



# KCC Newsletter

June, 2024

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>



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## Announcement

*Exchange Programs with  
Sister & Friendship Cities of Kashiwa*

### The 51st Kashiwa Student Delegates to Torrance were Selected

Last year, we celebrated the 50th anniversary of the sister city relationship between Kashiwa and Torrance, U.S.A., and the program of sending youth to Torrance resumed for the first time in four years. This year marks the first step toward another 50 years of exchange, with each student taking on the role of student ambassador. The 51st delegates were selected after two rounds of interviews. They are Fubuki Kawase, Tamaki Kato, Nagisa Yamamoto, Rento Kobayashi, Ibuki Nishida, Sota Katsuyama, Genki Takahashi, and Yuya Okabe (titles omitted). During the six orientation sessions, they learn the knowledge and attitude necessary for the delegation, English conversation, Kashiwa Odori, etc. They will be united by trust in each other and awareness of their role as representatives of Kashiwa City. They will leave on August 5, and they'll experience American family life through homestays, and interaction with Torrance residents through a variety of programs. We are looking forward to their return to Japan on August 23rd to see how they've grown and matured.



Adult leader & the student delegates

## Kashiwa International Exchange Week 2024

**D** June 24 (Mon) - June 30 (Sun) **P** Palette Kashiwa

The Noto Peninsula earthquake occurred on January 1, 2024. More than 4,600 people are still living in evacuation centers. Foreign residents in Kashiwa must have been surprised by the earthquake. At this year's event, foreign residents, international students studying in Japan, and Japanese people will talk about earthquakes and other disasters, as well as ask questions and give impressions of life in Japan. (For details, please see the enclosed flyer.)



### 1) Multicultural Seminar "Foreigners and Disasters"

What kind of support can foreigners receive in the event of a disaster in Japan? Can they receive the same support in as Japanese people? What kinds of problems do foreigners have? Let's listen to what an expert has to say.

**D** June 26 (Wed) 1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. **P** Palette Kashiwa Multipurpose Space B

**L** Mr. Hatsuo Sugishita, administrative scrivener

### 2) The World of Shadow Puppets, "The Three Bears" for Parents and Children

The story is from England. Foreign residents worked together to create the shadow puppets. Fathers, Mothers, and Children, let's enjoy it together!

**D** June 30 (Sun) 1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. **P** Palette Kashiwa Multipurpose Space B **N** 30 people each for 1) and 2) on a first-come, first-served basis **A** Directly at the KCC office, or by email to <boshu-1@kira-kira.jp>



The Three Bears



## Donations for Noto Peninsula and Taiwan Earthquakes

We have sent 168,339 yen to the Red Cross Society for the Noto Peninsula Earthquake Fund. Thank you very much for your generous cooperation. We would like to ask for your continued support in our fundraising for the Taiwan earthquake.

## Upcoming Events (July~)

Torrance Youth Visit to Kashiwa (7/10 - 30)

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

Kashiwa City Youth Visit to Chengde (8/22 - 27)

<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**ecturer **C**ontents **A**pplication **R**eservation.

Have you ever heard of World Café? We held a World Café for the first time on April 18th. Participants prepared drinks and snacks in advance and freely enjoyed them during the session. The atmosphere was like being in a café, and people participated in discussions casually.

The instructor first advised that we had to "remove our mental armor when participating," followed by the presentation of "Why Are You Here?" under the discussion theme of "KIRA and Myself." Afterwards, the participants were divided into five groups to talk about the topic. They were a little uneasy at first, perhaps because they did not know what they were supposed to do. But by the end of the event, everyone was smiling. We felt that the people were fully comfortable, removing their mental armor in the relaxed atmosphere of the seminar. They commented on how much they had enjoyed the seminar and requested the next one to be held in the near future.

Foreign Residents Listened to a Lecture by a Police Officer (5/2)

A police officer from the Kashiwa Police Station gave an easy-to-understand talk to foreigners on topics such as how to ride a bicycle and what to watch out for in life in Japan. Many of the audience have been living in Japan for a long time and are accustomed to life in Japan, but even so, they had a lot of questions to ask.

**How to Ride a Bicycle :** ▶ Ride on the left side of the road. On sidewalks where bicycles are allowed, ride on the left side. ▶ What you must not do : Riding under the influence of alcohol; riding while looking at your cell phone or wearing earphones; riding double with a passenger; riding side-by-side; riding with one hand; riding with no lights in the dark. ▶ Wear a helmet to protect your life.

**What to keep in mind while living in Japan:** ▶ Always carry your resident card or passport with you when you go out. Photocopies are not acceptable. If you lose your passport or residence card, report it to the police immediately. ▶ Be aware of the expiration date of your visa to avoid overstay. ▶ If you are involved in an incident or accident, call 110!

If it is NOT an emergency, call the Kashiwa Police Station at 04-7148-0110.

KIRA Participated in the Kashiwanoha Marché Couleur (5/11)

The Kashiwanoha Marché Couleur is a community participation market held several times a year in front of the west exit of Kashiwanoha Campus Station. Many booths are set up, mainly by local residents. KIRA also participated in this event as a



Chinese Character Quiz

The World's Fun Fact Quiz

- Q1. What is commonly found in Japan but rarely found in other countries?  
 (1) Washlet (warm-water washing toilet seats) (2) Karaoke box (3) Robot vacuum cleaner
- Q2. In Tibet, they have a unique greeting. What is it?  
 (1) Nose to nose (2) Spit on the hand (3) Stick out the tongue
- Q3. In Turin, Italy, there is an ordinance that fines dog owners if this is not done to their dogs.  
 (1) Brushing teeth in the morning and at night (2) Taking a daily bath  
 (3) Walking three times a day

PR activity. Since the theme of the event was Mother's Day, we prepared a Mother's Day Quiz from around the world, World Fun Fact Quiz, Chinese Character Quiz, and a flag guessing game. It was sunny, but windy and gusty at times. Nevertheless, many children and families visited the event. Through the fun quizzes and games, we hope that the children learned there are many countries in the world with different cultures and customs, and that the event will be an opportunity for them to open their eyes to the world.

