

# PLAZA NEWSLETTER(January, 2025)

The end of the year will soon be upon us. Do you eat TOSHIKOSHI SOBA (buckwheat noodles served on New Year's Eve)? Also, do you know why we eat it? In my family, we eat TOSHIKOSHI SOBA every year. I have never thought about the reason for this habit but I suddenly wondered and looked into it. There are various theories, but its history dates back to the Kamakura period (1185-1333). In the period, temples served buckwheat cakes to those who were too poor to celebrate the new year. The following year, those who ate the buckwheat cakes had better luck, and a rumor spread that good things would happen if they ate the cakes. The theory is that it was then eaten on New Year's Eve. Today's TOSHIKOSHI SOBA has a variety of meanings, with wishes such as "to live as long as soba" or "to cut off bad luck like soba", which is easy to cut, and "welcome the next year with good luck". Let's all eat TOSHIKOSHI SOBA and stay healthy and well into next year!

Now then, allow us to partially introduce the consultation details found in our plaza. We received 68 consultations in November and have shared below examples of questions and answers. Some content has been edited for privacy concerns.

Q : I am an international graduate student. I would like to find a job in Japan after graduation next year, but I cannot speak Japanese. Should I study Japanese at a Japanese language school after graduation and then look for a job?

A : In order to get a regular job in Japan, business level Japanese language skills are essential(Japanese level of N2 or higher. N1 or higher is even better). Most companies require Japanese language proficiency for computer-related jobs, so it is necessary to first study Japanese after graduation and acquire Japanese language skills at or above a business level. For English teachers, it is not the case for some English conversation schools and international schools, so it may be possible to get a job after graduation. Japanese language classes are also held at the Kumamoto City International Center. For more information → <https://www.kumamoto-if.or.jp/kiji0031455/index.html>

Q : I am an international student. I will be entering another vocational school next April. Do I have to go through immigration procedures?

A : The Immigration Bureau says you need to notify them that you have changed schools when you enroll in the next one. Also, before your current residence card expires, you should apply for an extension by getting the necessary documents from the new school you are going to and the one you attended before that.

Q : My wife is German. Is there a German community in Kumamoto? Also, are there any language (German) events that children can attend?

A : There is no German community in Kumamoto, but every Wednesday from 13:00 to 17:00, a consultant(city international relations coordinator) from Germany offers German consultations. Come if you want to talk or discuss anything about Germany or in German. In addition, a German Cafe and a Kids' Cafe for elementary school students are held once a month. There is also a "Foreign Wives' Association" that is open to all nationalities as a community for foreign residents.

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

# Plaza leaflet has been renewed!

The Kumamoto Consultation and Support Plaza for Foreign Residents was established on September 1, 2019, and with its 5th anniversary this year, the Plaza leaflet has been renewed. The new leaflet is slightly larger than the previous ones, with a cute illustration on the cover and warm colors. The contents include a detailed explanation of what kind of consultation you all can receive, what kind of specialists are available, and what methods (telephone, online, etc.) are available for consultation in languages other than Japanese. The consultation schedule is also posted. (It is subject to change depending on the availability of the consultant. Please check the Plaza website and Facebook for the latest schedule as before.)

In addition to the Kumamoto City International Center, they are also available at the City Hall and each ward office.

We hope you will pick it up and take a look.

You can also download the PDF from the Plaza's website.

Please tell your friends and acquaintances about it!



← Download  
the leaflet here.

# How to dispose of large garbage

Kumamoto City collects burnable garbage twice a week and other garbage 1-2 times a month. When you throw out garbage, you put it in the garbage bags designated by Kumamoto City, but how should you dispose of large garbage that does not fit into these garbage bags? In this issue, we will introduce how to dispose of large garbage, a topic that is frequently inquired about at the Plaza.

## \*Example of large garbage\*

- Furniture such as wardrobes, desks, beds, etc.
- futon or blanket
- suitcase



## 【When you want to dispose of large garbage】

- ① Call “Gomi Zero Call” in advance.
- ② Discuss the collection point, etc., and receive a “Receipt Number”.
- ③ Buy a “Large Garbage Disposal Sticker” at a convenience store.
- ④ Write the “Reception Number” you received on the “Large Garbage Disposal Sticker”.
- ⑤ Place the sticker on the garbage you want to throw away.
- ⑥ Put out the garbage at the collection point.

## << Gomi Zero Call >>

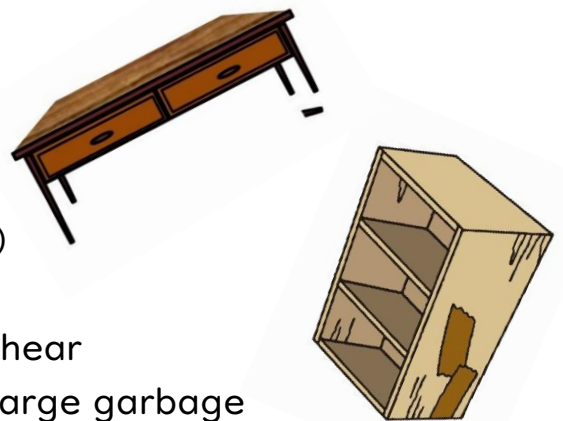
Phone: 0570-00-5374

Time: 8:30~17:00 Weekdays

(except end of year & new year holiday)

Inquiry in English also available.

\*When you call the “Gomi Zero Call”, you will hear an automated voice guidance. Select “1” for large garbage and “2” for other garbage.



The “Gomi Zero Call” provides information not only about large garbage collection, but also on garbage separation.

If you have any questions about garbage disposal, feel free to contact them.



## 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.

### January Schedule

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

