

KCC Newsletter

August, 2024

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Vol.
100

Exchange Programs with
Sister & Friendship Cities of Kashiwa

2024 (the 15th) Youth Delegates to Chengde

Kashiwa City celebrated the 40th anniversary of its friendship city affiliation with Chengde City in Hebei Province, China, last year. The exchanges of youth delegations had been interrupted due to the new corona infection control measures, but we were finally able to resume the program after five years. Five students were selected for the program: Miwa Hashimoto, Norika Isayama, Nene Konno, Fubuki Umemiya, and Mari Kumagaya. The leader of the delegation is Mr. Masahiko Arai, and the deputy leader is Mr. Shigehiro Koseki. The students will learn about China and the knowledge necessary for exchanges in five orientation meetings. They are leaving Japan on August 22nd and crossing the Great Wall of China to Rehe (the old name of the region). The delegates will experience life in a foreign country through homestays and interact with the people of Chengde in a variety of programs. As the saying goes, "one eye-witness is better than many hearsays," and we hope that the students will return home on August 27th having learned and grown through the precious experience.



Youth delegates and adult leaders

Announcement

Online International Exchange Salon Zoom and Communication - Making the Best Use of Voice Tone and Language

D August 15 (Thu) 8:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. **L** Ms. Kumiko Yamaguchi, ITC- J Instructor
Participation method: Online (Zoom) **F** Free
A Directly at the KCC office window by August 14 (Wed), or by email to <boshu-1@kira-kira.jp>.
Include your name and phone number. We will send a URL to join on the day of the event.



International Exchange Bus Tour

We will walk in Akebonoyama Park and pick pears as we enjoy the nature of Kashiwa.
D August 31 (Sat) 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Meet: In front of Shimizu Megane (eye-glasses) Shop on Sunsun Street at Kashiwa Station East Exit
Eligibility: Kashiwa residents, students, and those who work in Kashiwa city **F** 2,000 yen
A Directly at the KCC office window from August 1 (Thu), or by email to <boshu-1@kira-kira.jp>.



Online International Exchange Salon

Multiculturalism: A Lawyer's Perspective

--- Differences Between Foreigners and Japanese as Experienced in a Law Practice (6/20)

Lawyer Satoshi Tamama deals with a diverse range of foreign cases on a daily basis. From his talk, we learned about new information that we would never know about in our daily lives. We learned about "Houterasu" and the "Commissioned Assistance Services by Japan Federation of Bar Associations," where people with legal problems can consult and are guided toward a solution. "Houterasu" means "to cast a light on those who seek advice," and it provides free legal advice and assistance, such as the advance payment of legal fees, to those who are in financial trouble. In addition, the "Commissioned Assistance Services by Japan Federation of Bar Associations" supports those who are unable to use Houterasu.

<Request> When applying via email, please be sure to include the event name, your name, and phone number.

DDate & Time **P**Place **F**Fee **N**Number of applicants **L**ecturer **C**ontents **A**pplication **R**eservation.

Kashiwa International Exchange Week 2024 (6/24 - 6/30)

We held an event for foreign residents, international students, and Kashiwa citizens to talk about their home countries under the topic of “disasters.”

6/24 The first day started with two Americans online and two from Taiwan. The Americans told us interesting details about their volunteering experience when providing onsite support after the Great East Japan Earthquake. In Taiwan, disaster prevention alerts are based on the assumption of attacks from overseas, and drills are conducted to prepare for such attacks. We were surprised to hear that the people in Taiwan are not particularly stocked up against natural disasters, since well-equipped evacuation centers have been set up in various locations and water tanks are available at many places.

6/25 Three Chinese joined us to discuss disasters in China and Japan. One of them told us that during the Great East Japan Earthquake, she was surprised by big tremors in Kashiwa and went to the evacuation site, which was an elementary school, only to find that she was the only one who had evacuated. The episode made us realize that we Japanese are accustomed to earthquakes. We also heard from one of the Kashiwa citizens about the differences in how to deal with the city gas and the propane gas systems. It was a good experience for us to have discussions in a friendly atmosphere.

6/26 Multicultural Seminar: The lecturer, Mr. Hatsuo Sugishita, talked about the situations of foreigners who encountered disasters in the Great Kanto Earthquake, the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake, the Great East Japan Earthquake, and the Noto Peninsula Earthquake. All the episodes were very interesting and made us think about the history of disasters and foreigners in calamities. We realized that foreigners who do not understand Japanese language are vulnerable in times of disaster. It is important to plan how to share the information about disasters with foreigners in our daily life.

6/26 Online Refugee Workshop: The workshop began with the question of “Are people who fled their country after a natural disaster in their own country refugees?” under the theme of “Refugees and Disasters.” After a lecture on the basics of refugees, we looked at the “Kashiwa City Disaster Preparedness Map” and discussed what information is necessary and easy to understand for foreigners. The participants praised the story of people on provisional release, who helped to support a cookout in the Noto Peninsula earthquake-stricken area, recalling the tragic situation in their own country during the civil war.

6/27 The learners of Japanese language classes from China and the Philippines, and a Spanish interpreter at the City Hall talked about disasters in their home countries. They have experienced typhoons, floods, etc. One who experienced an earthquake in Japan for the first time said, “I was really terrified.” It is very reassuring for them to have Japanese language teachers and Japanese friends.

