Celebrating the Legacy of Takeda Shingen

The 39th Shingen-Ko Festival
April 10 (Fri) - 12 (Sun), 2009
Yamanashi Prefecture, Kofu City area

4.10 (Fri)
- Shingen-ko Tea Ceremony (Hokuto City, Fu-Rin-Ka-Zan Hall)
- Kashiwagi Beard Style Contest (Maizuru Castle Park)
- Kachiho Ballroom Contest (Maizuru Castle Park)

4.11 (Sat)
- The 8th All-Japan Takeda Shingen Music Festival in Yamanashi: Performance Contest (Maizuru Castle Park)
- "Fu-Rin-Ka-Zan" Dance Parade (Maizuru Castle Park)
- 39th Koshu Battalion Deployment (Kofu Station Area)

4.12 (Sun)
- Kendo Tournament (Maizuru Castle Park)
- Shingen Carnival (Maizuru Castle Park)
- Educational Lectures (Maizuru Castle Park)
- Sengoku Period Food Sampling (around Kofu)
- The Mounted Procession of Takeda Shingen’s 24 Generals (around Kofu)

Organizer
Yamanashi Prefecture Shingen-ko Festival Planning Committee
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For more information, visit the festival homepage at www.yamanashi-kankou.jp/shingen
The name of Takeda Shingen has echoed throughout Japan for over four hundred years, from the age of the samurai to the present day. The Shingen-ko Festival celebrates the legacy of this famous Koshu warlord. Travel back in time to witness a grand parade reenacting the Koshu Battalion Deployment of Takeda Shingen's warriors, a moment so often portrayed in Sengoku Era picture scrolls. But the festivities commemorating this grand occasion do not end there. Three packed days of unforgettable activities await you in Kofu City.

The people of Yamanashi celebrate the virtues of Takeda Shingen every spring, with the lion's share of festivities occurring around the time of his death anniversary on April 12. The Fu-Rin-Ka-Zan banner, representing a philosophy Shingen adopted from Sun Tzu's Art of War are flown from one end of the prefecture to the other. The Shingen-ko Festival takes place from April 10 (Fri) to April 12 (Sun). It is the grandest festival in Yamanashi, its main highlight being the Koshu Battalion Deployment, a reenactment of unrivaled scope where about 1,500 locals from all around the prefecture dress in traditional costumes and commence their march from the plaza in front of Kofu Station. After a deployment ceremony and sake ritual Takeda Shingen, bathed in torchlight and surrounded by his 24 generals, leads his army along the streets of Kofu. (Will take place rain or shine.)

Japanese Olympic judo gold medalist, Yasuhiro Yamashita, is chosen to play the role of Takeda Shingen during the 39th Shingen-ko Festival!

Donning the armor of Takeda Shingen, the feared and respected feudal lord of the Sengoku Era, will be Yasuhiro Yamashita, one of the world's most successful judo competitors. He demonstrated his resilience during the 1984 Los Angeles Olympic Games when, despite a handicapping leg injury; he managed to win the judo gold medal. His success story inspired cheers all around Japan, and he was then presented with the People’s Honor Award. Yamashita holds a grand record of 203 consecutive wins. After retiring from a glorious competitive career, Yamashita devoted his energy and skill to coaching promising Judo talents, successfully training two Olympic champions and four world champions. As a man who proudly upholds the Bushido spirit, Yasuhiro Yamashita is perfectly fit to play the role of history's great Takeda Shingen.

Profile: Yasuhiro Yamashita

Yasuhiro Yamashita graduated from the Athletics Department of Tokai University and continued on to graduate school at that same university where he pursued research in the area of physical education before concluding his studies. He participated in the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics in the Men's Judo Open Weight Division and won the gold medal despite being injured. He then received the People’s Honor Award. He is presently on the board of directors of the All Japan Judo Federation, the chairman of the Kanagawa Prefecture Athletic Association, and the director of the NPO Solidarity of International Judo Education. Through various activities, he expands the field of judo throughout Japan and the world.
Drawn by contemporaries from the East and West, the heroic images of the armored samurai were chosen as the official symbols of the 39th Shingen-ko Festival. By combining the modern and traditional, these symbols carry with them the hopes and dreams of the festival, that Takeda Shingen’s charismatic spirit and the legend surrounding it be conveyed to the rest of the world.

Tsukioka Yoshitoshi (1839-1892)

One-hundred Aspects of the Moon, Miho no Matsubara, Takeda Shingen (1891)

This poised and tranquil portrayal of General Takeda Shingen was drawn by the last Ukiyo-e master, Tsukioka Yoshitoshi. From the top of a Koshu mountain, Shingen looks out over Suruga, an area he must control in order to secure a sea route from his inland base. A crimson battle surcoat rests lightly over his armor. For a peaceful moment, he gently lays aside his ambitions to appreciate the scene before him. A certain old song comes to mind when looking at this piece: If only there was a checkpoint to the heavens, it would be this place, the Miho Pine Grove, which keeps the moon forever at bay.

