

The JITI Journal

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Welcome

The JITI Journal is a bimonthly publication of the Japan International Transport Institute, USA (JITI), in which JITI shares information on transportation developments in Japan and elsewhere, as well as recent JITI programs. As a supplement to our regular events, we hope that the Journal likewise serves as a resource for the transportation community.

We hope this issue finds you well and apologize for the lateness of this issue, it's been a busy month here at JITI USA!

In this issue, JITI staff member Tatsuya Izumi writes a feature on public restroom facilities in Japan and changes being made in advance of the 2020 Olympic Games. In addition, senior representative Hiroki Sakamoto writes an article on the city of Sakai and the history and traditional industry and culture that can be found there.

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JITI Events

UPCOMING:

[JITI 2017 Railway Workshop: Transit Oriented Re-Development Using P.P.P](#)

The Trump administration's 1 trillion-dollar infrastructure plan has brought much attention to how public infrastructure projects will be carried out in the coming years. As anticipation for updating and fixing the outdated and crumbling infrastructure in the U.S. grows, Public Private Partnership is thought to be the solution, as these capital improvement projects tend to come with a hefty price tag, and public dollars are stretched thin.

For this workshop JITI has invited experts of PPP, particularly its use in transit oriented development, from Japan and the U.S. to discuss the challenges and benefits of PPP, lessons learned, and important takeaways for applications on future projects.

Quick Links

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Upcoming Events

December 5th, 2017: [JITI 2017 Railway Workshop: Transit Oriented Re-Development Using P.P.P](#) at the Hay Adams

Our Sponsor



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**Due to high interest, registration is currently FULL for this event.
Please call JITI for updates on openings. Thank you for your
understanding.**

PAST:

[**JITI 2017 Aviation Seminar Global Harmonization of the New Air Navigation System**](#)



On May 18th, JITI hosted a seminar at the Willard Hotel. Considering the dramatically increasing air traffic volume and the expectation that air traffic will steadily increase in the future, JITI invited officials from Japan, the U.S., and Europe who had been involved in the development of future air traffic systems, as well as academic experts, and airline industry specialists. The speakers discussed the current situation of each program, mutual cooperation between the programs, and the challenges inherent in future development and deployment of the systems.

Click [here](#) for overview, presentation materials, and bios of the keynote speakers.

Public Restroom Facilities in Japan

by Tatsuya Izumi

Restrooms matter. All human beings use the restroom every day. However, experiences in public restrooms are not always great. Sometimes facilities are not cleaned, smell bad, or are so congested that you aren't able to use a stall.

In international airport terminals, there are a lot of people from various countries, with diverse cultural backgrounds, using the public restrooms. Given the demand for restrooms, and the diversity of passengers, airports often find it necessary to improve the facilities in their public restrooms. In addition to this, the Japanese government is promoting a "Visit Japan" program to increase travelers to Japan. This program hopes to promote the tourism industry in Japan to one of the key industries which will sustain the Japanese economy in the future. A restroom improvement initiative is mentioned as an important initiative in the action plan for this program.

Narita International Airport is a key player in the initiative, and the airport has put great effort into the program. After the airport opened the "Gallery TOTO" in the post-security area in Terminal 2, where passengers can use state-of-the-art restroom equipment, the airport has pursued a comfortable experience in restrooms for all passengers. This includes replacing the traditional Japanese style toilets with Western style ones, as well as

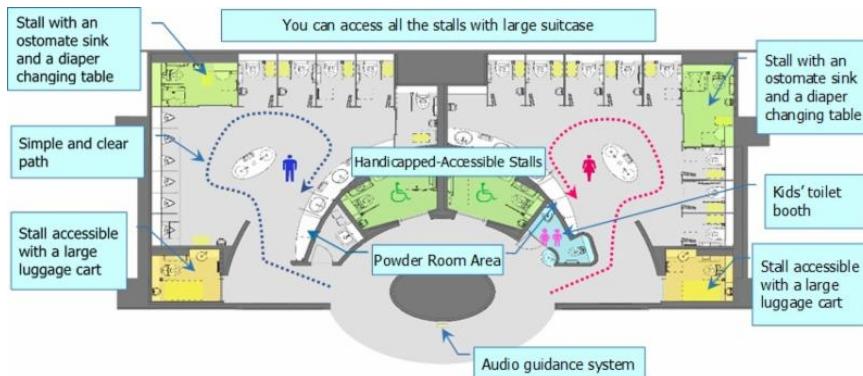
installing bidets as part of a preparation initiative for the 2020 Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic games.



