



 **埼玉の魅力**
SAITAMA'S STRENGTHS **English Version**

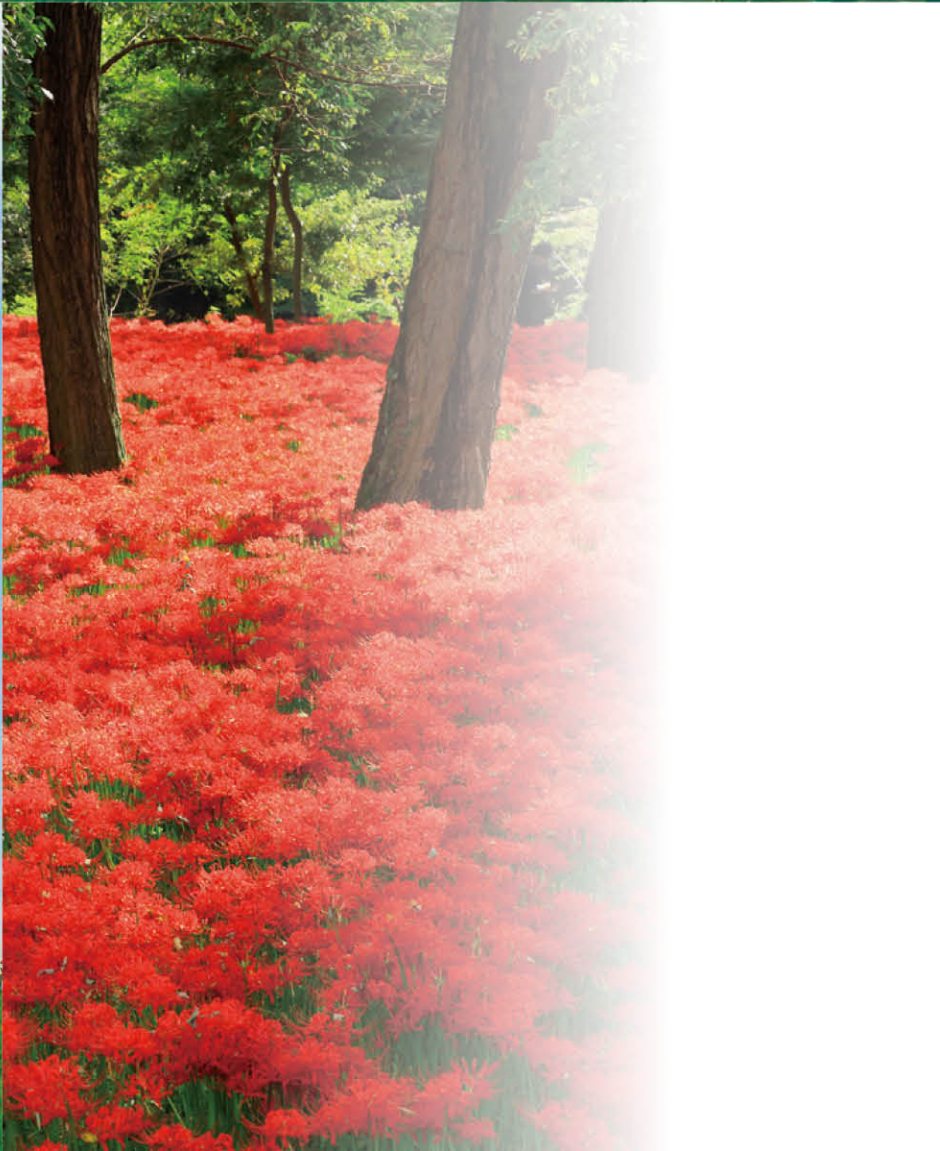


PROFILE OF SAITAMA PREFECTURE





Experience All Sa





Saitama Has to Offer

Greetings from the Governor

The population of Saitama Prefecture is approximately 7.34 million people*, the fifth largest in Japan. Saitama is also blessed with bountiful nature, including abundant rivers such as the Arakawa and Tone Rivers, as well as the exquisite Chichibu mountain ranges, vast paddy fields of Minuma, and the lush thickets of the Musashino region.

Additionally, Saitama Prefecture's location in the heart of the metropolitan area makes it one of the country's key transportation hubs, connecting all major cities in Eastern Japan via 6 expressways, such as the Tōhoku, Kan-Etsu, and Ken-Ō Expressways, and 6 bullet train lines, including the Tōhoku, Jōetsu, and Hokuriku Shinkansen lines. Enticing various companies and people, Saitama exhibits a unique combination of the liveliness and convenience of a major city.

