



GENERAL INFORMATION

Forty-second session
of the
World Health Organization
Regional Committee for the Western Pacific

10 - 16 September 1991
Omiya, Japan

May 1991

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The Forty-second session of the World Health Organization Regional Committee for the Western Pacific will be held in Omiya, Japan from 10 to 16 September 1991.

1. Time and place of the meeting

The inaugural and plenary meetings of the forty-second session of the Regional Committee will take place at the:

Sonic-City Building
1-7-5 Sakuragi-cho
Omiya (suburb of Metropolitan Tokyo)
Saitama Pref. 331
Japan

Telephone: (814) 86474111
Facsimile: (814) 86474159

The session will be held from 10 to 16 September. It will open at 9 a.m. on Tuesday, 10 September. During the session, correspondence should be addressed to:

Secretariat
WHO Regional Committee for the Western Pacific
International Affairs Division
Ministry of Health & Welfare
1-2-2, Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku
Tokyo 100
Japan

Telephone: (813) 35918983
Facsimile: (813) 35012532
Telex: 2222209 MHWJPN J

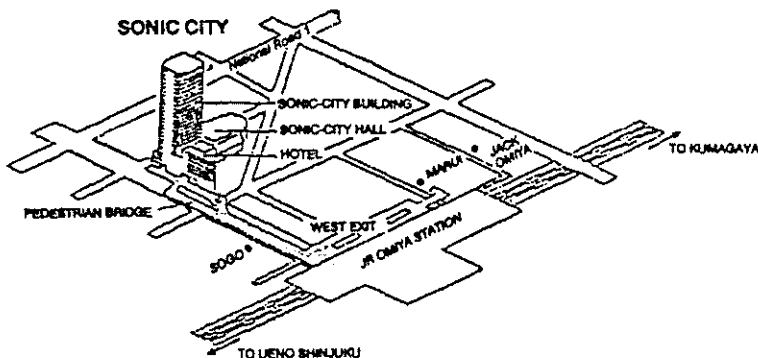
2. Working Languages

The working languages of the Regional Committee will be English, French and Chinese. Japanese may also be used if the need arises. Simultaneous interpretation will be provided between the three (or four) languages.

3. Location of the hotel

The Sonic-City building and Palace Hotel Omiya are a two-hour ride by bus from the New Tokyo International Airport (Narita). It is a five-minute walk from Omiya Japan Railway Station.

The map below indicates the location of the hotels.



4. Facilities available at the meeting place

The following facilities are available at the Sonic-City Building and Palace Hotel Omiya:

- foreign exchange desk for conversion of U.S. dollars
- travel agency
- athletic gym and swimming pool
- mail and postage service
- telephone and facsimile service
- restaurants and bars

5. Hotel accommodation

Hotel reservations have been made by Convex Inc. at the Palace Hotel, Omiya, according to the choice of room indicated by representatives on their hotel reservation forms (Form B as sent with the letter of invitation).

Single ¥9 500 or US\$ 70 per day

Double (one double bed)

one person ¥11 000 - ¥14 500 or US\$81-107/day

two persons ¥12 000 - ¥16 000 or US\$89-119/day

Twin (two single beds)

one person ¥14 000 - ¥26 000 or US\$104-193/day

two persons ¥16 000 - ¥26 000 or US\$119-193/day

The above rates do not include service charge and 13% tax.

Any change in requirements for hotel accommodation after 31 July 1991 should be notified immediately to:

Conference Officer
WHO Regional Committee for the Western Pacific
c/o Convex Inc.
A.H. - 1 Bldg.
1-9-14, Azabudai
Minato-ku
Tokyo 106
Japan

Telephone: (813) 35893355

Facsimile: (813) 35893974

6. Travel and transport arrangements

A special service desk for the representatives to the Regional Committee session will be set up in the arrival terminal lobby of the New Tokyo International Airport (Narita). Information on transportation from the airport to hotels will be provided at this desk.

