

Filing of Residents Tax (*Jumin-zei*)**Filing Period: Feb. 16 (Fri.) – Mar. 15 (Thur.)**

Residents taxes (municipal residents tax/metropolitan residents tax) are calculated on the basis of income earned in the previous year from January to December including various deductions (for dependents, spouses, social insurance premiums, etc.).

**<Those who are required to file>**

As of January 1st, 2018, those who fall into any of the following categories (1-3) are required to file.

1. People who are residents of Meguro City and who received an income during 2017.
2. People who own an office/place of business/house and lot in Meguro City but had their residential address outside of Meguro City.
3. People who are residents of Meguro City and who received no income or an income of ¥350,000 or less during 2017, and fall into any of the below:
  - enrolled or will be enrolled in the National Pension, National Health Insurance, Long-Term Care Insurance, or Longevity Medical Care System for 75 Years Old or above;
  - receive or will receive benefits relating to children;
  - receive or will receive any subsidies, such as school expense subsidies, grants for telephone expenses, grant of prosthetic devices, and childcare grant, from the Meguro City Office;
  - or need a certificate for taxation (or tax exemption).

A Residents Tax return form will be sent out to those who are deemed to need filing it in early February.

Those who need a tax return form but have not received one are requested to contact **the Tax Affairs Section**.

**<Those who do not need to file>**

- People who will file a final income tax return.
- People whose income during 2017 was solely made up of salary and whose employer will submit reports of salaries payment to the Meguro City Office.

**<Submission method>**

During the filing period, please submit or mail the completed form to **the Tax Affairs Section**, 2F Main Building of Meguro City Office Complex.

\* For filing, your Social Security and Tax Number (My Number) must be filled in. Also, the presentation of your identification document or the copy is required.

\* In the case of applying for tax deductions for dependents, etc. who reside in foreign countries, it is required to present or attach the documents proving your family relationships with them and those proving your transfer of money to them; unless such deductions are already applied and included in the tax withholding certificate after year-end adjustment.

## Hand Washing and Cough Etiquette to prevent infection

Influenza (the flu) epidemic occurs in winter. The flu and colds are contagious not only through the air - it can be spread by an infected person coughing and sneezing; but also by personal contact - touching the doorknob or the handrail used by a person whose hands are contaminated with such germs.

The basic preventive measures against the infection are "hand-washing" and "gargling" after getting home and before eating each meal. Also, mind the "cough etiquette" for not infecting people around you; all three of which are equally important.



"Cough etiquette" is to prevent spreading the virus: specifically, wearing a mask properly (by covering from the bridge and tip of your nose to your mouth and chin) and covering your mouth and nose with a tissue when coughing or sneezing.

Meanwhile, if you think that you are suffering from nagging coughs, persistent low fevers and constant fatigue due to a cold, such symptoms might be related to tuberculosis (TB).

Tuberculosis is not a disease of the past; it is worth mentioning that the number of TB patients is larger in Japan than that in the US and other European countries.

As TB spreads through the air, a person with TB symptoms can easily transmit the disease to other people. In case of prolonged symptoms, such as coughing for more than two weeks, you should definitely consult a medical doctor and, of course, stick to the "cough etiquette." In addition, it is also recommended to have a regular medical checkup (chest X-ray examination).

## Disaster Prevention Seminar for Foreigners

Meguro City and Meguro Fire Department will hold a disaster prevention seminar for foreigners, providing an opportunity for them to experience practical training in the event of a disaster. Interpreters of several languages are available.

**Date and time:**

February 17 (Sat.) 9:30 am – noon

**Venue:**

Meguro Disaster Prevention Center  
1-9-7 Chuo-cho, Meguro-ku

**Contact for Application/Inquiry:**

Meguro City Culture & Exchange Promotion Section  
FAX:03-5722-9378  
Email:bunka01@city.meguro.tokyo.jp

Send your application by fax or e-mail, providing your (1) name, (2) nationality, (3) language, (4) address, (5) telephone number and (6) whether you require interpretation services or not.

**Foreign Residents Information Desk**

Main Building 1F, Meguro City Office 2-19-15  
Kamimeguro Meguro-ku Tokyo  
<http://www.mifa.jp/mifa2/gaikokujinsodan2/2E.htm>

**Life in Tokyo**

Site for Foreign Residents of Tokyo  
<https://www.lifein.tokyo.jp/en/>



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# Kaleidoscope MEGURO

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## Welcome to MIFA Festival

**The 13th MIFA Int'l Exchange Festival**

- Discover, Experience, and Explore the World! -

Let's deepen international friendship and mutual understandings

You can enjoy stage performances, Japanese culture and world cuisine.

