

# PLAZA NEWSLETTER (May, 2023)

The new school year has begun, and it is a time when new things start for many, entering a new school or a university and so on. The weather has become warmer and more comfortable.

Every year around this time, there is a place in my neighborhood that smells very nice, and I always walk around wondering what this scent is, but I finally found out what it is! The scent is from trees of winter daphne. As people say osmanthus in autumn and winter daphne in spring, it is one of the three major fragrant trees and has been popular as a tree heralding spring for a long time. Did you know about it?

The Plaza received 61 consultations in March. We share some of them with advice from the Plaza.

Q : I am currently a student. I have been in Japan for 10 years and would like to apply for permanent residence. Tell me about the procedure.

A: The immigration consultation (an administrative scrivener takes consultations) is held at the plaza. The administrative scrivener advised: One of the requirements for applying for permanent residence is to have lived in Japan for more than 10 years, of which at least 5 years must have been in Japan with either work or resident status. In this case, since he will be changing his status of residence to Engineer/Specialist in Humanities/International Services in April, he has been advised that he first aim for a Highly Skilled Professional, before applying for permanent residence.

Q : I am a technical intern. I am going to work for an Australian company and have been told to submit an English translation of the year-end adjustment (5 pages). Can you please translate them into English?

A : Information on private interpretation/translation companies were provided.

Q: I am a Japanese national, can you tell me what the procedures for an international marriage. I am also concerned about whether my foreign child-to-be will be able to learn Japanese and whether the school is prepared to accept.

A : We advised when the plaza's immigration consultation days (when you can consult with an administrative scrivener) are scheduled. As for information on the Japanese language support for foreign children, we introduced the Kumamoto City Board of Education in addition to "Orugatta Station" and "Orugatta Kids" at the Kumamoto City International Center. Orugatta Kids is now accepting participants. See page 3 of this newsletter for details.

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

## Eighty-eighth day

This month, we introduce "Eighty-eighth day".

May 2<sup>nd</sup> is eighty-eighth day which means 88 days from the first day of spring called "Risshun".

Tea made from new buds picked at this time of year is called "shincha" or "ichiban-cha" and characterized by its high nutritional content and fragrance. It is said that drinking shincha (newly brewed tea) will prevent illness and prolong one's life.

Eighty-eighth day is also an important time for rice production.

The character for "88" in "KANJI(八十八)" is combined to form the character for "rice (米)" so it is said that if you sow seeds on eighty-eighth day, you can harvest delicious rice in the autumn.



There is a song about picking tea.

### 『Tea Picking』

Summer is approaching, it's the eighty-eighth day of spring.  
Fields and mountains have all turned green.  
Look at the women there picking tea leaves.  
Wearing sedge-hats and red cloth bands  
to pull back their sleeves.  
Singing while picking on sunny days  
Pick it, pick it, pick it, you must pick it  
If you don't pick it, we won't have tea to drink!



Please give it a listen!





# ORUGATTA KIDS



In 2023, "Orugatta Kids", a study session for children from abroad and their parents/guardians, will be held at the Kumamoto City International Center. The session is open to children from the final year of kindergarten/nursery to second graders and their parents/guardians.

## What you can do at Orugatta Kids

### ● Parents and guardians:

They can ask about anything they are having trouble understanding, such as notices from the school, things to bring, money, etc, They can consult with us about anything they are worried about.

### ● Children in kindergarten/nursery:

They play origami, games, and read picture books while speaking Japanese.

### ● Children in first and second grades:

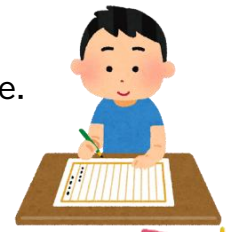
They study Japanese words that they don't know together while reading school books and doing homework.

Date & Time : Sundays, 10:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

On Apr 23, May 28, Jun 25, Jul 23, Aug 27, Sep 24, Oct 22, Nov 26, Dec 17 & Jan 28

Venue : Kumamoto City International Center

Number of people : 10 children



Those who wish to attend should call or email at least two weeks before the date they wish to join.

Apply to : Kumamoto Consultation and Support Plaza for Foreign Residents

Phone : 096-359-4995

Email : soudan@kumamoto-if.or.jp

## School announcements Glossary

Have you ever had problem understanding what's written on notices from school? If so, take a look at this glossary.

Vocabularies are explained in simple Japanese, English, Chinese (traditional and simplified), Vietnamese, Nepalese and Indonesian.



## 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.

### May Schedule

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
01	02 • Chinese Consultation	03 <b>Constitution Memorial Day</b> • Vietnamese Consultation <b>Immigrational Consultation</b> • Life Consultation in Chinese • German Consultation	04 <b>Greenery Day</b> • Korean Consultation	05 <b>children's day</b> • Spanish Consultation • Life Consultation in Chinese • English Consultation	06	07 • Vietnamese Consultation • Life Consultation in Chinese • Educational Consultation
08 closed	09 • Chinese Consultation	10 • <b>Mental Counseling</b> • Tagalog Consultation • Life Consultation in Chinese • German Consultation	11 • Korean Consultation	12 • Life Consultation in Chinese • English Consultation	13	14 • Life Consultation in Chinese • Educational Consultation
15	16 • Chinese Consultation	17 • <b>Housing Consultation</b> • Vietnamese Consultation • Life Consultation in Chinese • German Consultation	18 • Korean Consultation	19 • Life Consultation in Chinese • English Consultation	20 • Life Consultation in Chinese • Free Legal Consultation	21 • <b>Immigrational Consultation</b> • Vietnamese Consultation • Nepal Consultation • Educational Consultation
22 closed	23 • Chinese Consultation	24 • Life Consultation in Chinese • German Consultation • <b>One-stop Consultation Service for International</b>	25 • Korean Consultation	26 • Life Consultation in Chinese • English Consultation	27	28 • Life Consultation in Chinese • Educational Consultation • Orugatta Kids
29	30 • Chinese Consultation	31 • Life Consultation in Chinese • German Consultation	01	02	03	04
05	06	note: Consultations 1:00p.m~5:00p.m (apart from the ones below) • Life Consultation in Chinese 1:00pm~6:00pm • Immigrational Consultation 1:00pm~4:00pm • 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 • Mental Counseling 3:30pm~5:30pm				

※ 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.

