

PLAZA NEWS LETTER (August)

It is very hot in August. The highest temperature will be over 35°C. The high temperature could cause heat stroke. Hyperthermia causes severe headache and sluggishness. Please stay hydrated and take a rest in a cool place. We have typhoons in August. Typhoon brings strong wind and heavy rain. Typhoon information is available on TV and internet. July saw the drop of the number of coronavirus patients in Kumamoto City. But, please wear a mask when you go out and wash your hands and gargle when get back home.

We will introduce the number of consultations in June. The total number was 117. We had many consultations on entry procedures and residence status, job hunting, housing, and interpretation and translation.

Regarding entry procedures and residence status

- I am an international student. I had a car accident. Will the record of the accident affect the renewal or change of the residence status in the future?
- I am doing a job in Kumamoto City. As I have been paying pension in my home country, I am not sure if I will pay pension in Japan. If I do not pay the pension in Japan, will that affect my application for the change of residence status in the future?

Regarding job hunting

- I came to Kumamoto as I got married to a Japanese. I want to do a job in Kumamoto. Can you help me find a job?
- I am a permanent resident and want to start my own business. I need to rent an office for the business. Where can I find it?

Regarding housing

- I am an international student and want to look for a new apartment. Can you help me?
- As my family is big, we want to find a new house. Can you help us?

Regarding interpretation and translation

- I need to translate residence certificate into English. How can I do that?
- I need to translate English administrative documents into Japanese to submit to city office. Can you help me?

Regarding COVID-19 related inquiries

Some asked where they can take PCR test while others asked when they can receive vaccination. We also took up consultations on emergency loan. Information about the medical institutions offering PCR test, coronavirus vaccination and emergency loan system is available on our website.

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

We will introduce “Obon,” which is an important event like “Shogatsu” or Japanese New Year. Obon Festival refers to a period during which our ancestors will return to our home. The period between August 13 and 15 or 16 is the Obon Festival. During Obon, we hold a memorial service for our departed ancestors’ souls. We offer an incense, water, candle, flowers, and food.



Offerings

In some regions, they have Obon festival in July.

Followings are the details of what we do during Obon;

By August 12 . . . We clean grave of our family and “Obutsudan” or Buddhist altar and prepare offerings.



Obutsudan

On August 13 . . . We prepare “Mukaebi” in which we burn a small fire at the gate of house to welcome the spirits of ancestors. We visit grave and offer flowers and food and water to bring our ancestors back to our home.

On August 15 or 16 . . . We prepare “Okuribi” in which we light the fire again to send the spirits of ancestors back in the grave.



Mukaebi and Okuribi

During Obon, people take a holiday. So, please be mindful that private hospitals and business companies will be closed. However, city offices and shops and restaurants are open even during Obon. If they cannot take a holiday during Obon, people visit family grave and spend time with family before or after Obon period. Obon is a special event for Japanese as they not only hold a memorial service for ancestors but spend a precious time with family members.





FUMIKU

Indonesia Community in Kumamoto

The history of FUMIKU.

The Fumiku organization was founded in 2006. Fumiku is a Non-Profit Organization. Fumiku was founded on the advice of Indonesian researchers who are studying at Kumamoto University and Indonesian trainees in Kumamoto city. The purpose is to accommodate the inspiration of people and a gathering place for Indonesian citizens to carry out various activities together. The Indonesian population is growing rapidly in Kumamoto due to the cooperation between the universities in Kumamoto and Indonesia. There are many Indonesian trainees who are working for Japanese companies too.

The activities of Fumiku are as follows:

1. Islamic study activities once a month.
2. Badminton practice every Saturday night.
3. Entrepreneurship training in collaboration with Indonesian Student Association and the Indonesian Embassy.
4. All Kyushu Badminton championships (Fumiku Cup.) once a year.
5. All Kyushu Futsal championship (IPTIJK Cup.) once a year.
6. Winter and summer holidays to several tourist attractions in the Kyushu area.
7. BBQ event with Indonesians and Japanese during summer holiday

Most members of Fumiku are students, trainees and Indonesian family who are living in Kumamoto.



Fumiku also cooperates with PPIJK (Indonesian Student Association in Kumamoto) in all its activities. PPIJK was established in 2007. The PPIJK organization was formed by Indonesian students and researchers who are studying at Kumamoto University. This organization is responsible directly to the Indonesian Embassy and its members are for Indonesian students and researchers only.



Information on 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.

August Schedule

月曜日	火曜日	水曜日	木曜日	金曜日	土曜日	日曜日
26	27	28	29	30	31	01 -Vietnamese Consultation -Life Consultation in Chinese -Educational Consultation
02	03	04 -Immigrational Consultation -Vietnamese Consultation -Life Consultation in Chinese -German Consultation	05 -Korean Consultation	06 -Life Consultation in Chinese -Spanish Consultation -English Consultation	07	08 National Holiday "Mountain Day" -Life Consultation in Chinese -Educational Consultation
09 National Holiday "Substitute holiday"	10	11 -Job Consultation -Tagalog Consultation -Life Consultation in Chinese -German Consultation	12 -Korean Consultation	13 -Life Consultation in Chinese -English Consultation	14	15 -Immigrational Consultation -Vietnamese Consultation -Life Consultation in Chinese
16	17	18 -Housing Consultation -Vietnamese Consultation -Life Consultation in Chinese -German Consultation	19 -Korean Consultation	20 -Life Consultation in Chinese -English Consultation -Life Consultation in Korean	21 -Life Consultation in Chinese -Free Legal Consultation	22 -Educational Consultation
23 closed	24	25 -Life Consultation in Chinese -German Consultation	26 -Korean Consultation	27 -Life Consultation in Chinese -English Consultation	28	29 -Life Consultation in Chinese -Educational Consultation
30	31	※E: Consultations 1:00p.m~5:00p.m.□ -Life Consultation in Chinese 1:00pm ~ 4:00pm -Immigrational Consultation/Housing Consultation 1:00p.m~4:00p.m -Free Legal Consultation 2:00p.m~4:00p.m (You need reservation) -Educational Consultation 1:00p.m~3:00p.m (You need reservation)				

Professional Consultation

- Immigration consultation: Consultation on residence status and immigration affairs between 13:00 and 16:00 on every first Wednesday and third Sunday
- 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
- Job consultation: Consultation on job hunting between 10:00 and 18:00 on every second Wednesday

※ 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

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.

