

**KCC
Newsletter**

**4
2021**

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**“The 5th Japanese Speech Contest by Foreign Residents in Kashiwa”
 Manuscript Collection**

This year we couldn't hold the 5th Japanese speech contest due to the wide spread of COVID-19. Instead, we created a manuscript collection. Thirteen contestants submitted their speech manuscript. We printed them without editing the original manuscripts. We will display the collection in the rack in front of KCC office. Please read it when you have time.

Many foreigners from various countries study and work in Japan. Though we have different cultures and customs, we can create a safe community by knowing and acknowledging the differences. Speech contest is one of the ways to meet foreign residents. We plan to hold “the 6th Japanese speech contest by foreigners in Kashiwa” on February 13, 2022. We will make the manuscript collection and introduce the speeches online. Please listen to what they say.



Contestants' Country and Speech Title	
Brazil	Husband and Wife with Different Cultures - Japan and Brazil -
China	Japan I came to know
China	Difference of Japanese and Chinese Cultures
Vietnam	Life of Vietnamese in Japan
Vietnam	Unfriendly Japanese
Sudan	Seeing is Believing
Nepal	My Small Country
Vietnam	Importance of Keep Believing
China	Kendo Spirit in Japanese Culture
Philippines	What We Ought to Think
Vietnam	Power of Greeting
Thailand	Beauty and Benefit
China	My Life with COVID-19

Cross-cultural Tea Time (online Teams live streaming on 3/6)

“Promoting regional development in North Africa where multi-culture societies co-exist – examples in Tunisia and Morocco”

Speaker: Mr. Yuki Maruyama, a Ph.D. candidate in Graduate School of Life and Environmental Sciences, University of Tsukuba.



Africa can be divided to the area called Sub-Saharan (south of Sahara Desert), and North Africa (north of Sahara Desert). Egypt, Libya, Tunisia, Morocco belong to North Africa that faces Mediterranean Sea and has European climate, with a unique culture that is a mixture of Islam and European. Since the “Arab Spring,” Tunisia has been democratized and has become quite safe despite problems such as high unemployment rate and inflation. Now many overseas companies expand into the country. Tunisia is known for the high-quality olive and essential oil production, and the expansion of marketing for the farmers is a current task. Securing water resources is another important task since it is in the dry area. Tunisia also has beautiful white and blue cityscape, and it was recently used as “Star Wars” filming site. Morocco has the Africa’s first bullet train, and it is the only country to produce popular Argan Oil.

This Friendship Time was delivered online due to the COVID-19 emergency state. We were limiting the audience to 12 people but 33 joined the lecture.



Mr. Yuki Maruyama

Friends of the World Now – Fighting Against COVID-19 - V

It has been more than a year since the COVID-19 pandemic started. In our May 2020 newsletter, we introduced the first article of a series “Friends of the World Now – Fighting Against COVID-19.” Now, in the 5th article of the series, we introduce the current situation of the friends of our sister cities.

Torrance COVID-19 Update

February 20, 2021

By Lori Chong Eurich (TSCA Member and past president)



Torrance, a city of 141,364 residents, has been impacted by Covid-19 through closures of schools and businesses like much of the country. As of February 15, 2021, there were 6,477 cases of Covid-19 and 157 deaths. Residents wear masks, keep 1.82m distance away, wash hands, and avoid crowds.

The city facilities such as the Cultural Arts Plaza and Armstrong Theater remain closed and City Council meetings are held virtually. Despite many challenges, the school district has in-person classes for students in kindergarten to 2nd grade (age 5-7) and is planning to open for grades 3 to-5 (age 8-11) by March 4. The school district and city are required to

follow guidelines issued by the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health.

Vaccinations are being given by health officials at large sites including El Camino Community College in north Torrance and at health care facilities such as Kaiser. The large grocery store chains with a pharmacy will be giving vaccines soon and following protocols such as age 65 and older.

Some city parks closed briefly but are now open. The tennis courts and playground equipment were also temporarily shut down but are available now. The Torrance Farmers Market on Tuesday and Saturday mornings at Wilson Park welcomes shoppers with social distancing and masks. The Torrance Library holds book clubs, concerts, lectures, and activity groups online. Books and other materials are available by reserving online. Torrance Beach is open and the walking path is great for biking, running, and skating.

Large, city-sponsored events were canceled last year, but officials look forward to restarting activities when it is safe.

TSCA events were canceled last year when California Governor Newsom placed the state in a lockdown. We canceled Bunka-Sai in April 2020 and the summer student exchange program. This year our events will not be held due to health regulations and safety concerns, but we look forward to them next year.

TSCA is immensely proud of the great work our English teachers, Brandon Matsumoto and Deanna Sun are doing at Ichikashi. They filmed fun English conversation videos for the students to view while at home. In school they organized activities for the English Conversation Club to teach students about typical American holiday pastimes like a “Secret Santa.”

We hope everyone stays safe and well.



Farmers Market in Torrance

Guam Now

By KIRA Guam Committee



On February 17, KIRA President, Ms. Kosuge, KIRA Vice President, Mr. Arai, along with 2 Guam committee members had an online meeting with Mr. Hiroshi Kaneko, Japan Branch Manager of the Guam Visitors Bureau. Below is the information we received in the meeting.

Guam had its first infected person in March 2020. Since then, there was time when the number of infected people increased, but in February of 2021, it started to settle with single digit numbers, and in the second week of February, the 4-level emergency state stage came down to 2 from level 3. Vaccination started on December 7, 2020 and by February 10, 2021, 9,499 Pfizer and 3,624 Moderna vaccines, in total of about 13,000 people, have been vaccinated.

