

KCC Newsletter

April, 2025

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Announcement

Exchange Programs with
Sister & Friendship Cities of Kashiwa

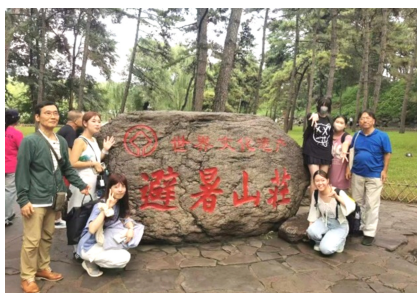
Seeking Youths for the 16th Chengde City Visit

D Thursday, August 21 – Tuesday, August 26 (6 days)

N 8 (Residents or students living or studying in Kashiwa city and born between April 2, 2003 and April 1, 2010)

F Approximately 150,000 yen

A Attend the briefing session on the dispatch. Submit the application form in person to the KCC office between Monday, June 2 and Saturday, March 28. Application forms will be distributed at the briefing session on Sunday, June 1. *Please see our website for more details.



The 15th Kashiwa student delegation at Mountain Summer Resort in Chengde



Welcome reception in Chengde

Exchange Programs with
Sister & Friendship Cities of Kashiwa

Briefing Session for the 16th Kashiwa Youth Delegation to Chengde City

D Sunday, June 1, 12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. (reception from 11:30 p.m.) **P** Palette Kashiwa MTR-D

C Briefing on the 16th dispatch (application conditions, procedures, period, etc.)

*Application forms will be distributed at the meeting, and intending applicants must attend. Those who are interested in the program are also welcome.

Exchange Programs with
Sister & Friendship Cities of Kashiwa

Host Families Wanted for Torrance Youth Delegates

D First half = Wednesday, July 9 - Saturday, July 19; Second half = Sunday, July 20 – Tuesday, July 29
Conditions: 18 families that meet the following conditions:

- ▶ Can provide transportation to and from designated locations in the city (mainly City Hall).
- ▶ Can bear the cost of receiving the youth delegates.

A Monday, March 24 – Saturday, May 17 Apply through the QR code on the KCC's website.

Online International Exchange Salon

"How to Improve Your Activities" - Learn Tips on Feedback that Leads to the Next Step

D Thursday, April 17, 8:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Participation method: Online (Zoom)

L Ms. Yukari Saiki

F Free, first 30 people

A Please fill out the form with the required information below and sign up at the KCC office or email at <boshu-1@kira-kira.jp> by Tuesday, April 16. Applicants will be sent a URL to join on the day of the event.



Upcoming events (May -)

Participation in Kashiwanoha Marché Koror (5/17),

Tea ceremony experience (5/21),

Cross-cultural Teatime "Croatia" (6/7),

Hawaiian cuisine (5/25),

Bus tour (6/21)

<Request> Make sure to include the event name, your name and phone number when you apply by email.

Personal information obtained by the Association will be handled strictly in accordance with the "Act on the Protection of Personal Information." (KCC)

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

The 9th Japanese Speech Contest in Kashiwa by Foreign Residents (2/16)

The 9th Japanese Speech Contest was held at Palette Kashiwa in the still-chilly weather. The purpose of the contest is to promote mutual understanding by listening to the daily thoughts of foreigners living and studying in the Tokatsu area and to help them improve their Japanese.

The first contest was held in March, 2017. Sumo Yokozuna Hoshoryu also participated in the event when he was a student at Nittaidai Kashiwa High School.

This year's presenters were 14 people from 8 countries. The audience was 110 people in the venue and 50 online viewers. The audience is increasing every year. The contest was moderated by Ms. Irushi Chamathka from Sri Lanka, who won the Kashiwa Mayor's Award in the 8th contest.



Contestants

During the "hotto hitoiki (breather) time," which took advantage of the break for judges to make their decisions, the karuta club members of Higashi Katsushika Prefectural High School introduced "Hyakunin Isshu (anthology of 100 poems by 100 different poets) ," which is a traditional Japanese card game. The presenters experienced a traditional "Bozu-mekuri" game with the cards. They enjoyed an hour-long social gathering with the audience after the contest.

Please see the table below for the contestants, their countries and titles.

