

## The Outline of Ichikawa City



The birth of Ichikawa City dates back to 1934 (9<sup>th</sup> year of Showa era) as a front gate city of Chiba prefecture merging the then three towns and one village (Ichikawa, Yawata, Nakayama and Kokubun).

The city is situated in north-western part of Chiba prefecture facing Matsudo city in the north, Funabashi and Kamagaya cities in the east, Urayasu city and the bay of Tokyo in the south and it is located in the 20 kilometer range from the heart of metropolitan city of Tokyo. The traffic networks that link between Tokyo and each region of Chiba prefecture are heavily converged throughout the city with easier accessibility of railway stations and highway entrances that are laid out in the direction from east to west.

Ichikawa city, sitting along side of Edo river that flows slowly, with its Japanese black pines gregariously grown in the city and thickets scattered on the hillsides, still retains natural surroundings in abundance albeit its geographical closeness to the metropolitan city of Tokyo. The city is still in progress as one of the major cities in the greater Tokyo metropolitan area supported by assiduous and accumulated efforts of many predecessors of the city as well as by geographical conditions such as easier accessibilities of the traffic systems.

Our mission is to take over the fruits of its city planning so far implemented, to develop them further, and to effectively pass a baton to the next generations.

**1. City location:**

East longitude: 139 degrees (identical to approx. that of Adelaide, Australia)  
North latitude: 35 degrees (identical to approx. that of Los Angeles (USA), Zhengzhou(China), Kabul (Afghanistan), Tehran (Iran),Nicosia (Cyprus), Algiers (Algeria))



**2. City area:**

56.39 square kilometers (km<sup>2</sup>)(8.20km east to west, 13.33km south to north)

**3. City population:** (as of March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2005)

452,905 (male: 232,999, female: 219,906)  
Foreign residents: 11,550

**4. Mayor:** (Tenure of office: 4 years)

Mitsuyuki Chiba



**5. City council:** (as of November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2005)

Chairman: Yoshikatsu Inoue  
Deputy Chairman: Masahiro Okawa



**6. City's symbols:** (Tree, Flower, Bird, Insect)

Symbol tree of the city: Japanese black pine  
Symbol flower of the city: Rose  
Symbol bird of the city: Bush warbler  
Symbol insect of the city: Bell cricket (suzumushi)



**7. Traffic systems:**

Railways:

In total, 7 lines and 16 stations crisscross throughout the city.

The numbers of passenger transport per day at the major stations are roughly as

follows; (Data as of 2003)

- 1) Motoyawata station (JR Sobu line) 113,876  
Motoyawata station (Tokyo traffic bureau) 62,876
- 2) Ichikawa station (JR Sobu line) 115,388
- 3) Ichikawa-Ono station (JR Musashino line) 22,166
- 4) Keisei Yawata station (Keisei Electric Railroad Company) 31,346
- 5) Gyotoku station (Tokyo Metro) 54,506

#### **8. Major facilities of Ichikawa city:**

1) Omachi Recreation Zone: (Park):

The zone accommodates zoological gardens, botanical gardens, rose gardens, etc. At the zoological gardens, a family of Lesser Panda (Zoological name: *Airulus fulgens*) and Orangutan (Zoological name: *Pongo pygmaeus*) presented respectively by Friendship cities of Leshan city (China) and Medan city (Indonesia) are open to view.

2) Satomi Park: (Park)

Famous for cherry trees in their full-blossom season, the park overlooks Edo river and the city view of Katsushika ward of Tokyo.

3) Sports Center: (Sports facilities)

The overall sports facilities consist of athletics stadium, gymnasium (inclusive of Judo hall), baseball ground, tennis courts, etc.

4) Municipal swimming pool: (Sports facilities)

The swimming facilities provide various sizes of pool; 50-meter, 25-meter, water-flowing pool, pool for infants, and pool for children.

5) Media Park Ichikawa: (Cultural facilities)

“The Central Library” houses about 540,000 books, CDs and videos in sizable number.

“The Visual Culture-Center” also contains “Green Studio”, “Bell Hall” and “Multi Video Booth”. Besides, this cultural facilities provide “Education Center”, “Central

Children Hall” and “Literature Plaza” in the area. The Media Park is designed for modernistic life-long learning facilities that every visitor can benefit from.



6) Bunka-Kaikan (Cultural Hall): (Cultural facilities)

A large-sized hall and a small-sized hall are housed in the building. The large one and the small one both accommodate 1,945 and 448 seats respectively.

7) House for Youth in Natural Environment: (Youth facilities)

Lodging facilities for young generations. A Planetarium is also in use.

8) Health/Medical/ Welfare Center: (Health/Medical/ Welfare facilities)

A hub center of citizen's public health, medical and welfare services. The facilities include "Rehabilitation Hospital", "Nursing Facilities" and "Day-Care Service Center", all of which are being managed under specialist care of each category.

9) Osu Disaster Prevention Park: (Recreational facilities and Park)

The park functions, in the case of emergencies/disaster occurrences, as a temporary site of refugees, rescue/aid activities, as well as a recreational site for normal usage.

10) Clean Center: (City's waste processing plant)

Wastes gathered from homes and offices are burnt and processed here. Heat generated from waste incineration produces electricity that serves not only for in-house electricity in the plant facilities but also for sale on market.

The plant facilities were awarded ISO14001 back in February, 2000 for environmental management systems of international standardization.

**9. International Exchange Activities:** (Closely aligned cities in the world)

Ichikawa city, for the purpose of deepening cultural and historical aspect of each city and strengthening mutual understanding and personnel exchanges, has been in close tie-ups with the following cities through mainly exchanges of private sectors of each city;

(1) Gardena city: (California, USA) Sister-city agreement in Nov., 1962

(2) Leshan city: (Sichuan province, People's Republic of China)

Friend-city agreement in Oct., 1981

(3) Medan city: (North Sumatra Province, Republic of Indonesia)

Sister-city agreement in 1989

(4) Rosenheim city: (Bayern, Federal Republic of Germany)

Partner-city agreement in 2004

## 10. City Council:

### (1) Member of city council:

- 1) Number of city council by law: 42, incumbent: 42 (Male 35: Female 7)
- 2) Term: 4 years
- 3) Age structure: Members in 50's are the largest in number.

Average age: 53.5

### 4) Numbers of member's past election records:

8 times (highest):	3
6 times:	1
5 times:	6
4 times:	7
3 times:	7
2 times:	8
1 time:	10

### (2) Plenary session:

- 1) Regular session: 4 sessions a year (Feb., Jun., Sept., Dec.)
- 2) Session time: 10:00-17:00
- 3) Question time: Speaker's order by advance notice. 60 minutes per speaker.

### (3) Committees:

- \* Committees consist of standing committee, assembly operating committee, and special committee.
- \* Standing committee is always in session during the term of regular city council session.
- \* Standing committee consists of executive council committee, public welfare/economic committee, environment/education committee, and construction committee.

## 11. Budget of Ichikawa city:

- 2005 original general account budget: 108,000,000,000 Yen