

Minamiboso

April
Kouhou Newsletter

English Version



Takayama Kazumi appointed
as a Tourism Ambassador

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National Funding for Minamiboso Town Merger Ending: Administrative Reform and Financial Planning to Compensate

The city is currently receiving financial support for its merger and incorporation, but this funding through the national allocated tax will be cut gradually from 2016 to 2019. By 2020, Minamiboso can expect its revenue to decrease by 3.2 billion yen. Considering this, the number of workers employed by the city will need to be reduced accordingly.

The city council enacted the Administrative Reform Promotion Policy in its second session of 2009. This policy stimulates local growth through coordination between the administration and citizens and increases government efficiency. It has been successful, but it expired in April.

To allow the city to keep operating after losing this bonus funding, the budget will have to be cut accordingly. This will require government finance and administration to be scaled down more severely than ever before while continuing to function effectively.

The Administrative Reform Committee, which includes experts from the educational field, has deliberated to create a policy that will push reform to a higher level from 2015 to 2017.

Administrative Reform Policy

This policy includes six important measures to create new mechanisms for a smaller government. They will also continue refining and shrinking the administrative workforce. The major points are as follows:

I. Coordination with Citizens

1. Creating an Environment in which All Citizens can Participate in the Government

Strengthen and support the activities of the seven town improvement associations as well as contribute to the maintenance of their facilities.

2. Creating a Culture of Gender Equality

To create public services from a viewpoint of gender equality, planning committees must strive to appoint at least 30% female members.

II. Rethinking Government Administration

A. Building a New System

1. Moving to a New System

Partner with neighboring cities on business affairs to reduce cost.

2. Outsourcing and Empowering the Private Sector

Through the Assigned Management System, the city will introduce suitable facilities to cut cost and improve quality of service.

3. Digitalization of Government Offices

Use precise information from the Basic Farmland Ledger to introduce various agricultural policies.

4. Reforming Boards and Committees

Continue reducing number of firefighters and investigate the creation of a new functional firefighting team system.

B. Integrating Offices and Reducing Cost

1. Reducing Expenditures

- Appropriate distribution of public vehicles, starting a carpool system, and using low-emission vehicles.
- Create a new facility to maintain streetlights and anti-crime lights. Use low energy LEDs.

2. Sound Fiscal Management

Get low-interest loans through competitive bidding to reduce repayment costs.

3. Making Adjustments to Subsidies

Fundamentally restructure government offices and administer grants and subsidies fairly.

4. Centralizing Office Duties

Investigate combining areas for administering social security and welfare benefits (under the Awa-gunshi Combined Association).

5. Strengthen Public Groups and Investment Corporations

Give guidance to semi-public corporations to improve their effectiveness in the area.

6. Reinforcing Public Enterprise

- Improve Tomiyama Kokuho Hospital's PR and create useful services in cooperation with other medical facilities.
- Have the Waterworks Bureau replace asbestos cement piping, insure reliable distribution of water, and increase efficiency of operations.
- Increase efficiency by unify management and maintenance of water purification plants.

III. Suitable Placement of Public Facilities

1. Suitable Placement and Efficient Management of Public Facilities

A comprehensive management plan for public facilities has been written with an eye on the future of the city. It allows for renewals,

openings, closures, and lengthening service life of facilities.

2. Effective Use of Public Facilities

Ascertain the current state of unused property and loan or sell it to increase financial resources.

IV. Restructuring Offices and Adjusting Staff Numbers

1. Restructuring Offices

Make changes to main and branch offices as needed. Slim down offices by eliminating and creating new departments and divisions.

2. Reassessing Staff Placement and Duties

Analyze Main Office duties to assess staff function and division of duties.

3. Adjusting Staff Numbers

The number of government workers will be reduced by 27 from April 1, 2014 to April 1, 2018. The total will change from 540 to 513 — a decrease of 5%.

4. Adjusting Staff Pay

Government worker pay will be adjusted according to prefectural and national figures.

V. Improving Worker Abilities through Training

1. Effective Worker Training

By training workers well, quality of work and efficiency can increase even with fewer workers.

2. Using Personnel Evaluations

Personnel evaluations will encourage growth, improve overall morale, and increase efficiency.

VI. Ensuring Revenue

1. Ensuring Tax Revenue and Adjusting Beneficiary Charges

- Increase revenue by cracking down on unpaid taxes.
- Reevaluate facility fees and exemption requirements while taking charges to beneficiaries into account.
- Change garbage collection fees.

2. Increase Internal Revenue Sources

Push forward with hometown tax, posting paid advertisements on public property, and attracting more businesses to town.

Fiscal Improvement

In order to consolidate debt once national funding has been cut in 2020, the city has determined fiscal guidelines based in a middle-term plan that focuses on autonomy and independence.

○ Main Goals of Fiscal Guidelines

- Working towards keeping the current trade balance ratio under 90% and improving the fiscal framework (cutting current expenditures and achieving suitable revenue).
- Keep ratio of costs of public bonds below 10% and future burden at the current amount while keeping within determined limits for fiscal consolidation.
- Large-scale reorganization of facilities have already been planned, but we aim to put restrictions on the issuing of public bonds to keep the public bond balance below 28 billion yen.
- Achieve a primary balance of funds of 14 billion yen to make sure future finances are secure.

[Explanation of terminology and sample figures]

Current Trade Balance Ratio: The ratio of expenses that must be paid, to funds that may be used freely (such as municipal and allocated taxes). 80.8% in 2014

Public Bond Cost Ratio: The ratio of debt repayment to revenue. If it is 18% or above, permission from the prefecture is required to borrow more. 6.8% in 2014

Future Burden: A comparison of the size of current debt to the fiscal scale of local public groups. Negligible in 2014

Public Bond Balance: 28.7 billion yen in 2014

Balance of Funds: (Fiscal regulation fund, debt reduction fund, facility reorganization fund) 12.2 billion yen in 2014

You may view the policies on the city website (Japanese only).

Contact: Administrative Reform and Finance Division (TEL: 33-1022)



Mayor Ishii (left) receiving this report from Administrative Reform Promotion Committee Chairman Iida

Regular Vaccinations for Children 2015

The goal of vaccinations is to prevent contracting certain sicknesses or to lessen symptoms in those who have a sickness.

Regular vaccinations are required by law. The number of doses and vaccination schedule is set. The vaccines are provided by the city free of charge.

Please consult your “Vaccinations and Children’s Health” pamphlet to see the purpose, effect, and side effects of each vaccine. After reading this, bring your child to be vaccinated on a day they are feeling well.

If your child is the right age for a vaccination but you either recently moved to town or do not have a preliminary form, contact the Health Support Division.