Saitama Prefecture is also blessed with a favorable climate and is one of Japan's leading agricultural prefectures. Known for its top-quality produce, Saitama is home to local specialties such as the sweet and tender Fukaya Green Onions, and the rich and flavorful Sayama Tea. Recently, we are also becoming well known for our delicious strawberries.

Saitama Prefecture also boasts a variety of world-class traditions and culture, such as the historical manufacturing techniques involved in creating *Hosokawa-shi* Japanese handmade paper, the traditional *yatai* floats and *kagura* dance of the Chichibu Night Festival, and the *dashi* floats of the Kawagoe Hikawa Shrine Festival, which are all registered as UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage. We also have the Fallen Leaves Compost Agroforestry System in Musashino Upland, which is registered as a Globally Important Agricultural Heritage System.

There are also many pioneers from Saitama Prefecture that continue to leave a deep impression in the hearts of people today. Three of these eminent figures are Shibusawa Eiichi, an industrialist born in Fukaya City who laid the foundation for modern Japanese economics, Hanawa Hokiichi, a blind scholar of Japanese literature and culture from Honjo City, and Ogino Ginko, a woman from Kumagaya City who became the first licensed female doctor in Japan.

Furthermore, Saitama Prefecture is deeply connected to its many professional sports teams, including football (soccer), baseball, and rugby, thereby creating numerous opportunities for the public to interact with Japan's leading athletes. In 2021, various events of the Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games were held at venues such as the Saitama Super Arena and Saitama Stadium 2002. These events brought the attention of the world to Saitama Prefecture.

This booklet contains an abundance of information on Saitama's aforementioned strengths. It would bring me great joy if this booklet could inspire you to explore our beautiful prefecture.

I hope you will visit Saitama, a prefecture filled with spirit and charm.



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*Based on the estimated population as of October 1, 2022 (Statistics Bureau, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications)

Governor of Saitama Prefecture *Ohno Motokazu*

A Place Called "Saitama"

Saitama is directly connected to the capital of Tokyo. Blessed with few natural disasters, Saitama's environment makes the prefecture a great place to live and supports a thriving economy.



A Thriving Economy

Saitama Prefecture's GDP (nominal) in FY 2020 was 22.9226 trillion yen, the 5th highest in the country.

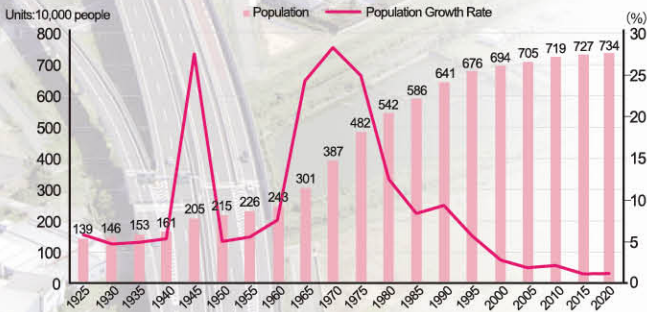
Source: "List of Japanese Prefectures by GDP, Financial Year 2020", Cabinet Office



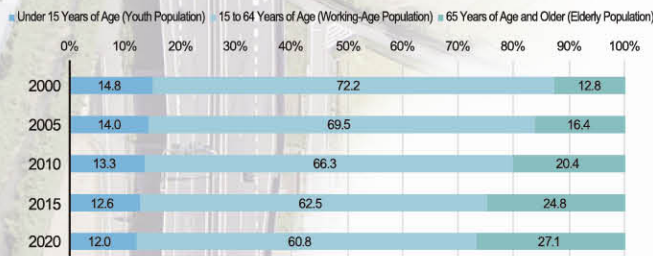
Population

Approximately 7.34 million people live in Saitama, with the population growing at the 4th highest rate nationally. The working-age population is 60.8% of the total prefectural population, the 4th highest figure in Japan.

