

# PLAZA NEWSLETTER (May 2024)

The Kumamoto consultation and support plaza for foreign residents newly offers "Life consultation in Taiwanese" from April this year. As you can find out the detailed information on page 3 of this issue, a consultant from Taiwan will be coming twice a month. In terms of the number of foreign residents, the number of people from Taiwan is on the rise, and the percentage of foreign residents in the city has exceeded 1% and is expected to continue to increase. You can consult with us in your own language, so please take advantage of this service. Please check the consultation calendar for the schedule.

The Plaza received 46 consultations in March. We share some of them with advice from us.

※Some content has been edited so that individual are not identified.

Q : I'd like a manhole card (a card with a picture of a manhole cover and its location). Where can I get one?

A : In Kumamoto city, they are only distributed at Kumamoto city water science museum (Hakenomiya) and Kumamoto city waterworks and sewage bureau (Suizenji). For more information, search for "Kumamoto city manhole cards".

Q : I am on a "dependent" visa. I had a part time job but decided to quit because I got pregnant. I understand that I do not have social insurance but can receive unemployment benefit (because I am covered by unemployment insurance), but can you tell me if I can receive it even if I resign from my job due to pregnancy?

A : Unemployment benefit is basically available to those who are immediately available for work and able to seek employment; it is not available to those who leave employment due to pregnancy. However, if you apply to be out of work for more than 30 days due to pregnancy, you can extend your receipt of the benefit for up to 3 years. Check with your local Hello Work for details.

Q : I graduated from a postgraduate school in March and changed my status of residence from "Student" to "Specified Activities" while I look for a full time job. Am I allowed to work with this resident status?

A : Apply a "Permission to engage in activity other than that permitted under the status of residence previously granted". Once granted, this permits part-time work of up to 28 hours per week.

Q : I have an acquaintance who is Indonesian. Are there any ramen restaurants where Muslims can eat?

A: After researching, we found a ramen restaurant called "Rinki" in Nishikokai-cho, Kumamoto City, which is Halal compliant and serves seafood-based ramen.

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

## Mother's day

This month, we introduce Mother's Day.

Mother's Day is a day to express our gratitude to our mothers. Mother's Day is celebrated on the second Sunday in May. The date changes every year. This year it is May 12. In Japan, carnations are often given on Mother's Day. Other popular gifts include sweets and general merchandise.

There are many theories about the origin of Mother's Day. One well-known story is that "an American woman named Anna Jarvis gave out carnations in memory of her late mother. Together with her supporters, Anna worked to create a holiday to give thanks to mothers. In 1914, the second Sunday in May was declared "Mother's Day" in the United States.

It is said that Mother's Day was first observed in Japan at the end of the Meiji Era (1868-1912). In the Showa period (1926-1989), the United Women's Association of Japan designated March 6, the Empress's birthday, as Mother's Day. Mother's Day spread throughout Japan as a result of an event. In 1937, Morinaga Seika Company, a confectionery manufacturer, held an event called the "Morinaga Mother's Day Convention". This large-scale event made Mother's Day well-known throughout Japan. In 1949, Mother's Day was moved to the second Sunday of May in the U.S.A., and this became the norm.



## Life consultation in Taiwanese

Life consultation in Taiwanese started from April 2024. A consultant from Taiwan is to be in Plaza to welcome you twice a month. Feel free to come and speak to the consultant on any matters that you are not sure about or having problems with. Consultation dates in April are Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> & Sunday 28<sup>th</sup>.

★Life consultation in Taiwanese★

3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays & 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays at 13:00-17:00

## Neighborhood community association

In Japan, there is something called "Jichi Kai" (neighborhood community association). This is a group consists of people who live nearby. In order to lead a comfortable life, they work together to carry out various activities. It is important to connect with your neighbors and make acquaintances through activities so that you can live a safe and enjoyable life. "Jichi Kai" is involved in activities such as preventing disasters, cleaning garbage stations, organizing festivals and sporting events, crime prevention activities, informing people about local information, and providing support for childcare. Join Jichi Kai!



## Information on Kumamoto Consultation and Support Plaza for Foreign Residents

The Plaza offers professional consultations including legal affairs, residence status issues, 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. We are pleased to announce that we have Taiwanese consultant newly joined from April!

### May Schedule

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	
29	30	01 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Immigrational Consultation</li> <li>Vietnamese Consultation</li> <li>Life Consultation in Chinese</li> <li>German Consultation</li> </ul>	02 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Korean Consultation</li> </ul>	03 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Constitution Memorial Day</li> <li>Life Consultation in Chinese</li> <li>English Consultation</li> </ul>	04 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Greenery Day</li> </ul>	05 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Children's day</li> <li>Vietnamese Consultation</li> <li>Life Consultation in Chinese</li> </ul>	
06 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>substitute holiday</li> </ul>	07 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chinese Consultation</li> </ul>	08 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mental Health Counseling</li> <li>Tagalog Consultation</li> <li>Life Consultation in Chinese</li> <li>German Consultation</li> </ul>	09 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Korean Consultation</li> </ul>	10 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Spanish Consultation</li> <li>Life Consultation in Chinese</li> <li>English Consultation</li> </ul>	11	12 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Life Consultation in Chinese</li> <li>Educational Consultation</li> </ul>	
13 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>closed</li> </ul>	14 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chinese Consultation</li> </ul>	15 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Housing Consultation</li> <li>Vietnamese Consultation</li> <li>Life Consultation in Chinese</li> <li>German Consultation</li> <li>Life Consultation in Taiwanese</li> </ul>	16 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Korean Consultation</li> </ul>	17 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Life Consultation in Chinese</li> <li>English Consultation</li> </ul>	18 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Life Consultation in Chinese</li> <li>Free Legal Consultation</li> </ul>	19 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Immigrational Consultation</li> <li>Vietnamese Consultation</li> <li>Nepal Consultation</li> </ul>	
20	21 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chinese Consultation</li> </ul>	22 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Life Consultation in Chinese</li> <li>German Consultation</li> <li>One-stop Consultation Service for International Students</li> </ul>	23 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Korean Consultation</li> </ul>	24 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Life Consultation in Chinese</li> <li>English Consultation</li> </ul>	25	26 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Life Consultation in Chinese</li> <li>Educational Consultation</li> <li>Life Consultation in Taiwanese</li> </ul>	
27 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>closed</li> </ul>	28 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chinese Consultation</li> </ul>	29 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Life Consultation in Chinese</li> <li>German Consultation</li> </ul>	30 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Korean Consultation</li> </ul>	31 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Life Consultation in Chinese</li> <li>English Consultation</li> </ul>	01	02	
03	04	note: Consultations 1:00p.m~5:00p.m (apart from the ones below) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Life Consultation in Chinese 1:00pm ~ 6:00pm</li> <li>Immigrational Consultation 1:00pm~4:00pm</li> <li>Free Legal Consultation 2:00pm~4:00pm (Reservation required)</li> <li>One-stop Consultation Service for International Students 1:00pm~4:00pm</li> </ul>				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Job Consultation 10:00am~6:00pm</li> <li>Mental Health Counseling 3:30pm~5:30pm</li> <li>Educational Consultation 10:00am~3:00pm</li> </ul>	

※ 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.

