



KCC Newsletter

July, 2023

Kashiwa Cross-cultural Center, Palette Kashiwa
1-7-1-301 Kashiwa,
Kashiwa, Chiba, Japan 277-0005
■ TEL: 04-7157-0281 ■ FAX: 04-7165-7321
■ E-MAIL: kcc@kira-kira.jp
■ URL: <https://www.kcc.kira-kira.jp>



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Exchange Programs with Sister & Friendship Cities of Kashiwa

Guam Youth Exchange Program Postponed

The visit to Kashiwa scheduled for June 22 (Thu.) to 26 (Mon.) has been postponed due to severe damage caused by Typhoon No. 2, which made landfall in Guam.



Online International Exchange Salon

Happiness From the Sea #1 - Talking About the Charm of the Sea Through Video

Date & Time: Thursday, July 20, 8:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Lecturer: Mr. Shogo Saeki (Dive Master)

Fee: Free

Number of applicants: First 30

Application: Sign up at the KCC office or by e-mail to boshu-1@kira-kira.jp

Please include your name and phone number. We will send you a URL to join on the day.

Next event: "Happiness from the Sea #2 - Protecting the Sea from Marine Pollution"

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

Lecturer: Mr. Shogo Saeki (Dive Master)



Yukata Dressing and Tanabata Bamboo Decoration Experience

Learn how to wear a yukata from an instructor and try one on! Why don't you write your wishes and make a Tanabata bamboo decoration?

Date & Time: July 24 (Mon.), 12:30 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Place: Palette Kashiwa Multipurpose Space B

Number of participants: First 15

Activities : Learn how to put on a yukata, write your wishes on a strip of paper, and hang it on bamboo branches.

What to bring: Yukata, Obi (sash), two strings. If you use KIRA's yukata, we will provide you with the necessary items to put it on. Please let us know your size (M, L, LL) when applying. Please wear a white T-shirt or underwear like a tank top to change into the yukata.

Fee: 300 yen for those who bring their own yukata. 300 yen for those who use KIRA's yukata plus the cleaning fee.

Application: By July 20 (Thur.), sign up at the KCC office or by e-mail to boshu-1@kira-kira.jp.



Project Staff Wanted for "Kashiwa de International Exchange Festa"

Date: October 15 (Sun.)

Place: Howdy Mall

Contents: Festival of interaction between citizens

Inquiries: KCC Office

Upcoming Events (from July)

- 7/3-7/9: Kashiwa International Exchange Week 2023
- 7/12-8/1: Visit of Torrance Youth Delegation to Kashiwa
- 7/24: Yukata and Tanabata Experience
- 9/2: Disaster Prevention Talk
- 9/24: Barbecue
- 9/30 : Cross-cultural Teatime; "Going Around the World"

Announcements from Other Organizations

Members Wanted! Kashiwa International Relations Association (KIRA)

Why don't you become a member and join us in international exchange activities? Let's interact with foreigners by planning and organizing various events. You don't have to speak English. You can also make friends. For more information, please visit our website. (Inquiries: Office)



<NOTE>Please include the event name, your name and phone number when applying by email. The events may be cancelled depending on the Covid-19 situation. Contact the office for more information.

Citizen's Activity Festa 2023 (5/14)

Citizen's Activity Festa 2023 was held at the east exit of Kashiwa Station. The Kashiwa International Relations Association promoted its daily activities in a tent on the double deck by displaying photos of its activities, Kawaraban (KCC Newsletter), flyers for the event, and pamphlets on the activities of the four Sister and Friendship Cities. We set up a donation box for people suffering from the fires of war in Ukraine and received donations from citizens passing by the tent. At Family Kashiwa Front Square, 13 groups performed. In addition, 27 organizations participated in the Howdy Mall (Kashiwa City Ekimae-dori Shopping Street). Although the number of participating groups decreased significantly compared to before COVID-19, it was a good opportunity to learn about the various groups active in the community and to interact with them.

English Rakugo Trial Session - Enjoy the Traditional Japanese Storytelling Art "Rakugo" in English! (5/20)

In February of this year, we received a proposal to hold an English Rakugo experience event sponsored by KIRA. Usually, an English Rakugo event consists of only a few Rakugo storytellers, but in the case of the KIRA-sponsored event, there may be many foreign residents who are hearing Rakugo for the first time, or whose native language is not English. The KIRA staff and the English Rakugo Association, to which I belong, agonized over what kind of content to include, and we decided to include a workshop. We also prepared a lot of materials. Our worries were unnecessary, and on the day of the event, 47 people attended, including international students. At the workshop, the participants were thrilled to have the experience of going up on the stage and telling a short story in English, but they seemed to enjoy it. The five performers were relieved that the participants responded so well to this part of the workshop, English Rakugo. The English version of Nankin Tamasudare brought a lot of excitement to the finale. The performance was well received by participants according to the questionnaire. We hope that this event has triggered greater interest in Rakugo and Japanese culture.



Storytellers

Cross-cultural TeaTime "Sweden, my country, told by a fourth-generation Swede living in Japan" (6/3)

Marianne Wilson Kuroda, who has multiple roots in Sweden, Japan, and the United States, gave a lecture on Sweden, which has the largest land area in Northern Europe.

The Swedish flag is a favorite of many Swedes.

