

# KCC Newsletter

## January, 2026

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### New Year's Greetings

Rumiko Sato (Director, Kashiwa Cross-cultural Center)

Happy New Year. Thanks to the understanding and cooperation of Kashiwa citizens, related organizations, and our dedicated volunteers, the Kashiwa Cross-cultural Center has once again welcomed the New Year safely. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all of you.

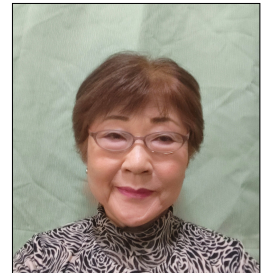
Last year was a challenging one, marked by global instability and difficult social conditions within Japan, which affected our local community in many ways. Even under such circumstances, interest in international exchange and multicultural coexistence within the community continued to grow. We were reminded time and again of the importance of human connections.

This year as well, the Kashiwa Cross-cultural Center will continue its activities guided by the principle of "working toward a society where everyone can live with peace of mind through support and exchange."

We will strive to create an environment where all people living in the community can live as themselves, feel comfortable seeking advice when needed, and deepen mutual understanding beyond differences in language and culture. By listening carefully to your voices, we aim to become an even more approachable and reliable center.

We sincerely appreciate your continued support and cooperation.

May this year bring peace and hope to each one of you.



### Announcement

#### World New Year's Party

**D** Saturday, January 24, 12:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

**P** Raccolta Kashiwa (Chuo Kominkan), Cooking Room

Details: Let's celebrate the New Year together with people from around the world! Enjoy traditional New Year dishes from various countries and have fun with Japanese New Year games.

**F** ¥ 1,500 for junior high school students and above, ¥ 500 for elementary school students, free for preschool children **N** First 25 people

**A** Directly at the KCC Office or by email to boshu-1@kira-kira.jp.



#### Online International Exchange Salon

#### Benefits of Zoom Meetings

- Learn how to operate Zoom settings in an easy-to-understand way.

**D** Thursday, January 15, 8:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. Instructor: Ms. Kumiko Yamaguchi (ITC-Japan Trainer)

How to participate: Online (Zoom) **F** Free **N** First 30 people

**A** Directly at the KCC Office or by email to boshu-1@kira-kira.jp. by Wednesday, January 14.

Participants will receive the Zoom access URL on the day of the event.



### <Upcoming Events> (From February 2026)

- 15th English Speech Contest (2/14)
- 10th Japanese Speech Contest in Kashiwa (2/15)
- Early Spring Exchange Walking Tour (2/22)
- International Exchange through the Doll Festival (2/21)
- Cross-cultural Teatime: "Burkina Faso" (2/28)

<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.

## <Feature> New Foreign Language Courses Launched from April 2025

### Introductory Indonesian Language Course (Instructor: Ms. Erlinda Faradilla)

Indonesia and Japan are important partner countries with deep historical, economic, and cultural ties. In recent years, while Japan's working population has been declining, the number of Indonesian residents in Japan has been increasing by more than 10% annually, supporting labor-short industries such as manufacturing, nursing care, and the food service sector. Despite this, there have been very few Indonesian language courses offered by public institutions in Japan, and opportunities to encounter the language have been limited.

In this course, participants learn Indonesian from the basics under the guidance of a native Indonesian instructor. Using a textbook written by a leading authority in Indonesian language education, the course covers grammar and building vocabulary, while learning everyday casual phrases through formal expressions. Sentences are displayed on the board, allowing participants to follow along as interactive conversations with the instructor progress visually.

Classes are conducted carefully and attentively to accommodate a wide range of learners, from those who have previously studied Indonesian to complete beginners.

Currently, nine participants are enrolled, and the second-term course is progressing smoothly. The course will continue from April onward as well. We warmly invite all citizens to join the Introductory Indonesian Language Course.

### Introductory French Language Course (Instructor: Mr. Bruno Dolle)

At present, 17 participants are enrolled in this course, which is taught by a French instructor. Initially, there was some concern that it might be a little difficult for beginners. However, many participants have had some prior French language experience and seem to be keeping up. In addition, the instructor provides kind and thorough explanations, occasionally using Japanese, which greatly helps with participants' understanding.

The instructor always arrives 30 minutes before the class begins to prepare, writing the key grammatical points for the day on the whiteboard in advance. Thanks to this teaching style, he has earned strong trust from the participants, and everyone is enjoying the lessons.

(In addition to these courses, classes in English, Chinese, Korean, and Spanish are also offered. For details, please refer to the Kawaraban newsletter or our website.)



Indonesian language course :  
Instructor and students



French language lesson

### Exchange Programs with Sister & Friendship Cities of Kashiwa

## Sister and Friendship Cities Joint Activity Report Meeting Held (11/16)

A joint activity report meeting was held at Raccolta Kashiwa, featuring reports from students who were dispatched this year to Camden, Australia; Torrance, USA; and Chengde, China, as well as a report on exchange activities with Guam, U.S. Territory. With Vice Mayor Yasunori Someya and Superintendent of Education Toru Tamaki in attendance, the event welcomed 84 visitors and became a meaningful and lively gathering.

