



# KCC Newsletter

May, 2024

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## Announcement

*Exchange Programs with  
Sister & Friendship Cities of Kashiwa*

### Calling for Youths to be Dispatched to Chengde City

Experience Chinese history and culture while staying at a homestay, and experience student life through exchanges with young people.

Dispatch period: 6 days from August 22 (Thu.) to 27 (Tue.) Destination: Chengde City (Hebei Province, China)

Eligibility: 8 people, including those born between April 2, 2002, and April 1, 2009, who live or study in Kashiwa city.

Cost: About 130,000 yen

**A** From May 7 (Tue.) to May 28 (Tue.), fill out the application form distributed at the information session and send it to the KCC office by mail (must arrive in time), or bring it to the office in person. Selection date: July 7 (Sun.) (including interview)

<Briefing session> **D** May 5 (Sun.) 10:00 a.m. -

**P** Palette Kashiwa. Applicants must attend.

For more information, including application requirements, please visit the KCC website. Inquiries: KCC Office

*Exchange Programs with  
Sister & Friendship Cities of Kashiwa*

### 2024 Torrance City Youth Host Family Recruitment

We are looking for host families for students visiting Kashiwa City from our sister city, Torrance, California, U.S. A. Why don't you join us and enjoy "international exchange" with your family?

Details of recruitment: 18 host families (For the leader of the group (adult) and 8 high school students.)

First half: July 10 (Wed.) to 21 (Sun.)

Second half: July 21 (Sun.) to 30 (Tue.) (about 10 days)

Application requirements: All of the following conditions must be met.

1. transportation to and from the designated locations within the city (mainly Kashiwa City Hall)
2. bearing the costs of acceptance

**A** Fill out the application form and email it to <boshu-1@kira-kira.jp> by Tuesday, May 21.

(Please write "Torrance Host Family Application" in the subject line.)

Selection results will be announced in early June.

Inquiries: KCC Office



## Cross-cultural Teatime

### Chad, a Land of Burning Deserts and Peaceful People: Overcoming War and Restoring Hope

The presentation will talk about the people of Chad (Africa) who have once again begun to walk with dreams and hopes thanks to the solar power generation technology transfer project.

**D** Saturday, June 1, 2:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

**P** Palette Kashiwa Meeting Rooms A and B

**N** 50 people

**F** 400 yen

**L** Shihoto Kamihashi (former staff member of the International Contribution Project in Chad)

**A** Directly at the KCC office, or by email to <boshu-1@kira-kira.jp>



Shihoto Kamihashi (right)

### Donations for Ukraine, Noto Peninsula, and Taiwan Earthquakes

Thank you very much for your cooperation in donating to the Ukraine (850,000 yen) and Noto Peninsula Earthquake (130,000 yen) (both as of the end of March) fundraising campaign. We also set up donation boxes for the Taiwan earthquake that occurred on April 13. We appreciate your warm cooperation.

### Upcoming Events (from June)

Kashiwa International Exchange Week (6/24-30)

Torrance Youth Visit Kashiwa (7/10-30)

Kashiwa Youth Visit to Torrance (8/5-23)

<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.

An online commemorative ceremony was held at the Kashiwa City Hall to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Friendship City Agreement. About 15 people from both cities reminisced about past exchange activities and pledged to continue to develop exchanges in the future. During the ceremony, we were honored to receive congratulatory speeches from the mayors of both cities, and a video introducing the two cities was shown.



Online event

Attendees: (Chengde) Mayor Wang Yajun, Deputy Mayor Lu Jian, Director-General of the Foreign Affairs Office Yan Yang, Director of the International Affairs Department Wang Bin, and others

(Kashiwa) Mayor Kazumi Ota, City Council Chair Norihito Tsumuraya, Planning Director Toshio Kojima, Director of the Center for Coexistence and Exchange Promotion Atsushi Saeki, and others

The History of Friendship Cities

Japan - China Friendship Kashiwa Citizens Group visited China in January 1980. The leader was the Mayor. Introduction to Chengde by Mr. Sun Pinghua, Secretary General of the Japan - China Friendship Association. The signing ceremony for the Friendship City Conclusion on November 1, 1983, in Kashiwa city. Introduction to Chengde City: Mr. Sun Pinghua, Secretary-General of the Japan - China Friendship Association. Friendship City Agreement Signing Ceremony on November 1, 1983 in Kashiwa City

Cross-cultural Teatime

"The Extended Geography of Chile From North to South" (4/13)

Dr. Alemicho Joaquin, a Chilean researcher from the Institute of Astrophysics at the University of Tokyo's Kashiwa Campus, was the lecturer for this session, which was held in English with an interpreter.

