

Minamiboso

June Newsletter



Learning traffic safety

The Tateyama Police Department and the Traffic Safety Association held traffic safety classes at Minamiboso elementary and middle schools.

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3/20/2016
Minamiboso
10th
Anniversary

Issue No. 111

June 2015



7 Projects by Local Groups Selected to Receive Funding: Challenge Program

An interview with the chairman of the Review Committee

Motohiro Kamata

- Vice President, Chiba Institute of Technology
- Professor, Department of Architecture and Civil Engineering
- Chairman of the Challenge Program Review Committee since its founding in 2007



Tell us about the selection criteria this year.

The criteria we evaluate have not changed much, but our explanation of what we are looking for has improved over the years, letting the people understand our aims better. Many groups consulted with us before applying, which I think benefited both the committee and the applicants.

What makes Minamiboso's program special?

There are many programs like this on the city level around Japan, but Minamiboso's is a rare example of a long-running program in a rural community. Additionally, I don't think there are many other programs that continue to improve the quality of its projects year after year. The projects over the last nine years have been diverse, and the ways they have utilized local resources to solve problems has been fantastic.

What are you looking forward to with this year's groups?

Thinking about the future of the program, more and more groups have teamed up to secure funding. I do not believe these groups only intend to move on in the selection process. They are able to do this because of careful cooperation with other groups and local improvement associations. I hope everyone continues to give it their all.

Public Evaluation for the Challenge Program

The public evaluation of group project proposals for the "Citizen-Proposed Community Improvement Challenge Program" was held on May 16 at the Tomiura Genki Club.

This program, as part of a community improvement initiative based on cooperation and mutual trust between citizens and the city, was started in 2007 and is now in its 9th year. There is a First Step Course, which supports projects by two new citizen's groups (maximum ¥50,000), and the Challenge Course, which helps five established groups further develop and improve their activities (maximum ¥300,000).

Applicants to the First Step Course are evaluated on their written applications, while applicants to the Challenge Course are evaluated on both their written applications and a public presentation. Every group gave impressive presentations, making good use of pictures and slides, and communicated their ideas to the judges with enthusiasm.

All of the groups that presented were selected to receive funding.



Composting, Popularizing Core Training, Handmade Sea Kayaks, A Local Film Festival, Forest Preservation, Foot Paths, and more

Selected Groups and their Projects

First Step Course

1. Awa Funkorogashi

Composting Kitchen Garbage

This group intends to reduce garbage and create a culture of recycling by promoting composting. They will hold composting workshops and talks at cafes. (Miyoshi)

2. Core Training Club

Invigorating Minamiboso's Children with Basic Fitness

This group will encourage healthy growth of the body and mind by teaching core training exercises to elementary and middle school students. They will create a town-wide environment of healthy behavior through meetings and social gatherings. (Tomiyama)

Challenge Course

1. Minamiboso Kaiyuu Club

Handmade Sea Kayaks on Tomiura Bay

This group will show us a new way to enjoy Tomiura bay: hand-made sea kayaks. They will hold ocean safety, kayaking, and kayak-making courses. They will also do projects for the public good, such as beach cleaning and installing and removing erosion control nets. (Tomiura, 1st year)

2. Takatsukayama Boukatsu Club

Improving the view at Takatsukayama

This group aims to improve the hiking trail on Mt. Takatsukayama, making it a place where both locals and visitors can mingle and enjoy nature. They are also restoring the view from the summit and making maps for the Shiramazu Hiking Course. (Chikura, 2nd year)

3. Minamiboso Film Locatto

Minamiboso Sazanami Film Festival

This group will host a film festival of local works as well as a monthly film screening. They also run a website, invite film makers, recruit extras and staff, and offer support to film makers. There will also be lectures and gatherings to discuss on-set lunches and the making of independent films. (Tomiyama, 2nd year)

4. Onuki Kodou no Kai

Discover the wonders of Onuki!

