

Yokkaichi for Everybody to be Proud of



Tomohiro Mori
Mayor of Yokkaichi City

Located almost in the center of Japan, Yokkaichi City faces the Suzuka Mountains in the west and Ise Bay in the east. While blessed with such rich nature, the city also enjoys a favorable economic location, thanks to its connection with the three regional economies of the Tokai, the Kinki, and the Hokuriku.

Moreover, Yokkaichi City boasts a wide variety of characteristics fostered through its rich history, culture, and tradition. Of particular note is a petrochemical complex that has been developing environmental technology based on lessons learned from the city's pollution history. Added to this is one of the largest industrial clusters in Japan featuring some of the world's most advanced and largest semiconductor plants. The complex and cluster serve as sources of the city's vitality.

Thus, while striving to achieve harmony between industry and the environment, as well as industry and culture, Yokkaichi City will continue to focus on parenting support, education, medical services, and welfare measures as well, thereby aiming to ensure continuous development as a city that is livable for everybody.

To develop the city in the form of "Yokkaichi for Everybody to Be Proud of," I would like to ask for your further understanding and support.



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"Face" of Yokkaichi - PR Character

Yokkaichi City is a very nice place!



Do you have a wish? While thinking of the wish that you want to be fulfilled, touch my extended tongue!

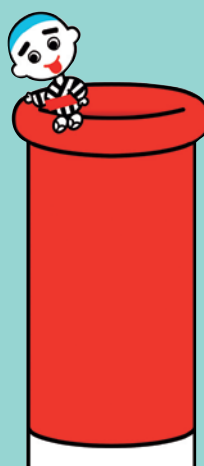


KONYUDOKUN

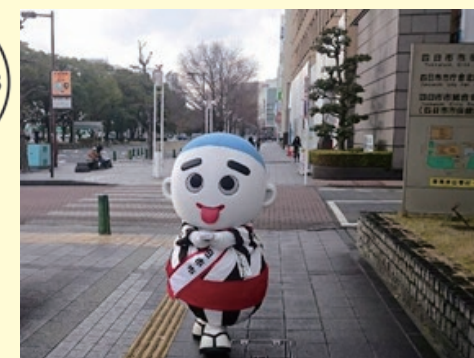
Mascot character created in the city's 100th anniversary year

His father is O-nyudo, the largest mechanical doll in Japan. (For O-nyudo, see p. 8.)

- Date of birth: August 1, 1997
- Sex: Boy
- Hobby: Surprising people
- Treasure: Kabusecha-tea, O-nyudo, Hinaga Japanese fan, night scenery at the industrial complex
- Age: 6 years old (permanently)
- Favorite: Tonteki pork steak, Somen noodles, one-pot dish



One Day of KONYUDOKUN



I'm gonna work hard again today!



Hello! This is Yokkaichi City. KONYUDOKUN speaking.



After lunch, I'm gonna work hard again in the afternoon!



It's afternoon. I'm on the Yoshizaki Beach to join a clean-up campaign!

History and Cultural Assets

Cultural Assets Showing the Long and Varied History

In the place where Yokkaichi City is currently located, people began to live in as early as the Old Stone Age. In this area, many ruins from the Jomon and Yayoi periods, as well as many articles from the Tumulus period, have been discovered. In addition, this area appears in the legend regarding Yamato-Takeru-no-mikoto, and also in one of the theories regarding the Jinshin War. These descriptions suggest how the area was in ancient times.

From the 8th to the 10th centuries, Buddhism spread in the area, followed by prosperity as the 43rd post station from Edo (currently Tokyo) along the Tokaido road in the Edo period. Thus, such active flows of people, goods, and information led to cultural development in the area.



Painted by Hiroshige Utagawa, Hoei-do version, *Mie River, Yokkaichi, The 53 Stations of the Tokai-do*, (property of a museum)



Tsuetsuki-zaka Slope



Forked road of Hinaga (Prefecturally designated monument)



Decorated earthen vessel—three-connected pots on a pedestal, excavated from the Kitanakadera Temple Remains (Municipally designated tangible cultural asset)



Kurubekanga Site (Nationally designated monument)



Kenshoji Temple Gate (Municipally designated tangible cultural asset)



Buddha entering nirvana/Daijuji Temple (Prefecturally designated tangible cultural asset)



Seated figure of the Buddha/Jobonji Temple (Municipally designated tangible cultural asset)



Bradford pear (nationally designated monument)

Ceramic lantern/Isawa -Banko, 1860 (Prefecturally designated tangible cultural asset)



Suehiro Bridge (Nationally designated important cultural asset)



Former Yogo Branch Office of the Yokkaichi City Office/Yogo Village Office (Municipally designated tangible cultural asset)



Discover the
Attractiveness of
Yokkaichi

Tradition and Lively Festivals

Vitality Created through Community Ties

In Yokkaichi City, there are many festivals and traditional events with a long history. Such tradition is preserved and respected in each community, and handed down to the next generation. While serving to foster local pride and as proof of strong ties among residents, these events attract many visitors even from outside the city, thereby helping to create vitality.



