

KCC Newsletter

September, 2025

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Announcement

Kashiwa de International Exchange Festa 2025

D Sunday, October 19, 11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. (will be held even in the event of light rain)

P Howdy Mall, East Exit of Kashiwa Station

Program:

- Exchange activities with sister and friendship cities
- Introduction of activities by Kashiwa International Relations Association
- Multicultural music and dance performances
- Sales of international goods
- Foods from around the world



The venue of last year's festa



Dance in Guam

World Barbecue Party – Let's Enjoy Together with International Friends!

D Saturday, September 20, 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

P Mizushiro Orchard (3-179 Mukaikogane, Nagareyama City, Tel: 04-7174-4451)

14-minute walk from Minami-Kashiwa Station

N First 50 people

F Junior High School Students and above: 1,500 yen / Elementary School Students: 500 yen / Preschool children and under: Free

A Apply directly at the KCC office, or by email to boshu-1@kira-kira.jp



Online International Exchange Salon

Syria Today After the Collapse of the Regime

— Suffering under more than half a century of dictatorship, and eventual liberation and freedom. We will also hear from Syrians living in Japan. —

D Thursday, September 18, 8:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. Speaker: Ms. Momoko Doku, Refugee Support Activist

Participation: Online via Zoom

F Free of charge

N First 30 people

A Apply by Wednesday, September 17 at the KCC office or by email to boshu-1@kira-kira.jp.

Applicants will receive the Zoom participation URL on the day of the event.



Appreciation for Support to Ukraine

Kashiwa Cross-cultural Center Office

Since April 2022, Kashiwa Cross-cultural Center has been conducting fundraising activities to support Ukraine. Thanks to your warm generosity and cooperation, we have been able to provide various forms of assistance to Ukrainians who have taken refuge in Kashiwa City — including Japanese language learning support, as well as medical and daily life support.

Through these activities, we sincerely hope that our efforts have reached evacuees' hearts and provided them with encouragement. More than three years have passed since the start of the fundraising, and we feel deeply that our heartfelt support has reached the people of Ukraine.

The total amount of donations received, 876,500 yen, will be delivered to the Embassy of Ukraine by the President and Vice President of the NPO Kashiwa International Relations Association.

We would like to express our heartfelt gratitude for your longstanding support and cooperation. Thank you very much.



<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." (KIRA)

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

Torrance Youth Visit Kashiwa 2025 (July 9–29)

On July 28, as the final memorable event of their stay, a farewell party was held for the Torrance students after they had completed their exchange activities. Each surrounded by their two host families, the students gave speeches filled with both laughter and tears, creating a warm sense of unity throughout the venue. Some students expressed hopes such as, “I want to come back to Kashiwa as the group leader next time,” or “I want to return someday as an English teacher at Kashiwa Municipal High School.” At the final courtesy call at Kashiwa City Hall the following day, even more students voiced such aspirations, showing just how fruitful and meaningful this exchange had been.

Throughout their stay, the students gained valuable insights through various intercultural experiences with Kashiwa citizens, while also forming lifelong bonds with their host families and fellow students from Kashiwa.

In addition to activities in and around Kashiwa, they also took a three-day excursion to Hiroshima and Kyoto. While showing deep respect for Japan’s culture and history, they also learned many things there. At a time when news around the world continues to report on conflicts in certain regions, Japan — marking the 80th anniversary of the end of World War II — is once again sending out a message of peace at home and abroad. This exchange program was a reminder that the great significance of international sister-city exchanges and citizen-level friendships lies in promoting peace.

A highlight of the exchange :
Kashiwa Dance

Wishing for world peace

Chengde Youth Visit Kashiwa 2025 (August 5–9)

Kashiwa welcomed a delegation of one leader and eight high school students. Their schedule included courtesy visits to the Mayor and City Council, homestays with Japanese families, exchanges at Reitaku University, and visits to the Kashiwa Local History Exhibition Room, the North Chiba Water Conveyance Visitor Center, and Tokyo Tower, all of which deepened the cultural exchange between the two cities. This visit was based on the friendship and exchange agreement between Kashiwa and Chengde, which celebrates its 41st year in 2025. The visiting students spent their days meaningfully, joyfully, and with great interest. As it was their first time in Japan, they showed much curiosity about the differences between Japan and China.

In addition, Kashiwa received an official letter of gratitude from the Chengde Foreign Affairs Office for the warm welcome and hospitality extended to their students. We hope to continue strengthening and expanding our ties with Chengde in the years to come.



Courtesy visit to the mayor

International Exchange Through Yukata Dressing (July 16)

As the rainy season was drawing to a close, a summer event was held. Although the number of participants was small at six people, it included men and students. Participants from Kyrgyzstan, China, and Japan tried yukata dressing together. Communication was not limited to Japanese and English—translation apps were also put to good use.

Following the teacher’s careful explanation and demonstration, participants practiced dressing in yukata, with staff lending a hand when difficult points arose. Foreign participants trying yukata for the first time happily commented, “It’s so beautiful,” and “I was able to enjoy a traditional symbol of Japanese summer.” Even those already familiar with yukata were pleased, saying, “I learned a new way to tie the sash.”

After dressing, everyone formed a circle and danced the Kashiwa Odori. Moving together naturally broke the ice, creating a refreshing sense of togetherness despite the summer heat.