Type of Vaccine		Age Range	Standard Dosing Period	Doses	Notification Period
Hib (*1)		2 months - 5 years	Initial: 3 times, 27 to 56 days apart Additional: Once, 7 to 13 months after initial dosing ends	4	1 month after birth
Infant Pneumococcus (*1)		2 months - 5 years	Initial: 3 times at least 27 days apart Additional: Once, after age 1 and at least 60 days after initial dosing ends	4	1 month after birth
Diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus and polio		3 months - 7 years 6 months	Initial: 3 times, 20 to 56 days apart Additional: Once, 1 to 1.5 years after initial dosing ends	4	1 month after birth
Diphtheria, whooping cough, and tetanus (*2)		3 months - 7 years 6 months		4	N/A
Polio (*2, *3)		3 months - 7 years 6 months		4	N/A
BCG		Under 1 year	5 to 8 months old	1	1 month after birth
Measles and Rubella	Stage 1	1 - 2 years		1	11 months after birth
	Stage 2	1 year before starting elementary school	April to June (spring)	1	Early March 2015
Chicken Pox		1 - 3 years	Initial: Once, 1 year to 1 year 3 months old Additional: Once, 6 months to 1 year after initial dose	2	11 months after birth
Japanese Encephalitis	Stage 1	6 months - 7 years 6 months	Initial: Twice after turning 3, 6 to 28 days apart Additional: Once, generally 1 year after initial dosing ends	3	2 years 11 months old

	Stage 2	9 - 10 years (currently not applicable)		1	N/A
Japanese Encephalitis	Special Case (*4)	Under 20 years	<Stage 1> Initial: Twice, 6 to 28 days apart Additional: Once, 1 year after initial dosing ends <Stage 2> Once, generally 5 years after Stage 1	4	Stage 1: N/A Stage 2: Early March 2015
Diphtheria and Tetanus		11 - 13 years	Elementary school 6th grade	1	Early March 2015
Cervical Cancer (*5)		Girls from 6th grade to 1st year of high school	Not currently required	3	May get by choice at any time.

(*1) The number of dosages can vary by age.

(*2) The polio vaccine has been added to the diphtheria, whooping cough and tetanus vaccine since November 2012. The vaccine without polio is no longer sold. If you were told to start the old vaccine and have not had the new one, contact the Health Support Division.

(*3) The oral polio vaccine was replaced by an inactive (injected) vaccine in September 2012. If you have had one dose of the oral vaccine, continue with 3 doses of the injection.

(*4) The Japanese Encephalitis vaccine was publicly promoted from 2005 to 2010, but because new vaccines have been developed, the campaign ended. As a result, many people have missed getting the vaccination. If you were born between April 2, 1995 and April 1, 2007, you can now get the vaccination for free. People who have not had the vaccine a total of four times are eligible. Please contact the Health Support Division to schedule an appointment.

(*5) We have stopped publicly promoting the vaccination as of June 2013 and will not send individual notices. If you would like to have the vaccine, please understand the effects and side effects first. (There is a leaflet on the city website.)

[Things to know before getting a vaccine]

1. Is your child in the age range for the vaccine and is the dosage timing correct? You should be able to confirm this information yourself.
2. Make an appointment, and only get the vaccine when your child is feeling well. Bring the city preliminary medical form and your mother and child health notebook (needed for children under 13) with you to your appointment.
3. If you would like to have get a vaccination outside of Minamiboso (other than associated institutions within Chiba Prefecture), please contact the Health Support Division in advance. We will send a request form to your medical institution of choice.
4. If you were unable to have a vaccination because of a long-term sickness, you may receive the vaccine even if you have passed the assigned age range. Contact the Health Support Division for details.
5. If you have a serious medical problem caused by a vaccine, you may receive compensation under the Preventative Vaccination Law. If you voluntarily got the vaccine, you may still receive compensation under the Incorporated Administrative Agency Medical Instruments and Equipment Comprehensive Organization Law.

Contact: Health Support Division (TEL: 36-1152)



Health Checkups

In 2015

Staying Healthy

Contact: Health Support Division (TEL: 36-1152)

General Physicals (Mass Public Physicals)

	Special Exam	Latter-Stage Elderly Exam	Stomach Cancer Screening	Prostate Cancer Screening	Hepatitis Virus Screening	Tuberculosis/ Lung Cancer Screening
Eligible Ages	Persons aged 40 to 74 who are enrolled in national health insurance through Minamiboso	Persons enrolled in the Latter-Stage Elderly Healthcare system	Men and women, age 40 and up	Men of age 50 and up	Women of age 40	Men and women, age 40 and up
Cost	¥600	Free	¥1,000	¥400	¥500	Free
Tomura	Tomura Genki Club			9/8, 9/9, 9/10, 9/11		
Tomiyama	Tomiyama Fureai Sports Center			9/29, 9/30, 10/1, 10/2		
Miyoshi	Miyoshi Health and Welfare Center			10/14, 10/15, 10/16, 10/18		
Shirahama	Shirahama Floral Hall			9/1, 9/2, 9/3, 9/4		
Chikura	Chikura Health Center			8/25, 8/26, 8/27, 8/28, 8/29		
Maruyama	Maruyama Gymnasium			10/6, 10/7, 10/8, 10/9		
Wada	Wada Local Welfare Center Yasuragi			9/15, 9/16, 9/17/ 9/18		

*For the tuberculosis and lung cancer screening, an examination van will patrol the exam sites around town.

*The special exam and latter-stage elderly exam will also be administered elsewhere. Starting this year, an examination for persons aged 20 to 39 who are enrolled in national health insurance will also be administered. For details, contact the Health Support Division.

Screenings

	Colon Cancer	Osteoporosis	Cervical Cancer		Breast Cancer		Adult Dental
			Mobile	Clinic	Ultrasound	Mammogram	
Eligible Ages	Men and Women, age 40 and up	Women of age 35, 40, 45, 50, 55, 60, 65, and 70	Women of age 20 and up		Women of age 30 to 39	Women of age 40 and up	Men and women of age 40, 50, 60, and 70
Cost	¥300	¥300	Partial		¥700	¥900	¥800
			¥800	¥1,400			
			Comprehensive				
			¥1,500	¥2,500			

