

KCC Newsletter

July, 2025

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.
111

Announcement

Exchange Programs with
Sister & Friendship Cities of Kashiwa

Now Recruiting Participants for the 16th Youth Delegation to Chengde City(8/21-8/26)

Please check our website for more details.

Exchange Programs with
Sister & Friendship Cities of Kashiwa

Now Recruiting Host Families for High School Students from Chengde, China(8/5-8/9)

Please check our website for more details.

International Exchange through Yukata Dressing Experience
– Learn how to wear a yukata by trying one on! Would you like to give the Kashiwa dance a try too?

D Wednesday, July 16, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

P Palette Kashiwa, Multi-purpose Space B

Instructor: Ms. Kiyoko Isoya

What to bring: Yukata, obi (sash), and two strings.

If you wish to borrow a yukata from KIRA, we will provide all necessary items. Please let us know your size (M or L) when you apply.

Please wear an undergarment such as a white T-shirt or tank top.

F ¥300; if you bring your own yukata.

¥300 + cleaning fee; If you use a yukata from KIRA.

Eligibility: Residents of Kashiwa and nearby areas. **N** First 15 applicants

A Sign up at the KCC office directly, or by email <boshu-1@kira-kira.jp>



Online International Exchange Salon

Increasing Foreign Visitors and Changing Immigration Policies

With more foreigners entering Japan, immigration policies are evolving. A specialist will explain the background and response to these changes.

D Thursday, July 17, 8:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

L Mr. Hatsuo Sugishita (Administrative Scrivener)

How to participate: Online via Zoom

F Free

N First 30 applicants

A Sign up at the KCC office directly, or by email <boshu-1@kira-kira.jp> by Wednesday, July 16.

We will send a participation URL to applicants on the day of the event.



Kashiwa de International Exchange Festa 2025

Stage Performers Wanted!

Show your special skills and talents!

D October 19 (Sun) 11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

P Howdy Mall, East Exit of Kashiwa Station

C Performances of foreign and Japanese dances and songs (any number of people, about 20 minutes for each group)

N 7 groups

A Apply at the KCC office or by email to <boshu-1@kira-jp> by July 19 (Sat)

*If there are many applications, we will contact you at a later date after selection.



Upcoming Events (from July)

Torrance youth delegation visit to Kashiwa (7/9-7/29)
Kashiwa youth delegation visit to Chengde (8/21-8/26)

Chengde youth delegation visit to Kashiwa (8/5-8/9)
Kashiwa youth delegation visit to Torrance (8/4-8/22)

<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.

2025 Citizens' Activities Festa – “Learn, Enjoy, and Take the First Step!” (5/18)

The event was held at various venues, including the East Exit Double Deck of Kashiwa Station, the square in front of Family Kashiwa, the pedestrian zone on Howdy Mall along the station-front street, and Palette Kashiwa.

At the East Exit Double Deck, the Kashiwa International Relations Association displayed photos of its activities and brochures about sister and friendship cities, and explained our daily activities and international exchange with sister and friendship cities.

Many families with children showed interest in these activities. Some said they hoped to apply for the youth exchange program when their children reached the required age, while others shared that their daughters had been selected as exchange students and had unforgettable experiences. A foreign visitor saw pictures of our activities and said, “I knew this city” and the conversation became lively. On the same day, KIRA also participated in the Second Life Support Seminar held in the open space at Palette Kashiwa, where we introduced KIRA’s activities.



Many citizens stopped by.

Cultural Exchange through Calligraphy (5/21)

This calligraphy event invited people who had never experienced calligraphy before to join in and enjoy it together. Participants included people from the UK, China, Thailand, the Philippines, and Japan. For many, it was their first time holding a calligraphy brush.

After learning the basic brush techniques from the instructor, participants practiced writing characters of their own choice. Though some seemed unsure at first, a quiet and focused atmosphere soon took over. With support from the instructor and staff, participants wrote their final version on colored paper and stamped it with a decorative seal to complete their work.

