

# KCC Newsletter

January, 2023

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## New Year's Message from the President

Akemi Kosuge, President of Kashiwa International Relations Associations (KIRA),  
the designated administrator of Kashiwa Cross-cultural Center (KCC)

Happy new year! I wish you all good health and happiness.

It was a year of turmoil around the world last year. From Coronavirus and climate change to wars and human rights issues, we have entered the new year with great challenges common to all humankind. In our activities for coexistence, I believe that we have entered an era in which we should not only talk about exchanges between countries in human communities, but also about coexistence with nature and other living creatures on a global scale. Let's get creative in our activities while coexisting with Coronavirus, stand with the displaced people of Ukraine, seek new forms of international interaction for peace, and move forward one step at a time.

Our activities are supported by Kashiwa International Relations Association (KIRA), and at its 30th anniversary lecture, the world champion wheelchair tennis player, Shingo Kunieda gave a talk. His lecture and smile motivated us to work hard in our mission. Furthermore, in the New Year, we will hold the 30th anniversary ceremony with Mayor Ota of Kashiwa city. I am grateful to our predecessors and supporters who have contributed to Kashiwa's international exchanges, and I reaffirm my commitment to the civic activities. Also, in coming spring, an anniversary commemorative publication (in both English and Japanese) will be available. It will contain the history of Kashiwa's international exchanges, which began with a youth exchange program with its sister city. We can publicize Kashiwa's international interaction to the world!

I end this message with my thanks for your support, hoping for your continued help in the years to come.



## Kashiwa International Relations Association's 30th Anniversary "Lecture by Shingo Kunieda" (12/4)

Wheelchair tennis player Shingo Kunieda, who had achieved the "career golden slam," was invited to be a lecturer at the Crystal Hall of Amuser Kashiwa. The title of the lecture was "Sports and International Exchange," and there were many participants in the hall for the two-hour lecture. The first part was an interview-style talk with Mr. Kunieda and five student interviewers, and the second part was a Q&A session between the lecturer and the audience. He developed a spinal cord disease at the age of nine and became wheelchair-bound, but it was his mother's suggestion that led him to wheelchair tennis. He also talked about his challenging life as a player, saying that his matches at home and abroad counted for 150 days a year, and that he often missed Japan when he toured abroad. Mr. Kunieda has achieved many great accomplishments on the international scenes. His lecture with amusing stories showed his personality, way of thinking, and way of life; and they inspired and deeply impressed the audience. He said, "To realize your hopes and dreams, it is important to believe in yourself and work on it." I felt that the audience took the words as an encouragement from Mr. Kunieda for the new year to come.



Mr. Shingo Kunieda talking in the lecture

# New Year Special Project: Round-table Talk by Foreign Residents

**Date:** November 24, 2022

**Place:** Palette Kashiwa Multipurpose Space A

**Participants:** Ms. Mie Enokizono, Ms. Silvia Hata, Ms. Ma Tsyrfarn

**Moderator:** Noriko Fujita

**Records:** Kanae Omori, Yoko Nakano (Public Relations Subcommittee)

**Moderator: You have lived in Japan for a long time. Did you have any problems when you came to Japan?**

Enokizono: I came to Japan to study hotel science at a Japanese university. At first, I could not speak Japanese, but I could communicate in English, so there were few problems. The classes at the Japanese language school were only in Japanese, so I had to look up things I did not understand after I got home. I had a hard time every day, but I enjoyed it very much. At that time, I did not know how to say gas station in Japanese and asked, "Where do you go when your car is hungry?" I still cannot forget this. One year after I came to Japan, I started working part-time at a famous kushiyaki restaurant in Ginza. I learned a lot from talking with customers who dropped by the restaurant, including customers on the Hato Bus tour.

Hata: I came to Japan with my Japanese American husband, and soon after we came to Japan, I had a child, so I did not have time to learn Japanese. It was difficult for me to go to the hairdresser because I could not explain in Japanese how much I wanted my hair cut and what kind of hairstyle I wanted. When I went shopping at a store, I had a hard time because I did not know the name of the item I wanted or which item I wanted. At the nursery school where my child went, teachers drew pictures and explained what I could not understand. And they spoke to me in simple Japanese. When I was sick, I was in great trouble. The doctor wrote an explanation of the illness in English and explained each of the medicines in English.