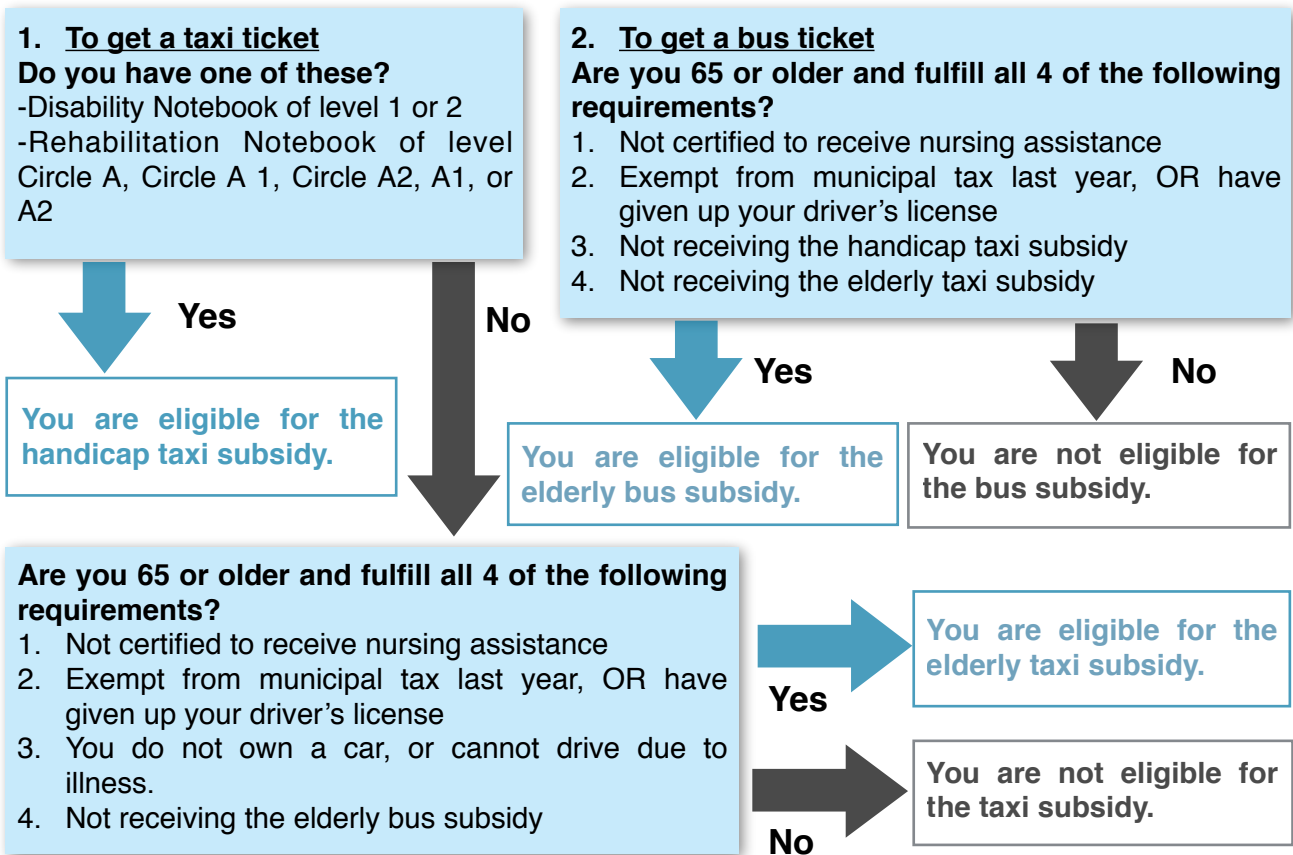
Tomiura	7/6, 7/7	Genki Club		June 1 through February 29 at registered medical institutions	June 1 — January 31 at registered medical institutions	November 2 through December 28 at designated medical institutions	
		10/27 morning	6/30 morning				
Tomiyama	6/11, 6/15	Fureai Sports Center					
		10/27 afternoon	6/18 afternoon				
Miyoshi	7/8, 7/9	Health and Welfare Center					Aoki Clinic
		10/28 morning	6/18 morning				
Shirahama	6/16, 6/24	Health and Welfare Center	Kyuuyou-son Management Center				Kika Clinic
		10/28 afternoon	6/23 afternoon				Katsuyama Clinic
Chikura	6/8, 6/9, 6/10	Health Center		Kiyokawa Clinic			
		10/29 all day	6/23 morning	Kameda Clinic			
Maruyama	7/1, 7/2	Gymnasium		Family Maternity Clinic			
		10/30 morning	6/22 morning				
Wada	6/25, 6/29	Local Welfare Center Yasuragi		Kameda Family Clinic Tateyama			
		10/30 afternoon	6/22 afternoon				

1. Ages listed are age as of March 31, 2016.
2. Persons who have registered for examinations will be sent the necessary information shortly before the date of the examination.
3. Dates for breast cancer and clinical cervical cancer screenings may differ by medical institution.
4. If you are in one of the following groups, please contact the health support center.
 - (1) People who would like to have the cancer, hepatitis, osteoporosis, or adult dental screening but have not registered
 - (2) People who want to change medical institutions for cervical or breast cancer screenings, or want to change from a mobile examination to a clinical one or vice versa.
 - (3) People of age 40 or older who receive public assistance and wish to have a physical exam (blood work, etc.)

Taxi and Bus Fare Subsidies for the Disabled and Elderly

The city is giving subsidies for taxi fares for the disabled, as well as for taxi and bus fares to help the elderly in getting around town. Please return expired taxi and bus tickets to the appropriate office. New tickets will not be reissued to replace lost tickets.

*You may not apply for both a bus and taxi ticket.



Application Information

	Handicap Taxi	Elderly Taxi	Elderly Bus
Subsidy per Ride	¥670	¥670	¥150
Type Issued	• Ticket	• Ticket • Discount Card	
Items Needed to Apply	• Personal seal • Physical Disability Notebook or Rehabilitation Notebook	• Personal seal *For taxi tickets, must have your local public welfare committee member fill out part of the application form.	
Where to Apply	Social Welfare Division, Citizen Registration Division, Asai Administrative Center, or a local branch office	Health Support Division, Citizen Registration Division, Asai Administrative Center, or a local branch office	
Contact Information	Social Welfare Division TEL: 36-1151	Health Support Division TEL: 36-1152	

The maximum number of tickets you can receive depends on the month in which you are approved.

Taxi Tickets

Month Approved	April – July	August – November	December – March
Ticket Limit	30 (48)	20 (32)	10 (16)

*Numbers in parentheses only apply to persons with severe (level 1) kidney dysfunction.

Bus Tickets

Month Approved	April – June	July – September	October – December	January – March
Ticket Limit	100	75	50	25

Creating a Local Comprehensive Care System

Minamiboso plans to create a “local comprehensive care system” that will help the elderly continue living comfortably regardless of their need for care. The system will handle various services such as medical treatment, in-home nursing, care prevention, and both at-home and lifestyle support. Having revised the Nursing Care Insurance System this April, the city will be working toward making this new system a reality.

Coordinating Medical Care and In-Home Nursing

Coordinating medical institutions and nursing care services is vital to supporting elderly citizens.

We can create a framework that will make moving back home from the hospital smoother. To do this, information on medical institutions and nursing services will be provided together, and doctors and care workers will work together to provide better services.