Population and Population Growth Rate of Saitama Prefecture



Population Ratios by Age Brackets

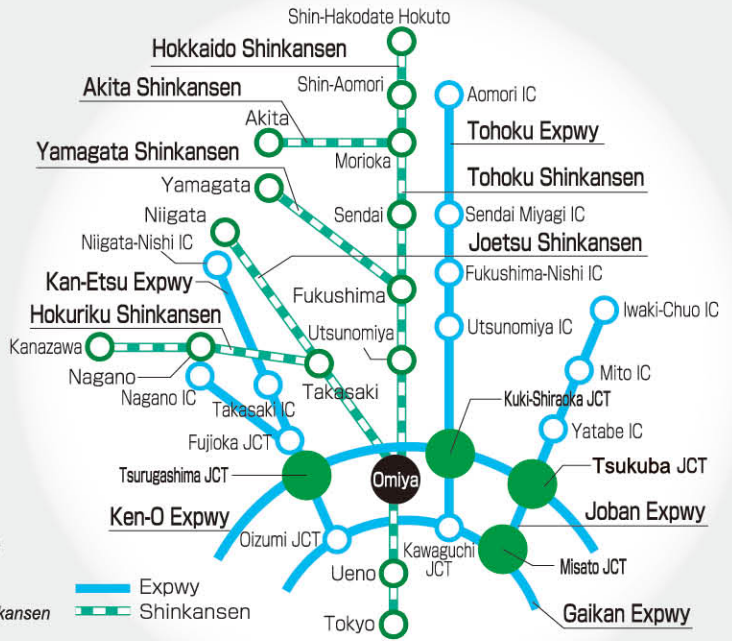


Source: 2020 National Census Basic Population Statistics



An Extensive Rail Network

Saitama boasts a total of 228 railway stations throughout the prefecture, operated by eight major railway companies: East Japan Railway (JR East), Tobu Railway, Seibu Railway, Tokyo Metro, Chichibu Railway, Saitama Railway, Metropolitan Intercity Railway, and Saitama New Urban Transit, with 24 interconnecting train lines that create a highly convenient transportation network.



The Hub of an Excellent Expressway Network

Saitama Prefecture is swiftly rising in prominence as a key transportation hub as the home of an excellent expressway network, which includes the Ken-O, Gaikan, Kan-Etsu, Tohoku, Joban, and Shuto expressways.



Witness

Transforming the Ordinary into the Extraordinary

Flowers and festivals, history and the arts – places to go and things to see are just around the corner. Witness Saitama transform the ordinary into the extraordinary!



Nagatoro Rock Cliffs



Nagatoro River Rafting



Scan this 2D Code to watch a Nagatoro Rock Cliffs Video!



Chichibu Night Festival (UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage)

