

BRIDGES

~KITAKYUSHU~



Leiji Matsumoto
Exclusive Interview!



Wasshoi Summer Festival



The Kitakyushu Beer Masonry
Museum in Moji



Takenoko Roll



Hibiki Container Terminal



Space World

HIBIKI CONTAINER TERMINAL OPENS!

What's new, Kitakyushu?

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Hibiki Container Terminal OPENS! ~A New Gateway to the World~



Aerial view of the Hibiki Container Terminal

The much-awaited Hibiki Container Terminal opened in the Wakamatsu Ward of Kitakyushu on April 1, 2005, which will serve as one of Japan's mega terminal capable of calling in large amounts of containerized cargoes from Asia, North America and Europe, and highly anticipated to further the nation's economy and industries.

The liner service opened on May 18, in which HAPPY ISLAND, the first-ever container vessel in service, was docked for the first time ever. This liner service is established by the Shandong Yantai International Marine Shipping Co. (SYMS) with Sankyu Shipping Inc., its general agency in Japan.

In addition, the second liner service opened on August 24, which is coming from Kitakyushu's sister city, Dalian, China. The 5,250-ton ship, DONG JIANG, is scheduled to make a port call at the Hibiki CT once every week.

Kitakyushu and Dalian have exchanged various activities during their 26 years of sister-city relationship, including last year's Organization for the East Asia Economic Development (OEAED) conference, in which both cities

have agreed to build stronger partnerships focusing on trade and economy.

Besides being the only terminal that holds the deepest pier (a water-depth of 15 meters) on the Japan Sea side and Kyushu, the Hibiki CT permits large-scale modern container



TRANSFER CRANES, each measuring 20m in height and 25m in width. 16 tires are attached to each crane, capable of moving around the yard on its own, as well as loading/unloading the containers.

vessels to make port calls and its favorable location also acts as a gateway to other countries.

Strategically located in the center of the Pan-Yellow Sea region, which is experiencing an increase in trade due to China's rapid economic growth, the Hibiki CT is along the main trade route (Japan Sea route) from Asia to the west coast in the U.S. This permits shorter transportation time, approximately two days less than the route on the Pacific Ocean, and bound to play a central role for container vessels going to the U.S.

Furthermore, the location of the Hibiki CT marks as the first terminal in Japan to receive an approval from PSA Corporation, a Singapore-based enterprise and a global leader in ports and terminal businesses. With the strong support from PSA as well as collaboration from PSA's Dalian (China) and Incheon (South Korea) container terminals in the Pan-Yellow Sea region, Hibiki CT will further strengthen its abilities as a mega terminal.

The main functions at the Terminal includes a variety of services at competitive prices, around-the-clock operation, approximately 2,000 hectares of open industrial space for setting up specific areas of international distribution, and a good environment for new businesses in rejuvenating regional industries.

In addition, the design of the port is based on Japan's first PFI Project, which implies that all operation will be conducted in a low-cost manner. In order to offer reasonably-priced but high-quality public services, the adoption of the PFI System will use private funds and top-notch management.

The Hibiki CT is the Phase 1 Project of the Hibikinada Hub Port Plan, and one of the biggest projects in the ongoing Kitakyushu Renaissance Plan. The opening of the Hibiki CT will take Kitakyushu to the next level as a vibrant and powerful city.



HAPPY ISLAND makes her first port call at the Hibiki Container Terminal



Gantry Cranes



Captain Aligaga Pedro, Jr. receives welcoming flowers for HAPPY ISLAND's first port call at the Hibiki CT (From left: Mr. Dennis Soh, COO & Head of Market Development of Hibiki CT Co., Chief Executive Norihiko Yamagata of Seaport and Airport Bureau of Kitakyushu, Captain Aligaga Pedro, Jr., and Ms. Eiko Muramoto, Port of Kitakyushu's special supporter)

Message from Mr. Dennis Soh

(COO & Head of Market Development of Hibiki Container Terminal)
"It is really an honour to be part of this auspicious occasion on the opening of Hibiki Container Terminal and we must really thank all parties who were involved in making this possible. Looking forward, we do hope that customers will take advantage of this wonderful facility and the services offered by the terminal, however, we realise that as a "Greenfield" terminal, it normally takes some time before business picks up."

