

Fannish Inquisition Survey: Nippon in 2017 Worldcon Bid

Worldcon Bid: Nippon in 2017

What are the proposed dates for which you are bidding?

August 2017

What is your proposed convention host city? Is your convention site in a city center location or a suburb? If a suburb, what are the transport options into the city center? How far is the site from the city center?

We are looking at Yokohama (city centre), Chiba (suburb centre) and Shizuoka (city centre) sites. Flying to Shizuoka is possible by connecting through Seoul for international travellers (but not through Tokyo or Kansai International Airport).

What is the typical current airfare to your closest airport from world cities such as London, Boston, Chicago, Los Angeles, Melbourne? Atlanta?

BOS: US\$1500; ORD: US\$1500; LAX: US\$1000; LHR: US\$1000; MEL: US\$900

Do international flights, as well as domestic, fly into your local airport? Which airlines? If not, where is the closest international airport? Are direct flights from the cities above flown into your local airport?

Tokyo is a major hub with direct flights from most major cities (not Melbourne it appears). Yokohama and Chiba are close to Tokyo centre (Chiba is half an hour from Narita Airport). Shizuoka is one hour on the train from central Tokyo, so 2-2.5 hours by train from Narita

How far is your convention site from the nearest airport/train station and what is the likely cost of getting to the hotels by both public transport and taxi from that airport/train station?

Chiba: five minutes walk from train station; half an hour from Narita.

Yokohama: five minutes walks from subway station; one and a half hours from Narita.

Shizuoka: five minutes walk from train station; two and a half hours from Narita., TBD. Rates usually do not include breakfast. Most include in-room wired Internet within the room price.

What hotel(s) are being used for the convention? How many rooms, what type, accessibility issues, etc.?

TBD. All sites have some onsite hotels which we're investigating.

What is the cost to *park* at the convention/hotel facilities?

What is the distance from the main hotel(s) to the closest entrance of the convention site? What are the transportation options for those who prefer not to walk or who have mobility difficulties?

Yokohama: directly connected

Chiba: across a footbridge with mobie access.

Shizuoka: still investigating.

If using overflow hotels (or hotels not directly connected) what is the cost of a cab ride door-to-door with the convention center?

Please describe your convention site facilities. For example, the quantity and sizes of rooms, tech options, accessibility issues, etc.

Yokohama is well-known as the facility from 2007 with a good main theatre room, various sizes of conference rooms and large exhibit halls.

Chiba has no suitable main theatre room so a large room would need conversion as in Chicago). Most programming would be in the main hotel which has a series of twelve rooms (all with airwall dividers so very flexible) of 2000 m² in total.

Shizuoka: Good main theatre seating 4600 people, two smaller halls (1290 and 500 people) and 19 smaller rooms.

Where will your large events (i.e. Hugo Ceremony and Masquerade) be held?

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Yokohama: main theatre

Chiba: Converted large banquet room in convention centre

Shizuoka: 4600-seater main hall

Please describe the restaurant scene near your site.

Yokohama: very good, particularly the nearby Chinatown, many restaurants in the nearby mall as well.

Chiba: good, variety of restaurants in the nearby malls and around the train station.

Shizuoka: still investigating

Please describe the policies / laws regarding smoking in your hotel(s), convention center, and city.

All the convention facilities are non-smoking. Hotels have smoking and non-smoking rooms and non-smoking rooms are generally properly smoke-free. Restaurants are, unfortunately, mostly not smoke-free.

What type of weather can we expect at the time of year your convention is to be held?

25-35 celsius and 70%+ humidity.

What are some of the main tourist attractions of your city?

Tokyo has too many to list. Yokohama is a major port city with museums, shopping, amusement parks, a tall ship... Chiba has Sea Disney and the Sea Life Aquarium.

Shizuoka is close to mount Fuji than Tokyo, is a historic centre in its own right (the site of Ieyasu Tokugawa's original domain and castle) and is about halfway between Tokyo and Kyoto on the shinkansen (just over an hour each way).

Who is on your committee? Who is your bid chair? What experience do they have in general? In running this convention in particular?

Bid and con chairs are TBD.

A number of division heads and lower from Nippon 2007 including Tomoki Kodama, Shigeru Hayashida, Andrew Adams, "Ata" Imaoka and a number of lower level staff from Nippon 2007. Vince Docherty will be Head of Finance. While the Japanese staff have mainly worked on Nippon 2007 and Japanese conventions in senior positions, most have worked as volunteers or shift managers at US or UK worldcons. We also include the former chairs and other area heads from various Japanese National conventions over the last decade or two and have been running a local (100-200) person convention near Tokyo since 2010 (Halcon). Andrew Adams was heavily involved in the UK in 2005 bid and early on with Interaction, as well as being a division head for Nippon 2007, chairing the 2000 Eastercon (2Kon) and a variety of experience at worldcons in the US, UK and Australia.

If known, who will be the chair of the convention? What experience do they have?

TBD

What arrangements will be made for evening socializing and party space? Do you have a corkage waiver?

TBD

Are you planning to have any membership discounts for certain groups, such as young adults, military, or seniors?

TBD

Are you participating in pass-along funds?
