

PLAZA NEWS LETTER MAY

In May, daily highest temperature can rise above 25°C. As the hot weather can cause dehydration, please keep yourself hydrated. April 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 gargle when you get back home.

We will introduce the number of the consultations in March. The total number was 160. We had many consultations on entry procedures and residence status, education, housing, and interpretation and translation. Followings are the examples:

Regarding entry procedures and residence status

- My residence status is “Designated Activities.” I have got a full-time job. Can I change my residence status to do the job?
- I am a technical trainee. My wife wants to come to Japan to study. Can she come as an international student while I am doing technical training?

Regarding education

- I am Nepalese. I want to invite my son in Nepal to live together in Kumamoto. He is a high-school student and he needs to be transferred to a high-school in Kumamoto. But he cannot speak Japanese. What should we do?
- My daughter will be entering junior high-school from April. Though she can communicate in Japanese, she cannot study subjects such as mathematics, national language, science, etc., in Japanese. She needs language support. How can she get the support?

Regarding housing

- We live on the fifth floor of Kumamoto City public housing. I had car accident in February and have been hospitalized since then. I will be discharged in May. It will be very difficult and painstaking to walk up to the fifth floor every day. Can we move to the first or second floor?
- I want to find a new apartment. Can you help me to find the new one?

Regarding interpretation and translation

- I want to apply for welfare services. But I cannot communicate well in Japanese. I need someone who can speak Chinese and Japanese. Can you help me?
- I had a car accident in February. An insurance company sent me documents for compensation. But as I cannot read Japanese, please translate the documents.

About COVID-19 related inquiries, some asked from when they can take the vaccination 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.

In previous newsletter, we introduced *Momo no Sekku*, or Peach Festival to celebrate girls. This time, we would like to explain about *Tango no Sekku* that celebrates boys.

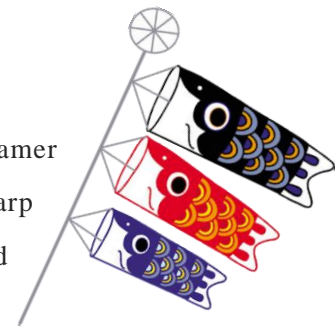
What is *Tango no Sekku* (Boy's Day)?

In Japan, May 5 is a national holiday called Children's Day. It is a holiday that celebrates boys, wishing their healthy growth. Originally, people used to hold an event to expel ill luck. Iris or *Shobu* (菖蒲 in Japanese Kanji) was used for the event. Interestingly, there is another *Shobu* in Japanese Kanji, which is written as 尚武. Though they have different meanings, their pronunciation is same. 尚武 means to respect Samurai warriors' martial arts, bravery, or code of chivalry. Then, people came to hold the event for boys.

What do we do on *Tango no Sekku*?



Let's celebrate the day by flying *Koinobori* or carp screamer outside and displaying Samurai dolls! The reason we fly carp streamer is that carp is a fish with a strong life force and derives from a Chinese dragon that appears in Chinese mythology. The dragon comes with a wish that children would endure any environment and grow as a meritorious person. Samurai warrior helmet and armor represent the wish of protection of children from diseases and other ill luck and of strong growth.



Let's take *Shobuyu* or bathwater with iris leaves!

It used to be believed that taking a bath with iris leaves on Children's Day is good for health. As iris leaves have a strong fragrance, people believed that the fragrance would expel ill luck. The custom of taking *Shobuyu* continues to this day in Japan.



Let's eat *Chimaki* (sweet rich dumpling) and *Kashiwa Mochi* (rich cake stuffed with red bean jam)!

Though *Chimaki* is wrapped in bamboo leaves, it used to be wrapped in iris leaves.

Kashiwa Mochi is wrapped in oak leaves. It is believed that Kashiwa-mochi is a symbol of prosperity of descendants, because oak leaves don't fall off from the tree until new sprouts come out in spring.



If we know the reasons of the events, we can enjoy them more as meaningful ones, can't we?

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.

May Schedule

2021 5月

MAY

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
26	27	28	29	30	01	02
03 Constitution Memorial Day	04 Greenery Day	05 children's day ·Life Consultation in Chinese	06 ·Korean Consultation	07 ·Spanish Consultation ·Life Consultation in Chinese ·English Consultation	08	09 ·Life Consultation in Chinese ·Educational Consultation
10 closed	11	12 ·Job Consultation ·Tagalog Consultation ·Life Consultation in Chinese ·German Consultation	13 ·Korean Consultation	14 ·Life Consultation in Chinese ·English Consultation	15 ·Life Consultation in Chinese ·Free Legal Consultation	16 ·Immigrational Consultation ·Vietnamese Consultation ·Educational Consultation
17	18	19 ·Housing Consultation ·Vietnamese Consultation ·Life Consultation in Chinese ·German Consultation	20 ·Korean Consultation	21 ·Life Consultation in Korean ·Life Consultation in Chinese ·English Consultation	22	23 ·Life Consultation in Chinese ·Educational Consultation
24 closed	25	26 ·Life Consultation in Chinese ·German Consultation	27 ·Korean Consultation	28 ·Life Consultation in Chinese ·English Consultation	29	30 ·Life Consultation in Chinese ·Educational Consultation
31	01	XE: 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 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)				

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
- Work consultation for foreigners: Consultation on employment etc...
- 2nd Wednesday of every month from 13:00 to 18:00

※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.