

A Long Line for Fresh Seafood

Mitsu Fishing Harbor's Morning Market Opens

May 21, Amino



↑ The packed-out “all-you-can-fit-in-a-bag horse mackerel for 100 yen” event.

On May 21st, the Mitsu Fishing Harbor Morning Market opened in Mitsu Fishing Harbor (Amino). The Council for Thinking of Mitsu's Future and the Sea created this event with the objective of promoting Mitsu's fish sales. On the morning of the market, they held a Seashore Sale of seafood fresh off the fishing boats for cheap prices and direct purchase, as well as fishing boat rides, a fishing experience in which one could see the fixed offshore fishing nets, fried horse mackerel and babylon shell lunches sold by the and the local travel association. Many people crowded in to take part in the day's activities.

Two sisters, Nanami and Nonoka Tanaka both participated in the fixed net fishing experience together along with their families. They said “It's interesting that the squid change color. I'd like to come again!”

That day's fishing haul was about one ton of fish, said to be “a little small,” but after the unloading and sorting, people queued up in a huge line to buy horse mackerel, flying fish, white squid, and sea bream. At the Seashore Sale, there was also a special event selling all-you-can-fit-in-a-bag horse mackerel for 100 yen, and everyone scrambled to stuff fresh fish into their bags.

Shinya Matsumoto, the vice chairman of the Council for Thinking of Mitsu's Future and the Sea and the president of the Mitsu Production Union said “Freshness is guaranteed! I want everyone to taste Mitsu's delicious fish!” From now on this morning

market will be held on the third Sunday of every month.

◆Seaside Sale: other than days when fishing is suspended or otherwise not possible, the morning market will be held every day, from 7am in spring/fall, from 6am in summer, and from 8am in winter.

◆A reservation and participation fee are required for the Fixed Fishing Net Experience. Contact: Council for Thinking of Mitsu's Future and the Sea (090-2282-6544)

Experiencing the Importance of Nature

A Nature Observation Trek in Naiyama Beech Forest

May 28, Omiya

On May 28th, a nature observation trek was held in the largest beech forest in Kyoto prefecture, on Mt. Taka, a 702-meter-high mountain in the Omiya region of Naiyama. It took the participants about an hour to reach the summit, all the while receiving explanations from two guides. From the summit they were able to see beautiful scenery such as the Sea of Japan and the windmills on top of Mt. Taiko.

Mr. Sugaya, one of the guides and a certified member of the Kyoto prefecture Nature Conservation and Observation Organization, said “Beech trees usually grow at an elevation of 600 meters above sea level, but in Naiyama the beech forest grows around 400 meters of elevation, which is a feature peculiar to the Tango Peninsula probably caused by the climate, I think. I want to communicate to everybody to protect this bountiful nature.”



↑ Participants listened to the explanation from the guide Mr. Hatanaka (second from the left).

Dashing Through the Fresh Verdure in the Highlands

1500 People at the Ikari Highlands Festival

May 28, Tango



↑ The 1/20 Marathon.

The Ikari Highlands Festival (sponsor: Ikari Highlands Festival Committee) was held on May 28th, and the area around the Ikari Highlands Ranch was bustling with visitors.

In the main venue, there were performances by bands, comedy duos, and yosakoi dance groups, as well as a children's treasure hunt, a log-cutting contest, and the traditional 1/20 and 1/10 marathons for the visitors to participate in.

The winner of the 1/20 marathon, Chiho Nakanishi (Isanago Elementary 6th-year) said "Running a course full of just uphill and downhill slopes was exhausting, but it felt good to run."

Other events open for participation included a carpentry class and a crafting class to make wind-powered toys, which were very popular among children.

Also on the same day, the "Kawadoko Café" in the Kawazato Noma Assembly Hall and the Mt. Taiko Windfarm facility were also opened to the public, and visitors fully enjoyed nature under the refreshing blue sky.

Looking at Photos and Feeling the Seasons

Replacing Yasaka Hospital's Photo Displays

May 27, Yasaka

In Yasaka Hospital on May 27th, the photographs on display were switched out by the Kyotango Photography Club.

Out of the photos on display in the hospital, added by the club ten years ago, seventeen from the waiting room and halls were replaced all at once. From now on the photos will be switched out regularly in sequence, and the proud artwork of the club members, photographs that take a slice of the seasons themselves to display, will be available to enjoy year round.

Representative Kawato said “The display photographs show the importance of the seasons, and we are also being careful so that the motifs do not overlap with the themes of the previous display.”

One member also said “It was fun preparing the photos for display at home. I'm very happy that the photos I took will be used for decoration, and that many people who visit the hospital will be able to see them. Thinking about what sort of photos to take next is giving me more motivation!”



↑ Kyotango Photography Club members (one member absent).

Planting Rice in the Crop's Birthplace and Tsuki-no-Wa Rice Paddies
Children Don Costumes of Young Female Rice Planters to Participate
May 28, Mineyama



↑ Children planting rice in the crescent-moon-shaped Tsuki-no-Wa rice paddy.

On May 28th, ancient wild rice was planted in the Tsuki-no-Wa rice paddies in Nika, Mineyama, the same location as the legend of the birthplace of Japan's rice crop.*

The planting of the Tsuki-no-Wa rice paddies stopped around 1965, but was revived in 2013 for the anniversary of Tango's founding 1300 years before. Since then, in the Nika ward, community volunteers have made a preservation society to manage maintenance, and every year at this time they plant rice.

On the 28th, in addition to the community residents, three elementary schoolers dressed in traditional costume as young female rice planters and planted red, black, and purple ancient wild rice in the Tsuki-no-Wa rice paddy (about 6.6 m²) as well as the adjacent field (about 300 m²). The preservation society's chairman, Tatsuaki Nogi, said "Through our efforts, we can make sure that history and tradition are passed on, and we can convey the charms of our region to other places outside of the city."

*In the *Record of the Former Tango Kingdom*, it is written that Tango is the birthplace of the rice crop, where the god of food Toyouke-Ōmikami began rice cultivation for the sun goddess Amaterasu-Ōmikami. There are also records that show that until around 1965, the rice farmed in this region was used for offerings at Ise Grand Shrine (Ise, Mie prefecture).

Individuality Sparkles Through Handmade Products All in a Row

“Friend’s Handiwork Display” at Kagayaki-no-Mori

May 28, Kumihama



↑ Goods made with Saori weaving lined up at the venue.

On May 28th, inside the Kumi no Hama Welfare Center Kagayaki-no-Mori in Takebushi, Kumihama, the thirteenth Friend’s Handiwork Display was held, and it was bustling with many people.

At the venue, users of the facility arranged their individual work, such as colorful “Saori weaving” bags and accessories, as well as handmade postcards and handicrafts made from Japanese paper. There was also a corner where you could experience Saori weaving and making Japanese paper by hand, which captured the interest of many a visitor.