

FEATURES

Japan's Roadside Station: *Michi-no-Eki*



Above left: Visitors can enjoy video simulations of elementary particles and neutrinos projected on a large screen at the science museum.
Above right: Olive Ramen, with noodles kneaded in olive oil and topped with sliced lemon, is served at the Restaurant Sun Olive in the roadside station.
Below left: The Farm Circus Market offers a wide selection of locally grown vegetables and fruits, as well as alcoholic beverages and seasonings.
Below right: Two *Michi-no-Eki* facilities have been opened in Indonesia thus far. This one shows *Michi-no-Eki* Pakewa.

In Japan, there are approximately 1,200 facilities known as “*Michi-no-Eki*,” or roadside stations, that have been established across the country with the purposes of offering road users a safe and comfortable road traffic environment as well as fostering local community development. Each facility is designed to reflect the unique characteristics of its respective area. In this month’s issue of “*Highlighting Japan*,” we will showcase these *Michi-no-Eki*, which draw a diverse range of visitors with their breathtaking scenic views, exclusive experiences, and the sale of attractive local specialties. We will also introduce the expansion of *Michi-no-Eki* internationally.