HIBIKI CT BRIEF FACTS

- 1) WORLD-APPROVED LOCATION
- 2) JAPAN'S FIRST PRIVATE FINANCE INITIATIVE (PFI) PORT PROJECT
- 3) DISTRIBUTION HUB OF THE PAN-YELLOW SEA REGION
- 4) PARTICIPATION FROM THE PSA CORPORATION AND PSA'S DALIAN/INCHEON CT
- 5) AROUND-THE-CLOCK OPERATION
- 6) 2,000 HECTARES OF INDUSTRIAL SPACE

Kitakyushu Profile



Leiji Matsumoto Meets Bridges ~God of Sci-fi Animation~

Leiji Matsumoto visits his hometown, Kokura, posing with the symbolic Kokura Gion Taiko Statue located in the north exit of JR Kokura Station

A Almost everybody in Japan and foreign manga/animation fans have heard “Galaxy Express 999,” “Captain Herlock” and “Gun Frontier.” Leiji Matsumoto is the creator for these well-known *manga/animations* who have reached an amazing landmark in 2004, hitting his 50th year as an animation/*manga* artist. Born in Kurume (southern part of Fukuoka Prefecture) and spending his childhood and teenage days here in Kitakyushu, Bridges had the RAREST opportunity to interview him while he was visiting the city for the Young Astronauts Club—Kitakyushu Chapter Ceremony.

Q: The Young Astronauts Club-Kitakyushu Chapter is starting from today. Do you have any messages for the young “astronauts?”

A: Through this wonderful program, I want the young astronauts to find the very meaning of our existence in this universe. I also want everybody to think and discuss why we are engaging in space development research. Science and technology are here to make our livings more convenient, but when that gets a little out of hand, our world’s environment will be in jeopardy. And when that happens, I believe advanced science will protect us. We all have the responsibility to save our earth and this is what I want to tell these young astronauts.

Q: You have celebrated your 50th year in the manga/animation industry last year. What was it like to lead the life of a manga artist?

A: I am a “masterless samurai who have exchanged his sword with a pen.” In order to go into this kind of profession, you have to be prepared. So instead, you don’t need to try to gain someone’s favor. That is how pleasurable it is to be in a liberal profession...you can choose what you want to do. However, you can’t complain once you make the decision. Although I call myself a “masterless samurai,” I’ve gone through all the ups and downs. But that’s the time when my Kyushu spirit comes into good use. Kyushu people are extremely persevering. I always tell myself, “Watch me, because I am going to make it big someday.” I like Kyushu’s cast of mind, so I am proud that I was raised here.

Q: You have spent your childhood/teenage days here in Kitakyushu. Has your hometown influenced your creations in any way?

A: Most of my characters are met with challenging hurdles, but not one of them shouts out pains of agony. In other words, all characters resemble the people here in Kyushu. For example, if a formidable enemy appears in front of them, they would fight in respect. And that is, I believe, the basic rule in this world. So when I am creating my characters, I try to make them compassionate and humane, just like the Kyushu people.

Q: It seems like you are very fond of the space and the universe. What is the reason behind your love for science fiction?

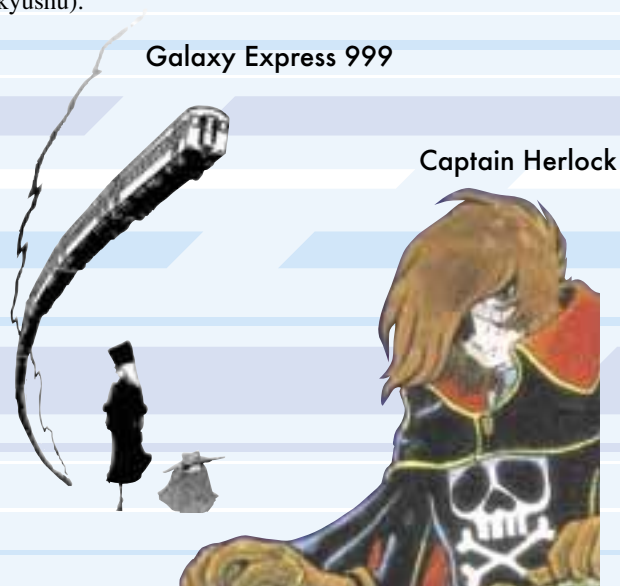
A: I was always interested in space ever since I was a child. I would put on my imagination cap and start drawing all sorts of pictures (related to space). Plus, I read all the books I could get my hands on that were related to astronomy...English, German, Chinese and Italian. It’s scary being a maniac like me (laugh). I can understand books related to space, airplane and machines, but somehow, I can’t seem to understand books on cosmetics (laugh). When I was an elementary school student, I built my own telescope to find out if the Martians really existed, but unfortunately the magnifying power did not go up as expected, so I couldn’t see (Mars). I’ve always believed that human beings would one day go up in space. And they did!