The Land of Saitama: Nurturing Natural Beauty Throughout the Ages



Shibazakura (Moss Phlox) at Hitsujiyama Park



The Railway Museum



The Omiya Bonsai Art Museum, Saitama City

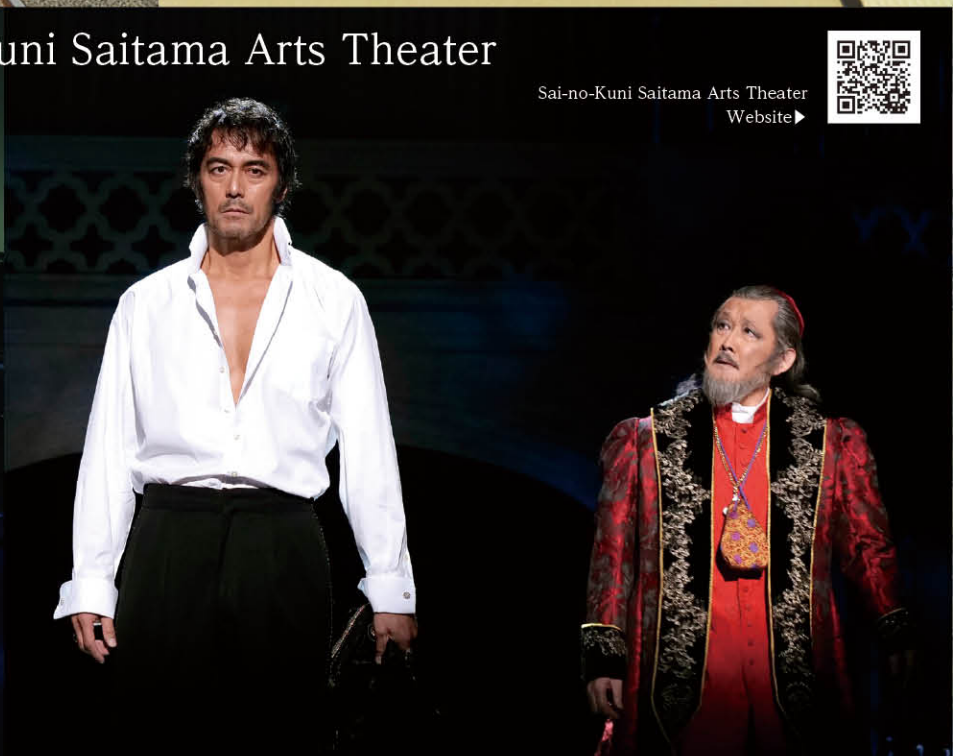
Sai-no-Kuni Saitama Arts Theater

Sai-no-Kuni Saitama Arts Theater
Website ▶



Genre Cross I - "New World"
by Ryohei Kondo with Keishi Nagatsuka

©Malko Miyagawa



Sai-no-Kuni Shakespeare Series "Henry VIII "

©Takahiro Watanabe

Inariyama Kofun Excavated Articles

(Preserved at the Saitama Prefectural Museum of the Sakitama Ancient Burial Mounds)



National Treasure: Bronze mirror decorated with images of gods and legendary animals

