

# PLAZA NEWSLETTER(October 2024)

On September 1, Kumamoto City International Center celebrated its 30th anniversary, and Kumamoto Consultation and Support Plaza for Foreign Residents marked its 5th anniversary. On August 31 and September 1, we held anniversary events, and the foreign community helped with the events and many people came to Kumamoto City International Center. I hope to be able to report on the Plaza's anniversary events at some point.

The Plaza received 45 consultations in August. We share some of them with advice from us.

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

Q : I lost my residence card while I was back in my own country. When I tried to board an airplane to go back to Japan, my residence card and re-entry permit have both expired and I was denied. What should I do?

A : According to the Kumamoto Regional Immigration Services Bureau, they said that you would need to start over by obtaining a "Certificate of Eligibility".

Q : I am an international student from Afghanistan. I will graduate from university soon, but I have not found a job yet. My period of stay will also expire this year. However, due to political instability in my country, I would like to continue living in Kumamoto (Japan). Is there any way to do so?

A : On the website of the Immigration Services Agency, it says that Afghan nationals who are anxious to return home should consult with their local branch office as they are taking procedures that will allow them to continue to be in Japan. Please consult with them first. [https://www.moj.go.jp/isa/applications/resources/I0\\_00065.html](https://www.moj.go.jp/isa/applications/resources/I0_00065.html)

Q : I am a permanent resident and married to a Japanese national. I am thinking of divorcing in no distant future. Do I need to change my status of residence and family name?

A : As a permanent resident, you do not have to change your status of residence after divorce, nor will you lose it. As for the family name, you can use the one you had at the time of marriage if you follow the procedures.

Q : My child will celebrate his/her 16th birthday at the end of this month. Does this require him/her to renew the status of residence? We are planning to travel abroad this month, will his/her residence card be replaced?

A : We checked your child's residence card and found that the period of stay was until the day of his/her 16th birthday, so we told them that you needed to have it renewed. A residence card can be issued on the same day at the Kumamoto Immigration Office. You can apply for it after you return from overseas as long as it is within the expiration date.

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

## The 19<sup>th</sup> Further education guidance feedback from participants



On Sunday, July 7, the 19<sup>th</sup> Further education guidance for foreign students and parents was held at the Kumamoto City International Center and junior high school and high school teachers and Japanese language teachers provided easy-to-understand explanations and advice on how to choose a high school and how to prepare for the entrance examination to high school. Here are some comments from the participants.

### <Junior high school students>

- I learned a lot of things for the first time. Thank you very much.
- It was very good. I could understand most of what I didn't understand and what I had trouble with.
- It was good to see where I am now and where I am headed in the future.
- Today's guidance helped me understand what kind of high school I want to go to.
- I learned more about different schools and my future options. It was very useful to talk about different types of schools, the right school for me, and what I want to be in the future.
- I'm glad I learned things I didn't know and was able to discuss many things including entrance exam with you!
- The staff explained everything in detail and made it easy to understand. I could understand what I should do from now on. I think I need to study Japanese more.
- I was able to learn about higher education and the names of high schools. Individual counselling was very helpful. After attending this meeting, I have a clearer idea of what I want to do in high school.
- Thank you very much for holding this kind of information session for foreigners. It is very helpful for those who are not familiar with the educational situation in Japan.



### <guardians/parents>

- I was a little relieved to learn that special measures and special consideration exist and that my child is eligible for them.
- I finally understand the process of higher education. Thank you for all the information you have given us from various people (Japanese language teachers, interpreters, school teachers) for our child's future.
- I can finally understand the process of higher education. I appreciate it very much.
- I really appreciate the opportunity to participate.  
I was able to understand a lot of information about high school education thanks to the interpreter.
- We were unsure of the specifics of the situation, but it was good to know that there are many possibilities.
- I had no idea about the Japanese high school entrance exam until I attended this meeting, but thanks to the interpreter, I was able to understand. Thank you very much for organizing this guidance.



We are pleased to introduce a new CIR from Korea who arrived in August.

## Choi Bohyeon

• **From : Busan, Korea**

• **What is Busan like? :**

It's where Jungkook and Jimin from BTS and Woozi from SEVENTEEN come from and the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest city after Seoul. The dialect of Busan is difficult to understand, but it has the image of being cute.

• **How did you become interested in Japan? :**

My older sister was a big influence on me. We have studied Japanese together since childhood and traveled to Japan. I especially love the Japanese language and atmosphere.

• **What is your favorite Japanese word? :**

It is "Sumimasen". It is the first Japanese word I learned, and I think it is the first all-purpose word I can say if something happens.

• **What surprised you when you came to Kumamoto :**

It is Kumamoto dialect. I hear the Kumamoto dialect from my host family or at work and think it is cute. Especially, the word "TSU" that my host family's mom taught me was the most surprising word. I find it interesting that "scab" is represented by a single letter.

• **Places you would like to visit in Kumamoto :**

I love Kumamon and would like to visit Kumamon Square. I would also like to visit the Aso Nakadake crater and Lake Ezu fireworks.

• **What you would like to do in Kumamoto :**

I like paragliding and would like to try paragliding on Mt. Aso. I'd like to fully enjoy the beautiful natural scenery of Kumamoto.

• **What's good (what you like) about Kumamoto :**

The good thing is that you can always enjoy safe and tasty water. It's located in the middle of Kyushu, it makes it's easy to move around.

• **Message to foreign residents in Kumamoto :**

The purpose of visiting Kumamoto is different for each person. There can be many reasons, such as business, tourism, study etc. The purpose is different for each person, but I think we all want to have a good time in Kumamoto. If you have any problems in Kumamoto, feel free to contact us anytime. Let's work together as fellow foreigners!



【Korean consultation : Thursdays 13:00-17:00】



## 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.

### October Schedule

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
30	01 •Chinese Consultation	02 •Immigrational Consultation •Vietnamese Consultation •Life Consultation in Chinese •German Consultation	03 •Korean Consultation	04 •Spanish Consultation •Life Consultation in Chinese •English Consultation	05	06 •Vietnamese Consultation •Life Consultation in Chinese
07	08 •Chinese Consultation	09 •Job Consultation •Mental Health Counseling •Tagalog Consultation •Life Consultation in Chinese •German Consultation	10 •Korean Consultation	11 •Life Consultation in Chinese •English Consultation	12	13 •Life Consultation in Chinese •Educational Consultation
14 Sports Day	15 closed •Chinese Consultation	16 •Housing Consultation •Vietnamese Consultation •Life Consultation in Chinese •German Consultation •Life Consultation in Taiwanese	17 •Korean Consultation	18 •Life Consultation in Chinese •English Consultation	19 •Life Consultation in Chinese •Free Legal Consultation	20 •Immigrational Consultation •Vietnamese Consultation •Nepal Consultation
21	22 •Chinese Consultation	23 •Life Consultation in Chinese •German Consultation •One-stop Consultation Service for International Students •Job Consultation	24 •Korean Consultation	25 •Life Consultation in Chinese •English Consultation (15:00-17:00)	26	27 •Life Consultation in Chinese •Educational Consultation •Life Consultation in Taiwanese
28 closed	29 •Chinese Consultation	30 •Life Consultation in Chinese •German Consultation	31 •Korean Consultation	01	02	03
04	05	Note: Consultations 1:00pm~5:00pm (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:** 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.