Iwatoyama



Kamewari



Kanko



Dai-Nenbutsu of Higashi-Hino and Nishi-Hino
(Prefecturally designated intangible folk-cultural asset)

This event is annually held on August 13 and 15, using a big drum with a diameter of about 2 m and a length of more than 3 m, a large gong with a diameter of about 1 m, trumpet shells, pipes, and other musical instruments. On August 13, a procession marches from Saikakuji Temple in Higashi-Hino to Kenshoji Temple in Nishi-Hino, and from Hino Jinja Shrine in Nishi-Hino to Saikakuji Temple in Higashi-Hino on 15th.



Myojin-maru, whaling ship float
(Prefecturally designated tangible folk-cultural asset)

Simulated whaling event featuring a Kujirabune model with gorgeous sculptures and banners. This event is held as an annual festival for Toride Shrine on August 14 and 15.

O-Nyudo float
(Prefecturally designated tangible folk-cultural asset)
Japan's biggest karakuri mechanized puppet which stands on the pedestal and is 9 m tall when the neck is stretched. The float appears in Dai Yokkaichi Matsuri (Great Yokkaichi Festival) and Suwa Jinja Shrine's Yokkaichi Matsuri (Yokkaichi Festival), amusing spectators.



Shishimai/Lion Dance at Tsubakigishi Jinja Shrine
(Municipally designated intangible folk-cultural asset)



Osuwa Odori/Osuwa Dance
(Municipally designated intangible folk-cultural asset)



Tsuntsuku Odori/Tsuntsuku Dance
(Municipally designated intangible folk-cultural asset)



Tomidaishiki Kenka Matsuri/Fighting Festival



Tomida Ishidori Matsuri /Ishidori Festival
(Municipally designated intangible folk-cultural asset)



Yoshizaki Coast and sea bindweeds



Cherry blossoms along the Kabakegawa River



Miyazumakyo Valley



Discover the Attractiveness of Yokkaichi

Nature

Enjoy the Richness of Seasonal
Nature Blessed with the Sea and
Mountains



Momiji-dani Valley



Fallow rice field in Oyamada



Fureai Dairy Farm and tea plantations



June Yokkaichi Family Rogaining Event

October Yokkaichi Matsuri/ Yokkaichi Festival

November Suizawa Autumn Leaves Festival

October National Family Music Competition in Yokkaichi

April Excite Yokkaichi Bazaar



Discover the Attractiveness of Yokkaichi

Event Calendar

A wide variety of events are held in Yokkaichi City throughout the year.

This page lists the typical seasonal festivals and other events, from traditional functions held annually to newly launched events.

May Suizawa New Tea Ceremony



August Yokkaichi Hanabi Taikai/Yokkaichi Fireworks Event



December Candle Night of 1,000,000 People in Suwa Park



May Yokkaichi Banko Festival



August Dai Yokkaichi Matsuri/ Great Yokkaichi Festival



October Yokkaichi Cycling and Sports Festival



January New Year Parade of Fire Brigades





Discover the
Attractiveness of
Yokkaichi

Tradition and Skills Handed Down for Generations

Hinaga Japanese Fan



Pride of Preserving a 300-Year Tradition

Hinaga Japanese fans (Hinaga Uchiwa) were first made in Hinaga, a post station along the Tokaido road. The fans are characterized by their round bamboo handles, allowing users to hold the fans comfortably. Since a *madake* bamboo is split into narrow strands, which are then woven into the fan as ribs, you will find the fan pliable like a bow.

In and after the Edo period, Hinaga Japanese fans (Hinaga Uchiwa) were popular souvenirs for visitors to Ise Jingu. Today, however, there is only one studio that makes such fans.

The studio's craftspeople are determined that they will absolutely preserve the tradition of making Hinaga Japanese fans. Putting their strong determination into each of their fans, they continue to make the items in order to allow users to enjoy mild, high-quality, and authentic wind.



Heritage of Tradition and Skills, and Development in Step with Changes of the Times

It is said that the history of Banko ware began when Nunami Rozan, a wealthy merchant in Kuwana, opened a kiln in the mid Edo period. Hoping that the pottery would be handed down perpetually for many generations, he is said to have put the mark of "Banko (perpetuity)" or "Banko Fueki (perpetually unchangeable)" on his works, and thus the ceramics began to be called as such.

Typical Banko ware include teapots made from purple clay and heat-resistant earthen pots, although there are many other various items available, such as tableware, sake drinking sets, flower vases, and ornaments.

In 1979, Banko ware were designated as a traditional craftwork by the then Minister of International Trade and Industry. In addition, many Banko ceramics crafts workers have been designated as certified traditional artisans. Thus, the tradition and skills of the pottery making have been handed down for many generations.

Meanwhile, a wide variety of Banko tableware is being created today. Suiting the lifestyles of people today, such items boast excellent design and high functionality, leading to the expansion of the pottery market.

A traditional craft with a tradition certificate featuring this tradition mark is a traditional craft that has been examined by a local union or a similar organization, and that has been designated by the Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry.