Ma: When I had to go to the hospital in an emergency, I had a hard time finding a hospital to take care of me. Even if I called an ambulance, it took a long time to get to the hospital because they had to look for a hospital that accepted me. In Taiwan, I can go directly to the hospital. I was also confused because the system is different from my country. In Japan, the first medical examination fee at a large hospital is very high if you do not have a letter of introduction. If you go to a different department in the same hospital, you have to pay the first medical examination fee at the department.

**Moderator: Many people go to big hospitals for a minor cold or injury, and big hospitals are very crowded. To solve this problem, we have had a system where people see their family doctor in their neighborhood. And when the doctor decides that an examination, hospitalization, or surgery is necessary, the doctor writes a letter of introduction to a big hospital, and others who do not have a letter of introduction pay a high initial visit fee.**

**Moderator: Do you have universal health insurance in your country?**

Ma & Enokizono: We also have health insurance that everyone can participate in, just like Japanese insurance. Since we were born, we have had our social number. Through this number, we receive insurance and various payments from the government. We wonder why some people in Japan do not like to have their numbers.

**Moderator: Ms. Enokizono, your Japanese is so beautiful and polite. How did you learn it?**

Enokizono: In Korea, honorific language, polite language, humble language, and casual language are spoken appropriately. I learned polite language from scratch at a Japanese language school. Therefore, when I teach Korean, I start with polite words.

**Moderator: Now that you have gotten used to life in Japan, do you have any problems or things you need?**

Ma & Enokizono: There are few streetlights in parks, so it is very dark for me to take a walk in a park at night. I want the city office to install more streetlights in parks like residential areas. There is not much exercise equipment for adults in parks. In Taiwan and Korea, it is normal for parks to have exercise equipment for adults, and everyone can exercise with the equipment without going to a gym. How about if Kashiwa City first installs exercise equipment for adults in its parks

## The 7th Japanese Speech Contest by Foreign Residents in Kashiwa

Foreign residents in Tokatsu area will present in Japanese what they feel, think and discover in their daily life in Japan.

You can come to the event or watch it online. We look forward to your participation.

Date & Time: Sunday, February 5, 12:00 at noon - 4:00 p.m. Place: Palette Kashiwa Open Space

Number of applicants: First 70 applicants Online viewing: First 100 applicants

Application: Thursday February 2, Sign up directly at the KCC office or send an email to boshu-2@kira-kira.jp

For those who wish to watch online: <https://forms.office.com/r/4NErp3jUu> Participation fee: Free

For details and the latest information, please visit the KCC website.



## Free Legal Advice and Administrative Procedure Support for Foreign Residents

To foreign residents. Are you in need of help? Lawyers and administrative 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 Reservation: KCC office

Date & Time: Wednesday, January 25, 1:00 p.m.-5:00p.m. Place: Palette Kashiwa, Room A

and then tells other municipalities that this will improve people's health?

Hata: I have had trouble recently because most public procedures are online. I can no longer call and ask someone directly to solve my problems. If possible, I would like to go to the counter and ask someone. Also, I have trouble because the year-end tax adjustment is now online.

Enokizono: In Japan, the Wi-Fi connection is not very good. I would like to see more places where Wi-Fi is available.

Ma & Enokizono: I think Japan is behind in digitalization compared to Taiwan and Korea. In Taiwan and Korea, most shopping transactions are cashless.

Hata: In Peru, Wi-Fi is not very available, and most payments are in cash.

**Moderator: What kind of KCC office would you like to go to?**

Enokizono: When I go to the KICC office, everyone seems busy working hard, and it is hard to talk to them. I would like to see just one person sitting at the counter facing the visitors. I think it would be much easier for visitors to talk to them if someone who responds to visitors is there even while they are working.

**Moderator: What kind of events would you like to participate in?**

Enokizono: I would like to participate in Japanese cultural events, such as tea ceremony, flower arrangement, origami, etc. I would like you to change the day of the week for the events each time. If events are held on a fixed day of the week and that day is my work day, I cannot always attend. As I would like to learn tea ceremony and flower arrangement continuously, I would like these events held more often than just once a year. And I would like to experience real Mochi-tsuki, making rice cakes, with a mallet and mortar. I would also like to try Zen meditation.

**Moderator: We have had a workshop on Osechi-ryori, New Year dishes. Do you make Japanese Osechi dishes?**

Ma & Enokizono: I usually buy what I like.

Enokizono: My mother makes kimchi and sends it to me. In Korea, there are kimchi vacations and kimchi bonuses. However, young people do not seem to make kimchi by themselves anymore.

Hata: Christmas is more celebrated than New Year in Peru.

Ma: In Taiwan, Chinese New Year is the biggest celebration.

