



KCC Newsletter

November, 2024

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>



Vol. 103

Announcement

Let's Think About SDGs! Tour of Kashiwa Planet and Kashiwa-no-ha Smart City

D November 15th (Friday) 10:30 a.m.–3:00 p.m. Meeting and Dismissal: TX Kashiwa-no-ha Campus Station
F 100 yen (including insurance), lunch cost at own expense
 Capacity: 10 participants (foreign residents and Japanese living in or near the city)
A From November 1st, directly at the KCC office or via email (boshu-1@kira-kira.jp)
 Details:
 • Morning: Visit Kashiwa Planet to observe plastic waste sorting
 • Lunch: Return to Kashiwa-no-ha Campus for lunch and interaction
 • Afternoon: Tour Kashiwa-no-ha Smart City, a town designed with environmental considerations
 Think about SDGs familiarly through this tour!
 Note: Please bring a mask. For more details, check the website.



Online International Exchange Salon

Easy-to-understand Japanese in Times of Disasters

What Japanese phrases are hard for foreigners to understand during disasters?
 Many Japanese phrases, considered clear by Japanese people, can be difficult to understand for foreigners during disasters.

D November 21st (Thursday) 8:00 p.m.–9:00 p.m. **L** Ms. Chie Uchida, Japanese Language Instructor
 How to Participate: Zoom **F** Free
A By November 20th (Wednesday), directly at the KCC office or via email (boshu-1@kira-kira.jp).



Stamp Sorting Committee

For International Support, we collect used stamps and miswritten postcards to send to Vaccines for the Children in the World and Green Earth Defense Fund. Please help us sort the collected used stamps.

D November 25th (Monday) 1:00 p.m. **P** Palette Kashiwa A

Introducing Japanese history and the Japanese culture of enjoying autumn leaves, as well as international exchange

Let's visit "Tojyo-tei," a historical site related to the former Tokugawa family, with a guide. We will also enjoy the history museum and the beautiful autumn foliage in its garden. **D** November 29th (Friday) 9:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m. (tentative)

P Tojyo-tei, Matsudo City Meeting Point: Palette Kashiwa entrance at 9:00 a.m. (please be on time)

Transportation: Travel to Tojyo-tei by Kashiwa City bus

Capacity: 15 participants (foreign residents and Japanese living in or near the city)

F 100 yen (entrance fee at your own expense)

A From November 1st (Friday) at 9:00 a.m., directly at the KCC office or via email (boshu-1@kira-kira.jp)



"Tips for Fun Volunteering" by Mr. Gen Kuwayama

D November 30th (Saturday) 2:00 p.m.–3:30 p.m. **P** Palette Kashiwa Open Space
C Lecture by a former comedian on "easy-to-understand" and "fun" volunteering **F** Free
 Capacity: 50 participants (first-come, first-served)
A Directly at the KCC office or via email (boshu-1@kira-kira.jp)



Information from Other Organizations: Foreign Language Salon

1. Indonesian
 • November 2nd (Saturday) 10:00 a.m.–11:00 a.m.
 17th

Palette Kashiwa MTR-D

• December 14th (Saturday) 10:00 a.m.–11:00 a.m.

Palette Kashiwa MTR-B

Eligibility: Residents, workers, or students in Kashiwa City

A Email to gaikokugo@kira-kira.jp with "Foreign Language Salon Registration" in the subject line, including your name and

2. French

• November 19th (Tuesday) and December

(Tuesday) 10:00 a.m.–11:00 a.m.

Palette Kashiwa MTR-D

F Free



<Request> When applying via email, please be sure to include the event name, your name, and phone number.

D Date & Time **P** Place **F** Fee **N** Number of applicants **L** Lecturer **C** Contents **A** Application **R** Reservation.

Kashiwa de International Exchange Festa 2024 "See and Taste the World, and Enjoy Dance!" (10/14)

We held this event under the clear autumn sky at the pedestrian precinct at Howdy Mall, near the East Exit of Kashiwa Station. Many citizens stopped by and enjoyed the performances, some even joined the dances. At various tents, we introduced exchanges with Sister and Friendship Cities of Kashiwa, showcased the activities of different committees, and sold foreign goods. Food trucks and food booths from many countries were also lined up, allowing visitors to taste the world.