Catching Dementia Early

So that people with dementia can continue living in our community while getting the respect they deserve, we must diagnose cognitive impairment early and prevent worse symptoms from forming.

If you suspect you or a loved one may be in the early stages of cognitive impairment, consult with a specialist to get the support you need.

Care Prevention and Lifestyle Support Services

As the number of elderly people who live alone and need care increases, local neighborhoods need to provide more services to support them.

Volunteers, non-profits, and private businesses will step in to handle these issues and improve life for seniors.

Furthermore, seniors taking responsibility and participating in community activities themselves will contribute to their well-being and offset the need for nursing care.

Comprehensive Nursing Care Prevention and Lifestyle Support (Starting April 2017)

Following an across-the-board national service, each city will assess the state of its own nursing care systems and enact new comprehensive care prevention and daily lifestyle support programs as needed.

Each municipality will transfer to the new system at different times. Minamiboso will make the switch in April 2017.

Changes to the Nursing Insurance System

Revisions as of April 2015

City Nursing Insurance fees have changed

Nursing Insurance premiums for persons 65 and older comprise a “base fee” based on the expected cost of nursing care over the next three years plus an income-based fee.

The base fee for 2015 to 2018 has been set at ¥63,600 per year (¥5300 per month), and income-based fees are calculated based on a nine-level, graduated scale.

Chiba Prefecture has a relatively high ratio of senior citizens, but Minamiboso’s elderly population is increasing even faster as a result of decreasing population. Because of this, the number of citizens requiring nursing care is expected to increase as well. On top of that, more and more people are moving into care facilities, driving up prices, and leading to the

¥4,800 increase to the insurance premium's basic fee.

We ask that you understand this rise in price is necessary to keep the nursing insurance system stable, and to keep services available, giving citizens peace of mind should they need them.

Insurance Premiums to be Lowered for Tax-Exempt Households

Premium payments for households in tax-exempt income brackets will be subsidized with public funding. With the increase in consumption tax being postponed, premiums will also be increased incrementally.

New Requirements for Admission to Special Elderly Nursing Homes

Special Elderly Nursing Homes are facilities that support senior citizens who would have extreme difficulty living at home. In general, new residents require nursing care of level 3 or above.

However, in extreme cases persons of level 1 or 2 may be admitted.

Revisions Going into Effect starting August 2015

Change in Cost of Nursing Insurance

Previously, when using nursing insurance, the policy holder was responsible for paying 10 percent. However, those with an income over a certain amount will now be responsible for 20 percent. In late July, households with persons of age 65 and above will be sent statements detailing which percentage of insurance costs must be paid.

Qualifying for Limited Cost Nursing Insurance

When an individual moves into a nursing home, they are generally responsible for the cost of food and residence fees. However, persons from tax-exempt households can apply to have a maximum limit put on those costs.

Under the revised insurance system, some tax-exempt households will not be eligible if they have a certain balance in their bank accounts. The paperwork for the application has also changed and we will publish those details in early July.

Contact: Health Support Division
(TEL: 36-1152)

Cost for Persons 65 and Over

The "base fee" has been calculated so that premiums from persons over 65 will be able to support the cost of the city's nursing services.

The Base Fee

Total cost of care needed X 22% of cost to persons 65 and over ÷ number of persons 65 and over living in Minamiboso
= base fee for 2015—2017 (¥63,600 per year/ ¥5,300 per month)

Subsidies for Short-Term Clinical Health Screenings

To receive a short-term clinical health screening subsidy, make an appointment at a medical institution of your choosing and apply at least 2 weeks before your examination day. (You cannot apply after having the screening.) The subsidy covers 70 percent of the cost of the screening, or up to ¥50,000. After the examination is finished, submit an application along with your receipt, test results, and any other necessary documents. You can submit these forms to the Annuity Insurance Division, Asai Administrative Center, or a local branch office.

For Persons Enrolled in National Health Insurance

Eligibility

Persons of at least 35 years of age who have been continuously enrolled in national health insurance through Minamiboso City for at least one year, and who do not owe delinquent insurance tax

Please note:

- Make sure to get all the details of the exam. If all the necessary information is not included, a subsidy will not be granted.
- Special health screenings provided by the city are not eligible for the subsidy.
- For brain examinations, you must have the city-administered examination, or an equivalent examination, and report this on the statement of test results to receive the subsidy.

For Persons Enrolled in the Latter-Stage Elderly Healthcare System

Eligibility

Persons enrolled in the latter-stage elderly healthcare system who reside in Minamiboso and do not owe delinquent insurance tax

Please note:

- For brain examinations, you must have the city-administered examination (public or clinical) to receive the subsidy.

Other Details

You may only have one special health screening in a year. You cannot receive subsidies for repeated public (mass) screenings, or clinical screenings.

In 2013, 38.3% of residents had a special health screening. The city is aiming to bring this figure up to 60% in 2017.

Persons who are currently undergoing treatment and testing at a hospital can submit test details, such as blood work results to the city; this will be considered equivalent to having the city-administered screening.

Saving on Medical Fees

It is important to visit the doctor to stay healthy, but medical fees can be a huge expense. You can save money by avoiding multiple, repeated examinations and learning some ways to pay less at the doctor's office.

One way to save is to buy generic drugs. Ask your doctor about switching to a generic. Generics have the same effect as brand-name drugs, and can be manufactured once the original patent has run out.

Contact: Annuity Insurance Division
(TEL: 33-1060)



This Month's Environmental Slogan:
“Stop littering. Make our town beautiful.”
2014 Environmental Slogan Contest Award for Excellence
Yuka Otani, Shirahama Middle School 1st Year

Subsidies for Buying Garbage Composting Containers

To reduce the amount of garbage coming from each household and encourage recycling, the city will help pay part of the cost of garbage composting containers.

■ Eligibility

- Live at a Minamiboso address
- Can use fertilizer on your own
- Not owe outstanding city tax

■ Container Types and Subsidies

	Compost	EM Raw Garbage	Garbage Disposal
Subsidy	Half of cost of purchase (Up to ¥3,000 per container)		Half of cost of purchase (Up to ¥30,000 per container)
Limit (per year)	Up to 2 per household		1 per household

■ To Apply

1. Buy the item

Buy the container at a store and keep the receipt. The receipt must have the store's address, store name, item name and model number, and official seal of the company.

2. Apply

Fill out a “Grant Application and Request Form,” stamp it with your seal, and attach a copy of the receipt. Submit the form to the Environmental Preservation Division, Asai Administrative Center, or a local branch office. **Deadline:** February 29, 2016 (or as funds last)

3. Inspection/ Determining Subsidy

After inspecting your documents, we will send you a statement of your grant amount and transfer the money to your bank account.