Yokkaichi Banko Ware



Certification
No. 27-233

Traditional Craftwork Designated by the
Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry

Local Specialties

Developed in Rich Nature

Isecha-tea (*kabusecha*-tea)

Mie Prefecture is Japan's third largest tea producer after Shizuoka Prefecture and Kagoshima Prefecture. While the main product of Mie Prefecture as a tea producer is "Isecha-tea," the specialty of Yokkaichi City is *kabusecha*-tea. A black net is placed over leaves of *kabusecha*-tea to prevent them from being exposed to too much sunlight, which helps to prevent their sweetness from changing into bitterness, and makes the tea even more tasty and sweet.



Oyachi Hand-Pulled Thin Wheat Noodles (Oyachi Somen)

In Oyachi, blessed with a suitable climate and an ideal natural environment for making *somen* noodles, hand-pulled *somen* noodles began to be made about 200 years ago, taking advantage of the cold winds blowing down from the Suzuka Mountains and the clean water of the Asake River. This item is shipped mainly to the Chubu region, gaining high popularity with its firm texture. On top of being popular among residents of Yokkaichi, the noodles are selected by many people as an excellent gift.



Excellent Nature and Tradition Handed Down for Generations

A Rich Lineup of the City's Specialties

Local Sake

Some historic records say that some of the city's local sake began to be made in the Nara period.

The area has produced high-quality rice for many generations. In addition, the area has favorable conditions for making tasty sake, such as clean underground water coming from the Suzuka Mountains in large quantity, and cold winds blowing down from the mountains. Thus, excellent sake has long been made in the area.



Cooking Oil

In the Edo period, rapeseed was already been grown actively in Yokkaichi. The oil from such rapeseed was known as Ise Water, making the area regarded as one of the country's main rapeseed producers. Presently, an established oil refiner continues to produce sesame oil and other items, using a method developed over many generations.



Confectionery

A wide variety of excellent confectionery has been handed down as a taste of tradition especially in and around the area where a post town along the Tokaido road was once established. Such confectionery is popular as an excellent souvenir as well. In addition, new products, such as one using powdered Ise Tea, are being created.



Yokkaichi Tonteki (Pork Steak)

This local specialty is thickly sliced pork sautéed with a thick sauce and garlic, with many long thin strips of cabbage added as relish. Each restaurant has its own recipe and taste. This solid dish will surely help you to recover from fatigue, as well as to enjoy an anti-aging effect and a skin-whitening effect.

Yokkaichi Tonteki Association Official Character
Teki-boo®





Yokkaichi Pollution and Environmental Museum for

Future Awareness Opened on March 21, 2015



Environmental seminar held in the Workshop Room/Laboratory



Yokkaichi Pollution Lawsuit Theater



Section of "Efforts for Environmental Improvement"



Section of "Environmentally Advanced City"

Section of "Outbreak of Environmental Pollution"

Hand Down an Even Better Environment for Future Generations

In the second half of the 1950s and the first half of the 1960s, Yokkaichi City experienced an outbreak of the Yokkaichi Pollution, causing many people to suffer from disease.

The museum was opened for the purpose of handing down the history and lessons from the experience to the next generation, encouraging efforts for environmental improvement, pushing forward with community development with the best balance between industrial development and environmental preservation, and disseminating information obtained from the city's experience and environmental technology both nationally and internationally.

The generic name for the Yokkaichi Pollution and Environmental Museum for Future Awareness, and the Yokkaichi Municipal Museum and Planetarium is ...

そらんぽ 四日市

Sorampo Yokkaichi

"Sorampo" has been coined from "sora (sky)" and "sampo (strolling)." *Sora* conjures up images of Yokkaichi, which has restored a blue sky, as well as *Jiku* Kaido (Travel Through Space and Time). In addition, the word also makes you associate with the space that you can experience at the municipal planetarium. Combined with this word is *sampo*, which expresses the city's hope that visitors will stroll through these facilities as if they were enjoying *sampo*.



Right: Mr. Yukikazu Noda, a plaintiff of the Yokkaichi Pollution Lawsuit
Left: Mr. Yoshiro Sawai, a civic activist
Speaking about their experience at a seminar



International contribution through a seminar on environmental technology (Receiving a trainee group from Vietnam)



Attracting many visitors from both inside and outside the city



Yokkaichi Municipal Museum's

時空街道

Jiku Kaido (Travel Through Space and Time)

Permanent Exhibit:



Kurube village



Baked clams



Guidance movie, Jiku Kaido (Travel Through Space and Time) Journey



Exhibition section, Shirasato-tei

Yokka-no-ichi

Experience-Oriented Permanent Exhibit

In Jiku Kaido (Travel Through Space and Time), you can enjoy a journey through time and space, and feel the development of Yokkaichi and changes in the lifestyles of people living there. This is an experience-oriented permanent exhibit.

In this section, you can trace the history of Yokkaichi from prehistoric and ancient times to the Edo period. The section features life-size reproductions of a pit dwelling in Kurube during the Yayoi period, the Yokka-no-ichi (market held on the 4th of every month) during the Muromachi period, and a typical lodging in Yokkaichi during the Edo period.



