



PLAZA NEWSLETTER (February, 2024)

We look forward to your continued good will in 2024. We have been experiencing heartbreaking events since the beginning of the year. We hope that we will be able to return to our normal, peaceful lives as soon as possible... We also wish you all good health and happiness.

The Plaza received 50 consultations in December. We share some of them with advice from us.

*Some content has been edited so that individuals are not identified.

Q: In the past, a family member of mine had worked overseas in the past and received a pension from that country after returning to Japan, but he passed away in February. The payment via bank transfers have been going on the whole time. I need to inform them that he has passed away and have them stop, but I don't know where or how to contact them. I am having trouble asking the pension office in Japan because they say they do not know. I have received letters, but I cannot understand them because they are in English.

A: You can have it stopped by notifying his name, date of birth, SIN (social insurance number) to the pension office where he resided (overseas) with the death certificate. Since the death certificate needs to be translated into English, we have introduced several translation companies that can be hired together with the written notice.

Q: I am a long term resident. I am currently working part-time and have been in Japan for almost 3 years. Under my mother's guarantee, can I renew my visa next year with no particular problem? Also, if my mother is divorced, will I be able to renew?

A: Advice from an administrative scrivener. The mother who is the guarantor is also due to renew her residency status next year, but this will not particularly affect your renewal. However, if she gets divorced, it will be difficult to have her as a guarantor. Since you're working in Japan, you may consider changing your status of residence to one that does not require your mother's guarantee, for example, by finding a full time job.

Q: I am Vietnamese. I want to get a motorcycle license (125cc).

A: A 125 cc motorcycle license is a standard small-sized limited license, so it is necessary to attend a driving school, and the training cost is about 150,000 yen for AT. In some cases, 50cc license can be taken in one day. Since the consuler changed mind to get the 50cc license, I told him to call the license center first to make an appointment. The exam consists of a practical and a written test, and the written test can be taken in Vietnamese. If he passes both, he will receive his license on the same day.

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

Valentine's Day



Valentine's Day is a day in Japan when women give chocolate to men as an expression of love. The history of Valentine's Day is said to date back to the Roman Empire. At that time in Rome, February 14 was the feast day of the goddess Euno, queen of all gods and goddess of home and marriage, and the following day, February 15, was the beginning of the Lupercalia festival to pray for a good harvest, an event that brought men and women together, which is said to be the origin of the current Valentine's Day. Also, according to one theory, the name Valentine's Day comes from the name of St. Valentine, who was executed on this day in 269 A.D. after being captured for performing a lovers' wedding in defiance of a prohibition.

This day is considered a day for couples to pledge their love in many parts of the world. In Europe and the United States, it is customary for men to give flowers and gifts to women, cards to special friends, jewelry from husbands to wives, and children to exchange candy with each other. Globally, unlike in Japan, it seems to have become widespread as a day for men to give gifts to women.

The custom of women giving chocolate to men is unique to Japan, and some believe that it began in 1958 when a confectionery company held a chocolate sale in a Tokyo department store. Although it initially sold very little, it has become such a national event that it is now said that 1/4 of all chocolate consumed annually is consumed on this day.



Information on events in February & March

■ Events in multicultural coexistence month

Kumamoto City International Center is planning several events in February as multicultural coexistence month. You will hear interesting stories! There is no charge for participation. Do join us!

【1】Multicultural Weekend

Roundtable discussion by the foreign community on the appeal of their own culture and how it differs from Japanese culture.

- ① Sun, Feb 11 : Indonesia
- ② Sat, Feb 17 : Taiwan
- ③ Sat, Feb 24 : Nepal

Time : 14:00-16:00

At : 2F, Kumamoto City International Center

Maximum 30 participants for each



【2】Multicultural coexistence symposium and panel discussion

「Creating a multicultural community where diverse people support each other」
One-hour keynote lecture and panel discussion with guests from Taiwan, Indonesia, and Nepalese communities.

Date & Time : Sat, March 23, 14:00-16:30

At : 2F, Kumamoto City International Center

Maximum 80 participants

■ FT (fair trade) event

~「Making Valentine's Day chocolate with fair trade cacao」~

You can experience authentic chocolate making by stone-grinding Sri Lankan cacao beans.

Date & Time : Sun, Feb 11, 13:30-15:00

At : 1F, Kumamoto City International Center

Maximum 20 participants, no participation fees

Apply by phone or email!

Phone : 096-359-2121

Email : koza@kumamoto-if.or.jp



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.

February Schedule

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
29	30	31	01 ·Korean Consultation	02 ·Spanish Consultation ·Life Consultation in Chinese ·English Consultation(~15:30)	03	04 ·Vietnamese Consultation ·Life Consultation in Chinese
05	06 ·Chinese Consultation	07 ·Immigrational Consultation ·Vietnamese Consultation ·Life Consultation in Chinese ·German Consultation	08 ·Korean Consultation	09 ·Life Consultation in Chinese ·English Consultation	10	11 National Day ·Life Consultation in Chinese ·Educational Consultation
12 substitute holiday	13 Closed	14 ·Job Consultation ·Mental Health Counseling ·Tagalog Consultation ·Life Consultation in Chinese ·German Consultation	15 ·Korean Consultation	16 ·Life Consultation in Chinese ·English Consultation	17 ·Free Legal Consultation ·Life Consultation in Chinese	18 ·Immigrational Consultation ·Vietnamese Consultation ·Nepal Consultation
19	20 ·Chinese Consultation	21 ·Housing Consultation ·Vietnamese Consultation ·Life Consultation in Chinese ·German Consultation	22 ·Korean Consultation	23 The Emperor's Birthday ·Life Consultation in Chinese ·English Consultation	24	25 ·Life Consultation in Chinese ·Educational Consultation
26 Closed	27 ·Chinese Consultation	28 ·Life Consultation in Chinese ·German Consultation ·One-stop Consultation Service for International Students	29 ·Korean Consultation	01	02	03
04	05	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) ·One-stop Consultation Service for International Students 1:00pm~4:00pm ·Job Consultation 10:00am~6:00pm ·Mental Health 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.

