

**— 20th Anniversary of the Tokyo International Forum’s Opening Commemoration Event —**  
**J-Culture Fest: Nippon, Wagokoro, Hatsumoude**  
**Jan. 1 (Sun.) – Jan. 3 (Tue.)**  
**A “New Year’s Theme Park” for Experiencing, Discovering, and Tasting Japanese Culture**

Tokyo International Forum Co., Ltd. (head office: Marunouchi, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo; President Kiyofumi Kamijo) is proud to announce the first event to mark its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary: **J-Culture Fest: Nippon, Wagokoro, Hatsumoude** from January 1 (Sun.), 2017.

This event is an attractive cultural event intended to reaffirm our status as a purveyor of culture and festivities. Our festival of appreciation and gratitude will consist of two parts.

The “New “New Year’s theme park” will let visitors experience, discover, and even taste a sampling of Japanese culture including stage performances of “tradition and evolution” that preserve and transition traditional Japanese entertainment into the modern age.

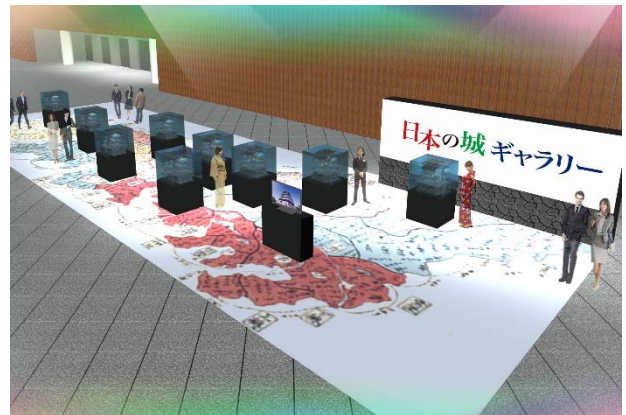
“The Japanese Castles Gallery” will showcase scale replicas of our nation’s most famous castles.

Please do read on for details.

We hope that you can join us at the Tokyo International Forum to greet in the new year of 2017.



*Iwai Mochitsuki: A celebratory mochi-making performance will be held with tasty samples.*



Thirteen precision-crafted replicas of Japanese castles will be on display including Edo and Nagoya Castles.



A variety of traditional Japanese music and theatrical performances will be held.  
Child actor Fuku Suzuki will be among our navigators.



Internationally award-winning *bonsai* miniature trees supplied by Omiya Bonsai Museum and Omiya Bonsai Cooperative will be on display.

## J-Culture Fest: Nippon, Wagokoro, Hatsumoude

<http://j-cf.jp/>



### ■ Event Concept

In 2017, Japan International Forum will celebrate its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary. As a show of appreciation, JIF will host a New Year's event involving "tradition and evolution" performances by first-rate musician and actors involved in traditional Japanese performance arts, and a "New Year's Theme Park" for experiencing, discovering, and even tasting Japanese culture. This multifaceted event will provide visitors with opportunities to become better acquainted with Japan's culture and discover its new worth.

- Date & time: Jan. 1 (Sun.) – Jan. 3 (Tue.), 2017      Note: The Japanese Castles Gallery will run to Jan. 6 (Fri.).
- Site: Tokyo International Forum Hall A, B7, B5, E, Glass Building Lobby Gallery—

### New Year's (Shogatsu) Theme Park

An event for experiencing, discovering, and even tasting Japanese culture specifically during the New Year's period including an *ozouni* tasting event, displays of artifacts and famous products, and even a temporary shrine for a lesson on making the first visit of the year. Visitors can wholly experience the many charms and attributes of Japanese New Year's celebrations.

- Date & time: 11:00 – 18:00, Jan. 2 (holiday Mon.) – Jan. 3 (Tue.), 2017
- Site: Hall E
- Entry fee: Free
- Description

#### ① New Year's Food Zone

##### ***Iwai mochitsuki***

A celebratory *mochi*-making performance that brings an *Edo* era custom to the present day with modern twists.

Four sessions will be conducted daily. Each session will consist of an approximately 20-minute performance and 20 minutes of distributing *mochi* samples.

##### ***Ozouni* broth sale**

Isecho, a restaurant specializing in Kyoto cuisine since its opening in the 5<sup>th</sup> year of the Shotoku period (1715), will serve samples of traditional *ozouni* broths served around the nation. Western-style *ozouni* prepared by the Imperial Hotel will also be available.

#### ② Famous Makers and Shops Zone

A Japanese-culture discovery area that brings together famous makers and sellers of *sake* and traditional confectioneries.