The Foot Path Project

This group will regularly give a guided tour of the foot path through the Onuki district of Chikura. They will create new walking courses and maps, catalogue rare plants, plant cherry and maple trees, and develop products that use the area's unique resources.

5. Onuki Harunakai

Saving Money for the Mountains and Forests

This group grows edible nanohana flowers along the Awa Greenline for people to pick and eat every year. They also plant plum trees and sunflowers to beautify the local scenery. They also run a farmer's market once a month, maintain scenic viewpoints and walking courses, and run a children's nature club. The Onuki Haruna Matsuri is in mid-March. (Chikura, 3rd year)

Revised Requirements for Exemptions and Reductions to Public Facility Fees



Starting October 1, a revised policy on exemptions and reductions to public facility fees will go into effect. This policy is part of a financial and administrative reform initiative to provide efficient administrative services by charging only those who use the services.

Reasons for the Revision

Fees to use public facilities are set at a flat rate based on the type and size of the facilities. However, there are fee exemptions and reductions amounting to approximately ¥36,000,000 currently issued.

In essence, fees are meant to charge users a fair amount to cover costs of maintaining the facility. The facility fee system is simple, low cost, and only charges those who use the facilities. If the city offers exemptions and reductions to these fees, there will be insufficient funds to cover maintenance and management costs, meaning those who do not use the facilities will end up having to help pay in the form of taxes.

Considering this, the requirements for reductions and exemptions to public facility fees have been revised. The revised policy is based on fairness to those who do and do not use the facilities, fundamentally placing the responsibility to pay on those who do.

The Revised Requirements

• Total Exemption

1. Activities run by or with the city or a body related to the city
2. Any other local public organization
3. Public organizations using the facility for a city project
4. Minamiboso nursery schools, preschools, elementary schools, and middle schools
5. Minamiboso Youth Clubs and groups for children's health of middle school age and up
6. Volunteer groups related to city social welfare

50% Reduction

Persons with disabilities and wounded veterans

Special Cases Approved by the Mayor

Athletic associations, cultural associations, etc.

Contact: Administrative Reform and Budget Finance Division (TEL: 33-1021), or the division in charge of the facility in question



Buy Vouchers for Local Goods to Stimulate Minamiboso's Economy

(1) Minamiboso Nigiwai Vouchers (for premium products) Round 1

Eligibility: Minamiboso residents

Price: ¥5000 per book

(12 X ¥500 vouchers = ¥6,000 value)

Total to be Sold: 20,000 books

Limit: 6 books per customer

Sale Period: July 1 to December 28 (as supplies last)

Stores That Accept Vouchers: See the flier published on the Uchibo Commerce and Industry Association website.

*The second round of vouchers will go on sale on October 1.

Contact: Uchibo Commerce and Industry Association (TEL: 33-2257)

Asai Commerce and Industry Association (TEL: 44-1331)

Commerce and Industry Division

(TEL: 33-1092)



(2) Minamiboso Welcome Voucher (distributed to tourists)

Eligibility: Must be staying at a hotel in Minamiboso

Total to be Distributed: 40,000

(¥500 vouchers, 2 per person)

Period: July 1 to December 30

(as supplies last)

Stores That Accept Vouchers: Same as the premium products vouchers

Contact: Tourism Promotion Division

(TEL: 33-1091)



Around Minamiboso

Recent Events

Earthquake Drill for Children On Their Way to School

The Board of Education conducted a disaster preparation drill for all preschool, elementary and middle school students on their commute on May 28 and 29.

Each school did drills based on various situations, such as an earthquake striking while waiting at the bus stop, walking, or riding a bicycle.

