** after the amount.

Y3000

or

3000 yen

Quotations marks

Sometimes the original documents will have too many quotation marks. In general, it is a good idea to avoid quotation marks when they are not necessary. The reason for this is because quotation marks are interpreted differently by different computers, so they tend to cause encoding problems. Sometimes the original article will have quotation marks around web addresses or Japanese words. If you notice that, you can take out the quotations if the meaning is still clear without them.

Details of events can all be in one paragraph

I think that the small details of events can all be grouped together in one paragraph instead of having many paragraphs. So, the `<p>` tag can just be used at the beginning, and then the details after that can be preceded with `
`. At the very end of the details, then, you can use `</p>`. For example...

Instead of this:

`<p>Capacity: Foreigners 25, Japanese 20.</p>`

`<p>Enrollment: 2000 yen (with lunch)</p>`

Use `
` like this

`<p>Capacity: Foreigners 25, Japanese 20.`

`
Enrollment: 2000 yen (with lunch)</p>`

Lesson 6 – Encoding

Encoding is a big problem for us because the articles are originally in MS Word format. This topic is difficult for me to explain, but I will try.

Unfortunately, MS Word is not very good at dumbing-down the text codes so that we can use them in websites without errors. You may not notice this problem because it only happens when there is some sort of question about what kind of encoding to use. My computer is Japanese, which means that sometimes it has trouble reading codes. And since many people will use Japanese computers to see the Alien Times website, we need to be careful about this.

The problem is that the way MS Word encodes certain characters, and the way the server interprets those characters is different. Luckily, we are only talking about a few characters, so we just have to check certain ones.

I am not sure if your computer will display the encoding problems so that you can see them clearly. I will paste them here, but you may not be able to see the same things that I see on my computer.

Apostrophe (')

peaking around the 1900 痴 and 2000 痴

On my computer, this sentence gives me a random kanji character after 1900 and 2000. The computer interprets 's to be this random character.

Quotation Marks (")

溺 other-Child Book ·

On my computer, the quotation mark at the beginning produces a strange kanji, and the quotation mark at the end makes a dot.

Hyphens (-)

handy · named · numeric

The hyphens turn into dots on my computer.

Can you see any of those on your computer? If you can't see them, then it will be hard for you to know when they have happened. Because many different people write the original articles and they all use different fonts and encodings, some of the articles are okay and some of them aren't.

Here is how I manage to get around most encoding issues.

1. When you get the files from me, copy them all onto your hard drive into a folder. (You can do this quickly by creating a folder and then dragging the files into that folder.)
2. Open a blank document in MS Word.
3. Copy the list of contents from my email and put it at the top of the blank document.
4. Go to the menu in MS Word and select "insert" then choose "file".

5. Go to the place in your hard drive where you saved the files, find the first document and click "insert".
6. Repeat 4 and 5 until all of the documents are inserted into the original document.
7. Once all of the documents are collected in that one document, select "save" from the menu, make a name for the file and change the file format to "text only" (.txt). Save the text file in the folder that you created.
8. Close MS Word and open the new text file in Notepad or Wordpad, whichever you like to use for editing.

If you do it this way, the encoding problem seems to disappear.

This is a really difficult topic and I am not very good at explaining it, so don't worry if you can't understand what I am trying to say.



Lesson 7 – Lists

Here is a new coding technique for you. There is an easy way to make lists in HTML. First, you start with a tag that tells you what kind of list. is an ordered list (using numbers) and is an unordered list (using dots or other shapes as bullets). Also, you need to make a closing tag at the end of the list (either or). Then enclose each item you want to include in the list between these tags: . means list item. For example...