Presenter	Country	Title
Hsu zin zin Soe (Mayor's Award and Audience Award)	Myanmar	My First Time in Japan
Phyu Sin Phwe (KIRA President's Award)	Myanmar	I Am Now More Confident.
Chris Pigao (Humor Award)	U.S,A	Listen to the Pronunciation.
Le Hong Anh (Good Idea Award)	Viet Nam	The Taste of Solitude
Nguyen Thi Thuy Trang	Viet Nam	A Kind and Friendly Voice Asking, "Are You All right?"
Do Thanh Thuy	Viet Nam	What Surprised Me in Japan
Liu Siyu	China	About Schools in Japan
Choi Moonhee	Korea	Search for the Same
Zayar Thet Tun	Myanmar	New Experiences and Challenges in Japan
Sharma Poudyal Jyoti	Nepal	From "Getting Help" to "Helping"
Yaddehi Dinuja Dinekshi De Silva	Sri Lanka	Japanese Vending Machines
Hernandez John Gian Montallana	The Philippines	What I Felt After Coming to Japan
Han Yuhang	China	Sharing With You Some of My Thought in My Life in Japan
Nguyen Thu Ha	Viet Nam	"Let's Go Together" - Lucky Thing

We will prepare a collection of presentation manuscripts and place them on the KCC office rack by the end of March. The scripts will also be posted on our website.

Online International Exchange Salon

" Make Your Life Happy With Good Manners and Morals" (2/20)

Mr. Wako Tsuchiya, who used to be active in KIRA's Cross-cultural Teatime Committee, was invited as a lecturer and talked about how good manners make our life happier. First, he explained the differences between manners, etiquette, and morals, and introduced the book "Good Manners for a Good Life!" Next, we divided into breakout rooms and discussed what surprised or troubled us about the differences in common sense and rules in foreign countries. For example, different traffic rules and manners such as not having the custom of waiting one's turn when boarding a vehicle. The important point is that each of us should understand the differences between countries. He also said that in an international society, it is essential to have good manners, and that etiquette and manners are a kind of educational culture and should be taught to children by their parents from an early age. Compassion and sympathy are the ability to imagine what the other person is going through. We should keep our hearts and minds open, not closed, and look outwards.

Study Presentation by Shonan Japanese Language Class (3/2)

A study presentation was held by the students of Shonan Japanese Language Class at the Shonan Community Center. Twenty-four people, including family members, attended. A collection of essays written by the students was made and distributed to the participants. Each student gave a presentation in front of the audience. All of them were nervous but able to answer questions well. Even those who had not finished their essays in time were able to present their essays on the spot. At the gathering afterwards, not only the staff and students in face-to-face classes but also those taking classes on different days or online participated. It was a great opportunity for people who normally do not see each other to get to know one another. Since the event was held for the first time in six years due to the COVID-19 pandemic, many of the staff members were also new too, and were impressed with the event.



Study presentation



Guam Through the Eyes of a Junior High School Student

2013 Guam Exchange Student, Ms. Kanon Hori

Why did you apply for the Guam exchange program?

I wanted to experience a homestay in an English-speaking country and use the English I had just started learning in junior high school.

Was Guam your first experience abroad?

I had been to Guam with my family when I was very young, but I don't remember it. Guam was the first foreign country I went to since I can remember.

Tell us about anything that surprised, troubled, or impressed you in Guam.

The sunlight in Guam was strong, but it was dry and comfortable without humidity. When I went to the city after arriving at the airport, I was amazed by the simplest things — "Cars are driving on the right side!" "The signs are in English!" "I'm really in a foreign country!" At that time, large indoor amusement parks were still rare in Japan, so I was surprised to see one in Guam with a roller coaster and a Viking ship ride. For breakfast at my homestay, I was shocked to find that it was mostly sweet treats like macarons, waffles, and pancakes. In Guam, family members don't take baths together, so I had to be mindful not to use the toilet while someone was in the bathroom. There was a trampoline in the large backyard, and one night while I was playing on it, a neighbor bought me a McDonald's hamburger. One of my host family's friends even took us on a jungle adventure in his big truck, which became a fun and unforgettable memory. At the school in Guam, I was surprised that students were allowed to eat and drink things like cupcakes, juice, and sandwiches during class. In a cafeteria, adults served the food, and students didn't have to clean up. I attended a sixth-grade math class and found they were learning fractions, which Japanese students typically learn in fourth grade. I realized that Japan was ahead in math. On the other hand, the students in Guam were very talented in art, with a great sense of color and design. I also learned about Guam's history at a church. Since it was March of my first year in junior high school, my English was limited to "Hello," and I didn't even know how to say, "I want to do ~." I couldn't be without my electronic dictionary. Even though I could somewhat understand what others were saying, I could hardly speak. I had taken gifts like kendama and origami, but I struggled to explain how to fold origami in English. Despite my limited communication skills, my host family treated me like a member of their family, and rather than taking me to tourist spots, they let me experience daily life in Guam. When it was time to return home, I felt very sad to leave.