#### ③ Traditional Arts and Crafts Zone

##### ***Omiya Bonsai***

A display corner to be jointly supervised by Omiya Bonsai Museum and Omiya Bonsai Cooperative of Saitama. The displays will include descriptive panels on the attributes of *bonsai* miniature trees. Mini *bonsai* trees will also be available for purchase.

##### **Tokyo *Somekomon* Fabric Dyeing**

Tokyo *somekomon* is a fabric-dyeing technique that dates back 150 years. Mr. Atsushi Tomita, the technique's 5<sup>th</sup>-generation master, will conduct a workshop on dyeing luncheon mats using metallic dyes and stencil overlays.

##### ***Washi* and *Tsugigami* Paper Crafting**



*Iwai mochitsuki*



A *bonsai* workshop will also be conducted.

Mr. Junichiro Yamashita, a *kimono*-pattern designer and a creator of *tsugigami* collages that depict Japanese scenery using traditional *washi* paper, will exhibit works and demonstrate his art. He will also conduct a workshop on *tsugigami* collage-making.

**Tegaki Yuzen Hand-Painted Fabric Dyeing**

Gowns made from hand-painted *yuzen* fabrics will be displayed to convey the beauty and quality of *kimonos* worldwide. *Yuzen* artist Osamu Komori will also demonstrate hand-painted *yuzen* dyeing techniques.

**Traditional Craft Artists**

Nihon Furusato Teshigoto Kyokai (“Japan Local Handicraft Association”), which supports traditional arts & crafts practitioners nationwide, will help showcase many artists from veterans to up-and-comers.



Mr. Takeshi Nishimura,  
Kyoto *yuzen* sculptor.

**④ Japanese Culture Experience Zone**

**Sanpai (Shinto Shrine Visit) Experience**

A walk-through corner for learning the proper etiquette for visiting a *Shinto* shrine. *Sanpai* Masters will be on hand to guide visitors, even foreign guests.

**Kimono-Wearing Experience**

A corner organized by Ms. Toki Shimizu of the Kokusaibunka Kimono Gakkai (“International Culture *Kimono* Academy”) for showcasing the history of traditional Japanese wear with samples including the 12-layered *juni-hitoe kimono*. Dressing demonstrations and visitor trials will be featured. “Tokyo *Kimono* Queen” is also said to attend.

**⑤ Shodo Calligraphy Experience Zone**

Befitting New Year’s, a *kakisome* (the year’s first writing) experience will be offered. There will also be some activities such as producing smartphone covers with traditional Japanese design motifs. (Fees may be charged for these activities.)

**⑥ New Year’s Play Square**

With the help of the Recreation Association of Tokyo (RAT), this area will be a playground where visitors can learn and participate in traditional New Year’s recreational activities such as *hanetsuki* (similar to badminton), *karuta* cards, *fukuwarai* blindfolded face puzzle, and *kendama* ball-flicking toys.



A smartphone cover with a  
traditional design.

## ⑦ Stage Events

Performances of traditional music and theater will convey the pure spirituality and festiveness of New Year's in Japan. Japanese music and *taiko* drumming performances primarily by younger artists are scheduled for five daily showings. Child actor Fuku Suzuki will join us as a navigator.



Fuku Suzuki

### Jan. 2 (holiday Mon.): Next Generation Japanese Music Power

Tsugaru *shamisen*: Tsuda Nobuteru Renchu (5-piece band of Tsugaru *shamisen* strings and *wadaiko* drumming)

Japanese music ensemble: Relish (*koto* harp), Asuka Wakisaka, and two others

### Jan. 3 (Tue.): New Year's Taiko Drumming Fest

*Wadaiko*: Five groups including Oedo Sukeroku Daiko and Wadaiko Daigen-gumi

*Koto*: Fuyuki Enokido



New Year's Taiko Drumming Fest

## Japanese Castles Gallery

- Date & time: 10:00 – 20:00, Jan. 1 (Sun.) – Jan. 6 (Fri.), 2017
- Site: Lobby Gallery
- Description

The Tokyo International Forum is sited in an area with deep ties to Edo Castle. For example, a statue of Dokan Ota, the builder of Edo Castle, stands guard over the premises.

With the help of the master castle modeler Mr. Susumu Hasegawa, scale replicas of thirteen renowned castles from around our nation will be on exhibit.

### ① Edo Castle Display

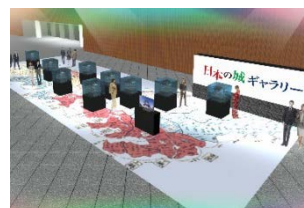
A replica of the main tower is complemented by historical artifacts and reference material such as a map of the castle's surroundings in the Kanei period (1624 – 1645) and architectural plans. There will also be a CG program examining the attributes and charms of the castle.

