

PLAZA NEWS LETTER(October, 2022)

Have you heard the buzzing of insects lately? Not so long ago, the 'mee-ing, mee-ing' sound of cicadas, the most common summer insects, could often be heard. But now you can hear the "lean, lean", a common autumnal call of the common buzzard. You can sense the change of season by the sound of insects. How about in your country?

The Plaza received 65 consultations in August. We share some of them with the advice from the Plaza.

Q: I am an international student. I am struggling to make ends meet. Are there places that can help me financially?

A: Currently, Kumamoto City issues 'Temporary Special Benefits for Resident Tax-Exempt Households'. However, there are conditions for those who can receive it. Another option is scholarships. Scholarships are also available. For information on scholarships, the International Office at each university has detailed information. You can find out more about scholarships from the International Office at your university.

Q: I am an international student. Can you recommend a cheap place to live?

A: Contact the Municipal Housing Section for information on municipal housing. Or search for 'Kumamoto City Municipal Housing'. International students may also be able to consult the University Consortium or University Co-operative to be introduced to the properties (rooms) they each have.

Q: I have tested positive for COVID-19 and cannot go out. How can I go shopping etc. as I have no food? I have no housemates.

A: In Kumamoto City, food assistance is provided to those who do not have any supporters around them and who have difficulty procuring food (e.g. shopping for groceries). First, consult the "Kumamoto City Health Centre" for a hearing.

*Now that there are so many infected people, it takes time to provide support.

*Kumamoto City is promoting a 'rolling stock' in case of COVID-19. 'Rolling stock' means that you always buy a little more food. It is a method of always keeping a certain amount of food in stock, buying only what you use.

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

Autumn foliage

As the temperature drops in autumn, the leaves on the trees turn red and yellow. Kumamoto Prefecture's tree is the ginkgo, and every autumn the promenade of the prefectural government office is filled with yellow ginkgo leaves, which light up at night and are very beautiful. In this month's newsletter, we introduce five popular autumn foliage spots in Kumamoto Prefecture. Do visit them!

1. Kikuchi Valley

add: 5026 Haru, Kikuchi-shi

The area is covered with naturally dense, naturally growing broadleaved trees.

2. Former Residence of Hosokawa Gyobu

add: 1-1-1 Honmaru, Chuo-ku, Kumamoto-shi

The former Residence of Hosokawa Gyobu near Kumamoto Castle is one of the most senior samurai residences in the country.

It has been closed since the 2016 Kumamoto earthquake, but the garden is open for a limited time in autumn.

The maple leaves in the Japanese garden lit by bamboo lanterns are very beautiful.

3. Soyokyo Gorge

add: Nagasaki, Yamato-cho, Kamimashiki-gun

The U-shaped canyon with a 10km stretch of 200m cliffs, is unique in the country. In autumn, the gorge is decorated with vividly colored maple and zelkova trees.

4. Sendan Todoroki no taki Waterfall

add: Nitao, Izumi-machi, Yatsushiro-shi,

Enjoy the autumn foliage in the vast grounds of the nature park and the majestic waterfall from a height of 70m. Walk along the boardwalk for 10 minutes, it takes you close to the waterfall basin.

5. Ryokusenkyo Gorge

add: Midorikawa, Yamato-cho, Kamimashiki-gun

The large difference between cold and warm temperatures means that the mountains are decorated with brightly colored yellow and red foliage. Recommended for driving.



Kikuchi Valley



The promenade of the prefectural government office

Professional Consultation

■Mental counselling between 15:30 and 17:30 on every 2nd Wednesday

What consultation do you take?

You can consult any concerns or worries you may have in your daily life. Everyone has worries. For example, you are stressed because of the Corona disaster ..., relationships in the family are not going well ..., you don't know what your boss is thinking ..., you are worried about your children ..., you are worried about your future ..., you are unmotivated ..., you cannot sleep ..., etc. You will be assigned to a professional counsellor. Confidentiality is protected, so you can talk to them with peace of mind.

~Message to foreign residents in Kumamoto~

It's okay if you've been bothered lately, just need a quick chat, even something small. If you talk about your anxieties and worries when they are small, they may not get bigger. Feel free to drop in.

A colorful infographic featuring several hot air balloons of different colors (blue, green, pink, yellow, light blue) floating against a background of vertical stripes and confetti. Each balloon contains text about the consultation service. A large red sun-like shape on the right contains the text 'FREE Professional Consultation for Non-Japanese Residents'.

**Sunday
October 30
2022
10:00-16:00
2F, Kumamoto City
International
Center**

**Interpretation
available in
English, Chinese,
Tagalog, Vietnamese
and Nepalese
(Other languages
on request
but not
guaranteed)**

**Online
consultation
also available
(advance
reservation
only)**

**Reservation
strongly
recommended
as priority
to be
given.**

**Consult on:
visa, housing,
mental health,
kids' schooling,
general living
issues,
marriage
& divorce,
work,
etc**

**You can try
how to safely
ride a bicycle
with a simulator
"Kumarin-go"**

**FREE
Professional
Consultation
for
Non-Japanese
Residents**

Talk to a specialist about any problems you are having in your life in Japan. Consultation is free of charge and rest assured that the confidentiality is protected.

Inquiry & reservation:

Kumamoto Consultation and Support Plaza for Foreign Residents

4-18, Hanabata-cho, Chuo-ku, Kumamoto, 860-0806 TEL: 096-359-4995

Reservation→



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.

October Schedule

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
26	27	28	29	30	01	02 •Vietnamese Consultation •Life Consultation in Chinese •Educational Consultation
03	04 • Chinese Consultation	05 •Immigrational Consultation •Vietnamese Consultation •Life Consultation in Chinese •German Consultation	06 • Korean Consultation	07 •SpanishConsultation •Life Consultation in Chinese •English Consultation	08	09 •Life Consultation in Chinese •Educational Consultation
10 Sports Day	11 Closed	12 •Job Consultation •Mental Counseling •Tagalog Consultation •Life Consultation in Chinese •German Consultation	13 • Korean Consultation	14 •Life Consultation in Chinese •English Consultation	15 •Life Consultation in Chinese •Free Legal Consultation	16 •Immigrational Consultation •Vietnamese Consultation •Educational Consultation •Nepalese Consultation
17	18 • Chinese Consultation	19 •Housing Consultation •Vietnamese Consultation •Life Consultation in Chinese •German Consultation	20 • Korean Consultation	21 •Life Consultation in Chinese •English Consultation	22	23 •Life Consultation in Chinese •Educational Consultation
24 closed	25 • Chinese Consultation	26 •Life Consultation in Chinese •German Consultation •One-stop Consultation for Foreign Students	27 • Korean Consultation	28 •Life Consultation in Chinese •English Consultation	29	30 •Free Professional Consultation for Non-Japanese Residents
31	01	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 Consultation1:00pm~3:00pm (Reservation required) •One-stop Consultation for Foreign Students 2:00pm~5:00pm •Free Professional Consultation for Non-Japanese Residents 10am~4pm •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.

*Nepalese Consultation starts in October: 3rd Sunday of every month 1pm-5pm

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.