

PLAZA NEWS LETTER April

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We had many warm days in March, and we will in April. We can go out to enjoy walking and “Hanami” (cherry blossom viewing). But, sometime, temperature goes down unexpectedly, and it rains. Please take good care of yourself. March saw the decrease in the number of coronavirus patients in Kumamoto City. However, please wear a mask when you go out and wash your hands and garble when you get back home.

We will introduce the number of the consultations in March. The total number was 87. We had many consultations on entry procedures and residence status, job hunting, interpretation and translation, and Japanese classes. Followings are the examples:

Regarding entry procedures and residence status

- Though I will quit a university, I want to stay in Japan to do a job even after leaving the university. Is that possible? 。
- I am a technical trainee and want to stay in Japan to do a job as a specified skilled worker in the future. Can you tell me how I can do that? Can I also change my residence status from specified skilled worker to other working residence statuses?

Regarding job hunting

- I came to Kumamoto to study at a postgraduate school and want to do a part-time job. Can you help me find the job?
- I am a technical trainee and want to do a job as a specified skilled worker in the future. Can you teach me how to apply for a specified skilled worker?

Regarding interpretation and translation

- Since I do not feel well for a while, I will be seeing a doctor at a big hospital. But I cannot communicate well in Japanese. Can you provide an interpreter support?
- I am a junior high-school teacher. We have a communication problem between our student having a foreign root and his mother. We found they need an interpreter to have a meeting. Can you provide interpreter support when we have the meeting?

Regarding Japanese classes

- My husband is a foreigner who just came to Kumamoto. He cannot speak Japanese at all. Can you help us?
- I am studying Japanese by myself. But I want to hone my Japanese through conversation with Japanese people. Can you help me?

About COVID-19 related inquiries, some asked us where they can take PCR test in Kumamoto while others consulted their financial difficulties caused by the spread of the virus. If you have any problems or troubles, please contact Kumamoto Consultation and Support Plaza for Foreign Residents.

It is late March and it will be April soon. It is the beginning of new fiscal year in Japan. We call this "Shin Nendo." In Japan, the fiscal year begins on April 1st and ends on March 31st of the following year. Almost all schools and governments follow suit.

Though new year begins on January 1st, the fiscal year does on April 1st. Therefore, in March we have end of term assembly and graduation ceremony at schools and people retire from a company while we have entrance ceremony and beginning of term assembly in April. Shin Nen (New Year) and Shin Nendo (New Fiscal Year) look similar, but they differ in term they represent. Please remember that.

We enjoy Hanami or the Cherry blossom viewing from later March to April. Though many associate Hanami with cherry, it is said that Hanami custom began with plum or ume in Japanese.

Due to the warm temperatures, the cherry blossoms will bloom earlier than usual. Normally, we go out and enjoy lunch box while viewing the cherry blossoms. However, unfortunately, because of the COVID-19, it would be difficult to do that. But still we can enjoy the viewing. We would like to introduce famous places for the cherry blossom viewing in Kumamoto.

🌸 "Isshingyo no Oozakura" (3226-1 Namamatsu Aso Mura, Aso Gun, Kumamoto Prefecture)

Located in Aso, it will bloom a little bit later than Kumamoto City. Though it is one tree, its height is about 14 meters. Such a tall tree will welcome you.

🌸 "Kumamoto Castle" (1-1 Honmaru Chuo Ku, Kumamoto City)

The castle is still recovering from the damages caused by the 2016 Kumamoto earthquake. There are some areas including tenshu tower we cannot enter, but we can enjoy the cherry blossoms from surrounding area like Ninomaru Park. You can also taste Kumamoto local foods at Sakuranobaba Josaien at the foot of the castle.

Personally, I like cherry blossoms on Nagabei Street around the castle. I enjoy the viewing while commuting or during lunch time. Please check the blossoms when you come around the area.

The picture of cherry blossoms on Nagabei Street. I took last year.



Introduction of Foreigner' s Community

This time, we will introduce Kumamoto Chinese Communities. There are several communities that do activities

Peng you Chinese Class

We used to have a Chinese class called "Peng you Chinese Conversation class" once a month at Prefectural University of Kumamoto. You can learn Chinese while doing various fun activities.

Anybody interested in conversation in Chinese, Chinese societies, songs, and foods is welcome to join the class. It is free of charge.

※We will start our activities at Kumamoto City International Center from April.

Contact: : Kousei (Representative) (TEL 096-382-2356 E-mail kousei@hyu.bbiq.jp)



Peng you Chinese Class for Kids

The class started 18 years ago for kids between 3 and 17 years old who were born in Japan with Chinese or other foreign roots. Currently we have 30 members. They are learning Chinese pronunciations, phonetic symbols through Chinese children songs, card games, etc.

