

# PLAZA NEWSLETTER (June 2026)

April 16th marked the 10th anniversary of the Kumamoto Earthquake. I'm sure some of you experienced it, but ten years really does go by in the blink of an eye. With the Blue Impulse performing an air show this milestone weekend, I imagine many people looked up at the sky. Although the Blue Impulse performed an exhibition flight even in the year of the earthquake, that flight was imbued with a passionate desire to encourage the disaster-stricken areas and pray for their recovery, and I was deeply moved all over again. Because Japan is a country prone to natural disasters, it's essential to stay prepared at all times. In addition to identifying evacuation sites and preparing emergency kits, a method known as "rolling stock" has recently been gaining attention. Why not take this opportunity to review the steps you can take to prepare right now?

Now let us partially introduce the consultation details found in our plaza. We received 73 consultations in April and have shared below examples of questions and answers. Some content has been edited for privacy concerns.

Q : I returned to my home country for a temporary visit, but due to unforeseen circumstances, I am unable to return to Japan. Since I did not file a change-of-address notification, is it possible to complete the procedure by email or online?

A : In Kumamoto City, there are three ways to submit a change-of-address notification: in person, by email, or online. However, the online option is available only to those who have a My Number card and are able to complete the procedure via the My Number Portal.



Click if you are moving abroad

Q : I am currently working under the "Engineer/Specialist in Humanities/International Services" status of residence, and I am considering taking on a side job in addition to my current work (which generates income). I have already obtained approval from both companies to engage in this side job. Are there any necessary procedures I need to follow with the Immigration Bureau regarding this matter?

A : No procedures at the immigration is required as long as the side job falls within the scope permitted by your current status of residence. However, if you wish to engage in a side job that exceeds the scope of activities permitted by your status of residence, you must submit an "Application for Permission to Engage in Activities Outside of your visa status" in advance. This is an individual permit that is reviewed on a case-by-case basis, and it is granted only if the time and location of the side job do not interfere with your primary employment. If you are unsure whether the nature of your side job falls within the scope of your status of residence, consult your local Immigration Bureau.

Q : I am a Japanese citizen. I am married to a foreign national and would like to bring my spouse's child (who has no blood relation to me) from my spouse's home country to Japan. Under what type of residence status can I bring this child to Japan?

A : One possibility is the "Long-term Resident" status. Based on the details of your inquiry, the requirements are: The child being brought to Japan must be a minor (under 18 y.o.) and unmarried biological child who is financially dependent on a person holding the "Spouse of a Japanese National" status.

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



# Japanese Vocabulary for Disasters



Have you ever experienced a disaster such as an earthquake or a flood? Disasters occur in Japan almost every year. When there is an imminent risk of a disaster, such as a major earthquake or tsunami, or when one actually occurs, you will receive notifications on your cell phone or see information broadcast on TV.

Since the words used in such situations aren't commonly used in everyday life, you might not always understand what they mean. When a disaster strikes, taking "immediate" and "appropriate" action can save lives. This month, we'll introduce some Japanese phrases commonly used during disasters. Make sure to learn them so you won't be at a loss when the time comes.

Hinan	To evacuate
Yoshin	Aftershocks following a major earthquake (occur repeatedly)
Shindo	Seismic intensity
Toukai	To collapse
Teiden	Blackout
Dansui	Water outage
Futsuu	No access to electricity, water, or gas/The roads becoming impassable
Hinanjo	Evacuation shelter (school gymnasiums and community centers)
Kaisetsu	The opening of evacuation shelters
Kyuusuijo	Drinking water station
Takidashi	Free meal distribution at evacuation shelters and parks
Anpi	whether someone is safe from a disaster
Kinkyuu	Urgency

Keihou	Alarm
Yukuefumei	Missing (person)
Kyuujo	To rescue
Ukai	To take a detour
Takadai	Higher ground
Kishou	Weather
Shinsui	Flood houses/buildings
Boufuuu	Destructive storm
Doshakuzure	Landslide
Rakkabutsu	Falling objects



Evacuation shelter



Free meal distribution

\* Kumamoto City International Center will serve as an evacuation shelter in the event of a major disaster

## 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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	01	02 •Chinese Consultation	03 •Immigrational Consultation •Vietnamese Consultation •Life Consultation in Chinese •German Consultation	04 •Korean Consultation	05 •Life Consultation in Chinese •English Consultation •Spanish Consultation	06
07 •Vietnamese Consultation •Life Consultation in Chinese	08 closed	09 •Chinese Consultation	10 •Mental Health Counseling •Tagalog Consultation •Life Consultation in Chinese •German Consultation	11 •Korean Consultation	12 •Life Consultation in Chinese •English Consultation	13
14 •Life Consultation in Chinese •Educational Consultation •Orugatta Kids	15	16 •Chinese Consultation	17 •Housing Consultation •Vietnamese Consultation •Life Consultation in Chinese •German Consultation •Life Consultation in Taiwanese	18 •Korean Consultation	19 •Life Consultation in Chinese •English Consultation	20 •Life Consultation in Chinese •Free Legal Consultation
21 •Immigrational Consultation •Vietnamese Consultation •Nepal Consultation •Orugatta Kids	22 closed	23 •Chinese Consultation	24 •Life Consultation in Chinese •German Consultation •One-stop Consultation Service for International Students	25 •Korean Consultation	26 •Life Consultation in Chinese •English Consultation	27
28 •Life Consultation in Chinese •Educational Consultation •Orugatta Kids •Life Consultation in Taiwanese	29	30 •Chinese Consultation				
<p>Note: Consultations 1:00pm~5:00pm(apart from the ones below)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Life Consultation in Chinese 1:00pm ~ 6:00pm</li> <li>•Immigrational Consultation 1:00pm~4:00pm</li> <li>•Job Consultation 10:00am~6:00pm</li> <li>•Mental Health Counseling 3:30pm~5:30pm</li> <li>•Free Legal Consultation 2:00pm~4:00pm (Reservation required)</li> <li>•Educational Consultation 10:00am~3:00pm</li> <li>•One-stop Consultation Service for International Students 1:00pm~4:00pm</li> </ul>						

※ 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 ones to be informed!



Plaza's FB

We are offering variety of information useful to your life. Please check us!



Our website



Life orientation videos by Immigration Services Agency

### 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.