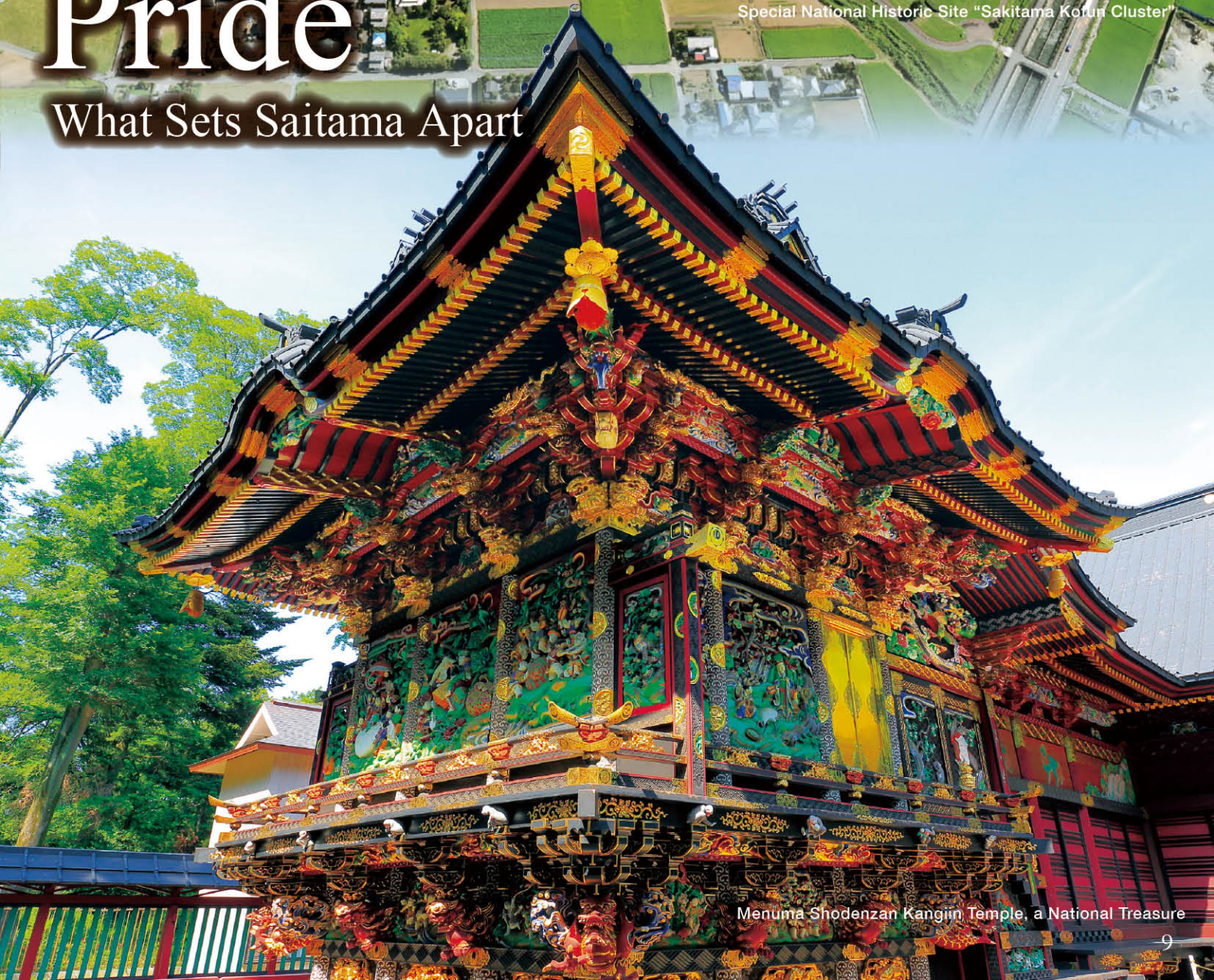


National Treasure: Jade *magatama*

Special National Historic Site "Sakitama Kofun Cluster"

Pride

What Sets Saitama Apart



Menuma Shodenzan Kangiin Temple, a National Treasure

Industry



A concept model of the orthosis integrated into a wheelchair was developed.

UCHIDA Co., Ltd.

Joint Development Partner: Research Institute of the National Rehabilitation Center for Persons with Disabilities (NRCD)

A pre-symptomatic intervention strategy born from "physical data" × "AI"

A robot equipped with sensors that tracks the patient.

By recording and analyzing walking movements transformed into 3D data, the CORE-Ler will be used as a tool for the early detection of conditions that are difficult to diagnose and pre-symptomatic intervention.



CORE-Ler

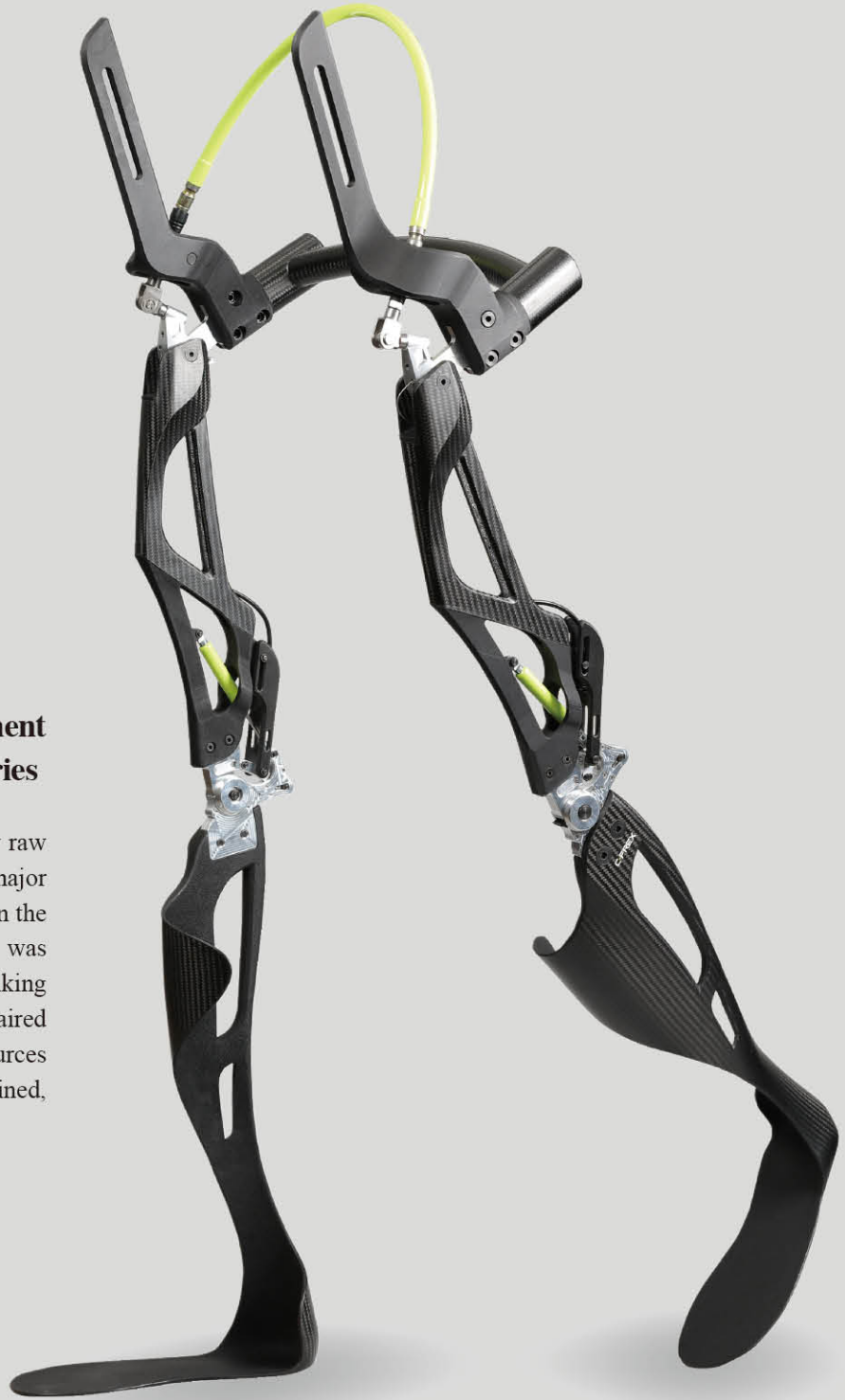
RDS Co. Ltd.

