

PLAZA NEWS LETTER(September, 2022)

August is coming to an end, but the weather is still hot. Do not hesitate to turn on the air conditioner, as heat stroke is more likely to occur when the heat is unbearable. If you use a fan before turning down the temperature of the air conditioner, you can cool the room with less energy. Give it a try.

The Plaza received 82 consultations in July. We share some of them with the advice from the Plaza.

Q: I have a fever and want to have a PCR test.

A: If you have a family doctor, contact them first. If you do not have one, phone the call center (0570-096-567) and they will refer you to a nearby clinic where you can be examined. If you have a difficulty in speaking Japanese, call the dedicated foreign language support number (092-687-7962).

Q: From a property agency in Uto who has Vietnamese tenants: Are there any leaflets in Vietnamese on Kumamoto City's rules for disposing of waste since there's none published by Uto City?

A: Kumamoto City's waste disposal rules are available in four languages (English, Chinese, Korean and Vietnamese). The information can be found on the website of the City of Kumamoto.

Q: I was tested positive for COVID-19 from a medical institution, but I have not heard from the health center. What should I do?

A: Currently, due to the high number of infected people, it is taking a long time to contact them. They are contacted by SMS or telephone (landline), except in emergencies or if they have an underlying medical condition.

Q: Consultation from a Japanese student. I want to have opportunities to communicate with foreigners for the future.

A: We introduced the cross-cultural café (where you can learn about the languages and cultures of the USA, Germany, Korea and China) and the Smile Station (Global Communication Act), which are held at the Kumamoto City International Center.

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

「Chu-shu no Meigetsu(Mid-autumn moon)」

「Chu-shu no Meigetsu」 is the moon visible on the night of 15 August in the old Japanese calendar. It is around September/October in the current calendar, this year on 10 September. This is an event people watch the beautiful moon and eat 「Tsukimi dango」. The Mid-Autumn Moon originates from a Chinese custom. It is believed to have been introduced to Japan in the Heian period (710 - 1192). Originally in Japan, the month on this day was called 'Imo Meigetsu', and harvest festivals were held to offer taro as an offering. This was combined with Chinese customs and adopted as an event to give thanks for the autumn harvest and to pray for a good harvest and good health in the following year. The most common moon-viewing offerings are tsukimi dango and silver grass. The meaning of the offerings is:



Tsukimi dango



Silver grass

Tsukimi dango : to express gratitude for the agricultural harvest and to celebrate a good harvest.

Silver grass: To give thanks and pray for a good rice harvest and to ward off evil spirits.



Pattern of the moon

The pattern of the moon appears to be different around the world. In Japan, it's a rabbit pounding rice cake. We will introduce legends about the moon's pattern in Japan and other countries where our consultants are from on the Plaza's Facebook.

Be sure to visit the page by scanning the QR code on the last page!

A lot of feedback was received from those who attended the "Further education guidance" on Sunday, July 3. Here are some of them.

Feedback from Students:

- It was very useful to be able to ask lots of questions about applying to the high school I wanted to go to. I am glad I came. (student)
- It was good to be able to ask the teacher what I didn't understand. (student)
- I found out about special Considerations and special measures for admissions and about high school, which helped to eliminate some of my concerns. (student)
- It was great to hear all the different stories. (student)
- I am glad that I was able to participate today and help my child choose a career path. (Parent)
- It was good to know which schools to visit at school information sessions and open schools. (student)

Feedback from Parents:

- I could understand what I didn't, I was consulted and my child could understand the feeling of the examinations. I am glad I came. (Parent)
- It was very helpful in deciding on a career path. (Parent)
- I think there were quite a few things that my child could have learnt from participating. I'd like to continue to support in many things. (Parent)
- We would like to see this spread to all secondary schools with students of foreign origin. (Parent)

Feedback from Teachers:

- We felt the importance of actively disseminating information. (teacher)
- I found that there are students with foreign roots from many different backgrounds. (teacher)

The Career Guidance will be held again next summer. Watch out the space !



Disaster prevention



Japan is a country with frequent earthquakes. The rainy season and autumn are also prone to disasters caused by heavy rain and typhoons. It is very important to make sure you know how to act in the event of a disaster to protect your life and the lives of those around you. This month's Plaza Newsletter provides information on disaster countermeasure and what to expect when disaster strikes.



<https://www.kumamoto-if.or.jp/kiji003260/index.html>

Multilingual disaster prevention card 'Anshin Note'. Information on disasters and evacuation is available in English, Chinese, Korean, Vietnamese, Indonesian, Tagalog and Nepali, alongside Japanese. They are distributed at the Kumamoto City International Center, as well as at City Hall, ward offices and community centers. Pick one up, fill in the necessary information and carry it with you at all times.

<https://city-kumamoto.secure.force.com/>

Kumamoto City Disaster Prevention Information Portal. Emergency, evacuation, evacuation centers and various other information is transmitted.



https://twitter.com/kumamotocity_

This is the official Twitter account of the City of Kumamoto. Various information is transmitted, including emergency information notices in the event of a disaster. Follow it to receive the latest news.

<https://www.nhk.or.jp/sonae/drill/>

'Disaster prevention drill'. There are a total of eight drills on water, food and hygiene etc, during disasters. By doing this in advance, you can take appropriate action when a disaster actually occurs.



<https://www.nhk.or.jp/sonae/moshimo/pdf/moshimobook.pdf>

"Disaster 'what if' Book". It is designed to help you know what and how to do in the event of an earthquake. It can be printed out and folded small and kept in a wallet so that it is readily available when disaster strikes.

<https://www.nhk.or.jp/sonae/moshimo/pdf/moshimomanual.pdf>

The "Disaster 'what if' Manual". This provides solutions to problems and concerns after an earthquake. It explains how to use an AED, administer first aid and use a fire extinguisher. You can print this out and fold it into a size that fits in your wallet and carry it with you.



<https://www.pref.kumamoto.jp/uploaded/attachment/50233.pdf>

'Disaster prevention brochure for foreign residents.' Introduction to the Japanese language used in times of disaster and how to gather information.



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.

September Schedule

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

※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.

Online life affairs guidance!

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

Guidance is given in English and plain Japanese.

Please check our guidance on the URL below!

(You can watch the guidance on our website or Facebook page)

<https://www.kumamoto-if.or.jp/plaza/list00151.html>

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



Our website



Our Facebook

Kumamoto Consultation and Support Plaza for Foreign Residents

Location: 2nd floor of Kumamoto City International Center

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

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 Monday is a national holiday, the plaza will be closed the following day instead.

