

Reception Party

July 7 (Fri) at 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm
1st Floor Foyer

Come experience Japanese culture and delicious food at this special reception party.

*Online pre-registration is required.

[Tanabata Festival]

July 7th corresponds to Tanabata Day, also called the “Star Festival”. Tanabata (a day representing the turning point of the season) is one of the five festivals and traditional events that remain a milestone in Japanese life. It is based on a famous romantic legend of the two stars, *Orihime* and *Hikoboshi*, being separated by the Milky Way. It is said that if you write a wish on a strip of five colors and decorate it on bamboo leaves, that wish will come true.



[Traditional Shinto Ritual Dance “Kagura”]

Since ancient times, Japanese people offer gratitude and devotion to the shrine gods and goddesses who send us the blessings by dancing at shrine rituals. “Kagura” is a harvest festival that performers and audiences enjoy together. During this reception party, we will introduce “*Yoshinuma-hayashi*” which has been handed down at Yoshinuma-Hachiman, one of the Tsukuba city’s shrines. The roots of “*Yoshinuma-hayashi*” go back more than six centuries ago when Japanese taiko drumming was performed during a ritual at this shrine. Since then, local young people carry on the tradition of this music and dance at the annual summer festival called Yoshinuma-Gion-Matsuri.

[Kagami-Biraki] (Opening the Mirror)

A traditional ceremony that involves the opening of a cask of sake, signifying “opening the mirror”, and sharing the sake with people. Sharing sake from a cask with everyone represents sharing happiness, and it is often held at weddings or celebrations in Japan. Let’s toast with the flavorful sake!

[Bon-Odori] (Bon Dance)

There are many festivals throughout Japan that express gratitude and involve prayers wishing for a bountiful harvest. During the reception party, we will introduce a summer dance festival called *Bon-Odori*, which is held in various places in Japan. Originally, it was an event to comfort the spirits of our ancestors. Today, it is also enjoyed to strengthen ties among local communities. Everyone is welcome to join the dance in the circle of Bon-Odori.

[Food at the Reception Party]

There will be casual Japanese meals available including *Onigiri* (rice balls), Japanese soba, Japanese style egg omelets, Teriyaki, and more. Vegetarian options will be also available. Please enjoy the healthy Japanese cuisine!

Japanese Cultural Programs

Cultural Programs will be held to introduce traditional/modern Japanese culture during the Congress.

【Tea Ceremony “Sado”】 *Online pre-registration is required.

7/5 (Wed) & 7/6 (Thu) 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm at Japanese-Style Room

Sado is a traditional Japanese tea ceremony based on Japanese spirit of hospitality called “O-Mo-Te-Na-Shi”.

【Flower Arrangement “Kado” & Japanese Calligraphy “Shodo”】 *Online pre-registration is required.

7/6 (Thu) 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm at Room 405

Kado is a disciplined Japanese art form that dates back to 800 A.D., Heian-period, showing the appreciation for flowers and plants.

Shodo is an art form of calligraphy, which is writing Japanese letters, Kanji and Kana, with a brush and ink. It is considered as a discipline of mind and soul.

【Origami & Tanabata Decoration】 *Free Event. Everyone is welcome and no pre-registration required.

Duration: 10 - 20 minutes/person

7/5(Wed) & 7/6 (Thu) 12:30 pm - 2:00 pm 7/7(Fri) 12:30 pm - 1:30 pm at 1st Floor Foyer

Origami is the art of paper folding. You will create sculptures, such as balloons and cranes, through folding techniques from a square sheet of paper. Please take your creations with you.

Tanabata decoration : The night of July 7 is known for a popular summer event called “*Tanabata*” in Japan. We will make wish strips and ornaments to decorate bamboo trees. Write your wishes on the colorful strips, and brighten the atmosphere of this special day and celebrate *Tanabata* which is the theme of the reception party.

【Evening Trips】 *Online pre-registration is required.

7/5 (Wed) & 7/6 (Thu) Meeting Time: 6:20 pm Meeting Place: Tour Desk

You can enjoy the tour of “CyberDyne studio” in Shopping Mall “iias TSUKUBA” and each one can enjoy shopping and etc, at iias TSUKUBA after the studio tour.

