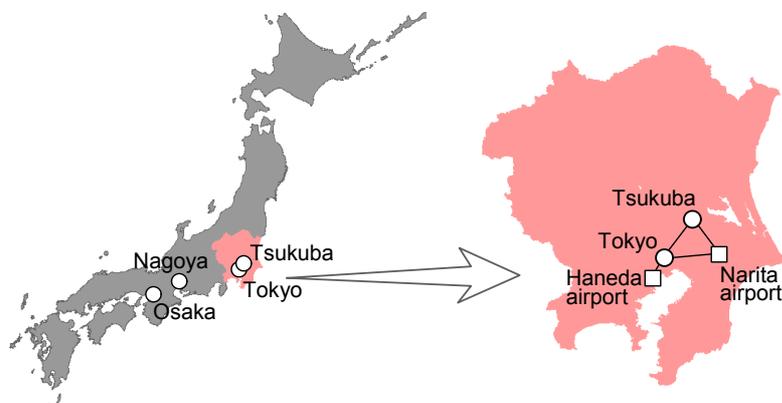


General Information

(1) Venue

Tsukuba Science City is located about 60 km (38 miles) northeast of Tokyo. The city hosts more than 100 research institutes and universities forming the largest academic, research and development center in Japan. Over 13,000 researchers are exploring the frontiers of science and technology. The city is surrounded by countryside with view of Mt. Tsukuba.

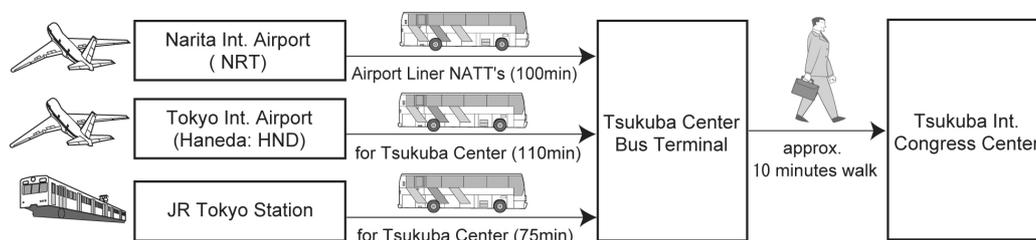


MVA2005 will take place at Tsukuba International Congress Center (known as Epochal Tsukuba) which is the largest conference facility in Tsukuba Science City. Epochal Tsukuba has a large conference hall with sitting capacity of 1250 seats and twenty high-quality conference rooms, equipped with the latest audio-visual appliances and systems. Okura Frontier Hotel Tsukuba Epochal is conveniently located next to Epochal Tsukuba.

Local information links: Epochal Tsukuba: <http://www.epochal.or.jp/english/>
City of Tsukuba: <http://www.city.tsukuba.ibaraki.jp/english/>
Tsukuba Information Center: <http://www.info-tsukuba.org/english/>

(2) Transportation

To reach Tsukuba Science City, there are several convenient ways as shown below.



a) Narita International Airport (NRT) http://www.narita-airport.or.jp/airport_e/index.html

There are direct bus services called Natt's to/from Narita International Airport. It is about a 100-minute ride and costs 2540 yen. There are 9 services daily, and the timetable can be found at <http://www.kantetsu.co.jp/bus/highway/english/natts.html>. At the airport, tickets can be purchased at the Keisei Counter without reservations. For departing for the airport, the bus operator recommends reserving a seat 3 days before the departure, but it is still possible to purchase a ticket on the day of departure if not fully booked.

b) Tokyo International Airport (Haneda: HND)