Wear yukata and dance in a circle

Increasing Foreign Residents and Changing Immigration Policy (July 17)

The theme of this session was the growing number of foreign residents in Japan. Using statistics, participants learned about the numbers of foreigners by nationality, the different types of residence statuses, the issues arising from the increase, and the revised Immigration Control Act.

The revised law aims not only to expand opportunities for accepting foreign nationals but also to prevent illegal stays and strengthen residency management. The lecturer, Mr. Hatsuo Sugishita, explained that the government is seeking to strike a balance between welcoming suitable foreign residents and removing unsuitable ones.

Today, discussions about foreign residents are increasingly active. From this session, participants realized the importance of gaining accurate knowledge and deepening their understanding of foreigners. They felt this was a crucial step toward building a society where we can live together.



Two Cities, One Sky – A Conversation Across Horizons

Clay Bakhoun, 2025 Adult Leader of Torrance Youth Delegation

Please tell us about yourself. — I'm 26 years old, live in Torrance, and work as an IT technician for a primary and secondary school. I'm honored to be the 2025 Adult Leader for the TSCA.

What made you apply to be an adult leader? — There's nothing greater than building lifelong bonds, Kashiwa already feels like home to me. Programs like this show that cultural differences can disappear when people connect deeply. I wanted to witness those moments firsthand - and live it myself. The laughter, the friendships, the bridging of distance and language. Being a part of something so special was impossible to pass up.

Is this your first time in Japan or Kashiwa? How do you feel about it? — This is my second time in Japan, but my first visit to Kashiwa. This visit through TSCA with KIRA has been much more personal. I felt like I truly lived in Japan, thanks to my incredible host families and the welcoming community of Kashiwa. The traditional arts, architecture, and food have captivated me even more this time - I genuinely feel like I belong here.

What was the most memorable part of your trip to Kyoto/Hiroshima with your students? — Visiting Hiroshima's Peace Memorial was beautiful but emotional. That sadness followed us to Kyoto, where we hiked Fushimi Inari Taisha in the rain. Instead of hiding from the storm, we embraced it. Surrounded by vibrant torii gates and lush forest, it felt like the rain was washing away the sorrow. It was magical - one of the defining moments of our trip. Personally, it will be a defining moment for the rest of my life.

How do you want your students to grow through this experience? — I hoped to help them grow in leadership, respect, improvisation, comradery, and confidence, but I ended up learning from them as well. Three weeks away from home is a challenge, and they met it with courage and heart. They never cease to amaze me. Their growth has been beautiful to witness. All of the delegates have exceeded my expectations. I couldn't be prouder of them.

(Written interview)



Mr. Clay Bakhoun



Hoping Young People Learn to Adapt to a Variety of New Cultures

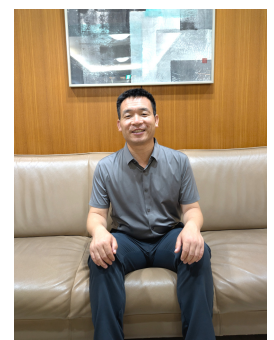
Li Ronghai, 2025 Adult Leader of Chengde Youth Delegation

Please tell us about yourself. — I am the vice principal of Hebei Chengde First Middle School. I teach physics. Hebei Chengde First Middle School is divided into "junior middle school" and "senior middle school," and the students visiting Japan this time are equivalent to Japanese "senior high school" students.

What are your impressions of Japan and Kashiwa from your first visit? — First, the people of Kashiwa are kind and offer attentive hospitality. Second, the city is well maintained and clean. These impressions are consistent with what I heard from a colleague who had visited Kashiwa, but one thing different was the information that "the temperature in Kashiwa is about the same as in Chengde." Chengde is also hot this year, but Kashiwa is even hotter. The average summer temperature in Chengde is around 26° C to 17° C. We had a city tour today, and at the North Chiba Water Supply Visitor Center, I was impressed by the advanced Japanese technology used for flood control, environmental improvement, and securing drinking water. I hope that students of both China and Japan will study advanced technologies and work together to improve their skills. At the shopping center, the delegates bought Japanese cosmetics and anime goods.

How do you want your students to grow through this experience? — Today's Chinese students have grown up watching Japanese games and anime, which makes them highly receptive to different cultures. They also face a highly competitive environment in China and are eager to see the learning environment in other countries. By coming to Kashiwa, I hope my students will learn to adapt to a variety of new cultures. I believe the youth are the key to the friendship between our two cities and hope they will become the leaders who will carry this relationship forward.

(Interviewed by Noriko Fujita on the very next day after arrival in Kashiwa, during a high temperature of 37° C)



Mr. Li Ronghai

Upcoming Events (October~)

Halloween (October 25)

Sumo Watching (Kashiwa City) (November 15)

September Events

Japanese Shonan Classes		
Online Classes		
Sun	10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.	Minna no Nihongo, Primary II; Chukyu kara Manabu Nihongo New Term 9/7~
Sun	7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.	Minna no Nihongo, Primary II New Term 9/7~
In-person Classes (Shonan Shakai Fukushi Center)		
Thu	10:00 a.m. - noon	Minna no Nihongo, Primary I(2 classes) Primary II New Term 9/4~
Sun	10:00 a.m. - noon	Minna no Nihongo, Primary I(3 classes) New Term 9/7~
Japanese Kashiwa/Kashiwanoha Classes New Term 9/2~		
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, September 24, 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