

New Year Greetings From Okinawa City Mayor, Mitsuko Tomon

Okinawa City- A Place Where You Can Experience the Joy and Peace of Living In Your Community

January 1, 2013



Happy New Year! It is with great joy and delight that I am able to welcome this glorious new year with you. I would first like to say that the general election held at the end of last year was a historic event that changed the direction of our country.

Okinawa also took a new step forward, reaching a milestone that marked the 40th year since reversion, as well as with the revision of the Okinawa Promotion and Development Special Treatment Act and the founding of the Okinawa Promotion and Development Special Grant (Lump Sum Grant).

2012 was also a year in which we were once again confronted with issues of the military, such as the deployment of the Osprey, the continued crimes committed by U.S. servicemen, rallies formed to protest against these incidents, talks of reducing the burden of the military presence on Okinawa, and the increasing voice of those seeking an overhaul of the U.S.-Japan Status of Forces Agreement.

Despite these unfortunate events, let us not forget the many achievements gained as a community as well. Okinawa City's traditional textile, Chibana Hana Ori, was officially designated as one of Japan's traditional crafts, the first time for such a recognition in 23 years for Okinawa. This prestigious recognition has served to be such a joy for the people of Okinawa City, and could not have been realized if it were not for the efforts of those affiliated. It is my wish that we take this as an opportunity to spread the beautiful Chibana Hana Ori as a brand of Okinawa City, not only within the city, but far and wide throughout the country.

We also had the pleasure of holding the 8th International Theater Festival OKINAWA for Young Audiences (KJIMUNA FESTA), as well as the honor of hosting the very first ASSITEJ (International Association of Theatre for Children and Young People) International Meeting here in Okinawa City. As we enhance the festival every year, we can look forward to its growth and development as Asia's leading representative of theater festivals.

With the monument installation of the EISA mascots (Eibō, Sächan, and others) and the opening of EISA YA in Koza Music Town, we aim to continue to enhance this "City of Eisa" and embrace Eisa as one of our precious cultural resources.

We were also able to make use of the new lump sum grant to promote urban development and problem solving by making use of our local resources. We will continue enhancing the appeal of our community, as well as improve the livelihood of our citizens, and make use of the grants effectively for the future of our city.

With "Protecting the Livelihood of Citizens" as our principle, beginning with developing an environment where our children can grow confidently and independently towards their dreams, we will actively support employment and child rearing, care and livelihood of the elderly, and promote community industries. With "Citizens First" as our creed, we will do our best to see things from the perspective of citizens, and strive towards developing a community where each individual can feel and experience the joy and peace of living in Okinawa City.

We ask for your continued understanding and cooperation, and pray that your new year will be filled with hope and many blessings.

**Mitsuko Tomon
Okinawa City Mayor**



January Koho Okinawa Cover Photo

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

New Year Greetings From Okinawa City Mayor, Mitsuko Tomon.....	P 1
36th Okinawa City Industry Festival.....	P2
Filing City & Prefectural Residence Tax & National Health Insurance Premiums for Fiscal Year 2013.....	
Filing Depreciable Assets for FY 2013.....	
Tax Deduction Certificate Application for Persons With Disabilities Okinawa City Child Care Support Project.....	P 3
New Combination Vaccine.....	
Free Lecture: Learning to Live With a Family Member With Dementia.....	
Okinawa City Hall Multi-lingual Assistance Service.....	P 4
Koza International Plaza Multi-lingual Consultation Service.....	
Coming of Age Day.....	
Koza Music Town Free Ongaku Hiroba Events (January 17~20).....	



"Heave-Ho! Heave-Ho!"

**Okinawa City
Population Statistics**

Total: 138,431 (+46)
Male: 67,008 (+12)
Female: 71,411 (+34)
Households: 55,574 (+44)
Foreign Residents: 1,196 (-29) (from a total of 81 countries)
Male: 682 (-20)
Female: 514 (-9)

*The articles in this newsletter are Okinawa City Hall announcements published in the Okinawa City KOHO, translated into English and Chinese to better serve the foreign community. Administrative services are provided in Japanese only (unless otherwise indicated). For inquiries in English, please email: international@city.okinawa.okinawa.jp. You can also view monthly issues of the newsletter online by clicking on the ENGLISH/中文 link on the Okinawa City website: <http://www.city.okinawa.okinawa.jp/>

January-February 2013 Vol. 13, No. 1

Okinawa City Newsletter

Okinawa City Hall Announcements for Registered Residents of Okinawa City

