

# PLAZA NEWS LETTER (November)

October has seen a few cases of coronavirus infection in Kumamoto City. Please wear a mask when you go out and wash your hands and gargle when get back home. The temperature will drop in November. As you can easily catch a cold when it gets cold, please take good care of yourself.

We will introduce the number of consultations in September. The total number was 129. We had many consultations on entry procedures and residence status, job hunting, and Japanese classes.

## Regarding entry procedures and residence status

- I graduated from a university in Japan and got a job in Kumamoto. I changed status of residence from Student to ESI (Engineer/Specialist in Humanities/International Services). But due to coronavirus I lost the job. What will happen to my status of residence?
- I am doing a full-time job with ESI (Engineer/Specialist in Humanities/International Services) status. I quit the job as I decided to go to a vocational school. What will happen to my status of residence before entering the school?

## Regarding job hunting

- I am an English teacher. Due to coronavirus, my working hours have been reduced. I want to look for a new job. Can you help me?
- I came to Japan as I got married to a Japanese. Though I am doing a part-time job, I want to look for a full-time job. Can you help me?

## Regarding Japanese classes

- I am a permanent resident. I will take JLPT (Japanese-Language Proficiency Test). How can I prepare for the test?
- My son and I came to Japan from Philippine as I got married to a Japanese. He cannot speak Japanese and so I want him to learn Japanese. Can you give me an advice?

## Regarding COVID-19 related inquiries

- I haven't yet received corona vaccine coupon. What should I do?
- Please tell me hospitals or clinics that offer PCR test in Kumamoto.
- I have no idea how to book coronavirus vaccine. Can you tell me how to do that?

Information about the vaccination is available on our website. If you have any problems or troubles, please contact Kumamoto Consultation and Support Plaza for Foreign Residents.

As presented in the previous page, we have many consultations. Especially, the number of consultations on residence status is large. Public scriveners take up consultations on residence status. We would like to explain about “Permanent Resident.”

There are 33 types of residence statuses. Further, they are categorized into two kinds – those based upon the activity one engages in and those based upon status or position. Regarding the details about the residence statuses, please visit Immigration Services Agency of Japan. (<https://www.moj.go.jp/isa/applications/guide/qaq5.html>)

A person with residence status based upon the activity stays in Japan while engaging in the activity permitted by the residence status. Engagement in translation job, study at a university or Japanese language school are good examples. A person with residence status based upon position refers to “Spouse or Child of Japanese National”, “Permanent Resident”, or “Long-Term Resident.”

We will explain about Permanent Resident with some examples.

In principle, a person with Permanent Resident has no limit in the purview of activities and stay in Japan almost for good. But you cannot obtain Permanent Resident in your first entry into Japan. First, you need to obtain other residence statuses such as “Spouse or Child of Japanese National”, “Engineer/Specialist in Humanities/International Services”, etc. to stay in Japan. Then you can apply for Permanent Resident.

The followings are examples of consultation we received.

- I am doing a full-time job with Engineer/Specialist in Humanities/International Services status and want to apply for Permanent Resident in near future. I need your advice.
- I have been doing a full-time job for a long time in Kumamoto and want to change my residence status to Permanent Resident. How can I do that?

There are several conditions you need to satisfy to apply for Permanent Resident. Here are the examples. First, you need to stay in Japan for more than 10 years. Second, you need to do a full-time job for more than 5 years in Japan. Third, you have enough saving in your bank account. Fourth, you have neither caused some trouble nor committed crime. Your Japanese proficiency is also very important. If you want to obtain Permanent Resident, you need to study Japanese so that you can communicate in Japanese.

However, even if you have lived in Japan for more than 10 years, that does not meet the condition to apply for Permanent Resident if you have stayed for more than 5 years with “Student” or “Technical intern training” status. The conditions or requirements to apply for Permanent Resident vary according to current residence statuses or living conditions.

So, when you have no idea what you should do or conditions you must meet to apply for Permanent Resident, please contact Kumamoto Consultation and Support Plaza for Foreign Residents.

## Introducing the Filipino Organization



The Filipino Organization hosted a Filipino Fiesta at Kumamoto International Center on October 2017. We took the opportunity to share our Filipino traditions to other foreign people who are living in Kumamoto Prefecture and to catch up with other Filipino friends residing and working not only in Kumamoto but also from different parts in Japan. The staffs who started the opening ceremonies wore colorful Filipino costumes. Traditional Filipino folk dance was performed by the members of Organization in Hitoyoshi City, including the famous bamboo dance in the country which we called Tinikling. We prepared some Filipino traditional food because in Philippines all Filipino celebrations, traditional Filipino is served most especially during fiestas. We were able to have many people attended the event. Although the time was limited, it turned out to be great experiences. Foreign participants were able to share in the fun and enjoyment, they were able to deepen their understanding of multiculturalism. This led to increased awareness of the importance of co-existing in the community in the future. If given such opportunity to hold again such kind of an event, we would like to further improve the time and content based on the result of this event. The Filipino Organization was launched in December 2008. This Organization was created to provide information and to extend all forms of assistance to the Filipino members who are in need of help. Also to conduct with the support of Kumusta ka Tomonikiru Kai. The Kumusta ka Tomonikiru Kai helps not only for the Filipinos but also for the foreigners for consultation.



## Introducing the Pastoral Team of Kumamoto

Every year the highlights of our occasion is about the Marián Festival. We celebrate it every September. Our group is related to the church that honors the Virgin Mary, our model and the mother of our God. It is our great desire to love her and to love God.

This month of May, we also have a Catholic tradition to offer the rosary prayer and flower as a symbol of our respect to the queen of May. Pastoral team is a bridge of love and friendship from our church to people around the world.

\* Charities activities - helping people who were in need both physical, financial or spiritual.  
Representative: Shimada Rose Yuka





## 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.

### November Schedule

月曜日	火曜日	水曜日	木曜日	金曜日	土曜日	日曜日
01	02	03 national holiday (Culture Day) ・Immigrational Consultation ・Vietnamese Consultation ・Life Consultation in Chinese ・German Consultation	04 ・Korean Consultation	05 ・Spanish Consultation ・Life Consultation in Chinese ・English Consultation	06	07 ・Vietnamese Consultation ・Life Consultation in Chinese ・Educational Consultation
08 closed	09	10 ・Job Consultation ・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
15	16 ・Labor Consultation	17 ・Housing Consultation ・Vietnamese Consultation ・Life Consultation in Chinese ・German Consultation	18 ・Korean Consultation	19 ・Life Consultation in Chinese ・English Consultation	20 ・Life Consultation in Chinese ・Free Legal Consultation	21 ・Immigrational Consultation ・Vietnamese Consultation ・Educational Consultation
22 closed	23 national holiday (Labour Thanksgiving Day)	24 ・Life Consultation in Chinese ・German Consultation	25 ・Korean Consultation	26 ・Life Consultation in Chinese ・English Consultation	27	28 ・Life Consultation in Chinese ・Educational Consultation
29	30	01	02	03	04	05
06	07	※ Consultations 1:00p.m.~5:00p.m. ・Life Consultation in Chinese 1:00pm ~ 6:00pm ・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) ・Job Consultation 10:00a.m. ~ 6:00p.m.				

### 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>

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



Our homepage



Our Facebook

### Kumamoto Consultation and Support Plaza for Foreign Residents

**Location:** 2<sup>nd</sup> 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](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 Mondays is a national holiday, the plaza will be closed next day instead.