

Consultation for Foreign Sufferers

While operating the KIF evacuation center at KCIC and patrolling other evacuation center, we noticed that there were foreign sufferers having anxiety who stayed in their homes having problems or who stayed at night in their car. So we started to prepare consultation gatherings on April 26th and had four sessions on May, 1st (Sun), 8th (Sun.), 31st (Tue.), and June 12th (Sun.). We also provided gatherings for International Community on May 22nd (Sun.), and August 21st (Sun.), and a seminar for earthquake disaster management on July 16th (Sat.). We also provided individual counselling at the center and gave advice by telephone as part of our daily routine. Soon after the earthquake, most of the questions we received were mainly about after shocks, evacuation sites, and means of transportation to get out of Kumamoto. From the middle of May, when companies and schools resumed and their daily routine returned to normal, the questions we received were different. They were about the anxiety of daily living such as unemployment, research delays, sleepless nights, and attitude changes in their children.



The first consultation session

May 1st(Sun.), 11:00~14:00

Kumamoto City International Center First floor entrance lobby

Participants 80 (Nationality: Philippines, India, Bulgaria, Sri Lanka, Indonesia, UK, Bangladesh, Tanzania, Egypt, China)

Number of cases: 48

Content

【Law issues】

- I cannot live in the apartment due to the earthquake. Do I still have to pay the rent?
- I was told by a landlord of my apartment to move out, but I still would like to live here, because it doesn't have severe damage.

【Residential issues】

- I want to confirm the safety of my apartment building as soon as possible.
- My house has collapsed, and I want to move to a new apartment.
- The wall of my house collapsed, and furniture and dishes were broken. Can I receive any assistance?

【Visa status】

- The period of my resident status is going to expire soon. As my house has collapsed, I stayed at an evacuation site, and I now bounce from friend to friend. What shall I do with my address, when I have to renew my visa?

【Municipal service】

- How to do I apply for the disaster victims certificate

【Mental issues】

- I cannot return home due to fear of earthquake at night. (At the time of the foreshock, the TV set fell just beside my face, when I was sleeping.)



The second consultation session

May 8th (Sun), 10:00 ~14:00

Kumamoto City International Center Second-floor Communication Lounge

Number of participants: 120 (Nationalities: Nepal, Philippine, Indonesia, UK, Bangladesh, Kenya, Thailand, Vietnam, USA, Mexico, China)

Number of cases : 50

Content

【Law issues】

- The salary from the company where I work is unpaid.
- The water heater in the apartment is broken, but the landlord neglects it.
- About internet contract. (It cannot be used due to the earthquake)

【Residential issues】

- There is some anxiety about the safety of the apartment.
- Sewage water leaks into the house because the plumbing broken.
- The wall of the house have collapsed and the PC and TV are broken.
- I live on the fourth floor of the apartment, but I would like to move to the first floor.