Subsidies for Combined Septic Tank Installation

To prevent the pollution of public water, grants will be given for the installation of combined septic tanks that collect waste from individual septic tanks and outhouses.

■ Eligibility

Must live in Minamiboso, or plan to live here within 1 year after installation. (Persons who owe delinquent municipal tax, only live in town part-time, or want to start construction before receiving grant confirmation are ineligible.)

■ Eligible Buildings

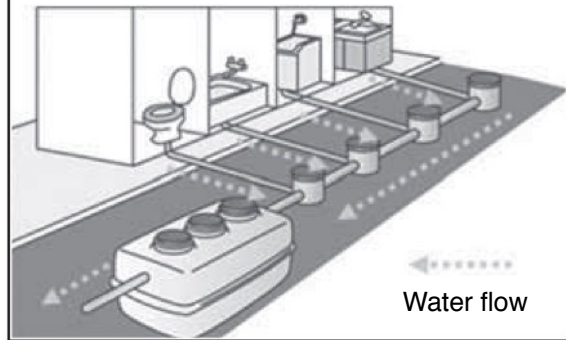
Residences (If there is a store on the premises, fewer than 10 people must use it.)

■ Amount of Grant

¥120,000 (While funds last)

What is a combined septic tank?

A septic tank that gathers sewage and water drained from the kitchen, bath, washing machine, etc. (Pictured below)



Supporting Local Community Organizations

The city is giving aid to community organizations that work to make our town a better place. These organizations get citizens involved, make themselves useful to the community, espouse good values, introduce new activities, and expand the reach of community service. (Minamiboso donates to these organizations with the Local Community Organization Fund and hometown tax.)

■ Eligible Organizations

Independent, non-profit organizations, primarily active in Minamiboso, with at least 5 members age 16 or older and over half of its members living, studying, or working in Minamiboso, with written regulations regarding the management of the organization

■ Eligible Projects

Projects planned independently by and for the organization, that improve citizen welfare or are necessary for the public good, are enacted within Minamiboso City, are not already receiving a grant, and will be completed by March 31, 2016. **Projects that only benefit special groups or individuals, neighborhood clubs and get-togethers, and projects against public order and morals are not eligible.**

Grant Types

There are the First Step Course the Challenge Course. See the table below.

	First Step Course	Challenge Course
Purpose	Help organizations that are trying to get started with town improvement activities	Help established organizations develop and improve their town improvement activities
Grant Amount	Up to ¥50,000 per project	Up to ¥300,000 per project
Percentage Funded	100%	100%
Number of Payments	1 per group per year (limit 1)	1 per group per year (limit 3)

	First Step Course	Challenge Course
Screening Criteria	1. Extent 2. Suitability 3. Effectiveness 4. Consistency	1. Public Good 2. Suitability of Budget 3. Effectiveness 4. Consistency 5. Originality and Creativity
Requirements to Receive Funding	1. Attend the Challenge Course presentation on May 16 to get ideas for future activities. 2. Present project outline at the Community Organization Exhibition in March 2016. *In the review process, we mainly look at project proposals and documentation, but in some cases, we may need to hold a hearing.	1. Present project outline and accept funding at presentation on May 16. 2. Submit a mid-term report in October (attend a hearing depending on the contents thereof). 3. Present results of the project at the Community Organization Exhibition in March 2016.
Number of Groups to be Funded	Up to 5 groups	Up to 8 groups

- **Judges** A review committee of education professionals will judge proposal presentations.
 - **Presentation** May 16 at 1:00PM at Tomiura Genki Club Sazanami Hall
 - **To Apply** Bring your project proposal directly to the Civic Collaboration Division. Proposals will not be accepted at other offices. If submitting by mail, you must have the documents checked at the office beforehand.
 - **Submit by** April 30 at 3:00 PM
- *Details and proposal forms are available at the Civic Collaboration Division and on the city website.
- **Expenses Eligible for Funding** *Not all expenses are eligible. Please check before applying.

Type of Expense	Examples
Rewards/ Honorariums	Compensating lecturers and instructors for attending and participating in events
Travel	Lecturers and instructors' transportation and hotel expenses. Group members' transportation and hotel costs when they go to meet lecturers. Transportation and hotel costs for program PR events. Transportation and hotel costs for members to attend training and investigative tours.
Flier and poster design and printing	Conference materials, materials for activities, pamphlets, posters and other printed materials, printing and binding booklets
Consumable goods and supplies	Conference materials, materials for activities, pamphlets, posters and other paper materials
Foodstuffs	Ingredients for food essential to the project
Fuel	Fuel for any machine essential to the project
Communication	Postage and shipping fees to send out invitations to the event, conference materials, materials for activities
Rental	Renting machinery, tools, buses, boats, etc.
Insurance	Event insurance, liability insurance, etc.

Type of Expense	Examples
Personnel	Personnel needed to run the program (including organization members) *Up to 1/3 of total personnel cost
Equipment	Equipment indispensable to the project costing under ¥30,000. *Does not apply to First Step Course. Please consult the office before purchasing any necessary equipment. Up to 1/3 of total cost covered.
Other necessary costs	Venue rental, other expenses deemed to be appropriate

*In the 8 years from 2007 to 2014, a total of 90 projects have been conducted by 43 organizations. (Including Local Revitalization Platform projects that were held from 2007 to 2008, a total of 108 projects have been conducted by 49 organizations.)

<<Some Local Community Organizations that have Received Grants>>

Area	Groups
Tomiura	Tomiura Eco Musee Research Group, Seikatsu Jiritsu Research Group (NPO), Teimeizan Club
Tomiyaama	Heguri Sansai no Sato Preparation Committee, Minamiboso Mirai Juku, Minamiboso Eco Net, Iwai Himawari Fukase Group, ECOM Bamboo Lamps, Ichibu Volunteer Team, Minamiboso Film Locatto
Miyoshi	Minamiboso Peace Makers Club, Mt. Kompira Preservation Group, Takarabako (NPO), Minamiboso Satoyama School
Shirahama	Kuko no Jikkai, Green Club, Shiroyama Mountain Path Preservation Group, Nagaogawa Eco Club, Boshu Manma no Kai, Goshin Kai, Awa Ashibune Festival Planning Committee
Chikura	Tanokuro Sato no Mura, Kamiseto Old Folks' Club, Southern Chikura Beach Communication, Minamiboso Eco-Clean, Awa Cotton Club, Minamiboso Discovery Group (NPO), Chikura Mt. Kompira Local Production Group, Oonuki Haruna Kai, Takatsukayama Boukatsu Club, Herb Chikura, Sfire (NPO), Oonuki Kodou no Kai
Maruyama	Ichigo Club, Maruyama Youth Camping Planning Committee, Rural Preservation "Shizen Tai," oi Genki Kai, Efunon no Ichi Planning (NPO), Minamiboso Sazanami Canoe Club
Wada	Nature School Wakuwaku Wada, Awatakushin High School Civil Engineering Club, Takenoko Kai, Wada Agricultural Production Cooperative, Funo Environmental Consideration Cooperative, Minamiboso Second Life Support Forum, Awa Takushin High School Gardening Club, Wada Bay Whale Cuisine Culture Research Group Okamisan no Kai, Hidamari no Sato

Projects up to this point have promoted the Minamiboso area by preserving and utilizing its rich nature and introducing people from big cities to the our local charm and appeal. Going forward, we hope that an increasing number of groups will implement plans aimed towards supporting the growth and socialization of Minamiboso's children, as well as creating places for women's and youth activities.

