

# SHIBUKAWA CURRENT

Shibukawa International Association

231st Edition, January 2012



## Happy New Year!



The month of January is very important month for people who turned twenty years old during the previous year in Japan. "The Coming-Of-Age Day" (seijin-no-hi) is a Japanese holiday held annually on the second Monday of January. On this day, local municipalities in all parts of Japan organize large-scale ceremonies. They receive the right to vote, to smoke, and to drink, but they also must bear the responsibilities of adults. These young men and women gather together to hear celebratory messages from the heads of local government. Most men and women dress up in traditional kimono and have pictures made. They also go to a shrine or a party with friends on this day. Children of foreigners who have legal residence status in Japan also receive an invitation in their mailbox from the municipality, which gives them the right to attend the ceremony.

## Hatsumode (初詣)

"Hatsumode" is the New Year's visit to the shrine, which is one of the traditional events of Japanese New Year Days. People visit a shrine or sometimes temple and pray for comfort and health in the new year. Shrine is the most popular shrine for the people of Shibukawa. There are many parking around the Shrine. Make the most of your Hatsumode!



日本で1月は、20歳になった人たちにとって、とても大切な月です。1月の第二月曜日は、「成人の日」と呼ばれる祝日で、彼らは自分の住んでいる市からセレモニーに招待されます。ステキな着物やドレスに身を包み、地域の施設に集まります。そこでは、市長からお祝いの言葉が送られます。また、神社でお祈りしたり、家族や友達とパーティーなどをします。その日から大人として認められ、お酒が飲めるようになり、また選挙権などが与えられます。日本に住んでいるすべての外国籍の子どもたちにも、20歳になると日本人と同じように自治体から招待状が送られます。



## New Year Party (新年パーティー)



★★ (There will be no fee if you bring a homemade dish)

It is coming soon!! Come join us!! We are very excited as there will be delicious food, song, dance, and games! so we are looking forward to seeing you with your native dress. (Dressing room will be available for costume changing)

It is a good opportunity for you to meet new people!

So don't miss it !

**Date:** January 28, 2012 (Sat) 10:30 am ~ 2 pm

**Place:** Shibukawa Kominkan (the 2nd municipal building)

**Limit:** 80 People

**Fee:** 500 yen (300 for 6-15 years old)

**Contents:** Buffet luncheon: Ethnic homemade cooking, sushi, sandwich, fruits, soft drinks etc.

**Sign-up:** by January 19th at 22-2396





## For our Readers

We, the office staff of Shibukawa International Association, are really grateful for your cooperation and participation in the many events of 2011. We hope for your continued support and best wishes for all of you.



## Exploring Hot Springs (ひがえ おんせん 日帰り温泉)

The Shibukawa City has many unique hot springs and called the city of hot springs. You can also visit without spending a night. Let's take a dip in a hot spring!

### Onogami Hot Springs Center

おのがみおんせん  
(小野上温泉センター)

Onogami Hotsprings is a two-minute walk from Onogami Onsen Station. The water is called Bijin-no-yu, or hot spring of beauty, making the hair and skin soft and smooth.

**Open:** from 9am-9pm (except 20th of each month)

**Entrance fee:** 400 yen (for adults)

**Contact:** 0279-59-2611



### Hokkitsu Hot Springs

ほつきつおんせん  
(北橋温泉)

Hokkitsu Onsen Bandou-no-yu is located right by Tone River overlooking the river. The view of the city can be enjoyed from the outdoor hot tub!



### Kanashima Hot Springs (かなしまおんせん 金島温泉)

For a comfortable respite in an outdoor bath located in a Japanese garden. Open from 10am-9:30pm. everyday (except 15th of each month and national holidays) Tel: 0279-23-0001

### Other Things to see (ほかの見どころ)

**Shiroy-Juku** Visitors strolling through town brings are bound to notice the ancient irrigation canals and rows of homes with adobe warehouses that remained of the past.

**Heso-ishi • heso-jizo** The Heso-ishi rock serves as a symbol of the "navel" of Japan. Located next to this rock is a statue of a guardian deity of children with a magnificent belly button of its own.

### Heso-zushi (へそずし)

You can find this round-shaped sushi at the Rokusai (a sushi restaurant) and it is a specialty of Shibukawa, the "bellybutton city"

Tel: 0279-30-0112



### For Movie Fans

えいがかんしょうかい  
(映画鑑賞会)

On January 15th (Sun) from 2pm Shibukawa City Library will show a movie. It's free and no space limitation, so anyone can enjoy. **Content:** Japanese film (2009)

**Tel: 22-0644 (for details)**





# Filing Tax Returns

かくていしんこく  
(確定申告)

filing final tax returns is filing the amount of tax calculated on income earned from January through December of the previous year. People whose income tax was not withheld from their salary, who had income from two or more sources, had income other than a salary must file a final tax return (kakutei shinkoku) between February 16 and March 15 of the following year at their nearest tax office. The Final Tax Return forms are not sent to those who are filling their final tax return for the first time or those who had their tax withheld from the source.