Enokizono: Many people are learning Korean, so I wish there were more opportunities to communicate using that language. And I hope we can have exchanges at the citizen level.

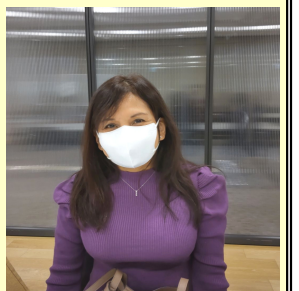
**Moderator: Thank you very much for attending this discussion.**

### Profiles of Participants

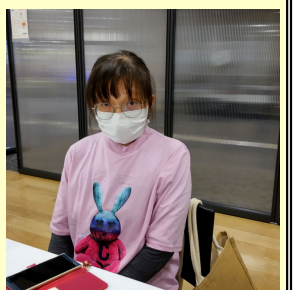
**Ms. Mie Enokizono:** From South Korea, she has lived in Japan for about 28 years. Ms. Enokizono is a Korean language instructor at KCC and works as an advisor for foreigners twice a month at the city hall.



**Ms. Silvia Hata:** From Peru, she has lived in Japan for 30 years. Ms. Hata works at a big foreign supermarket and has been learning Japanese at KCC Japanese language class for four years.



**Ms. Ma Tsyrfarn:** From Taiwan, she has lived in Japan for 18 years. Ms. Ma works at a supermarket. Before the Corona pandemic, she worked as an interpreter at a kindergarten and nursery school. She is active in various events as a member of KIRAKIC.



### Announcements from other organizations

#### Online Study Session for KIRA Members "Easy Japanese Application: Information Transmission to Foreign Residents"

Date & Time: Thursday, January 19, 8:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m.

Lecturer: Ms. Tomoe Uchida (instructor of easy Japanese)

Participation fee: Free

Number of participants: 25

Application: Sign up directly at the KCC office or send an email to boshu-2@kira-kira.jp with your name and phone number. We will send you the invitation link on the day.

Next session: Thursday, March 16, 8:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m. "Effective Vocalization 2" by Lecturer Naomi Yamazaki





# January Events

Japanese Shonan Classes (1/12 - )		
Online Classes		
Sat	7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.	<i>Minna no Nihongo</i> , Primary II
Sun	10:00 a.m.- 11:30 a.m.	<i>Minna no Nihongo</i> , Primary I and Intermediate II
In-person Classes (Shonan Community Center)		
Thu	10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.	<i>Minna no Nihongo</i> , Primary I; <i>Chukyu kara Manabu Nihongo</i>
Sun	10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.	<i>Minna no Nihongo</i> , Primary I
Japanese Kashiwa Classes (1/10 - )		
Online Classes		
Tue	7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.	<i>Minna no Nihongo</i> , Primary I (Unit 16 - )
Wed	10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.	Conversation Elementary 2B (Level 2)
Wed	7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.	<i>Minna no Nihongo</i> , Primary II (Unit 31 - )
Thu	10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.	Conversation Elementary 1 (Level 1, Introductory)
Thu	10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.	Conversation Elementary 1 (Level 1)
Thu	1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.	Conversation Elementary 2A (Level 2)
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
In-person Classes (Palette Kashiwa)		
Tue	10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.	<i>Minna no Nihongo</i> , Primary I (hiragana, katakana)
Tue	10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.	<i>Minna no Nihongo</i> , Primary I (Unit 1 - )
Tue	10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.	<i>Minna no Nihongo</i> , Primary I (Unit 8 - )
Sat	10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.	<i>Minna no Nihongo</i> , Primary I (Unit 4 - )
Sat	10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.	<i>Minna no Nihongo</i> , Primary I (Unit 18 - )

## Information for Foreign Residents from Kashiwa City

### Consultation for Foreign Residents

Available in English (Thu), Chinese (Wed and Fri), Spanish (Mon), and Korean (2nd and 4th Tue) from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Consultation Counter for Foreign Residents (City Hall Main Office Building, 3rd floor).  
Tel: 04 - 7168 - 1033  
No reservation required.

### Email distribution service from Kashiwa City

Sign up to receive email announcement from the city, such as information on natural disasters, crimes, and fires of your area in the language of your choice. Scan the QR code and register!



### Multilingual "Koho Kashiwa," monthly official city bulletin

Scan the QR code and select your language under "Foreign Language" to read the official city bulletin, "Koho Kashiwa," selected and translated for foreign residents.



### Links for Multilingual News & BOSAI INFO (Disaster prevention and Coronavirus)

NHK WORLD-JAPAN



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