

# KCC Newsletter

July, 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>



Vol.  
99

## Announcement

*Exchange Programs with  
Sister & Friendship Cities of Kashiwa*

### Recruitment for Participants for the Pre-Briefing of the 40th Anniversary of Friendship City Partnership "Citizen Tour to Chengde, China"

To commemorate the 40th anniversary of the exchange programs with sister and friendship cities between Kashiwa city and Chengde city (Hebei Province, China), we are organizing a citizen tour to Chengde and surrounding areas for about 20 participants. The tour will feature programs that allow for exchanges between citizens and participation in official events that are not possible on individual trips. Additionally, participants can enjoy sightseeing at places like Shanhaiguan (the eastern end of the Great Wall) and Beijing (including the Forbidden City and the Summer Palace). We warmly invite you to join us.

Tour Period: Thursday, October 24, 2024 - Tuesday, October 29, 2024 (5 nights, 6 days)

Participation Fee: Approximately 300,000 yen (including travel procedures)

\*Please note that costs may change due to increases in fuel taxes, etc.

\*It is recommended that those wishing to participate in the tour attend the pre-briefing. Tour application forms will be distributed at the briefing.

Pre-Briefing Session:

Date & Time: Saturday, August 3, from 6:30 p.m. at Palette Kashiwa

Please make a reservation for the briefing by 12:00 a.m. on Saturday, August 3.

For reservations, please contact the KCC office directly or by email at [boshu-1@kira-kira.jp](mailto:boshu-1@kira-kira.jp) (please include your name [with furigana], address, and phone number). Inquiries: KCC Office



### Foreign Residents' Life Experience Seminar

Let's talk about any difficulties or concerns you have about living in Japan.

**D** Thursday, July 4, 1:00 p.m. ~

**P** Palette Kashiwa, MTR-F

**F** Free

Target Audience: Foreign residents living in Kashiwa and neighboring areas.

Registration: Directly at the KCC office or by email at [boshu-1@kira-kira.jp](mailto:boshu-1@kira-kira.jp).



### Experience the Coloring of a Yuzen Handkerchief

Enjoy coloring in the patterns of chrysanthemums and putting your names with gold line!

**D** July 16th (Tues.) 10:30 a.m. ~ 12:30

**P** Palette Kashiwa MTR-A & B

**F** 1,000 yen

\* Please wear clothes that you don't mind getting dirty or bring an apron.

**N** First 15 participants

**A** From 9:00 a.m. on July 1st, come directly to Kashiwa Cross-cultural Center (KCC) or send an e-mail ([boshu-1@kira-kira.jp](mailto:boshu-1@kira-kira.jp)) with your name and phone No.

Inquiry: KCC office



Yuzen  
handkerchief

### Request for Donations for the Taiwan Earthquake

We have placed a donation box in our office. We kindly ask for your continued generous cooperation.

### Upcoming Event Schedule (July onwards)

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

Chengde Youth Visit to Kashiwa (7/30 - 8/3)

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

Kashiwa Youth Dispatch to Chengde (8/22 - 8/27)

Lecture by a Mexican Embassy Official (9/21)

<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.

**Online International Exchange Salon "Revised Immigration Control and Refugee Recognition Act" (5/16)**

Twenty-seven people, including the general public, participated in this one-hour Zoom session starting at 8 p.m. This time, we invited Mr. Hatsuo Sugishita, an administrative scrivener and the chairman of the Multicultural Coexistence Committee, as the lecturer. He explained in an easy-to-understand manner that the Immigration Control Act exists to protect Japan and Japanese people, not foreigners. He also explained why there are few refugees in Japan, and that other measures are needed to protect the rights of foreigners, among other topics. Currently, Japan faces challenges such as population decline and labor shortages, necessitating an increase in foreign labor. Discussions on foreign status of residence, recognition systems, and the pros and cons of the Revised Immigration Control Act, provided an opportunity to learn and think about refugees in Japan. This session was a very important training for guiding Japan's future direction.

**Civic Activity Festa 2024 (5/ 19)**

Held at the East Exit of Kashiwa Station, this event saw participation from 84 organizations. Each group introduced their activities through poster exhibitions and consultation sessions, and the event ended with great success. The Kashiwa International Relations Association set up a tent on the double deck to display activity photos and distribute newsletters (Kawaraban), event flyers, and pamphlets about sister city activities to promote our daily activities. Additionally, a dice game was held where participants spoke simple words in foreign languages based on the numbers rolled. Both children and parents participated in the game, making it a fun and meaningful experience. Many foreigners living in Kashiwa also attended, making it a great opportunity for interaction.



Many citizens visited.

**Wagashi, Japanese Sweets-Making Experience (5/ 21)**

Participants from Thailand, China, and Japan created nerikiri sweets shaped like pink and purple hydrangea flowers, enjoying the experience of making seasonal wagashi. Initially, participants said that creating delicate and cute hydrangea shapes was difficult, but they were very satisfied with the results under the instructor's careful guidance. They also learned that handmade wagashi, infused with the maker's feelings, tastes better. Additionally, wagashi related to May and seasonal topics were shared, making the day an enjoyable one where participants experienced various Japanese traditions and the spirit of wa (harmony) through wagashi.



Making wagashi that looks like hydrangeas.

