

PLAZA NEWSLETTER (October, 2023)

Do you know when this year's "Chu-shu no Meigetsu (the night of the full moon) is? It is Friday, September 29. Autumn is said to be the time when the moon looks beautiful, especially on this mid-autumn day. In Japan, there is a custom called "otsukimi," or moon viewing, in which people eat white bean dumplings while looking at the moon, and in some foreign countries, people eat steamed buns called Geppei. I hope we will be able to see the beautiful moon this year, too.

The Plaza received 66 consultations in August. We share some of them with advice from us. *Some content has been edited so that individuals are not identified.

Q : I would like to receive psychosomatic/psychiatric therapy in my native language (Spanish). I do not speak Japanese and understand only a little English. Please refer me to a clinic.

A : We introduced medical institutions that Kumamoto International Foundation has partnered with as medical interpreter dispatch.

Q : My residential status is dependent and have a permission to work up to 28 hours a week. I am looking for a part time job.

A : There is a "Job Consultation" day on the second Wednesday of every month, when a professional counselor is available. Bring your resume with you if you have one. No appointment is necessary. Schedule : 2nd Wednesday of every month 10:00-18:00

Q : I am an international student. I graduated with a Master's degree and am currently pursuing a Ph. I would like to become a naturalized citizen as soon as possible. Please tell me how to proceed.

A : The administrative scrivener advised that it might be a good idea to consult with the Immigration Bureau about naturalization when his/her income becomes stable after employment, and to pay taxes and other payments by a set time.

Q : I received a mail from the city office. Since I cannot read Japanese, I do not know what kind of document it is or if I have to go through any procedures, etc. Please let me know. Also, tell me if I can receive the COVID-19 vaccine and if so, what should I do?

A : I explained the contents of the letter in English and there was no action required, so I told her/him that s/he did not need to reply. Regarding the vaccine, we inquired at the city's Infectious Disease Control and Prevention Section and were told that the vaccine ticket should arrive about a month after resident registration, even if not requested. Plaza would assist with the vaccine reservation or contact the section in the event that they did not arrive by the expected time.

Q : I would like to rent a new room for home care of a family member.


A : I checked with the real estate that manages the property, and the contract is through a guarantee company, but if the contract is in the name of a foreigner who does not have a job, a separate guarantor is required. We told them to find one.

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



Seven autumnal flowers

While the seven spring flowers are famous as the seven herbs porridge on January 7, the seven autumn flowers have no direct event to do anything with, and are familiar mainly as ornamental autumn coloring plants. Here are the seven autumn flowers and the language of each flower.

1. **HAGI** (Bush clover) : Hagi means "flower that blooms in autumn". The o-hagi eaten during "O-higan(3 days before and after Autumnal Equinox day)", is derived from this flower. The language of flower: thoughtfulness, shyness, feelings, flexible spirit, and positive love.  o-hagi
2. **KIKYO**(Chinese bellflower) : Since the flowering season is summer, it is often depicted on summer kimonos. The language of flower: unchanging love, neatness, elegance and sincerity.
3. **KUZU**(Kudzu, Pueraria lobata) : The stems are used to weave baskets and cloth, and the starch collected from the roots becomes kudzu flour. The Chinese herbal medicine **KAKKON** is made by drying the root. The language of flower: treatment, perseverance, vigor, hard work, and having an inner fortitude.
4. **FUJIBAKAMA**(Thoroughwort) : Its strong fragrance is said to have been used by aristocrats for bathing and on their clothes and hair. The language of flower: delay, hesitation, compassion, remembering that day.
5. **OMINAESHI**(Golden lace) : The yellow flower is said to have been made from the yellow robe of a woman who threw herself into the sea, broken in love. The language of flower: beauty, kindness, keeping promises, fleeting love.
6. **OBANA**(Silver grass) : Alternatively known as **SUSUKI**. The grass is called "SUSUKI", when it is overgrown, and the state in which the ears have emerged is called "OBANA(tail flower)", as if it were an animal's tail. It is also called "thatch" because it is used as a material for thatched roofs. The language of flower: energy, vitality, vigor, and retreat.
7. **NADESHIKO**(Pink) : It is also known as "katamisou(memento flower)," which comes from a story of parents who lost their beloved child stroked the flowers the child loved as a memento. The name "Yamato Nadeshiko," synonymous with Japanese women, comes from this flower. The language of flower: pure love, longing, innocence, talent.





The 2nd Free professional consultation for foreign residents

Sunday, October 29th 10:00-16:00

Free professional consultation for foreign residents is going to be held again this year on Sunday, October 29. This event offers you to consult on a variety of matters, such as legal and immigration for example, in one day! Interpreters* in English, Chinese, Vietnamese, Spanish, and Nepali are available to help you if you prefer to consult in your own language. Online consultation is also available for those who cannot come to the Plaza.

Those who need an interpreter or want to consult online need to make an advance reservation.

Consultations are free of charge. Confidentiality will be strictly protected.

We also have gifts for those who come for consultation! See the flyer for more information.

*Telephone interpretation is also available
in 14 other languages.

Please confirm at the time of reservation.

flyer 



Kumamoto city FREE bus & Tram rides day



On Saturday, October 7, buses, trams and Dentetsu trains that pass through Kumamoto City, even partially, are going to be free. Anyone can use them as many times as they like. Take the bus or tram to places you have always wanted to visit! !
Check the QR code for details.



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.

October Schedule

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
25	26	27	28	29	30	01 ·Vietnamese Consultation ·Life Consultation in Chinese
02	03 ·Chinese Consultation	04 ·Immigrational Consultation ·Vietnamese Consultation ·Life Consultation in Chinese ·German Consultation	05 ·Korean Consultation	06 ·Spanish Consultation ·Life Consultation in Chinese ·English Consultation	07	08 ·Life Consultation in Chinese ·Educational Consultation ·Orugatta Kids
09 Sports Day	10 closed	11 ·Job Consultation ·Mental Counseling ·Tagalog Consultation ·Life Consultation in Chinese ·German Consultation	12 ·Korean Consultation	13 ·Life Consultation in Chinese ·English Consultation	14	15 ·Immigrational Consultation ·Life Consultation in Chinese ·Vietnamese Consultation ·Nepal Consultation
16	17 ·Chinese Consultation	18 ·Housing Consultation ·Vietnamin Consultation ·Life Consultation in Chinese ·German Consultation	19 ·Korean Consultation	20 ·Life Consultation in Chinese ·English Consultation	21 ·Life Consultation in Chinese ·Free Legal Consultation	22 ·Educational Consultation ·Orugatta Kids
23 closed	24 ·Chinese Consultation	25 ·Life Consultation in Chinese ·German Consultation ·One-stop Consultation Service for International Students	26 ·Korean Consultation	27 ·Life Consultation in Chinese ·English Consultation	28	29 ·The 2nd free professional consultation for non-Japanese residents
30	31 ·Chinese Consultation	Note: Consultations 1:00pm~5:00pm (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) ·Orugatta Kids 10:30am~12:00pm (Reservation required) ·One-stop Consultation Service for International Students 1:00pm~4:00pm				·Job Consultation 10:00am~6:00pm ·Mental Counseling 3:30pm~5:30pm ·Educational Consultation 10:00am~3:00pm

※ 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: 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.

