

PLAZA NEWSLETTER (March 2026)

Since late January, we've been experiencing a prolonged cold spell said to be the longest in 30 years. While snow rarely accumulates in Kumamoto, areas along the Sea of Japan coast, Tohoku, and Hokkaido have seen heavy snowfall reaching warning levels.

Additionally, influenza B is currently spreading, so take care to stay fit.

February 3rd was Setsubun (the close of winter). It is known for bean-throwing, but as an adult, I don't really do that anymore. Instead, I've started eating "EHOMAKI" sushi rolls. There's a theory that this custom began in the Edo period (1603-1868). It involves facing the direction considered auspicious for that year and eating a rolled sushi silently – a slightly strange sight, but the custom is to finish it in silence while making a wish. I followed this custom too and enjoyed an EHOMAKI filled with my favorite ingredients. Did you all eat EHOMAKI?

Now let us partially introduce the consultation details found in our plaza. We received 48 consultations in January and have shared below examples of questions and answers. Some content has been edited for privacy concerns.

Q : I am working under the Specified Skilled Worker residence status. My monthly working hours fluctuate, but my basic pay range sometimes exceeds 190 hours per month. Additionally, hours worked during busy months are sometimes transferred to adjust hours worked during slower months, and hours worked beyond the legal working hours are calculated at the regular hourly wage. Is there anywhere I can consult about this?

A : We provided information on where to consult with a social insurance and labor consultant and where to seek labor counseling.



Kumamoto Pref. Social Insurance and Labor Consultants Association (Comprehensive Labor Consultation Center)

Kumamoto City Labor Consultation



Labor Conditions Consultation "Hot Line" [Multilingual · Telephone Consultation]

Rengo (Japanese Trade Union Confederation) "NANDEMO Labor Consultation Hotline" Consultations via email or LINE are also available.



Q : I am a foreign resident of Kumamoto City. During a meeting, I was subjected to discriminatory remarks. It was deeply humiliating and made me feel very sad. Is there anywhere I can consult about this from a human rights or harassment perspective, preferably in English?

A : We provided the following information about where to seek human rights counseling. Additionally, we offer "Mental Health Counseling" every second Wednesday of the month from 3:30 PM to 5:30 PM.

Human Rights Consultation at Each Ward Office in Kumamoto City



Human Rights Consultation for Foreign Nationals (Ministry of Justice Website)



You can receive human rights consultations at the Kumamoto Legal Affairs Bureau.

If you wish to consult in a foreign language, the Foreign Language Human Rights Consultation Hotline is available. For details, check the Ministry of Justice website.

※Japanese · Reservations required

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



When a baby is born in Japan



Do you know what procedures to follow when a baby is born to a foreign family living in Japan? We'll explain the process for each case in Kumamoto City: when both parents are foreign nationals, and when one parent is a Japanese national.

<p>★when both parents are foreign nationals★</p> <p>↓</p> <p>Acquiring the nationality of one's parents (Japanese nationality cannot be acquired)</p> <p>① Birth Registration (at your local ward office)</p> <p>② Birth Registration to the Home Country (Embassy/Consulate)</p> <p>③ Acquisition of Residence Status (Fukuoka Regional Immigration Services Bureau, Kumamoto Branch Office)</p>	<p>★when one parent is a Japanese national★</p> <p>↓</p> <p>Acquire Japanese nationality</p> <p>① Birth Registration (at your local ward office)</p> <p>② Birth registration to the country of the foreign parent (if desired) (Dual nationality is permitted until the child reaches 22)</p> <p>③ Acquisition of residence status → Not required</p>
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① Birth Registration: Within 14 days including the date of birth

A birth registration is required regardless of the parents' nationality. Submit the “**Birth Registration Form**” to the Residents' Affairs Section of your local ward office within the designated period. You can obtain the Birth Registration Form at the hospital where the birth occurred. The right side of the Birth Registration Form is the “**Birth Certificate**”. Make sure that it has been completed and signed by the doctor or midwife.

*When acquiring foreign nationality, make a copy of your “**Birth Certificate**” before submitting it. Also, at the same counter, obtain a “**Proof of Birth Registration**” (fee: JPY 350) and a “**Certificate of Residence**” (fee: JPY 400) listing all household members, including the child born. These documents will be required when applying for permission to acquire a status of residence. When registering the childbirth, you will also need your Maternal and Child Health Handbook. Also prepare your personal seal (HANKO/INKAN), as it may be required for related procedures.