Blue represents the beautiful sky, water, and lakes, and yellow represents the earth. It is a beautiful country where people recognize that nature is something everyone can share. Sweden has a strong image of being part of the Scandinavian Peninsula, but the number of islands is more than 220,000, the largest in the world!



In Sweden, the free way of living is respected. Swedes value gender equality, working, public welfare and enjoying life. He told us interesting stories about their lifestyle, such as cooking without fire in the kitchen for dinner since both men and women have jobs, enjoying a coffee time called fika, and becoming the world's number one annual coffee consumer a few years ago. Sweden also has a well-developed social security system, but at the same time, they have to pay high taxes. It was a homey lecture with occasional cheers and laughter.



Marianne and the venue

Online International Exchange Salon

"Living Together #1: What Foreigners Around You Are Having Trouble With" (5/25)

"Living Together #2: About the Human Rights of Foreigners" (6/15)

In the Online International Exchange Salon held in May and June, we heard from Mr. Hatsuo Sugishita, a specified administrative scrivener, who is in charge of free legal advice and administrative procedure consultations for foreign residents at the Kashiwa Cross-cultural Center, and Mr. Shinya Tsuji, an attorney. They spoke about the actual situation in Japan at and various problems foreign residents in Japan are facing.

Their stories, based on the experiences of lecturers who regularly provide consultations for foreigners, explain a wide variety of laws related to the rights and restrictions of foreigners living in Japan. The problems with the recently enacted Revised Immigration Control Act were interesting.

The first step toward living with foreign people begins with understanding the kinds of trouble they experience in their daily lives.



The Exchange Visit to Camden Marked a Turning Point in My Life

Momoka Tachizawa(2017 Student Delegate to Camden)

Please tell us why you applied for the delegation?

— I became more and more fascinated with new, unknown things as I learned English. I wanted to be exposed to and experience foreign cultures. I told my mother about it, and that is where it started.

Please share your impressions of your time at Camden, anything that surprised you, impressed you, or troubled you.

— I had the opportunity to spend several days at the school during my stay, and what surprised me was that there was a recess for snacking in the morning, called Morning Tea Time. Before I left for school in the morning, my host mother asked me what my favorite fruits and sweets were, and I took the snack she prepared for me. After a few classes, I had Morning Tea Time with some friends I made at school and my host sister. It was very new to me, because, we normally do not have time to snack at school in Japan. I found it refreshing to have a snack break in the morning because students tend to lose their concentration as classes continue.

How has the experience of your visit to Camden affected your life?

— In terms of timing, I was originally planning to apply in my second year of junior high school, but I actually visited Camden when I was a third year student in the midst of studying for high school entrance exams. It was my first experience in a foreign country and I had to communicate with people without using my native language. The experience became a major turning point in my life. It inspired my curiosity and desire to try a similar experience in a language other than English. It motivated me to improve my language skills and share a variety of topics.

Please tell us about your life overseas.

— I started living in Korea two years ago in February 2021. I lived in a dormitory in Incheon for the first year, and now I am living alone in Seoul studying at a university as a full-time student. I am majoring in media relations at school, where the classes are conducted in either Korean or English. I am learning how designs and arts play a role in the media, while actually shooting (and editing) videos and practicing making graphic posters. Korea and Japan may seem similar because they are neighboring countries. However, I have realized they look similar but are actually quite different in terms of food culture, customs in daily life, and especially, the ways of thinking, in which I did not notice the differences by simply doing research on the Internet. To those differences and unknown things, I am adapting myself little by little without being afraid or reserved. This is a worthwhile challenge in my study abroad experience. In addition, the department I belong to is made up of Korean nationals returning from abroad and foreigners, so the school is a place where ideas and cultures come together from many different countries. Also, I often discover something new outside of school. I am leading an exciting life.

What do you expect of prospective student delegates?

— Of course it is important in your homestay that you spend valuable time with your family, but also, I personally feel it is important to be cooperative with and considerate to your fellow delegates because you are not going there alone. Furthermore, I think it is important not to be afraid of new, unknown things. That is also true for myself, and I have regretted it a little. It is a challenge, and it takes courage to communicate in a language other than Japanese and to experience things you never experienced in Japan. You may be afraid of making mistakes, but it is a precious opportunity given to you. By taking the first step without hesitation, I believe that you will be able to learn a lot about things you have never known before.



Finally made it to campus after the Covid-19 pandemic (Ms. Tachizawa is on the left)



Cheonggye-cheon, a famous tourist spot in Seoul

July Events

Japanese Shonan Classes (Summer vacation: Friday 7/14 – Saturday 9/2)		
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(2 classes)
Sun	10:00 a.m. -12:00 p.m.	<i>Minna no Nihongo</i> , Primary I
Japanese Kashiwa • Kashiwanoha Classes (Summer vacation: Tuesday 7/18 – Thursday 8/31)		
Online Classes		
Tue	7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.	<i>Minna no Nihongo</i> , Primary I (Unit 20 -)
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 34 -)
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 (Unit 31 -)
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.	hiragana/katakana
Tue	10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.	<i>Beginners</i>
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 7 -)
Sat	10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.	<i>Minna no Nihongo</i> , Primary I (Unit 22-)
In-person Classes (Kashiwanoha Service Corner)		
Thu	10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.	Conversation Elementary, Introductory and 1
Thu	10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.	Conversation Elementary 2

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, July 26, 1:00 p.m.- 5:00 p.m.

Place: Palette Kashiwa Room A

Reservation: the KCC office

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