

Activities

There are a wide range of ways for you to spend your afternoons during the conference. This sheet details the various trips available along with the activities you can do within the grounds of the hotel.

Activity Passes

The Belnatio has a wide range of facilities and activities that you can make use of during your stay. As part of the conference, we have arranged for 30 leisure passes to be available to participants. The passes allow free access to the following activities from Sunday until Thursday

Swimming pool (located in the Forum Center, where the poster session is held).
Spa (next to the pool)
Putter golf course
Rental bicycle (2 hours).

To obtain a leisure pass, please visit the conference office, which is located in the Arena at the Forum Center. Once you have completed your activity, please return the pass as soon as possible to make it available for other participants.

Tennis

Three tennis courts have been reserved for use by conference participants every afternoon. If accompanying persons would like to use the courts in the morning, please talk to Prof. Fujii who will make the necessary arrangements.

Prof. Taka Ebata is in charge of tennis at the conference, so please talk to him if you have any questions, for example if you need to find an opponent or opponents. In the conference office will be a tennis sign up sheet - we hope to be able to run a small tournament, so please get involved - the more the merrier!

Golf

The Belnatio boasts an impressive golf course. If you would like to play one afternoon, we have access to two free sets of golf clubs, so realistically up to 4 people can play at the same time. A round of 9 holes should take about 3-4 hours and costs ¥4500. Please contact Prof. Naohiko Mikami if you would like to play golf.

Guided Forest Walking Tour

Experience the summer plant and animal life of the local region. Popola, a guided walking tour of the forest at the base of the mountain near the hotel is available for about ¥100. The tour runs from 14.00 to 15.30.

Excursions

We have arranged excursions for each afternoon of the conference from Monday to Thursday and an additional one on Friday morning, available to those participants waiting for the bus to Shinjuku. In each case, the total numbers are limited by our free bus, which can carry around 30 passengers. Sign up sheets for the excursions will be available at hotel reception, so make sure you sign up in plenty of time if there is an excursion you are particularly interested in, in order to avoid disappointment. We will run the trip to the Sake brewery and museum on both Wednesday and Thursday to ensure that all those interested can visit.

Trip to Echigo Winery with guided tour

Monday 7th September (14:00 - 17:00)

This excursion is a must for those with an interest in wine. This organic winery is unusual in that it employs the huge snowfall from winter to cool the wine maturation tanks all year round, to deal with the hot Japanese summer.

The cost of the visit is covered by the conference, so there is no charge for the tour.

Winery webpage (Japanese) <http://www3.ocn.ne.jp/~ewine75/index.html>

Visit to the Echigo-Tsumari Art Field

Tuesday 7th September (14:00 - 17:00)

The world's largest International art festival, the Echigo-Tsumari Art Triennial is held every three years in the Echigo-Tsumari region. A wide range of art works produced for the festival are scattered across the landscape of the region and can be viewed at any time. The English website below has pictures and information for the many exhibits. On this tour we will move around the region to visit a range of different installations. This should be an unusual and fascinating excursion, blending art and nature.

Webpage (English) <http://www.echigo-tsumari.jp/2009autumn/>

Old trade route, museum and sake brewery tour

Wednesday 8th September (14:00 - 17:00)

Thursday 9th September (14:00 - 17:00)

On this trip, we will visit the town of Shiozawa and split into two groups. While one group undertakes a guided tour of the Aokishuzo brewery, famous for its Kakurei sake, the other group will look around the picturesque bokushi doori street, part of the trade route from the old capital of Kyoto to the East, with the chance to visit the Bokushi Suzuki museum. Once the tour is complete, the groups will swap.

The brewery tour is free, but if you would like to drink some of the sake, a tasting set costs ¥500. Entrance to the museum is also ¥500

Museum webpage (Japanese)

<http://park11.wakwak.com/~imahaku/sub/bokushi/bokushi.html>

Aokishuzo webpage (Japanese) <http://www.kakurei.co.jp/index.shtml>

Natural Niigata sightseeing tour

Friday 10th September (9:30 - 12:00)

On the final morning we will visit a famous beech forest called Bijinbayashi along with a beautiful and unusual rice field terraced into the mountainside (tanada). We will also go to Matsunoyama onsen, where you can try the hot spring foot spa.

Beech forest webpage (Japanese) <http://bijinbayashi.daizinger.jp/?p=90>

Terraced rice field webpage (Japanese) <http://tanada.daizinger.jp/?cat=4>