

PLAZA NEWSLETTER(September 2024)

September is called "NAGATSUKI" in the old Japanese calendar. After RISSHU (first day of autumn, August 7 this year), the nights gradually get longer and longer. ATSUKI" (long moon) as the nights gradually get longer. The old calendar was based on the lunar calendar. Therefore, there is a 1-2 month discrepancy from the current sense of the season, but you will notice that the sun sets earlier when September comes than in mid-summer. Autumn is gradually approaching.

The Plaza received 29 consultations in July. We share some of them with advice from us.
※Some content has been edited so that individual are not identified.

Q : I am returning home and want to dispose of my furniture. How much do I have to pay for the sticker when disposing of them?

A : You need to call GOMI-ZERO CALL(0570-00-5374、 8:30-17:00 Monday – Saturday, except end of year and new year holiday) , apply for collection and discuss the pick up point and schedule. You will then be given a receipt number and the cost. Obtain a sticker of the amount you are informed at a convenience store, write down the receipt number, and affix it to the large refuse to be disposed of. Applications in English are also accepted. In principle, up to 5 pieces can be collected on one collection day. If you have many items to dispose of, apply well in advance to allow enough time to dispose of them.

Q : I would like to apply for the FY2024 the priority support benefits for soaring prices of electricity, gas, and food etc.

A : If you are eligible for the grant, you will have received an information notice or confirmation letter. If you have not received it, you need to confirm by calling "call center"(096-355-8866、 weekdays 9:00 – 17:00) and tell them your name, date of birth and the address so that they can check if you are eligible. If you don't speak Japanese, come to the plaza while the call center is open so that we can call them for you.

Q : Since my Japanese is not very good, introduce me to a psychosomatic medicine or counseling clinic where I can see a doctor in English.

A : Takano Hospital (Psychosomatic Medicine), located in Oe, Chuo-ku, Kumamoto City, can arrange for an English interpreter on weekdays. (No additional charge). When making an appointment, let them know that you would like an English interpreter. Kumamoto Psychological Counseling Center, located near the Central Post Office, has English-speaking clinical psychologists. When you make an appointment, inform them that you'd like counseling in English . The Plaza also offers mental health counseling on the second Wednesday of each month. Consultation in English is also available.

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

New banknotes

Three types of newly designed Japanese bills (¥1,000, ¥5,000, and ¥10,000) began circulating on July 3, 2024.

Some of you may already have the actual bills in your hands.

The new bills were issued for the first time in 20 years. The

figures designed on the new bills are Shibasaburo Kitasato

(¥1,000), Umeko Tsuda (¥5,000), and Eiichi Shibusawa

(¥10,000). Each of them is a person of achievement, but

among them is Shibasaburo Kitasato, who is on the ¥1,000

bill, was a topic of conversation because he was from Oguni

Town, Kumamoto. He is known as the “father of modern

Japanese medicine,” including the discovery of the plague

bacillus.

The new bills are said to have various innovations to prevent

counterfeiting. Previous bills can continue to be used, and

if you were unaware that the new bills are in circulation, be

assured that they are not counterfeit!



↑ Previous bills

New bills →



Plaza Trivia

Following last month, we introduce Ms. Jo, who comes on Wednesdays for the Taiwanese Life Consultation, which started in April.

Name : Jo Akimi

From : Taipei, Taiwan



What's good about Kumamoto? :

There are many good places to visit, but what I like about it is that if you go a little further, you can reach Aso, known for its caldera, and spring water spots such as Kikuchi Canyon and Shirakawa Suigen(source of Shirakawa river). The water is very tasty.

A place I'd love to visit in Kumamoto :

I would like to walk the Hyuga Oukan(a historical road connecting Kumamoto city and Nobeoka city, Miyazaki pref.) on my own feet and travel back in time to the days of the old domains.

What surprised me when I came to Kumamoto (Japan) :

People on public transportation are very quiet.

Message to foreign residents in Kumamoto :

If you always have the mindset of "when in Rome, do as the Romans do" and "Home is where you make it", you will enjoy your daily life in Kumamoto.



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.

September Schedule

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
26	27	28	29	30	31	01 ·Vietnamese Consultation ·Life Consultation in Chinese
02	03 ·Chinese Consultation	04 ·Immigrational Consultation ·Vietnamese Consultation ·Life Consultation in Chinese ·German Consultation	05 ·Korean Consultation	06 ·Spanish Consultation ·Life Consultation in Chinese ·English Consultation	07	08 ·Life Consultation in Chinese ·Educational Consultation
09 closed	10 ·Chinese Consultation	11 ·Job Consultation ·Mental Health Counseling ·Tagalog Consultation ·Life Consultation in Chinese ·German Consultation	12 ·Korean Consultation	13 ·Life Consultation in Chinese ·English Consultation	14	15 ·Immigrational Consultation ·Vietnamese Consultation ·Nepal Consultation ·Life Consultation in Chinese
16 Respect for the Aged Day	17 ·Chinese Consultation	18 ·Housing Consultation ·Vietnamese Consultation ·Life Consultation in Chinese ·German Consultation ·Life Consultation in Taiwanese	19 ·Korean Consultation	20 ·Life Consultation in Chinese ·English Consultation	21 ·Life Consultation in Chinese ·Free Legal Consultation	22 Autumn equinox Day ·Educational Consultation ·Life Consultation in Taiwanese
23 substitute holiday	24 closed	25 ·Life Consultation in Chinese ·German Consultation ·One-stop Consultation Service for International Students ·Job Consultation	26 ·Korean Consultation (14:00-17:00)	27 ·Life Consultation in Chinese ·English Consultation	28	29
30	01	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.