Instead of this:

```
<p>1. It can cause excessive sweating and vomiting.</p>
<p>2. It is a major component in acid rain. </p>
<p>3. It can cause severe burns in its gaseous state. </p>
<p>4. Accidental inhalation can kill you. </p>
<p>5. It contributes to erosion. </p>
<p>6. It decreases effectiveness of automobile brakes. </p>
<p>7. It has been found in tumors of terminal cancer patients. </p>
```

Use this:

```
<ol>
<li>It can cause excessive sweating and vomiting.</li>
<li>It is a major component in acid rain.</li>
<li>It can cause severe burns in its gaseous state.</li>
<li>Accidental inhalation can kill you. </li>
<li>It contributes to erosion. </li>
<li>It decreases effectiveness of automobile brakes.</li>
<li>It has been found in tumors of terminal cancer patients.</li>
</ol>
```

Appendix – Example of a Fully Coded Page

Please see www.alientimes.org for the online version of this file (January 2001).

```
<!DOCTYPE html PUBLIC "-//W3C//DTD XHTML 1.0 Transitional//EN"
"http://www.w3.org/TR/xhtml1/DTD/xhtml1-transitional.dtd">

<html>
<head>
<title>Alien Times January 2001 </title>

<meta http-equiv="content-type" content="text/html; charset=iso-8859-1" />

<meta name="description" content="Alien Times: Tsukuba's English newsletter created for
and by the foreign residents of Tsukuba since 1989" />

<meta name="keywords" content="alien, times, alientimes, japan, tsukuba, ibaraki,
newsletter" />

<link rel="stylesheet" href="../style/style.css" type="text/css" />

</head>

<body>

<h2>Alien Times January 2001</h2>

<p class="volume">Volume 15, Number 1</p>

<a name="january"></a><h3>January Festivals</h3>

<p>While windy March is considered the prime time for kite flying in many Western
countries, January is the traditional season in Japan. Three kite flying events are
scheduled for late January in the souther Ibaraki area within easy driving distance from
Tsukuba. These include very large kites taking many people to control, and if the weather
is good, they are quite a sight to see.</p>

<p>Toride Tone River Kite Festival
<br />Saturday, January 13th at the Toride Ryokuchi Undo Koen, located along the banks
of the Tone River. If traveling by car, you will need to approach the park by crossing over
the Joban tracks from Highway 6. By train, it's a 5 min. walk from the East Gate of Toride
Station. Contact number: 0297-74-2141.</p>

<p>Another festival worth seeing that is also in Toride is the Tonegawa Dondo Matsuri,
which centers around the burning in a giant bonfire the various New Year's decorations
(such as "kadamatsu", the bamboo and pine branch decorations used to welcome the
New Year) on Jan. 15 at 5 pm. In the coals of the bonfire, people roast senbei (and
perhaps even marshmallows these days) on long sticks. For further info, call 0297-74-
2141.</p>

<p>Oyako Kite Festival
<br />Sunday, January 21st at the Otone Undo Koen. Contact number 0297-45-1111.</p>
```

<p>Shinshun Kokai River Kite Festival

Sunday, January 28th at the Fuminari Bashi Grounds. From the Yatabe Interchange on the Joban expressway, continue on to the center of Ina Machi. Turn right at the T-intersection and follow that road (route 19) on towards Toride. The grounds are located where that road crosses the Kokai River. Contact number 0297-58-2111.</p>

<h3>Tsukuba Mother's Network: Flour Play-Dough, January Play Date </h3>

<p>Let's make flour play-dough

Do you know how to make flour play-dough? If not, why don't you join us and try making it? Playing with dough will warm you up.

Date: Monday, January 15

Time: 10:30 to 12:00

Place: Ninomiya Kominkan, 2F Meeting Room

What to Bring: a container or a bowl (to make flour play-dough in)

* Do not dress up your kids. They might get a bit dirty.</p>

<p>Let's Play Together

Come to the Takezono-Nishi Jidokan with your children. We will enjoy some stories and songs. If your child's birthday is in this month, don't miss the "Happy Birthday" song.

