



RoboCup 2017 Nagoya – Newsletter

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Welcome & Invitation

Dear all RoboCuppers!

We are very pleased to host RoboCup 2017 in Nagoya, the first host city of RoboCup. This wonderful event will be coming back to Nagoya in 20 years! We hope that all of you have had a good start in 2017 and that you all are already busily planning and preparing your participation. This newsletter gives you the first information on the event that will help you in planning your participation in RoboCup 2017.

We hope to see you all in Nagoya!

1. Save the Dates

Please mark the following 2017 dates on your calendar:

[Major Registration Schedule]

Early Registration:	March 28 (Tue.) – May 31 (Wed.), 2017
Regular Registration:	June 1 (Thu.) – June 30 (Fri.), 2017
Late Registration:	July 1 (Sat.) – July 22 (Sat.), 2017

[Junior Registration Schedule]

Regular Registration:	March 28 (Tue.) – June 30 (Fri), 2017
Late Registration:	July 1 (Sat.) – July 22 (Sat.), 2017

[Major League Schedule]

Setup:	July 25 (Tue.) – July 26 (Wed.), 2017
Competition:	July 27 (Thu.) – July 30 (Sun.), 2017
Symposium:	July 31 (Mon.), 2017

[Junior League Schedule]

Setup:	July 26 (Wed.), 2017
Competition:	July 27 (Thu.) – July 30 (Sun.), 2017
Symposium:	July 31 (Mon.), 2017

2. Nagoya

The city of Nagoya, located roughly in the center of Japan, boasts a population of about 2.3 million people and is the political, economic, safety and cultural capital of central Japan.

The foundation of Nagoya was laid 400 years ago in 1610 with the construction of Nagoya Castle. The castle construction required talented artisans who used high-quality raw materials such as the Kiso cypress tree. Thus, a unique manufacturing culture known as *monozukuri* (passionate craftsmanship) flourished.

This region, mainly Nagoya City and Aichi Prefecture, home to the headquarters of Toyota and other prestigious companies, serves as a global manufacturing base. In addition, the region is one of the most important Japanese hubs for the robot industry, with its shipment value of related products manufactured in Japan accounting for about 20% of the total shipment value of such products, the largest in Japan.

Nagoya attracts many visitors for its history, culture, and technology.

More detailed information on the city of Nagoya is provided at the following link:

http://www.robocup2017.org/eng/city_of_nagoya.html

3. Event Highlights

- Amazon Robotics Challenge (ARC) has been embedded and co-located with RoboCup 2017 in Nagoya.

URL: <https://www.amazonrobotics.com/#/pickingchallenge>

- The International Exhibition for Young Inventors will be held with RoboCup 2017 in Nagoya.

The purpose of this event is to bring forth creativity and international ways of thinking throughout the exhibition and contests for invention that young people create in various countries of the world.

Approximately 200 young people will participate in this event from 20 countries and regions in Asia and elsewhere.

Date: July 27 to July 29, 2017

4. Participation

There are two ways to participate in RoboCup:

1. in a Major League, or
2. in a Junior League

Major League teams must successfully pass a league-specific qualification process, which has been underway for some time. Most leagues have recently closed or are



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about to close their qualification process. Please check the league's websites.

Junior League teams must qualify through regional competitions. The qualification process is handled by the Junior national or regional representatives.

For more information on participation, please visit the websites of the respective leagues and join their respective mailing lists.

<http://www.robocup2017.org/eng/howto.html>

The calls for participation for the leagues have been published in the leagues' mailing lists. Any questions about qualification should be directed to the respective league's technical committee members and/or the league's mailing list. **Please carefully watch for announcements of the respective league's mailing list.**

5. Accommodations & Travel

For a pleasant and enjoyable trip to Nagoya, we recommend to book your accommodations early. Nippon Travel Agency, the official travel agent for RoboCup 2017, is preparing affordable accommodations for RoboCuppers. They also provide support for your travel requirements that will be very convenient and helpful for you.

The Nagoya local organizing committee (LOC) strongly recommends that you request Nippon Travel Agency for your accommodation arrangements.

<http://www.robocup2017.org/eng/accommodation.html>

The most convenient airport to access Nagoya City is Chubu Central Japan International Airport (Centrair). It takes approx. 30 min. to Nagoya Station.

From Nagoya Station to Kinjo-futo Station (nearest station to the venue), you can take the Aonami Line, which takes approx. 24 min.

Please refer to the official Centrair website below for further information:

<http://www.centrair.jp/en/>

For more information on the location of RoboCup 2017 visit

<http://www.robocup2017.org/eng/venue.html>

6. Preliminary Visa Application

Please check the visa requirements to enter Japan. You can find detailed information about visa requirements below:

http://www.mofa.go.jp/j_info/visit/visa/index.html

Countries and Regions for Visa Exemptions:

http://www.mofa.go.jp/j_info/visit/visa/short/novisa.html

Due to regulatory restrictions, the invitation letter for visa applications can be issued by the hosting organization only after participants have registered and fully paid their registration fees. This implies, of course, successful qualification for participation in RoboCup 2017 as described in Section 4 above, because only qualified teams and members of qualified teams will be able to register for RoboCup 2017.

For visa applicants, we strongly recommend to apply for the visa documents (e.g. invitation letter) to the local organizing committee as soon as possible because, depending on the country, it might take a long time to process the visa application.

It is hoped that you will obtain a visa by July 10, at the latest.

We will release the necessary information about visas at the following site:

<http://www.robocup2017.org/eng/visa.html>

7. Cargo

NIPPON EXPRESS CO., LTD. has been designated by RoboCup 2017 as the official service provider for transportation.

<http://www.robocup2017.org/eng/cargo.html>

NIPPON EXPRESS operates a worldwide logistics network and they have much experience in handling a variety of events at the site.

For the safe and smooth shipment of your precious robots and equipment, we highly recommend our service provider.

The contact information for NIPPON EXPRESS is below:



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Email: robocup2017-ngo@air.nittsu.co.jp

URL: <http://www.nipponexpress.com/>



8. Contact and Information

Further general information on RoboCup 2017 is provided at the following website:

<http://www.robocup2017.org/eng/index.html>

If you have particular requests for information on non-league-specific questions, you can contact us at the following email address:

info@robocup2017.org

9. Closing

We are steadily preparing all the arrangements to make sure you have a pleasant competition.

We wish you and your team successful preparations for RoboCup 2017, and we hope to see and welcome you all in Nagoya.

Best wishes!

On behalf of the RoboCup 2017 Executive Working Committee:

Takeshi Ohashi, Chair

Hiroyuki Okada, Co-chair

Tomoichi Takahashi, Co-chair

Komei Sugiura, Co-chair