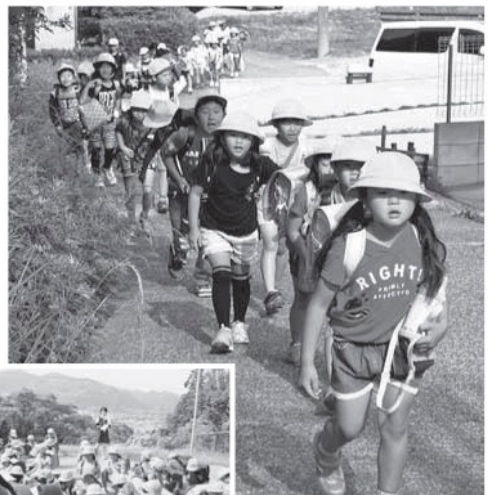
Bringing in Foreign Business

On April 4, 2015, the city signed an agreement with EA Electric Japan, a subsidiary of the Hong Kong-based electric component manufacturer EA Electric Co. Ltd., to locate in Minamiboso.

They were selected to use the old Miyoshi Nursery School building with the goal of creating jobs and revitalizing the local economy.

This is the second time the city has lent disused public facilities to a company free of

津波を想定した高台への避難の様子(富山小学校)



Students at Tomiura Elementary practice evacuating to higher ground in the event of a tsunami

charge.



The agreement signed by Mr. Wan (representative for EA Electric) and Mayor Ishii

Creating a City Without Garbage

The yearly Zero Garbage Initiative took place all across Minamiboso on the morning of May 31. We were fortunate to have good weather this year, and about 11,000 people participated. They worked together to gather about 15,500kg of empty cans, bottles, and other litter.

Thank you to everyone who participated.

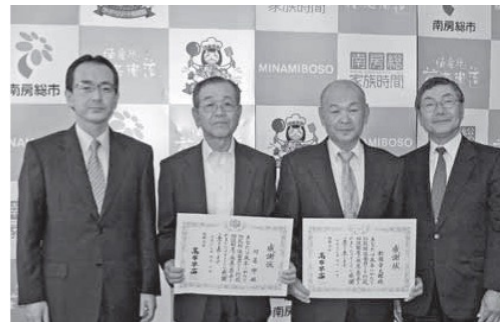


Thanking Administrative Counselors for their Service

At the Minamiboso City Office on May 7, Mamoru Kawana and Kotaro Shinto were presented letters of appreciation from the Minister of Internal Affairs and Communications for their years of service as members of the Board of Administrative Counselors.

The letters were presented by Takuo Ota, chief of the Chiba Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications Evaluation Office.

Both Mr. Kawana and Mr. Shindo served on the board for 10 years, starting in 2005, and engaged in monthly administrative counseling around the city.



(Left to right) Mayor Ishii, Mr. Kawana, Mr. Shindo, and Mr. Ota

5th Brigade to Represent City in Firefighting Competition

The 10th Annual Minamiboso Firefighting Demonstration was held at Tomiura Middle School on May 17. Each brigade entered a team of 5 to compete in demonstrating proper firefighting techniques. The 5th Brigade from Chikura won the top prize and the right to

This Issue's Cover



The photo was taken at the Miyoshi Elementary Traffic Safety Class on May 21.

First and second year students learned how to cross the road, while the third years and up learned about bicycle maintenance, crossing at intersections, and traffic rules. They practiced on roads mocked up in the school yard, complete with traffic lights.

Traffic safety is not just for pedestrians and bicyclists; we all need to work together to make Minamiboso an accident-free city.

represent Minamiboso in the Awa Regional Firefighting Competition in Kamogawa on June 21.



Prayers for Sea Safety this Summer

Since April, there have been school visits to Iwai Beach, where children get to experience dragnet fishing and other tourist activities. On May 16, members of the City Tourism Association's Iwai branch held shinto rites to pray for the safety of everyone who visits the beach this summer. The beach is popular every year for sea bathing, and the rites were held to pray for a beach season free of accidents.



Supplemental 2015 General Budget Approved

A supplement to the 2015 General Budget was approved at a special May meeting of the City Council. To total budget was set at ¥22, 588, 225,000.