By placing the characters for wind, forest, fire, and mountain (Fu-Rin-Ka-Zan) upon Shingen’s own family crest, a new symbol emerges.

A pure wind. The character for wind represents the importance of a pure life and way of thinking. Wind = Love

Nature. The character for forest represents the necessity of protecting nature at the national, prefectural, municipal, and individual levels. Forest = Greens

Burning passion. The character for fire represents a passion for education and the importance of institutions of learning. Passion = Education

Dreams. The character for mountain represents the importance of fixing one’s gaze upon the dream of a better future for one’s prefecture and country. Future = Dream

Tsukioka Yoshitoshi (1839-1892) living through the tumultuous years that bridged the Edo and Meiji Eras, Tsukioka Yoshitoshi was known as the last Ukiyo-e master, a genius who pioneered the development of modern visual expression in Japan. His series entitled One-hundred Aspects of the Moon deftly portrays a multitude of stories, fables, and plays, all the while focusing on the moon as its main theme.

By placing the characters for wind, forest, fire, and mountain (Fu-Rin-Ka-Zan) upon Shingen’s own family crest, a new symbol emerges.
Georges Rouault (1871-1958) 
Guerrier Japonais (1928)

Georges Rouault, the artist who painted the gallant image of the Guerrier Japonais

In 1921, when Japanese painter Ryuzaburo Umehara visited Rouault in Paris, he presented him with an Ukiyo-e portrait of a samurai. Inspired by this image, Rouault translates the lines of India ink into oil and pastel, portraying with strong brush strokes the energy of a horse galloping at full speed and the strength of the warrior who rides upon it.

Georges Rouault (1871-1958) French painter and printmaker in lithography and etching. He attended France’s official art school, the École des Beaux-Arts where he studied under Gustave Moreau. It was here that he met and befriended the artist Henri Matisse. In Rouault’s earlier works, he mainly used dark tones. However, around the beginning of the 20th century, his use of color became more coarse and intense, displaying aspects of the Fauvism artistic movement. Though it should be noted that despite its influences upon his work, Rouault did not directly participate in the development of Fauvism. His representative works include Head of Christ, and Miserere. Utilizing the Catholic religion as a background, he elaborated on themes such as human sin, the sorrows of life, and the nobility of love.

Shingen-ko Festival Official Logo

The Shingen-ko Festival Planning Committee has launched a newly minted “Shingen Brand,” in the form of various Shingen-related goods boasting the official logo.

(Inquiries) 055-231-2722

Official Goods

- Original Hat
- Original T-shirts
- Original Shingen Incense
- Original Mug

Designer Profile
Kenji Koga was born in Nagasaki in 1953. In 1974, he went to the US and from that point on has pursued artistic endeavors in both New York and Japan. In 1993, his design was chosen during the “Last Decade of the 20th Century Commemorative Stamp World Design Competition.” The stamps he designed were then issued from New York, Geneva, and Vienna. He was also the designer for the Shingen-ko Festival’s poster series.

Georges Rouault’s painting of a samurai warrior is on exhibition in the Yamanashi Prefectural Art Museum from March 24 to April 19 of 2009.
此事に応じたページのテキスト内容です。
### Shingen-ko Tea Ceremony
- **Date:** 4.10 (Fri.)
- **Time:** 10:00～15:00
- **Location:** Fu-rin-ka-zan Hall (Hokuto City)
- **Description:** A tea ceremony will be held in the Sengoku period style building.

### Ritual Prayer
- **Date:** 4.10 (Fri.)
- **Time:** 15:00～15:20
- **Location:** Takeda Shrine Internet
- **Description:** A ritual to pray for a successful festival.

### Excitement of Castle Town (a portion)
- **Date:** 4.10 (Fri.)
- **Time:** 16:00～12日17:00
- **Location:** Maizuru Castle Park and surroundings
- **Description:** Street stalls with Yamanashi local products, food, and drink stands.

### Opening of Jin'yas (a portion)
- **Date:** 4.10 (Fri.)
- **Time:** 16:00～11日15:00
- **Location:** Central Shopping District and surroundings
- **Description:** The base of Koshu Battalion.

### Peach Tree Ownership Reservation
- **Date:** 4.10 (Fri.)
- **Time:** 16:00～12日17:00
- **Location:** Maizuru Castle Park
- **Description:** Chance to become owners of Yamanashi's well-known peach trees.

### Stamp Stalls of Takeda’s 24 Generals
- **Date:** 4.10 (Fri.)
- **Time:** 16:00～12日17:00
- **Location:** Jin'yas, Central Shopping District, etc
- **Description:** Raffle prizes of Yamanashi local products will be drawn at stalls in Jin'yas and Central Shopping District.

