



KCC Newsletter

MARCH, 2022

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Cancellation of Youth Exchange Programs to Torrance, Camden, Chengde and Guam in 2022

Due to the continuing spread of COVID-19 around the world, Kashiwa International Relations Association (KIRA) has decided to cancel the exchange programs to our four sister-friendship cities. KIRA is very sorry to anyone who was planning to participate in these programs.

The Sixth Japanese Speech Contest in Kashiwa by Foreign Residents (2/13)

A year has passed since the 5th Speech Contest was canceled and the Covid-19 pandemic is still affecting our lives. Through repeated discussions and in consideration of safety first, the Sixth Speech Contest was at last held at Palette Kashiwa after two years of absence.

The number of participants in the contest is increasing year by year. This year, 15 contestants chosen from many applicants, presented their speeches. Quite a few young speakers, including high school students, participated and it can be said this also made the 6th contest so meaningful.

We would like to express our gratitude to the contestants, as well as the judges, evaluators and everyone involved in the speech contest.

The names of winners are as follows:

Mayor's Award: Mr. Ryoma Oda (The Philippines)

KIRA President's Award: Ms. Ji Ri Ge Le Gen (China)

Special Award: Ms. Nguyen Thi Thu Huyen (Vietnam)

Special Award: Ms. Nguyen Thi Thu Trang (Vietnam)

The speech scripts of all the contestants' will be uploaded on our website later.



Announcement

Cross-cultural Tea Time "Indonesia –What we saw and felt in the lives of about 30 years there –"

Date: March 5, Saturday, 1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Place: Palette Kashiwa, Multi-purpose space A

Lecturer: Mr. & Mrs. Yoshihiro and

Yoko NAKAGAWARA

Number of applicants: 27

Participation fee: ¥ 400

Application: Please come directly

KIRA office or send an e-mail to

boshu-1@kira-kira.jp



Photo Exhibition: "The history of exchange with Camden"

Period: March 6 – March 13

Place: Palette Kashiwa, Open space

Commemorative Program for Exchange with Camden, Australia: "The History of Exchange with Camden"

Date: March 13, Sunday, 1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Place: Palette Kashiwa, Meeting Room ABC

Contents: 1. Explanation of the 25th anniversary of the mutual exchange between Kashiwa and Camden

2. Video messages from the members of the Camden International Friendship Association (CIFA)

3. Discussion with CIFA members by ZOOM



Number of Participants: 20

Participation fee: Free

Application: Please come directly to the KCC office or send an e-mail to boshu-1@kira-kira.jp

Japanese Speech Contest

Every Failure Is a Stepping Stone to Success

(Speech by the Mayoral Award Winner, Ryoma Oda)

Hello, everyone. My name is Ryoma Oda. My father is Japanese, and my mother is Filipino. I grew up in the Philippines from the age of three until I graduated from university, but I have chosen to be a Japanese citizen at the age of 20. I love talking, but I cannot express half of what I want to say in Japanese. Today, I would like to share some of my mistakes with you.

The first is a story from my college days in the Philippines. Japanese international students came to my university to study English. I was picking them up at the main gate of the university. And upperclassmen arranged a welcome board for them. When I took them to the faculty, I found that the welcome board said, "Doitashimashite, international students of Waseda University" in Japanese. When I asked, "Why does it say, 'Doitashimashite'?" The upperclassmen replied, "Doitashimashite in Japanese has the same meaning as welcome in English. We looked it up on Google". I hurriedly told them that it does not mean "welcome," it is a reply to "thank you." I should have confirmed the welcome board properly. I got embarrassed in front of Japanese students.

The second is the story about when I first went swimming on a beach in Japan. I was going to meet a Filipino friend at a station called "Onjuku". I looked it up on the Internet and found that the fare to Onjuku was 1840 yen. I bought a ticket at Kashiwa Station on the Tobu Line and got on the train alone. At Funabashi station, I was supposed to transfer to the JR line. But when I went through the automatic ticket gate, the ticket did not come out. Surprised, I said to the station attendant, "Oh, Excuse me. Um...my ticket, this, eat." The station attendant seemed to be confused. He might have thought that I had eaten a concert ticket or that it might be better to call an ambulance? Finally, another English-speaking station attendant came over and explained to me in English, " You know, the tickets on each train line are different. Tobu line and JR are operated by two different companies, so you have to buy tickets for each." I got so embarrassed that I could not make myself understood in Japanese.

