



# KCC Newsletter

## August, 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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### Announcement

#### Please Help Us Sort Out Used Stamps and Miswritten Postcards!

Date & Time: Monday, August 7, 1:00 p.m. Place: Exchange Space in front of the KCC office

#### Online International Exchange Salon Happiness From the Sea #2: Protecting the Sea From Marine Pollution

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

Fee: Free

Lecturer: Mr. Shogo Saeki (Dive Master)

Number of applicants: First 30

Application: Sign up at the KCC office from Tuesday, August 1, or by email to <boshu-1@kira-kira.jp>.

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



#### Disaster Prevention Study Session: Supporting Foreign Residents

You never know when a disaster will occur!

- Do you know where to evacuate?
- Are you prepared with emergency supplies?

Learn how to prepare for and cope with disaster from the Kashiwa City Disaster Prevention and Safety Division staff.

Date & Time: Saturday, September 2, 1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Place: Palette Kashiwa Open Space

Fee: Free. Please come to the venue directly.



#### Stage Performers Wanted for International Exchange Festa!

Why not join us and show your special talents at Kashiwa de International Exchange Festa 2023?

Date : Sunday, October 15, 10:30 a.m. - around 3:00 p.m.

Place : Howdy Mall at the east exit of Kashiwa Station

Content : Dance, songs, entertainment, performances, etc. from overseas and Japan (any number of people in one group, about 20 minutes for each group).

Application: Sign up at the KCC office from August 1 (Tue) through 10 (Thu), or by email to <boshu-1@kira-kira.jp>. If there are many applications, we will inform you of the selection result.



#### Project Staff Wanted for "the 8th Japanese Speech Contest by Foreign Residents in Kashiwa"

Event Date: Sunday, February 11, 2024

Place: Palette Kashiwa

Contents: Planning and organizing a contest for foreigners living, attending schools, or working in the Tokatsu area.

Inquiries: The KCC office

#### Upcoming Events (August - )

8/7~8/25 Kashiwa Youth Delegation Visit to Torrance

9/24 Barbecue

9/30 Cross-cultural Teatime: Going Around the World

10/15 Kashiwa de International Exchange Festa

## Kashiwa International Exchange Week 2023

Foreign residents and international students in Kashiwa interacted with citizens over snacks from around the world. The event was held in cooperation with organizations in the city such as Girl Scouts Chiba Troop 17, Kashiwa City Tourism Association, ITC-J Tokatsu, Yosakoi Team Senjin, Reitaku University, and Kaichi International University.

### Monday, July 3

The first day was a social event with people from Ukraine and Sri Lanka. The participants were especially interested in talking about food. It was interesting to learn that miso and soy sauce are very popular seasonings in Ukraine, and that Sri Lankans are accustomed to eating spicy food since childhood. The conversation was held in both Japanese and English, and the participants were very friendly, using easy-to-understand language.

### Tuesday, July 4

We heard that a Japanese language class participant from the Congo, a country with which we are not familiar, would be attending the event. So, along with a person who wanted to speak French, we were ready to have a conversation in French using a phone translation app and PocketTalk. Unfortunately, the Congolese person was absent on the day. Instead, we started English conversations with two people, one from the Philippines and the other from the United States. We had interesting discussions, such as what kind of souvenirs from Japan they would like to get. We also sang an English song accompanied by one of the participants, who brought a musical instrument called a "guitalele."

### Wednesday, July 5

While enjoying delicious snacks such as Mexican empanadas and Brazilian churrasco sausage, we heard about the exciting tourist attractions of Cancun, Mexico, and the Christ the Redeemer statue on Corcovado mountain in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. We also heard that Mexico City was severely damaged by the 1985 Mexico Earthquake. In Brazil, they do not have earthquakes, so they were really scared at the time of the Great East Japan Earthquake in 2011. Because of this, we felt the need to conduct disaster drills with foreign residents to prepare for disasters.

### Thursday, July 6

People from Indonesia, Thailand, Taiwan, and the Philippines spoke about their countries. One of the most asked questions from the participants was about the languages in the Philippines. At school, English textbooks are used and classes are held in English. Tagalog is studied as a class subject. As for Taiwan, the participants asked about Chinese characters in Taiwan and how they differ from those in mainland China.

### Friday, July 7

We had a Chinese guest. As it was the day of Tanabata, we asked about the difference between Tanabata in China and Japan. We learned that Tanabata falls on August 21 in China because of the lunar calendar, and that it is a day like Valentine's Day rather than a day to make one's wishes. While eating Chinese snacks, we had friendly Q&A exchanges. Some questions were about senior people's jobs, China's My Number Card, the popularization of electric cars, etc.

### Saturday, July 8

The social event with International Students started with a Chinese student who had participated in a Japanese speech contest. A German student made a presentation about Germany with his friend as an interpreter, showing pictures on a PowerPoint presentation. Two students presented information about Indonesia, and the last Vietnamese student used background music for their presentation, which was very amusing. The audience asked various questions and had an enjoyable exchange with the international students.

### Sunday, July 9

The final day started with a Yosakoi dance performance by Yosakoi Team Senjin, followed by a craft experience by Girl Scouts Chiba Troop 17, in which participants made cute black cats out of toilet paper cores. After that, the presentations by Kaichi International University students from Myanmar and China made us want to visit their countries. At the final presentation by Reitaku University students, we were impressed with their ongoing support for children in Cambodia.