**Cross-cultural Teatime "Chad: The Country of the Scorching Desert and Gentle People" (June 1)**

The lecturer, Shihoto Kamihashi, shared his experiences participating in a solar power technology transfer project in the remote area of Tissi, Chad, as a member of the NPO Solar Net.

In Tissi, many people had fled to neighboring Sudan during Chad's civil war, only to return during Sudan's civil war with no work or means of livelihood. This project, funded by the International Organization for Migration (IOM), one of the United Nations' refugee support agencies, aimed to aid these people. The members of Solar Net developed a technique for manually making solar panels, and Kamihashi and his team taught this technique to refugee women. They also provided technical training to men on installing the solar panels. As a result, the refugees were able to live with lights at night and start new jobs using computers.

Kamihashi's story moved the audience deeply as he described overcoming numerous challenges: the airport in Tissi, about 1,200 kilometers from the capital N'Djamena, lacked a control tower; during the rainy season, the airport would be submerged, forcing them to travel to Tissi by road under the protection of international organizations; and obtaining a visa was a significant challenge since there is no Japanese Embassy in Chad. Despite these difficulties, the support efforts led to substantial improvements in the lives of the people in Chad.



Mr. Kamihashi in a traditional costume

**Announcement**

**Online International Exchange Salon**

**"Easy Japanese" - Phrases to Use in Disasters**

Let's think about Japanese phrases that are easy for foreigners to understand.

**D** Thursday, July 18, 8:00 ~ 9:00 p.m.

**L** Ms. Chie Uchida (Japanese language instructor)

**F** Free

**N** First 30 applicants

Registration: Directly at the KCC office or by email at boshu-1@kira-kira.jp (Please include your name and phone number)

Note: The Zoom URL for participation will be sent to applicants on the event day.







## To Future Delegates! Don't Be Afraid of Failure and Take on Challenges!

Kurea Igarashi, 2017 Kashiwa Youth Delegate to Camden

**What made you decide to apply for the delegation program?** — I had been learning English since I was two years old, but I had never actually gone abroad and used my English skills, so I applied for this KIRA program to experience a homestay. I was also attracted to the idea of going abroad on my own, rather than travelling with my parents.

**Please tell us your impressions of your time in Camden, such as what surprised you, what impressed you, what troubled you, etc.** — Everything was new to me and very impressive, from the cold weather, which is the complete opposite of summer in Japan, to the beautiful mountains. In particular, the accents unique to Australians confused me at first, but I got used to it as I lived with Australians every day. I also remember the happy days when I experienced school life with my host sister, eating lunch with her classmates and knowing their great interest in Japan.

**How do you think the program has affected your life since then?** — Although I was a young eighth grader, I believe that the memories of those two weeks will last a lifetime. I still keep in touch with the people I went to Camden with, and we talk about our memories of those two weeks every time we see each other. They are great friends to talk about our future paths and to motivate each other. Also, the experience of going abroad gave me confidence in myself as a successful experience. I had only known Japan, but I gained new experiences and discoveries by going to Australia. And most importantly, I was able to have the idea that I could live my life the way I want to.

**Please tell us about your life abroad since then.** — I studied as an undergraduate for 4 months at California State University San Marcos in the U.S. during my sophomore year of college. After my experience in Camden, I became more interested in English and decided to study at the International English Department in a university in Japan, which encouraged me to study abroad.

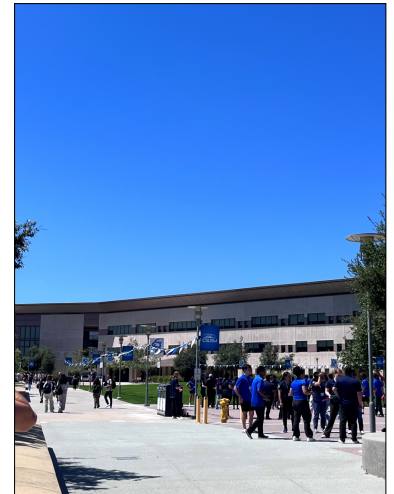
Even though my stay was only for four months, it was a very precious and wonderful time. It was more challenging than I had expected to attend the same classes and take the same exams as the local students in an environment without students from Japan. There were days when I stayed up late at night at the library, working on the computer. But more than those challenges, I tried and experienced many things, such as daily life with my roommates, American-style home parties, skydiving, and so on. One of my roommates invited me to her house for five days over the Thanksgiving holiday, and I was able to experience a real Thanksgiving party. When I was leaving, my roommate's parents told me, "This is your second home, so come back anytime," and I will never forget the words they said. I think I achieved my motto of studying abroad: "It is better to act and repent than not to act and regret."

**What do you expect for future delegates, or students who are thinking to apply for the program?** — Staying abroad is a valuable opportunity. Try various things without fear of failure. I myself had been shy since I was a child, but I tried to act as if "this opportunity comes only once in a lifetime."

Specifically speaking, I actively talked to my host family, spoke up in classes, said what I wanted to do, etc. I am sure there are many more things you can do, and your actions with a little courage will surely give you confidence in your future! Do not be afraid and challenge yourself to do whatever you want to do. You will make memories that will last for a lifetime.



Farewell party



University campus



Trip to Mexico

# July Events

## Japanese Shonan Classes(Summer Vacation July 22-August 31)

### 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~)
<b>In-person Classes (Shonan Community Center)</b>		
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(Summer Vacation July 23-August 31)

### 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 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** July 24 (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