

PLAZA NEWS LETTER (November, 2022)

It is now October and it's getting a little cooler in the mornings and evenings. At this time of year, we hear the term 'seasonal change of clothing', which refers to the Japanese custom of changing from summer to winter clothing around October 1st. Kumamoto is said to be very hot in summer and very cold in winter, so be prepared. October is also a good season, there are many events taking place throughout Kumamoto. Enjoy the events while taking measures against Covid-19.

The Plaza received 77 consultations in September. We share some of them with the advice from the Plaza.

Q: I am getting married internationally and plan to bring my partner from abroad on a spouse visa. I am concerned if our savings and incomes are considered to be enough.

A: The immigration authorities will decide on the savings and income. The decision is likely to be more favorable if your partner has a fixed job in Japan, as income can also be considered for the whole family.

Q: My husband is considering attending a vocational school in the future. If so, what will my status of residence be? In addition, is it possible to change the visa from a family residence visa to a work visa?

A: Even if your husband changes his status to that of a student, your status remains as a family member. In addition, although it is possible to change from a family visa to a work visa under the system, it is important to match the person's experience and the type of work you want to do. If you are considering getting a job, you should consult the Immigration Department. The Plaza has days on the 1st Wednesday and 3rd Sunday when you can discuss your residency status.

Q: I currently receive loans from where I lived in the past. I have a friend who has been exempted from reimbursement. I'd like to apply for a waiver myself. I'd also like to financially support my family in my home country, and would like information on loans in Kumamoto.

A: As the loan is granted in another prefecture, contact the lender directly. There are conditions for reimbursement exemptions. For information on loans in Kumamoto, the Kumamoto City Social Welfare Council in Kumamoto City will support people who are in need or have lost their jobs due to the Covid-19. Ask if the money can be used to support your family in your home country.

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



The Seven-Five-Three Festival

Shichi-Go-San is a traditional event that people visit shrines in mid November to pray and thank God for the healthy growth of their children. Originally a court event (annual event at the Imperial Palace) during the Heian period (794-1192), but later spread to the general public. In old times, many children got ill and died before they reach the age of 7, so boys would visit shrines at ages 3 & 5, and girls at ages 3 & 7. But why are they 3, 5 and 7 years old? The three court events are based on.

- ① Hair laying ceremony : Ceremony for both boys and girls at a milestone when they begin to grow their hair, which had been shaved until the age of 3.
- ② Hakama-suit ceremony : A milestone where a boy wears his haori hakama(men's formal wear) for the first time at the age of 5 and is treated as a young boy from then onwards. Ceremony for boys only.
- ③ Obi Undoing Ceremony : A milestone in the development of a girl's first step towards adulthood, when the cord used to attach a kimono is replaced by an obi (sash) at the age of 7. A ceremony for girls only.

②is a boys-only ritual, ③is a girls-only one, so boys visit the shrine at 3 and 5 years old and girls do at the ages of 3 and 7.

When children visit shrines, they wear kimonos, dresses and suits together with their fathers, mothers and grandparents. They eat Chitose-ame and take commemorative photographs. Chitose-ame is a long, thin candy with red and white colors. Its name Chitose (means thousand years) and length of the candy express the wish that they will continue to grow safely for a long time to come.

In modern times, after visiting a shrine, family members and relatives often get together for a celebratory dinner.



Visiting shrine for Seven-Five-Three Festival



Chitose-ame

We introduce Phan-san, the Vietnamese consultant in this issue.

Name: Phan Ho Hai Uyen (Phan)

From: CAN THO City (South of Vietnam)

How long have you been in Kumamoto?: About 10 years.

What's good about Kumamoto?: Kumamoto has a good natural environment with lots of greenery. The water is 100% groundwater and is very tasty as it is from the Aso subsoil. If you turn on the tap, mineral water comes out. The staff at the health and children's department of the ward office are kind and helpful at all times.



A Message to foreign residents in Kumamoto: There is a lot of nature in Kumamoto, so please enjoy it. If you have any problems, you can always consult the Kumamoto Consultation and Support Plaza.

*Vietnamese Consultation First Wednesday and First Sunday 13:00-17:00

30th anniversary of the Friendship City of Heidelberg **Enjoy! German Festival!**



Sunday, Nov 20
10:00~16:00
Kumamoto City
International Center
Admission free! (except Bazaar)



Notice on "Enjoy! German Festival!", to be held on Sunday, November 20th at Kumamoto City International Center.

This event commemorates the 30th anniversary of Kumamoto City and Heidelberg city becoming friendship cities.

Enjoy drinking and eating spiced mulled wine, sausages, etc., and you can also freely read Japanese MANGA translated into foreign languages. Admission is free, except food and drinks at the Bazaar. Come and visit us!

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.

November Schedule

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

Sunday, October 30, 10:00-16:00

“Free Professional Consultation for Non-Japanese Residents”

You can have consultations on various matters – visa, legal, housing, kids' schooling and kindergarten, work, mental health etc... - in just one day! No need to worry even if you don't speak Japanese, interpreters are available in English, Chinese, Tagalog, Nepalese and Vietnamese. You will also have a chance to experience a bicycle simulator and learn more about bicycle traffic rules in Japan.

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.