### Sunday, July 9, Online Event

The final event of the International Exchange Week was the Online Refugee Workshop. First, the participants learned basic information about refugee issues, which we often hear about in connection with the recent revision of the Immigration Control Act. Then, we discussed in groups "What would be the biggest problem for you if you became a refugee?" and "What kind of support do you need to solve it?" After that, based on the discussion, we learned from the lecturer about the settlement support systems and what support is available.



Getting to know Indonesia, Thailand, the Philippines, and Taiwan.



Yosakoi dance



## Life-changing Experience as a Delegate to Torrance

Ms. Yukiko Hirai; an Exchange Student to Torrance in 1981

### What was the reason for applying for the delegate program?

-I considered it a great opportunity to work overseas in the future, and because I had experience as a host family at home, I became interested in foreign cultures.

### Please tell us about your impressions in Torrance; what surprised you, impressed you, or troubled you.

-I could feel the presence of Japanese Americans and immigrants close to me, and I was able to directly hear their stories. I was also inspired with profound respect and emotions, knowing that many predecessors had challenged themselves abroad.

The way the host parents engaged in conversations, treating each other as equal partners, was very impressive. It was rare in Japan at the time to see the couples communicating with each other like this, even about trivial matters, and it was very refreshing compared to the norms in Japan.



Ms. Yukiko Hirai

### How do you think the delegate program has affected your life after that?

-The host parents shared stories about losing their son in the Vietnam War and their own ways of living until late at night. It allowed me to see different aspects of America that I had previously admired simply as the land of dreams, and it became the foundation for my subsequent choices in studying abroad and career.

### Please tell us about your overseas experience.

-I studied abroad during my student days and later worked for a publishing company related to studying abroad. I had many opportunities for overseas business trips from my twenties. At that time, it was rare for a woman to be entrusted with overseas business trips, and I had many opportunities to attend international conferences on education in the United States and Canada, where I learned about entrepreneurship and many new concepts. Afterward, I worked for a foreign education company. After becoming the president of the Japan branch, I visited various Asian countries, learning about online education, distance education, and education systems using technology, which are still relevant to my current work. Subsequently, in 2000, I set up a company specializing in early entrepreneurship education and expanded its services to Middle Eastern countries and South Korea. In addition, I studied at graduate school, and obtained a doctorate degree in Japan's first early entrepreneurship education program in 2011, which served as a basis for validating the effectiveness of my company's educational programs and further triggered our expansion into overseas markets.

In 2016, we established a subsidiary in Vietnam and have been running kindergartens and educational facilities. As Vietnam is a socialist country, everything from business concepts, and contractual concepts, to parental values is different from Japan. Through such differences, we discovered that there is a significant demand for "Japanese education methods". During the COVID-19 pandemic, with just a single notice, both the kindergartens and educational facilities were subject to lockdown, with no government guarantees or support. We are grateful to our Vietnamese staff who worked so hard to overcome the situation where more than 100 local kindergartens closed. This year, we are finally on the road to recovery, and currently have 250 children attending the kindergartens, with thousands of children visiting the educational facilities each month with their parents. In the future, I hope to export "Japanese education methods" to many more countries, starting with Vietnam. The foundation of such a mindset is rooted in my experience in Torrance. I would like to express my gratitude once again for having had such an opportunity.



A Kindergarten in Vietnam

### What do you hope for students who will be chosen as delegates or are considering applying?

-I hope they won't fear failure and will challenge themselves in everything they do. Experiencing not only different languages but also diverse values will enrich their lives significantly, so I encourage them to give their best effort.



# August Events

Japanese Shonan Classes (Summer vacation: Monday 7/17-Surterday 9/2)		
Online Classes (2nd term)		
Sat	7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.	Minna no Nihongo , Primary II
Sun	10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.	Minna no Nihongo , Primary I and Intermediate II
In-person Classes (2nd term) (Shonan Community Center)		
Thu	10:00 a.m. -12:00 p.m.	Minna no Nihongo , Primary I(2 classes)
Sun	10:00 a.m. -12:00 p.m.	Minna no Nihongo , Primary I
Japanese Kashiwa- Kashiwanoha Classes (Summer vacation: Tuesday 7/18-Thursday 8/31)		
Online Classes (2nd term)		
Tue	7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.	Minna no Nihongo , Primary I (Unit 8 - )
Wed	10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.	Conversation Elementary 2B (Level 2)
Wed	7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.	Minna no Nihongo , Primary II (Unit 37 - )
Thu	1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.	Conversation Elementary 2A (Level 2)
Fri	7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.	Minna no Nihongo ,Primary II (Unit 35 - )
Sat	9:30 a.m. - 11:20 a.m.	Conversation Intermediate
In-person Classes (2nd term) (Palette Kashiwa)		
Tue	10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.	hiragana/katakana
Tue	10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.	Beginners
Tue	10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.	Minna no Nihongo , Primary I (Unit 14 - )
Sat	10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.	Minna no Nihongo , Primary I (Unit 10 - )
Sat	10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.	Minna no Nihongo , Primary I (Unit 28- )
In-person Classes (2nd term) (Kashiwanoha Service Center)		
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, August 23, 1:00 p.m.- 5:00 p.m.

Place: Palette Kashiwa Room A

Reservation: the KCC office

## 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)



## 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