Q: Do you have any messages to the young people who are trying to become a talented artist like you?

A: Do not regret on your decisions. If you are not prepared, then don’t go for it. If you are prepared, then just go for it. But don’t ever complain.

Q: What are your hopes for Kitakyushu?

A: Kitakyushu is a very lively city. Everybody would overcome any kinds of obstacles. As I mentioned earlier, they don’t shout any pains of agony, but instead would do their best no matter what. That is the spirit of Kyushu. If you’re finding a place where the people are very strong-minded, Kyushu’s the one...you can find this trait in both men and women. So I believe the future is very bright (for Kitakyushu).



©LEIJI MATSUMOTO

Kitakyushu Children Becomes Space Cadets ~The Young Astronauts Club Starts in Kitakyushu~



Leiji Matsumoto, center, and Susumu Matsumoto pose with the participants of the Young Astronauts Club-Kitakyushu Chapter

The Young Astronauts Club-Kitakyushu Chapter Ceremony was held on April 29, 2005 as more than 30 young and energetic pupils, ranging from elementary to high school students, were sworn in as official members of the YAC at the Children's Culture and Science Museum in the Yahatahigashi Ward. The famous

sci-fi animator, Leiji Matsumoto, who is also the president of the YAC, gave out a speech urging them to think about the future through learning the wonders of space.

YAC's activities will occur once every month, involving handicrafts and experiments related to space. Moreover, children will enjoy field trips, summer camps and visits to other countries to interact with foreign children who are in similar space clubs.

The Kitakyushu Chapter was in a state of dormancy for several years, but was revived in large part to Mr. Susumu Matsumoto, who is Leiji Matsumoto's younger brother. Mr. Susumu Matsumoto will be heading the Kitakyushu Chapter along with high school science teachers and city administration officials who will act as vice-commanding generals.



Hiroataka Nakashima (left) and Yuki Nakashima (right) pose in their YAC space uniforms.

SPACE WORLD'S SPACE CAMP! A Fun Educational "Journey" into Space



Space Camp, constructed under a license agreement with the U.S. Space Camp Foundation

Have you ever wanted to travel into space? Or even walk on the moon? Granted! Japan's only space-themed amusement park, *Space World*, will take you to Space Camp, which is the nation's first full-scale educational facility for space experience, and lets you try all the real action-packed flying-maneuvering-moon-walking-swirling training program similar to the ones real NASA astronauts go through before they go up in space. It offers you a total of eight exciting rides that include the Moon Walker, a ride that is designed to support 5/6 of your weight to make you walk like you are actually on the moon! You can also come onboard the Shuttle Simulator (Discovery), and be your own Captain!

Space World will be holding fun events for children to commemorate the two international space conferences that will be held this year in October. Visit Space Camp and all the exciting programs will be waiting for you!



MMU, Manned Maneuvering unit. Nice peace sign!



Inside Shuttle Simulator (Discovery) Liftoff!



Moon Walker
You can be like Neil Armstrong!



Multi-Axis Trainer
Don't get too dizzy!



GMMU Jr. (Ground Mounted Manned Maneuvering Unit)
Reach for the satellite!



oeiedag!

My name is Bart Julien Dewancker, currently I work as an associate professor of Environmental Space Design at the University of Kitakyushu, on the Hibikino campus in Wakamatsu. I've come to Japan as a Japanese Government Monbusho (Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology) Scholarship research student in October 1993. After finishing my PhD course at the Waseda University, I started to work at the same university for three years. In 2001 my current position has been offered to me, so my wife and I decided to move to



