

## Meguro UNESCO Bazaar

Meguro UNESCO Association organizes a bazaar to 'Remember Areas Affected by the Great East Japan Earthquake'.

The sales from this bazaar will be donated to the disaster areas, and your donations and participation will be highly appreciated.

Date: Sat. November 11, 2017 13:00-15:00  
Place: Gohongi Elementary School Lunch Room  
Address: 2-24-3 Gohongi Meguro-ku, Tokyo

For more details, please visit the website;  
<http://meguro-unesco.info>

## Tokyo AIDS Prevention Month

November 16 - December 15 is 'Tokyo AIDS Prevention Month', and December 1 is 'World AIDS Day'.

### \* AIDS·Sexually Transmitted Diseases (Chlamydia·Syphilis) Test

#### <Temporary test services>

Date/Time: Dec. 4 (Mon) 09:00-11:00  
Venue: Meguro City Hall main building 3<sup>rd</sup> floor Health Department

#### <Normal test services>

Date/Time: The third Monday every month (20<sup>th</sup> for November, 18<sup>th</sup> for December) 09:00-11:00  
Venue: same as above

#### Note:

Tests are free of charge, but a booking in advance is required.

For queries, please call a representative (Tel: 03-5722-9896), or visit Meguro City Hall main building 3<sup>rd</sup> floor Health and Infection Prevention Department counter.

### \* Meguro City Hall Panel Exhibition 'Red Ribbon'

Date/Time: Nov. 27 (Mon) - Dec 1 (Fri)  
Venue: City Hall main building 1<sup>st</sup> floor west gate lobby

## Meguro City Run

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Meguro City Run ~Health Marathon~ will be held on Sunday November 26 which starts at 8:30 am (rain or shine). During the events, traffic restrictions will be applied to Yamate, Komazawa, Jiyuu, and Meguro streets.

## MIFA Festival Volunteer

Volunteers are wanted who can help organize the 13<sup>th</sup> MIFA International Exchange Festival taking place at Meguro Persimmon Hall and Meguro Kumin Campus Park on Sunday Feb. 11, 2018.

Festival committee meetings will be held at MIFA on Oct. 7 (Sat.) 13:30-15:30, Nov. 4, Dec. 9, Jan. 13, Jan. 20, Jan. 27, and Feb. 3 10:00-12:00.

#### For application:

Please inform MIFA via email ([info@mifa.jp](mailto:info@mifa.jp)) of your name, nationality, address, phone number and your preferred activity.

#### For inquiries:

Meguro International Friendship Association (MIFA)  
Tel: 03-3715-4671 / Fax: 03-3715-4672 / Email: [info@mifa.jp](mailto:info@mifa.jp)

Your participation to the festival committee meetings would be highly appreciated!

## Year End & New Year Meguro City Services Not Available

The office will be closed from December 29, 2017 till January 3, 2018.

## Introduction of our new editorial staff

I am Reiko Suzuki. I have lived in Meguro for nearly 50 years since I got married. I think I have been involved in MIFA activities for nearly 20 years, helping producing MIFA newsletter, attending the Japanese Conversation group, attending the MIFA Festival, and enjoying the volunteer job of translation and interpretation. I'd like to enjoy my life taking part of MIFA activities.

## 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>

# Kaleidoscope Meguro



Vol.003 November 2017

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## Interview with Mr. Cheikh Niang Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Senegal to Japan



Mr. Niang has been working and living in Meguro City for three years, and was the honorable guest to the *Bon-odori* Festival held in Jiyugaoka early August. Being a fan of Japan and Meguro City, he kindly accepted our request for the interview.

### Q1. What surprised you the most in Japan?

What he thinks stands out the most in Japan is the safety on the street which is secured 100% even at midnight, and the sense of freedom which is assured through respect for differences Japanese people present to foreigners. Also it is amazing for him to find how warm Japanese people can be, though they are shy and withdrawn like any other islanders he is familiar with.

### Q2. What would you like the most in Meguro City?

The places he recommends foreigners to visit would be Sugekari Park in Aobadai for cherry blossoms, Ryusenji Temple in Shimomeguro, and Japan Folk Crafts Museum in Komaba. His favorite is Jiyugaoka where his home is and where he enjoys friendly atmosphere with cozy little shops, restaurants, and bars. He loves Jiyugaoka so much that he calls it "a microcosms of Tokyo and Japan", as everything is condensed there.

