

PLAZA NEWSLETTER (June 2025)

Do you have Mother's Day or Father's Day in your country? It is said to have originated in the U.S., so it seems that the U.S. has this culture. In Japan, 2nd Sunday of May and 3rd Sunday of June fall on these days, and Mother's Day is associated with the giving of carnations. So what about Father's Day? I couldn't think of anything in particular, so I did some research and found some flowers that were recommended. One is the sunflower. Sunflowers are also a representative flower of summer, and they have the flower language of "adore". The second is the yellow rose. Yellow roses have the language of respect. They are a popular gift for Father's Day because it means to show respect to the father who supports the family. I know many of you do not have family nearby, but I hope this will be a day when you can express some appreciation.

Now then, allow us to partially introduce the consultation details found in our plaza. We received 98 consultations in April and have shared below examples of questions and answers. Some content has been edited for privacy concerns.

Q : Consultation from a Japanese national who employs a Sri Lankan national. His driver's license obtained in Sri Lanka will expire soon. Can he renew it in Japan? He does not plan to switch to an international driver's license since I will not be driving in Japan.

A : We inquired at the Sri Lankan Embassy in Japan and were told that he could renew my status at the Embassy. Documents required for the procedure are listed on the website (English page only).

To apply, you must go to the Embassy in Tokyo.



The Embassy of Sri Lanka

Q : A friend of mine (a foreigner) will be coming to Kumamoto from August to October this year. She/he would like to study Japanese for 1-2 months during that time. Is there a place where she/he can study everyday at beginner level?

A : All Japanese language classes offered by Kumamoto International Foundation are for mid- to long-term residents. We provided Information on the Aqua Short-Term Study Center, where you can learn Japanese in a short period of time.



Aqua Japanese
Language School

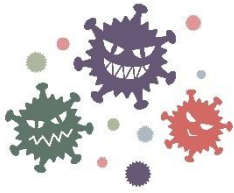
Q : I will be returning home next month. Let me know how to pay my last utility bill (gas).

A : You tell them what day you want to turn off the gas (the day of the shutoff), and they will come for a checkup on that day and send a short text message to your cell phone for payment within the same day (or the next day or later). You can pay the fee at a convenience store. Once you have decided on a date to move, decide on a date to stop using the service as soon as possible and complete the procedure.

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

Hydrangeas

June is the start of the rainy season in most parts of Japan. People living in Japan probably do not have a good image of the rainy season, as it can be uncomfortable due to high humidity and sometimes disaster-level heavy rainfall. During this rainy season, hydrangeas can be seen here and there. Hydrangeas are native to Japan and are widely grown for ornamental purposes in Japan, Europe, and the United States, and there are many varieties. The flowers come in a variety of colors, including white, blue, purple, red, and pink. The color of the flowers is said to change with the pH of the soil, generally blue for acidic and red for alkaline. The color of flowers differs from part to part on the same plant because of differences in the amount of aluminum sent from the roots, but some varieties may not produce blue flowers due to genetic factors. At the Kumamoto City International Center, beautiful hydrangeas bloom every year near the entrance to the bicycle parking lot. There is also a slope where hydrangeas bloom at the back of Sakura-no-Baba Josaien near the center. Come and be healed by beautiful hydrangeas during this depressing rainy season.



Food Poisoning



Food poisoning is an illness in which symptoms such as diarrhoea, abdominal pain, fever, and nausea occur after eating food with bacteria or a virus. Depending on the cause, symptoms and the time between eating and becoming ill vary. Sometimes it can be life-threatening. Bacteria that cause food poisoning are not special bacteria, as they are present in soil, water, and in the skin and intestines of humans and animals. Therefore, bacteria can increase if bacteria are introduced during the food preparation process or if cooked food is left in a warm room for a long time. Always wash your hands thoroughly before touching or cooking food, and take care to properly store food and ingredients you prepare in a refrigerator or cool location.



It is also important to heat foods thoroughly when cooking such as grilling meat well.

The number of people suffering from food poisoning caused by bacteria increases from June to September, when temperatures are warmer and bacteria are more likely to increase. Check the information from the Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare via the QR code below, and be very careful when handling food.



MHLW•Food Poisoning



Information on Kumamoto Consultation and Support Plaza for Foreign Residents

The Plaza offers professional consultations including legal affairs, residence status issues, 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.

June Schedule

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
26	27	28	29	30	31	01
						<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Vietnamin Consultation •Life Consultation in Chinese
02	03	04	05	06	07	08
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Chinese Consultation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Immigrational Consultation •Vietnamese Consultation •Life Consultation in Chinese •German Consultation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Korean Consultation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Spanish Consultation •Life Consultation in Chinese •English Consultation 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Life Consultation in Chinese •Educational Consultation •Immigrational Consultation
09 closed	10	11	12	13	14	15
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Chinese Consultation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Mental Health Counseling •Tagalog Consultation •Life Consultation in Chinese •German Consultation •Job Consultation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Korean Consultation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Life Consultation in Chinese •English Consultation 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Life Consultation in Chinese •Immigrational Consultation •Vietnamese Consultation •Nepal Consultation
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Chinese Consultation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Housing Consultation •Vietnamese Consultation •Life Consultation in Chinese •German Consultation •Life Consultation in Taiwanese 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Korean Consultation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Life Consultation in Chinese •English Consultation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Free Legal Consultation •Life Consultation in Chinese 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Educational Consultation •Life Consultation in Taiwanese
23 closed	24	25	26	27	28	29
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Chinese Consultation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Life Consultation in Chinese •German Consultation •One-stop Consultation Service for International Students 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Korean Consultation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Life Consultation in Chinese •English Consultation 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Life Consultation in Chinese
30	01	note:Consultations 1:00p.m~5:00p.m(apart from the ones below) ☐ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •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: 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.