The dispatched students traveled to countries such as USA, Australia, and China, with different cultures, educational systems, and customs, staying with local host families who warmly welcomed them. Through interactions with local people at various destinations and visits to cultural heritage sites, public facilities, and schools, they were struck by the differences between what they had previously learned about these countries in Japan and what they experienced first-hand. In their presentations, the students shared how they deepened their understanding of other cultures and discovered admirable qualities that are difficult to notice while living in Japan, making the program a valuable opportunity to develop international awareness.

In the second half of the program, a discussion session was held with Vice Mayor Someya. Nine student representatives asked questions, mainly concerning Kashiwa City's international policies. Vice Mayor Someya provided thoughtful explanations of current initiatives and prospects, which were of interest not only to the students who asked questions but also to all attendees.

At Kashiwa International Relations Association, we take great pleasure in supporting young people so that they can visit sister and friendship cities at an early stage, experience different cultures, develop global perspectives, and serve as bridges of friendship between countries. We sincerely hope that many young people will actively apply for future exchange programs in the years ahead.



Four cities' joint activity report meeting



## Participation in Kashiwa City Comprehensive Disaster Prevention Drill (11/11)

A comprehensive disaster prevention drill organized by Kashiwa city was held around Kashiwa Station. This drill simulated a major earthquake causing stranded commuters, utilizing facilities near the station as temporary shelters. Participants gathered at the Kashiwa Station East Exit Double Deck, then moved to Kashiwa Station assuming they were stranded commuters, where they conducted a ShakeOut drill. The drill teaches participants how to protect themselves during the shaking of a major earthquake. All participants practiced the three steps: drop, cover, and hold on. After that, the three Japanese and three foreign members of KIRA walked to a temporary shelter facility, Palette Kashiwa, where we received various information about disaster preparedness supplies. I realized that each household needs to be constantly mindful of preparing disaster supplies. In the drill, sign language interpretation and real-time captioning were provided for the hearing impaired. I thought it would have been more helpful to offer multilingual support for foreign nationals.



The trains aren't running.  
Let's head to Pallet Kashiwa!

## Shonan Japanese Class Learning Achievement Presentation Meeting (11/16)

The annual Learning Achievement Presentation Meeting was held. This extracurricular session features essays written by the learners on free themes, which are printed, bound, and distributed to them and others involved. They then read their essays aloud in front of their families, fellow learners, and staff. After the presentations, participants gathered in groups to share their impressions of the presentations, introduced each other and got to know each other better. They enjoyed lively conversation, and the event ended at noon.



Shonan Class Learning  
Achievement Presentation Meeting

Participants shared the following impressions:

- It was great that learners and staff who usually have different class locations and schedules could interact.
  - The presenters seemed a little nervous, but after finishing their presentation, they seemed to be enjoying themselves, perhaps with a sense of accomplishment.
  - The event was a great success, with more participants than expected, including unscheduled participants.
  - Staff members asked questions to their learners, showing their encouragement.
- There were 33 participants in total, including one high school student and three from outside the city.

## Toward Better Instruction: Japanese Language Level-Up Workshop (11/29)

The Japanese Language Committee held a Japanese language level-up workshop at Palette Kashiwa, inviting Megumi Harioka (Lecturer, Labo Japanese Language Institute). Twenty-seven participants attended, including Japanese language teaching volunteers from neighboring international exchange associations. The theme was "Teaching Particles," and the workshop provided valuable insights for volunteers like us on how to instruct learners so that they could use appropriate particles in speech and writing. In particular, during group work, we felt our understanding increasing when we discussed which illustrations were more appropriate for helping learners understand particle functions, as well as when we discussed how to create sample sentences.



Aiming for better instruction

## Foreign Residents' Life Experience Seminar (12/4)

Eleven foreign nationals and four Japanese participants attended and asked various questions to Hatsuo Sugishita, an administrative scrivener. Most of the foreign participants at the meeting held permanent residency status, but there were questions about whether fees would increase for permanent residency applications or for the long-term residents renewing their status. Regarding the question of whether elderly parents can be brought to Japan, it seems difficult for anyone other than those who came to Japan with highly specialized professional qualifications. The conditions for obtaining permanent residency, and what happens to spouses who divorce Japanese nationals — these are things even we Japanese working with foreigners do not know. Most participants today were active members in KIRA, but we also wanted to share this kind of information with foreigners who had recently arrived in Japan, including learners in our Japanese language classes.



Mr. Sugishita and  
foreign participants

# January Events

Japanese Shonan Classes(1/8~)		
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 (Shonan Kinrin Center)		
Thu	10:00 a.m. - noon	<i>Minna no Nihongo, Primary I(5 classes) Primary II</i>
Sun	10:00 a.m. - noon	<i>Minna no Nihongo, Primary I(5 classes)</i>
Japanese Kashiwa/Kashiwanoha Classes(1/13~)		
Online Classes		
Tue	7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.	<i>Minna no Nihongo Primary II (Unit 44-)</i>
Wed	7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.	<i>Minna no Nihongo Primary I (Unit 10-)</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 41-)</i>
In-person Classes (Palette Kashiwa)		
Tue	10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.	<i>Minna no Nihongo Primary I (Unit 1-/Unit 19 -)</i> <i>Minna no Nihongo Primary II (Unit 29-/Unit 43-)</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 I (Unit 18 -)</i>
Sat	10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.	<i>Minna no Nihongo Primary I (Unit 7 -/Unit 23 -);</i> <i>Minna no Nihongo Primary II (Unit 35-)</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

## 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, January 28, 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/](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