**WELCOME TO THE COMIC MARKET**

**Comic Market (Comiket) 88**

**Session Dates:**
- 2015/8/14 (Friday) ~ 2015/8/16 (Sunday)

**Next Planned Session Dates:**
- 2015/12/29 (Tuesday) ~ 2015/12/31 (Thursday)

**Location & Hours of Operation**

- **Tokyo Big Sight (Tokyo International Exhibition Center)**
  
  For information regarding access to the Tokyo Big Site, visit:
  
  - **Dressing Rooms**
  
  - **D‒ojinshi Area:**
    - All attendees: West Halls 1 & 2
    - 10:00am to 4:00pm each day
  
  - **Dressing Rooms**
    - Women: Reception Hall on 1st Floor of the Conference Tower
    - Men: 6th Floor of the Conference Tower
  
  - **Women:**
    - Reception Hall on 1st Floor of the Conference Tower
    - 10:00am to 5:00pm each day
    - 3:45pm last day (Costume on last day)

**Entrance Fees**

- Entrance to Comiket is free. However, purchasing the Comiket Catalog (available in both print, online and DVD-ROM versions) is highly recommended. Only d‒ojinshi publishers (circle members) are given entry passes to allow early entry to set up their booths. All others must get in line for entry.

**How to use this Catalog**

This catalog is divided into the following major parts: Basic information regarding Comiket, listings of all d‒ojinshi circles in attendance, a listing of all vendors in the corporate booth area, procedures on costumeing, and other various articles. Most of the catalog is in Japanese. The section you are reading is a barebone guide written in foreign languages for attendee from overseas.

Please note this section is not a complete translation of all the information in this catalog. Some information has been abbreviated. If you have any questions, we recommend you ask a Japanese friend to review the Comiket Catalog or contact the International Desk for more information. (See below regarding International Desk operation.)

- **Overall Comiket map** = pg.4
- **D‒ojinshi circle listings**
  - Friday’s listings = pg. 60
  - Saturday’s listings = pg. 136
  - Sunday’s listings = pg. 816
- **Costume play information** = pg.24 (Japanese)
  - See ‘Cosplay Activities and Photography’ below for more information.
- **Corporate booth listings** = pg.1185
  - A color guide of the all the vendors operating at the corporate booths is separately available during Comiket.
- **Information for first time visitors to Comiket** = See 'Navigating Comiket'.

**What is the Comic Market?**

The Comic Market (Comiket) is a marketplace where individuals can offer their own self-produced creations to a community that appreciates and supports such creative personal activities. Comiket primarily focuses on acting as a communal exchange place for self-published books, known as d‒ojinshi. Japanese dictionaries define d‒ojinshi as self-published material aimed toward likeminded individuals and the Comic Market invites any publication (books, music, films, software, etc.) published by individuals that are not available through standard commercial outlets. Applications for booths are processed prior to the event. You cannot apply for a booth at Comiket itself.

- **One goal of the Comic Market is aiding creative efforts conducted outside the established commercial realm, and thereby encourage innovation and interaction within the overall community revolving around manga, anime and games. Comiket places emphasis on community building that empowers individual creativity, initiative, freedom, and to that end we strive our best to accommodate a large and diverse collection of d‒ojinshi publishing groups, known as circles, to offer their d‒ojinshi (non-corporate, limited distribution publications). Comiket places great priority on artistic freedom, subject to certain conditions necessary to ensure smooth operation of the Comic Market and retain compliance to Japanese laws.**

**Comic Market: Its History and Ideals**

Comiket was established out of frustrations regarding existing manga fan events and disappointment at the lack of diversity in commercial publications in the mid 1970’s. Many venues where manga fans could converge tended to be narrow-minded and outlets for experimental young manga authors were limited in the commercial sphere, thus a manga critique group Meikyu (‘Labyrinth’) not only started publishing a manga review d‒ojinshi, but also established an event where manga authors and fans could share their publications. The small startup event only featured 32 circles and approximately 700 people attending, taking place in a relatively small conference space, and yet the small venue allowed the Comic Market were already in place. Namely, an event focused on individual’s personal creations, regular attendees supporting and encouraging such creative efforts, a volunteer group managing the operation of the event, and all parties involved doing their best to help each other.

This cooperative emphasis continues to be part of the operation of the Comic Market. Comiket is an event of the fans by the fans for the fans of manga in general and other mediums of self-expression. All operations of Comiket are designed to provide the maximum degree of freedom allowable while at the same time maintaining order and safety so that Comiket can continue to be held year after year.

In recent years, the Comic Market has grown to become an event with over 35 years of history, boasting 35,000 d‒ojinshi circles and 500,000 general attendees at each session, usually held twice a year. D‒ojinshi authors and fans from all over Japan, and some from overseas, converge upon Comiket to directly intermingle among their peers, with whom they share a common devotion toward a diverse and unique range of creative works, made possible by independence, imagination and self-expression.