Joint Development Partner: Research Institute of the National Rehabilitation Center for Persons with Disabilities (NRCD)

The Source of Next-Generation Craftmanship

Creation of Technological Innovations

Merging leading ideas from research organizations with the advanced technology of businesses, Saitama is generating various innovations in the field of technology.



Orthosis to Assist Bipedal Movement for People with Spinal Cord Injuries

Made using carbon, a lightweight but sturdy raw material, this orthosis improves upon two major problems faced by conventional equipment in the industry; fragility and weight. The orthosis was developed aiming to help users attain walking capability comparable to that of an unimpaired person without utilizing external power sources such as a motor, combined with a refined, aesthetically-pleasing design.

Industry

Source of Our Traditions

Historical manufacturing industries creating celebratory items like oshie hagoita (decorated wooden panels) for traditional Japanese holidays are alive and well in Saitama. The prefecture is also home to Hosokawa-shi, a type of handmade Japanese paper. The paper and its manufacturing techniques are registered together as a UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage.



Oshie Hagoita Decorated Wooden Panel from Tokorozawa



Oshie Hagoita Decorated Wooden Panel from Kasukabe



Koshigaya Daruma Dolls
©The Saitama Shimbun.





Hosokawa-shi Japanese Paper
(UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage)



Iwatsuki Dolls





Agriculture

The Flavor of Sayama Tea

Famous Japanese Tea Proverb: Shizuoka for the Color, Uji for the Aroma, Sayama for the Taste

The distinctly thick Sayama tea leaves are cultivated in a cool, hilly area. Prepared with a traditional roasting technique called "Sayama Biire," the fragrant Sayama Tea is loved for its rich umami flavor.





Sayama Tea Fields



Scan this 2D code to watch a Sayama Tea Fields Video!

— Traditional Farming



Gathering Fallen Leaves Event

Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems

The Fallen Leaves Compost Agroforestry System in Musashino Upland
in the peri-urban area of Tokyo (designated in July 2023)

Methods that are Still Being Used Today —



Japanese Agricultural Heritage

The Yatsunuma Agricultural System Utilizing Rainwater in Hiki Hills
(designated in January 2023)



Fukaya Beef

Delicacies

The Saitama Brand

Saitama delicacies pursue the perfect taste born from a rich natural environment.