Date: Monday, January 29

Time: 10:30 to 12:00

Place: Takezono-Nishi Jidokan

For further information and inquiry, please contact Ms. Ishihara at 51-0284.</p>

<h3>Tsukuba International Peace Celebration</h3>

<p>TISA, the Tsukuba International Students' Association of Tsukuba University, will celebrate their 20th anniversary as well as the beginning of the 21st Century. The event will take place at the Tsukuba International Congress Center in the Main Convention Hall on Sunday, Jan. 28 at 1 pm. The main theme of the event is "What can we do to realize a peaceful world?" With a national flag of each person's country in hand, people will pray for peace and happiness in all 192 countries of the world. As TISA has no affiliation with any particular political or religious organization, and so prayers will be done in each person's own way.</p>

<p>There will be several international events, such as a Wadaiko Japanese drum performance by the children of the Yoshinuma Nursery School, a Tsugaru Shamisen performance and Thai folk dances. All interested persons are encouraged to participate. There is no entrance fee. For further information, call Mr. Deng at 090-9309-3759 or email tisa-81@egroups.co.jp.</p>

<h3>Setsubun Festival</h3>

<p>Feb. 3rd is the traditional "beginning of Spring" festival (seems a little early, doesn't it?) when a kind of "Jack-and-the-beanstalk" ceremony is performed, with beans being thrown out the door. No mythological giants in the sky await a magical beanstalk to reach them, however, as this tradition is meant to keep the "giants" (that is, demons) from entering into one's home and bringing bad luck. "Oni wa soto, fuku wa uchi" ("Demons (stay) outside;

happiness (come) inside") is the phrase chanted as the "setsubun" (literally "dividing of the seasons") beans are tossed out the door.

Much pomp and ceremony surround this festival, and various shrines and temples compete with each other to come up with their own innovations. Tsukuba's own Mt. Tsukuba Shrine is a picturesque place to take in this bit of Japanese culture, and you can include a cable car ride to the top for a great view if the weather is good. Being a Saturday this year, it should make it fairly easy for a good crowd to go without taking off work or ditching school (since it is not an official holiday. Thus, plan to go early if you are driving as parking places are a premium.</p>

<h3>Coffee Hour: Dreams Come True</h3>

<p>To make your dreams come true, you need no miracle. Just be focused on them and get busy! So says Ali Tavakoli, the owner of the restaurant & bar, Ali's Kebab. It took him only three years of hard work to realize one of his dreams. With \100,000 in borrowed funds, Ali head for Nagoya to set up his first "yellow truck" with the motto, "Failure is the biggest fear and block that you have to get rid of before taking the first step towards your dreams." "Possibility thinking" is the term given to this mindset in certain circles, and it means if you really have a mind to do something, you can do it. He realizes his indebtedness to others and says, "Without the help of my friend and coo-worker, Alirza Jokar, my business wouldn't have been so successful."</p>

<p>This is Ali's 9th year in Tsukuba, and to him, Tsukuba is now "home." Ali is intent on repaying the people of Tsukuba for their kindness, and he'd like to do something good for the city to help it become a better place for both Japanese and foreigners. So, it is not as a foreigner from Iran, but simply as a fellow "Tsukuban" (or is it "Tsukubaite"?), his dream is to see people becoming good friends to each other regardless of sex, age, nationality, religion, language, etc. Because he is a man of his word, sooner or later he will also make this dream come true!</p>

<p>Come and join the crowd at the monthly Coffee Hour at the Tsukuba Information Center on Wed., Jan. 24 from 2 to 4 p.m. and hear Ali reveal his "secret recipe for success". Refreshments will be provided.</p>

<h3>Hash House Harriers: Mystery Course</h3>

<p>The Ibaraki Hash House Harriers, "the drinking club with a running problem", will host their next exciting event on Sunday, January 28th. Meet at the Frontier Bar in Amakubo at 1pm.</p>

<p>We will try to follow a 6k mystery course just outside of Tsukuba, along a scenic river. The jogging will be followed by our usual/unusual ceremony and party. Then a visit to a friendly countryside izakaya. As this is the New Year's Hash, everyone should wear something new. More info: call ToeJam at 0298-21-9372, or check the web site: ibaraki3.infoseek.ne.jp.</p>