In the first half, he introduced the location, topography, and climate of Chile, a country with a total land area of approximately 4300 kilometers from north to south. He also discussed its 214-year history, tourist attractions, and the capital Santiago, one of the most developed cities in South America, with colorful slides. The second half of the lecture covered copper mineral exports, which support Chile's economy; wine, of which Japan is the number one importer; Chilean gastronomy; and astronomical observation, an undiscovered Chilean resource. Following the lecture, there was a quiz on Chilean animals, gourmet food, etc. Afterwards, there was time for questions to the lecturer. The things imported from Japan are mainly Japanese TV programs and manga, which he watches often. In a friendly atmosphere, international understanding and exchange with Chile, a distant country in the southern hemisphere, was further deepened.



Dr. Alemicho Joaquin

Announcement

Police Talks "How to Ride a Bicycle"

Learn new rules. The talk will be easy to understand for foreign residents.

**D** Thursday, May 2, 1:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. **P** Palette Kashiwa Meeting Room F

**F** Free, please come directly to the venue.

Online International Exchange Salon

"Revised Immigration Control Act and Refugee Recognition System" What is the New Revised Immigration Control Act?

**D** Thursday, May 16, 8:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

**L** Mr. Hatsuo Sugishita (administrative scrivener)

**F** Free

**N** First 30 applicants

**A** Directly at the KCC office, or by email to <boshu-1@kira-kira.jp> Include your name and telephone number. Applicants will be sent a URL to join on the day.



Japanese Sweets Making Experience <Let's make nerikiri shaped like hydrangeas>

Japanese traditional sweets are available in a variety of designs and flavors. This time you will experience making hydrangea-shaped nerikiri. Hydrangeas bloom in early summer. You can make your favorite color of Nerikiri and take one home.

**D** Tuesday, May 21, 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. **P** Palette Kashiwa Multipurpose Space A

Instructor: Natsue Tomita, a leader of Wagashi Class Okeya

Target: People living in the city or nearby area

**N** First 15 people

**F** 1000 yen

Things to bring: Apron, bandana, hand towel and mask

**A** From 9 a.m. on May 1, directly at the KCC office, or by email to <boshu-1@kira-kira.jp>

Include your name and telephone number. Inquiry: Contact the KCC office: 04-7157-0281



Hydrangea-shaped Japanese Sweets



Stamp Sorting Meeting

**D** May 29 (Wed.), 1:00 p.m. - **P** Palette Kashiwa Multipurpose Space A

For international assistance, we collect used stamps and miswritten postcards to send to aid recipients. We need your help in sorting and organizing the collected used stamps



## Happy to Work at Ichi-Kashi, Where I Once Attended in My Youth

Pedro Abina, Assistant Language Teacher (ALT) of Kashiwa Municipal High School (Ichi-Kashi)

**So, you are from Torrance?** — I lived in Long Beach, which is close to Torrance.

**What is the ethnicity of your surname, Abina?** - My parents came to the US from Mexico, and I was born in the US. I speak Spanish as well.

**When did you come to Japan?** - I came to Japan on November 15, 2023.

**What made you decide to teach at Ichi-Kashi?** - This is not my first time in Japan or Kashiwa. In 2017, when I was a high school student, I stayed in Japan for two weeks on an exchange program between North Torrance High School and Kashiwa Municipal High School and attended the school for one week. I stayed with a classmate who commuted from Matsudo and attended school with him. We took the train and bicycle, but because I used his bicycle, he had to run alongside me. I felt sorry for him. (lol) I traveled around Kyoto and Osaka for the second half week. I was fascinated by the traditional Japanese culture I saw at the temples and shrines on my trip. So, when the school had an opening for an ALT, I did not hesitate to apply.



Mr. Pedro Abina

**What were you doing in the U.S. before coming to Japan?** — I studied Political Science at a university. I was a Student Ambassador, which means I interacted with other universities and gave presentations to introduce my university. I also worked part-time at a bank and as a bartender.