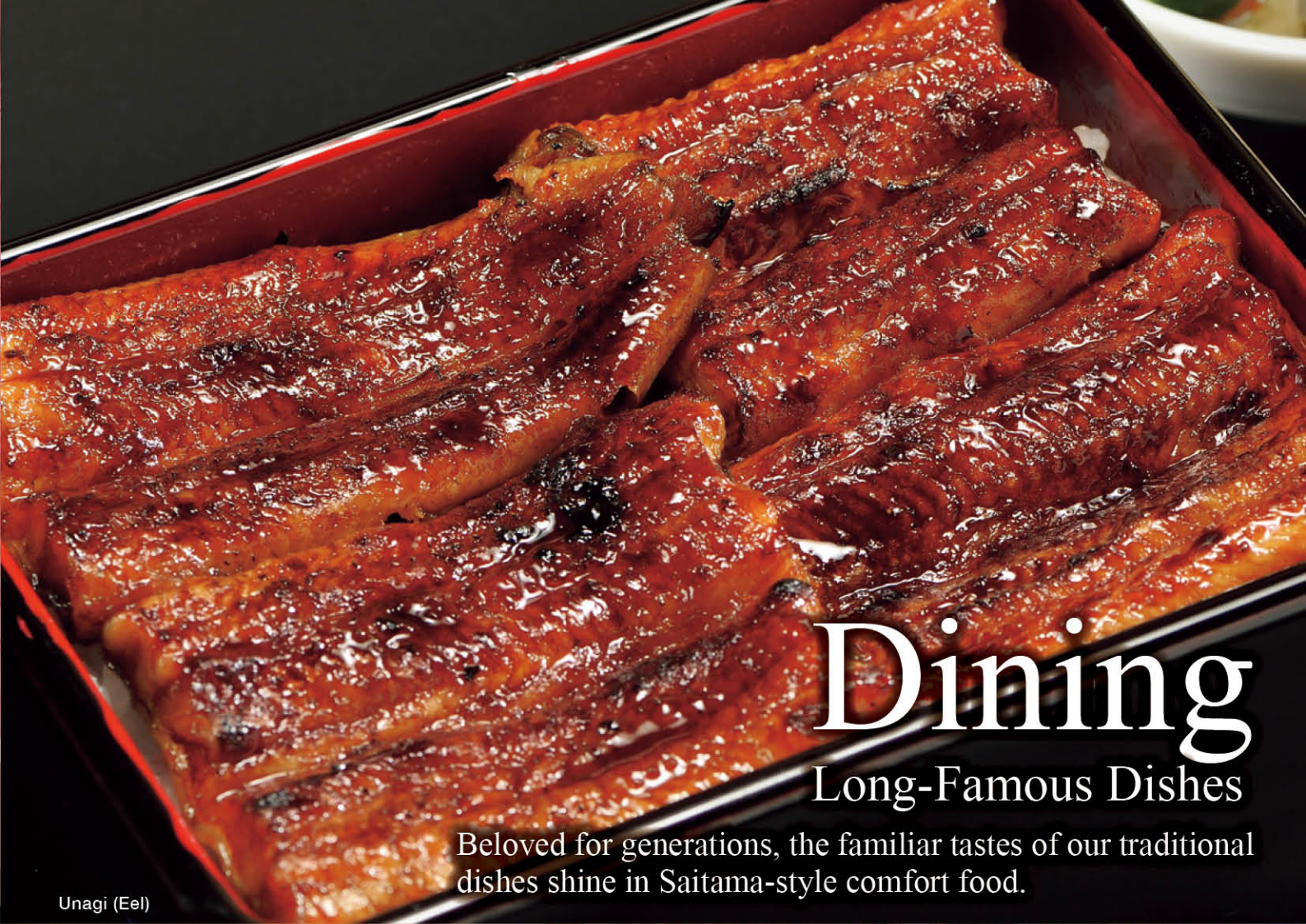
Saitama Agricultural Products Website
SAITAMA Wasshoi!



Amarin strawberries



Fukaya Green Onions



Dining

Long-Famous Dishes

Beloved for generations, the familiar tastes of our traditional dishes shine in Saitama-style comfort food.

Unagi (Eel)



Kazo Udon (Noodles)



Soka Senbei (Rice Crackers)



Saké (32 Saitama Breweries)
(Accurate as of November, 2023)

The Largest Soccer-Specific
Stadium in Japan

Hearts Bea



ting as One

Saitama Stadium 2002



Events

Dreams and Inspiration

Loved by many as a sports and cultural activities hub, Saitama's prefectural facilities gained attention from viewers from around the world when they hosted the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games and the Rugby World Cup™ Japan 2019.