Dr. Dewancker with his Kitakyushu Environmental Award

Kitakyushu. Originally I come from Belgium, in Japan famous for its chocolate and beer. A few years ago there was even a Belgian Waffle boom. At that moment, I got the impression that the Belgian Waffle was better known here in Japan than at home in Belgium. This is similar for A Dog of Flanders, a novel, which I didn't know at all before. Kitakyushu is a very nice city to live and work; there's plenty of

nature to enjoy in the weekends. In summer we often go to the sea nearby with our friends and their kids. Since we moved to Kitakyushu, many new stores and restaurants have opened in the last four years in our neighborhood; the place we live has become now more convenient. There is many delicious fish served in Kitakyushu's restaurants. One of the most loved on the menu are the sushis and raw fish, very tasty and healthy but unfortunately a bit expensive. In the beginning I came to Kitakyushu I was wondering why the bamboo forests did not look as in the books on Japanese bamboo forests. After studying and understanding the problems bamboo forests are dealing with, we started up together with local citizens' actions on preservation of the bamboo forests. Since January 2004, every second Saturday of the month we are thinning out the bamboo forests around the Science and Research Park in Wakamatsu. By doing this, the forests and bamboo forests can be protected, a community is created among local people loving the environment and because of a lack of daily physical exercises it is good for our health too. If you are interested, please join us; the bamboos are waiting!



Bart Dewancker (center) and members of the "Bamboo Design Workshop in Kitakyushu"

Sincerely Yours,

Bart Julien Dewancker

Bamboo What?!



What do you get when you combine a bamboo shoot, sponge cake, whipped cream and a hint of Kokura spirit? The answer is *Takenoko* ("Bamboo Shoots") Roll, a sweet roll cake with bits of seasoned bamboo shoots. Yes, that's right. Bamboo shoots.

A group of sweet fans in Kitakyushu, comprised mostly of women, have partnered up with a local patisserie to collaborate their *sweet* talents to launch Kokura's very own specialty dessert. The study group wanted to boost Kokura's *omiyage* gift line with the idea of using bamboo shoots, which is a specialty of Ohma, an area in south Kokura that is famous for its high-quality

INSTANT BAMBOO FACTS!

Bamboo shoots have:

- Protein, minerals and fibers
- Low in fat and sugar, no cholesterol
- Good profile of minerals consisting mainly of zinc, potassium, manganese and copper
- Lower amounts of phosphorous, iron and selenium

bamboos. So why did they decide to use a roll cake? The study group wanted a sweet that everybody was familiar with and something that competed well with representative sweets that were sold along the Nagasaki Kaido, or the Nagasaki Road.

Some might think bamboos are only used as an ornamental plant, but the shoots are edible, which is widely used as an ingredient for Asian cuisine. They are crunchy and have a unique taste with a flavor similar to corn.

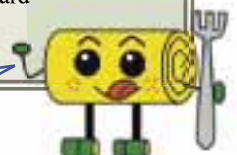
Since the bamboo shoots are seasonal ingredients, the *Takenoko Roll* have ended for this year. But don't worry, they are going to sell them again next January, so hurry down and taste the new flavor of Kokura!

TAKENOKO ROLL: 735 yen (tax included)
Where can I buy them? At Bretzel 2:3:2
Address: 20-3 Kurobaru 3-Chome Kokurakita Ward
Tel: (093) 951-8829



Takenoko (Bamboo Shoots) Roll...SCRUMPTIOUS!

JUNE 6th IS ROLL CAKE DAY!!





Korea-Japan Friendship Year



Japan

2005



Korea



~Celebrating 40 years of Diplomatic Relations~

Gathering for the People Who Really Want to Meet Korea” Forum was held in Kitakyushu’s International Conference Center on April 24, 2005 to celebrate its 40th year in normalizing diplomatic relations between the two nations. Community-based organizations working for Japan-Korea relations as well as non-profit organizations have participated and announced its various activities and exchanges. Furthermore, Dr. Shunpei Mizuno, who is the most famous Japanese in Korea, came as a guest speaker to talk about “Building Personal Relationships between the Koreans and the Japanese.” MAI, a Japanese singer who made her debut in Korea, held a mini concert and called for a wide range of exchanges between the two countries.

Korea has come to light over these past couple of years as Korean dramas and Korean pop music are quickly capturing the hearts of the Japanese. Korea’s charisma seems unstoppable and snowballing as we speak!



MAI singing during the middle of the Forum



The Kitakyushu Beer Masonry Museum in Moji OPENS

The Kitakyushu Beer Masonry Museum in Moji opened in mid-May of this year, offering visitors something they never learned in school...history of BEER!

This two-storied Museum presents in-depth details to the history of Kyushu’s beer culture, including store windows, beer bottles, labels and advertisements that evoke a sense of nostalgia. All of them were specially reproduced to offer visitors a taste of the good old Taisho Era (1912-1926).