<h3>ATM Information</h3>

<p>Some useful information from the TAIRA net:</p>

<p>About a month ago I sent out a query about ATMs in the Tsukuba area that connect to international networks, in particular the American Cirrus system. No one seemed to know of one.</p>

<p>I've just found one - at the main Tsukuba post office! One of the machines there has a special (small) sign that announces its connection to Cirrus, Plus, and some other international networks. It will even speak and display English. How long it's been there I don't know, but it works, and feels like a real breakthrough for me! (Unfortunately it's presumably only accessible during post office opening hours, as it's inside the lobby area...but, hey, you can't have everything!)</p>

<p>Rich Noer</p>

<h3>Fukushi Bus Service Begins</h3>

<p>"Fukushi Bus" a Cheap Way to Get Around</p>

<p>Last fall, the city began a new service called "Fukushi Bus" (Welfare Bus) that consists of 4 buses on specific routes that pick up and drop off people at numerous points along the route. What makes it different from the regular bus service is that it is free. It is not very "foreigner friendly" at the moment, as English timetables, etc. are not yet available, but for those without private cars, it is certainly worth taking the time to find out if a convenient route is close-by.</p>

<p>All four routes include the Bus Center and stop at terminal 6. Route A begins at the Tsukuba Branch Office (near the base of Mt. Tsukuba) and zigzags down back roads by the Sakura Branch Office and then to Tsukuba Center. It then takes a more westerly route almost to the border with Shimotsuma and then back over to the Tsukuba Branch Office again, taking a total of 68 minutes for the loop. It leaves the Tsukuba Branch Office at 7:00, 8:36, 10:00, 11:36, 13:15, 14:51, 16:15 and 17:51, returning to its starting point on the last run at 19:00.</p>

<p>Route B begins at the Oho Branch Office and follows a route that takes it to both the Tsukuba Bus Center and the Sakura Branch Office but also covering much of the northwest side of Tsukuba, including the area to the north of the Tsukuba Technopark Toyosato. Bus B first departs Oho at 8:04, arriving at the bus center at 8:26 and then returning to Oho at 8:54. The next cycles begin at 9:15, 13:14, 14:25 and 17:54.</p>

<p>Route C begins at the Tsukuba Bus Center and travels a route that is basically east and west from the center, ranging from Umezono, Sakura New Town and Namiki on up to Tsukuba Technopark Sakura in the east, and then through Tokodai, the Toyosato Branch Office out almost to the west edge of the city limits near the border with Ishige. The first bus leaves the bus center at 7:00 and takes a full 2 hours to make the entire round. The next bus leaves at 9:20, followed by 12:20, 14:40 and 17:00 before returning at 19:00.</p>

<p>Route D leaves from the Yatabe Branch Office and zigzags its way along a route in the southwestern part of town as far east as Kita Nakajima on Nishi Odori and on up to the Bus Center. From there, it loops around through Onogawa and Matsushiro and on out to the western edge of town near the border with Mitsukaido and on back to the Yatabe Branch Office, taking 65 minutes for the loop. The first bus leaves at 7:00 and is followed by buses at 8:25, 9:50, 11:15, 13:20, 14:45, 16:10 and 17:35.</p>

<p>A complete timetable listing the numerous stops can be obtained from any city office, but so far exist only in Japanese. The main purpose of this service is to help senior citizens get to city offices and welfare centers, but anyone is allowed to ride along the route. The International Office at City Hall is endeavoring to get information out in English that will make this service more useful to the international community, but if you think you might be able to make use of this free transportation, then please ask at the desk at the Sakura Branch Office for help in determining the route that would serve your needs.</p>

<h3>City Information Packet</h3>

<p>"The Welcome Kit" made by the city can be picked up at the Tsukuba Information Center. It contains, (1) a city map (2) the pamphlet called "Living in Tsukuba" (3) The pamphlet titled "Separating & Disposing of Garbage" (4)The pamphlet for Admission into Public Schools, Tsukuba (5) The booklet for Earthquake Emergency Procedures (6) Paper, "Welcome to Tsukuba" and (7) the Tsukuba City Handbook.</p>