Yokkaichi lodging in the evening



Yokkaichi lodging at night



Memorial room for Fumio Niwa, a writer from Yokkaichi City who received an Order of Culture

Planetarium GINGA PORT 401

Amazing Optical Planetarium

Inspired by the port city Yokkaichi, the Planetarium GINGAPORT 401 on the 5th floor of the Yokkaichi Municipal Museum is positioned as a port for space travel, with the planetarium dome regarded as a spaceship anchored in the port.

The planetarium projector CHIRON401 is recognized as the device that projects the largest number of stars in the world. It can project as many as 140 million stars. Moreover, you can also view ultra-high definition visions realized by an 8K projector. Thus, by introducing the world's best technology and equipment, the facility enables you to see a beautiful sky that is as close to reality as possible.



Optical planetarium projector
CHIRON401



Beautiful sky that can be seen at the planetarium



Cosmic Gallery



Cosmic Gallery



Space suit (replica)



Cosmic Lounge



Sound insulation room in the Cosmic Cruiser

Cosmic Cruiser (planetarium dome)



Yokkaichi Asunarou Railway

Operation commenced on April 1st, 2015

Nicknames: Narou Green (left); and Narou Blue (right)



Planting flowers at Ogoso Station



Painting a station building (Hinaga Station)



Wrapped train



Train cars that won a Laurel Prize from the Japan Railfan Club in 2016



Inside of a new train car

“Asunarou” Toward Tomorrow

Asunarou Railway operates one of the country’s only three existing special “narrow gauge” lines, with the track gauge being 762 mm. This rare railway is also unique in that its service distance in total is very short, 7.0 km (i.e. 5.7 km from Asunarou Yokkaichi Station to Utsube Station plus 1.3 km from Hinaga Station to Nishi-Hino Station).

The railway recently had difficulty surviving. However, the railway is an essential transportation means for local residents and students commuting to schools along the railway line. In this regard, in April 2015, the railway operation was handed over to Yokkaichi Asunarou Railway Co., Ltd., a new company funded by Kintetsu Corporation and Yokkaichi City, allowing the railway to begin to create a new history.



High school students expressing support for the railway at the opening ceremony (April 4, 2015)



Industrial Night Scenery

Yokkaichi with One of Japan's Best Factory Night Views
Check the Beauty with Your Own Eyes.

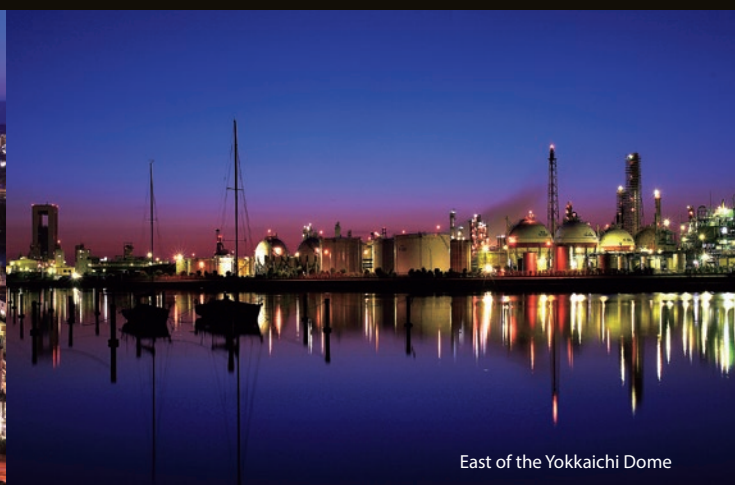


Industrial complex night scenery cruise

From best viewing spots



Yokkaichi Port Building Umi-terasu 14



East of the Yokkaichi Dome



Taisho Bridge



Isozu Pier



Yokkaichi Port

—One of Japan's Largest
International Trading Ports

Ranking of Trade Value according to Port Loading/
Unloading—11th in Japan
(Announced in 2015 by the Ministry of Finance)

*Excluding airports

Opened in August 1899, Yokkaichi Port enjoyed prosperity as a port for importing wool and raw cotton. After the building of a petrochemical industrial complex at the port, it developed into an energy port for importing crude oil, liquefied natural gas, coal, and other energy resources.

Presently, as a comprehensive port handling containers, bulk cargos, automobiles, and other items, the port sustains hinterland industries in terms of logistics, and serves as one of the most influential international trading ports in the Chubu region.



Yokkaichi Port Building

Fully Enjoy Yokkaichi Port

Constructed to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the opening of the port, Yokkaichi Port Building is 100 m tall. From Umi-terasu 14 on the 14th top floor, you can enjoy a panoramic view of Yokkaichi Port, the coastal industrial zone, and the Suzuka Mountains. The Nippon-maru, the Asuka II, and many other large passenger vessels make calls at Yokkaichi Port, allowing inbound tours and other fun events to be held at the port.



