

# K O B E

Kobe City PR Paper English December 2022

Sustainably reborn!  
Cultivating Kobe's future from the woodlands



If you have any questions about ward office procedures, financial support for raising children, etc.

Call the Kobe International Community Center (KICC)!

☎ 078-742-8721 (11 languages)



↑ Tap here to visit the website!



Edited by: Kobe City International Division

## Cultivating Kobe's Future from the Woodlands

The nature-rich woodlands stretch out just outside the urban areas of Kobe. If left unattended, the fields and forests will deteriorate and lose their biodiversity. Local residents, students, and many other people have started to try revitalizing and utilizing them.



**Project #1: Students who have never farmed before try to farm in line with SDGs!**

Re.colab Kobe is an eco-volunteer group made up of students from Kwasei Gakuin University. These

students, who have no knowledge or experience in agriculture, are taught by experienced people to create farming plots from scratch.

**Project #2: Developing sustainable new specialty products from overgrown bamboo forests!**



The Ogo Bamboo Project is a project undertaken by a team of volunteers from the Ogo Regional Development Promotion Council. With the Kobe Zero Carbon Support Subsidy, they try to utilize bamboo in different ways, including making *menma* (fermented bamboo shoots) and conducting bamboo craft workshops. A large amount of waste generated during processing is also used to make fertilizer.

**Project #3: Utilizing wood in public buildings! Local production for local consumption of forest materials**

Trees grown as part of the process of maintaining forests and bamboo groves are used in buildings.

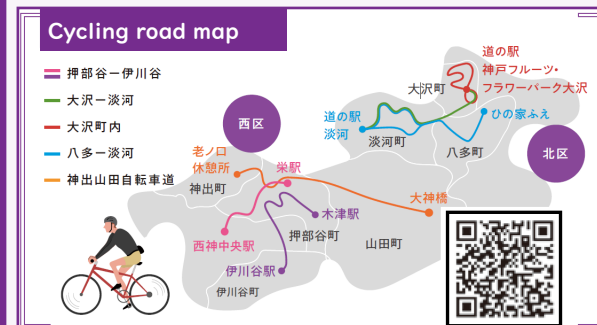
**Kobe Children's Book Forest:** Chairs & signs

**Chuo Ward Office/Chuo Ward Cultural Center:** Front wall of multipurpose hall, entrance hall blinds



## Fun for both kids and adults! Recreational Spots in the Woodlands

#1: Woodland Cycling - Experience all four seasons & discover local attractions



Oshibedani-Ikawadani Kande-Yamada Cycling Road info (JP) ↑

Ozo-Ogo  
Ozo-cho area  
Hata-Ogo

Info about "rural tourism" (JP) →



Kande-Yamada Cycling Road

#2: Both kids and adults can get in touch with nature

**Satoyama Community Sato-no-Wa**

Located near the town of Oshibedani, Sato-no-Wa is a community that uses the woodlands as recreational space. It is popular as a place of learning for children, including eating vegetables they have grown themselves and a DIY library. In addition, adults can also experience the blessings of nature, such as through a honey gathering experience and medicinal herb classes that use familiar things in everyday life.



Details here! (JP) →



## The One-Time Special Benefit for Livelihood Assistance

In order to reduce the burden of soaring prices in electricity, gas, food, and other essential expenses, [we will provide 50,000 yen to low-income households who have been significantly impacted.](#)

### ① Households exempt from resident tax in FY2022

**Eligibility:** Households that are registered in Kobe City's Basic Resident Register as of September 30, 2022, and in which all members of the household are exempt from paying per capita resident tax for the 2022 fiscal year

**How to apply:** Confirmation Forms (確認書) are being mailed to eligible households. Complete the form and mail it in the reply envelope. \*Must be postmarked by January 31, 2023.

### ② Households with sudden changes in finances

**Eligibility:** Your household does not fall under ①; your household's income from January to December 2022 decreased due to Covid-19; and all members of your household are estimated to have less income in 1 year than the threshold for a tax-exempt household.

**How to apply:** You must apply to receive this benefit. Call the following number to receive an application form, then complete and mail the application. \*Must be postmarked by January 31, 2023.

Kobe City Call Center for Inquiries About the One-Time Special Benefit for Livelihood Assistance

(☎ 078-777-4352 FAX 078-945-8106)

## Emergency Benefit for Newborn Parents

Families with new children need to spend large sums of money at one time for childbirth and care afterward. Amid soaring costs, we will provide [50,000 yen per newborn](#) to households where a child was born this fiscal year.

**Eligibility:** Household with an address in Kobe that is raising a child who was born between April 1, 2022 - March 31, 2023

**Procedures:** In principle, payment is made to the child allowance account (including special benefits). Civil servants, foster parents, and those who are not eligible for child allowance (including special benefits) must apply online (via e-KOBE).



Details (JP) →

## Watch Out for Double Epidemics

There is a possibility of simultaneous epidemics of COVID-19 and influenza, so please get vaccinated as soon as possible. Both vaccines can be administered at the same time. In case you develop a fever and are unable to visit a fever clinic immediately, be sure to prepare a COVID-19 test kit, fever medicine, food, and other daily necessities for convalescing at home.

### Free test kits for junior & senior high school students

We are providing COVID-19 test kits that can be saved and used as needed for early detection and early treatment. If you are interested, please apply through e-KOBE.



Apply for a kit here (JP) →

## Municipal Libraries will be Even More Convenient from January 31, 2023

\* Some services may be limited to select branches



**Easier checkout:** You can use not just your library card, but your smartphone or My Number Card to check out books (Pre-registration required)

**Search for & reserve books online:** You can view book covers and summaries on the "Web Bookshelf"

and reserve them. It is also packed with useful functions that allow you to arrange your reading wish-list, check your lending history, and reserve reading and study seats.

**Contactless thanks to automation:** You can pick up your reserved books at the "Reserved Book Self Pick-up Shelf". And by simply dropping off your book through the automatic return machine, you can immediately check out your next book.

Details about new services and shifting operation hours (JP) →



## Come See Illuminations that Bring Color to Kobe's Winters

The Sannomiya Station waterfront areas will be bright and colorful.

### #1: Kobe Luminarie presents - Cassa Armonica & Treasure Chest of Music

Kobe Luminarie began as a requiem for the victims of the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake and as a wish for the reconstruction and revitalization of Kobe. To carry on that spirit and express our wishes for Kobe Luminarie to return in full, there will be several concerts held at the Luminarie work Cassa Armonica. The Rosone from past Kobe Luminarie events will also be exhibited to serve as a shining symbol of hope.

Period: December 9 - 18

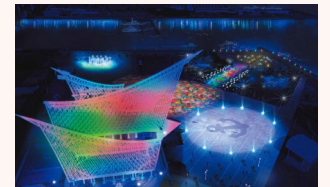
Locations: Higashi Yuenchi Park, Kobe Asahi Bldg., open space in front of SMBC HQ, Chinatown

Admission: Free



### #2: MeyaMeya, an illumination with new perspectives

A colorful light-up on the roof of the Kobe Maritime Museum. Exciting images will also be projected in the surrounding area to bring color to the ground you walk on.



Dates: December 22 - 31, 2022 5:00 pm - 9:05 pm

Location: Meriken Park

Admission: Some parts have fees