② Registration to the home country

Register the birth at your home country's embassy or consulate and apply for the child's passport. Procedures vary by country, so please inquire to confirm. If either parent holds Japanese nationality, the child will also acquire Japanese nationality. If the child does not acquire foreign nationality (i.e., does not hold dual nationality), there is no need to report to the embassy or consulate of the foreign national parent's country.

If dual nationality is held, the child must choose one nationality by the age of 22.

② Residence Status: Within 30 days including the date of birth

Complete the necessary procedures when your child acquires foreign nationality. This is not required if either parent holds Japanese nationality and the child will retain only Japanese nationality. Submit the “**Application form for Permission to Acquire Status of Residence**” to the Fukuoka Regional Immigration Service Bureau Kumamoto Branch Office by the deadline. Missing the deadline will result in illegal stay, making subsequent procedures more complicated and the screening process stricter. You can also apply online if you pre-register.

New Registration for online residence application



The required documents vary depending on the status of residence, the following is for “Dependent”:

- Application form for Permission to Acquire Status of Residence
- Proof of Birth Registration
- Passport (If issuance is not possible in time, submit later)
- Birth Certificate (Copy)
- Questionnaire (download the form from the QR code)
- Parent's Residence Card (both sides) or passport copy
- When parent/s work/s:
 - ① Copy of employment certificate or business license (proof of occupation)
 - ② Resident Tax Assessment (or Non-Assessment) Certificate and Tax Payment Certificate
- If the parent does not work, either a bank statement showing the parent's account balance, a scholarship award letter specifying the award amount and period, or proof of ability to cover living expenses.
- Resident record listing all household members, including newborn child



Questionnaire form



Information on Kumamoto Consultation and Support Plaza for Foreign Residents (Temporary changes to opening hours and consultation methods)

The Kumamoto City International Center will be closed for electrical equipment renovation work from Tuesday, January 27 to Friday, March 6. During this period, the Kumamoto Consultation and Support Plaza for Foreign Residents will suspend in-person consultations. Consultations will be available by phone, email, or online. Additionally, consultation hours will change to 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM during this period.

March Schedule

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
01 ·Vietnamese Consultation ·Life Consultation in Chinese	02	03 ·Chinese Consultation	04 ·Immigrational Consultation ·Vietnamese Consultation ·Life Consultation in Chinese ·German Consultation	05 ·Korean Consultation	06 ·Life Consultation in Chinese ·English Consultation ·Spanish Consultation	07
08 ·Immigrational Consultation ·Life Consultation in Chinese ·Educational Consultation	09 closed	10 ·Chinese Consultation	11 ·Mental Health Counseling ·Tagalog Consultation ·Life Consultation in Chinese ·German Consultation ·Job Consultation	12 ·Korean Consultation	13 ·Life Consultation in Chinese ·English Consultation	14
15 ·Immigrational Consultation ·Vietnamese Consultation ·Nepal Consultation ·Life Consultation in Chinese	16	17 ·Chinese Consultation	18 ·Housing Consultation ·Vietnamese Consultation ·Life Consultation in Chinese ·German Consultation ·Life Consultation in Taiwanese	19 ·Korean Consultation	20 Spring Equinox Day ·Life Consultation in Chinese	21 ·Life Consultation in Chinese ·Free Legal Consultation
22 ·Educational Consultation ·Life Consultation in Taiwanese	23 closed	24 ·Chinese Consultation	25 ·Life Consultation in Chinese ·German Consultation ·One-stop Consultation Service for International Students	26 ·Korean Consultation	27 ·Life Consultation in Chinese ·English Consultation	28
29 ·Life Consultation in Chinese	30	31 ·Chinese Consultation				
<p>Note: Consultations 1:00pm~5:00pm(apart from the ones below) ·Life Consultation in Chinese 1:00pm ~ 6:00pm (March 8 onwards) ·Immigrational Consultation 1:00pm~4:00pm ·Mental Health Counseling 3:30pm~5:30pm ·Free Legal Consultation 2:00pm~4:00pm (Reservation required) ·Educational Consultation 10:00am~3:00pm ·One-stop Consultation Service for International Students 1:00pm~4:00pm</p>						

※ 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.