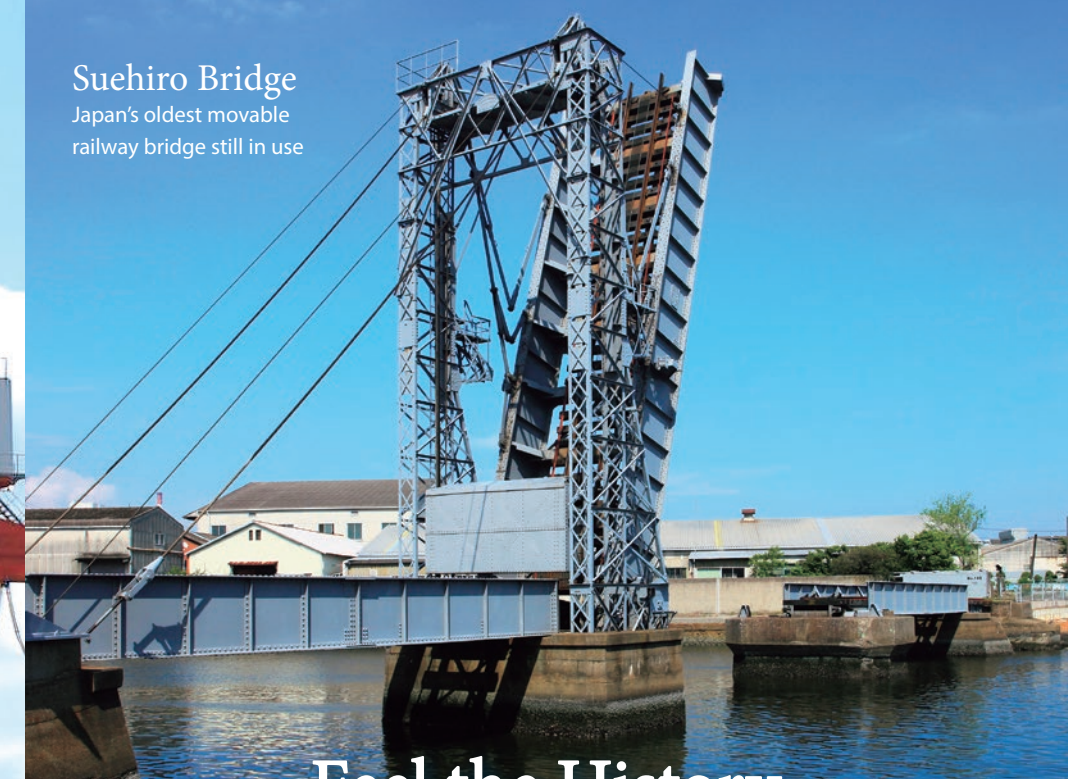
Umi-terasu 14



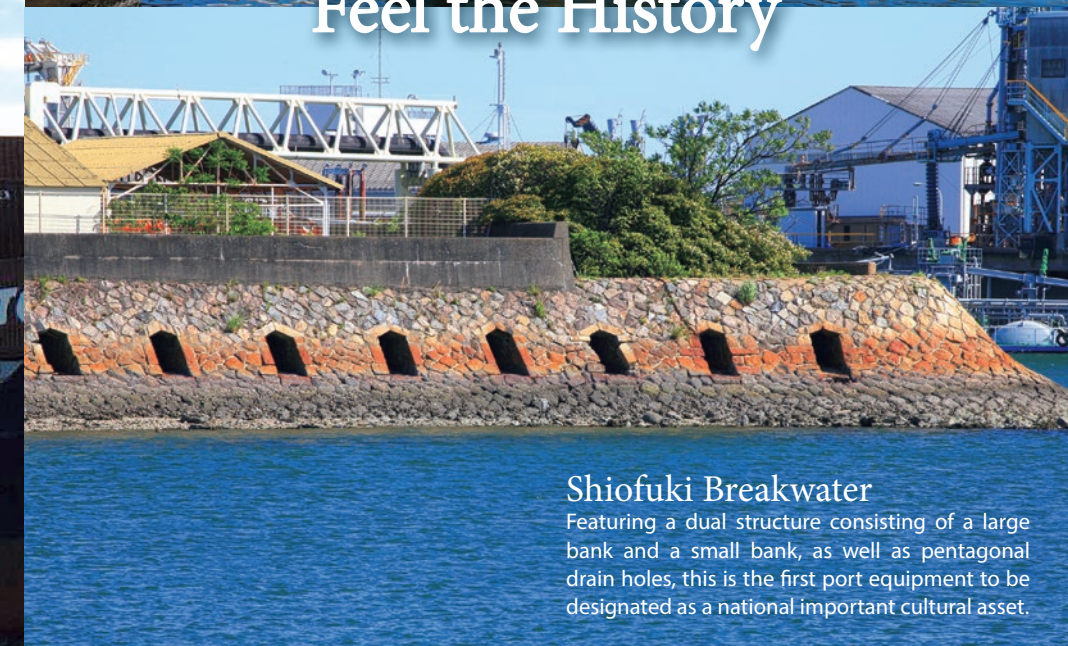
Asuka II



Suehiro Bridge
Japan's oldest movable
railway bridge still in use



Feel the History



Shiofuki Breakwater

Featuring a dual structure consisting of a large bank and a small bank, as well as pentagonal drain holes, this is the first port equipment to be designated as a national important cultural asset.