About Revised Light Automobile Taxes

Contact: Tax Division
TEL: 33-1023

Under the 2015 revised tax code, the increase in tax on two-wheeled vehicles has been postponed from April 1, 2015 to April 1, 2016, and tax cuts have been established for certain new, fuel efficient, four-wheeled light automobiles.



[Tax on Two-Wheeled and Miniature Vehicles]

Vehicle Type		Annual Tax	
		Current	Starting April 1, 2016
Motorized Bicycle	Engine 50cc and under	¥1,000	¥2,000
	90cc and under	¥1,200	¥2,000
	125cc and under	¥1,600	¥2,400
	Microcar 50cc and under	¥2,500	¥3,700
Light Automobile	2-wheeled vehicle (and sidecar) with 125cc to 250cc engine	¥2,400	¥3,600
Special Purpose Miniature Vehicles	Agricultural Use	¥1,600	¥2,400
	Other (forklifts, etc.)	¥4,700	¥5,900
2-wheeled miniature vehicles (with sidecar) with engine over 250cc		¥4,000	¥6,000

[Green Vehicle Tax Reduction] ... Only Applicable until April 2016

The following tax reductions will be given for certain new vehicles purchased from April 1, 2015 to March 31, 2016. These light automobiles (with 3 or more wheels) are good for the environment due to their fuel efficiency.

Light Passenger Vehicles

Eligible Vehicles	% Reduction
Electric Automobiles	Generally 75%
Achieves 2020 Fuel Economy Standards + 20%	Generally 50%
Achieves 2020 Fuel Economy Standards	Generally 25%

Light Freight Vehicle

Eligible Vehicles	% Reduction
Electric Automobiles	Generally 75%
Achieves 2020 Fuel Economy Standards + 20%	Generally 50%
Achieves 2020 Fuel Economy Standards	Generally 25%

Example:

Vehicle Type	Standard Tax	Percent Tax Reduction		
		25%	50%	75%
Personal Passenger Vehicle with 4 or more wheels	¥10,800	¥8,100	¥5,400	¥2,700

Supporting New Small Businesses and Job Creation

Investment in New Markets - Grants for Hiring Workers

In order to support small businesses starting new projects, the city is giving grants to aid in paying for new equipment and facilities as well as hiring new workers (must be Minamiboso citizens).

Application Period: May 25 to June 5

Eligibility: Small corporations whose headquarters are in Minamiboso, and who do consistent business in Minamiboso

Equipment Grants

Types of Eligible Projects

1. Entering a New Market

Expanding into or changing over to a field of business different from current operations

2. Starting a New Business

Establishing a new corporation and beginning to develop business operations

3. Agriculture Industry

Developing operations that utilize materials from local Minamiboso agriculture, forestry, and fisheries industries

4. Information and Communications

Information and communications business looking to strengthen operating foundations

Rate of Subsidy

Up to 30% of eligible costs (1/10 of building costs are eligible)

Maximum Grant ¥8,000,000

Businesses with ¥2,000,000 or more in eligible costs may receive the grant. For projects that will take multiple years, only the first year will be subsidized.

Employment Grants

Businesses may receive grants for hiring employees once they have upgraded their facilities.

The number of employees covered by the grant depends on the amount of the equipment subsidies granted. Please call for details.

1. New Hire Grant

¥600,000 per employee per year

Maximum Grant

¥9,000,000 (At most 5 employees for up to 3 years)

2. Personnel Reassignment Grant

¥1,000,000 per employee per year

Maximum Grant

¥10,000,000 (At most 5 employees for up to 2 years)

*Only businesses entering new markets are eligible.

How To Apply

Submit a business implementation proposal and approval application, along with the following documents, to the Industry Division during the application period.

Documents to Attach: business implementation proposal, budget, employment plan, management plan, capital plan, schedule, articles of incorporation, certificate of records, statement of accounts (copy), tax payment certification, permits and licenses (copies), blueprints and price quote, any other documents clarifying business operations

*More details will be posted on the city website in late April.

Contact: Industry Division (TEL: 33-1092)

Subsidies for Small Business Employee Training

The city is offering grants to small businesses aiming to further employee training to improve technical capabilities and management power.

Eligibility: Small businesses in Minamiboso that fulfill the following 3 requirements.

1. Does business in Japan in the construction, manufacturing, or service industry.
2. Has done business in Minamiboso continuously for at least one year.
3. Does not owe delinquent taxes to the city.

Costs Eligible for Subsidy

Cost of training courses for the purpose of an employee receiving a certification

*Transportation and lodging fees related to the training are not included.

Amount of Subsidy

Up to one-half of eligible costs, with a maximum of ¥200,000 per company per year

Contact: Industry Division (TEL: 33-1092)

A Report on Maruyama School Reorganizations

Working from the 2007 “Plan to Reorganize Minamiboso Preschools and Middle Schools”, the School Reorganization Investigative Committee of Maruyama has been considering and discussing the current state of the area’s schools since 2011. The committee started deliberating with Wada in combined conferences in August of 2012, officially deciding to merge their two middle schools in February 2013. As a result of the merger, Reinan Middle School was opened in April 2014. Additionally, they submitted a report on the reorganization of the two areas’ 4 preschools and 4 elementary schools in March of 2014.

It will take about 5 years to build the new school buildings necessary to integrate the preschools and elementary schools, but some of the schools will run into problems of shrinking student bodies and imbalanced boy/girl ratios. As a result, there has been a great number of parents requesting a sooner merger, possibly next year. To address these concerns, the School Reorganization Investigative Committees of both Wada and Maruyama have agreed on an intermediary plan of combining Minami and Maru Preschool and Minami and Maru Elementary. This is a temporary solution to be used until the new school buildings are completed.



Mr. Watanabe (center) and Mr. Hoshitani (left) handing the report to Mr. Sampei, Chairman of the Board of Education

As is stated in the report, Maruyama’s two preschools will combine to become Minami Preschool, and its two elementary schools will merge to form Minami Elementary starting April 2016. The existing Minami Preschool and Elementary buildings will be used. Many provisions were included to reduce inconveniences related to the integration.