Main Contents

Number 1(¥35,225,000):

Renovation to public rental facilities such as Shirahama Floral Hall and Shirahama Health and Welfare Center Hamayu: ¥2,009,000

The remainder is to be spent on public infrastructure construction costs.

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

Staying Healthy

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

Preventing Dengue Fever

Dengue fever is caused by the dengue virus, which is transferred by mosquitos. After a mosquito bites someone infected with the dengue virus, the virus multiplies in its body and is transmitted to the next person they bite. The most likely carrier of the virus in Japan is the tiger mosquito, which tends to be active during the day and lives in shady areas with plants. They will bite people who come within up to 100 meters of their habitat. The mosquitoes grow to adulthood and start biting between mid-May and late October, but they can also appear after sudden increases in temperature at other times of year.

● Route of Infection

- Not transmitted directly from person to person
- Transmitted by mosquitoes who have bitten infected people

● Incubation Period

- Symptoms start within 2 to 15 days (and usually between 3 and 7 days)

● Symptoms

- Sudden fever, severe headache, joint pain, muscle pain, rash
- 10%-50% of infected people present symptoms
- Prognosis is usually good, but can sometimes become more serious

● Treatment

- Symptomatic treatment (managing pain, fever, and other symptoms as they appear)
- There is no effective vaccine

● Prevention

- Wear long sleeves and pants. Avoid sandals and other clothing that exposes bare skin.
- Use mosquito repellent both inside and outside
- Make sure to kill mosquitoes that get inside
- Avoid creating a breeding habitat for mosquitoes (they prefer to lay their eggs in small puddles, such as rain water gathered in empty cans. You can decrease the amount of mosquitoes born near your home by eliminating stagnant water.)

***We can all help reduce the mosquito population by cleaning gutters in our towns.**

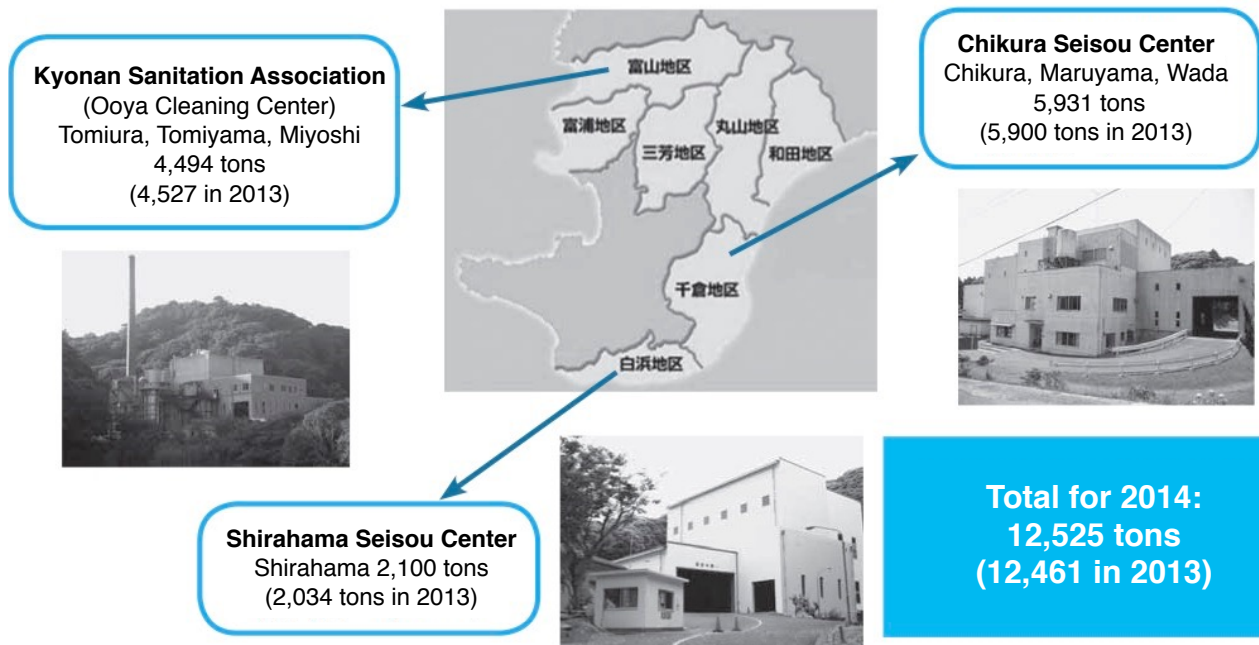
This Month's Environmental Slogan:
“Spread the clean, green will to not litter.”
 2014 Environmental Slogan Contest Award for Excellence
 Shiori Maruyama, Reinan Middle School 3rd Year

