

The Giant Kites of Sagami

The largest kite in Japan glides gracefully through the sky!
(14.5 x 14.5 meters in size and 950kg in weight)

The Giant Kite Festival of *Sagami* is a traditional event that has been held in Sagami-hara City, which is in Kanagawa Prefecture, since the Tenpou period (around 1830) in the Edo era. The Sagami Giant Kite Preservation Association has passed down the tradition and techniques of making and flying some of the largest kites in the world to the local residents of Sagami-hara.

The Giant Kites of *Sagami* are called "*Sagami-no-Oodako*", the large Japanese kites flown by the *Sagami* Giant Kite Preservation Association in *Shindo*, *Kamiisobe*, *Simoisobe*, and *Katsusaka* regions of Sagami-hara City, which is located in the middle of Kanagawa Prefecture. On May 4th and 5th this year's *Sagami* Giant Kite Festival, which is an annual event, will be held at the Sagami-gawa riverbed.

The size of the Giant Kites of Sagami used in the festival in May of 2008 was:

<i>Shindo</i>	--- 8 x 8 kens* (14.5 x 14.5 meters)
<i>Kamiisobe</i>	--- 6 x 6 kens (11.2 x 11.2 meters)
<i>Shimoisobe</i>	--- 6 x 6 kens (10.8 x 10.8 meters)
<i>Katsusaka</i>	--- 5 x 5 kens (9.0 x 9.0 meters)

* ken is an ancient Japanese unit of measure for length

Specifications of the large kites used in Shindo district

Size	--- 14.5 x 14.5 meters
Weight	--- 950kg
Length of control rope	--- 200m
Thickness of a control rope	--- 3-4cm
Length of a tail	--- 85m
Staff required for kite-flying	--- 80-100 people
Wind speed necessary for flying giant kite	--- 10-15 meters per second



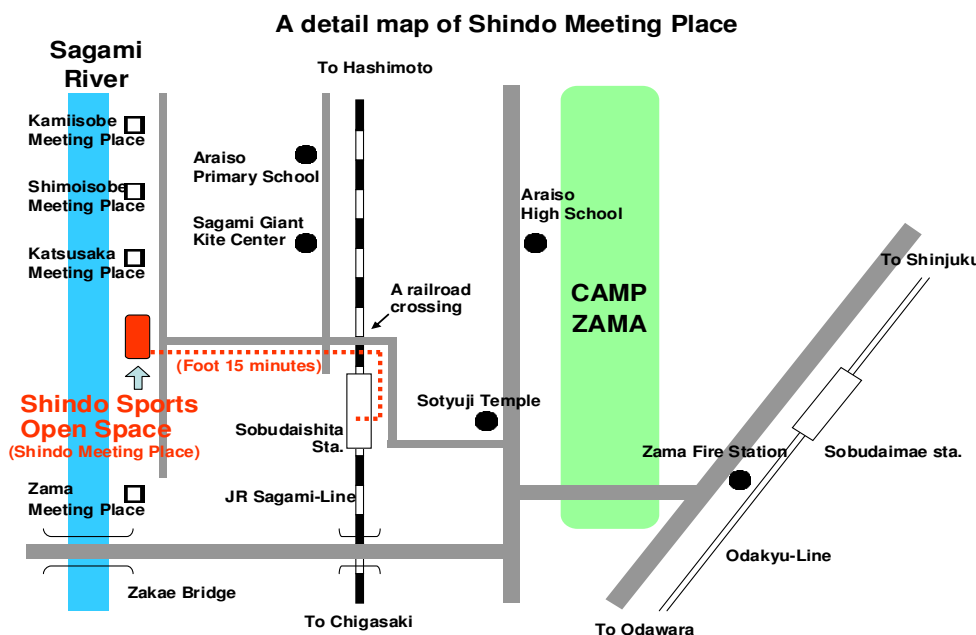
2008 "soki"



2007 "yufu"



2006 "shinso"



<http://www.sagami-oodako.com/e/>