PLAZA NEWSLETTER(December 2026)

There is now just over a month left in this year. December brings many exciting occasions, including Christmas, New Year's Eve, and the New Year holidays. In Japan, it is customary to give the house a thorough cleaning at the end of the year and make preparations for the New Year. Families and relatives also get together to celebrate the beginning of a new year.
How do you usually spend the year-end and New Year holidays in your country?
As the weather gets colder, remember to dress warmly and take good care of yourself.

Here are some examples of consultations received at the Plaza. We received 79 consultations in October.
Please note that some details have been edited to protect the privacy of those who sought consultation.

Q: Is there an organization that provides housing information for foreign residents? I find it difficult to search for housing on my own.
A: The Kumamoto Consultation and Support Plaza for Foreign Residents holds a monthly Housing Consultation on the third Wednesday of each month, from 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm. No reservation is required. The Kumamoto City Housing Support Council also provides assistance.

The Kumamoto City Housing Support Council website

Q: I need to renew my passport. Can I complete the procedure in Japan?
A: You can renew your passport at the embassy or consulate of your country in Japan. For details, please contact the relevant embassy or consulate.

List of Foreign Embassies and Consulates in Japan

Q: I would like to apply for Permanent Resident status. How long does it take to receive the result?
A: First, you need to meet the requirements for Permanent Resident status.
There are various requirements, so check the “Guidelines for Permanent Residence” on the Immigration Services Agency website. Since Permanent Resident status removes restrictions on activities and period of stay, applications are reviewed more carefully than those for other residence statuses. It takes at least six months to receive a result after submitting your application. If your current period of stay expires during this time, please also apply for an extension of your period of stay.

Guidelines for Permanent Residence

Q: My Japanese husband has passed away. Can I continue living in Japan?
A: If you hold the status of residence “Spouse or Child of Japanese National,” you must submit a notification regarding your spouse to the Immigration Services Agency within 14 days.
Since you will no longer meet the requirements for this status of residence, you will need to change your status of residence before your current period of stay expires if you wish to continue living in Japan. If you have children with your late husband who are dependent on you, or if there are other unavoidable circumstances, please consult the Immigration Services Agency.

Report on the 5th Free Consultation Session for Foreign Residents

On Sunday, October 18, 2026, we held the 5th free consultation session for foreign residents. On this day, 13 people from 9 countries attended, with most seeking advice on two or more areas. The most common inquiries were about immigration followed by employment. We found that many people struggle to find housing, often because they do not know where or how to look. This became clear not only on this occasion but also through our regular consultations.

Many had some understanding of Japanese, but they preferred consultations through an interpreter. We believe this allowed them to consult with peace of mind, free from worries like "What if I can't communicate properly?"

Nearly all participants expressed that they were glad they came for consultation and that it helped resolve their issues.

Although this consultation event is held only once a year, the Plaza is open on weekends and public holidays as well.

You can contact us not only in person but also online, by email, or by phone.

If you have any concerns or questions, feel free to reach out to us!







Year-End Party Announcement!

Our annual Year-End Party is back at the Kumamoto City International Center!
Join us for a fun evening featuring exciting games, performances, and delicious Christmas treats!
Tickets are on sale from November 16.
Get yours before they sell out!

Date: Saturday, December 12
Time: 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM
Venue:
Kumamoto City International Center, 6th Floor Hall
Admission:

- Adults: ¥1,000
- Students: ¥500
  (elementary school to university)
  Please bring your student ID.
- Preschool children: Free









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.

December Schedule

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		01 ·~~Chinese Consultation~~	02 ·Immigrational Consultation ·Vietnamese Consultation ·~~Life Consultation in Chinese~~ ·German Consultation	03 ·Korean Consultation	04 ·Life Consultation in Chinese ·English Consultation ·Spanish Consultation	05
06 ·Vietnamese Consultation ·Life Consultation in Chinese ·~~Orugatta Kids~~	07	08 ·Chinese Consultation	09 ·Mental Health Counseling ·Tagalog Consultation ·Life Consultation in Chinese ·German Consultation ·Job Consultation	10 ·Korean Consultation	11 ·Life Consultation in Chinese ·English Consultation	12
13 ·Life Consultation in Chinese ·Educational Consultation ·Orugatta Kids	14 closed	15 ·Chinese Consultation	16 ·Housing Consultation ·Vietnamese Consultation ·Life Consultation in Chinese ·German Consultation ·Life Consultation in Taiwanese	17 ·~~Korean Consultation~~	18 ·Life Consultation in Chinese ·~~English Consultation~~	19 ·Life Consultation in Chinese ·Free Legal Consultation
20 ·Immigrational Consultation ·Vietnamese Consultation ·Nepal Consultativon ·Orugatta Kids	21	22 ·Chinese Consultation	23 ·Life Consultation in Chinese ·~~German Consultation~~ ·One-stop Consultation Service for International Students	24 ·Korean Consultation	25 ·Life Consultation in Chinese ·~~English Consultation~~	26
27 ·Life Consultation in Chinese ·Educational Consultation ·Life Consultation in Taiwanese	28 closed	29 closed	30 closed	31 closed		

Note: Consultations 1:00pm~5:00pm(apart from the ones below)
·Life Consultation in Chinese 1:00pm ~ 6:00pm
·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

※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: 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.