Industry

One of Japan's Largest Industrial Cities

After the opening of Yokkaichi Port in the Meiji era, a wide variety of modern industries, especially textiles, were developed in the city. After the end of World War II, in the second half of the 1950s and the first half of the 1960s, a petrochemical industrial complex was built in the city's coastal area. The construction of the complex, which is one of the largest in Japan, spurred the development of Yokkaichi as an industrial city underpinning the country's high-speed economic growth.

Today, the city serves as a cluster of a wide variety of facilities, including some of the world's most advanced semiconductor plants, which are located in the city's inland areas, as well as automobile, electric equipment, machinery, and food companies.

The history of Yokkaichi as an industrial city has kept pace with the changes of the times, and thus it can be said that the city is the epitome of Japanese economic growth.

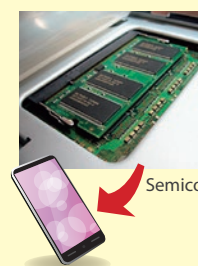
SMEs Increasing Local Vigor

In the city, there are many small- and medium-size enterprises (SMEs) with excellent technology and know-how. On top of supporting local manufacturing, some of such companies have successfully broken into overseas markets with their excellent technology.



Manufacturing line of metal-molded items, whose demand is high in foreign countries as well

From Cutting-Edge Parts to Daily-Use Products Made in Yokkaichi



Semiconductors



Lithium ion battery electrolyte



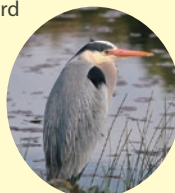
Vending machines



Flavor seasonings

Wild Bird Paradise in an Industrial Area?

Many wild birds come flying toward the Ajinomoto Bird Sanctuary, located on the grounds of the Tokai Plant of Ajinomoto Co., Inc. The approximately 5,700 m² greenery space is also used as a venue for various environmental education projects for citizens.



Active Flows of People and Goods Thanks to Excellent Location

The function of the city's industrial foundation and the progress of its urban development are underpinned by its excellent location and infrastructure, such as the extensive network of roads and railways, the presence of the Yokkaichi Port, and good access to Chubu Centrair International Airport.

An extensive expansion of the expressway network and launch of the operation of the SCMaglev Chuo Shinkansen in 2027 will drastically increase the flow of people and goods in and around Yokkaichi City.



Social Infrastructure



Roads

The Shin-Meishin Expressway (Yokkaichi JCT—Kameyama-Nishi JCT) is expected to start operation in the near future. Together with this, the extension of the Tokai-Kanjo Expressway (whose west route is already in full operation) and the National Route 1 Hokusei Bypass to the National Route 477 Bypass will further boost the possibility of the development of the city as a node of high-grade trunk roads.



Port

Handling energy resources such as crude oil and natural gas, as well as bulk and container cargos, in a comprehensive way, Yokkaichi Port serves as the key to logistics in the Chubu region. Further growth as an international industrial hub port, together with Nagoya Port, is expected in the future due to the construction of the coastal road Kasumi No.4 Trunk Road.



City Center

In the city center is Kintetsu Yokkaichi Station, which is the most used station in Mie Prefecture. In addition, there are many restaurants, accommodation facilities, venues for cultural and civic activities, office buildings, administrative agencies, and many other various urban functions.

Presently, the city's urban attractiveness is being even more enhanced, due to progress in redevelopment efforts, successive construction of high-rise apartment buildings, the establishment of company head offices, the renewal of Yureai Mall (extending from the east to the west of Kintetsu Yokkaichi Station) and the Yokkaichi Municipal Museum and Planetarium, and the opening of the Yokkaichi Pollution and Environmental Museum for Future Awareness.



Yokkaichi Municipal Hospital



Health and Welfare

Community Development to Ensure that Everyone Can Enjoy a Healthy Life without Worry

In the city, there are 26 home-based care support centers as consulting facilities for senior citizens and their families. In addition, there are three community-based comprehensive support centers where support is provided for patients with dementia and other diseases. Professionals are stationed at these facilities.

Moreover, the city has been pushing forward with a wide variety of efforts to establish an environment where everyone can enjoy a good health throughout their life, such as improving hospitals and welfare facilities for senior residents, and training home-visitor nurses.



Fun local event, at Yogo District



Home-visitor nurse training seminar



International Interaction

Community Development Featuring a Global Perspective

Featuring an international port and a large-scale petrochemical industrial complex, Yokkaichi City enjoys prosperity as one of the largest industrial cities in Japan. The city has established sister-city/friendship-city relations with Long Beach and Tianjin. Although these cities are different from Yokkaichi in size, all of them have a similar industrial structure, leading to the formation of the relationships. By promoting interaction in a wide variety of fields, such as economics, the environment, culture, education, and sports, the cities deepen mutual understanding.

Long Beach (California, U.S.)

