

# PLAZA NEWSLETTER (March 2025)

In Japan, a day in early February is called “RISSHUN(立春)” which means the beginning of spring (the day changes every year, depending on the lunar calendar). The Japanese character “立 (RITSU)” means “the beginning” and “RISSHUN(立春)” 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 (<https://sinrisoudan.sakura.ne.jp/counseling.html>) .

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 (<https://www.amdamedicalcenter.com/>) 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.go.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

# 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 year-end 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?

<p><b>くまもとの がいこくじん こみゆにてい じょうほう</b></p> <p>日本人の方へ 周知に、孤立している外国人・外国ループの 方がいたら、この紙を渡してください。あなたの コミュニティメンバーのサポートが求められます。</p> <p>お問い合わせ先 KVOAD (Kumamoto Volunteer Organization) 外国人ボランティアのサポート TEL: 096-359-4995 FAX: 096-359-5112 Email: kvoad@kumamoto-il.or.jp</p>	<p><b>ベトナム / Việt Nam</b> Hội người Việt Nam tại Kumamoto 在熊本ベトナム人協会</p> <p>QRコード</p> <p>FB Messengerでメッセージ! 言語: ベトナム語 Ngôn ngữ: Tiếng Việt Language: Vietnamese</p>	<p><b>ネパール / नेपाल / Nepal</b> कुमारपोली नेपाली 熊本ネパール人協会</p> <p>QRコード</p> <p>FB Messengerでメッセージ! 言語: ネパール語, ヒンディー語 Language: Nepali, Hindi भाषा: नेपाली</p>	<p><b>フィリピン / Filipino / Philippines</b> Filipino Organization In Kumamoto 熊本フィリピン人会</p> <p>QRコード</p> <p>FB Messengerでメッセージ! 言語: 英語, タガログ語 Language: English, Tagalog</p>	<p><b>中国 / China</b> 中国コミュニティ Email: guwe716@yahoo.co.jp 対応言語: 中国語, 日本語</p> <p>QRコード</p>	<p><b>外国人支援を行っている市民団体</b> NGO in Kumamoto, offering consultation services to foreign residents in Japan</p> <p><b>コムスタカ / Kumustaka</b> 言語: 日本語, 英語, 中国語, タガログ語, ベトナム語 にはんご: English, 中文, Tagalog, Tiếng Việt</p> <p>QRコード</p>	<p><b>くまもといくいきんさぽーせんたー</b> 熊本市外国人サポートセンター 熊本市外国人総合相談プラザ 熊本市外国人総合案内センター 구마모토시외국인종합상담센터</p> <p>QRコード</p> <p>TEL: 096-359-4995 FAX: 096-359-5112 Email: soudan@kumamoto-il.or.jp</p>	<p><b>英語 / English</b> KEEP (Kumamoto Earthquake Experience Project) 外国人のための防災を考える留学生グループ</p> <p>QRコード</p> <p>FB Messengerでメッセージ! 言語: 英語 Language: English</p>	<p><b>イスラム教 / Muslim Community</b> Kumamoto Islamic Center イスラミック協会</p> <p>QRコード</p> <p>FB Messengerでメッセージ! 言語: インドネシア語, ウルドゥー語, ヒンディー語, ベンガリ語, アラビア語, マレー語 Language: Indonesian, Urdu, Hindi, Bengali, Arabic, Malay etc. Bahasa Indonesia, Bahasa Melayu</p>	<p><b>台湾 / Taiwan</b> (コミュニティ) 熊本台湾同郷会 (くまもとたいわんどうきょうかい) Email: kuma-taiwan@kumamoto-il.or.jp</p> <p>QRコード</p> <p>台熊友好会 (たいゆうゆうこうかい) Email: taiyuu@kumamoto-il.or.jp</p> <p>(参考) くまもとNeo (臺灣人在熊本の生活)</p> <p>QRコード</p> <p>KumaTaiwanLife 熊本生活</p> <p>QRコード</p> <p>言語: 日本語, 英語, 中国語 (日本語: 熊本市・台湾市・日本国) 言語: 英語, 台語</p>	<p><b>運転(うんでん)・交通(こうつう)</b> くまもとKDSグループ 駐日韓国大使館(ソウル市)に 熊本タイワン同郷会(くまもとたいわんどうきょうかい)</p> <p>QRコード</p> <p>言語: タガログ語, 中国語, ネパール語, ヒンディー語, ベトナム語, 英語, Tagalog, 中国語, 英語, Tiếng Việt, 中文 (簡体・繁体), English</p> <p>インターナショナル・スタッフ いろいろな国籍のスタッフが 対応いたします。</p> <p>時間: 月曜 - 日曜 毎日 9:00 - 17:00 連絡先: 096-359-4995</p> <p>QRコード</p>	<p><b>さいがいのときにやくにたつじょうほう</b></p> <p><b>災害リスク情報 キキクル</b> https://www.jisa.go.jp/jisa/risks/kuishiki.html</p> <p>QRコード</p> <p><b>ひなんじょうコミュニケーションシート</b> https://kumamoto-il.or.jp/</p> <p>QRコード</p>	<p><b>防災ハンプ</b> https://www.paf.kumamoto-il.or.jp/</p> <p>QRコード</p> <p><b>防災ハンドブック</b> https://kumamoto-il.or.jp/</p> <p>QRコード</p>	<p><b>防災ハンプ</b> https://www.paf.kumamoto-il.or.jp/</p> <p>QRコード</p> <p><b>防災ハンドブック</b> https://kumamoto-il.or.jp/</p> <p>QRコード</p>
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## 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	05	06	07	08	09
	• Chinese Consultation	• Immigrational Consultation • Vietnamese Consultation • Life Consultation in Chinese • German Consultation	• Korean Consultation	• Spanish Consultation • Life Consultation in Chinese • English Consultation		• Immigrational Consultation • Life Consultation in Chinese • Educational Consultation
10 Closed	11	12	13	14	15	16
	• Chinese Consultation	• Mental Health Counseling • Tagalog Consultation • Life Consultation in Chinese • German Consultation • Job Consultation	• Korean Consultation	• Life Consultation in Chinese • English Consultation	• Free Legal Consultation • Life Consultation in Chinese	• Immigrational Consultation • Vietnamese Consultation • Nepal Consultation
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
	• Chinese Consultation	• Housing Consultation • Vietnamese Consultation • Life Consultation in Chinese • German Consultation • Life Consultation in Taiwanese	Spring Equinox Day	• Life Consultation in Chinese • English Consultation		• Life Consultation in Chinese • Educational Consultation • Life Consultation in Taiwanese
24 Closed	25	26	27	28	29	30
	• Chinese Consultation	• Life Consultation in Chinese • German Consultation • One-stop Consultation Service for International Students • Job Consultation	• Korean Consultation	• Life Consultation in Chinese • English Consultation		• Life Consultation in Chinese
31	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 • 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.

