

KCC Newsletter

November, 2022

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Announcement

Kashiwa de International Exchange Festa 2022

Date & Time: Sunday, November 20, 11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.



The face-to-face festival that couldn't be held due to COVID-19 is back! Tents will be set up in the pedestrian mall in front of Ito-Yokado, and booths will be set up to introduce international exchange activities and sell products from overseas. On the stage, visitors can enjoy dance and musical instrument performances from various countries widely solicited from Kashiwa's citizens. At the food and beverage booths and kitchen cars, visitors can taste ethnic cuisine from local restaurants. So, everyone, why don't you spend a day experiencing "the world" in Kashiwa?

Booths

Introduction of activities such as exchanges with sister and friendship cities, language classes, Japanese culture, support for foreigners, etc. You can also enjoy quizzes and games about countries around the world, and sales of sweets, coffee, and other goods from around the world

Performance programs

Salsa band performance, Egyptian dance, aikido demonstration, tap dance, Tsugaru sukoppu (shovel) shamisen, Peruvian dance, sword fighting performance, Balinese dance, songs by a Cuban male singer.

Food and beverage booths and kitchen cars

Peruvian, Turkish, Thai, Nepalese, Vietnamese, and Korean cuisines are available.

Online Interactions with People Around the World

Date & Time: Sunday, November 13, 12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Place: Palette Kashiwa

Content: Whether you are good at English or not, get together to interact with people around the world using Zoom. Mr. Chris Pigao, an ALT from Kashiwa Municipal High School, attended the September meeting. Ms. Izawa, who was dispatched to the City of Torrance in 2018 as a Student Delegate, also participated as a guest and conducted an online exchange. She is currently studying in the U.S.

Participants: Elementary school to university students living or studying in Kashiwa City. (Venue: 20 participants per session, Online: 20 participants per session)

Application: Send an e-mail to <boshu-1@kira-kira.jp> with your name, contact details, and how you will participate.



Free Legal Advice and Administrative Procedure Support for Foreign Residents

To foreign residents. Are you in need of help? Lawyers and administrative procedure specialists are available for consultation. You can ask for specialists' advice on issues such as family or partner violence, divorce, visa procedures, and problems at work. Reservation necessary.

Date & Time: Wednesday, November 16, 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. Place: Palette Kashiwa A

Reservation: the KCC office

Opening of Tokyo Immigration and Residence Office, Matsudo Branch

Opening hours: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. (except Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays)

Services: Residence-related applications, applications for certificates of eligibility

Address: 8F Kite Mite Matsudo, 1307-1 Matsudo, Matsudo-shi, Chiba 271-0092

Phone: 047-701-5472

Notice: Please be sure to include the name of the event, your name, and phone number when applying by e-mail. Please also note that events may be cancelled or changed depending on the infection status of COVID-19, so please contact the office for details. Please wear a mask when attending the event.

Notices from other organizations

Kashiwa International Relations Association 30th Anniversary Lecture

We will invite a wheelchair tennis player Shingo Kunieda, who has achieved the "Golden Slam of Lifetime," to give an interview-style lecture titled "Sports and International Exchange."

Date & Time: Sunday, December 4, 7:00 p.m. - 8:50 p.m. Place: Amuse Kashiwa Crystal Hall

Number of applicants : 300 (If there are too many applicants, the number will be determined by lottery)

Admission: Free Inquiries: KCC Office

Application: By November 15 (Tue.), ① send a return postcard with the necessary information (name, address, and contact phone number) to the office (must arrive by mail), or ② send it by e-mail to <koen-1@kira-kira.jp>, or ③ visit the Association's website. (Note: If you do not receive an automatic reply for ② and ③, your application will not be accepted.) Please note that wheelchair users must notify us at the time of application. Reservation confirmation will be sent by a return postcard or e-mail by November 25 (Fri)



KIRA Members' Online Study Session: "What Support Do Foreign Nationals Need During a Disaster?" Preparations you can make now!