Sister-city relationship concluded on October 7, 1963



- Population: Approx. 470,000 ■ Area: 134.7 km²
- Temperature: 28.3°C (highest), 7.8°C (lowest)
- Time difference: -17 hours (-16 hours in summer)

<Main Interaction Programs>

- (1) Mutually dispatching students and teachers
- (2) Inviting English instructors under the Yokkaichi English Fellows (YEF) Program
- (3) Inviting high school students and holding the Environmental Summit
- (4) Dispatching doctors from Yokkaichi Municipal Hospital
- (5) Promoting interaction in the fields of culture and sports

Tianjin (China)

Friendship-city relationship concluded on October 28, 1980



- Population: Approx. 15.16 million ■ Area: 11,917 km²
- Temperature: 31.0°C (highest), -8.0°C (lowest)
- Time difference: -1 hour

<Main Interaction Programs>

- (1) Inviting high school students and holding the Environmental Summit
- (2) Holding environmental seminars
- (3) Receiving environmental trainees from Tianjin City Government
- (4) Providing support for the Yokkaichi Fair to expand sales channels for items made in Yokkaichi
- (5) Promoting interaction in the fields of culture and sports



The Environmental Summit, held every summer with the participation of high school students from Tianjin, Long Beach, and Yokkaichi City. At the event, such high school students learn about environmental problems and give presentations on their learning results.



Sports interaction

Support for SMEs in the City to Promote Overseas Business Development!

Haiphong City, Socialist Republic of Vietnam

Demonstrating particularly remarkable economic growth in Southeast Asia, the Socialist Republic of Vietnam is now attracting much attention. Haiphong is the country's third largest city and is placed directly under the central government. Yokkaichi City has formed a strategic sister-city alliance with Haiphong City with its main focus on economic interactions. In addition, Yokkaichi City has also concluded a Memorandum of Understanding mainly on mutual alliance and cooperation in the economic field with the country's Foreign Investment Agency, the Ministry of Planning and Investment.



At the signing ceremony with Haiphong City (in August 2016)



Happy Harmony, winning the grand prix and the Prize of the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology at the 5th National Family Music Competition in Yokkaichi



In the city, there are many excellent high school athletes. They demonstrate outstanding performance every year in a wide variety of national-level sports events.



Culture

Disseminate the Excellence of Culture of Yokkaichi throughout the Country

Held based on the themes of “families” and “ties,” the National Family Music Competition in Yokkaichi is unique as a music event. The competition helps to disseminate the excellence of the culture of Yokkaichi throughout the country. With its profile increasing steadily, the event is attracting more attention year by year. Added to this event are the Entertainment Festival as Local Pride, the Yokkaichi JAZZ FESTIVAL, and many other events. Thus, the city strives to promote its culture and disseminate its cultural excellence.

PR to the world! UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage

Toride Shrine Festival Featuring a Whaling Ship Model (Nationally designated important intangible folk-cultural asset)



Handed down in the Hokusei area of Mie Prefecture, this traditional festival reproduces on the land how whaling was conducted in the olden days. The festival is one of the 33 events held in Japan that constitute “Yama/Hoko/Yatai: Float Festivals in Japan,” which was inscribed in the UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage list in 2016.



Members of Keizankai (Mie district) playing ceremonial court music of Japan at the Entertainment Festival as Local Pride



Yokkaichi JAZZ FESTIVAL



Sports

High Expectations! Outstanding Athletes in Yokkaichi

In 2021, the 76th National Athletics Meet will be held in Mie Prefecture (as Mie Tokowaka Meet). In Yokkaichi City, competitions for eight events will take place, encouraging the city to make preparations, such as constructing a new gymnasium, soccer field, tennis courts, baseball ground and other facilities.

Such a large event as a national athletics meet will help the city promote sports in a wide variety of ways, including fostering athletes, receiving promising players from around the country, and securing opportunities for residents to watch national-level games.



Yokkaichi Dome



Conceptual picture of the completed Central Greenery Space Gymnasium



Conceptual picture of the completed Kasumigaura Greenery Space



Parenting Support Center



Yokkaichi—Excellent Environment for Children and Parenting

Parenting

The city has established the Child Future Department, in order to implement seamless measures covering pregnancy and child-birth to infants and young people.

While ensuring cooperation with counseling sections that provide advice regarding maternal and child health, parenting, and children's development, the Child Future Department strives to improve support for parenting families. The department provides appropriate support for pregnant women before and after their child's birth, and ensures that children can receive medical services free of charge during their period of compulsory education. By offering even better support for children and parenting, the city strives to establish an excellent environment for children and parenting.



Parenting counseling



Parents & children support program "Panda Hiroba"



Parenting meister seminar for fathers



Information magazine planned and edited by meister



Students learning from each other in a class



Strive to Foster Spiritually-Rich "Yokkaichi Residents"

Education

It is often said that education is the basis of a country's grand, long-term strategy, which indicates the importance of education. Under the philosophy that education is to foster people, the city strives to foster children so that they can obtain problem-solving abilities that can be used even when they become adults, as well as to develop children's rich sense of humanity, and to foster spiritually-rich "Yokkaichi Residents," who have affection for and pride in their hometown Yokkaichi.

