

# PLAZA NEWS LETTER (December)

November saw a few cases of coronavirus infection in Kumamoto City. Please wear a mask when you go out and wash your hands and gargle when you get back home. As it will be very cold in December, please take good care of yourself not to catch a cold.

We will introduce the number of consultations in October. The total number was 95. We had many consultations on entry procedures and residence status, job hunting, and Japanese classes.

## Regarding entry procedures and residence status

- I am an international student and know that we can do a part-time up to 28 hours per week. But if I work only for 16 hours, can I do a job up to 40 hours next week?  
➔No, you cannot. Working up to 28 hours per week is a fixed rule. No matter how many hours you work, you can work up to 28 hours every week.
- I am a technical intern trainee and want to do a job as “Specified Skilled Worker” in near future. I know that a specified skilled worker can work for 5 years. But if I change a job in different specified skilled work field, can I do the job for more 5 years?  
➔No, you cannot. Even if you work in different specified skilled work fields, you can work up to 5 years in total. So, for instance, if you have done a job for 2 years in a field, you can work only for 3 years in a different specified skilled work field.

## Regarding job hunting

- I am a permanent resident and an English teacher. Because of the spread of coronavirus, my working hours have been reduced. I want to look for a new job. Can you help me?
- I am studying at a vocational school. Though I am planning to study at a Japanese university, I want to do a full-time job before that. Can you help me look for a job?  
➔We have job consultation session every third Wednesday at plaza.

## Regarding Japanese classes

- I will take JLPT (Japanese-Language Proficiency Test). How can I prepare for the test?
- My daughter graduated from overseas high-school and then came to Japan. I want her to go to a Japanese university. But she cannot speak Japanese. Can you help us?

## Regarding COVID-19 related inquiries

- I took corona vaccine twice and want vaccination certificate in English. Where can I get that?
  - Can you tell me hospitals or clinics that provide PCR test in Kumamoto?
- Information about coronavirus and vaccination is available on our website. If you have any problems or troubles, please contact Kumamoto Consultation and Support Plaza for Foreign Residents.

This month, we will introduce the differences between shrine and temple. In Japan, we visit shrine and temple on many occasions including New Year. This time, we will explain about shrine and temple and famous shrines in Kumamoto.

### ◎Point 1

Mainly, Japan has two religions – Buddhism and Shinto.

Buddhism was introduced to Japan via India and China.

Shinto was originated in Japan. Shinto believes that supernatural entities inhabit nature including mountains, woods, rocks, and rivers.

Many Japanese revere and practice both Buddhism and Shinto. For instance, while they visit shrine on New Year's Day, they practice Buddhist-style funeral. Temple is a Buddhist monastery and shrine is a Shinto building.



**Buddhist statue**

### ◎Point 2

At Buddhist temple, monks or bhikkhuni or female monastics study sutras (teachings of the Buddha) and chant them. Statues of Buddha are stored in Buddhist temple.

At Shinto shrine, Shinto priests and shrine maidens serve supernatural entities and hold various rituals and festivals.

No Buddhist statues are stored in Shinto shrine. At the entrance of shrine, there is a gate called “Torii” that marks the transition from the mundane world to the sacred one.



**Torii**

### ◎Point 3

How to pray differs between shrine and temple. When we visit shrine, first we bow twice and clap our hands twice. And finally, we bow once. When we visit temple, we put our palms together to pray. When we visit shrine, we pray for happiness and good fortune in the present world. Meanwhile, we pray for good fortune in the afterlife when we visit temple. We have introduced the differences between shrine and temple. Please remember the differences when you visit shrine and temple.

### ◎Finally, we will introduce two famous shrines in Kumamoto.



First one is Kato Shrine. It is near Kumamoto Castle. Kiyomasa Kato, daimyo or powerful feudal lord, is enshrined. People who will take some test or exam or those who will start something new visit to pray for success.



Second one is Aso Shrine. The shrine is a very famous power spot or place with spiritual energy where our wish comes true. In shrine, there is pine tree called “Takasago no matsu.” It is said that if we walk around the tree twice, our wish will come true.

# Introduction of Consortium Kumamoto



This time, we will introduce “The Consortium of Universities in Kumamoto.”

Established in 2006, the Consortium has been offering life support services for international students since 2013. In cooperation with Kumamoto Prefecture and Kumamoto City, the Consortium organizes events and provides job hunting support for international students studying at universities and colleges associated with the Consortium. The Consortium has One-stop Consultation Office in Kumamoto City International Center and Kumamoto University to take up consultations from international students.

## One-stop Consultation Office

Any inquiries on career path, part-time job, housing, family issues, etc., are taken up. Consultation via SNS or e-mail is also available

## Event and workshop

The Consortium plans and manages day trip to learn about Kumamoto, Japanese culture experience event, social gathering with Japanese students. The Consortium also co-organizes field trip and event with other organizations.



## “University town Kumamoto tour” for international student

The Consortium invites international students at Japanese language schools in Kyushu to introduce universities in Kumamoto and offer an admission counselling.

## Event schedule (e.g. : 2019)

Apr.~Jul.	Job interview lecture and workshop
Aug.	Hinokunimatsuri Otemoyan mass dance performing
Nov.~Feb.	Field trip, trial lesson, etc.,
Mar.	Flower viewing & social gathering



**Consortium Kumamoto website**  
<http://consortium-kumamoto.jp/>

## にほんごあれこれコーナー

Hello everyone! My name is Shinichi Hatakeyama, and I teach about Japanese modern culture, grammar, and history at university.

In this article, I want to show you a Japanese textbook called “Irodori” that will be helpful to everyone studying Japanese. You can download this textbook for free at: <https://www.irodori.jp.f.g.go.jp/en/index.html> There are also online courses that use this book.

Irodori will help you learn how to do more things using Japanese. For example, this book can teach you how to greet people, how to introduce yourself, how to talk about your family, how to talk about things you like, how to ask questions, and even how to ask people for help in Japanese. You can learn a lot of words by studying with the Irodori textbook. You can even study the textbook in Tagalog, Vietnamese, Nepalese, Khmer, Thai, English, Korean, and Chinese. Please feel free to download the Irodori textbook and use it to practice your Japanese.



# 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.

## December Schedule

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

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.kumamoto-if.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.