Date & Time: Thursday, November 17, 8:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Leaders: Project staff in charge of support for foreigners in the event of disasters.

Fee: Free Number of participants: 25

Application: Directly to the office or by e-mail at <boshu-1@kira-kira.jp> with your name and phone number.

We will send you a URL to join on the day.



KIRA Members' Workshop - Let's learn about the basics of the residency management system

Date & Time: Saturday, November 12, 3:00 p.m. - Lecturer: Mr. Hatsuo Sugishita, administrative scrivener

Place: Palette A Content: Basic knowledge of the immigration control system

Application: Directly to the office or by e-mail at <boshu-2@kira-kira.jp>

Number of applicants: 27 people on a first-come, first-served basis



2022 International Exchange Bus Tour, October 9

For the first time in three years, a bus tour was held, including a walk along Abiko's Shirakabaha (a group of novelists, 1910-23) path and a visit to the Bird Museum. Of the 17 participants, 6 were foreigners (from 5 countries).

On the Shirakabaha path, they strolled along Hake-no-michi, visited the former Murakawa villa, the remains of Naoya Shiga's house (photo), the Shirakaba Literature Museum, and the Sugimura Sojin Kan Memorial Museum. We were impressed by the beautifully preserved old buildings of literary figures and the old and new streets. Next, we had a meal at "Tsubasa" at 'Michino-eki Shonan', which was renovated this April, and purchased vegetables at a direct sales shop for local cultivation for local consumption.



In front of the house of Naoya Shiga (1883-1971, a novelist who is said to be 'God of novels')

In the afternoon, we visited the Bird Museum. The dodo bird from "Alice in Wonderland" and the owl from "Harry Potter" were among the exhibits, and the participants were surprised to learn that there are so many types of birds and that the extinct "moa" was as huge as 3 meters high. Perhaps due to the participants' daily efforts, the weather was fine, and the temperature was just right for a pleasant day of strolling.

Cross-cultural Teatime

Bulgaria - a friendly country famous for yogurt, roses and wine, October 15

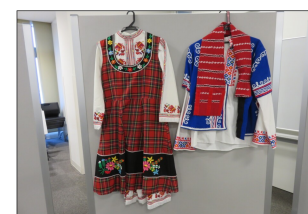
Mr. Petar Nikolaev, First Secretary of the Embassy of Bulgaria in Japan, spoke about Bulgaria in fluent Japanese.

Bulgaria is the birthplace of the Cyrillic alphabet, which is now used in Russia, etc. Since its foundation in 681, the country has experienced prosperity and decline. It was ruled by the Byzantine and Ottoman Empires, but the people have always had hope, and at last gained independence in 1878. It has been democratized and has been a member of NATO and the European Union since 1989. In 2019, Bulgaria celebrated the 110th anniversary of the start of relations with Japan, the 80th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations, and the 60th anniversary of the resumption of diplomatic relations with Japan.



Lecturer Mr. Petar Nikolaev

Bulgaria is about one-third the size of Japan, and its main industries are IT, tourism, and energy. Bulgaria also has a thriving automobile industry, and the majority of European automobile parts are produced in Bulgaria. Bulgarian yogurt was first introduced to Japan at the 1970 World Exposition in Osaka. In the "Valley of Roses," roses are cultivated extensively, and rose oil is used in perfumes in France and Japan. Wine production is also thriving, and wine from southern Bulgaria is said to be the best.



Bulgarian national costume

There was also a quiz corner, and those who answered the questions correctly received a surprise gift. When asked why he studied Japanese, Mr. Nikolaev replied, "I was interested in Japan with its old traditions and cutting-edge technology."



Encountering "Different Social Norms" Through International Exchange

Kaho Furuyama, 2018 student delegate

I visited Torrance for about two weeks as a 2018 student delegate. I applied because I was interested in people living in different places than where I was born and raised. In addition, rather than simply traveling, I was more attracted to staying "at home," where many people spend time just the way they always do. The stay in Torrance influenced me greatly, from my daily behavior to my future path. Particularly, I have realized that my idea of "social norms" is not definitive. Every society has ideas of "what should be" according to gender and age, and the trip enabled me to encounter different social norms outside Japan. I have more options now and feel a little relieved from the sense of oppression. Also, I have gained new perspectives on the meaning of "femininity" as well as on the sense of distance from family and friends.

