

# PLAZA NEWS LETTER(January)

December saw a few cases of coronavirus infection in Kumamoto City. However, since new variant emerged, 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 January, please take good care of yourself.

We will introduce the number of consultations in November.

The total number was 109. We

had many consultations on entry procedures and residence status, job hunting, interpretation and translation.

## **Regarding entry procedures and residence status**

- After completing a technical intern training, I plan to acquire “Specified Skilled Worker” status. But after that, I want to study at a vocational school to develop my career. Is that possible?

- I am doing a full-time job with “Designated Activities” status. Due to the spread of COVID-19, I want to stay longer in Japan to keep the job. How can I do that?

➡Our plaza offers consultations by public scriveners.

## **Regarding job hunting**

- I am a short-term visitor. Though I got an offer for English teacher at a language school, the school said that I cannot work with my visa status. What should I do?

➡Since you have “Permission to engage in activity other than that permitted under the status of residence previously granted”, you can do a job.

- I am a technical intern trainee. I want to get “Specified Skilled Worker” status. What kind of test do I have to take to acquire the status?

➡Information about the test in each specified skilled worker field is available on Japan International Trainee & Skilled Worker Cooperation Organization (<https://www.jitco.or.jp/ja/skill/>)

## **Regarding interpretation and translation**

- I am a permanent resident. My relative passed away in Japan. I need to translate Japanese

death certificate to Chinese. How can I do that?

- I need an interpreter at a court. What should I do?

➡You can request professional interpretation and translation companies for the business. In

case of a criminal trial, court provides an interpreter.

## **Regarding COVID-19 related inquiries**

- Can you tell me hospitals or clinics that provide PCR test in Kumamoto?

- Due to the pandemic, I have been forced to stay in Japan. Can I take corona vaccine?

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.

As the number of consultations on “Specified Skilled Worker” status has been increasing, we will explain about the status. “Specified Skilled Worker” status was newly created in April 2019 to invite foreign workers in the fields facing lack of labor shortages.

The followings are the fields “Specified Skilled Worker” status applies to:

①Nursing care	②Building cleaning	③Material Processing industry
④ Industrial machinery manufacturing industry	⑤Electric and electronic information related industry	⑥Construction
⑦Shipbuilding and ship-related industry	⑧Automobile maintenance	⑨Aviation
⑩Lodging	⑪Agriculture	⑫Fisheries
⑬Food and beverages manufacturing industry	⑭Food service industry	

“Specified Skilled Worker” has two types: (i) and (ii). Specified Skilled Worker (i) can be accepted in all industries while (ii) is accepted only in the two industries (Construction, and Shipbuilding and ship-related industry). To get the status, you need to take an exam. But those who have completed technical intern training (ii) are exempt from the exam for Specified Skilled Worker (i). For Specified Skilled Worker (i), you need either to hold N4 of JLPT or to pass Japan Foundation’s Japanese test. No Japanese test is required for Specified Skilled Worker (ii). You do the job up to 5 years with status (i) while you can do the job without limit with status (ii). You cannot invite family to stay together in Japan with status (i), you can with status (ii).

	Specified Skilled Worker (i)	Specified Skilled Worker (ii)
Skill level	Confirmation by an exam, (those who have completed technical intern training (ii) are exempt from the exam)	Confirmation by an exam
Level of Japanese language proficiency	Need to hold N4 of JLPT or pass Japan Foundation’s Japanese test (those who have completed technical intern training (ii) are exempt from the test)	Confirmation by an exam is not required. But high proficiency would be required for the job.
Period of stay	Up to 5 years	Renewable without limit in principle
Stay with family	Not permitted in principle	Permitted if conditions are satisfied.

You can take an exam both in Japan and abroad. Please be mindful that passing the exam does not automatically give you “Specified Skilled Worker” status. You need to find a job. For example, if you pass the exam in construction, you must find a job in the field to get the status. The details of “Specified Skilled Worker” and exam schedules are available on Japan International Trainee & Skilled Worker Cooperation Organization.  
[\(https://www.jitco.or.jp/\)](https://www.jitco.or.jp/)

If you have any inquiries on “Specified Skilled Worker,” please contact Kumamoto Consultation and Support Plaza for Foreign Residents.