The third is the story of when I took a part-time job exam. I bravely applied for a part-time job at a supermarket. I was confident in the interview. But in the written test, there were so many difficult written words that I could not understand them well. When I found out that I had failed the exam, I completely lost confidence. Because until then, I had never failed exams. Seeing me depressed, my father casually said to me, " Making mistakes is

common. Ryoma, at least you have learned something from that mistake." After listening to what my father said, my way of thinking has changed, and I began to believe that it would be better for me if I could grow step by step through each failure I experienced. The language, way of thinking, and customs are different between Japan and the Philippines. Just because I chose Japanese nationality, it did not mean I could do the same as Japanese people immediately. Maybe I do not need to feel embarrassed too much when I make mistakes. I believe that I can make further progress through my mistakes in the future.

Thank you for your kind attention.



Mr. Ryoma Oda

Contestants' Mother Tongue, Country and Speech Title

Entry No.	Mother Tongue	Country	Speech Title
1	Vietnamese	Vietnam	The Way Japanese People Work
2	Mongolian	China	What I Want to Tell the Japanese
3	Chinese	China	Japanese People's Sense of Distance
4	Korean	China	My Impression on Japanese People
5	English	the Philippines	Myself
6	Vietnamese	Vietnam	Overcoming Failure
7	Chinese	China	I Teach How to Make Meat Buns to My Japanese Teacher
8	Mongolian	China	Life in Japan
9	Nepali	Nepal	My Daily Life
10	Chinese	China	Difficulties I Encounter When Learning Japanese
11	Chinese	China	My Japanese Language Training in High School
12	Tagalog	the Philippines	Every Failure Is a Stepping Stone to Success
13	Mongolian	China	Japan I Had Heard About and Japan I Have Seen
14	Vietnamese	Vietnam	My Favorite Words
15	Chinese	China	Life in Japan

March Events

Japanese Shonan Classes

Online Classes

Thurs	10:00am - 11:30am	Japanese Intermediate and up
Sun	10:00am - 11:30am	Beginner I, Intermediate I (2 classes)

In Person Classes (Shonan Community Center)

※It maybe cancelled according to the pandemic situation.

Thurs	10:00am - 12:00pm	Intermediate I
Sun	10:00am - 12:00pm	Beginner I

Online Japanese Kashiwa Classes

Online Classes

Tue	7:00pm - 8:30pm	Japanese for all Beginning I (1st of the 19 lessons)
Wed	10:00pm - 11:30pm	Japanese Conversation for Beginners 2B
Wed	7:00pm - 8:30pm	Japanese for all Beginning I (1st of the 16 lessons)
Thurs	10:00am - 11:30am	Beginning Conversation I (Beginner, Beginning 1)
Thurs	1:00pm - 2:30pm	Beginner Conversation 2 A
Fri	7:00pm - 8:30pm	Japanese for all Beginning II (1st of the 41 lessons)
Sat	9:30am - 11:20am	Intermediate Conversation

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 acceptable, such as visa, domestic violence, divorce, or trouble at the workplace. Please register beforehand.

Date: March 23rd, Wednesday, 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Place: Palette Kashiwa Room A

Reservation: KCC office

Consultation for Foreign Residents

Monday: Spanish

Tuesday: Korean (only the 2nd and 4th Tuesday)

Wednesday: Chinese

Thursday: English

Friday: Chinese

※ 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. everyday

Consultation Counter for Foreign Residents (Main city hall 3F)

TEL: 04 - 7168 - 1033 No reservation required.

Information about COVID-19 for foreign residents

Available in multiple languages



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.



Also, please read Kashiwa City Magazine. It contains information about COVID-19 vaccination.



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