

PLAZA NEWS LETTER(Aug, 2022)

The weather has been very hot lately. It is important to wear a mask to prevent COVID-19, but be aware that wearing a mask when temperatures and humidity are high, increases the risk of heat stroke. It is not necessary to wear a mask when running or walking outside, commuting to work or school. When it is hot, do not hold back and turn on the air-conditioning, and drink water frequently even if you are not thirsty. Watch out for heat stroke, we've got a hot summer ahead of us!

There were 87 consultations received at the Plaza in June. We share some of them with the advice from the Plaza.

Q:I am currently working with a 'professor' visa status, but life is difficult and I would like to find a part-time job.

A:We introduced Plaza job consultations (2nd Wed. of the month). When working part-time with a professor's status, you need to apply for a permit.

Q: The school would like to talk to the parents about the situation of the students and their home environment, but as they do not speak much Japanese, they would like an interpreter to be sent to the school.

A:Interpreters can be arranged. Please contact the Plaza.

Q: What if I am thinking of moving but have no guarantor? A friend of mine offered to be my guarantor, is this a problem? I'd like to know the conditions for a guarantor.

A: Some real estate companies work with guarantee companies to ensure that housing can be rented without a guarantor. (e.g. Kosugi Real Estate).

In addition, a company called GTN (Global Trust Networks) is in the rent guarantee business. <https://www.gtn.co.jp/>

If you have any problems or questions about housing, come to the Plaza's Housing Consultation. (3rd Wed. of the month, 13:00-16:00)

Q: I would like to know more about daycare for my child, who will be 5 this year, including information about nearby daycare centers and their availability.

A: Ask the health and children's section of the ward office where you live and they will tell you which kindergartens and nurseries are nearby. You can also search the Kumamoto City Marriage and Childcare Support Website to see the availability of each nursery school and kindergarten.

If you have any problem, please contact the Kumamoto Consultation and Support Plaza for Foreign Residents.

Obon

Have you ever heard of the word 'Obon'? It is an event in summer to honor the spirits of ancestors. The period varies slightly from region to region, but is generally 3 or 4 days from 13-15/16 August. Many companies are on holiday during this period and many people return home like New Year, and you may have seen reports of traffic jams on motorways and congestion at airports and on bullet trains. People returning home gather with family and relatives for a meal or get together with local friends. They also go out to tourist attractions and enjoy leisure. Traditional Obon ceremonies involve the followings.

●13th(the first day)

They visit their family grave and in the evening, a "welcoming fire" is built to welcome the ancestors. The fire is built in the hope that the ancestors will not get lost...



●14th&15th

During Obon, ancestors' spirits are believed to stay at home shrine and fruits, sweets and festive meal are offered to them.

●16th (the last day)

offerings are made in the morning. When it gets dark in the evening, a 'bonfire' is lit to send them off. The Daimonji Yaki in Kyoto is one of the famous ones.



Another common Obon event is the Bon Odori dance. It is said to have its roots in the Nenbutsu(a Buddhist chant) dance, which was performed to comfort the spirits of ancestors. People wear yukata and dance to traditional music. The dances are usually simple. So if you see one in your neighborhood, why not join in?

HINOKUNI MATSURI

It's summer and in Kumamoto it means time for HINOKUNI MATSURI ! This year, for the first time in 3 years, it'll be held from 5-7 August for 3 days. The "OTEMOYAN SO ODORI Dance" on the last day of the festival is the main event, with around 60 groups and 5,000 participants before COVID-19. You used to be allowed to join the dance on the spot but this year you have to book in advance. This year's SO ODORI Dance is scheduled for Sat. 6 August, the 2nd day of the event. For more details, visit <https://kumamoto-guide.jp/hinokunimatsuri/> No trams or buses run from the SUIDOCHO intersection to the City Hall during the SO ODORI Dance. Note that it's not possible to drive through. A night market will be held at Sakura no Baba Josaien near the Kumamoto City International Center every Saturday from 5pm to 8pm during the summer holidays (23 July-20 August). Go round the stalls and enjoy the Japanese summer tradition!



ORUGATTA KIDS

A study day for preschool (final year) and the first & second year children from foreign countries and their parents, will be held at Kumamoto City International Center.