June is Environment Month

June has been designated “Environment Month” by the Ministry of the Environment. Various environmental activities will be held to get people more interested in the preservation of the environment.

The environmental problems of today range from world-wide ones such as global warming, to local ones like litter. These issues are directly connected to our lifestyles. We can each do our part to combat these problems by saving energy, reducing waste, and recycling.

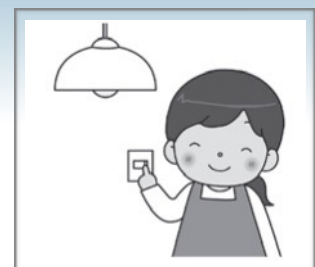
How much burnable garbage did we throw away in 2014?



Cutting CO2: Light Down Campaign 2015

In 2003, the Ministry of the Environment started the Cutting CO2: Light Down Campaign to fight global warming. To participate, just turn off lights at home and at work when you aren't using them.

In addition, facilities and homes across the country will turn off their lights for two hours, from 8 to 10 PM on both June 22 and July 7 to further reduce greenhouse gases.





ネイサンの南房総滞在記⑩

南房総市国際交流員

文・訳 ネイサン・ブラックウェル

銃

私はアメリカ人なので、「アメリカで銃を何丁持っている?」「銃は懐かしい?」と日本人にたまに質問されます。アメリカが銃文化で悪名高いのは分かりますが、私は銃に反対しているので、その質問が少し気になります。

実は、私も家族も銃を持っていません。私の友達の家族もほとんど持っていませんが、銃を持っている知り合いでも、「自己防衛」のために携帯するのではなく、狩猟や射撃場での練習用に持っています。最近見たニュースでは、「銃を所持する」と答えたアメリカ人は24%で、「自分は持っていないが家庭内の人が所持する」と答えた人は13%でした。世界的に高い所持率だと思いますが、アメリカ人の皆が銃を持っているという印象に比べてかなり低いでしょう。

私は、自己防衛のために拳銃を使うというのは欠点のある考え方だと思います。拳銃は強盗や殺人の道具となるので、民間人が使ったら自衛や正義には絶対にならないでしょう。アメリカでは物議をかもし態度ですが、日本のような銃を持たない法律は安全な国を作る為に必要だと思います。やはり、私にとっては日本の治安の良い所は魅力の一つです。

日本の安全性は銃に関する厳しい規制によるものだと思いますか?

Guns

While living in Japan, I am sometimes asked questions like "How many guns do you own?" and "Do you miss your guns?" simply because I am an American. While I understand that America is infamous for its gun culture, as an American who is opposed to guns myself, I get a little bothered by these questions.

The fact is, I do not own a gun and neither does anyone in my family. Most of my friends' families don't have guns either, and the ones who do, have them for hunting or for shooting at a firing range; in other words, they don't carry hand guns with them for "self defense." According to a recent survey I read, only 24% of Americans said they own a gun, while 13% said that someone in their household owns one. These are still high numbers, but it is far from the stereotype that we all have guns.