### Q3. What message would you like to convey to foreigners living in Meguro City?

During the interview, Mr. Niang continued to suggest 'we should open up'. For those who come from outside Japan, he says not to be too cautious and afraid of talking to local people. If you get them to understand what you need, they will help you and you will get to know and love Japan more...

We would like to thank Mr. Niang and Mr. Ndiaye (First Counselor) for their time and valuable inputs hoping their insights and experiences would help develop a more matured multi-cultural community in Meguro City.



[Mr. Niang and his family on stage:  
Jiyugaoka *Bon-odori* Festival]

## Tori no Ichi (Cock Festival) Meguro Ootori Shrine



*Tori no Ichi* is a festival organized on the days of the cock in November every year. This festival is held two or three times a year, as the day of the cock comes around every twelve days. The first festival is called *Ichi no Tori*, the second *Ni no Tori*, and the third *San no Tori*.

*Tori no Ichi* held at Meguro Ootori Shrine has a long history in Tokyo, which started in the Edo era. This festival has been very popular, as it is the first event for the people to prepare for the coming new year, and to pray for good luck and business prosperity. During the festival, many stalls are lined up to sell *kumade* which is a bamboo rake decorated with various lucky charms. *Kumade* is believed to rake in fortune to the house. And when a customer decides to buy a *kumade*, the seller performs rhythmic hand clapping to celebrate, and this gesture is called *tejime*, a very unique Japanese custom.

### 2017 Tori no Ichi Schedule

*Ichi no Tori*: Mon. November 6, around 6 am-11 pm  
*Ni no Tori*: Sat. November 18, around 6 am-11 pm  
*San no Tori*: Thu. November 30, around 6 am-11 pm



## Life in Tokyo

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



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Kamimeguro Meguro-ku Tokyo  
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## Illumination

### Flowers of Light Bloom along Meguro River



“NAKAMEGURO JEWEL DOME 2017” will be held this year again from Friday December 15 to Sunday December 24. Half a million light bulbs on about 110 cherry trees will illuminate

along the Meguro River between Horai Bridge and Asahi Bridge.

### Baccarat Chandelier Shines

“Baccarat ETERNAL LIGHTS”, an annual illumination event, will be held in Yebisu Garden Place from early November through early January.



One of the world’s largest chandeliers made by Baccarat, a company with a 250-year history, always attracts many visitors with its overwhelming presence and dazzling light. Please enjoy the illumination of Tokei Hiroba and other lit-up attractions.

### Illumination of Jiyugaoka

The Marie Clair Christmas Tree, located in front of the south exit of Jiyugaoka Station, brings people’s wishes together. The charity plates containing people’s messages are placed on the tree as ornaments. The light-up ceremony will be held on Saturday November 25 at 16:00. The station masters of Tokyu Line will be there to view the lighting. The Christmas tree will illuminate the street until Monday December 25. After the event, the fir tree will be returned to the forest and the ornaments will be buried in the soil.

Meanwhile, in front of the main exit of the station is the Megami Hiroba Plaza where the annual Christmas tree lighting will be held on Sunday December 3 at 16:30.



This illumination will continue until Wednesday February 14 (St.Valentine’s Day). This year’s theme is “Motto Jiyugaoka (Can’t Get Enough of Jiyugaoka)”. It marks the 88<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the opening of Jiyugaoka Station.

Please also enjoy the events to celebrate this anniversary.

## The Events of Year End & New Year’s Day

### Azuki-gayu (Red bean porridge) etc. on Toji (Winter Solstice)

On the day of *toji* (winter solstice), red bean porridge and pumpkins are customarily eaten and people take a hot bath scented with *yuzu* (aromatic citron) in order to prevent catching a cold.

### Toshikoshi-soba (Year-crossing noodles)

In the evening of *oomisoka* (the last day of the year), people eat *soba* (buck wheat noodle), called *toshikoshi-soba*, wishing that life be long like the noodles and that misfortunes be severed from them, just like soba noodles are easily cut apart.



### Joya-no-kane (New Year’s Eve bell)

In the Buddhist temples, just in the beginning of New Year’s Eve and continuing into New Year’s Day, the bells are rung 108 times because of the Buddhist belief that human beings are plagued by 108 earthy desires or passions (*bonno*).

