

KUJI CITY Digest !

The City wellknown by the women divers, Kokuji-Yaki Pottery and Amber between Blue Sea and Green Mountain

Kuji City always welcomes Guests from abroad !

Thank you very much for your access to Kuji City Digest! We always welcome our friends from foreign countries. We have two international sister cities, one is Franklin City (Indiana, U.S.A) since 1960 and one is Klaipeda City (Lithuania) since 1989. Furthermore, Kuji City has welcomed many foreign guests with warm hospitality through the International Judo Tournament, the International Children's Conference, International Amber Festival and many other cultural events. We would like to introduce Kuji City to you, our friends all over the world.

Amber Production

One of the specialties of Kuji City is amber, like the above-mentioned country. Kuji is the largest manufacturing district of amber in Japan and has gained world recognition for its worldwide production and rank within the Northern Baltic Sea and Dominican Republic. The amber in Kuji City belongs to the pre-historic period formed between 85 million and 95 million years ago. Amber contains fossilized insects, plant life, e.t.c. and provides a significant clue in the global research of the evolution of pre-historic animals and plants.



Hokugen-no-Ama (Woman Divers)

Kosode Coast (a rias coast) has distinctively beautiful panoramic scenery and is also well-known for woman divers further north. In the past, they dove to earn extra money for living expenses while their husbands were out pelagic fishing. However, it's now a tourist attraction in this area. A live diving performance is held yearly from July till September at the Ama-Center on the Kosode Coast.



Kokuji-Yaki Pottery

Kokuji-Yaki pottery has a 200-year history and is a symbol of the traditional art of Kuji City. The traditional method of holding the pottery art festival, held every May, attracts many pottery fans from all over Japan. Every individual is given the opportunity to have a hands-on experience in creating his/her own piece of pottery.

Kyuzo MIFUNE / The Spirit of Judo Overseas

Kyuzo Mifune(1883-1965) was a disciple of the worldwide headquarters of the Judo sect called Kodokan. He was a Judo expert who had devoted his entire life to the art of Judo. In spite of his small stature(159cm, 55kg). He was awarded the 10th grade – the highest rank in Kodokan – for his invention of “Kuki-Nage” which is said to be the work of a God. Due to his extensive contribution in expanding and internationalizing the art of Judo, the Mifune Judan Memorial Gymnasium was set up in his memory. Mifune's accomplishments are the perfect motivation for young Judo athletes. He has shown them that becoming a World Champion is an attainable goal with enough hard work and dedication.



Hiraniwa Highland



Autumn Festival



Ten thousands of people come to see the biggest festival in the year.

Traditional Dance wishing to God for a good harvest of staple grains



Hiraniwa Highland is located in the western part of Kuji city and the height is about 1000m. The Highland is a good recreational zone with ski slopes, trekking courses, bull fighting, beef cattle ranch, cottages, a spa, and good scenery of white birch & azalea. Hiraniwa is a starting point to the high and beautifully traverse course that ranges to the highest Toshima mountain (1263m) in Kuji City.

Industry

Kuji City's infrastructure continues to industrialize and develop. The excess rock and sand dug up by the national underground oil storage construction base is used for the construction of the bay mouth breakwaters and harbors. The shipbuilding factory was set up on the seaside industry site in 2005. Kuji port has big potential for manufacturing industry, servicing forwarders, being energy providers and so on.

Amber Hall (Kuji City Cultural Hall)



The capacity is 1178 seats in the large hall, and 351 seats in the small hall. We had the Lithuanian National Symphony Orchestra Concert in 1999.



Japan

Iwate Pref.



City Profile

Former City of Kuji

As of 2003, the city had an estimated population of 36,596. The total area is 327.62 km². The city was founded on November 3, 1954. On March 6, 2006, the city merged with the village of Yamagata from Kunohe District to form the new city of Kuji.

New City of Kuji

Since the addition to Kuji, the incorporation of surrounding villages in 2006, the city's population (as of 2008) has grown to 37,569 people. The current total area for Kuji is 623.14km².

Kuji Municipality Office

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