**Date:** 10:00-16:00 on February 11 (Sun.), 2018

**Venues:**

Main Hall at Meguro  
Persimmon Hall  
1-1-1, Yakumo, Meguro-ku

Meguro Kumin Campus  
Park  
1-1-12, Yakumo, Meguro-ku

**Program:**

- Sale/Display of Food and Products by Embassies, etc.
- Music/Songs/Dances of the World
- Japanese Culture Ikebana/GO/ Tea Ceremony/ Calligraphy/Kimono
- Drink Corner, Disaster Awareness, Writing System, Japanese Conversation, Stamp Rally, Amusement for Children, Taiwanese Tea Ceremony
- Introduction to Int'l Cooperation/Friendship Groups

Organized by  
Meguro International Friendship Association (MIFA)

Co-organized by  
Meguro City, Eco-life Meguro Promotion Association

Managed by  
The 12th MIFA International Exchange Festival Committee

## Viewing Mt. Fuji in Meguro City

Mt. Fuji is one of the popular sights in Japan good for climbing and viewing from distance. It was registered on the UNESCO World Heritage List in 2013. Although there is about 100km distance between Mt. Fuji and Tokyo, you can see extremely beautiful Mt. Fuji in the morning and evening of a dry and sunny day in winter. Furthermore, there is a 'miniature Mt. Fuji' you can climb in Meguro City.

**Mt. Fuji viewed from Meguro City**

Let us introduce some scenic spots you can easily go.

**Meguro Tenku Teien (Meguro sky garden)**

On top of Ohashi highway junction Mt. Fuji is seen westward from the observation deck of the upper part of the Meguro sky garden. This park has been open since 2013, and you can enjoy walking about 400m along oval shaped slope watching trees, grasses, and flowers in different seasons.

**Open:** from 7am to 9pm every day

**Address:** 1-9-2 Ohashi

5 min walk from Tokyu Denentoshi line Ikejiriohashi station

**Meguro Togo Teien (Meguro Togo garden)**

On the rooftop of the Meguro City Hall building Mt. Fuji is seen westward from the rooftop garden.

The garden is well maintained, and is an excellent example of rooftop greening. Why don't you visit there when you come to the City Hall?

**Open:** from 9am to 4:30pm Monday through Friday, closed on rainy days.

**Address:** 2-19-15 Kamimeguro

7 min walk from Tokyu Toyoko line Nakameguro station

**'Miniature Mt. Fuji' you can climb in Meguro City**

Mt. Fuji has long been an object of worship by many Japanese. In Edo (former name of Tokyo) era in 17C~19C, a lot of miniature Mt. Fuji's were made in Tokyo for ordinary people who never had a chance to climb real Mt. Fuji. In the 21st century, a miniature



Mt. Fuji is inherited and reproduced in Ohashi Hikawa shrine in Meguro City. You can climb it from the first station, and reach the summit in two minutes following the signboards.

**Address:** 2-16-21 Ohashi

5 min walk from Tokyu Denentoshi line Ikejiriohashi station

## Hinamatsuri (Doll Festival)

It is a festival held on March 3rd to pray for girls' health and happiness, and is also called *Momo no Sekku* (Peach Festival).

### Hina ningyo (Hina Dolls)

A set of dolls representing the emperor, empress, attendants and musicians in ancient court dress, and pieces of furniture are displayed on the tiered platforms together with, *hishimochi* (diamond shaped rice cake), and peach blossoms.



The display differs according to the district.

For celebration people drink *shirozake* (made with rice malt and sake).

You can see the traditional seven tiered *hina ningyo* display in the house of formerly owned by Kuriyama family. It is located in Suzume no Oyado Park in Himonya.

**Tel:** 03-3714-4882  
**Address:** Himonya 3-11-22  
just near the Himonya 3-chome bus stop,  
5 min walk from Himonya Hachimangu Shrine.

## Setsubun

**Setsubun** (The day before the first day of spring)  
The term *setsubun* was originally referred to as a division (*bun*) of season (*setsu*), and later widely interpreted as the day before the first day of spring (*risshun*). As it was near the New Year's Day of the ancient lunar calendar, it became a representative spring event.

In the evening of *setsubun*, people welcome the gods that bring in spring, and wish for rich harvest and safety for rice farmers.

**Onioi** (The practice of dispelling demons)  
*Onioi* and *yakuotoshi* are the traditional ceremonies to dispel demons when people invite in the gods. They were observed at first in the imperial court and gradually spread to local shrines and temples.