We aim to help children obtain Chinese certificate exam pre-4 level before graduating from primary school. You are welcome to see our class. Sign up fee is 5000 JPY monthly course fee is 4500 JPY. If you are siblings, monthly fee will be 6000 JPY.

We look forward to seeing you.



Chinese Dance Class

Chinese people who came to Kumamoto from various parts of China and love Chinese dance organized the class in 2020. A voice musician and dance teacher teach us dance very kindly. Learning elegant Chinese dance will make your life rich.

Anybody beyond nationalities is very welcome to join us. We hope we will deepen international exchange through dance.

Participation fee: 500 JPY

Date and time: 3 times a month either in the morning or in the afternoon on Sunday (We practice the dance for 2 hours)

Location: Multi-purpose room in Park Dome Kumamoto

Contact: Ko sensei : E-mail:yoshihuang@hotmail.com
(both Japanese and English are OK).



Table tennis and tennis club

We have entered a new era due to the spread of COVID-19. Amid this pandemic era, our table tennis club has started tennis club as a preventative measure. A former member of Chinese national table tennis team teaches us. And a teacher who played tennis for more than 20 years teaches us. We believe playing table tennis and tennis with members will give you

a fresh energy and promote your health. Anybody is welcome to join us.

Participation fee: 500 JPY

Date and time: 1 or 2 times a month (weekdays)

Location: Kumamoto Prefectural Gymnasium

Contact: Yo (E-mail:guwei716@yahoo.co.jp)



Message from communities

We look forward to seeing you!!

Information Kumamoto Consultation and Support Plaza for Foreign Residents

The Plaza offers life affairs support in multiple languages such as English, Chinese, Vietnamese, Tagalog, etc. Professional consultations including legal affairs, residence status issues, job hunting, and housing are also provided.

April Schedule

Professional Consultation

2021	4月	April				
月曜日	火曜日	水曜日	木曜日	金曜日	土曜日	日曜日
29	30	31	01 ·Korean Consultation	02 ·Spanish Consultation ·Life Consultation in Chinese ·English Consultation	03	04 ·Life Consultation in Chinese ·Educational Consultation
05	06	07 ·Immigrational Consultation ·Life Consultation in Chinese ·German Consultation	08 ·Korean Consultation	09 ·Life Consultation in Chinese ·English Consultation	10	11 ·Life Consultation in Chinese ·Educational Consultation
12 Closed	13	14 ·Tagalog Consultation ·Life Consultation in Chinese ·German Consultation	15 ·Korean Consultation	16 ·Life Consultation in Korean ·Life Consultation in Chinese ·English Consultation	17 ·Free Legal Consultation ·Life Consultation in Chinese	18 ·Immigrational Consultation ·Vietnamese Consultation ·Educational Consultation
19	20	21 ·Housing Consultation ·Vietnamese Consultation ·Life Consultation in Chinese ·German Consultation	22 ·Korean Consultation	23 ·Life Consultation in Chinese ·English Consultation	24	25 ·Life Consultation in Chinese ·Educational Consultation
26 Closed	27	28 ·Life Consultation in Chinese ·German Consultation	29 Showa Day (Shows no hi) ※National holiday	30 ·Life Consultation in Chinese ·English Consultation	01	02
03	04	note: Consultations 1:00p.m.~5:00p.m. ·Life Consultation in Chinese 1:00p.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)				

- Immigration Consultation: Consultation on residence status and immigration affairs between 13:00 and 16:00 on every first Wednesday and third Sunday
- Labor Consultation: Consultation on working conditions between 13:00 and 17:00 on every second Tuesday
- Housing consultation: Consultation on housing or apartment hunting between 13:00 and 17:00 on every third Wednesday
- Free legal consultation: Consultation on any legal matters between 14:00 and 15:00 or 15:00 and 16:00 on every third Saturday
- ★ Reservation required for legal consultation

※ 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.

We are uploading life affairs guidance online!

We are introducing information and tips useful to your life in Kumamoto City online. Though we planned to give face-to-face life affairs guidance, because of the COVID-19, we are providing online guidance. Guidance is given in plain Japanese and English. Please check our guidance on the URL below!

(You can watch the guidance on homepage or Facebook page of Kumamoto Consultation and Support Plaza for Foreign Residents)

<https://www.kumamotoif.or.jp/plaza/list00151.html>



Our homepage



Our Facebook page

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

Kumamoto Consultation and Support Plaza for Foreign Residents

Location: 2nd floor of Kumamoto City International Center

Address: 〒860-0806 4-18 Hanabata-Cho Chuo-Ku, Kumamoto City

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 Mondays is a national holiday, the plaza will be closed next day instead.