(still from youtube video located [here](#))

In August of this year, as part of the restroom improvement initiative, Narita International Airport opened a newly designed restroom in the arrival lobby and departure retail area, which is after security checkpoints.

These restrooms not only incorporate cutting-edge toilet equipment, but are also designed based on the concept of Universal Design. This design idea provides accessibility to older people, infants, and people with and without disabilities, incorporating audio guidance for sight-impaired people, flash light alarm for hearing-impaired people, handrails for older or half-paralyzed people, small toilets for children, toilet booths with ostomate and diaper changing devices to avoid congestion at the handicap-accessible stall and so on.



The layout of a deigned restroom in T2 (Source: Narita International Airport)

The airport carefully designed the configuration of toilet booths and washbasins in order to allow people to smoothly move around in the restrooms with large suitcases. Also, you can easily enter and use all of the stalls with a large suitcase.

Both the men's and women's rooms also have a powder room area.



Interior of Women's Room (Source: Narita International Airport)

Narita Airport is not the only entity which is working hard to improve customer experience at restrooms in Japan. Some railway companies, such as Tokyo Metro and Odakyu, are renovating their restrooms as well, using the Universal Design concept at their train stations. Some department stores have super-luxury restrooms which are well beyond realm of current public restrooms.

Why don't you visit Japan and have an exceptional and hospitable experience in the restrooms?

Sakai A City of History and Traditional Industry

by Hiroki Sakamoto

Sakai has been a major part of Japan's economic and cultural identity throughout the country's history. In ancient times, the local suburb of Mozu, was chosen as the site for a necropolis, featuring the Nintoku-tennō-ryō Kofun, as well as others. Later, in the middle ages, Sakai became an important hub for overseas trade, and developed as a city with a spirit of liberty and self-governance. After World War II, the foundations of modern-day Sakai were laid through projects such as the creation of an extensive dockside industrial complex and Semboku New Town, a large-scale residential neighborhood.

The city has a population of 830,000, and was made a "city designated by government ordinance" in 2006. This gives the city some powers normally reserved for prefectural governments. As such, Sakai is the major city in southern Osaka, and a driving force behind the economy and culture of the Kansai Region.

This article will introduce several famous sightseeing spots in Sakai.

Nintoku-tenno-ryo Kofun

Nintoku-tenno-ryo Kofun is also known as Mozu-mimihara Central Mausoleum of Emperor Nintoku, Daisen-ryo Kofun, or Daisen Kofun. The tomb has a mound length of 486 m, which makes it the largest kofun in the country, as well as one of the largest burial mounds in the world. On each side of the constricted (narrowest) part of the keyhole mound is a projection referred to as a tsukuridashi, and the mound is surrounded by a triple moat. The tomb was built in the mid-5th century. Around Nintoku-tenno-ryo Kofun are more than ten smaller-sized satellite tombs. In 1872, a stone coffin, a set of armor and other burial artifacts were accidentally

found and then reburied. Sketches made at the time survive and tell us the details of these pieces even now. The kofun was also a famed cherry blossom viewing spot in the olden days.



[□□□□□](#) by [lasta2](#) is licensed under [CC BY-NC 2.0](#)

Sen-no-Rikyu

During the 16th century the feudal lords throughout Japan were continually fighting for power, while the wealthy merchants in Sakai supported the peace and prosperity of the city by amassing a huge amount of wealth through foreign trade and other activities.

