

KCC Newsletter

January, 2025

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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New Year's Greetings

Akemi Kosuge, President, Kashiwa International Relations Association
Designated Administrator of Kashiwa Cross-cultural Center



Ms. Akemi Kosuge

Happy New Year! I wish you all good health and happiness.

In this era, almost everything has some connection beyond its own borders, such as SDGs, climate change, and wars. For this reason, I deeply feel that our international exchange activities must also embrace diversity. In such times, the Nobel Peace Prize awarded to the Japan Confederation of A- and H-Bomb Sufferers Organizations has given us great courage.

The student exchange program with Torrance city in the USA marked its 51st fruitful year in 2024, while we completed mutual exchange programs with China's Chengde City in the same year. A youth delegation is planning a visit to Camden, Australia this spring, and there are signs of resuming exchanges with Guam, USA.

Through activities like the Kashiwa de International Exchange Festa, Japanese and English speech contests, and free legal and administrative consultations for foreign residents, let's work together to create a better community in Kashiwa where everyone, including foreigners, can live comfortably. I deeply appreciate the support of local groups, KIRA, and Kashiwa's citizens, and I look forward to your continued cooperation this year.

Announcement

Online International Exchange Salon

"Communication with Zoom"

Adding a few words to make conversations lively.

- D** Thursday, January 16, 8:00 – 9:00 p.m. **L** Ms. Kumiko Yamaguchi, ITC-J Instructor
Participation: Online (via Zoom) **F** Free
A By Wednesday, January 15, directly at the KCC office or email boshu-1@kira-kira.jp.
Participants will receive the Zoom URL on the day of the event.



World New Year's Party

Celebrate the New Year with people from different countries while enjoying various international cuisines.

- D** Sunday, January 26, 12:30 – 2:30 p.m. **P** Central Community Center, Meeting Room
F Middle school students and older: 1,500 yen / Elementary school students: 500 yen /
Preschoolers: Free
Capacity: First 50 people **A** Directly at the KCC office or email boshu-1@kira-kira.jp



Sado Experience: Enjoy the atmosphere of a tea ceremony and let's try making matcha tea.

- D** Saturday, February 1, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. **P** Palette Kashiwa, Multipurpose Space A
Instructor: Ms. Soushou Muraoka, Omotesenke Tea School Master
Eligibility: Residents of Kashiwa or nearby areas, first 15 people
F 800 yen Required Items: None
A From 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, January 4, directly at the KCC office or email boshu-1@kira-kira.jp



<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**Lecturer **C**Contents **A**Application **R**Reservation.

Kashiwa Planet & Kashiwa-no-ha Smart City Tour (11/15)

Thirteen participants, including a woman from the Netherlands, joined the tour, starting from Kashiwa-no-ha Campus Station and taking a Kashiwa City bus.

Approximately 90 tons of waste are collected every Wednesday at Kashiwa Planet (Kashiwa City Waste Disposal Cooperative Association). Plastic package waste marked with the "Pla" symbol is processed into 1-meter cubic blocks weighing about 260 kg each under the Container and Packaging Recycling Law. These blocks are then handed over to recycling companies.



Pile of Plastic Waste



Kashiwa-no-ha Smart City Tour

A smart city is a town that optimizes urban infrastructure, facilities, and residences through digital technologies. Kashiwa City promotes unique smart city projects through collaboration among the public, private, and academic sectors, centered on UDCK (Urban Design Center Kashiwa-no-ha) Notable initiatives include reducing environmental impact through nitrogen energy management, ensuring elevator operation in high-rise buildings during disasters via energy storage systems, installing AI-equipped cameras, and next-generation mobility trials such as bicycle and electric vehicle sharing and an autonomous bus service between Kashiwa-no-ha Campus Station and the University of Tokyo's Kashiwa campus.

Online International Exchange Salon "Easy Japanese – Unintelligible Japanese During Disasters" (11/21)

The second "Easy Japanese" seminar this year was focused on "Unintelligible Japanese During Disasters," following the previous seminar on "Phrases to Use in Disasters." Participants learned about how to choose and convey words effectively in emergencies. Lecturer Chie Uchida explained which Japanese phrases in emergency broadcasts were not understood by foreign residents, such as "Turn off the engine. Evacuate to higher ground!" and how these could be replaced with more accessible Japanese expressions. Participants listened to audio of actual emergency news in the workshop and transcribed them. Then in breakout rooms, they converted the news script into simpler clearer Japanese. Reflecting on the importance of effective communication during emergencies, participants expressed hope that "Easy Japanese" would be further promoted among local governments and international exchange associations to protect lives through language.

