

Common topics

- (1) Spirits of "Always on the battle field" and "One hundred sacks of rice" (*A)
- (2) The non-nuclear peace declaration city, having a severe history restored from several devastation by wars, including at the end of the world war 2.
- (3) Thought applied to the Nagaoka fireworks with memorial, reconstructions, and appreciation. (*C) Not only from wars mentioned above but also from frequently repeated disasters of floods until 120 years ago, and several heavy earthquakes including recent 2014. (*B)
- (4) The commerce and industrial city, of which culture rich in artistic flavor, art, literature etc. , along with plentiful nature and food culture
- (5) The benefited history from production of crude oil between Meiji and Showa era
- (6) Traces of samura-culture and castle town continuing from Edo period.

Settaya town

- (1) Brewing industry Production of Japanese Sake, Soy sauce, and Soy beans supported by infrastructure (roads and rivers) , advantageous business regulation, and excellent plentiful water source since Edo period.
- (2) Continuation of business Thought of business continuity put into "KoteE" of Kina-Saffron Shu brewery and the household article written on the store-house door of Hoshino-Honten soy-sauce brewery.
Japanese KoteE is a decoration method of walls, formed with colored lime plaster "Japanese Shikkui" put on the covered white lime plaster on walls.
- (3) Folk religion Inari, Jizou, Jyuuni Jinja shrines
- (4) Art in Settaya KoteE, calligraphers (Sake, water, soy beans), Akiyama Takashi Poster museum, Shirou Kawakami (Picture drawing for children)

East side of the Nagaoka Sta.

- (1) Two schools inheriting the spirits of "One hundred sacks of rice", displaying textbooks used at an old school in the feudal domain period and at the two schools in the early Meiji Era.
- (2) Irrigation channels including the Fukushima-E channel, developed during the Edo period for increasing new paddy fields.
- (3) Great change in Nagaoka city, involved during the Taisyo Era, Yukyuzan-Park, Nagaoka Technical college, and accumulation of the oil-related industries.
- (4) Art treasure in the Komagata-Jyuukichi Memorial Museum, Sakanoue Elementary school, and Nagaoka High school.
Komagata-Jyuukichi Memorial Museum possesses a lot of excellent contemporary Japanese art including paintings and ceramic ware.

Admiral Isoroku Yamamoto Memorial Museum

(1) Two decisions to make regarding his private affairs and official business.

The private affair : He must have decided revival of an honourable family, and continuing the privilege.

The official business : He must have decided escaping war against the US, because he found the power difference between two countries.

(2) Calligraphy and phrases he left

- Always on the battle field
- Walk on a road of the truth at any time you encountered trouble.
- Even if a country is a powerful nation and always in wars, it becomes destruction. Even if the world is peace and the country forgets a fights, it becomes in danger.
- Show him how to do, tell him what to do, let him do it (by himself), and furthermore you should praise him; if not, anyone won't work well.

(3) Reconstructed house that Isoroku born, based on a memory of his family.

Although it looks very small, we should think this construction was great.

It had built in the desperate winter when the Yamamotos just returned from escaping trip of more than a few hundred kilometers in the end of the Boshin-War.

Kawai Tsuginosuke Memorial Museum

(1) One of leaders thinking and executing innovative changes from the old feudal domain system to a modern nation system in Nagaoka area, going before the other feudal domain systems in the country before the Meiji Restoration. (Political reformation and military reformation)

(2) New country drawn by Nagaoka feudal domain (*D)

Sensyu-ga-Hara

(1) Art Collection in the Museum of contemporary Art (including part of the Old Taikou collection) ~Europe paintings in the 19th century, Japanese modern western paintings in the 20th century (*E)

(2) Historic places in the Higashi-yama oil field (Start-up of industry in Nagaoka)

(3) Figure-bronzes, Monuments and several gardens since the Meiji restoration, strolling in the museums and Nagaoka Institute of Design campus

Others

(1) Rich nature including Natural parks and mountains around the city

Cherry-blossom, spring ephemeral of plants and insects. Snow-fall region (*F)

(2) Terrace paddies and ponds, Nishiki-Goi (*G), Tsunotsuki (Japanese bullfight), and the fire festival (the highest fire-pole in Japan), fall and winter season

(3) The monk 'Ryoukan'

(4) Stories and history in several Buddhist temples around the city

(5) Several foods (Fresh fishes in Teradomari, Rice-Niigata brand), and others)

(*A) Spirits of "Always on the battle field" and "One hundred sacks of rice"

Prior to the establishment of the Tokugawa Shougunate, more than 400 years ago, an age of war, named as the Sengoku period, was continued about one hundred years. In the final stage of the Sengoku period, six or seven large dominant influential warlords had competed in the central region of the Japan Islands to become a nationwide domination.

At that time the Makinos, ancestor of the feudal lord later ruling Nagaoka, was surrounded by these dominant influential warlords in all the directions. The spirit of "Always on the battlefield" was born in such a severe circumstance around the Makinos.

Later the Makinos became a subordinate of one of the influential warlords, the Tokugawas. Finally the Tokugawas became a champion of these warlords and finally established the Tokugawa Shougunate.