Comments from participants included: “It was my first time, and the brushwork was difficult, but I enjoyed it,” “Individual expression is more important than skill,” and “It reminded me of old times—I had fun holding a brush again.”

The instructor remarked, “Each work has its charm and beauty. Please display them proudly in your home.”



Participants are working intensively.

World Cuisine – “Home Cooking from Hawaii” (5/25)

Eighteen people, including Japanese and foreign participants, as well as families with children, attended this cooking event held in the kitchen classroom of the Central Community Center.

The instructor, Rei Kitahashi, originally from China, came to Japan 30 years ago and now travels back and forth between Kashiwa and Hawaii.

She introduced Hawaiian home cooking, which is influenced by the diverse food cultures of the many ethnic groups living in Hawaii.

This time, the menu included Hawaiian Poke Rice Bowl, Papaya Kimchi Salad, and Coconut Konjac Dessert.

The poke bowl consisted of raw tuna, scallops, and shrimp marinated in soy-based sauce and served over rice. The salad was made by shredding green papaya and mixing it with kimchi dressing. The dessert was a healthy mix of white konjac, nata de coco, and coconut milk, topped with red strawberries.

Since the dishes were prepared quickly, participants had ample time to chat with the instructor about life in Hawaii and engage in cultural exchange with one another.

(Recipes available here: <https://www.kira-kira.jp/cross.html> → Cross-Cultural Exchange → World Cooking → America)



From left to right, Poke Rice Bowl, Coconut Konjac, Papaya Kimchi



Online International Exchange Salon

Practical Use of AI

Have you been using the popular generative AI (Artificial Intelligence) lately?

In this session, participants learned about the practical uses and important points of ChatGPT. Many of the participants were beginners, so they started by downloading ChatGPT first and experienced its basic operations.

Mr. Brandon Matsumoto, the lecturer, introduced and demonstrated various ways to use ChatGPT via voice, such as “How to make miso soup,” “Overseas travel planning assistance,” and “English learning partner.”

Participants were amazed to see ChatGPT’s ability to provide answers one after another to the instructor’s questions. Many participants commented that it seemed to have opened a world they had never known and that they would like to use it more and more in the future.



Wishing for Long-lasting Exchanges Between Kashiwa City and Chengde City

Kawamura Enhi, Chair, Department of Japanese, Faculty of Foreign Language Studies, Hebei Minzu Normal University in Chengde

I first started learning Japanese when I was in high school. I had always been interested in languages and wanted to learn something different from English, which everyone studies. At that time, the first thing that popped into my head was Japan, which has a close relationship with China, and the Japanese language. I entered university and began to study Japanese in earnest. I wanted to be more specialized in Japanese and went to graduate school at Keio University, where I completed my master's degree. I then went on to earn my doctorate at the graduate school of Shirayuri Women's University.

After living in Kashiwa for a while, I learned from a city newsletter that Kashiwa was a friendship city with my hometown, Chengde. I thought this was a very fortunate coincidence, so I joined the Chengde Committee/KIRA.

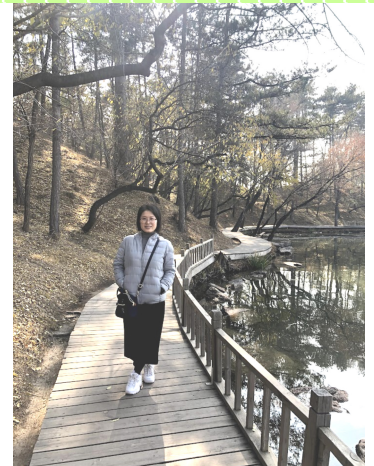
I am currently teaching Japanese at Hebei Minzu Normal University in Chengde. Many of my students have gone on to study in Japan, and one student is now studying at Nishogakusha University, which has its middle and high schools in Kashiwa city.

Both Japan and China are countries with long histories, and in each era, they have influenced each other to the present day. Even if there are difficult challenges, both countries have the capacity to overcome them. I think what is important is we positively continue to move forward with mutual respect.

