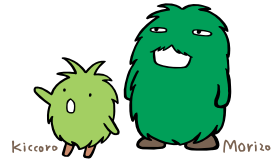


The First 21st Century World EXPO Finally Brings Down Its Curtain on Sept. 25



By JEF Editorial Section

THE EXPO 2005 is reaching its height not only in its host prefecture Aichi but in throughout Japan. It now refutes a suspicious rumor that it would crash and burn because of its unpopularity telling World Expo is now only a heritage of the past. The EXPO 2005, however, is accepting more visitors in much quicker pace, than had been initially expected.

What bolstering its popularity is its original characters of forest spirits, Morizo and Kiccoro. Created by popular artist duo ARONZI ARONZO, these unique characters became a heartwarming relaxed TV animation that both children and adults can enjoy. The picture story book featuring these characters under the theme of "Coexistence with Nature" is one of the favorite picture books of Princess Aiko. After the scene of Crown Prince Naruhito reading the book to his beloved daughter was broadcasted on TV, the book became the subject for the parents with

young children, and became out of print in many bookstores.

At the EXPO 2005, the visitors can enjoy various types of foods from around the world. Take whippy ice-cream, for example. There are flavors of mango, rose, rooibos tea, *haccho miso*, calamancy, rock salt, Belgian chocolate, Turkish ice cream, green tea, yoghurt and lychee. There are more variety of tastes available at the EXPO. You can also try exotic foods of other countries as well.

The backyard tour, in which visitors can learn about the fuel batteries and hydrogen stations that empower the pavilions and are the eye-catcher of the environmentally friendly EXPO 2005, is also getting popular.

There were lots of concerns about the holding of the EXPO 2005, but turned out to be needless worries. Everyone seems to be enjoying the world event now. **J.S**

Photo: Kyodo News

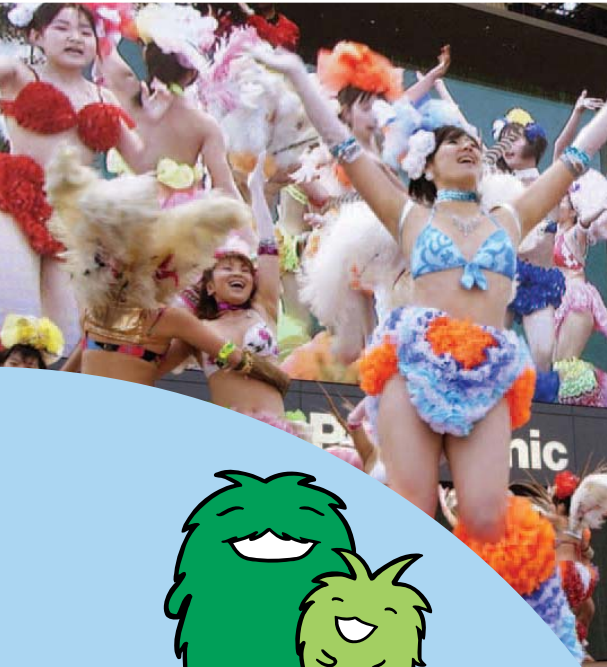


Photo: Kyodo News



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The big and dark green one is called Morizo, the grandpa of the forests. He is a long lived Sileni. The smaller one is the child of the forest, Kiccoro. He is newly born Sileni and has a great deal of curiosity. There are lots of official goods available at EXPO 2005 from stuffed toys, cell phone straps, stationery, clothes, towels and even neck ties.



Crown Princess Masako, who is recuperating from a stress-related illness, visited the EXPO with the Crown Prince

Photo: Kyodo News



Photo: ©Japan Association for the 2005 World Exposition
Official goods of Morizo and Kiccoro

Photo: Kyodo News



Many floats made in the Edo Period (1603-1867) are on display at the EXPO site

