

General information about Tsukuba

Tsukuba City is located in the southwest of Ibaraki prefecture, approximately 50 km to the southwest from the prefecture capital, Mito and about 50 km to the northeast of New Tokyo International Airport in Narita. It is situated on the part of the Joso Plateau, which is 20-30 m above sea level. In area, it is the second largest city in the prefecture encompassing an area of 259.53 square kilometers, most of which is made up of Tsukuba Science City. Beautiful natural features border Tsukuba. Mount Tsukuba is at its northern borders and Japanese second largest lake, Lake Kasumigaura, lies to the east. Richly wooded plains, fields and tranquil rice paddies make a peaceful pastoral landscape.

There are 46 educational and research institutes and 230 private research institutes in this science city often called the "brain of Japan". Among these research facilities, some are open to public and are gaining popularity as tourist spots off the beaten track. Such facilities, where people can learn and satisfy their curiosity are fully equipped but inexpensive. The atmosphere in the Research and Educational District is incomparable. Matsumi Park, Doho Park, Tsukuba Botanical Garden and National Science Museum show another side of Japan's leading technological city.

March is generally with low temperature (Max: 15 Min: 3 C), occasional rain and humidity. Light overcoat is recommended for staying out. Japanese currency is yen. Approximate exchange rate is, 1 US \$ = 105 yen (2004, Oct.). Currency can be exchanged at the Narita airport upon arrival at the banks. The banking machines do not have a separate currency exchange counter. In Japan sales tax is 5 %, which is no refundable. Standard electrical power is 100v.

Accommodation

Hotel Tsukuba Epochal (Official Hotel for this Congress, TEL : 029-861-1166 FAX : 029-860-7701): 9,400 yen (ca. 55 US\$; Special discount rate for the congress, single bed, per person per night, with breakfast, with tax). Five minutes walk to Tsukuba Center Bus Terminal and Shopping Mall. **Registration of speakers will be held here and Official Congress Dinner (March 16) will be in the annex.** <http://www.epochal.or.jp>

How to Come to Tsukuba

All the foreign scientists will be arriving in Japan at the New Tokyo International airport in Narita, which is located at 50 km to the north east of Tsukuba. Highway bus service called Airport Liner Narita NATT's is available at the international airport terminal. The timetable of Airport Liner is given below for your convenience. The bus tickets (A one-way ticket; 2,500yen for adults) can be purchased at the

arrival lounge and reservation is not required for the arrivals. The participants are requested to take the nearest possible bus. The travel time is around 90 minutes from Narita to Tsukuba. The bus will stop at the Tsukuba center bus terminal located at the city center.

From Tsukuba Center Bus Terminal to Hotel Tsukuba Epochal, it takes five minutes on foot (the taxi fee; 600yen). <http://www.city.tsukuba.ibaraki.jp/english/traffic/>

Timetable of Airport Bus between Narita & Tsukuba Center

All busses from Narita Airport can be taken without reservations. You can buy tickets at the Keisei Counter on the first floor of the arrival lobby of the airport.

Bus Stops: Narita Airport: Terminal 1; No. 15 Terminal 2; No. 12

FROM TSUKUBA	TO NARITA	FROM NARITA	TO TSUKUBA
6:20	8:00	7:20	9:00
7:20	9:00	9:05	10:45
8:50	10:30	10:35	12:15
10:20	12:00	12:50	14:30
11:55	13:35	14:35	16:15
13:25	15:05	16:15	17:55
14:35	16:15	17:20	19:00
15:50	17:30	18:40	20:20
17:35	19:15	20:00	21:40

You can also go by taxi, but it will cost you about 14,000yen.