## Items needed:

- ★ Documents as proof of previous year's income
- ★ Documents for exemptions for dependents and spouse
- ★ Documents for exemptions for insurance
- ★ Certificates of Alien Registration
- ★ Seal/Signature (please call at your nearest city office for more information) .



## Benefits of Permanent Residence Visa in Japan

えいじゅう  
(永住ビザのメリット)

The merits of a permanent visa when you obtain a permanent visa, you do not need to renew your visa status and your activities are not limited. Permanent residence in Japan, the reasons should differ one by one. The Minister of Justice may grant permanent residence permission provided that an applicant satisfies requirements of "good conduct" (e.g. paying taxes, no record on criminal cases, etc.) and "sufficient assets or ability to make an independent living". However, foreign nationals having a spouse visa are exempt from these above mentioned requirements. Furthermore, the Minister of Justice must deem that the applicant's permanent residence will be in accordance with the interests of Japan. In addition it is necessary to get a re-entry permit before leaving Japan if you want to continue to live in Japan.

## The documents required are as follows: (えいじゅうきよか てつづき) (永住許可の手続き)

- ★ Application form for permanent residence (2 copies)
- ★ Passport and Alien Registration Certificate
- ★ Papers to prove that you can support yourself  
(Employment certificate or Business permission certificate, etc)
- ★ Certificate of good behavior (tax payment statement, etc)
- ★ Papers to prove your status  
(Family register, Resident's card of your Japanese spouse, nationality certificate, etc)
- ★ Medical health report.
- ★ Reference certificate.
- ★ Reason for application for permanent residence (in Japanese)
- ★ For further information please contact the Tokyo Regional Immigration Bureau, Takasaki Branch Office

**New Location:** Takasaki Ministry of Justice Office, 1st Fl., 26-5 Takamatsu-cho, Takasaki City  
(twenty minutes on foot from JR Takasaki station, West Exit)

# On-duty Clinics on Weekends and National Holidays

がっ きゅうじつとうばんい  
(1月の休日当番医)

Internal Medicine		Surgery		ENT	Dentistry
1/1 (Sun)	Saito-naika-geka -Clinic Tel: 22-1678	Shibukawa-chuo- byouin Tel: 25-1711	Sekiguchi-iin Tel: 55-5122		Sato-shika-iin Tel: 54-8330
1/2 (Mon)	Ishikita-iin Tel: 22-1378	Iriuchijima-naika- iin Tel: 60-7322	Takai-iin Tel: 22-0076		Nagai-shika-iin Tel: 56-8854
1/3 (Tue)	Sato-iin Tel: 54-2756	Nakano-iin Tel: 22-1219	Tomaru-clinic Tel: 26-7711		Onogami-shika- shinryojo Tel: 59-2493
1/8 (Sun)	Kosei-iin Tel: 22-1060	Akagi kaisei- clinic Tel: 20-6500	Shibukawa- Sogo-Byouin Tel: 22-4111		Yamazaki-shika- iin Tel: 25-1184
1/9 (Mon)	Koono-iin Tel: 22-0171	Harasawa-iin Tel: 72-2503	Ootaki-clinic Tel: 30-5800		Hoshikawa-shika- iin Tel: 24-8835
1/15 (Sun)	Yuasa-naika- clinic Tel: 20-1311	Ikaho-clinic Tel: 72-4114	Takano-geka- ichouka-iin Tel: 24-5454	Mori-iin Tel: 23-8733	Mashimo-shika- clinic Tel: 54-1366
1/22 (Sun)	Megumikodomo- clinic Tel: 30-2022	Shintosaito-iin Tel: 54-1055	Ino-seikeigeka- rehabili-naika Tel: 30-5255		Takahashi-shika- clinic Tel: 24-8211
1/29 (Sun)	Ootani-naika- clinic Tel: 20-1881	Itami-no-clinic- Hasegawa-iin Tel: 30-5055	Arima-clinic Tel: 24-8818	Kawashima-iin Tel: 22-2421	Yoshioka-clinic Tel: 24-8289

☆ Don't forget to take your Health Insurance Card and be sure that the doctor for ENT and Dentistry sections will be available only by noon. You can also check this schedule on your cell-phone.  
→ URL: <http://shibukawa.gunma.med.or.jp/i.htm>



## Shibukawa Health center (しぶかわほけんセンター)

The Shibukawa Health Center provides a free health education, consultations, check-ups, advice on nutrition and exercise, and children's vaccinations etc. Call 25-1321 for more information



### Information (お問い合わせ)

Shibukawa City Office Planning Division 80 Ishihara, Shibukawa City

TEL: 0279-22-2396 FAX: 0279-24-6541

Email: [sia-kikaku@city.shibukawa.gunma.jp](mailto:sia-kikaku@city.shibukawa.gunma.jp)

Staff: Mr. Kuwajima, Mr. Sakuma, Mr. Machida, Mr. Oyama, Mrs. Sarwar