Itinerary	
7/5(Wed) 7/6(Thu)	6:30 pm Leave EPOCHAL Tsukuba 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm Tour of “CyberDyne studio” at iias TSUKUBA Transfer by reserved car

※ Meals are not included. There are some restaurants in iias TSUKUBA.

※ The reserved car is only available for one way from EPOCHAL Tsukuba to iias TSUKUBA

※ Please go back to the hotel by yourselves by using Tsukuba Express from “KENKYU-GAKUEN” station which is only a 4-minute walk from iias TSUKUBA.

Performance

During the Congress, there will be various performances occurring in the Foyer on the 1st floor. All programs will create vivid memories for the Congress participants.

Day & Time	Performers	Title and Contents
7/5 (Wed) 12:30 pm - 12:40 pm	The Kanto Region of JMTA	Singing, Dancing, and a Little bit of Movie -From Tokyo to Ibaraki-: Introduction of the Kanto Region of JMTA with arranged <i>Piko-Taro</i> style singing and dancing.
7/5 (Wed) 12:40 pm - 1:00 pm	Kunitsuku Taiko of Shimousa	“ <i>Shu</i> (protect)” “ <i>Ha</i> (detach)” “ <i>Ri</i> (leave)”: A performance of Tsuku Japanese Taiko drums of Shimousa. A performance of arranged “Ginza of Noda” that was discovered and inherited at local “Noda”.
7/5 (Wed) 1:00 pm - 1:20 pm	Kotobuki Chorus	Forever Young with All!: A performance by a chorus group with members averaged 80 years who started this group to maintain their health.
7/5 (Wed) 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm	Barbara Dunn & Jodi Winnwalker	Chanting Around the World: A vocal meditation based on two or three simple melody lines that allow variations on rhythm, harmony and expression.
7/6 (Thu) 12:40 pm - 1:00 pm	Yell	Messages from a Pilgrimage Route: Balafons, percussions and guitar. Music and dance performance by 5 people with disabilities and 2 supporters.
7/6 (Thu) 1:00 pm - 1:20 pm	MOCCA	Symphony of “Life”: A performance of ocarina of woods (wooden flute). Songs: Upidee, Down by the Salley Gardens, Battle Hymn of the Republic, and more.
7/6 (Thu) 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm	ELUV (Elise Zotos)	Crystal Healing Sound Journey with Eluv: Singing with pure voice along with layers of sounds created by crystal singing bowls. (Crystal Singing Bowls & Angel Harp)
7/7 (Fri) 12:30 pm - 12:50 pm	Agora Taiko	“ <i>Wa</i> ” of Everyone! “ <i>Wa</i> ” of Smiles! “ <i>Wa</i> ” of Drums! : Japanese Taiko drums performance by 10 people with special needs, their mothers, and the band master.
7/7 (Fri) 12:50 pm - 1:10 pm	Ahup-yan	The World of Improvisation by Keyboard and Theremin Instrument: Improvisation and pop songs performance by theremin and matryomin.
7/7 (Fri) 1:10 pm - 1:30 pm	Makichii	The World of Enka with Violins: 2 performers in Japanese traditional clothing will play the violin and sing <i>enka</i> songs from Meiji, Taisyo, and Showa eras in Japan.
7/8 (Sat) 12:30 pm - 12:40 pm	Shinetsu-Hokuriku Region of JMTA	Introducing One of the Three Major Unique Japanese Festivals “Onbashira Festival” Suwa: Showing a video of Suwa shrine Onbashira festival and a short performance of some songs including “Kiyari”.
7/8 (Sat) 12:40 pm - 1:00 pm	Cithare Performance	Cithare’s Clear Sounds that Echo through a Great Cathedral: A performance by French religious instrument, Cithare. Songs: “Jesus, Joy of Man’s Desiring” and more.
7/8 (Sat) 1:00 pm - 1:30 pm	Tucchi & Friends	Opens Your Heart - Piano Duo by Riki & Kenji: Piano duo by a young man with autism and his music therapist. Nobutaku - Violin and Flute duet by performers with autism.