For representatives, a free bus coupon to Omiya Station will be available at the special service desk during the following service hours only:

Sunday 8 September: 06.00 - 23.00

Monday 9 September: 06.00 - 23.00

Representatives arriving at the New Tokyo International Airport (Narita) at times other than those specified above have two alternatives for transportation:

- The Airport Shuttle Bus, which will provide transportation directly to Omiya, at a cost of ¥2400. The journey takes from 2 to 2 1/2 hours. It should be noted that the frequency of this service is very limited.
- A taxi, which also takes from 2 to 2 1/2 hours and costs ¥25 000 - ¥35 000.

All departing passengers have to pay an airport facility fee of ¥2000.

7. Passports and visas

A valid passport and visa are required for entry into Japan. Visas should be obtained from a Consulate or Embassy of Japan before commencement of the journey. Applications should be made at least one month in advance to ensure timely granting of visas.

In some cases, those entering Japan as tourists or on business do not need a visa. A summary of these arrangements is shown in the table below.

Countries with visa exemption
arrangements with Japan

<u>Name of Country</u>	<u>Period of stay</u>
Brunei Darussalam	14 days or less
France	3 months or less
Malaysia	3 months or less
New Zealand	90 days or less
Portugal	3 months or less
Singapore	3 months or less
United Kingdom	6 months or less
*United States	90 days or less

- * No change of status or extension may be given on original visa.

8. Health regulations

No vaccinations are required to enter Japan, except in the case of cholera for those arriving from or via a designated infected area.

9. Customs regulations

Foreign visitors are allowed to import the following items duty-free into Japan:

- personal effects (clothing and toiletry articles);
- 3 bottles of alcoholic beverages not to exceed 0.76 litres each;
- 2 ounces of perfume;
- other merchandise of a value not exceeding ¥200 000

Duty-free items purchased during the stay in Japan must be shown to the customs officials on departure or, if already shipped, the relevant documents must be presented.

10. Currency regulations and credit cards

The unit of currency in Japan is the yen, which is available in coins of 1, 5, 10, 50, 100 and 500, and banknotes of 1000, 5000 and 10 000. Foreign bank notes and travellers' cheques can be converted into Japanese yen by foreign exchange banks and other authorized money changers, upon presentation of a passport. However, it should be noted that the most easily convertible foreign currency is the US dollar.

The Kyowa-Saitama Bank is in the Sonic-City Building. The bank is open from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on weekdays, but exchange services only start at 10.30 a.m. Please note that the Kyowa-Saitama Bank in the Sonic-City Building changes US dollars only.

The exchange rate is subject to fluctuation, but in May 1991, 1 US dollar was equivalent to approximately ¥140.

There are no restrictions on the amount of foreign currency or yen which may be brought into the country. Unused yen may be reconverted into foreign currency at the airport.

The following credit cards are accepted at major hotels, department stores and restaurants: VISA, American Express, Diner's Club, JCB and Master Card.

11. Climate and clothing

Japan lies in the north temperate zone, so the climate is in general mild. The temperature in September is approximately 22-23 C (72-73 F), so fairly lightweight clothing is recommended.

12. Local time

The time in Omiya is GMT + 9 hours.

13. Water supply

Tap water is safe to drink anywhere in Japan. Mineral water is available at hotels, department stores, supermarkets and restaurants.

14. Electric current

In Omiya, the power supply is 100 volts, and the alternating current is 50 cycles.

15. Telephone/Fax/Telex

Local and long distance calls can be made from pay phones. Overseas calls can be made from some pay phones, which are specially marked.

All numbers in Japan and many foreign ones can be dialled directly. Foreign numbers are preceded by 001. For numbers not accessible by direct dialling, dial 0051.

Important Numbers

Saitama area code:	048
Tokyo area code:	03
Police:	110
Fire brigade and Ambulance:	119

16. Local transportation

Train travel from Omiya to Tokyo

Keihintohoku Line from Omiya Station to Tokyo Central Station is about 45 minutes ride. The fare is ¥530.

Travel in Tokyo

- Subway and Japan Railway (JR)

Tokyo has an extensive transportation system with nine subway lines and five JR lines with trains running at frequent intervals. All station names, together with the preceding and the following stations, are indicated in English characters. The fare is charged according to the distance; the minimum charge is ¥140 for the subway and ¥120 for the JR.

- Taxi

Taxis are plentiful all over Tokyo. The basic fare is ¥540 for the first 2 kilometres (1.25 mile) plus ¥80 for every additional 355 metres (0.22 mile). Vacant taxis show a red light.