6/28 We exchanged opinions with people who have long experience of supporting and living abroad regarding disaster responses and crisis management in daily life in foreign countries, based on their personal experiences. Everyone actively participated in the discussion and it was a very meaningful experience. To sum up, we realized the importance of building close relationships with local people when we are abroad, and of developing close ties with foreigners in Japan.

6/29 Let's interact with international students! Through the exchange with international students (5 countries) from neighboring universities, we learned about disasters in their home countries and their measures against such disasters, and their disaster experiences in Japan. Then, we discussed what to prepare and how to act when a disaster occurs. One of the international students said, “I learned the importance of greeting neighbors myself first on a daily basis. They helped me during the disaster.” That was a very impressive comment.

6/30 A Shadow Show “The Three Bears” Many children watched the shadow show “The Three Bears.” They were delighted with the world of the shadow theater, and made shadows of foxes and dogs with their own hands, which they did for the first time. They also enjoyed a paper cup game and a balloon relay.



International students watching “Kashiwa City Disaster Preparedness Map”



Discussing disaster preparedness with international students



Shadow show, “Three Bears”

Foreign Residents' Life Experience Seminar (7/4)

A seminar was held for foreign residents to discuss their daily life in Japan, including problems and difficulties they encountered. We heard about the trouble that they had when calling an ambulance by dialing 119, but it took a long time to get to the hospital. We also learned that they can go directly to a hospital that operates at night in their home country but this is not possible in Japan. A participant requested that KCC prepare a map of Kashiwa City hospitals that provide foreign language assistance.

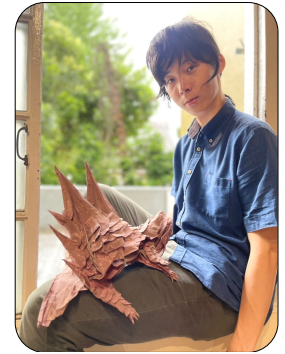


Camden and Origami That Enriched My Life

Higashi Katsukawa, 2014 Camden Exchange Student

Camden Exchange

I became an exchange student when I was a first-year high school student. I applied because I saw a recruitment flyer at Nishogakusha Kashiwa High School, which I attended at the time. Until then, I had only been involved in school-related activities and had no overseas experience. I wanted to experience other worlds and cultures. The world and people I saw appeared very large to me. Feeling this way, I was warmly welcomed by my host family, conversed in a foreign language, and enjoyed my two weeks there, which boosted my confidence and personal growth. Equally impressive were the fellow exchange students, who seemed very mature. Although the reasons for applying were likely similar, interacting with and becoming friends with such autonomous peers had a profound impact on me. I also cannot forget the performance we gave. As I was skilled in origami, I was tasked with making a giant origami while the other exchange students performed a dance. This experience became the foundation for my activities in promoting origami.



Mr. Higashi Katsukawa

My Journey with Origami

As an origami artist, I am dedicated to both creating expressive origami works and promoting the value of origami. My interest in origami began when my parents gave me, a bug lover, a challenging origami book on beetles, as I loved making shuriken, ninja stars, in kindergarten. I continued practicing origami and aimed to enter the University of Tokyo because it had an origami club and because my name was Higashi. During my time at the university, I improved my origami skills and, in my fourth year during the COVID-19 pandemic, I led the University of Tokyo Origami Circle Orist in publishing "Todai Origami," and I put more effort into promoting origami. Origami has educational value. Through origami, I developed multifaceted understanding skills, which allowed me to graduate from the University of Tokyo's Faculty of Law even if I did not go to cram schools. Although I didn't particularly like school, encountering origami gave me the ability to live enjoyably in a modern society that is unreasonable and full of challenges. With these thoughts, I have published "Hajimete no Muzukashii Origami" (KADOKAWA) and served as a director of the Kashiwa-no-ha Art & Innovation School. While I am active as an artist, I aim to make origami more than just a "children's game" by helping many people rediscover the benefits of origami.



A piece of origami

To Middle and High School Students

Recently, it seems that creativity and originality are often demanded, and many people struggle with the idea that they have to create from "nothing." In most cases, something is born from a trigger that should be called "minimal" rather than "nothing." It's important to be alert to such "minimal" triggers and not miss them when you encounter them. I am now exploring various worlds through origami, but looking back, the Camden exchange was my first opportunity to step out into the world. I gained this opportunity by noticing the Camden exchange flyer and seizing the opportunity to participate in the program. My encounter with origami in kindergarten, my desire to improve, and my wish to utilize its value have been the greatest factors in generating various "minimal" triggers. During student days, one can easily be swept along the path to university entrance exams. However, by looking at the world outside of yourself and noticing new interests and situations, life becomes richer. I hope you will find something that broadens your world, just as the Camden exchange and origami did for me.

Thank you for your donation to the Taiwan earthquake relief fund.

We have donated ¥45,000 (as of July 15) to the certified NPO Peace Winds Japan ("Flying Search and Medical Team ARROWS").

Upcoming Events (from September)

Lecture by a member of the Mexican Embassy (9/21)
Kashiwa de International Exchange Festa 2024 (10/14)
Halloween Party (10/27)

Barbecue (9/29)
Chengde Visit Tour (10/24 - 10/29)

August Events

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

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(Summer Vacation July 23-August 31)

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 August 28 (Wed), 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. **P** Palette Kashiwa Room A **R** the KCC office

Information from Other Organizations

KIRA Member Training Session: "Mandatory Real Property Registration Due to Inheritance"

D Saturday, August 10, 3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. **L** Masanobu Suzuki, Judicial Scrivener

P Palette Kashiwa, Multi-purpose Space A

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



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