Preparations will be made for the merger in the following year, including starting a group to help the kids on their walk to their new schools.

Contact: General Educational Affairs Division (TEL: 46-2961)

New Uses for the Old Nanaura Elementary and Preschool

The Nanaura Preschool and Elementary School buildings have been empty since a school merger in April 2014.

Minamiboso took proposals for how to use the sites in January 2014 and three companies responded. On April 1 of this year, the Investigative Committee for the Beneficial Use of Nanaura Elementary and Preschool, a group made up of Minamiboso natives, settled on the proposal they agreed fits the city’s goals most closely. The buildings will be rented to the Katsura Medical Corporation and become the Nanaura Medical Clinic.

Goal

The facilities will offer top-quality healthcare and nursing services as well as a nursery school and school lunch center side by side. By juxtaposing these services, the clinic will provide both an enriching child-raising environment and work to prevent dementia in the elderly.

Foundational Principles of the Proposal

- Benefit to local residents
- Offer health, nursing, and lifestyle support to the people
- Benefit the local community
- Offer after-school opportunities to Chikura Elementary School students and be of use to local children
- Continue to be an evacuation center and be at the forefront of disaster relief in times of emergency

Main Project Details

The two buildings will be divided into medical, nursing, nursery, and lifestyle areas. The Nanaura Medical Clinic will be located in

medical area. Further details on the use of the other areas will be determined by coordinating with the related organizations while following Katsura's foundational principles (see above) and Minamiboso City's goals.

The facilities will be renovated in mid-2015 and will open in April 2016.

Contact: Health Support Division
(TEL: 36-1152)



* Revised 2014 General Budget (#12/ #13) Approved

The #12 and #13 Revised 2014 General Budget was approved at the March session of the city council. The total budget is now ¥26,210,113,000.

Main Details

#12 (¥944,156,000)

- Dangerous Wildlife Damage Prevention
¥5,311,000
- New Farmer and Education Benefits
¥3,375,000
- Support for Production Organizations
¥2,822,000

Additional money was allocated to the nursing care fund, etc.

#13 (¥193,970,000)

Additional programs established in the revised national budget (emergency economic stimulus package)

- Issuing vouchers for premium goods
¥41,094,000
- Hotel Invitation Promotion
¥28,806,000
- Stimulating Use of Resources
¥19,407,000
- Issuing In-Home Nursing Support Coupons
¥27,363,000
- Nursery School Special Support
¥16,572,000
- Issuing Elementary After-School Learning Vouchers
¥21,166,000

Additional money was allocated to national grants.

*All the money in this budget has been brought forward for use on projects in the 2015 fiscal year.

* The 2015 General Budget

The 2015 General Budget is ¥22,553,000,000. Specific details will be published in "This Year's Budget" at a later date.

Furthermore, the additional revenue generated by the increased 8% consumption tax will be distributed among social security funds such as social welfare, social insurance, and health and sanitation.

Contact: Administrative Reform and Budget Finance Division (TEL: 33-1022)

New Appointees to the Administrative Counseling Board

As of March 31, 2015 Kotaro Shindou (Tomiya) and Mamoru Kawana (Miyoshi) retired from the Administrative Counseling Board. On April 1, the following seven people were appointed to the board. Their term of office is from April 1, 2015 to March 31, 2017.

- New Appointees



Kazuo Nakamura
(Miyoshi)



Hiroo Fukuhara
(Tomiya)

- Returning Members
Yoshiichi Hayama (Tomiura)
Yukio Yoshida (Shirahama)
Akira Takeuchi (Chikura)
Misako Sanada (Maruyama)
Video Sanada (Wada)

Administrative counsellors are civilian workers appointed by the Minister of Internal Affairs and Communications to discuss the government with local residents. There are

about 5 thousand counsellors throughout the country.

These counselors listen to people's complaints, opinions and hopes related to government work. They give fair-minded advice, free of charge, and can put people in touch with an appropriate government office to get further help.

The seven counsellors in Minamiboso offer their services once a month. For times and locations, see the Kouhou Minamiboso Oshiraseban Announcements publication.

Contact: Ministry Internal Affairs and Communication Chiba Administrative Evaluation Office Administrative Counseling Division (TEL: 043-246-9821)
Secretariat and Publication Division (TEL: 33-1002)

Contact: Health Support Division (TEL: 36-1152)



Elderly Pneumococcus Vaccines

The pneumococcus vaccine became a regularly scheduled vaccine in October 2014. Pneumococcus is one of the causes of pneumonia. If you are eligible and want the vaccine, please call the Health Support Division.

2015 Eligibility

People who have not yet had a pneumococcus vaccination and who either...

1. As of March 31, 2016 are 65, 70, 75, 80, 85, 90, 95, or 100 years old, or
2. Are between 60 and 65 and have heart, kidney, or respiratory organ problems, or decreased immunity brought on by HIV (with a disability notebook of grade 1). (This requires a different application than for those over 65.)

Number of Doses: 1

Cost

You pay the cost of the vaccine from your medical institution minus a ¥1,500 subsidy from the city.

*If you present a certificate showing you receive public assistance, there will be no cost to you. (Contact the Social Welfare Division to get a certificate.)

Vaccination Period: Until March 31, 2016

Location: Any medical institution approved by the city

Apply at: Health Support Division, Citizen Registration Division, Asai Administrative Center, or a local branch office.

Talk of the Town

Recent Events in Minamiboso

Kazumi Takayama (Nogizaka 46) becomes Minamiboso's 4th Tourism Ambassador

On March 18, Kazumi Takayama became the fourth tourism ambassador for Minamiboso.

Born in Minamiboso, Kazumi is a member of the female idol group Nogizaka 46 and has appeared on television and various other media.

"When I left for Tokyo, I was reminded why Minamiboso is great. I want to continue doing PR for Minamiboso" said Ms. Takayama.



Ms. Takayama (left) accepting her appointment from Mayor Ishii (right)



ネイサンの南房総滞在記⑧

南房総市国際交流員

文・訳 ネイサン・ブラックウェル

レトロゲーム

私の趣味は古いテレビゲームを集めることです。ほかの20代の人と違い、最近のテレビゲームはあまり好きではありません。そのため、新しいテレビゲーム機より、80年代に発売されたカセットカートリッジを交換することによりさまざまなゲームを楽しめるテレビゲーム機でゲームする方が好きです。アメリカの家にはそのカセットがおよそ400本あります。

古いゲームが好きな理由はその単純さです。例えばゴールは、死なないで画面を渡ることだけなどです。最近のゲームと違い、映画のように見えることや実物そっくりな登場人物などに関係なく、ただゲームすることだけなのです。私はピクセルで作られたその世界に浸り、よく夢中になっていました。

ゲームを収集するというのは日本でもってこいの趣味です。いい店が多くあり、アメリカより、日本の中古ゲームのほうがいい状態です。たとえば、カセットがきれいで、ビニールで包まれています。また、日本の中古ゲームは状態により値段が変わりますが、アメリカでは、汚れていても、落書きされていても、ラベルがはがされていても値段が変わりません。やはり、日本はレトロゲームを趣味にしている人には素晴らしい国です。



My retro game collection
私のレトロゲームコレクション

Retro Games

One of my hobbies is collecting old video games. Unlike other people my age, I just don't enjoy most modern games very much. Instead of new systems, I play with game systems from the 1980s with interchangeable cartridges. Back home I have a collection of roughly 400 such game cartridges.