The Roman (Japanese for “Romantic”) Observatory Room on the second floor has a



Star-Shaped Swing Bell-A Wish Granter for Couples

The Kitakyushu Beer Masonry Museum in Moji INFORMATION:

ACCESS 1 minute walking distance from Moji Station (North Exit)

HOURS 9am-5pm (Admission until 4:30pm)

CLOSED Dec. 29-Jan. 3 and on facility inspection days

ADMISSION CHARGE

ADULT 100 yen (80 yen each for group from 30 people)

INTERMEDIATE & BELOW 50 yen (40 yen each for group)

FREE for 3 years and under

TEL 093-382-1717

FAX 093-382-1566

EMAIL info@mojibeer-mm.jp

URL <http://mojibeer-mm.jp/>



The Showa-Heisei Roman Room

star-shaped swing bell where couples can make wishes, the Showa (1926-1989)- Heisei (1989-present) Roman Room has a display of posters and information on the start of the Japanese brand beer. There’s so much to learn so come on down to Moji Ward and visit the Beer Masonry Museum and you will surely become a beer expert!

Hustle with Yosakoi at the Wasshoi Summer Festival!

Upbbeat music, rhythmic dancing, colorful outfits and faces painted in vivid colors. Any clue to what it is?

Japan has a whole new world of culture that is gaining popularity among the young and the old. Every summer during the last two years, Kitakyushu has given out *Yosakoi* dance performances at the annual Wasshoi Summer Festival. More than 50 amateur teams take part in this big festival, where each team competes against one another with their own unique styles of dance and music.

Yosakoi is a modern version of the traditional Japanese dance, namely the *Nihon Buyo*, and the word means 'please come at night,' which is the dialect of Tosa, the former name of Kochi Prefecture. *Yosakoi* originated from Kochi Prefecture to stimulate Japan's economy and rehabilitation of post-war Japan. Its popularity has now spread to other prefectures, including Fukuoka, and the songs are mostly composed to promote their hometowns.

The *Yosakoi Kitakyushu Troops* have once again competed at the Wasshoi Summer Festival this past August and received great responses from both the local and foreign visitors. Please join the fun next year and let's all dance the night away!



Winner of this year's competition

From Beijing
Beijing International Airport – Fukuoka Airport: 2 hours 20 minutes

From Dalian
Dalian International Airport – Fukuoka Airport: 1 hour 50 minutes

From Incheon
Incheon International Airport – Fukuoka Airport: 1 hour 10 minutes

Access to Kitakyushu

From **Tokyo**
by plane
Haneda Airport -- Kitakyushu Airport: 1 hour 30 minutes
by Shinkansen bullet train
Tokyo Station -- Kokura Station: 4 hours 32 minutes

From **Osaka**
by plane
Kansai International Airport -- Fukuoka Airport: 1 hour (approx.)
by Shinkansen bullet train
Shin-Osaka Station -- Kokura Station: 2 hours

From **Fukuoka**
by expressway bus
Fukuoka Airport -- Kokura Station: 1 hour 19 minutes
by Shinkansen bullet train
Hakata Station -- Kokura Station: 17 minutes

New Kitakyushu Airport Open March 16, 2006!

The construction for the New Kitakyushu Airport is well underway, which will be an offshore airport offering a 24/7 service. The 2,500m class runway will be able to accommodate large-scale jets and the passenger terminal building and the access road between East Kyushu Expressway Kanda Interchange and New Kitakyushu Airport have already completed its construction.



Environmental Clean-up; UNCED Local Government Governmental Honors for Environmental Education; Earth Summit 2002 Sustainable Development Award.

Industries

Traditional base— steel & metal, ceramics, machinery, chemicals, shipping

New industries— computer software, environmental technologies, robotics, assistive technologies

Local Life:

*With 1075 hectares of parkland, 3rd per capita among major Japanese cities

*Summer season of exciting festivals

*City of mountains and waterfronts

Upcoming Project & Events

*New Kitakyushu Airport (open on March 16, 2006)

*12th Asia-Pacific Regional Space Agency Forum (APRSAP) (October 11-13, 2005)

*15th United Nations/International Astronautical Federation (UN/IAF) Workshop (October 14-15, 2005)

Website: www.city.kitakyushu.jp/english/

Population:

1 million; 12th largest city in Japan, 2nd in Kyushu Region

Climate:

Temperate; Mean temp: 15

Sister-Friendship Cities:

Tacoma, Washington (U.S.A)

Norfolk, Virginia (U.S.A)

Dalian, China

Incheon, Korea

City Flower:

*Azalea *Sunflower

City Tree:

Taxaceous oak

International Recognition

UN Global 500 Award for