Kashiwa and Chengde have resumed the youth exchange, which was temporarily suspended due to COVID-19. I want young people from both countries to travel to and from each other's countries, so that they can experience and learn a great deal and broaden their knowledge. Even for a short stay, they will surely learn a lot.

As I mentioned at the beginning, I feel a very special motivation to be able to help, though in a small way, to promote friendship and goodwill between the two cities. I have been traveling back and forth between Japan and China, and because of this, my son is fluent in both Japanese and Chinese. He has many friends at school both in Japan and in China, and seems to be having a great time. For him, it doesn't seem to matter what country he is from or lives in. Naturally, he must be feeling stress, but he may also be enjoying it. Through these experiences, we learn every day how important and valuable it is to interact with each other. I hope that Kashiwa and Chengde will continue their exchanges for a long time to come.

Ms. Kawamura interpreted for us in fluent Japanese when Kashiwa citizens delegation visited Chengde in October 2024 to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the friendship city agreement.



At the Emperor's Chengde Summer Resort



Hebei Minzu Normal University

Cross-cultural Teatime

Growing up in Croatia: Nature, Culture and Life in Croatia (6/7)

The lecturer was Ms. Anamaria Hell from Croatia of Kavli Institute for the Physics and Mathematics of the Universe, University of Tokyo. In the lecture, she introduced Croatia's geography, climate, biology, and history, and spoke in detail about the characteristics of each of the five regions (Slavonia, Central Croatia, Istria, Kvarner, and Dalmatia). She also talked about the ancient Roman ruins in her hometown of Split, school life and urban culture, which are different from those in Japan, and other interesting topics.

At the end of the lecture, a quiz and Q&A session on Croatia was held, and the session was lively, with many questions from the audience. Participants said, "I want to visit Croatia," and "I want to try Croatian cuisine," making the event a valuable opportunity to raise interest in different cultures.



Ms. Anamaria Hell

About the My Number Card (6/5)

Representatives from Kashiwa City Hall spoke about the My Number Card.

Some participants said they had made the card but kept it at home for fear of losing it, or hadn't yet linked it to their health insurance.

The official explained clearly what the My Number Card is, what an electronic certificate is, what you can do with the card, how to apply for and renew it, and especially how it relates to the extension of the validity period of the foreign resident card. Both foreigners and Japanese asked many questions, which were answered patiently and kindly in a relaxed atmosphere.

July Events

Japanese Shonan Classes		
Online Classes		
Sun	10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.	Minna no Nihongo, Primary II; Chukyu kara Manabu Nihongo Summer Vacation(7/14-9/6)
Sun	7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.	Minna no Nihongo, Primary II Summer Vacation(7/21-9/6)
In-person Classes (Shonan Shakai Fukushi Center)		
Thu	10:00 a.m. - noon	Minna no Nihongo, Primary I(2 classes) Primary II Summer Vacation(7/18-9/3)
Sun	10:00 a.m. - noon	Minna no Nihongo, Primary I(3 classes) Summer Vacation(7/14-9/6)
Japanese Kashiwa/Kashiwanoha Classes Summer Vacation(7/20-9/1)		
Online Classes		
Tue	7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.	Minna no Nihongo Primary II (Unit 34-)
Wed	7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.	Minna no Nihongo Primary 1 (Unit 4-)
Thu	1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.	Conversation Elementary
Fri	7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.	Minna no Nihongo Primary II (Unit 31-)
In-person Classes (Palette Kashiwa)		
Tue	10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.	Hiragana, Katakana; Minna no Nihongo Primary 1 (Unit 10-/Unit 20-), Minna no Nihongo Primary II (Unit 30-)
Wed	10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.	Conversation Elementary & Intermediate
Fri	7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.	Minna no Nihongo Primary 1 (Unit 4-)
Sat	10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.	Hiragana, Katakana; Minna no Nihongo Primary 1 (Unit 9-/Unit 21-)
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, July 23, 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. **P** Palette Kashiwa MTR A **R** the KCC Office

<Announcements from Other Organizations>

●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