Tents lined up at the Howdy Mall



Chamorro Dance of Guam

Cross-cultural Teatime**"Let's Learn About the Culturally Diverse Country, Mexico" (9/21)**

Maria Torillo, a cultural officer from the Mexican Embassy in Japan, gave a lecture in English. She was accompanied by Sarai Galbono, an assistant in the cultural department, who served as an interpreter. Both appeared in traditional Mexican attire.

Mexico's land area is about five times that of Japan, and nearly half of its population is under 30. The main language is Spanish, and one in four Spanish speakers worldwide is Mexican. Mexico is the 15th largest economy in the world, and Japan is its 6th largest trading partner. Besides governmental technical and cultural exchanges, Mexico has sister city exchanges with 12 Japanese cities. The country is rich in ancient civilizations like Olmec, Maya, Teotihuacan, Zapotec, and Aztec. We were surprised to learn familiar foods such as tomatoes, corn, avocados, and cacao originated in Mexico. Due to the influence of Japanese anime, more and more young people in Mexico are becoming interested in Japanese culture and learning the Japanese language. Lively questions from the audience showed the high level of interest in Mexico.



Ms. Maria, the instructor (right), and Ms. Sarai, the Interpreter (left)

World BBQ Party (9/29)

At Nagareyama Mizushiro Orchard, 75 participants enjoyed a BBQ. Foreigners from China, Taiwan, the Philippines, and Brazil prepared for seasoning meat the day before, which made the meat delicious. They also enjoyed handmade sweets from Mexico, and Indonesia and Japanese yakisoba (stir-fried noodles).

Participants from the USA and Sri Lanka also joined and enjoyed a delightful international exchange. After enjoying the food, everyone was excited with sack races and bingo. The prizes brought by the staff were a big hit during bingo.



A lot of people participated

Online International Exchange Salon**"Let's Try Convenient Hybrid Meetings" (9/19)**

Since the COVID-19 pandemic, hybrid meetings have rapidly gained popularity and are now taking root as a way of meeting. In this session, we invited Takahiro Kageyama as a lecturer to learn convenient methods to participate both in venues and online. We learned tips such as having an icebreaker at the beginning to help participants get to know each other, having speakers introduce themselves before talking and appointing someone at the venue to monitor online participants. There was also an introduction to equipment like omnidirectional microphones and wide-angle web cameras to facilitate smoother meetings. Hybrid meetings are advanced methods, but many participants commented that they would like to take the opportunity to try it out.

Japanese Language Volunteer Training Course (5/11–9/21)

To increase the number of volunteers teaching Japanese to foreigners, we held a 20-session training course. Over 50 people applied, and 16 participants were selected by lottery to start the course. Completion certificates were awarded to those with over 80% attendance. The participants were enthusiastic, and 15 people completed the course, except for one person who was absent due to injury, and started activities in Kashiwa, Kashiwa-no-ha, and Shonan classes. We hope they will continue their volunteer activities in each class for a long time.



Starting from Torrance, and Making My Way to International Meteorological Services Yuri Masuda, 2013 Kashiwa Student Delegate

Reason for applying to the program - I happened to find an article in a Kashiwa City bulletin about the application to the Sister City Exchange Program with Torrance, and that was the beginning of my journey. I felt that the trip would be a valuable experience for cross-cultural exchange and broaden my international perspective, so I wanted to try it out. I also started living in Kashiwa city upon entering university at that time, so I thought it would be a good opportunity to get to know people outside of school as well.

My experiences in Torrance - I first went abroad when I was in high school on a short-term exchange program with a sister school in the United States. The trip to Torrance was my second overseas experience and it gave me an opportunity for a longer and deeper cultural exchange as a representative of Kashiwa city. In particular, I had an opportunity to visit the Torrance City Council and felt that I had developed a sense of responsibility as a representative of Kashiwa city. Thanks to the attentive support I received from my host families and the members of the Torrance Sister City Association, I had fulfilling days without any difficulties there. What was particularly impressive about this program was the longstanding friendship that Kashiwa and Torrance had built over the years. While in Torrance, I felt the strong bonds that the citizens of both cities had built and once again realized the importance of the sister-city relationship.