To realize these aims, the city has implemented a wide variety of measures, including introducing small-group education for 1st-grade students of elementary school and junior high school, with the maximum number of each class being 30 (with no lowest limit being set), and using ICT, such as electronic whiteboards. Thus, the city strives to enhance children's scholastic abilities and improve children's educational environment.



Class Design Guidebook for Enhancing Children's Problem-Solving Abilities—Yokkaichi Model, a collection of hints and examples showing how to lead classes at elementary school and junior high school

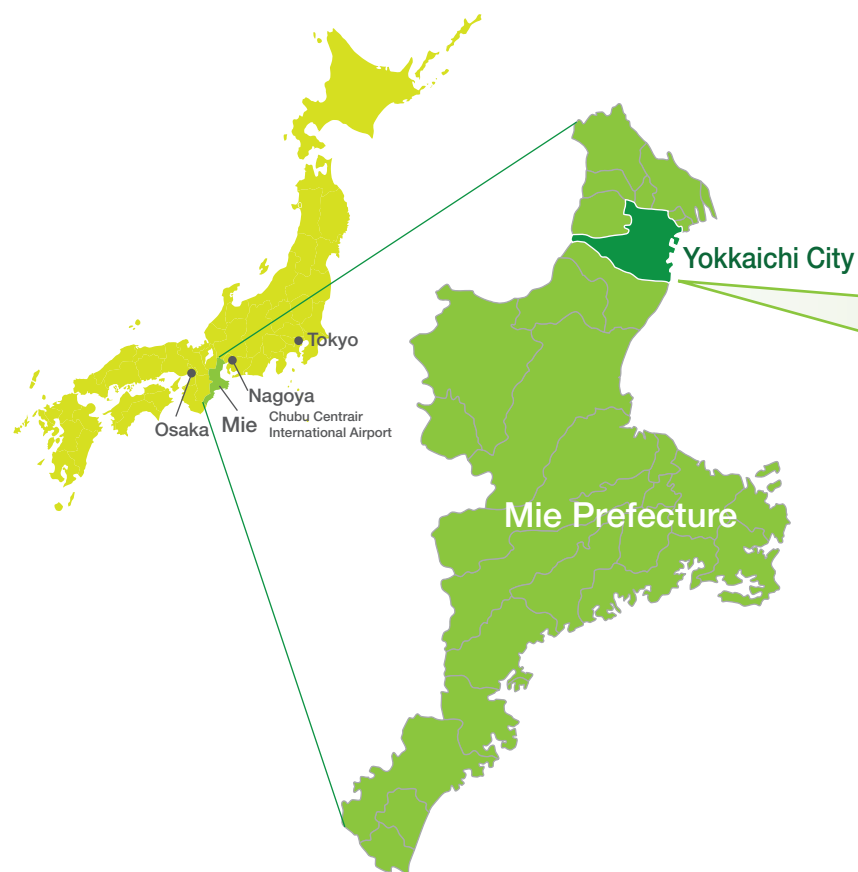


Electronic whiteboard being used in a class



Junior high school teacher cooperating with an elementary school teacher in a class

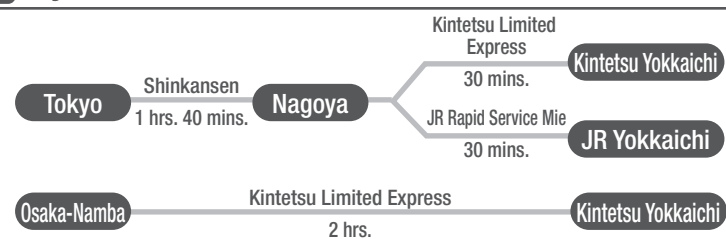
Outline of Yokkaichi City



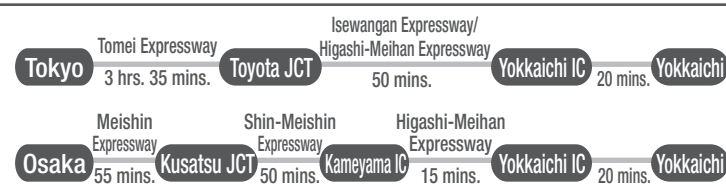
Access to Yokkaichi City



By Train

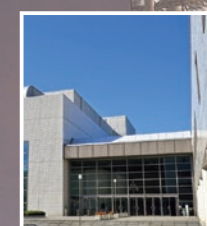
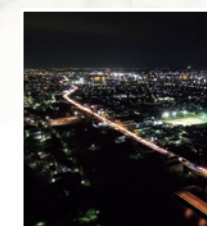
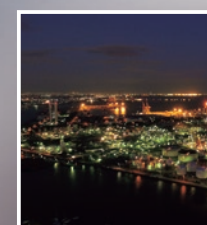
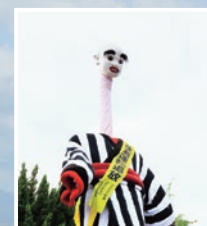


By Car



By Bus





Nature, community, people's daily lives... Yokkaichi is filled with a wide variety of attractions. Please visit the city and find your own YOKKAICHI STYLE.

