

PLAZA NEWS LETTER (January, 2023)

The year 2022 is almost over. Thank you for reading the Plaza Newsletter. We will keep doing our best providing you with useful information in the coming year.

Information on Plaza's hours during the year-end and New Year's holidays.

Wed, Dec 28, 2022 : open as usual (10:00-18:00)

Thu, Dec 29, 2022 – Tue, Jan 3, 2023 : closed

Wed, Jan 4, 2023 onwards : open as usual (10:00-18:00)

Phone line will be closed during Dec 29 – Jan 3. You can email us, but replies will be sent on or after January 4.

The lines related to Covid-19 inquiries below are open during the holiday. Do not hesitate to contact them if you have any questions.

◆Line for the patient with fever ※when you don't have a family doctor

☎0570-096-567 «Open» 24 hours

◆Covid-19 Vaccine consultation Line (on safety of the vaccine and side reactions)

☎096-285-5622 «Open» 24 hours

◆Multilingual support Line for Covid-19

☎092-687-5144 «Open» 24 hours

The Plaza received 68 consultations in November. We share some of them with advice from the Plaza.

Q: Can I get 「Emergency assistance benefit for price hikes in electricity, gas, food etc」 ?

A: There are conditions for those who are eligible to receive. 50,000 yen is provided to families whose income is low and does not have to pay residential tax. For more information, search for "Kumamoto City Emergency Assistance Benefits for Electricity, Gas, Food and Other Price hikes". There is also an explanation in simple Japanese. If you want to find out whether you are eligible for benefits or not, call the Emergency Assistance Benefits Call Center (096-355-8866) or visit the nearest ward office.

Q: My international student acquaintance is looking for an English-speaking clinic.

A: You can search for clinics that offer multilingual services by using "Kumamoto Medical Navi" or "Kumamoto City Medical Association". "Kumamoto Medical Navi" also allows you to search for clinics open on Saturdays and Sundays.

Q: I have a foreign husband and he has been living in Japan for 5 years. Currently, he is on a spouse visa but considering obtaining a permanent resident status. I would like to know what documents are required for the procedure. Also, is online consultation available?

A: On the first Wednesday and third Sunday of every month, there are immigration consultations. Online consultation via Zoom is also available with an advance reservation. For more information, please contact the Plaza.

If you have any problems, please contact the Kumamoto City consultation and support plaza for foreign residents.



Coming of Age Day

This month, we introduce Coming of Age Day.

It is a day to celebrate becoming an adult.

The person being celebrated on Coming of Age Day is called a new adult. The ceremony, held in each community on Coming of Age Day, is a very big event. It is also one of the national holidays in Japan. It is on the second Monday of January.



However, in the Tohoku region, such as Aomori and Iwate prefectures, and in Nagano Prefecture, the ceremony is held in summer. The reason is that it snows a lot. Kumamoto City's Coming of Age ceremony is held at Kumamoto Castle Hall.

What do we do at the Coming of Age ceremony?



Women wear furisode (long-sleeved kimono) and men wear suits or hakama (traditional Japanese male dress). Some people take pictures as a memory wearing furisode on a separate day too to take pictures as a memory. This is called pre-shooting. On the day of the ceremony, it takes a great deal of time to get dressed, hair

and makeup. The women start preparing from about 7:00 am. At the ceremony, they will be congratulated by the mayor. Representatives of the new adults will also give greetings. They also enjoy talking with school friends they haven't seen in a while and take pictures. In some areas, unique ceremonies are held each year. In Aso City, Kumamoto Prefecture, the mayor sings a song in front of the new adults. Also, in Urayasu City, Chiba Prefecture, there is a Coming of Age ceremony at Disneyland. You can watch Mickey Mouse and his friends put on a show. After the ceremony, there will be a reunion. A reunion is a time to talk about the old days and have dinner together with people who were in the same school. Participants are required to wear clean clothes such as jackets, pants, and dresses.



Plaza trivia

In this issue we introduce the consultants for Nepalese consultation started in October.

Name : PANDEY KRISHNA

**How long have you been in Kumamoto ? :
About 3 years.**

Good things about Kumamoto :

There are many agricultural products and fresh fruits and vegetables!

And, access to trams and the Shinkansen bullet trains are convenient.



A message to foreign residents in Kumamoto!:

I am sure you will have a lot of fun and troubles living in Kumamoto. Share the fun, but seek support when you need it. Let's all support each other and do our best.

Name : POUDEL MADAN

**How long have you been in Kumamoto ? :
About a year and a half.**

Good things about Kumamoto :

Kumamoto has a lot of nature and you can Enjoy any season of the year.

And it's a very comfortable place to live with good access to transportation and food.



A message to foreign residents in Kumamoto!:

Enjoy your life in Kumamoto anyway.

Kumamoto will surely make our dreams come true.

We have a place where you can count on us, so if you need anything, feel free to come to the consultation plaza!

Nepalese consultation: 3rd Sunday, 13:00-17:00

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.

January Schedule

月曜日	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
26	27	28	29	30 closed	31 closed	01 closed
02 closed	03 closed	04 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Immigrational Consultation Vietnamese Consultation Life Consultation in Chinese 	05 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Korean Consultation 	06 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spanish Consultation Life Consultation in Chinese English Consultation 	07	08 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Life Consultation in Chinese Educational Consultation
09 Coming of age day	10 closed	11 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Job Consultation Mental Counseling Tagalog Consultation Life Consultation in Chinese German Consultation 	12 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Korean Consultation 	13 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Life Consultation in Chinese English Consultation 	14	15 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Life Consultation in Chinese Immigrational Consultation Vietnamese Consultation Nepal Consultation Educational Consultation
16	17 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chinese Consultation 	18 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Housing Consultation Vietnamese Consultation Life Consultation in Chinese German Consultation 	19 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Korean Consultation 	20 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Life Consultation in Chinese English Consultation 	21 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Life Consultation in Chinese Free Legal Consultation 	22 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Educational Consultation ORUGATTA KIDS
23 closed	24 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chinese Consultation 	25 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Life Consultation in Chinese German Consultation One-stop Consultation Service for International Students 	26 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Korean Consultation 	27 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Life Consultation in Chinese English Consultation 	28	29 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Life Consultation in Chinese Educational Consultation
30	31 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chinese Consultation 	note: Consultations 1:00p.m~5:00p.m (apart from the ones below) Life Consultation in Chinese 1:00pm~6:00pm One-stop Consultation Service for International Students 2:00pm~5:00pm Immigrational Consultation Housing Consultation 1:00pm~4:00pm Job Consultation 10:00am~6:00pm Free Legal Consultation 2:00pm~4:00pm (Reservation required) Mental Counseling 3:30pm~5:30pm Educational Consultation 1:00pm~3:00pm (Reservation required) ORUGATTA KIDS 10:30a.m.~12:00p.m. (Reservation required)				

※ 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.