You can experience tolling a bell during the night of *oomisoka* at such temples as Enyuji in Himonya, Gohyakurakanji in Shimomguro (fee charged),



and Megurofudosen in Shimomeguro (fee charged, reservation required).

At Enyuji, you can also enjoy project mapping on the walls of the temple as well as various games to play by yourself.

### Hatsumoode (First shrine or temple visit)

On the New Year’s Day, people pay the first visit to Shinto shrines or Buddhist temples wishing for good fortune and peaceful life during the new year. People clap hands at the Shinto shrines but not at the Buddhist temples when making a wish. Sweet *sake* or refined sake is served for purification at the Shinto shrines.

### Osechi ryori (New Year’s Food)

Special foods called *osechi ryori* are served on New Year’s Day (or on the New Year’s Eve in some areas of the countryside) to celebrate the New Year, wishing for good fortune.



## Shichi-go-san

### Seven, five and three years old Children’s Day on November 15

The closest weekend to November 15, at Ootori shrine, Kumano shrine, and Himonya hachiman, you can see lots of children in traditional kimono accompanied by their parents and grandparents.



It is *Shichi-go-san*, which is literally seven five and three. It is a festival for children. It is a celebration for girls of seven, boys of five and boys or girls who are aged three.

You might wonder why the ages are seven five and three. In Japan, odd numbers such as 7, 5 and 3 have been considered as lucky numbers. So these ages have been symbolized as milestones to pray for vulnerable children to grow up safely.

Court nobles in the Heian Period (A.D.794-1185) began to celebrate the growth of their children. Then in the Edo period (A.D.1603-1868), common people adopted the practice and started visiting shrines to pray for their children. On the other hand, *samurai* went through various rites of passage. Boys and girls aged three started to let their hair grow long. Boys aged five started to put on *hakama*. Girls aged seven started to wear *obi*. Those practices are thought to be the origin of *Shichi-go-san*.

These days, children are all dressed up and are taken to, *Ujigami*, a local shrine god. Parents give thanks for their children’s growing up in good health. And they pray for their children’s good fortune.

Boys and girls are so adorable in their best costumes. Many girls put on colorful kimonos and beautiful hair accessories. Many boys wear *haori* and *hakama*. There are also lovely children in western style dresses or suits there. Parents are always busy with taking photos of their beloved children.



They all have long rectangle paper bags, which are decorated with Japanese traditional good luck pictures such as pine, bamboo, plum, crane, and turtle. There are long, thin, red and white stick type candies called *Chitose-ame* inside those bags. *Chitose* means a thousand years. *Ame* means candy. *Chitose-ame* is believed to have a special spiritual power for health and longevity. Parents give their children *Chitose-ame* in the hope that they would live a long and happy life.

*Shichi-go-san* is one of the most thanksgiving and memorable days for Japanese parents.

## Famous Sights for the Ginkgo in Meguro City

What is the tree of Tokyo? It is ginkgo! Ginkgo at Meiji Jingu Gaien (Outer garden of Meiji shrine) in Minato city is very famous. In Meguro city, there are many sights for the ginkgo and among them, Higashiyama Park and Komaba campus of the University of Tokyo are the most famous locations and open to the public. The most beautiful season is from the end of November to mid of December. How about going there during late fall and enjoy beautiful ginkgo for a day?..

### Higashiyama Park and its surrounding

Address: Higashiyama 2 chome

Lines of ginkgo trees can be viewed from Higashiyama Park and the street along Higashiyama elementary school to the Self-



Defense Force’s camp. (Access: 10 minutes walk from Ikejiriohashi station of Tokyu Denentoshi line)

### Komaba campus of University of Tokyo

Address: Komaba 3-chome



Lines of Ginkgo trees glitter at sunset on the main street of the campus. *Komaba sai* (campus festival promoted by the students) will be held on the Nov. 24(Fri)

through 26(Sun). You can enjoy numerous research exhibitions, food stalls, and performances by student clubs if you visit there at the right timing. The affordable *gakushoku* cafeteria and restaurant are available and they will be busy with many people coming from the neighborhood. (Access: 1minute walk from Komabatodaimae station of Keio Inokashira line.

### Rinshinomori Park

Address: Shimomeguro 5-chome

Besides ginkgo, beautiful maple trees and various types of giant trees of over 100 years old can be viewed at Rinshinomori Park (Access: 10 minutes walk from Musashikoyama



station of Tokyu Meguro line)