

# PLAZA NEWS LETTER March

Though we had very cold days in February, it will be getting warmer in March. However, the weather suddenly gets cold, then warm. Please take good care as it is easy to catch a cold. February 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 would like to introduce the number of the consultations in January. The total and residence status, job hunting and Japanese classes. Followings are the examples:

※Regarding entry procedures and residence status

- I am a doctoral course student in Japan. I will start working for a Japanese company from April. How can I change the residence status?
- I will graduate from Japanese language school in March. But because of COVID-19, it will be difficult to return to my country. How can I change my residence status to stay in Japan even after April?
- I want to invite my wife from overseas to live together in Kumamoto. I already sent Certificate of Eligibility to her. But due to COVID-19, she cannot come to Japan. Can you tell me how long the certificate and visa will be valid?

※Regarding job hunting

- I am a university student. As I want to do a part-time job, can you help me find the job?
- I am a Japanese language student. Though I am doing a part-time job, my working hours have been cut due to COVID-19. Can you help me find a new job?
- We are a high-school in Kumamoto. We are looking for a foreign resident interested in teaching English to our students. Can you help us find a proper person?

※Regarding Japanese classes

- I am working for a company in Kumamoto. I want to study Japanese more so that I can enjoy communication with my Japanese colleagues. Can you tell me how I can improve my Japanese?
- I want to study the basic Japanese in order to find a full-time job in Kumamoto. How can I study the basic Japanese?

About COVID-19 related inquiries, some asked us where they can take a PCR test. Others asked when and where they can get Coronavirus vaccinations in Kumamoto. If you have any problems or troubles, please contact Kumamoto Consultation and Support Plaza for Foreign Residents.

It is getting warm in March. As the cherry blossom blooms, we feel that spring is just around the corner.

In March, there are many events including flower viewing or *Hanami* in Japanese.

We would like to introduce one of them called *Hinamatsuri* or Doll's Day.

Doll's Day is one of the special seasonal festivals in Japan. On 3 March, we celebrate *Hinamatsuri* to pray for girls' health and happiness. The festival is also called *Momo no Sekku* or the Peach Festival as peach trees begin to flower around this time.

Why do we display a set of ornamental dolls?

It is believed that ornamental dolls protect children from diseases and injuries.

People have come to display the ornamental dolls, wishing their daughter would grow up in good health.

We start to display the ornamental dolls from February and put them away soon after the festival. We have the superstition that leaving the dolls any longer will result in their daughter's late marriage.

How do we spend on the Doll's Day?

On the Doll's Day, we eat *Chirashizushi* (raw fish and vegetables on rice) and clam. We eat clam as a lucky charm food. We make *Chirashizushi* with variety of ingredients, wishing our children a life without hunger.

You might see *Hina-arare* or colorful bite-sized sweet rice crackers at shops. White stands for the ground in winter while pink or red means life. Green stands for spring sprouting. It is believed that by eating Hina-arare, we can spend a year in good health.

We are also displaying ornamental dolls at Kumamoto City International Center.



# 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.

## March Schedule

## Professional Consultation

| 2021         | 3月                        | March  |                            |  |  |  |
|--------------|---------------------------|--|----------------------------|--|--|--|
| 月曜日          | 火曜日                       | 水曜日  | 木曜日                        | 金曜日  | 土曜日  | 日曜日  |
| 01           | 02                        | 03<br>·Immigrational Consultation<br>·Life Consultation in Chinese<br>·German Consultation   | 04<br>·Korean Consultation | 05<br>·Spanish Consultation<br>·Life Consultation in Chinese<br>·English Consultation        | 06   | 07<br>·Life Consultation in Chinese<br>·Educational Consultation                           |
| 08<br>Closed | 09<br>·Labor Consultation | 10<br>·Tagalog Consultation<br>·Life Consultation in Chinese   | 11<br>·Korean Consultation | 12<br>·Life Consultation in Chinese<br>·English Consultation                                 | 13   | 14<br>·Life Consultation in Chinese<br>·Educational Consultation                           |
| 15           | 16                        | 17<br>·Housing Consultation<br>·Vietnamese Consultation<br>·Life Consultation in Chinese<br>·German Consultation   | 18<br>·Korean Consultation | 19<br>·Life Consultation in Korean<br>·Life Consultation in Chinese<br>·English Consultation | 20<br>Spring Equinox Day(shunbun no hi)<br>·Free Legal Consultation<br>·Life Consultation in Chinese | 21<br>·Immigrational Consultation<br>·Vietnamese Consultation<br>·Educational Consultation |
| 22<br>Closed | 23                        | 24<br>·Life Consultation in Chinese<br>·German Consultation  | 25<br>·Korean Consultation | 26<br>·Life Consultation in Chinese<br>·English Consultation                                 | 27   | 28<br>·Life Consultation in Chinese<br>·Educational Consultation                           |
| 29           | 30                        | 31<br>·Life Consultation in Chinese<br>·German Consultation  | 01                         | 02   | 03   | 04   |
| 05           | 06                        | note: Consultations 1:00p.m~5:00p.m.<br>·Life Consultation in Chinese 1:00p.m. ~ 6:00p.m.<br>·Immigrational Consultation 1:00p.m.~4:00p.m.<br>·Free Legal Consultation 2:00p.m.~4:00p.m. (You need reservation)<br>·Educational Consultation 10:00p.m.~3:30p.m. (You need reservation)<br>·Job Consultation 10:00a.m. ~ 6:00p.m. |                            |  |  |  |

- 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:** 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.

