

# PLAZA NEWSLETTER (August, 2023)

Before we know it, we started to hear the sound of cicadas, and the season has completely turned into summer. The rainy season is over and summer is finally in full swing. And July through August is an eventful time. Summer festivals and fireworks displays, which could not be held until last year due to the Covid-19, will be held for the first time in many years. Be careful of heat stroke and have a pleasant summer.

The Plaza received 88 consultations in June. We share some of them with advice from us.

Q : I came to Kumamoto on a short-stay visa. I am looking for a job. Can you introduce me?

A : A temporary visitor visa does not allow you to work (including part-time work).

Q : I quit my job at the end of May. My residence card expired at the same time, and I plan to get a new card in June. I also plan to start working in June. I have been covered by the National Health Insurance but it has expired and I do not have a new insurance card. I am not feeling well and want to go to a clinic, but I am not sure whether I should go or not because I do not have an insurance card. What should I do?

A : We contacted the National Insurance Section of Kumamoto City. They can reissue the insurance card, but it must be done at the counter. In such cases, ID, employee release form, and an expired insurance card are required. If you go to a clinic today, you will pay the 100% fee, but if you bring your new insurance card at a later date, they will refund you 70% of the medical fee.

Q : Regarding the priority support benefits for rising prices of electricity, gas and food (30,000 yen), am I eligible to receive them?

A : There are conditions for who can receive this benefit. Click on the link below for more information.

[Information on priority support benefits\(30,000 yen / household\) such as electricity, gas and food products](#)

◆Kumamoto City priority support benefits for rising prices of electricity, gas and food products call center : 096-355-8866 (weekdays 9:00~17:00)

Q : Inquiry from a local government office. A foreign resident came to the counter to pick up a certificate of residence as a necessary document for renewal of his/her residence card. Please tell me to what extent the information on the certificate of residence is required.

A : All information other than the my number and resident record code number must be listed.

Q : I am a Japanese national university student. I am studying Japanese and foreign culture at university and would like to know more about German culture.

A : There is a German consultation every Wednesday between 13:00 and 17:00. You can talk to a German consultant about German culture and other topics. (\*Please call the office to inquire as consultation dates may change due to sudden official business commitments.)

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

# 「Fireworks display」

Fireworks displays are one of the most popular summer traditions in Japan. This year, for the first time in 3 years, the Ezu-ko(Lake Ezu) Fireworks Display will be held! Ezu-ko is located in the eastern part of the city and is divided into Kamiezu-ko and Shimoezu-ko, and it boasts an abundance of spring water. Although there are rare plants and birds, you can take a boat ride. Reflections of about 10,000 fireworks on the night sky and the lake are stunning! Please use public transportation such as trams and buses to go to see as the roads get very busy!

## Ezu-ko Fireworks Display 2023

Date : Sat, August 26, 2023

Hours : scheduled 19:15~20:15

Place : Shimoezu-ko Area

Visit the official website for more information.  
(Japanese only)



Ezu-ko Firewoks Display 2023  
Official website

## Plaza trivia

In this issue, we introduce Ms. Xiang Lu, a new Chinese CIR who came to Kumamoto April 2023.

### Chinese CIR Xiang Lu (向璐) (from Neijiang, Sichuan province)

Tell us about Sichuan province, your hometown.

- It is the home of pandas and has many panda bases. There are many spicy foods, and the local cuisine of Sichuan province is popular all over the country. Rabbit dishes are especially delicious.

What do you like about Kumamoto?

- Friendly co-workers. The music playing throughout the city. Mustard lotus root(Karashi renkon).

Where do you want to go in Kumamoto/Japan?

- Kendo halls in the city, Aso and anywhere popular with young people!

What surprised you when you came to Kumamoto/Japan?

- Trash cans are not lined with plastic bags. Department stores close early! The presence of Kumamon here and there (personally, I am happy).

Message for foreign residents in Kumamoto

- I want you to live your life in your own way while being aware of the other person. And let's actively put forth our own ideas and contribute to the multicultural coexistence of Kumamoto together. I hope you enjoy your life in Kumamoto.

※Chinese consultation: Tuesdays, 1-5pm



## July & August are 「Summer water conservation focus months」

Kumamoto City is engaged in a citizen's movement to conserve water in order to protect precious groundwater. The campaign aims to reduce the amount of water used per person per day to 210 liters by the year 2024. Since water use increases especially in the summer, the months of July and August are designated as "Summer Water Conservation Priority Periods. The following actions can help conserve water:

- Do not leave water running when washing dishes, brushing teeth, showering, etc.
- Proper use of large and small levers when flushing toilets
- Do not fill the bathtub to overflowing, and use leftover water for washing clothes and cleaning the bathroom
- Use a watering can or bucket to water plants and flowerpots

In addition, try not to waste water in your daily life.

Groundwater is a limited resource.

Let's protect this precious water together!



## 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.

### August Schedule

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	
31	01 · Chinese Consultation	02 · <b>Immigrational Consultation</b> · Vietnamese Consultation · <b>Life Consultation in Chinese</b> · <b>German Consultation</b>	03 · Korean Consultation	04 · Spanish Consultation · <b>Life Consultation in Chinese</b> · <b>English Consultation</b>	05	06 · Vietnamese Consultation · <b>Life Consultation in Chinese</b>	
07	08 · Chinese Consultation	09 · <b>Job Consultation</b> · <b>Mental Counseling</b> · Tagalog Consultation · <b>Life Consultation in Chinese</b> · <b>German Consultation</b>	10 · <b>Korean Consultation</b>	11 <b>National Holiday "Mountain Day"</b> · <b>Life Consultation in Chinese</b> · <b>English Consultation</b>	12	13 · <b>Life Consultation in Chinese</b> · <b>Educational Consultation</b> · <b>Orugatta Kids</b>	
14 closed	15 · Chinese Consultation	16 · <b>Housing Consultation</b> · Vietnam Consultation · <b>Life Consultation in Chinese</b> · <b>German Consultation</b>	17 · Korean Consultation	18 · <b>Life Consultation in Chinese</b> · <b>English Consultation</b>	19 · <b>Life Consultation in Chinese</b> · <b>Free Legal Consultation</b>	20 · <b>Immigrational Consultation</b> · Vietnamese Consultation · Nepal Consultation	
21	22 · Chinese Consultation	23 · <b>Life Consultation in Chinese</b> · <b>German Consultation</b> · <b>One-stop Consultation Service for International Students</b>	24 · Korean Consultation	25 · <b>Life Consultation in Chinese</b> · English Consultation	26	27 · <b>Life Consultation in Chinese</b> · <b>Educational Consultation</b> · <b>Orugatta Kids</b>	
28 closed	29 · Chinese Consultation	30 · <b>Life Consultation in Chinese</b> · German Consultation	31 · Korean Consultation	01	02	03	
04	05	note: Consultations 1:00p.m~5:00p.m (apart from the ones below) · <b>Life Consultation in Chinese 1:00pm ~ 6:00pm</b> · <b>Immigrational Consultation 1:00pm~4:00pm</b> · <b>Free Legal Consultation 2:00pm~4:00pm (Reservation required)</b> · <b>Orugatta Kids 10:30am~12:00pm (Reservation required)</b> · <b>One-stop Consultation Service for International Students 1:00pm~4:00pm</b>				· <b>Job Consultation 10:00am~6:00pm</b> · <b>Mental Counseling 3:30pm~5:30pm</b> · <b>Educational Consultation 10:00am~3:00pm</b>	

※ 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.