I personally think that using guns for self defense is a flawed philosophy. Guns are tools for robbery and murder that can rarely, if ever, be used by common citizens for defense and justice. This is a controversial stance in America, but I believe that the laws and restrictions in Japan make this country a safer place. This sense of security is something I value about living in Japan.

Do you think that Japan is a safer place because of its strict gun regulations?

From the Consumer Consultation Center #34

Pyramid Schemes

Pyramid schemes, where higher ranking members profit off of lower ranking members, are illegal. The reason for this is that they continually add members, creating new victims to take the burden.

Another kind of scheme called "multilevel marketing" is very similar to a pyramid scheme. In these systems, you recruit new members whose merchandise costs are partially paid to you. However, because total enrollment has a limit, someone will always end up as a victim and not make their money back.

Multilevel marketing is not explicitly illegal. However, because of the dangers associated with it, the right to cancel and withdraw is strictly regulated.

If someone offers you an opportunity for "an easy way to make money on the side by inviting your friends," do not believe them. If

you have enrolled in what you believe to be a pyramid scheme, make sure to withdraw as soon as you suspect it.



Give us a call

The Consumer Consultation Service, City Expenditures and Lifestyle Consultation (TEL: 33-4300) 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM

*We do in-person consultation twice a week. For details, check the Kouhou Announcements publication.

For inquiries, contact the Division of Commerce and Industry (TEL: 33-1092) Or the Prefectural Consumer Center (TEL: 047-434-0999) 9:00 AM – 4:30 PM

*Not open on Sundays and Holidays

~Minamiboso Film Locatto~

Representative: Issei Shimizu Members: 50



Sazanami Film Festival

Minamiboso Film Locatto was established in April last year to reinvigorate the local economy by commissioning films. Recently, various locations in Minamiboso have appeared in movies, TV dramas, and commercials. However, because the Minamiboso area does not have a movie theater, even if our town is filmed, we have nowhere to watch those films.

Minamiboso Film Locatto is giving local residents the opportunity to feel closer to movies by holding the three-day Sazanami Film Festival as well as monthly screenings of short films at the Tomiyama Community Center.

In addition to these screenings, because movies and dramas are shot in the area, the organization also recruits extras and makes preparations for local food and lodging. To promote local food and stimulate the economy, they also plan to develop on-set bento lunches that use local ingredients.

Another goal for the group is to teach film and editing techniques at schools so that local children may grow up to be movie directors one day.

Please come to the film festival some time. Let's all have a good time watching movies together.



Representative: Isse Shimizu
TEL: 090-4924-9292

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/>

Minamiboso Folklore #110

This is an old story from about 1,200 years ago. In the town of Shiramazu, there was a very loyal boy who would do anything for his father.

One cold winter day, the father said "I want to eat abalone." But the father was blind, so the boy decided to dive in the sea to gather some shellfish for him.

His mother tried to stop the boy, saying "The water is still cold. Go once it gets warm in the spring." But the boy wanted more than anything to help his father, so he went anyway.

When he did not return by mid-day, the mother went to search for him by the shore. She found his kimono and sandals on a rock and thought he must have been nearby. She called out her son's name, but he was nowhere to be found.

The village banded together to search for the boy. When they found him, he was lying at the bottom of the water, clutching an abalone. They fished him out as fast as they could and tried to warm him by a fire, the women touching their skin to his. But alas, the boy did not wake up.

A buddhist monk who had been traveling the area heard of the death of the loyal boy. He was deeply saddened by the story and prayed for the boy's safe passage into the after life. He then carved statues of Ksitigarbha, a bodhisattva who looks after children and the underworld, into three rocks by the seaside to



Population Trends (as of May 1, 2015)

*(parentheses) indicate change from the previous month

Total Population: (-36) 40,673

Males: (-17) 19,511

Females: (-19) 21,162

Households: (-6) 17,296

Births: 16

Deaths: 57

Moved in: 58

Moved away: 53

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 a blank email.

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