17. Medical service

The hospital closest to the Sonic-City Building is the Omiya Red Cross Hospital (an emergency hospital).

Address:	903 Kamiochiai Yono, Saitama Pref.
Telephone:	(048) 8521111

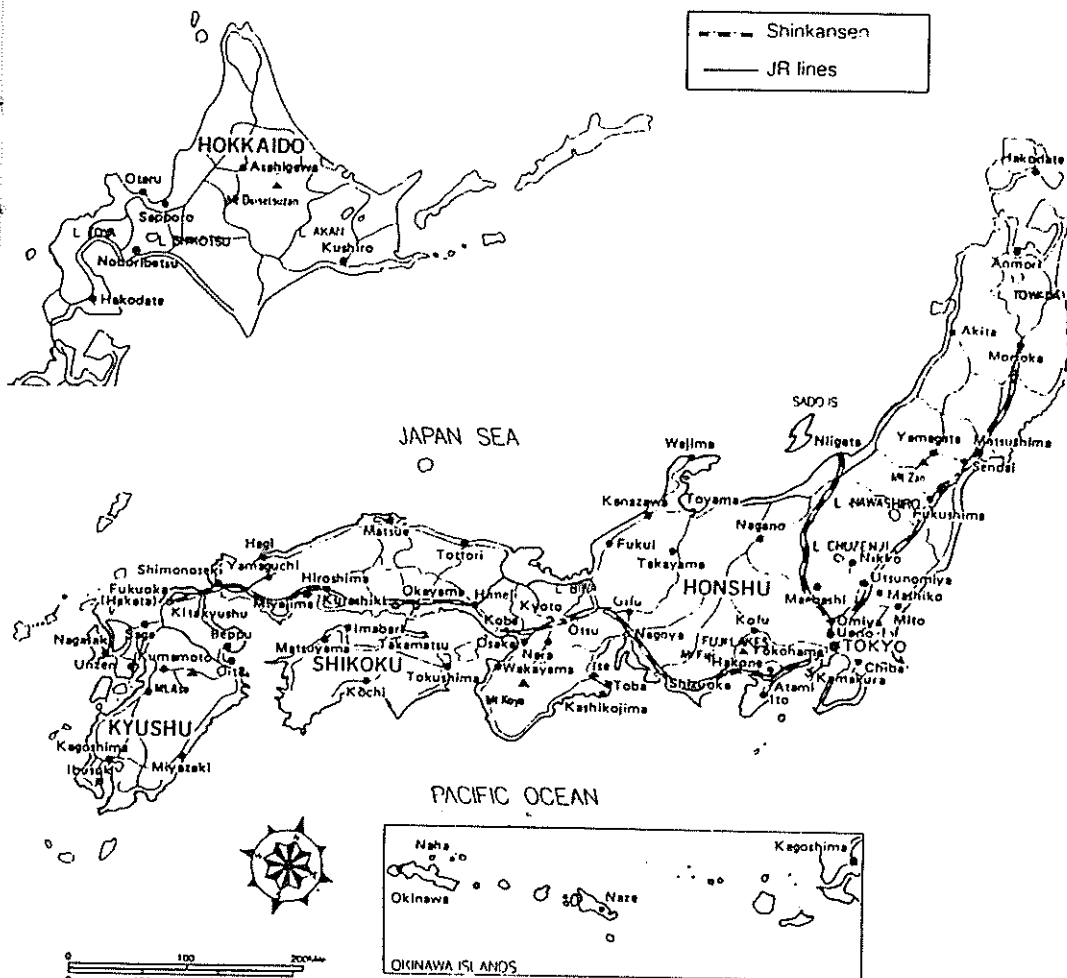
18. Tipping

Individual tipping is not common in Japan; a 10 to 15% service charge is added to the bill at hotels and restaurants. Normally, no tip is necessary unless some extra service is requested.

PROFILE OF OMIYA

Omiya, with a population of more than 400 000, is one of the satellite cities of metropolitan Tokyo and is developing rapidly. Lying 30 km north of Tokyo, Omiya is a key station in the national railway system. Seven lines run through the city.

MAP OF JAPAN



Omiya City in Japan