What you can do at ORUGATTA KIDS

- Father & Mother:

Talk about anything you're unsure about or worried about, such as school notices, what to prepare, money, etc.

- Preschool children:

Play origami, games and read picture books while speaking Japanese.

- Children in first and second year:

Study Japanese words they don't know by reading schoolbooks and doing homework.

Date: Sunday, 28 August 10:30-12:00

Apply by: Sunday, 14 August

Apply to: Phone: 096-359-4995

Email: soudan@kumamoto-if.or.jp

This workshop will continue to be held in Sep and beyond, so if you are busy in Aug, join us on a convenient date in Sep or later.

Information on Kumamoto Consultation and Support Plaza for Foreign Residents

The Plaza offers life affairs support in multiple languages such as English, Chinese, Vietnamese, Tagalog, etc. Professional consultations including legal affairs, residence status issues, job hunting, and housing are also provided.

August Schedule

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
01	02 •Chinese Consultation	03 •Immigrational Consultation •Vietnamese Consultation •Life Consultation in Chinese •German Consultation	04 •Korean Consultation	05 •Life Consultation in Chinese •Spanish Consultation •English Consultation	06	07 •Vietnamese Consultation •Life Consultation in Chinese •Educational Consultation
08 closed	09 •Chinese Consultation	10 •Job Consultation •Mental Counseling •Tagalog Consultation •Life Consultation in Chinese •German Consultation	11 Mountain Day •Korean Consultation	12 •Life Consultation in Chinese •English Consultation	13	14 •Life Consultation in Chinese •Educational Consultation
15	16 •Chinese Consultation	17 •Housing Consultation •Vietnamese Consultation •Life Consultation in Chinese •German Consultation	18 •Korean Consultation	19 •Life Consultation in Chinese •English Consultation	20 •Free Legal Consultation •Life Consultation in Chinese	21 •Immigrational Consultation •Vietnamese Consultation •Educational Consultation
22 closed	23 •Chinese Consultation	24 •Life Consultation in Chinese •German Consultation •One-stop Consultation for Foreign Students	25 •Korean Consultation	26 •Life Consultation in Chinese •English Consultation	27	28 •Life Consultation in Chinese •Educational Consultation •Orugatta kids
29	30 •Chinese Consultation	31 •Life Consultation in Chinese •German Consultation	01	02	03	04
05	06	Note: Consultations 1:00pm~5:00pm(Apart from the ones below) •Life Consultation in Chinese 1:00pm ~ 6:00pm •ORUGATTA Kids 10:30am~12:00p (Reservation Required) •Immigrational Consultation/Housing Consultation 1:00pm~4:00pm •Mental Counseling 3:30pm~5:30pm •Free Legal Consultation 2:00pm~4:00pm (Reservation required) •Educational Consultation 1:00pm~3:00pm (Reservation required) •Job Consultation 10:00am ~ 6:00pm •One-stop Consultation for Foreign Students 2:00pm~5:00pm				

※Consultation service could be cancelled due to consultant's personal reasons.
Please e-mail or call us beforehand to check if the consultant is available.

We are uploading life affairs guidance online!

We are introducing information and tips useful to your life in Kumamoto City online.

Though we planned to give face-to-face life affairs guidance, because of the COVID-19, we are providing online guidance. Guidance is given in plain Japanese and English. Please check our guidance on the URL below!

(You can watch the guidance on homepage or Facebook page of Kumamoto Consultation and Support Plaza for Foreign Residents)

<https://www.kumamotoif.or.jp/plaza/list00151.html>

We are offering variety of information useful to your life. Please check us!



Our homepage



Our Facebook

Kumamoto Consultation and Support Plaza for Foreign Residents

Location: 2nd floor of Kumamoto City International Center

Address: 〒860-0806 4-18 Hanabata-Cho Chuo-Ku, Kumamoto City

Tel: 096-359-4995

E-mail: soudan@kumamoto-if.or.jp

Opening hours: Between 10 am and 6 pm

Closed on second and fourth Mondays and between December 29 and January 3

★If second or fourth Mondays is a national holiday, the plaza will be closed next day instead.

