

Goodies

A 'blooming' good time

Seeing all these flowers in spring makes me so happy!

EVERY year in April, tourists from around the world flock to Japan and South Korea to admire the cherry blossoms. For the locals of the two countries, it is a time to enjoy spring picnics under cherry trees.



Editor's Note

Hi! Spring is nearly here! I have been to Seoul to view the cherry blossoms and it is indeed a fantastic sight. They are from an Asian tree but did you know that cherry blossoms can also be seen in Washington DC, the capital of the United States? Cherry trees were donated by the mayor of Tokyo in 1912 as sign of friendship. Since then, the city celebrates the National Cherry Blossom Festival and many people visit the city to join in. Turn to G02 to learn more about cherry blossoms. Also in Goodies, in G05 is a story of a lady who came to Hong Kong many years ago to tell Chinese people about why foot binding is wrong.



Simon



G02

Cover Feature

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• Photos: Xinhua, AFP, Bloomberg, AP, Sing Tao Daily

Goodies



To make sure you and your family do not miss the full-bloom periods, check the forecasts online and plan your itinerary accordingly.



In Japan

THOUSANDS of cherry trees in the urban and **rural** areas of Japan (日本) and South Korea (南韓) are covered with pink flowers in April, and this **spectacular phenomenon** is welcomed by locals and foreign visitors.

The first cherry blossoms appear as early as January on the Japanese island of Okinawa (沖縄). But on the main Japanese islands, cherry trees bloom in April, starting in the south and moving up north. A flower **enthusiast** who misses the cherry blossoms in Tokyo (東京) in early April can head north to places like Tohoku (東北) and Hokkaido (北海道) to admire one of Mother Nature's most breathtaking sights.



Party in Japan

CHERRY trees mean a lot to the Japanese, and the blossoms represent hope and strength. Many Japanese throw a party under the trees and share good food and drink with their friends. Some people even sell goods under the cherry trees.



In South Korea

SOUTH Koreans, too, enjoy cherry blossoms, which might come early this year, according to one **forecast**. The annual bloom might occur at the end of March on Jeju Island (濟州島), Busan (釜山), Gwangju (光州) before reaching the capital Seoul (首爾) and Incheon (仁川).



In Hong Kong

YOU can see cherry blossoms without leaving Hong Kong. Ten cherry trees have been planted at the Chinese University of Hong Kong (香港中文大學). Many people like to visit the Kwan Kung **Pavilion** on Cheung Chau (長洲關公忠義亭) to see and smell the cherry trees in March.

