

PLAZA NEWS LETTER(December 2022)

On October 30, we held a "Free Professional Consultation for Non-Japanese Residents". People living in Kumamoto City and from outside the city came to consult with us.

We thought that being able to consult with a variety of professionals in one day and not having to worry about the language barrier made it easier for the non-Japanese residents in need. We are happy if it was an opportunity for foreign residents to know that it is a place where they can feel free to come for advice.

The Plaza received 95 consultations in October. We share some of them with advice from the Plaza.

Q: I am an international student. Can I invite my spouse to Japan to live with me? Can I stay in Japan after my period of stay as a foreign student has expired for the purpose of job hunting?

A: If you have a spouse who has completed marriage procedures, you may bring your spouse to Japan. If you wish to extend your period of stay to find a job after graduation, you may change your status of residence to "Designated Activities"

Q: I am currently living in the United States. In order to obtain a passport for my child, I need a birth certificate in English for the child born in Kumamoto.

A: Birth certificates can be issued. Issuance in English is not available. If you want it to be posted to the US and need it in English, it has to be translated into English and notarized once you received it.

Certificates can be issued and sent to Kumamoto City by mail. (Current issuance fee 350 yen + postage)

If it is difficult for you to do the procedure by yourself, you can ask an administrative scrivener to do it for you although it will cost you.

Q: I have a Chinese driver's license, but cannot switch to an international one because China is not a signatory to the Geneva Conventions. What should I do?

A: You will need to have your Chinese driver's license and license application documents translated into Japanese (you can ask JAF or your embassy to do this for you), and make an appointment for the test at the license center. Then, you will be required to take an aptitude test (testing eyesight, hearing, etc.), knowledge check (checking Japanese traffic rules, etc.), and skill check (actually drive a car).

※If you fail any of the exams, you can take it again, but you will have to pay the fee again. You may take the exam as many times as you wish. You must have a valid driver's license from your home country.

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



” Osechi Ryori” New Year dishes

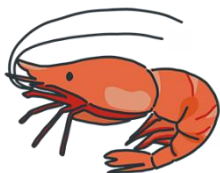
This month, we introduce “Osechi Ryori” .

Osechi Ryori is a festive dish eaten during the New Year's holiday. It is packed in boxes in tiers with the meaning of "to bring happiness". Each tier contains a different dish and we introduce some of them.



The first tier is called “Ichi-no-jyu” and is filled with celebratory snacks and “Kuchi-tori”. Celebratory snacks are dishes eaten with sake on festive occasions. Herring roe, tazukuri (small, dried sardines cooked in soy sauce and sugar) and kuromame (black soybeans) are called the three types of celebratory snacks.

“Kuchi-tori” are dishes that go with Sake and sweet dishes such as steamed fish cakes and creamed sweet potatoes with candied chestnuts.



The second tier is called "Ni-no-jyu" and is filled with grilled seafood such as sea bream and prawns. Prawns are said to symbolize longevity, and are believed to wish for a long life until one's waist bends.

The third tier is called "San-no-jyu" and is stuffed with stewed vegetables, mainly from the mountains, such as lotus root and taro. The lotus root is a symbol of the wish for a clear view of the future.

The fourth tier is called "Yo-no-jyu" and is filled with “Su-no-mono” such as vinegared carrots and white radish that will last for a long time.

“Su-no-mono” is a dish seasoned with vinegar and has the role of "chopstick rest" to let the palate feel refreshed.

The fifth tier is called the "Go-no-jyu" and is left empty to hold the blessings received from the god of the year.



Report on Free Professional Consultation for Non Japanese Residents

On Sunday, October 30, Plaza held a professional consultation for Non-Japanese Residents. People living in Kumamoto City and from outside Kumamoto City attended. There were 17 consulters and 28 consultations. As for languages, Chinese, English, Vietnamese, and Nepali interpreters were available on site to help the consulters in need. The contents of the consultations included: looking for a job, traffic accident troubles, harassment in the workplace, unemployment insurance, finding housing, preschool for children, Japanese language study for children, mental health, and residential status and application for naturalization. There were also two online (Zoom) consultations, from distant locations. From the results of the questionnaire, many were satisfied with the consultation service, and since some of them had never heard of the Kumamoto Consultation and Support Plaza for Foreign Residents, we will be happy if this event will help more people to know about the Plaza. The bicycle simulator experience, which was provided by the Central Police Station, was a bit like a game, with participants experiencing the difficulty and the fun. Since there were several cases in which the consulters received more than one specialized consultation this time, we would like to continue to hold such all-inclusive consultations in the future.



Polish Christmas Experience

Christmas is coming soon. At the International House, our staff from Poland will hold an event to introduce Polish Christmas customs. There will also be a tasting (some of the foods we eat at Christmas time in Poland). Please come and experience it for yourself.

Date : Sunday, Dec. 11, 2022

Time : 14:00-16:00

At : Meeting room#1, Kumamoto City International Center

Seats : 20 ※Reservation required

Reservation & Enquiry :

TEL : 096-359-2121 / email : koza@kumamoto-if.or.jp

Bring a gift worth
500 yen or so for
gift exchange!



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, Nepali, etc. Professional consultations including legal affairs, residence status issues, job hunting, and housing are also provided.

December Schedule

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
28	29	30	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 • Immigration 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 • Immigration Consultation • Vietnamese Consultation • Educational Consultation • Nepalese Consultation
19	20 • Chinese Consultation	21 • Housing Consultation • Vietnamese Consultation • Life Consultation in Chinese • German Consultation	22 • Korean Consultation	23 • 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 closed	30 closed	31 closed	01
02	03	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 • Immigration Consultation • Housing Consultation 1:00pm~4:00pm • Free Legal Consultation 2:00pm~4:00pm (Reservation required) • Educational Consultation (Orugatta) 1:00pm~3:00pm • Mental Counseling 3:30pm~5:30pm • 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.

Kumamoto Consultation and Support Plaza for Foreign Residents' Facebook

We regularly update information useful to you.

Follow us and be one of the first one to be informed!



Plaza's FB

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



Our website



Our Life affairs guidance

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.