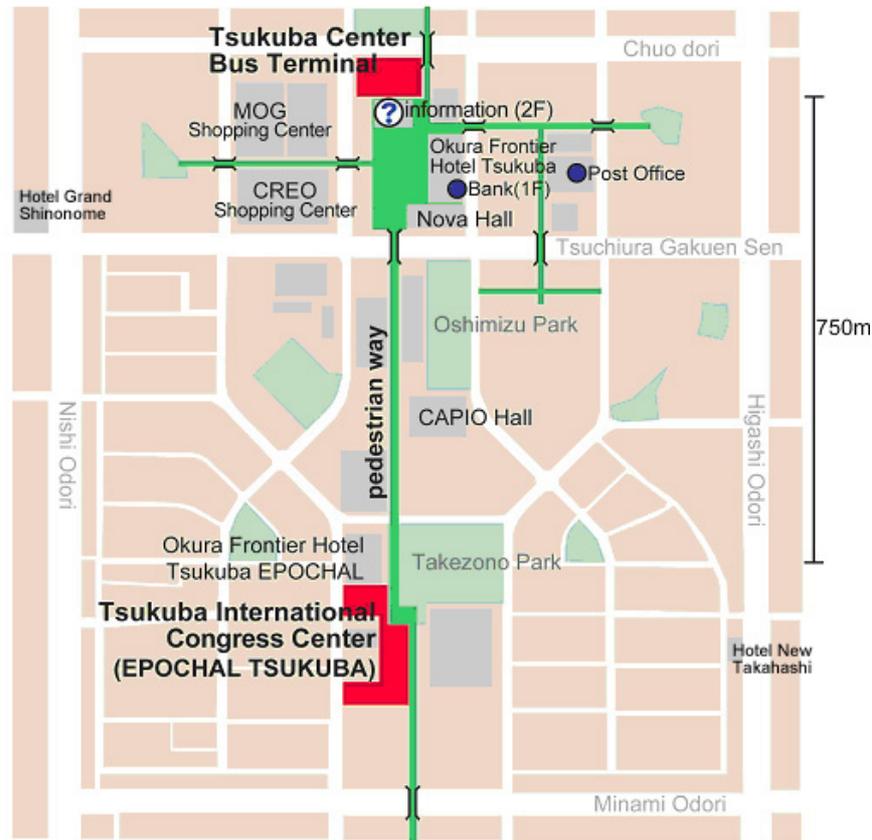
Direct bus services are available to/from Tokyo International Airport, also known as Haneda Airport. It takes about 110 minutes and costs 1800 yen. No reservation is necessary. There are 12 services daily. For a schedule and other details, refer to <http://www.kantetsu.co.jp/bus/highway/english/haneda-center.html>. Please note that occasionally bus connection between Tsukuba and Haneda can be delayed due to traffic congestion.

c) JR Tokyo Station

Joban Highway Buses bound for Tsukuba Center depart from Yaesu South Exit at JR Tokyo Station every 10-15 minutes. The traveling time is 1-2 hours depending on the traffic conditions, and tickets can be purchased at 1250 yen without reservation. If you will be staying in Tsukuba, using the Joban Highway Bus is a convenient way to visit Tokyo, or further visit other cities by the Shinkansen trains. Please note that occasionally bus connections between Tsukuba and JR Tokyo Station can be delayed due to traffic congestion.

(3) Local Map

The conference site, Tsukuba International Congress Center (Epochal Tsukuba), and the Tsukuba Center Bus Terminal are close to each other as shown in the following map (10-minute walk).



(4) Visa

Participants who need an entry visa for Japan should apply at the Japanese Embassies or Consulates in their respective countries or regions. Detailed information can be found at http://www.mofa.go.jp/j_info/visit/visa/. Please note that obtaining a visa might take one to two months. Visa letters will only be issued to: speakers/presenters, committee members; and attendees who have paid their registration fee in full.

(5) Traveler's Information

The climate in Tsukuba area during the conference is generally moderate. The daily high and low temperatures in this season are approximately 25-15 degrees Centigrade (77-59 degrees Fahrenheit).

Currency cannot be exchanged at the conference site. Exchanging currency at airports, banks or hotels is recommended.

Using traveler's checks is not very popular in Japan. Major credit cards like VISA, MasterCard, and American Express are widely accepted at the major hotels, shops and restaurants. We do not accept any credit cards at the on-site registration desk.

In eastern Japan including Tsukuba area, electric voltage is 100V and the frequency is 50 Hz.

(6) Related Events

The international conference on Quality Control by Artificial Vision (QCAV 2005) will be held at Nagoya Congress Center, Nagoya, Japan on May 18-20. Also, the world exposition "EXPO 2005 Aichi" will be held from March 25 to Sept.25, 2005 not far from Nagoya. It may be a good chance to visit these events at this opportunity. More information on QCAV and EXPO are available at the following websites.

QCAV.....<http://koshi-lab.sccs.chukyo-u.ac.jp/QCAV2005/>

EXPO 2005 Aichi.....<http://www-0.expo2005.or.jp/en/index.html>

(7) Further Information

Further information related to MVA2005 is available at <http://www.cvl.iis.u-tokyo.ac.jp/mva/>, and questions can be mailed to mva2005@m.aist.go.jp.