



PLAZA NEWSLETTER (January, 2024)

The year 2023 is almost over. But before that, there is the big event of Christmas. The Christmas Market is being held at Hanabata Hiroba until December 25, and it seems that there will be hot wine, hot chocolate, and other warming drinks and food. I would like to go there to enjoy the Christmas atmosphere.

Information on Plaza's hours during the year-end and New Year's holidays.

Thu, Dec 28, 2023 : open as usual (10:00-18:00)

Fri, Dec 29, 2023 - Wed, Jan 3, 2024 : closed

Thu, Jan 4, 2024 onwards : open as usual (10:00-18:00)

Phone line will be closed during Dec 29 - Jan 3. You can email us, but replies will be sent on or after January 4.

Thank you for reading the Plaza Newsletter. We will keep doing our best providing you with useful information in the coming year. Wishing you a very happy new year!

The Plaza received 73 consultations in November. We share some of them with advice from us. *Some content has been edited so that individuals are not identified.

Q : I am a foreign student. It has been two months since I came to Japan, but my Japanese is not improving. I would like to practice conversation more.

A : He told us that he already attends Japanese language classes at the Kumamoto City International Center, so we introduced him to the online Japanese chatting sessions held at the center.

※In the Online Japanese Chatting Session, you will listen to talks on various topics in Japanese and talk about your own opinions. You can practice listening and speaking Japanese. (using Zoom). Those who wish to participate need to apply.

Website➡<https://www.kumamoto-if.or.jp/kiji003527/index.html>

Q : I am a permanent resident. I recently quit my job and plan to receive unemployment insurance after returning home temporarily. Can I look for work while receiving unemployment insurance? My current residency status will expire soon and I need advice on whether I should extend it or change to the one according to a new job.

A : There is nothing wrong with looking for work while receiving unemployment benefits. Rather, you must report looking each month. The way to find a job does not have to be limited to Hello Work; you can also look for a job online or through other means. Consultation regarding status of residence is available at the Immigration Bureau of the Administrative Lawyer's Consultation.

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



New Year's games

New Year's games have been played during the New Year since ancient times, and each has its own meaning and origin. Here are some of them.

●OTEDAMA(Beanbag juggling)

OTEDAMA are made of small pieces of cloth filled with azuki beans and other ingredients. Pick up a few and play with them, juggling.



●KARUTA·HYAKUNIN ISSHU (100 poems)

KARUTA is a game played by matching YOMIFUDA(cards with words or phrases written on them) with picture cards. The HYAKUNIN ISSHU is a collection of 100 waka poems, one by each of 100 poets from the Kamakura period (1185-1333).



●KEN-DAMA

This is similar in many countries. It is a game in which a ball tied to a string to place on a plate.



●kite flying

The kite is made to float in the sky by the force of the wind. It is a game that is played worldwide. It is said that people started to fly kites to pray for good health at the beginning of the New Year. Some people believe that kites were flown as a ritual to celebrate the birth of a boy at the beginning of the year, praying that he would grow up safely.



●HANE-TSUKI

It is a traditional game in which a feather is attached to a soapberry and struck with a feather board. It is meant to ward off the year's bad luck and wish for the health and growth of the child.



Report on The 2nd free professional consultation for foreign residents

On Sunday, October 29, a free professional consultation for foreign residents was held for the second time since last year. People with various backgrounds from all over Kumamoto Prefecture came to us for consultations. There were a total of 27 consultations from 19 consulters. 5 languages (English, Indonesian, Japanese, Chinese, and Vietnamese) were spoken. The consultations included immigration, housing, education, work, legal and mental health. One of the features of the event this year is, all participants came to the venue, Kumamoto City International Center and there was no online consultation. The most common was job consultation. We had many people who were looking for a job for various reasons, such as international students and family members looking for a part-time job, international students about to graduate looking for a job, and people whose current job contract is about to end looking for their next job.

In our survey of participants, we received a lot of positive feedback.

The 3^d free professional consultation for foreign residents will be held again next year. If you have problems, concerns, or questions but cannot come to the Plaza on weekdays due to work or school, join us next time!



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.

January Schedule

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
01 closed	02 closed	03 closed	04 ·Korean Consultation	05 ·Spanish Consultation ·Life Consultation in Chinese ·English Consultation	06	07 ·Vietnamese Consultation ·Life Consultation in Chinese
08 Coming of age day	09 closed	10 ·Immigrational Consultation ·Job Consultation ·Mental Counseling ·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 ·Orugatta Kids
15	16 ·Chinese Consultation	17 ·Housing Consultation ·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 ·Immigrational Consultation ·Vietnamese Consultation ·Nepal Consultation
22 closed	23 ·Chinese Consultation	24 ·Life Consultation in Chinese ·German Consultation ·One-stop Consultation Service for International Students	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) ·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.

