



PLAZA NEWSLETTER (December 2023)

From around the middle to the end of October, the 2nd floor lounge of the Kumamoto City International Center was decorated for the Mexican "Day of the Dead" decorations. It was done by the Mexican community living in Kumamoto. The "Day of the Dead" may sound a little scary to some, but the decorations were gorgeous, warm, and cute, just like in the Disney movie "Remember Me". The "Day of the Dead" is a festival to welcome the souls of ancestors, similar to the "Obon" event in Japan. Please take a look at the Kumamoto City International Center's Instagram page.

The Plaza received 74 consultations in October. We share some of them with advice from us. *Some content has been edited so that individuals are not identified.

Q : I am about to start a new job outside of Kumamoto. How can I find an apartment?

A : If it is difficult to find a place to live by yourself, you can consult with the Residential Support Council in the area where you are moving to. If you have any problems with your guarantor, you can consult with the GTN (Global Trust Networks, Inc.).

Q : I am writing a paper and am looking for references. Can I use (borrow) a city library or a university library?

A : At Kumamoto City Library, you can borrow books if you register and make a user card. You can also just read books in the library. You can also search the Kumamoto City Library's website to see if there is a book you want to read. If you want to borrow books, please go to the library. You can also register and make a user card at the Kumamoto University (Kurokami Campus) library if you bring something that shows your name and address, and you can borrow books.

Q : I am an international student. I would like to invite my spouse and son to Japan to live with me. I would like to know the necessary documents, etc. I would like to know the necessary documents, etc.

A : You can check the documents required for "dependent" status from the Immigration's website. I advised them that when a student invites family members, it is difficult to show proof of adequate living expenses, so it is better to prepare proof of balance, scholarship, salary, etc. as proofs of living expenses. We've also made it a point to tell them that it is unable to earn a living through part-time work (activities other than that permitted under the status of residence).

Q : I am having trouble making ends meet. Can I have my premiums reduced or exempted?

A : Basically, the premium cannot be reduced. However, the premiums are usually paid in 10 installments of 12 months' premiums, so it is possible to change the installments to 12. (*The total amount of payment will remain the same, but the monthly burden can be reduced a little.)

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

How to spend the year-end in Japan

In this issue, we introduce how to spend the year-end in Japan. There are some things we do to switch off our minds for the New Year.

1. Big cleanup



In Japan, at the end of the year, people do a major cleanup of their workplaces and homes. This is believed to have its origin in the "Susuharai(dusting)" ceremony, a preparation for welcoming the gods and ancestors on New Year's Day. In addition, doing so will help you spend New Year's with a refreshed mind.

2. Soba eaten on New Year's Eve

On New Year's Eve (December 31), it is customary to eat soba(buckwheat noodles). This is to wish for a long and thin life like soba noodles.

It also means "to get rid of bad luck.



3. Bells on New Year's Eve

On New Year's Eve, bells at temples are rang for 108 times.

This is derived from the Buddhist belief that humans have 108 worldly desires. With the sound of the bell ringing 108 times, it is meant to eliminate all worldly desires, such as anger and jealousy.



The 18th Further education guidance

Feedback from participants

On Sunday, July 2, the 18th Further education guidance for Foreign Students and Parents was held at the Kumamoto city international center. A total of 108 people participated in this year's event. Here are some comments from the participants.

【junior high school students】

- I'm glad I understand what I was not sure and my anxiety was gone.
- I learned about high school, and I have decided what I want to do in the future.
- Even though I only need to pick up 3 subjects for entrance exam, I've learned that I should start studying now.
- Thanks to the opinions of my seniors, I now have an even firmer grasp of my future options.
- It was good to know what I should do as a student preparing for an exam.
- I received a lot of advice, and I want to make use of it and study hard for the exam.
- I was able to learn things that I could not have found out on my own.



【guardians/parents】

- I'd like to thank the Board of Education and the teachers for their enthusiastic explanation.
- It was my first time attending and it was explained to me in a way that I could understand.
- It was really meaningful. It answered all the questions that had been bothering us.
- It is a truly gratifying opportunity. It was meaningful for both the children and their parents to understand the Japanese education system and high school entrance exams.



【Junior high school teachers】

- It was good to know the special measures for entrance exams in detail. I'd like to prepare well in advance for future guidance.
- The presentation by the senior students were excellent. Their advice was easy to understand.
- The personal interview was very informative. I hope it will spread more widely.
- I learned a lot, not only for the students but also for myself. I wanted to act proactively to obtain information from now on.
- It was very helpful as I had a lot of questions about the entrance exam system.
- I think it was a great support for the student whose choice is DAI-ICHI high school to be able to consult with seniors who came to Japan at a similar time.



【 interpreters】

- It was very meaningful. Since the number of participants was large, it might be a good idea to hold this event 2-3 times in the future to ease the concerns of students and parents.

【 Senior high school and university students】

- It was good to be able to share my story how I overcame the difficulties I encountered.

The further education guidance will be held again next summer.
Watch out the space!



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.

December Schedule

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
27	28	29	30	01 ·Life Consultation in Chinese ·Spanish Consultation ·English Consultation	02	03 ·Vietnamese Consultation ·Life Consultation in Chinese
04	05 ·Chinese Consultation	06 ·Immigrational Consultation ·Vietnamese Consultation ·Life Consultation in Chinese ·German Consultation	07 ·Korean Consultation	08 ·Life Consultation in Chinese ·English Consultation	09	10 ·Life Consultation in Chinese ·Educational Consultation ·Orugatta Kids
11 closed	12 ·Chinese Consultation	13 ·Job Consultation ·Mental Counseling ·Tagalog Consultation ·Life Consultation in Chinese ·German Consultation	14 ·Korean Consultation	15 ·Life Consultation in Chinese ·English Consultation	16 ·Life Consultation in Chinese ·Free Legal Consultation	17 ·Immigrational Consultation ·Vietnamese Consultation ·Nepal Consultation ·Educational Consultation ·Orugatta Kids
18	19 ·Chinese Consultation	20 ·Housing Consultation ·Vietnamese Consultation ·Life Consultation in Chinese ·German Consultation	21 ·Korean Consultation	22 ·Life Consultation in Chinese ·English Consultation	23	24 ·Life Consultation in Chinese
25 closed	26 ·Chinese Consultation	27 ·Life Consultation in Chinese ·German Consultation ·One-stop Consultation Service for International Students	28 ·Korean Consultation	29 closed	30 closed	31 closed
01	02	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.