Since the second week of February, face-to-face classes have been permitted. However, each school district has different guidelines, so please check with each school by viewing its HP. Also please be careful when you gather information in different media. Sometimes they provide wrong information.

Friends of the World Now - Fighting Against COVID-19 - V

Safe and Secure Youth Exchange in 2022

By KIRA Shotoku (Chengde, China) Committee



In late 2019, COVID-19 infection terrorized the world. A year and a few months have passed, and over 430,000 Japanese (the end of February 2021) have been infected. 83,000 Chinese were reported infected in January 2020 when the infection was first noticed in Wuhan. In Japan, vaccination for medical professions started but in China, already 5,200,000 people including government leaders received vaccinations. (the end of February 2021)

In the COVID-19 pandemic, we couldn't hold the Shotoku Youth Exchange program in 2020, also in 2021 although we were hoping to hold it. We truly hope by 2022, the pandemic will be over and we'll be able to have a safe and secure exchange program.

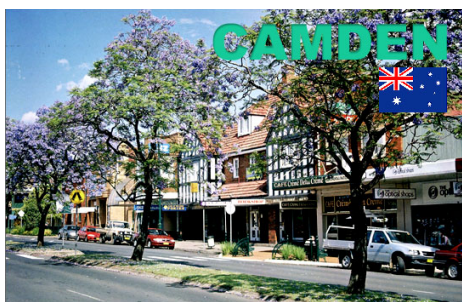
(referral: Xinhua News Agency and official Chengde City web site)



World Cultural Heritage Mountain Resort

Australia Regaining Calm

By KIRA Camden Committee



We received the news from Camden, Australia when the season was changing from summer to autumn. This year they didn't have any huge bushfires like last year, and the number of COVID-19 infections has been in decline. It seems like they are regaining calm. According to our friends in Camden, there has been no infection in the city, thanks to the well-working infection prevention measures by the government. At times an infected person coming back from abroad gets caught in Customs. Travelers coming back from abroad must stay in designated hotels for 14 days. Wearing a mask is now mandatory only while using public transportations. Movie theaters in New South Wales can hold maximum capacity. Vaccination started in February.

Our friends are hoping to receive one in April.

Last year we couldn't hold our youth exchange program, but 5 flags sent to Camden with cheering messages regarding bushfires and COVID-19 by the students of the elementary and middle schools in Kashiwa were a proof of the heartfelt friendship.

We couldn't hold the youth exchange program this year either, but Camden/Kashiwa sister cities celebrate the 25th anniversary in 2022. We are to hold Camden Day in March 2022. For this event we are planning to invite guests from Camden and hold lectures, exchange events as well as a photo exhibition. We believe it will be a great opportunity for the citizens of Kashiwa to get to know Camden.



Flag for Camden

Announcement from other organization

"Online Study Meeting" for KIRA Members

Creating a new style of activities under COVID-19 pandemic, we have decided to hold online study meetings every month in the year 2021.

Study meetings include wide variety of subjects such as "Easy Japanese - when conversing with foreigners in Japanese," "Zoom meeting tips," "Online seminar participation reports and methods to hold one." Meetings will be held every third Thursday from 8:00pm for about an hour. Let's study together.

We are looking for more ideas for this program to improve communication between foreigners and Japanese. Give us your idea!

Here's the first meeting:

Date and Time: Thursday, April 15 8:00pm to 9:10pm
 Subject: "Easy Japanese" #1 (of a series of 5)
 Lecturer: Ms. Tomoe Uchida (Easy Japanese instructor)
 Fee: Free
 Capacity: 25 participants
 Apply by: Send your name and phone number to

boshu-1@kira-kira.jp

Or use this QR code.

We will send you a URL showing how to join.



APRIL Events

Japanese Shonan Classes

Starting 4/8

Online Classes

Thurs	10:00 - 11:30	Intermediate I Japanese Intermediate and up
Sun	10:00 - 11:30	Beginning II, Intermediate I

In Person Classes

Thurs	10:00 - 12:00	Intermediate I at Shonan Community Center
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Online Japanese Kashiwa Classes

Starting 4/6

Online Japanese Kashiwa Classes

Tue	10:00 - 11:30	Japanese for all Beginning I
Wed	10:00 - 11:30	Japanese Intermediate and up
Thurs	10:00 - 11:30	Beginning Conversation I
Thurs	13:00 - 14:30	Beginning Conversation 2
Fri	19:00 - 20:30	Japanese for all Beginning II
Sat	13:00 - 15:00	Intermediate Conversation

Information about COVID-19 for foreign residents

Available in multiple languages

https://www.nhk.or.jp/nhkworld-blog/100/441872.html?cid=wohk-doml-org_site_state_of_emergency_0107_gs-202101-001



Free legal advice and administrative procedure support for foreign residents

Lawyers and administrative procedure specialists will be available to help foreign residents with legal questions and documents. Any questions or problems are all right, such as visa, domestic violence, divorce, or trouble at the workplace. Please register beforehand.

Date and Time: Wed. April 28 13:00 - 17:00
Place: Palette Kashiwa A
Reservation: KCC (Kashiwa Cross-cultural Center) Office

Kashiwa information delivery service

Sign up to receive email announcements from the city, such as information about earthquakes, fires, crime, and infectious disease outbreaks in the language of your choice. Send a blank email to this address to register.



Questions?
 Please contact the office of
 Kashiwa Cross-cultural Center (KCC)

Tel: 04-7157-0281 Fax: 04-7165-7321
 Hours: 8:30 - 17:15
 Closed on Sundays and national holidays

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