<p>If you're a newcomer with a stay more than 90 days and go through the Alien Registration, you will get this package at the city hall. But, just in case you didn't get it when you registered, please come and pick it up at TIC.</p>

<h3>Religious Activities in English</h3>

<p>An English language interdenominational worship service is held once a month normally on the fourth Sunday of every month at 2 pm. at the Tsukuba Gakuen Church near Daiei. The January service will be held a week earlier than usual and will be on the 21st. (There will be no service in February). It is followed by an informal fellowship time at the Tsukuba Christian Center next door. The Japanese language congregation meets every Sunday morning at 10:30, and the service is translated into English over headphones. There is also a Bible Study in English every Tuesday evening at 8:00 in the Christian Center. For more information or help with transportation, call Tim Boyle at 55-1907.</p>

<p>The Tsukuba Catholic Church has an English mass at 8:00 am every Sunday and the Japanese masses on Saturday night (6 pm) and Sunday morning (10 am) are accompanied by an summary of the message in English. There is even a Spanish mass on the 3rd Sundays at 3 pm. On the last Sunday of the month, there is a coffee social after the English mass. For information, call the church at 36-1723. The Tsuchiura Catholic Church offers an English mass on the last Sunday of each month at 3 pm (tel. 21-1501). There is also a Portuguese mass on the 3rd Saturday at 7 pm.</p>

<p>The Tsukuba Baptist Church offers an English language Bible study before the Japanese service every Sunday from 10 to 11 am. It is located in Inarimae just east of Nishi Odori on the street closest to the meteorological observation tower. Tel. 58-0655.</p>

<p>The Megumi Church in Tsuchiura (489-1 Kami Takatsu) also offers English translation of their 10:30 Japanese service over ear phones. An English Bible class is held every Sunday morning at 9:00. There is also an International Fellowship group that holds a monthly pot luck dinner usually on the third Saturday. For information on that, call Melissa Ishio at 38-1374. For more information, call the church at 22-2244 or e-mail LDN03144@niftyserve.or.jp (Also see their Tsuchiura Megumi Church Web Page at http://www.bekkoame.ne.jp/ro/tmc/index.html).</p>

<p>The Tokyo International Church, Tsukuba Branch in Amakubo 3-3-5 (across from Tsukuba Univ.) offers a 10:30-noon Chinese (Mandarin) service interpreted into both English and Japanese. There is also an English language Bible study every Sunday evening at 7 pm. For information, call Rev. Huang at 52-6820.</p>

<p>The International Christian Assembly meets every Sunday at their new building just off of Tsuchiura-Gakuen Sen east of Tsukuba (just behind the restaraut with the dragon on the roof) from 10 am for Bible Study and 10:30 for worship. For more information, call Richard Swan at 57-9006.</p>

<p>The Nozomi Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tsuchiura (23-27 Komatsu 3-chome) also offers programs in English, including a worship service Saturday evenings at 7:30 pm and a Bible class on Sunday mornings at 9:30. English Bible information courses are available any time. For more information, call Glen Hieb at 0298-21-3578.</p>

<p>The Tsuchiura Christian Church offers an English message translated into Japanese every Sunday morning at 10:30 am. For information, contact Paul Axton at 56-2167.</p>

<p>The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Tsukuba ward is located at Sakura 2 chome 35-2. Services are translated into English over headphones. The Sacrament Meeting begins at 10 am followed by Sunday School at 11:10 and Priesthood and Relief Society at 12:00. A Gospel Doctrine class in English is also offered. For more information, contact 57-9795.</p>

<p>The Jewish Community of Japan, invites anyone of the Jewish faith in the Tsukuba area to feel welcome at any of their programs in Tokyo. Sabbath services each Friday at 6:30 pm followed by Sabbath dinner; Kosher Kitchen, Saturday morning, 9:30 am. Contact 3-8-8 Hiroo, Shibuya-Ku, Tokyo 150; tel. 03-3400-2559, fax. 03-3400-1827.</p>