During 270 years from the Sengoku period to the end of the Tokugawa Shougunate, "always on the battlefield" had been continued to be the spirit of conduct in the Nagaoka feudal domain, not only for the Makinos family but also for subordinates of the Makinos.

In the word "Always on the battlefield", both a code of conduct and a posture are contained. Although people say it should be interpreted in some meanings, interpretations are different depending on their situations.

I think it is quite simple. It can be summarized that;

When you confront the difficult situation, do your best to seek to survive with considering for peace and prosperity forever.

I can't help thinking that the same thought exists in the phrase "One hundred sacks of rice", no matter how hard, invest for the future, in particular, educating young children.

(*B) Activity of Nagaoka to the peace, in particular with Honolulu

- In 2010, setting up a peace-education exchange agreement between mayor of Nagaoka and the chairman of Hawaii Japan-America Society.
- Sister cities since 2012, both municipalities share painful memories of the war. Honolulu was the site, of course, of the Japanese attack in Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941.
- The sister cities cooperates several exchanges since 2012 at the civilian level, including intervisitation of their junior high school pupils.

- Events to mark the seventieth anniversary of the end of World War II August 15 2015 (August 14 in Hawaii) including a joint commemoration by Honolulu and Nagaoka.
- U.S. Ambassador to Japan Caroline Kennedy offered a wreath for the ceremony held in the city House on Aug. 3, 2016, to commemorate victims of the U.S. air raids on Nagaoka in the end of World War II.

(C) The Nagaoka Festival held in every year August is a festival famous for its magnificent fireworks display that spans two evenings.

It was started in 1946 to memorize reconstruction from the tragedy brought in World War 2.

To the Nagaoka fireworks, wholehearted three wishes/desires are loaded. If you have a chance to enjoy the Nagaoka fireworks, we hope you remember such a background the fireworks have.

First	The memorial service to the people who died by the war
Secondly	Thanks to the foregoing people who made efforts for revival of the city from the two wars and several desearsters including the large earthquake in 2004,
Thirdly	A wish for lasting peaces all over the world, are loaded with.

(D) New country drawn by Nagaoka feudal domain

Why Nagaoka, such a small local feudal domain, participated in the civil war?

Nagaoka had succeeded in modernization of military and fiscal reform when no feudal domains at that time inside the country could done these reformations in such a short period. If these reformations couldn't done in Nagaoka, the standpoint of armed neutrality and mediating role had not occurred in this local small feudal domain.

Nagaoka feudal domain had to stand on the side to support the Shogunate. Because Nagaoka feudal family had been not only one of the prestigious "Fudai daimyos" (hereditary supporting members of the Tokugawa Shogunate) but also been appointed to foreign-affairs director position as one of chief members in the Shogunate. Nagaoka decided to become a mediator between new government group and the Shougunate group.

In the battle field, Tsuginosuke attended the meeting with a desperative efforts, however unfortunately failed the mediation.

There might have existed a lot of reasons. If one of them wouldn't occur, results would have become be something different.

That's all about it.

<p>(*E) Highlight of the Museum and the peripheral</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) One of the most popular masterpieces in the museum is, in my opinion, The Plain of Colombes, White Frost (1873) by Claude Monet, or Cariatide entre deux Atlantes (1876) by Auguste Rodin (Marble sculptures) (2) Beautiful walking paths around the museum, backyard of the museum, wide turf area surrounded by wooded area of "Furusato-no-mori", and backyard of the Nagaoka Institute of Design. (3) Group-sculptures of "The one hundred sacks of rice" A lot of stories can be told in front of the sculptures. Including history of Nagaoka and Japan, importance of education and importance of peace. (4) Several sculptures and monuments They have all excellent and interesting stories.
<p>(*F) One of the largest cities having heavy snow-fall in Japan Deeply heavy snow devastation in 1963 has been memorized as one of the most serious snow-fall disasters for the last several decades. Nagaoka had been isolated thoroughly because of no logistics and human transportation during one week. After that time, long underground water piping system to melt snowfall has been equipped in large area of urban region, and it left the heavy-snow devastation from the city. After the Shinkansen-railway system and the highway road system were installed between Niigata prefecture and Tokyo area, no isolated disasters has been occurred.</p> <p>There is a phrase in snow regions, "If winter comes, can spring be far behind?". In the heavy snow-fall regions like Nagaoka, flowers and trees bloom successively after snow has melted away. For example, azalea, camellia, Chinese peony and peony, lilies, rose and so on. They bloom successively within only two months. I think this spring is the best season in Nagaoka area.</p>
<p>(*G) The best beautiful color in Nagaoka, I suggest is that of Nishiki-Goi. Yamakoshi district is famous for the birthplace of the Nishiki-Goi, beautifully colored carps, which can grow quite large, sometimes over 100 cm. Their bodies are very beautiful beyond description. Fish bodies of large Nishiki-Goi, putting delightful red on a thick velvet-like white and/or exquisite (superb) lacquer-like black are extremely gorgeous. Yamakoshi is also known as the largest Nishiki-Goi farming place. Nishiki-Goi ponds are scattered in the entire area of the district. Scenery of a lot of the Nishiki-Goi ponds found in morning mist spread within wide view area is also well known for one of the best beautiful scenery, and I recommend it the most beautiful camera-spots in Nagaoka in all seasons.</p>