Saitama Stadium 2002 Saitama City



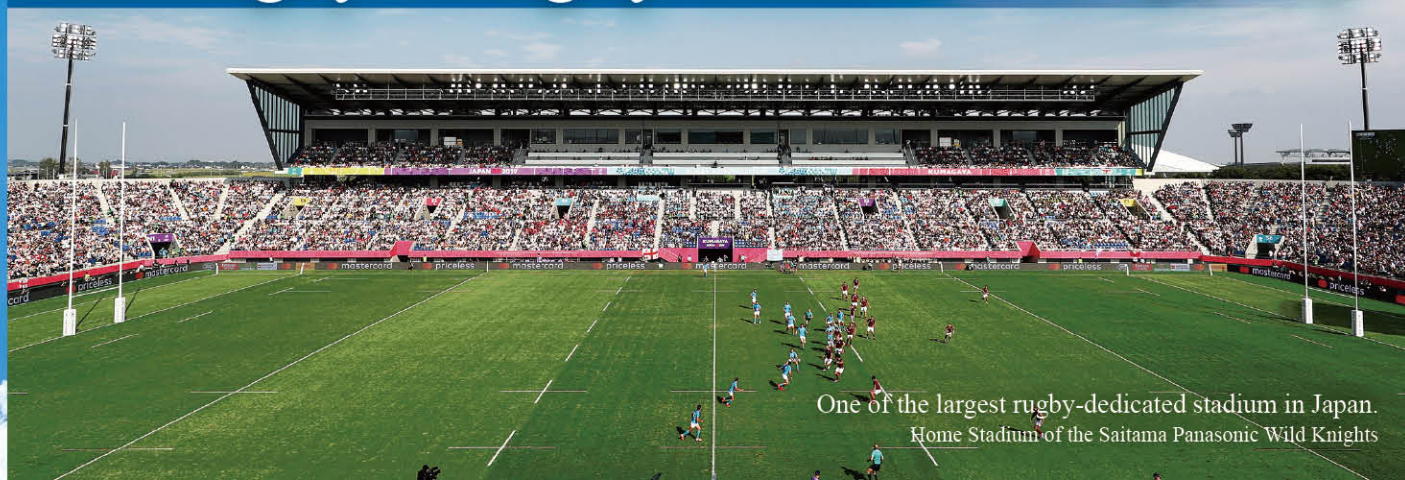
The largest football (soccer)-dedicated stadium in Japan, and one of the largest in Asia.

Saitama Super Arena Saitama City



One of the most adaptable and sophisticated multi-purpose arenas in the world.

Kumagaya Rugby Stadium Kumagaya City



One of the largest rugby-dedicated stadium in Japan.
Home Stadium of the Saitama Panasonic Wild Knights



Greatness

Eminent Figures who are the Pride of Saitama Prefecture

The pioneers who continue to leave a deep impression in the hearts of people today.
Their ways of life point us toward the paths we should take.

The Great Industrialist
who Laid the Foundation
for Capitalism in Japan

Shibusawa Eiichi

1840 - 1931

Fukaya
City



Property of Fukaya City



The New Face of
the 10,000 Yen Bill

Shibusawa Eiichi was involved in the establishment and promotion of about 500 corporations and about 600 public works projects. From 2024, his portrait will be featured on the new Japanese 10,000 yen bill.



Eiichi's hometown,
Fukaya City

There are many buildings connected to Eiichi Shibusawa in Fukaya City, such as the former Shibusawa residence "Nakanchi," the Shibusawa Eiichi Memorial Museum, and the Suwa Shrine, where he made contributions towards the hall of worship.

Eiichi was also featured as the main protagonist of the 60th Taiga Drama, *Reach Beyond the Blue Sky*. Why not visit his hometown and retrace his steps in Fukaya City?

First Licensed
Female Doctor in Japan

Ogino Ginko

1851 - 1913

Kumagaya
City



Photograph provided by: Kumagaya City

Blind Scholar of Japanese
Literature and Culture
from the Edo Period

Hanawa Hokiichi

1746 - 1821

Honjo
City



Photograph provided by: Honjo City





■ Prefectural Nickname:
Sai-no-Kuni
"The Land of Many Colors"

■ Prefectural Mascots:
Koboton and Saitamatch



■ Prefectural Bird:
Eurasian Collared Dove



■ Prefectural Tree:
Japanese Zelkova



■ Prefectural Flower:
Japanese Primrose



■ Prefectural Butterfly:
Midori Shijimi



■ Prefectural Fish:
Stickleback

Saitama Publications, Broadcasts, and Other Media (Japanese)

■ Saitama Prefecture's Information Magazine
Sai-no-Kuni News
Published on the 1st of every month
(April Edition published on March 31st)

■ Saitama Prefectural Assembly PR Newsletter
Saitama Prefectural Assembly News
Published 4 times a year

■ Teletama (Terrestrial Digital Broadcasting 3 channel)
Saitama Now!
Saturdays 8:30 (With Sign Language Interpretation)

Hello from the Prefectural Assembly
Sundays 10:00 (With Sign Language Interpretation)

■ FM NACK 5 (79.5 FM)
Morning News★Saitama
Weekdays 8:15

■ Saitama Prefecture Official LINE Account



Crayon Shin-chan



Saitama Sightseeing Supporter
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・テレビ朝日・ADK



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