PLAZA NEWSLETTER (March 2025)

In Japan, a day in early February is called "RISSHUN($\pm \delta$)" which means the beginning of spring (the day changes every year, depending on the lunar calender). The Japanese character " \pm (RITSU)" means "the beginning" and "RISSHUN($\pm \delta$)" means "start something new". However, February is the coldest month of the year, and this year, due to a particularly cold wave, there was even a light dusting of snow in Kumamoto City, but when we see wintersweet trees and plum blossoms in bloom, we feel the approach of spring.

Now then, allow us to partially introduce the consultation details found in our plaza. We received 56 consultations in January and have shared below examples of questions and answers. Some content has been edited for privacy concerns.

- Q: I am looking for a therapist or psychologist who has experience in grief care for children and can speak English. Do you have any information?
- A: There's an English speaking counselor at Kumamoto Psychological Counseling Center (<u>https://sinrisoudan.sakura.ne.jp/counseling.html</u>).
 In addition, if you want to find a medical institution that can provide multilingual services and don't know which clinic to go to, or have trouble understanding the language, the AMDA International Medical Information Center (<u>https://www.amdamedicalcenter.com/</u>) can assist you in multiple languages.
- Q: I threw away an envelope with money in it by mistake in my burnable trash. Can I check the contents of the garbage I threw away?
- A : From the Waste Planning Division of Kumamoto City, it is difficult if the garbage is burnable and has already been collected by collection trucks. There is a possibility that the garbage bag may have been torn when it was collected by the collection truck. In addition, the collected garbage is taken directly to the incineration plant and burned as it is, so we do not take out the garbage again for personal reasons.
- Q: I would like to confirm the documents for my application for permanent residence.
- A : You can check the documents required to apply for a permanent residence permit on the Immigration Bureau's website.

https://view.officeapps.live.com/op/view.aspx?src=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.moj.g o.jp%2Fisa%2Fcontent%2F001422063.xlsx&wdOrigin=BROWSELINK

The Plaza also offers immigration consultations (with administrative support) on the following schedule

The 1st Wednesday and 2nd and 3rd Sundays of each month from 13:00 to 16:00.

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

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Videos for the daily life orientation

Do you know about videos for the daily life orientation created by the immigration services agency? They include useful information for both those who have just arrived in Japan as well as those who have lived in the country for a period of time. They are prepared in 16 languages altogether. A few of the contents are ;

* Traffic rules

- * Rules of daily life
- * Healthcare facilities * Emergencies and disasters
- * Procedures with immigration and address
- * Health insurance system
 * Pension system
- * Taxes * Employment and labor
- * Guide to consultation services
- * Basic Japanese language learning

Leaflets are also available in each language (simplified and traditional in Chinese). QR code below will transfer you to the immigration services agency's webpage with the links to each video and the leaflets.

The health and tax systems are complex and difficult to understand, and the medical and lifestyle rules can be quite different from the systems and customs in your own country, which can be confusing. Take a look at the leaflet and videos, as they will be useful when you cannot consult or inquire at the Plaza, such as at night or during the yearend and New Year holidays.





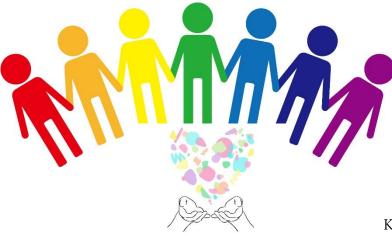
Immigration Services agency

Kumamoto's Foreign Community Information

Kumamoto City currently has a population of approximately 730,000, of which approximately 10,000 are foreigners

(as of December 2024). Among foreign residents, there are communities organized by country of origin or common purpose, and they help each other to live a safe, secure, and comfortable life in Japan by sharing and exchanging various information. They may introduce their respective cultures, and several communities sometimes interact with each other through joint sporting events. Please visit the Plaza's website to learn more about what kind of community we have in Kumamoto. Each community is sending out a variety of information on SNS. Why not check them out and participate in their events?







Kumamoto's Foreign Community Information

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.

March Schedule

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
24	25	26	27	28	01	02 •Vietnamese Consultation •Life Consultation in Chinese
03	04 •Chinese Consultation	05 • Immigrational Consultation • Vietnamese Consultation • Life Consultation in Chinese • German Consultation	06 •Korean Consultation	07 •Spanish Consultation •Life Consultation in Chinese •English Consultation	08	09 • Immigrational Consultation • Life Consultation in Chinese • Educational Consultation
10 Closed	11 •Chinese Consultation	12 •Mental Health Counseling •Tagalog Consultation •Life Consultation in Chinese •German Consultation •Job Consultation	13 ∙Korean Consultation	14 •Life Consultation in Chinese •English Consultation	15 •Free Legal Consultation •Life Consultation in Chinese	16 •Immigrational Consultation •Vietnamese Consultation •Nepal Consultativon
17	18 •Chinese Consultation	19 •Housing Consultation •Vietnamese Consultation •Life Consultation in Chinese •German Consultation •Life Consultation in Taiwanese	20 Spring Equinox Day	21 •Life Consultation in Chinese •English Consultation	22	23 • Life Consultation in Chinese • Educational Consultation • Life Consultation in Taiwanese
24 Closed	25 •Chinese Consultation	26 • Life Consultation in Chinese • German Consultation • One-stop Consultation Service for International Students • Job Consultation	27 •Korean Consultation	28 ·Life Consultation in Chinese ·English Consultation	29	30 •Life Consultation in Chinese
31	01	note:Consultations 1:00p.m~5 · Life Consultation in Chinese 1 · Immigrational Consultation 1 · Free Legal Consultation 2:00p · One-stop Consultation Service	:00pm ~ 6:00p l:00pm~4:00pr m~4:00pm (R	m n eservation required) •	Educational Consult	unseling 3:30pm~5:30pm ation 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.