**How is your life at Ichi-Kashi?** — Great! I think I am really lucky. I have known Mr. Tamaoki and Mr. Takeda of the English Department since my high school student exchange. I had met Mr. Tamaoki many times in Torrance because he was a leader of the exchange groups to North High. So, I feel very comfortable. I am able to communicate with the students and they are my Japanese teachers. From them, I have learned some Japanese youth slangs. For example, I learned that "ぴえん (pi-e-e-n)" means "sad." (lol)



At the classroom

**What do you want to teach your students?** — I want them to learn real English for communication, in addition to the grammar they learn in their textbooks. I want to help them with that. Also, I want to teach them to speak English without fear of failure.

**What do you like about Japan and Japanese culture?** — I grew up playing "Pokemon games," so I was always familiar with Japanese culture through anime and games. When I first came to Japan as a high school student, I wondered "What is Japan like? What is Japanese culture like?" I was very curious. Besides traditional culture such as temples and shrines, hot springs were also a new experience for me. At first, I was afraid of going into a hot spring naked, but now I love hot springs. I also love all Japanese food. Sashimi, sushi, egg on rice, chicken skin yakitori, and horse sashimi are all delicious. Japanese eggs are fresh and clean, so raw eggs are delicious. I am not so good with natto (fermented soybeans). (lol)

**Have you experienced any inconvenience or surprise since coming to Japan?** — I don't speak much Japanese yet, but I don't find any inconvenience in particular. When I go out to Tokyo, it is easy to understand how to change trains. When shopping, I know the prices at the cash register, and sometimes there are people who can help me in English. I was surprised to see everyone lining up on one side of the escalators at stations and shopping malls in an orderly way. Japanese people line up in neat rows everywhere.

**You must be very busy as a teacher, but what do you do on your days off?** — I often go out to Tokyo. I also like hiking, so I once hiked Mt. Tsukuba. I also like Japanese forests because they are rich in nature. Recently I found a soccer team in Kashiwa, so I want to play soccer as well. I am planning to go snowboarding in Tochigi with a friend next month.

Mr. Chris Pigao, an ALT who started working at Ichi-Kashi earlier, was with us and supported the interview with his Japanese. (Interviewed on January 26 by Yoko Nakano and Noriko Fujita)

### Disaster Prevention Information Support for Foreign Residents (4/4)

Foreign residents learned how to evacuate the building in case of a disaster at Palette Kashiwa. They went out from all the emergency exits of Palette Kashiwa and checked the emergency stairs. They could understand how to evacuate in case of an earthquake or fire.

# May Events

Japanese Shonan Classes		
Online Classes		
Sat	7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.	Minna no Nihongo , Primary II(Unit 46~)
Sun	10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.	Minna no Nihongo , Primary I(Unit24~) and Intermediate (Unit1~)
In-person Classes (Shonan Community Center)		
Thu	10:00 a.m. -12:00 p.m.	Minna no Nihongo , Primary I(Unit 18~) and Primary II (Unit30~)
Sun	10:00 a.m. -12:00 p.m.	Minna no Nihongo , Primary I(Unit 8~)(Unit 19~)
Japanese Kashiwa/Kashiwanoha Classes		
Online Classes		
Tue	7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.	Minna no Nihongo , Primary I (Unit 19 - )
Wed	10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.	Conversation Elementary (Level 2)
Wed	7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.	Minna no Nihongo , Primary II (Unit 42 - )
Thu	1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.	Conversation Elementary (Level 2)
Fri	7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.	Minna no Nihongo ,Primary II (Unit 43 - )
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.	Hiragana, Katakana
Tue	10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.	Beginners, Minna no Nihongo, Primary 1 (Unit 6~)
Tue	10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.	Minna no Nihongo , Primary I (Unit 11 - )
Sat	10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.	Minna no Nihongo , Primary I (Unit 3 - )
Sat	10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.	Minna no Nihongo , Primary I (Unit 18- )
Sat	10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.	Minna no Nihongo , Primary II (Unit 40 - )
In-person Classes (Kashiwanoha Service Corner)		
Thu	10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.	Hiragana, Katakana
Thu	10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.	Conversation Elementary Former - Latter
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 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** May 22 (Wed), 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. **P** Palette Kashiwa Room F **R** the KCC office

## Members Wanted! Kashiwa International Relations Association (KIRA)

Why don't you become a member and join us in international exchange activities? Let's interact with foreigners by planning and organizing various events. You don't have to speak English. You can also make friends. For more information, please visit our website. (Inquiries: the 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