I think the reason I like those old games is their simplicity. You tend to have one goal: get across the screen without dying. They weren't concerned with being cinematic or life-like, they were just games. And yet, I find them immersive; I can easily get lost in a world of pixels.

Collecting video games is also a great hobby to have in Japan. There are a lot of good stores and used games in Japan are in great condition compared to those in America. I also like that games here are clean, wrapped in plastic, and cost less if they are damaged. In America, a game may be dirty, drawn on, and have the label missing, and it will still cost the

same amount. All in all, Japan is a great place to buy retro games.

※広報英語版や国際交流イベントの紹介を発信しています。ぜひアクセスしてください!
南房総みんなネット「国際交流員:ネイサン」<http://civil.mboso-etoko.jp/group/detail.asp?id=130>

Harvesting Wakame Seaweed

On February 20, first-year students from Tomiura Middle School, along with the Iwai Tomiura Fishing Cooperative, harvested "beefsteak seaweed," a local specialty that is uncommon across Japan. The students cheerfully harvested the seaweed, which they planted themselves last December.

Shirahama Elementary School 5th graders planted seaweed with the help of the Shirahama Ama Liaison Council. They planted seedlings of about 5 centimeters in length last December, and by the time they harvested it, it was nearly as tall as the students themselves. The students got to try the *wakame* on the spot in *shabushabu* and miso soup.

The students' families have said good things about the seaweed brought home to them, stating that it has a nice consistency and flavor.



Students from Tomiura Middle School



Shirahama 5th Graders seeing how big the seaweed got



Announcements

❖ Labor Survey

The labor survey is used to determine the unemployment rate and is fundamental in determining national economic policy and job growth initiatives.

Surveyors from the prefectural government will visit selected households. They will be carrying credentials from the prefecture.

Your personal information will stay confidential.

Target of survey: Certain households in Shirahama (Otohama)

Period of Survey: February to June

Contact: Chiba Prefecture General Affairs Planning Department, Statistics Division (TEL: 043-223-2220)

❖ Pay Automobile Tax by Deadline

The deadline to pay automobile tax is June 1. Tax statements will be mailed out in early May. Make sure to pay your bill at a financial institution, convenience store, or online with a credit card by the deadline.

For details, see the pamphlet included with your statement.

Contact: Automobile Tax Office (TEL: 043-243-2721)

Tateyama Tax Office (TEL: 22-7117)



Recruiting

❖ Playing outside: Mamekko

April is an exciting time to make new friends and experience nature. Mamekko is accepting new members, so let's play outside, have fun, and make friends.

When: April 24 — 10:00AM-12:00PM

Where: Taibusa-misaki Nature Park

Fee: ¥600/ family

Who: Babies and toddlers (age 0 to 4) and parents

Capacity: 20 families

Contact: Taibusa-misaki Shounen Shizen no Ie (TEL: 33-4561, email: event@chiba-ns.net)



❖ Planetarium Day

Lets find Ursa Major, Virgo, and other constellations that come out in spring. The big dipper will be our guide.

When: April 24 — 2:00-3:00PM

Where: Taibusa-misaki Shounen Shizen no Ie

Cost: ¥500 (no reservation needed)

Capacity: 200

Contact: Taibusa-misaki Shounen Shizen no Ie (TEL: 33-4561, email: event@chiba-ns.net)



Consultation

❖ Is Your Home Prepared for an Earthquake?

Talk to us about earthquake-proofing your home. Consultation is free. Appointment required.

When: March 4, 1:00-4:00PM

Where: Miyoshi Nouseon Center

Apply to: Management Division (TEL: 33-1102)

Minamiboso Folklore #108

Cape Nojimizaki is known for its natural beauty. Tourists also visit to see its Bentendou shrine and white lighthouse. But did you know that long ago it was an island?

Nojima Island became connected to the Boso Peninsula by land rising up during a large earthquake in 1703. The villagers who lived near there were happy because they could now visit Bentendou on foot.

The version of the shrine that stands there now was built in 1988. There are stone statues of the Seven Deities of Good Luck on the grounds, as well as one of the god Saraswati in the main shrine building. They were carved by Seiko Takeda, a local craftsman born near the end of the Tokugawa shogunate. Seiko was born in present-day Kyonan Town and lived from 1779 to 1858. His statues of the Seven Deities of Good Luck, which he is said to have carved at the age of 19, are a registered piece of Minamiboso's cultural Heritage.



~Hidamari no Sato~

Representative: Mariko Oshimoto Members: 17



Planting rice in the lush, green spring

Hidamari no Sato was founded 6 years ago in Wada's Kitamihara district with two goals: to let people experience country living hands on, and to popularize *norosoba* noodles.

Country living experiences we offer include planting rice, watching fireflies, cooking vegetables, beach activities, vegetable dyeing, shiitake picking, miso making, making pizza in a stone oven, and more. We hold an activity of this sort once a month. Visitors from the city tell us that just being in nature gives them more energy.

I would also like to write about our *norosoba* noodles. We make our handmade *norosoba* in the traditional Chiba method. But ours is no ordinary soba because we do everything — planting the seeds, weeding the fields, harvesting, and threshing — ourselves. Actually making the soba is not that difficult, and although quality can vary by skill, even kids can do it.

Our members have also proposed more activities that we will be trying to put into action. If there is any aspect of country living that you would like to try, just call us.



Mariko Oshimoto, Representative TEL: 090-3040-1249

This column spreads the word about Minamiboso's local community organizations. If you know of other groups that are doing great things, please let us know about them.

Contact: Civic Collaboration Division. Phone: 33-1005

Minamiboso MinMin Net address:

<http://civil.mboso-etoko.jp/>

City Website:

<http://www.city.minamiboso.chiba.jp>

Twitter:

http://twitter.com/minamiboso_koho

Facebook:

<http://www.facebook.com/minamibosocity>

Chiba TV Prefectural Info:

<http://www.chiba-tv.com/shicho/>

Mobile Site



Minamiboso Safety Alert



To begin registration, send an empty email.

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