

PLAZA NEWS LETTER (Jan.)

It is very cold in December. In December and January, it snows a lot in many parts of Japan. Though it does not snow a lot in Kumamoto, it becomes very cold. Please stay warm. The number of coronavirus in Kumamoto City has been increasing. Please wear a mask when you go out and wash your hands and gargle when you get back home. Please also avoid the crowded places and refrain from joining a party many get together to stem the infection.

We would like to introduce the number of the consultations in November. The total number of the consultations was 70. We had many consultations on entry procedures and residence statuses, job hunting and Japanese classes. Followings are the examples:

※Regarding entry procedures and residence statuses

- I want to invite my partner from abroad to get married officially. How can I invite him?
- I want to change my current residence status. How can I do that?
- Our company has decided to employ an international student. We want to apply for the change of his residence status. How can we do that?

※Regarding job hunting

- After graduating from Japanese university, I want to stay in Japan to do a job. Can you help me find a job?
- I am currently a technical intern. But in future, I want to do a job by obtaining Specified Skilled Worker status. How can I do that?
- I got married to Japanese wife and came to Japan. Before coming to Japan, I experienced a lot of jobs. I want to do a job in Kumamoto. How can I find a job?

※Regarding Japanese classes

- My husband is a foreign national. I want him to study Japanese. Can you help us?
- I will take a Japanese language test. What should I do to prepare the test?

About coronavirus, we had questions about the clinics or hospitals offering PCR test, application for financial support due to difficulties in life, and the difficulty to return home country. If you have any problems or troubles, please contact Kumamoto Consultation and Support Plaza for Foreign Residents.

Consultation schedule

2021		1 月				
月曜日	火曜日	水曜日	木曜日	金曜日	土曜日	日曜日
28	29	30	31	01 closed	02 closed	03 closed
04	05	06 •Life Consultation in Chinese •Immigrational Consultation •German Consultation	07 •Korean Consultation	08 •Life Consultation in Chinese •Spanish Consultation •English Consultation	09	10 •Life Consultation in Chinese •Educational Consultation
11 Coming of age day	12 closed	13 •Life Consultation in Chinese •Job Consultation •German Consultation •Tagalog Consultation	14 •Korean Consultation	15 •Life Consultation in Chinese •English Consultation	16 •Life Consultation in Chinese •Free Legal Consultation	17 •Educational Consultation •Immigrational Consultation •Vietnamese Consultation
18	19	20 •Life Consultation in Chinese •Vietnamese Consultation •German Consultation •Housing Consultation	21 •Korean Consultation	22 •Life Consultation in Chinese •English Consultation •Life Consultation in Korean	23	24 •Life Consultation in Chinese •Educational Consultation
25 closed	26 •Labor Consultation	27 •Life Consultation in Chinese •German Consultation	28 •Korean Consultation	29 •Life Consultation in Chinese •English Consultation	30	31 •Life Consultation in Chinese •Educational Consultation
01	02	※E: Consultations 1:00p.m.~5:00p.m. •Life Consultation in Chinese 1:00p.m. ~ 6:00p.m. •Job Consultation 10:00a.m. ~ 6:00p.m. •Immigrational Consultation 1:00p.m.~4:00p.m. •Free Legal Consultation 2:00p.m.~4:00p.m. (You need reservation) •Educational Consultation 10:00p.m.~3:30p.m. (You need reservation)				



In Japan, we have New Year song starting with “How many nights are there to sleep until New Year Day?”. As a kid, I used to sing this song after Christmas, looking forward to the coming of New Year.

It is only a week until 2021. How did 2020 go for you? 2020 was a tough year for many around the world. I wish you better and peaceful 2021.

In your country, your family and relatives also get together to celebrate the New Year. However, how we celebrate the New Year varies according to cultures. We would like to introduce how Japanese welcome and celebrate the New Year.

In Japan, we do year-end cleaning before welcoming the New Year. We do a thorough cleaning in our house. It is believed that doing a thorough year-end cleaning will bring luck and blessing to family. Let’s welcome the New Year with a fresh mind-set.

We hang “Shimenawa” or sacred rice straw role on the door to welcome deity. If you ever have spent the New Year in Japan, you might have seen Shimenawa hung on the door of houses or shops.

We write “Nengajo” or New Year’s Day postcards for greetings. Recently, many use PC to put illustration of animal of “Eto” or the Japanese zodiac to make the postcards. The zodiac animal of 2021 is Ox. We send the postcards to our work colleagues, relatives and friends as a token of our gratitude.



On “Omisoka” or the last day of the year, we eat “Toshikosi soba” or year-crossing noodles as a tradition. Toshiosi soba symbolizes a long life. Every year, I eat Toshikoshi soba noodles while hearing the bells of New Year’s Eve. Originally, in Edo era, Toshikoshi soba noodles used to be eaten by people who could not take time to have meal because they were very busy. But currently, eating the noodles symbolizes a long life and increase of fortune.

We eat “Osechi ryori” or Japanese New Year foods. Osechi ryori is food served to deity and contains various “Engimono” or good luck charms to wish for blessing and prosperity of family. Foods contained differ according to regions. For instance, “Kazunoko” or herring roe symbolizes a wish to be gifted with numerous children in the New Year. “Ebi” or skewered prawn symbolizes a wish for a long-life. Each food symbolizes a specific meaning.



Traditionally, we eat Osechi ryori between January 1 and 3. Between January 1 and 7, we make a first shrine or temple visit for the New Year. It is called “Hatsumode.” Originally, Hatsumode means to do New Year’s greetings to local deities in our area. We also visit



the shrine or temple to wish for a luck and fortune. We buy charm and draw a fortune slip.

There are many Japanese New Year customs. This time, we introduced standard ones. We wish you a great New Year.

▣ Contact

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