

# PLAZA NEWS LETTER (March 2023)

January was very cold with a cold wave that is said to come once in 10 years! It has been a long time since I saw a snowy landscape in Kumamoto. The second half of January was also the Luna New Year in China, Vietnam, and Korea, and the hall was decorated for the Vietnamese Lunar New Year, making it very festive. It seemed there were more tourists at this time of year than there had been for a while.

The Plaza received 72 consultations in January. We share some of them with advice from the Plaza.

Q : I am married to a Japanese national and have the status of residence of a Japanese spouse, but we divorced last month. Is it possible to keep living in Japan as I'd love to.

A : Notification of divorce must be reported to the Immigration Office within 14 days whether or not keep staying in Japan. You need to have your residential status changed within 6 months if you wish to keep staying. Please note that after 6 months, your status of residence may be subject to revocation.

Q : A family member of a foreigner employed in a technical, humanities, or international service is planning to come to Japan as a dependent. Since the family member cannot speak Japanese at all, please provide information on the language classes and interpretation support.

A : We gave information on Japanese language classes held by the Kumamoto City International Center. For more information, please search for "Kumamoto City International Center Japanese Class". As for an interpreter, we are not able to accompany them at their personal request, but if you have any problems or questions, please come to the Plaza. If you are not comfortable with Japanese, telephone interpretation is available.

Q : I am new to Kumamoto and have no friends or acquaintances. Is there an Indian community? Also, please let me know about vegan restaurants, and places and events where I can interact with people living in Kumamoto.

A : There is no Indian community in Kumamoto as far as we could find. For restaurants, we introduced the "Vegetarian Guide Map" pamphlet published by Kumamoto City and introduced some vegan-friendly restaurants. There are also events held at Japanese language classes and Kumamoto City International Center for exchange, so please check our website and Facebook.

※The pamphlet is only available in English. You can pick one up at the City's Tourism Policy Section or at JOSAIEN. It can also be found on the City Tourist Guide website.

Q: I am currently an English teacher. My visa expires at the end of this year and I would like to find a new job before it expires. How can I find a job?

A : We informed the Plaza's job counseling. We also suggested to visit Hello Work.

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



## White Day (March 14th)

### ◆What is White Day?

March 14 is White Day. White Day is the day when men who received chocolate on Valentine's Day, February 14, give some sweets back to women. These days, there are many different purposes for giving chocolates on Valentine's Day, such as "friend chocolates" to friends, "obligation chocolates" to your colleagues at work, and "self chocolates" to yourself for all your hard work. The culture of White Day originated in Japan. Today, East Asian countries such as China and Korea also have White Day cultures. However, it is not well known in most countries, including Europe and the United States. The culture of White Day is a typical Japanese custom of always repaying a gift.

### ◆The Meaning of Sweets for White Day

Each sweet gift for White Day has its own meaning.

#### ◇cookies

When you want to tell someone, "Stay my friend," you give them cookies. Cookies are easily broken and there are many varieties, including chocolate chip, butter, vanilla and so on. These characteristics mean that they are "not special."



#### ◇marshmallow

Marshmallow means "I don't like you". Marshmallows melt quickly. Therefore, it has the meaning of "quickly forgotten."



#### ◇macaroon

Macarons mean "You are special." Macarons take time to make and more expensive than other sweets. Because of these characteristics, it is a confectionary that is given to a special recipient.



# Kimono dressing & Tea ceremony experience for foreigners

On March 21 (Tuesday, national holiday), you can try on a kimono at the Kumamoto City International Center. After dressing, you will have 2 hours to go outside for a walk. The fee is 500 yen and this includes tea ceremony experience too. Reservations will be taken from 9:00 a.m. on Sunday, March 5 by the QR code. Specify the time slot you want to start at the time of booking. Please check the flyer for details.



Reservation



Flyer

By this date, the cherry blossoms are forecast to have begun blooming. How about a photo shoot with cherry blossoms in kimono?



## 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.

### March Schedule

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
27	28	01 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Immigrational Consultation</li> <li>Vietnamese Consultation</li> <li>Life Consultation in Chinese</li> <li>German Consultation</li> </ul>	02 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Korean Consultation</li> </ul>	03 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Spanish Consultation</li> <li>Life Consultation in Chinese</li> <li>English Consultation</li> </ul>	04	05 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Vietnamese Consultation</li> <li>Life Consultation in Chinese</li> <li>Educational Consultation</li> </ul>
06	07 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chinese Consultation</li> </ul>	08 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mental Counseling</li> <li>Tagalog Consultation</li> <li>Life Consultation in Chinese</li> <li>German Consultation</li> </ul>	09 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Korean Consultation</li> </ul>	10 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Life Consultation in Chinese</li> <li>English Consultation</li> </ul>	11	12 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Life Consultation in Chinese</li> <li>Educational Consultation</li> </ul>
13 Closed	14 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chinese Consultation</li> </ul>	15 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Housing Consultation</li> <li>Vietnamese Consultation</li> <li>Life Consultation in Chinese</li> <li>German Consultation</li> </ul>	16 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Korean Consultation</li> </ul>	17 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Life Consultation in Chinese</li> <li>English Consultation</li> </ul>	18 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Free Legal Consultation</li> <li>Life Consultation in Chinese</li> </ul>	19 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Immigrational Consultation</li> <li>Vietnamese Consultation</li> <li>Nepal Consultation</li> <li>Educational Consultation</li> </ul>
20	21 <b>Spring Equinox Day (shunbun no hi)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chinese Consultation</li> </ul>	22 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Life Consultation in Chinese</li> <li>German Consultation</li> <li>One-stop Consultation Service for International Students</li> </ul>	23 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Korean Consultation</li> </ul>	24 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Life Consultation in Chinese</li> <li>English Consultation</li> </ul>	25	26 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Life Consultation in Chinese</li> <li>Educational Consultation</li> </ul>
27 Closed	28 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chinese Consultation</li> </ul>	29 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Life Consultation in Chinese</li> <li>German Consultation</li> </ul>	30 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Korean Consultation</li> </ul>	31 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Life Consultation in Chinese</li> <li>English Consultation</li> </ul>	01	02
03	04	note: Consultations 1:00p.m~5:00p.m (apart from the ones below) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Life Consultation in Chinese 1:00pm~6:00pm</li> <li>Immigrational Consultation 1:00pm~4:00pm</li> <li>Free Legal Consultation 2:00pm~4:00pm (Reservation required)</li> <li>Educational Consultation 1:00pm~3:00pm (Reservation required)</li> <li>One-stop Consultation Service for International Students 2:00pm~5:00pm</li> <li>Mental Counseling 3:30pm~5:30pm</li> </ul>				

※ 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.