Quiz Answers: (1)-(1) (2)-(3) (3)-(3)

Announcement

Differences Between Foreigners and Japanese as Experienced in the Law Practice

**D** June 20 (Thu) 8:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

**L** Satoshi Tamama, lawyer

Participation method: Online (Zoom)

**F** Free

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





## Suzhou, Nanjing, Hiroshima, Kashiwa - A Life Journey Connecting Japan and China

Ms. Jiang Lifen, the oldest participant in the "8th Japanese Speech Contest in Kashiwa."

### Where are you from in China?

I'm from Suzhou, China.

### You studied at Hiroshima University for two years from 1987. Could you tell us about your life before that?

I majored in electrochemistry at university and worked at a chemical plant in Hunan Province. Starting in 1966, I worked at Nanjing University of Science and Technology. In 1978, Chairman Deng Xiaoping implemented the reform and opening-up policy, leading the Japanese Ministry of Education to invite researchers from China. Thanks to this, I was able to conduct research at Hiroshima University when I was 51 years old. There was a professor at Hiroshima University who specialized in the field I wanted to research. In China, my husband took care of our son and daughter.



Ms. Jiang Lifen

### At that time, did you conduct your research in Japanese or English?

At the university in China, there were classes to learn English, Russian, and Japanese. I studied Japanese, so I conducted my research in Japanese at Hiroshima University.

### What were your first impressions of Japan and Hiroshima?

I was repeatedly moved by Japan's advanced science and technology and the kindness of the people. I was very grateful to my academic advisor. Also, since it was after the normalization of diplomatic relations between Japan and China in 1972, the local newspaper reported about Chinese researchers coming to Hiroshima University. An 88-year-old man saw the article and came to visit me. He was a former professor at Tokyo Women's University and a painter. He encouraged me, saying, "China will continue to develop." Unfortunately, he passed away a year later, but his daughter-in-law continued to take care of me. Once, when I fell off my bicycle and lost consciousness in front of a store, a Japanese student saw it from his room, informed the store staff, and they called an ambulance. When I regained consciousness, I was in the hospital. I can never forget the kindness of the people in Hiroshima.

### What kind of work did you do after returning to China?

I returned to Nanjing University of Science and Technology and continued teaching and research until I retired in 1996.

### I heard you have been to Japan three times. When was the second time?

My son studied at a Japanese university, found a job, and later started his own company. When he got married and my grandchild was born, my husband and I came to Japan. During my research at Hiroshima University, I didn't go out much, but the second time, we traveled from Ibaraki, where my son lived at the time, to Beppu in Kyushu. We also visited Hiroshima together, met with the family of a professor at Hiroshima University, the daughter-in-law and children of the painter who helped me, and the person who assisted me during my bicycle accident. Everyone was very happy to see us again. Japan, which I visited for the second time, had developed even further, but the hardworking and kind nature of the Japanese people hadn't changed.

### Congratulations on turning 88 years old. In Japan, we celebrate "Beiju" (88th birthday). Do you have similar longevity celebrations in China?

Yes, in China, we also celebrate the ages of 60, 70, 80, and 90.

### I heard you live with your son's family now. What would you like to do in Japan from now on?

My husband passed away four years ago, and I was living alone, so now I live with my son's family in Kashiwa City. My son's wife encouraged me to "go out and be active," and she brought me to KCC's Japanese language class. Now, I'm studying Japanese and English. My daughter lives in Toronto, Canada, and my grandson (my son's son) is studying at a university in Toronto. I traveled to Toronto last year, so I'm working hard on my English. I'm also practicing the piano at home. I would like to do volunteer work in the future.

### Let's participate in activities together at KIRA! Stay healthy and happy.

(Interview: Noriko Fujita)



Jiangyin campus of Nanjing University of Science & Technology



# June Events

Japanese Shonan Classes		
Online Classes		
Sat	7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.	<i>Minna no Nihongo</i> , Primary II(Unit 46~)
Sun	10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.	<i>Minna no Nihongo</i> , Primary I(Unit24~) and Intermediate (Unit1~)
In-person Classes (Shonan Community Center)		
Thu	10:00 a.m. -12:00 p.m.	<i>Minna no Nihongo</i> , Primary I(Unit 18~) and Primary II (Unit30~)
Sun	10:00 a.m. -12:00 p.m.	<i>Minna no Nihongo</i> , Primary I(Unit 8~)(Unit 19~)
Japanese Kashiwa/Kashiwanoha Classes		
Online Classes		
Tue	7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.	<i>Minna no Nihongo</i> , 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.	<i>Minna no Nihongo</i> , 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.	<i>Minna no Nihongo</i> , 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, <i>Minna no Nihongo</i> , Primary 1 (Unit 6~)
Tue	10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.	<i>Minna no Nihongo</i> , Primary I (Unit 11 - )
Sat	10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.	<i>Minna no Nihongo</i> , Primary I (Unit 3 - )
Sat	10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.	<i>Minna no Nihongo</i> , 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** June 26 (Wed), 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. **P** Palette Kashiwa Room A **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