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Goodwill Exchange Project Between Miyamae Ward & Nagano Prefecture's Saku City

(佐久市の「りんごオーナー」について)

Saku City is located on the eastern side of Nagano prefecture on the Saku Plain which is 692 meters above sea level. It's a highland plateau city surrounded by hot springs and close to the international tourist city, Karuizawa and to Mt. Asama. Saku City is in the center of a fertile basin with the River Chikuma flowing through it. It's a rural area that is nationally renowned for its apples and peaches. The apples of Saku are grown with extra fine fruit culture technology in excellent soil and in fresh cool air

As a part of this goodwill exchange project a request is being made for people to "sponsor" or become an "owner" of an apple tree. If you sponsor a tree you will be free to come to Saku and pick "your" apples. These honeyed sweet red apple trees are of the Fuji species variety being low trees and easy to pick from. They are also certified by Nagano Prefecture as "Fruit that are friendly to the Environment".

If you wish to own an apple tree you should guarantee at least 20,000 yen for 10 kilogram boxes of apples or 30,000 yen for six boxes. The dates you can come and pick apples are Saturday the 19th and Sunday the 20th of November. If you are not able to come for harvesting, they will be sent to your house.

September 18th, Sunday is scheduled for the ownership registration. To apply please telephone the Agricultural Department of Saku City Office at 0267-62-2111. And for more details please contact the Regional Promotions Section of Miyamae Ward Office at the phone number of 044-856-3125.

As an apple tree sponsor you can come and enjoy the nature of Saku

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Tezuka Osamu Cultural Award

Recently the Kawasaki City Museum's comic gallery was awarded the 9th Tezuka Osamu Cultural Special Award. This award was set up in 1997 by the Asahi Shimbun Newspaper Company to commemorate the achievements of the comic/manga writer Tezuka Osamu and also to help promote the spirit of Tezuka in the world of manga.

The museum received this special award for its various highly praised manga exhibits that it has held from its vast collection of manga materials. These manga exhibits have often been held since the museum opened 17 years ago.

Kawasaki City Museum has had strong connections with Tezuka Osamu since it opened: its first exhibit was the "World of Tezuka Osamu", showing a visual manga in which Mr. Osamu Tezuka himself making an appearance, and some rare objects d'art.

In order to commemorate the winning of this special award, Tezuka Osamu Cultural Special Award Winner Exhibit is now being held. This exhibit shows manga works that made up previous exhibits, works from other exhibits that had won the Award, a collection of manga from Tezuka's early days as well as other works that have a connection to Tezuka.

This special exhibit will continue until Sunday September 11th.

The Kawasaki City Museum is open from 9:30 am to 5:00 pm, last entrance being 4:30 pm, Mondays being holidays. To get to the museum you can take a bus from Musashi-Kosugi Station on the JR Nambu

Line.

For more details please telephone the museum at 044-754-4500.

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Okamoto Taro Museum

A special exhibit at Kawasaki City's Okamoto Taro Museum, Taro Okamoto's Proud Message; the Road to Completion of "Tomorrow's Myth" is now being held.

After 30 years of seclusion, Okamoto Taro's giant wall painting "Tomorrow's Myth" painted in Mexico was discovered in Mexico.

The painting "Tomorrow's Myth" is 5.5 meters by 30 meters in size, painted between 1968 and 1969 to decorate the wall in the lobby of a Mexico City hotel.

It is said that this is a Taro Okamoto's crowning masterpiece with motifs based on the moments of an atomic explosion. The hotel actually went bankrupt before it opened and the whereabouts of the painting was unknown for 30 years.

However in 2003 the giant masterpiece was rediscovered in a storage for building materials in the suburbs of Mexico City and then was safely returned to Japan in May of 2005.

The Special exhibit of Taro Okamoto's Proud Message; the Road to Completion of "Tomorrow's Myth" is now held with the project working for installing the masterpiece at the museum. The exhibit is showing Okamoto's records of his experiences from the war and the exhibits related to his stance on antiwar and antinuclear weapons.

It also has 4 original paintings in oil, with videos, photos that show how "Tomorrow's Myth" was painted.

The exhibit continues till Sunday September 25th. It costs 600 yen for adults to enter, 400 yen for students and it's free for people aged 65 and over as well as for people of junior high school age and younger.

The museum is open from 9:30 am to 5:00 pm, last entrance being at 4:30 pm.

It is closed on Mondays and national holidays.

The museum is a 17 minute walk from Mukogaoka-yuen Station on the Odakyu Line.

For more details please call the museum at 044-900-9898.

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