

# PLAZA NEWSLETTER(August 2025)

Many earthquakes have been occurring around Tokara Islands, Kagoshima Prefecture every day, but recently they have also been occurring in various parts of Japan. Some of you may also have felt anxious about the disaster predictions for July. Natural disasters such as earthquakes are difficult to predict, and you never know when or where they will strike. There is a saying, "If you are prepared, you are safe", and it is important to be prepared on a regular basis so that you can respond if something should happen. It is also a time when many disasters such as typhoons and heavy rain are expected to occur, so be sure to check evacuation sites.



Kumamoto City  
Disaster Prevention  
Site

Now then, allow us to partially introduce the consultation details found in our plaza. We received 63 consultations in June and have shared below examples of questions and answers. Some content has been edited for privacy concerns.

Q : I am currently staying in Japan with the status of spouse of a permanent resident.

My husband is quitting his job at the end of July, and he plans to go back home, but I plan to remain in Kumamoto with my child. What will happen to my health insurance?

A : If she becomes the head of the household, she will be enrolled in National Health Insurance, so please apply for the National Health Insurance with documents showing the date of loss of Social Insurance.

Q : I received a letter from the Japan Pension Service. I don't understand the contents.

A : It was a notice and application form asking to join the National Pension Plan. However, he had no idea because he was already working for a company and his employee pension insurance was deducted. Plaza checked with the Japan Pension Service, which responded that he had not paid the premiums for the two weeks between his arrival in Japan and the start of his work, and that he should pay them retroactively.

Q : I did not give birth to my child in Japan and do not have a Japanese mother-and-child notebook. Where can I get one?

A : You can apply at your local ward office. To do so, please bring your passport or other identification and your country's Mother-and-child notebook.

Q : I currently have the status of residence of "Engineer/Humanities/International Services" and am due to renew it in two years, but I am not sure whether I should continue to renew or change my status to "Highly Skilled Worker" which would extend my period of stay. Can you give me some advice?

A : At the immigration consultation, we explained that technical, humanities, and international services allow change of jobs, and that if he is a highly skilled worker, his place of employment will be designated, and that in addition, in his situation, permanent residence may be considered.

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

# Start-up visa consultation service opened!

A consultation service has been established to assist foreigners who wish to start a business in Kumamoto City to obtain a start-up visa.

What is a start-up visa?

Foreign entrepreneurs will be granted “Designated Activities” status of residence that allows them to engage in preparatory activities for starting a business for one year (maximum two years). Kumamoto City, in cooperation with JETRO Kumamoto, has set up a specialized consultation service at XOSS POINT. to provide consultation services for foreign entrepreneurs regarding preparatory activities for starting a business.

## 【Outline of Consultation Service】

Open: Every Tuesday (9:00-12:00)

(If Tuesday is a national holiday, open the following day)

Place: XOSS POINT. 2F, Kumamoto Shin Toshin Plaza

(Add: 1-14-1, Kasuga, Nishi Ku, Kumamoto)

Consultation: In person, Telephone, E-mail, Online

Language: English, Japanese

Application & Details : From the QR codes below



Application



Details



## 【Inquires/Contact】

JETRO Kumamoto

Add: Kumamoto Chamber of Commerce and Industry  
3F, 10, Yoko Koya Machi, Chuo Ku, Kumamoto

Phone: 096-354-4211      E-mail: KUM@jetro.go.jp

## Shaved Ice in Kumamoto!

Shaved ice has been recorded as being eaten since the Heian period (794-1185), and in the Pillow Book, shaved ice was eaten with amazura (syrup made from sap). At that time, ice was very precious and became a standard summer snack from the late Meiji(1868-1912) to Taisho(1912-1926) periods.

Nowadays, shaved ice comes in a variety of shapes and flavors. We will introduce some of the shaved ice available in Kumamoto!



### Amamiya

The ice is made with subsoil water from Aso and tastes fine, fluffy and melt-in-your-mouth. A rich shaved ice topped with matcha green tea! The restaurant is also a relaxing space like a Japanese-style cafe.

Add: 2F, Tabara bldg. 4-16, Kamitori-cho, Chuo-ku, Kumamoto-shi

### Kura shop & Usagi cafe

Jet-black shaved ice with charcoal-colored black sesame paste rice flour dumplings and soy sauce ice cream. The soy-sauce-infused caramel flavor makes a big impact both in appearance and taste! It is sure to be a photo-worthy item!

Add: 6-9-1, Oshima, Nishi-ku, Kumamoto-shi



### Ki ichigo

Milk-flavored shaved ice with a fluffy, dense, melt-in-your-mouth flavor. The shaved ice is refreshing and perfect for summer, with plenty of peaches!

Add: 6-20-2, Hikarinomori, Kikuyomachi, Kikuchigun, Kumamoto



## 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.

### August Schedule

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
28	29	30	31	01 •Spanish Consultation •Life Consultation in Chinese •English Consultation	02	03 •Vietnamese Consultation •Life Consultation in Chinese
04	05 •Chinese Consultation	06 •Immigrational Consultation •Vietnamese Consultation •Life Consultation in Chinese •German Consultation	07 •Korean Consultation	08 •Life Consultation in Chinese •English Consultation	09	10 •Life Consultation in Chinese •Educational Consultation •Immigrational Consultation
11 Mountain Day	12 closed	13 •Mental Health Counseling •Tagalog Consultation •Life Consultation in Chinese •German Consultation •Job Consultation	14 •Korean Consultation	15 •Life Consultation in Chinese •English Consultation	16 •Free Legal Consultation •Life Consultation in Chinese	17 •Immigrational Consultation •Vietnamese Consultation •Nepal Consultation
18	19 •Chinese Consultation	20 •Housing Consultation •Vietnamese Consultation •Life Consultation in Chinese •German Consultation •Life Consultation in Taiwanese	21 •Korean Consultation	22 •Life Consultation in Chinese •English Consultation	23	24 •Life Consultation in Chinese •Educational Consultation •Life Consultation in Taiwanese
25 closed	26 •Chinese Consultation	27 •Life Consultation in Chinese •German Consultation •One-stop Consultation Service for International Students	28 •Korean Consultation	29 •Life Consultation in Chinese •English Consultation	30	31 •Life Consultation in Chinese
01	02	note: Consultations 1:00p.m~5:00p.m (apart from the ones below) <input type="checkbox"/> •Life Consultation in Chinese 1:00pm ~ 6:00pm •Immigrational Consultation 1:00pm~4:00pm 3:30pm~5:30pm •Free Legal Consultation 2:00pm~4:00pm (Reservation required) •One-stop Consultation Service for International Students 1:00pm~4:00pm •Mental Health Counseling •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.