These merchants also supported the advanced cultures of Japan at the time including the sado - tea ceremony. Sen-no-Rikyu is the most famous master of sado. He raised the tea ceremony to an art form called wabi cha - a simple and austere type of tea ceremony - which is still widely practiced today.



Portrait of Sen-no-Rikyu (1522-1591) (from the collection of the Sakai City Museum)

Rikyu was one of the wealthies Sakai merchants. The financial power of the merchants was so formidable that Sakai remained a self-governing city; even the rulers of the country did not dare to challenge them. While the Sakai merchants at that time were famous for their extravagance in buildings, wabi-cha was sometimes practiced in a very small two-tatami-mat (3.3 square meters) room.

The wealthy merchants lived surrounded by fusuma sliding doors and byobu folding screens decorated with gold-leaved pictures, but they enjoyed tea in an extremely simple room, eliminating everything that looked unnecessary, in spite of all the luxuries available to them. When there was nothing else to eliminate, it created a certain tense atmosphere, which they felt was the ultimate luxury and the most creative form of art.

There is one anecdote about Rikyu and his wabi-cha. When TOYOTOMI Hideyoshi, the supreme ruler at that time, visited Rikyu, it is said that Rikyu clipped and threw away all the rare morning glory flowers he had, except for one which he used as decoration to welcome and entertain Hideyoshi.

However the tense atmosphere created by the tea ceremony turned into a more serious tension as relations between the two men became strained. Eventually Hideyoshi ordered Rikyu to commit seppuku or ritual disembowelment.



[*A Moment of Peace*](#) by [Jason Walton](#) is licensed under [CC BY-NC 2.0](#)

Sakai Cutlery

Due to the manufacturing during the fifth century of tools for building the city's many tumulus burial mounds, it is said that a foundation from which forging technologies would develop was deeply rooted in Sakai. The subsequent cultivation, in the second half of the sixteenth century, of tobacco brought from Portugal to Japan spurred heavy demand for knives capable of cutting tobacco leaves. Sakai became the first area to produce these new "tobacco knives." The unique sharpness of these knives caused the government to designate the Sakai-kiwame brand during the Edo period, creating a new government monopoly whose reputation for quality would gain recognition throughout the nation.



[*Sakai Takayuki Syousin 240mm Wa Gyuto Swedish Steel*](#) by [Matus Kalisky](#) is licensed under [CC BY-NC-ND 2.0](#)

The traditional techniques used to manufacture Sakai cutlery evidences a

division of labor among multiple workshops, including smith forging (hizukuri), where the metal is softened by heating and hammered out into the shape of the blade; sharpening and honing (hazuke or togi), where the metal is sharpened to give it an edge; and hafting (ezuke), where a haft, or handle, made of rot-resistant magnolia wood is attached to the blade.

Sakai knives are crafted with the passion of Sakai craftsmen, and respected to this day by not only by the professional chefs of Japan, but also of Europe and America.

If you have a chance to visit Osaka or Kyoto, why don't you extend your journey to Sakai and experience Japanese history, culture, and traditional industries?

Articles of Note

[Tokyo Metro will expand the number of locations where its "Tokyo Subway Ticket" special passenger tickets for foreign visitors to Japan can be purchased.](#)

[JR East is expanding their Joyful Train product line-up for inbound tourism.](#)

[In Tokyo, life is not complete without trains.](#)

[JR firms offer cross-country train tour featuring a ride on the resurrected Cassiopeia.](#)

[Tokyo Increased Security Ahead of Trump's Visit.](#)

[Tokyo Metro to turn on the lights at 2 'shadowy stations'.](#)

Stay in Touch with JITI

Please follow the Japan International Transport Institute Twitter feed at [@JITIUSA](#) or check back with our website to get the latest information on workshops and seminars.

Thank you for reading the JITI Journal. Until the next issue, whatever your mode, travel safely! We wish you a happy and healthy holiday season and look forward to next year.

The JITI Team