### ② Japanese Castles Gallery

Scale replicas of the castles of Nagoya, Hikone, Matsumoto, Aizuwakamatsu, Takamatsu, Inuyama, Okayama, Komine, Shibata, Hagi, and Ogaki are joined by a Kumamoto Castle replica showing the quake-damaged castle in its restored state. It was prepared specially for the event by Mr. Hasegawa.



Replica of Nagoya Castle



Site image

## **Tradition & Evolution Program (Announced in August)**

### **▼ Hiromitsu Agatsuma Japanese-Style Soul-Conveyance Fest “Kusabi” (Wedge) No. 5: Tradition and Evolution “Itadaki” (Summit)**

Artist Hiromitsu Agatsuma produced the *Kusabi* concerts out of the desire to convey Japan’s new sense of values that resonate in the world. He partnered with Japanese artists taking pride in the nation’s heritage and culture to arrange innovative sessions that shape new styles of Japanese performance arts. The fifth *Kusabi* concert will bridge the gap between tradition and innovation in ringing in our commemorative event.

- Date & time: 16:00 – 18:00, Jan. 1 (Sun.), 2017
- Site: Hall A
- Performers: Hiromitsu Agatsuma (shamisen player), Kudanji Ichikawa (Kabuki actor), DAZZLE (dance company), Denjirou Tanaka (kabuki singer), Eitetsu Hayashi (drum player), MIYAVI (guitarist), Tsunao Yamai (noh actor), Saori Yuki (singer)
- Cost: ¥3,900, all seats reserved, tax included, comes with one drink, no pre-school children permitted
- URL: [kusabi.org](http://kusabi.org)

### **▼ 「FORM」**

FORM—style and pattern—is a principle that inheres in the culture of Japan.

Welcoming Mansai Nomura as General Producer and media artist Daito Manabe as Visual Effects Producer, we will stage Noh-Kyogen benedictions that were once performed on the Noh stage at Edo Castle and Sambaso—one of the earliest form of dancing in Japan. Experience a modernized traditional stage performance where the universality of ancient FORM is depicted as a new style of Japanese beauty.

- Date & time: 12:00-13:00, 16:00-17:00, Jan.2 (holiday Mon.) and 3 (Thu.), 2017 each day.
- Site: Hall B7
- Actor: Mansai Nomura/Kyogen actor, Yoshimasa Kanze/Noh actor and others
- Cost: ¥3,000 per performance, all seats reserved, tax included, no pre-school children permitted
- URL: [j-cf.jp/form](http://j-cf.jp/form)

### **▼ “Tradition and Evolution”**

#### **Hatsuoto Tokyo Oto Kiko (“First Sounds Tokyo Sound Journey”)**

*Shakuhachi* flautist Dozan Fujiwara, said to be the prince of traditional Japanese music, joins star jazz pianist Hiroko Kokubu for an intriguing evening of collaboration.

- Date & time: 13:30 – 14:45, Jan. 2 (holiday Mon.), 2017
- Site: Hall B5
- Performers: Dozan Fujiwara and Hiroko Kokubu
- Cost: ¥3,000, all seats reserved, tax included, no pre-school children permitted

#### **World-Renowned Ventriloquism**

Ventriloquist Ikkokudo brings his fantastic performance that wowed audiences in North America and Asia with tradition-busting audacity and craft.

- Date & time: 17:30 – 18:30, Jan. 2 (holiday Mon.), 2017
- Site: Hall B5
- Performers: Ikkokudo
- Cost: ¥3,000, all seats reserved, tax included, no pre-school children permitted

#### **Shinshun wo Kotohogu (“Celebrate the New Year”)**

##### **Danshun Tatekawa 90-Minute Solo Performance**

A *rakugo* (comedy) talk performance by Danshun Tatekawa, who is breathing new life into the traditional performance art. This is a rare opportunity to see the performer, whose tickets are extremely hard to find.

- Date & time: 13:30 - 15:00, Jan. 3 (Tue.), 2017
- Site: Hall B5

- Performers: Danshun Tatekawa
- Cost: ¥3,000, all seats reserved, tax included, no pre-school children permitted

**Shinnen no Gyoko wo Kotohogu Yukyu no Hibiki (“A Celebration of New Year’s Good Fortunes with Eternal Echo”)**

*Yukyu no Hibiki* (“Eternal Echo”) is a traditional composition passed down by the Imperial Family over 1300 years. This performance by Tokyo Gakuso will be the perfect gift for celebrating the good fortunes promised by the new year.

- Date & time: 17:30 – 18:30, Jan. 3 (Tue.), 2017
- Site: Hall B5
- Performers: Tokyo Gakuso
- Cost: ¥3,000, all seats reserved, tax included, no pre-school children permitted