<h3>Ibaraki English Teacher: Chapter 5</h3>

<p>By Joseph G. Robbie</p>

<p>As they had discovered a shortened soda straw in his dirty clothes bag, Haneda Airport customs officials led Randy Rogers to the barren little room where he was thoroughly searched. Nothing further suspicious was found. When asked to explain the amputated straw, Randy told them it was used with tissue to clean his ears.</p>

<p>"Wercome to Japan. Much to enjoy you stay." With those words, he was awarded entry to the country, yet he was already missing Thailand. Hoisting the heavy backpack containing all his worldly possessions, Randy, the randy rambler, made his way to the monorail train and navigated his way to Tokyo Station.</p>

<p>First off, he changed all of his Thai Baht into Japanese Yen, about \$850 worth. Then, after searching long for a locker large enough, he deposited his luggage and headed for what appeared to be the main exit. Hoping to escape the pressing station crowd, his first impression upon sidewalking was a physical blast of August heat and humidity, not unlike Bangkok. His second observation was that the crowds had not thinned out at all here on the bustling street. It was 3pm, not even rush hour yet.</p>

<p>As Randy strolled the area taking in the sights, sounds, smells and other wonders of his new world, he knew he needed pause to reflect. He passed a pleasant looking coffee shop, giving it the eye, then returned shortly later to take a seat. When nobody came to serve him, he figured he had to get up and order at the counter. The clerk at the register was as beautiful as she was incomprehensible. Randy pointed, grunted, smiled, winked,

and finally paid for a large glass of beer and some kind of sandwich, which turned out to be raw ham with processed cheese.</p>
<p>Reclaiming his table, he essentially inhaled the contents of plate and mug. She giggled when he came back quickly to order another of each.</p>
<p>"Do you speak any English?" Randy asked.</p>
<p>"Only a little. I'm sorry" was the reply.</p>
<p>"What's your name?"</p>
<p>"I am Mariko."</p>
<p>"Nice to meet you. I'm Randy." More giggles.</p>
<p>He sat back down to ponder the plan. He was really in Tokyo, the largest and most expensive city in the world. He didn't understand the culture or the language. His bankroll was plenty for Bangkok, but would dwindle fast here.</p>
<p>Already he was down \$25 just for beer and processed cheese. He had to get a job quickly, but his more immediate concern was lodging for the night.</p>
<p>Walking up to order his third draft, Randy noticed and grabbed from the magazine rack a copy of Kanto Free Time, a gratis English language magazine.</p>
<p>Turning immediately to the classified ads in the back, he found the section with gaijin hostels.</p>
<p>Shared rooms could be had for as little as 30,000 yen per month, with a private room running at 45,000. Kitchen, bath, toilet and living room were all communal. The Villa Paradiso included a map with its ad - just a few blocks away. Randy left a 20% tip on the table, bid farewell to the giggler, retrieved his backpack, and sought the refuge.</p>
<p>Down a wide street, down a narrow one, then down a dirty one-way alley stood the two story red brick building with faded welcome sign. Inside the open door, a table covered with forms, fliers and a bell greeted him. He rang the bell. The proprietor, a 40-something Japanese guy called "Rick", appeared and they talked turkey. Due to his years, five to be precise, studying and traveling in Australia and Canada, Rick's English was fluent. They arranged a weekly rate for a private room, which turned out to be small and noisy, but clean. Furniture consisted of one scruffy table and an unstable chair. Futon, pillow and blanket were stored in a small closet made for that purpose. The streaky second floor window looked out upon the alley and a forest of buildings, signs and advertisements. A large cockroach sauntered breezily and unconcerned across the tatami mats, which themselves gave off a unique aroma he found annoying. Randy settled in to make the best of it. Be it ever so humble, this was now his home. Tomorrow he would look for work.</p>

<p>(To be continued)</p>

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THE END

Updated: March 2, 2003
Shaney Crawford

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