### Kohihe Beard Style Contest
- **Date:** 4.10 (Fri.)
- **Time:** 16:00～17:30
- **Location:** Specially installed stage in Maizuru Castle Park
- **Description:** Contest for the best beard style among the 24 Generals.

### Kohihe Beauty Contest
- **Date:** 4.10 (Fri.)
- **Time:** 17:30～20:30
- **Location:** Specially installed stage in Maizuru Castle Park
- **Description:** Final round of the Kohihe Beauty Contest with 7 finalists.

### Super Fu-Rin-Ka-Zan Performance Contest
- **Date:** 4.11 (Sat.)
- **Time:** 10:30～16:00
- **Location:** Specially installed stage in Maizuru Castle Park
- **Description:** The 8th All-Japan Takeda Shingen Music Festival with performance surrounding Shingen’s afterlife accomplishment, Takeda Buji (a song praising Shingen) and Fu-Rin-Ka-Zan.

### Jin'ya Opening (a portion: 10:00～)
- **Date:** 4.11 (Sat.)
- **Time:** 14:00～15:30
- **Location:** Central Shopping District (Kasugamoru)
- **Description:** This is a place for tourists to interact with the armed warriors.

### Sengoku Period Food Sampling Shingen Food Court (same as Apr. 12)
- **Date:** 4.11 (Sat.)
- **Time:** 11:00～15:00
- **Location:** Central Shopping District (Kasugamoru)
- **Description:** Various Sengoku period and B-Level gourmet will be available for tasting (with a sampling fee).

### "Fu-Rin-Ka-Zan" Dance Parade
- **Date:** 4.11 (Sat.)
- **Time:** 16:00～17:00
- **Location:** Kofu Station~ Heiwa Dori~ Joto Dori~ Maizuru Castle Park
- **Description:** A group dance with approximately 1000 performers. Original songs will be presented.

### Koshu Battalion Deployment Ceremony
- **Date:** 4.11 (Sat.)
- **Time:** 17:30～18:00
- **Location:** In front of Kofu Station
- **Description:** A recreation of the formal deployment ceremony.

### Child Samurai Parade
- **Date:** 4.11 (Sat.)
- **Time:** 18:00～19:30
- **Location:** Jin'yas, Central Shopping District, etc
- **Description:** Children Samurai parade Noginata Team Parade Takeda Period Parade, 24 Generals and Shingen Deployment.

### Lantern Parade
- **Date:** 4.11 (Sat.)
- **Time:** 19:30～20:30
- **Location:** Kofu Station~ Heiwa Dori~ Joto Dori~ Central Shopping District
- **Description:** Walking along the parade route with lanterns.

### Returning Ceremony
- **Date:** 4.11 (Sat.)
- **Time:** 19:30～20:00
- **Location:** Specially installed stage in Maizuru Castle Park
- **Description:** Victory Declaration and fireworks.

### Kendo Tournament
- **Date:** 4.12 (Sun.)
- **Time:** 9:00～10:30
- **Location:** Plaza in Maizuru Castle Park
- **Description:** A grand kendo tournament with 800 contestants.

### Japanese Drum Taiko Performance
- **Date:** 4.12 (Sun.)
- **Time:** 10:30～12:00
- **Location:** Specially installed stage in Maizuru Castle Park
- **Description:** Taiko performance by people ranging from kindergarten kids to adults.

### Shingen Carnival
- **Date:** 4.12 (Sun.)
- **Time:** 12:00～17:00
- **Location:** Specially installed stage in Maizuru Castle Park
- **Description:** Dancing and Singing Festival with over 1000 thousand performers.

### Educational Lectures
- **Date:** 4.12 (Sun.)
- **Time:** 10:30～12:00
- **Location:** Onshirin Memorial Hall (in Maizuru Castle Park)
- **Description:** "Omoshiro" fun story telling of Takeda and the Maizuru Castle Park.

### Eduational Lectures
- **Date:** 4.12 (Sun.)
- **Time:** 13:30～15:00
- **Location:** Kasugamoru Event Stage
- **Description:** A Japanese traditional "Noh" performance in celebrating the battle victory.

### Kofu Hayashi Performance
- **Date:** 4.12 (Sun.)
- **Time:** 13:30～15:00
- **Location:** Kasugamoru Event Stage
- **Description:** A Japanese traditional "Noh" performance in celebrating the battle victory.

### Takeda Shrine Festival
- **Date:** 4.12 (Sun.)
- **Time:** 9:00～
- **Location:** Takeda Shrine
- **Description:** A Shinto ritual held on the anniversary of Shingen’s death (April 12th).

### Mounted Procession of Takeda Shingen’s 24 Generals
- **Date:** 4.12 (Sun.)
- **Time:** 10:30～15:30
- **Location:** Takeda Shrine~ Helwa Dori~ Takeda Castle Park
- **Description:** A cavalcade with Takeda Shingen’s 24 Generals and the other 400 team members.