However, the child from my host family came to Kashiwa in April of that year and stayed at my house, and we could reunite.

Do you think your experience in Guam has influenced your life?

Yes. applying for the program was a challenge for me, and that experience gave me confidence and made me more proactive. I even became the student council president in junior high school. During my university years, I wanted to travel and study abroad, but I couldn't because of the COVID-19 pandemic. I cannot forget the cross-cultural experience in Guam, and now that I am working,

I use my vacations to visit Asian countries, such as South Korea and Taiwan.



At Fushimi Inari Taisha

You work at Kashiwa City Hall now. Why did you choose to become a public servant?

Since I had lived in Kashiwa since I was three years old, I wanted to do a job that would benefit the local community. Currently, I work in the Disaster Prevention and Safety Division, where I interact with many residents. I feel that the experience of communicating in Guam while struggling with the language is now useful in my work.

Is there anything you wish for your juniors?

I want them to go abroad. Going abroad gives them an experience that changes their sense of value and helps them see things from different angles. Junior high school English is enough to communicate. I hope they study hard.

(Interview by Noriko Fujita)

April Events

Japanese Shonan Classes		
Online Classes		
Sun	10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.	<i>Minna no Nihongo, Primary II; Chukyu kara Manabu Nihongo</i>
Sun	7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.	<i>Minna no Nihongo, Primary II</i>
In-person Classes (Thu: Shonan Shakai Fukushima Center, Sun: Palette Kashiwa)		
Thu	10:00 a.m. - noon	<i>Minna no Nihongo, Primary I(2 classes) Primary II</i>
Sun	10:00 a.m. - noon	<i>Minna no Nihongo, Primary I(3 classes)</i>
Japanese Kashiwa/Kashiwanoha Classes		
Online Classes		
Tue	7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.	<i>Minna no Nihongo Primary II (Unit 34-)</i>
Wed	7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.	<i>Minna no Nihongo Primary 1 (Unit 4-)</i>
Thu	1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.	Conversation Elementary
Fri	7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.	<i>Minna no Nihongo Primary II (Unit 31-)</i>
In-person Classes (Palette Kashiwa)		
Tue	10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.	Hiragana, Katakana; <i>Minna no Nihongo Primary 1 (Unit 10-/Unit 20-), Minna no Nihongo Primary II (Unit 30-)</i>
Wed	10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.	Conversation Elementary & Intermediate
Fri	7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.	<i>Minna no Nihongo Primary 1 (Unit 4-)</i>
Sat	10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.	Hiragana, Katakana; <i>Minna no Nihongo Primary 1 (Unit 9-/Unit 21-)</i>
In-person Classes (Thu: Kashiwanoha Service Corner, Sat: Kenmin Plaza)		
Thu	10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.	Conversation Elementary (first half/second half)
Thu	1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.	Hiragana, Katakana
Sat	10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.	Conversation Intermediate

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

D Wednesday, April 23, 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. **P** Palette Kashiwa MTR A **R** the KCC Office

<Announcements from Other Organizations>

● “Kashiwa International Exchange Walk” Staff Wanted!

D 6/23 (Mon.) - 6/29 (Sun.) KIRA members, let's make this walking event exciting together!

● Members Wanted! Kashiwa International Relations Association (KIRA)

Would you like to join us and take part in international exchange activities? Let's plan and organize various events while interacting with people from different countries! For more details, please visit our website.

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.

NHK World-JAPAN's website has been renewed. Available in multiple languages.

https://www3.nhk.or.jp/nhkworld/en/multilingual_links/



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