Ms. Yuri Masuda

How has the exchange experience influenced me - From time to time, I feel that I am glad I applied for the exchange program and had so many experiences. The trip had a great impact on my life, giving me the opportunity to build good personal relationships in Kashiwa. Even now, 10 years after the trip, our friendships have continued, such as reuniting for lunch when our workplaces became closer. Also, as I will mention below, I think the Torrance experience has influenced my involvement in international relations work.

About my current job - I was a student at the Meteorological College when I went to Torrance and have been working for the Japan Meteorological Agency since graduation. So far, I have worked on meteorological observations as well as on seismic and oceanographic matters. Currently, I am engaged in international work, especially on climate change-related international cooperation. Climate change is a critical issue with cross-border effects, and it requires international cooperation. I am mainly responsible for national and international coordination work on the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), organizations that seek international cooperation and promotion of weather and climate issues. The photo was taken on a business trip to Geneva, Switzerland in May 2023.

What I hope for future delegates - I myself need to grow every day, but if I could say one thing, it would be "the importance of taking on challenges." I believe that taking a first step without fear of failure will open up a new world for you. I encourage you to try things that interest you.

Exchange Programs with
Sister & Friendship Cities of Kashiwa

2024 Torrance-Chengde Joint Youth Report Meeting (10/6)

The Guam Committee reported that they are not sending exchange students currently but are searching for ways to resume their activities. The Camden Committee reported that they are sending youth over the age of 18 next March and have begun accepting applications. Afterwards, this year's student delegates to Chengde and Torrance gave their reports, each sharing their experiences of different cultures and how they grew through interactions with many people. The second half of the event was a panel discussion between Yasunori Someya, Deputy Mayor of Kashiwa City, and the student delegates. The deputy mayor responded in detail to such insightful questions as "What is the city's policy toward foreigners?" and "How does the city communicate information to young people?"



Panel discussion

November Events

Japanese Shonan Classes		
Online Classes		
Sun	7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.	<i>Minna no Nihongo</i> , Primary II (Unit 47~)
Sun	10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.	<i>Minna no Nihongo</i> , Primary I (Unit 26~) and Intermediate (Unit 4~)
In-person Classes (Shonan Community Center)		
Thu	10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	<i>Minna no Nihongo</i> , Primary I (Unit 16~) and Primary I (Unit 20~)
Sun	10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	<i>Minna no Nihongo</i> , Primary I (Unit 2~)(Unit 13)(Unit 20~)
Japanese Kashiwa/Kashiwanoha Classes		
Online Classes		
Tue	7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.	<i>Minna no Nihongo</i> , Primary I (Unit 25 -)
Wed	10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.	Conversation Elementary (Level 2)
Wed	7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.	<i>Minna no Nihongo</i> , Primary II (Unit 45 -)
Thu	1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.	Conversation Elementary (Level 2)
Fri	7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.	<i>Minna no Nihongo</i> , Primary II (Unit 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 (Unit 2 - 5)
Tue	10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.	Beginners, <i>Minna no Nihongo</i> , Primary 1 (Unit 12~)
Tue	10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.	<i>Minna no Nihongo</i> , Primary I (Unit 17 -)
Sat	10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.	<i>Minna no Nihongo</i> , Primary I (Unit 9 -)
Sat	10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.	<i>Minna no Nihongo</i> , Primary II (Unit 46 -)
In-person Classes (Kashiwanoha Service Corner)		
Thu	10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.	Conversation Elementary Former • Latter
Thu	1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.	Hiragana, Katakana
Sat	10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.	Intermediate

Free Legal Advice and Administrative Procedure Support for Foreign Residents

To Foreign Residents,

Are you facing any difficulties? Lawyers and administrative scriveners are here to assist you. You can consult about issues such as domestic violence, divorce, visas, or workplace troubles. Please make a reservation.

D Wednesday, November 27th, 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

P Palette Kashiwa A

R 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