

PLAZA NEWSLETTER(August 2024)

On July 3, Japanese banknotes (¥1,000, ¥5,000, and ¥10,000 bills) were renewed for the first time in 20 years. I saw the new notes and it was a fresh new experience to see the difference from the ones we had been using. Also, the face of the new ¥1,000 bill, Shibasaburo Kitasato, was from Oguni Town, Kumamoto, so it has become a local hot topic. You can rest assured that you can continue to use the bills you are currently using.

The Plaza received 44 consultations in June. We share some of them with advice from us.

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

Q : I have been asked to submit a certificate of residence when applying for an extension of my current status of residence, but I am unable to go to the ward office to pick it up by myself. I cannot take it at a convenience store as I don't have my Individual Number Card. What should I do?

A : You may request a proxy with a power of attorney. The power of attorney must be written by the applicant, but if the person cannot write Japanese, it would be no problem to fill in the form in romaji. (confirmed by the ward office)

Q : My residential status is Technical/Humanities/International Services Status of Residence. Can I study at a university without quitting my job (with my current status of residence)?

A : There are two universities (including vocational schools) in Kumamoto Prefecture that offer evening courses (two-part system): Kumamoto Gakuen University's Department of Social Welfare and Kumamoto Integrated Business School. Please make sure that the activities of your current status of residence will not be interfered with and consult with the Immigration Services Agency in advance if you intend to attend the university.

Q : I live in Japan with my husband who has the status of residence of spouse of Japanese national. My husband's biological child (a college student), who is an American citizen, has been staying with us for a short stay since April. I would like to know if s/he can apply a status of residence to continue to stay in Japan, as s/he has been seen at a medical facility in Kumamoto and is undergoing treatment.

A : The immigration office said that s/he can apply for an extension (3 months) of her/his short-term stay for one time only. Other than that, there is basically no other status of residence applicable to her/him in this case, but if s/he wishes to stay in Japan, s/he can apply with documents proving that s/he has the financial ability to cover medical expenses (100%) and the cost of living. (The kind of status s/he will be granted and whether s/he will be allowed to stay depends on the examination.)

Q : I have a 5-year period of stay under the status of "Highly Skilled Worker". Can I apply for permanent residence after one year of residence?

A : Those with 80 or more advanced professional points may apply for permanent residence with a minimum stay of one year. However, other requirements (good conduct, independent livelihood, the benefit to Japan of the applicant's permanent residence, and a guarantor) will be examined in the same manner as other requirements.

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

Dolphin watching

Do you know you can go dolphin watching in Amakusa? You can take a boat to meet the wild "southern bottlenose dolphins" that live in the Amakusa Sea. They are very friendly and will swim alongside the boat, jump in front of you, come out with fish in their mouths, and show you many other things. Depending on the time of year, baby dolphins can be seen swimming alongside their mothers. There are several companies that operate dolphin-watching boats with varying prices, so search for the one that fits your schedule. It is said that you can almost always see dolphins (98% encounter rate), and the best season is from May to September. Why don't you go and see dolphins this summer?

*Note that dolphin-watching boats may be cancelled during strong rain, typhoons, or windy weather.



Plaza trivia

As announced in the May issue of the Plaza Newsletter, the twice a month consultation for Taiwanese living in Japan started in April. In this issue, we introduce Ms. Sun, who comes on Sundays.

Name : Sun Yong Ying

From : Taiwan

What is Taiwan like?:

Taiwan is a place full of B-grade food. Tapioca milk tea is considered the national drink. In Taiwan, a single street is lined with stands selling the drink. Smelly tofu is a delicious and smelly gourmet dish that you must try when you come to Taiwan.



What's good about Kumamoto (what I like about Kumamoto):

Everyone is very kind, greets each other and helps each other.

Places I would like to visit in Kumamoto:

I would like to experience the Mt. Aso helicopter sightseeing flight to see the magnificent view of Aso from the sky.

What surprised me when

I came to Kumamoto (Japan):

Babies eat baby food from 4 months, salt and sugar in it.

I was really surprised.

Message to foreign residents in Kumamoto:

You must feel anxious living in a new environment.

Kumamoto is a nice town and the people are friendly.

And in places like the Kumamoto city International Center,

You can solve your problem.

If you have any questions, come to the International Center.



Information on Kumamoto Consultation and Support Plaza for Foreign Residents

The Plaza offers professional consultations including legal affairs, residence status issues, job, housing and life affairs support in multiple languages. Consultants who speak English, Chinese, Vietnamese, Tagalog, Spanish, Nepali and Taiwanese are available at the Plaza as the schedule below.

August Schedule

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
29	30	31	01 •Korean Consultation	02 •Spanish Consultation •Life Consultation in Chinese •English Consultation	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 Holiday "Mountain Day" •Life Consultation in Chinese •Educational Consultation
12 substitute holiday	13 closed •Chinese Consultation	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 •Life Consultation in Chinese •Free Legal Consultation	18 •Immigrational Consultation •Vietnamese Consultation •Nepal Consultation
19	20 •Chinese Consultation	21 •Housing Consultation •Vietnamese Consultation •Life Consultation in Chinese •German Consultation •Life Consultation in Taiwanese	22 •Korean Consultation	23 •Life Consultation in Chinese •English Consultation	24	25 •Life Consultation in Chinese •Educational Consultation •Life Consultation in Taiwanese
26 closed	27 •Chinese Consultation	28 •Life Consultation in Chinese •German Consultation •One-stop Consultation Service for International Students •Job Consultation	29 •Korean Consultation	30 •Life Consultation in Chinese •English Consultation	31	01
02	03	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.