## Kumusutaka-Association for Living Together with Migrants Shinichiro Nakashima (Representative)

Kumusutaka was founded in September 1985 as "Tanichi Azia Josei No Mondai Wo Kangaeru Kai (the Asian Women's Association)" at the Tetori Catholic Church, located in the central area of Kumamoto City. When the association was created, the number of workers from overseas was on the rise and human rights violations against them came to light. In the 1990s, as the number of foreigners who came to settle down in Japan, the problems facing them diversified including marriage, divorce, child support, etc. The number of foreign residents who visited us for consultation also risen and nationalities contacting us for help have been also diversified – Chinese, Peruvian, Thai, Pakistani, to name a few. In 1993, the association changed its name to "Kumusta ka (How are you? in Tagalog)-Association for Living Together with Migrants" to reflect its diversities and activities. On March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2013, the association transferred its contact address from the Tetori Catholic Church to c/o Sudou Shinichirou Gyouseishoshi Office 〒862-0950 2-14-402 Suizenji 3 Choume, Chuou-Ku. (The room changed from 402 to 302 in March 2021).

The association is helping residents with foreign nationalities having problems concerning employment, social security, domestic violence, child education, family care, inheritance, human trafficking, technical intern, study and so on to solve their problems. As the main activities, the association provides free of charge legal consultation service, gives lectures and seminars on migrants or migrant worker issues, conducts raising awareness events such as film festivals or study sessions, makes policy recommendations to government agencies to promote multicultural society, and supports Japanese-Filipino international children. Recently, the number of consultations from technical intern trainees and international students has been increasing and the consultations include pregnancy and childbirth.

The support activities for foreign residents allow us to identify various problems Japanese society itself has. We should not ignore that some people enjoy decent and stable life at the expense of the socially vulnerable. We must create a society wherein anyone regardless of nationality or other social status can live in peace.

Kumusuta ka Home Page is here → <http://kumustaka.org/>



### にほんごあれこれコーナー

Hello everyone! I am Hatakeyama from Shokei University. In the previous article, I showed you a free Japanese textbook. This time, I will talk about "Yokadesuyo", Kumamoto dialect.

Basically, "Yokadesuyo" means 'yes' or 'OK.' For example, suppose that you say, "Can I use this ballpoint pen?" at city hall. If a staff says "Yokadesuyo", it means you can use it. Or suppose you ask if you take a day off tomorrow at your workplace. If your boss says "Yokadesuyo (or Yokayo)", it means you can take a day off.

As you can see, basically, "Yokadesuyo" means answering positively to the question of "Can I ~?" However, sometime, "Yokadesuyo" means "No thanks" or "I do not need it." In many cases, this "Yokadesuyo" is used to answer the question of if you want something. Suppose a staff at a convenience store says, "Do you need chopsticks?" If you say "Yokadesuyo", it means that you do not need them.

Normally, we do not use "Yokadesuyo" between close friends. Rather we use "Yokayo." "Yokadesuyo" and "Yokayo" are widely used in Kyushu area – Fukuoka, Nagasaki, Saga, Kumamoto, Oita, Miyazaki, and Kagoshima. Since it is a very useful expression, please try "Yokadesuyo."



# 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.

## January Schedule

### Professional Consultation

月曜日	火曜日	水曜日	木曜日	金曜日	土曜日	日曜日
27	28	29	30	31 closed	01 closed	02 closed
03	04	05 ・Immigration Consultation ・Vietnamese Consultation ・Life Consultation in Chinese ・German Consultation	06 ・Korean Consultation	07 ・Spanish Consultation ・Life Consultation in Chinese ・English Consultation	08	09 ・Life Consultation in Chinese ・Educational Consultation
10 Coming of age day	11 closed	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 ・Immigration 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 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	休: 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. ・Immigration 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)				

- 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:** 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](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.