I am now enjoying college life in Pathum Thani Province, Thailand, as an exchange student of the Liberal Arts Faculty of Thammasat University. Thani is like Kanagawa Prefecture in Japan in terms of distance from the capital. For one year, until May 2023, I will study mainly Thai history. I think the area is as safe as, or even safer than, Kashiwa. It is often said that Kashiwa is "safe," but at the same time, people say to women that they should not go out and walk the streets at night. That is the same here. Safe for whom, I wonder.

Sometimes, Japanese people think of Thailand as it was a few decades ago, when it was not yet developed, and they ask me questions based on their old image of Thailand. Perhaps, the country is completely different from what you imagine. Of course, it depends on where your focus is, but I personally feel Thailand is "more advanced" than Japan, in terms of payment methods and people's attitude towards politics and way of life.

QR code payments have become standard. Payments are made by smartphones even at small food stalls, for vending machines, and when we split the cost of meals. I use cash only at a laundromat and when internet connection doesn't work. Regarding the way of life, even though the society is rooted in a religion which includes male-dominated ideas, there is a widespread movement to not judge people by their gender. I can see this trend in online petitions for feminist movements, politicians of various genders, and how my classmates and their families interact. I noticed the other day, unlike when I was in Japan, I did not feel oppressed of being a female in Thailand, e.g., sexual harassment, fears felt in the public transportation and elevators, and femininity imposed by the society.

We have our own values and these values do not always match those of the community where we were born and raised. When this is the case, I think it can be frustrating. Sometimes, we may unknowingly force our own values on others and even our loved ones, making them feel frustrated. Remember,

international exchange enables you to encounter different "social norms," which you did not know about before. It will reduce the frustration of dealing with people from other countries, or make you face your own culture to rediscover its virtues.

When I realized that what I considered to be "social norms" was not a definitive fact, I gained more options and mental freedom. I am excited about the possibilities that international exchange can offer. Thinking big: this will eventually lead to world peace.



Ms. Kaho Furuyama



College campus



A water monitor on college grounds

November Events

Japanese Shonan Classes

Online Classes

Sat	7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.	Primary II
Sun	10:00 a.m.- 11:30 a.m.	<i>Minna no Nihongo</i> , Primary I (2 classes), Intermediate II

In-person Classes (Shonan Community Center)

Thu	10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.	<i>Minna no Nihongo</i> , Primary I, Japanese from intermediate level
Sun	10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.	<i>Minna no Nihongo</i> , Primary I

Japanese Kashiwa Classes

Online Classes

Tue	7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.	<i>Minna no Nihongo</i> , Primary I (Starts at section 8)
Wed	10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.	Conversation elementary 2B
Wed	7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.	<i>Minna no Nihongo</i> , Primary II (Starts at section 26)
Thu	10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.	Conversation elementary level 1 -Start
Thu	10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.	Conversation elementary level 1
Thu	1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.	Conversation elementary level 2 A
Fri	7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.	<i>Minna no Nihongo</i> , Primary II (Starts at section 48)
Sat	9:30 a.m. - 11:20 a.m.	Conversation intermediate level

In-person Classes (Palette Kashiwa)

Wed	10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.	<i>Minna no Nihongo</i> , Primary II (Starts at section 26)
Sat	10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.	<i>Minna no Nihongo</i> , Primary I (Starts at section 1)
Sat	10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.	<i>Minna no Nihongo</i> , Primary I (Starts at section 10)

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.

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. Scan this QR code and register.



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



Information about COVID-19 for Foreign Residents



Available in multiple languages



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

Tel: 04-7157-0281 Fax: 04-7165-7321
 Hours: 8:30 a.m. - 5:15 p.m.
 Closed on Sundays and national holidays