In addition to d‒ojinshi booths, Comiket houses a corporate dealers’ area, attended by corpora- tions who understand and support the ideals of the Comic Market. Numerous exhibits, talk shows, etc. may also take place.

For most d‒ojinshi circles, earning profits is not the goal for their activities, but instead they aim to interact with their fellow participants through their own creations. Communication encourages creation through inspiration, and thereby lays the groundwork for even greater works to come into being. This is the paramount goal of the Comic Market.

**Important Comiket Policies**

All attendees must follow all rules and policies established by the Comiket Committee without exception. Attendees must obey all instructions issued by police, firefighters, Comiket staff, or security guards, and employees of the Tokyo Big Sight. Below is a list of specific policies and rules of the Comic Market.

- Anyone attending the Comic Market must obey Japanese laws and Tokyo Metropolitan Government ordinances.
- All Comiket attendees must follow disaster prevention and public safety rules established below.
- Do not run or push people. It is very easy for a trampling incident or a crowd collapse to occur with so many people packed together. Always remain calm and don’t rush. Comiket also prohibits people walking on moving escalators for safety reasons.
- Do not sit down or place luggage, sort books, etc. near fire fighting gear or emergency exits. These areas are marked by red or yellow tape on the floor within the facility. Furthermore, do not leave baggage unattended anywhere within the premises. If you come across a suspicious object, please inform Comiket staff or a security guard immediately.
- Do not smoke anywhere except at designated smoking areas.
- Do not start any open flames, bring in pyrotechnic devices, or any easily flammable items within Tokyo Big Sight.
- Attendees must follow common sense rules for public behavior, respect others in personal interaction, and avoid causing crowd control issues or being a public nuisance.
- Do not loiter inside or near the Tokyo Big Sight during late night hours.
- Do not swing around, throw or kick objects about.
- Do not tamper with Tokyo government ordinances.
Comiket is no ordinary event. It is very crowded and massive. We recommend first-time visitors to come past 12 noon to avoid long lines. You should be in good health when visiting Comiket and make sure to dress accordingly. It can get very hot and humid in summer while very cold winds can feel in winter.

While the Comiket does have first aid stations staffed by volunteering medical professionals, they can only provide rudimentary medical care typical of a school’s nurse’s office. If you have a pre-existing condition that may hamper your ability to safely navigate Comiket and its intense crowds, we strongly recommend you seek advice from your doctor.

Make sure to use public transportation. Visit the Tokyo Big Sight web page listed above for access information.

Do not leave your personal belongings, especially when you are in line to get into Comiket. It is very easy to lose track of your place in line. Make sure to keep money, passports, travel tickets, and other important items with you at all times just in case. If you lose or drop something important, contact Comiket staff for assistance.

Cell phone service and/or Internet access may become unreliable due to heavy traffic. Do not rely on cell phones or Internet access as the sole means of contacting others accompanying you or who you plan to meet. You cannot use Comiket’s public address system to attempt to find someone.

This service is reserved for official notices and emergencies.

It is very easy for someone to get lost or separated at Comiket. Make sure to designate at least two places where you can find each other at specific times in case you get separated. (i.e. Near spot X at the top of every hour or at spot Y at the end of the day before leaving.) We highly recommend you bring a non-written note in Japanese, that indicates where you are staying and how to get back in cases you need return back alone.

Comiket is harsh enough for regular adults. All parents should place the highest priority on knowing where and how to take care of children or minors if they are attending Comiket. In addition to making sure to keep an eye on your child, please monitor your children’s condition at all times. Comiket does not have children’s care nor medication designed for children. If your child is too young to be able to return home alone, make sure to give them an ID badge, bracelet or card. The ID should contain your child’s name, address and emergency contact information (i.e. cell phone, the circle you are working at, hotel, etc.). Contact Comiket Staff if your child has gotten lost.

Publishers at the Comiket range anywhere between amateur manga hobbyists to professional manga authors, but most share a common devotion toward dōjinshi and Comiket, a place where one can experience first hand the diverse as well as unique creativity made possible by the medium of dōjinshi. Comiket thrives on diversity, and while you may not approve of certain creations, please do not openly criticize their works in a way that is disrespectful. While many circles are happy to offer their creations to you, some may disagree with the premises of outsiders who don’t know much about Comiket or dōjinshi in general from purchasing their personal creations. Please respect the individual dōjinshi circles’ decisions on what they create and to whom they offer them.

Comiket International Desk

Each section of the Comiket Staff are handed out information on how to respond to common questions. The on-duty Staff members of attendees from overseas, but for more involved topics, Comiket has an International Desk section ready to assist you. The Comiket International Desk is here to provide overseas attendees with information and answer any questions that might arise. Please feel free to come and ask for our help. We welcome everyone who shares our enthusiasm and interest in the dōjinshi culture.

All of us on the Comiket staff hope you will enjoy your visit to the Comiket Market.

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Navigating Comiket - A Beginner’s Guide

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