

# PLAZA NEWSLETTER (JULY, 2023)

As we enter July and the rainy season ends, summer begins in earnest. As the weather gets hotter, we will be using air conditioners a lot. A little ingenuity will save energy. For example, you can improve cooling efficiency by using a fan (circulator) to keep the indoor temperature constant, setting the air conditioner at 28°C in summer, and closing blinds and curtains. I hope you all give it a try this summer.

The Plaza received 79 consultations in May. We share some of them with advice from us.

Q : I came to Kumamoto on a short-stay visa. I came to the hospital for treatment of a chronic disease and was hospitalized for a few days. Is there a way to enroll in the Japanese National Health Insurance?

A : You cannot join the program for a short-term stay, as the condition for enrollment in the National Health Insurance is that you are registered as a resident of Kumamoto City (or the respective municipality). Your own country's insurance may be able to provide a refund after you return home. Please check it out. (Although there are conditions, there are cases where refunds can be handled under Japan's National Health Insurance or Social Insurance. However, this is not possible if they have traveled for the purpose of medical treatment.)

Q : I had to take a two-month leave from work to temporarily return home because a family member in my home country became ill. During that time, there was no income, but I have to pay the rent incurred during that time. In addition, since I came back with my spouse, I will need to pay for living expenses for both of us. Is there any place that will give me a loan of money because I have more living expenses than ever before?

A : Plaza does not provide loans. We have advised to consult with the Kumamoto City Council of Social Welfare and the Kumamoto City Life independence support center.

Q : Where can I get a my number card?

A : How to apply for a My Number Card: (1) By mail (2) Via smartphone (3) Via computer (4) Go to the local government office . If you want to apply at the office, you can do so at the Kumamoto City My Number Center (counter 26 at the Chuo Ward Office), each ward office (East, West, South, North), Kumamoto City My Number Card Chuo Ward Satellite (Sakuramachi Kumamoto B1F), Kumamoto City My Number Card East Ward Satellite (Yume Town Sampian 3F). You can also apply at post offices (10 locations) as well. Please click the link below for information on supported post offices.

[https://www.city.kumamoto.jp/hpKiji/pub/detail.aspx?c\\_id=5&id=10575&class\\_set\\_id=2&class\\_id=67](https://www.city.kumamoto.jp/hpKiji/pub/detail.aspx?c_id=5&id=10575&class_set_id=2&class_id=67)

For more information, contact Kumamoto City My Number Card Call Center (TEL: 096-277-1869).

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



## 「Shosho・Taisho」

This month's topic is 「Shosho(Light heat)」 and 「Tasho(Great heat)」 . In Japan, each of the four seasons are divided into six parts and named them so that the changes in the seasons can be recognized. This is called "Nijushisekki(24 seasons)" July is the month of 「Shosho」 and 「Taisho」 .

Shosho(Light heat)...around July 7 to 22. It is the time when the rainy season ends and summer begins. We send "Shochu-Mimai"(summer greeting card). We send cards to those whom you cannot see easily or you are indebted to, wishing them good health during this hot season. When you write Shochu-Mimai, you begin with "Shochu omimai moshiage masu" (Greetings to you during the summer). Do not end the sentence with a "." at the end of it.

Why don't you try sending one or three?



Taisho(Great heat)...after Shosho, from around July 23 to August 7. It is the hottest season of the year.

We eat eels to get over the heat on "Doyo no Ushi no Hi" (Midsummer day of the Ox) and this year it falls on July 30. Let's eat eels and get over the hot days.





The 18th Information session on further education  
for students with foreign roots and their parents/guardians

## Course guidance for foreign students & parents/guardians in Kumamoto

An information session on further education will be held for students with foreign roots and their parents/guardians. The Kumamoto Prefectural Board of Education High School Education Division will explain about the differences in entrance examinations and tuition fees between public and private high schools, as well as the special entrance examination measures(\*) for people from foreign countries. Parents/guardians and students can consult to teachers about which high school they want to go to. Chinese, English, and Korean interpretation will be provided. Participation is free of charge. The deadline for registration is Tuesday, June 20, 2023.

When: Sunday, July 2, 13:00-14:40 for Chinese & Korean speakers  
15:00-16:40 for English & other languages speakers  
Where: Conference Room 3, 4F, Kumamoto City International Center  
Who: Second and third grade students and their parents/guardian

(\*) Special measures for entrance examination: Special entrance examination for those who come from abroad. 3 subjects taken, essay and interview.

For inquiries, contact Ms. Iwatani at NPO Children from Overseas Support Net Kumamoto.

Phone: 090-9593-9627, E-mail: [iwatani345@jcom.zaq.ne.jp](mailto:iwatani345@jcom.zaq.ne.jp)

### Experiences shared at past information sessions

- I could not understand the classes and could not make friends because I didn't speak Japanese at all. However, I studied Japanese hard and became able to keep up with the classes and made many friends. I enjoyed my school life very much.
- Those who take the entrance examination special measures should also focus on the essay and interview.
- In the 3rd year of junior high, my grades did not improve as I expected and I was worried about whether I could pass the entrance exam of the school I wanted to enter, but I was able to pass the exam by reviewing the three subjects from the beginning again. I am very glad that I took the mock exam at the cram school in the third semester.
- Don't be shy to ask what they mean if you don't understand. Everyone'll kindly help you.
- I decided which high school to go to after reading the career path materials I received from junior high school and guides to various high schools, and after many discussions with my teachers and parents.



## Information on Kumamoto Consultation and Support Plaza for Foreign Residents

The Plaza offers professional consultations including legal affairs, residence status issues, job hunting, housing and life affairs support in multiple languages. Consultants who speak English, Chinese, Vietnamese, Tagalog, Spanish and Nepali are available at the Plaza as the schedule below.

### July Schedule

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
26	27	28	29	30	01	02 •Vietnamin Consultation •Life Consultation in Chinese •Educational Consultation
03	04 •Chinese Consultation	05 •Immigrational Consultation Vietnamin Consultation •Life Consultation in Chinese •German Consultation	06 •Korean Consultation	07 •Spanish Consultation •Life Consultation in Chinese •English Consultation	08	09 •Life Consultation in Chinese •Educational Consultation
10 closed	11 •Chinese Consultation	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 •Nepal Consultation •Educational Consultation
17 National Holiday "Marine Day"	18 •Chinese Consultation	19 •Housing Consultation •Vietnamin 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 •Orugatta Kids
24 closed	25 •Chinese Consultation	26 •Life Consultation in Chinese •German Consultation •One-stop Consultation Service for International Students	27 •Korean Consultation	28 •Life Consultation in Chinese •English Consultation (13:00-15:00)	29	30 •Life Consultation in Chinese •Educational Consultation
31	01	note:Consultations 1:00p.m~5:00p.m(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 1:00pm~3:00pm (Reservation required)				
		•Orugatta Kids 10:30am~12:00pm (Reservation required)				
		•One-stop Consultation Service for International Students 1:00pm~4:00pm				

※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:** 2<sup>nd</sup> 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](mailto: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.

