

Weather in Japan ～ Mid-summer Days, Mid-winter Days, and Tropical Nights ～

In Japan, days when the temperature exceeds 25°C are called *natsubi* (summer day). Days when the temperature exceeds 30°C are called *manatsubi* (lit. “mid-summer day”), and days when the temperature tops 35°C are called *moushobi* (lit. “extremely hot day”). Nights when the temperature does not drop below 25°C are called *nettaiya* (lit. “tropical night”).

In winter, days when the lowest temperature falls below 0°C are called *fuyubi* (winter day), and days when even the highest temperature fails to reach 0°C are called *mafuyubi* (lit. “mid-winter day”) or *shimobi* (lit. “frost day”).

The highest temperature ever recorded in Japan was 40.9°C. This was recorded in Kumagaya City in Saitama Prefecture and Tajimi City in Gifu Prefecture on August 16, 2007. The lowest temperature was -41°C recorded in Asahikawa City in Hokkaido on January 25, 1902. The difference between the highest and lowest temperatures is the extremely large difference of 81.9°C.

Last summer was very hot indeed, with the average temperature (between June and August 2010) setting a new high for the first time since 1898, 113 years ago. The average temperature was 1.64°C higher than the average year (30-year average, from 1971 to 2000), and as much as 2.25°C higher in August, with 48 days of *nettaiya* in Tokyo.

日本の気象

～ 『真夏日』 『真冬日』 『熱帯夜』 ～

日本では、最高気温が25°C以上の日を「夏日」、最高気温が30°C以上の日を「真夏日」、最高気温が35°C以上の日を「猛暑日」といいます。また、夜間に気温が下がらず最低気温が25°C以上の場合を「熱帯夜」といいます。

反対に、冬場、最低気温が0°C未満の日を「冬日」、最高気温が0°C未満の日を「真冬日」または「霜日」といいます。

日本の観測史上の最高気温は2007年8月16日に埼玉県熊谷市と岐阜県多治見市で観測された40.9°C、最低気温は1902年1月25日に北海道旭川市で観測された-41°Cで両者の気温差は81.9°Cにもなります。

昨年の夏は本当に暑い夏でしたが、その平均気温（2010年6～8月）は、1898年以降の113年間で第一位の記録となりました。平年（1971～2000年の30年間の平均値）より1.64°C高く、特に8月は2.25°Cも高く、東京都心では「熱帯夜」が48日もありました。