**Yaikagashi** (Sprigs of Holly and grilled heads of sardine)  
*Yaikagashi* is a traditional rite to drive away demons, where people hang leaves and heads of sardine at the front door of the house wishing for good fortune and health of the family. This is a Kyoto tradition dating back to the Heian period. Sharp and smelly things were thought to drive demons away from entering the house.



**Mamemaki** (Bean scattering practice)  
Beans, usually soybeans, are oblation to the spring gods on the eve of *setsubun*, grilled beans are scattered inside and outside the house, and people say "*oni wa soto, fukuwa uchi*" (Out with demons! Got in good luck!) three times each at each room of the house. When *mamemaki* is finished, it is customary for family members to eat the same number of beans as their age, and to pray for happiness throughout the year. You might like to experience *mamemaki*, which is held at Meguro Fudo Ryusenji on February 3rd.



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**Meguro Fudo Ryusenji**  
Tel: 03-3712-7549  
- 15 min walk from Megurofudomae station of Tokyu Meguro line  
- taking a bus from JR Gotanda station #72 Shibuya, to Megurofudo-keidai bus stop

## Let's go for the Discount Sale!

In Japan, most department stores, shopping malls, electronics discount stores and other retail stores have large-scale discount called "bargain sale" or "clearance sale" in January and July.

The winter bargain held in January and February can be called the final sale following the Christmas, end of year and new year sale. When this sale ends, stores will replace winter goods with spring ones.



You may expect a huge price reduction of the winter wears. In February, another discount sale called *uritsukushi* will be applied to the remaining merchandise.

As cold days continue in January and February, you will still need a coat and a heavy jacket. You might be lucky enough to find a real bargain of rather expensive winter wears, if you go to the sale during this time of the year.



## Japanese Language Classes in Meguro City

If you are to learn Japanese from scratch, or to brush up your communication skills in Japanese, please be aware that there are nine Japanese language classes run by volunteer-based organizations in Meguro. And they all are the registered members of Meguro International Friendship Association (MIFA).

You could either choose a class from time and location that are good for you, or what your objective of learning Japanese is. Here is a list of those classes with brief description for your reference:



- 1. International Communication Network Komaba Japanese Language Class**  
Small group lessons meant for int'l students residing in Todai lodge or TiTech dorm  
Email: midorino@nifty.com
- 2. Aruku-kai**  
Small group lessons by the certified teachers  
http://aruku-kai.jimdo.com  
Email: arukukai\_nihongo@yahoo.co.jp
- 3. Japanese Conversation Salon by MIFA DAY TIME / NIGHT TIME**  
Person-to-person conversation to support non-Japanese residents  
http://www.mifa.jp  
Email: info@mifa.jp
- 4. Japanese Language Group "DONGURI"**  
Person-to-person lessons open to student's request  
https://sites.google.com/site/megurodonguri/home  
Email: dongurinewentry@googlegroups.com
- 5. Japanese Language Group "CRAYONS"**  
Children allowed  
Person-to-person or small group lessons and cultural events  
http://www006.upp.so-net.ne.jp/crayons/  
Email: nihongo\_crayons@yahoo.co.jp

**6. Meguro UNESCO Japanese Class**  
Group lessons organized three terms a year for different fluency levels  
http://www.unesco.or.jp/meguro/  
Email: meguro@unesco.or.jp  
Tel & Fax: 03-5430-5952 (Fujisaki), 03-3717-7418 (Yoshitake)

**7. "Let's Speak Japanese"**  
Small group lessons and cultural events  
http://speak-jp.jugem.jp/  
Email: nihongonet.meguro@gmail.com

**8. Midorigaoka Japanese Chat**  
Person-to-person conversation and cultural events  
http://midorigaoka-chat.jimdo.com/  
Email: nanaosy385@yahoo.co.jp

The details of each class can be found in MIFA's Web site:



http://www.mifa.jp/mifa2/nihongo2/nihongo2.htm



## St. Valentine's Day in Japan

Nowadays there are no ones who don't know about St.Valentine's Day on the February 14th. In Japan, it's said that women will confess their feelings to the person they like with chocolates.



The chocolate presented with such feeling is called *Honmei choco* and men look forward to them.

In Japan we also have the custom which women give chocolates to those who have always been helpful to them. For example *Giri choco* to male friends, *Tomo choco* to female friends, *Sewa choco* to all of those who have been very helpful. Men might be nervous about what kind of chocolate they would receive, however every chocolate is full of gratitude, so please accept the chocolate regardless of its type and appreciate it.



Perhaps it is a good opportunity for women to give their thanks to someone whom they're in debt with. February could be defined as the coldest month of the year and it is wonderful for everyone to be able to feel the warmth thanks to the chocolates which are filled with gratitude.