Introduction of Japanese History and Culture of Autumn Foliage through International Exchange (11/29)

On a crisp autumn day, 22 participants, including six foreigners, joined a bus tour to the Tojo-tei Residence and Tojo History Museum in Matsudo City. At Tojo-tei Residence, a guide explained the traditional wooden architecture associated with the Tokugawa family. Participants were deeply impressed by the serene historical atmosphere. In the garden, they freely strolled among the beautiful gradations of autumn leaves, including maple, ginkgo, and cedars. Participants from the Philippines and Thailand were eagerly taking photos, remarking, "Such beautiful colors don't exist in our countries!" On the return bus trip, participants shared their impressions, saying, "I wish we could have stayed longer," "I didn't know such a peaceful place existed so close by!" and "Next time, I want to invite my friends."



At Tojo-tei Residence

"Tips for Fun Volunteering" by Mr. Gen Kuwayama (11/30)

Lecturer Mr. Gen Kuwayama, with a background as an insurance company employee and comedian, shared ideas based on his experiences to provide hints to those of us who are troubled by the aging of our members.

It's necessary to have a third place, neither workplace nor home, where you can be yourself. Volunteering provides such a place.

Tips for older members to communicate with younger people: ① Talk to them frequently. ② Ask about their interests and have them "teach" you from the same perspective. ③ Instead of scolding, explain your reasons properly. Keep in mind that they have been raised with praise since childhood. ④ Praise them when appropriate, as they have a strong desire for approval. ⑤ Do not impose your own past experiences and values on them.

Even in a lecture filled with laughter from the audience, the essence of communication, acquired by Mr. Kuwayama during a period of no income after being fired as a comedian, was deeply moving. (Please watch the video for the lecture details.)



Mr. Gen Kuwayama



Progress of 100 issues of KCC Kawaraban

In August 2024, the Kashiwa Cross-cultural Center published the 100th issue of its newsletter, "Kawaraban." Looking back over the past eight years, we can see that the latter half of those years were spent struggling with the COVID-19 pandemic and regaining our daily lives. We look forward to your continued support of KCC Kawaraban.



No. 1 (May 2016) Kashiwa Cross-cultural Center opened.

No. 2 (June 2016) Palette Kashiwa opened.

No. 49 (May 2020)

- Issued a two-page newsletter.
- Due to the declaration of a state of emergency for the new coronavirus, Palette Kashiwa was closed, Japanese language classes and foreign language classes were suspended, and Torrance and Camden Committees cancelled their student exchanges.

No. 50 (June 2020) Kashiwa raised money for the Australian forest fires relief and donated it to the friendship city, Camden. A newspaper in Camden reported the donation from Kashiwa.

Social Trends

April 7, 2020: Declaration of state of emergency for the spread of the new coronavirus.

May 25, 2020: Emergency declaration lifted. Encouragement of " new lifestyles.

The first issue of KCC Kawaraban

No. 51 (July 2020)

- Palette Kashiwa began service, and KCC resumes its activities.
- Masks donated by the friendship city, Chengde arrive in Kashiwa.

No. 55 (November 2020)

- In-person foreign language classes resumed.
- Online Japanese language classes resumed.

No. 56 (December 2020)

• Kashiwa de International Exchange Festa and Kashiwa International Exchange Week were held at Palette Kashiwa and online.

No. 60 (April 2021) Kawaraban English translation distribution began.

No. 64 (August 2021) Food Bank event was held.

No. 65 (September 2021) Tokyo Olympics special issue.

No. 75 (July 2022) Interviews with people from Ukraine visiting Kashiwa.

No. 80 (December 2022)

Kashiwa de International Exchange Festa 2022 was held at Howdy Mall.

No. 81 (January 2023)

Kashiwa International Association' s 30th anniversary lecture by Shingo Kunieda.

No. 84 (April 2023)

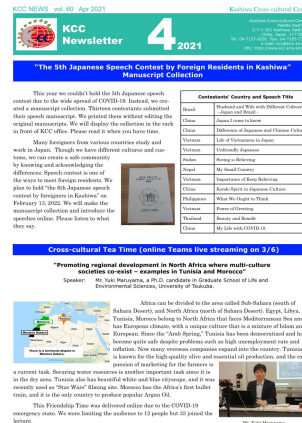
Citizens Tour to Torrance to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Sister City Affiliation.

No. 97 (May 2024) Online celebration of the 40th anniversary of the friendship city relationship with Chengde.



The 100th issue of KCC Kawaraban

No. 100 (August 2024) Youth exchange with Chengde (the first mutual visits in the same year).



The first English KCC Kawaraban (April 2021 issue)

July 23 - August 8, 2021: Tokyo Olympic Games.

February 24, 2022: Russia invaded Ukraine.

March: Ukraine fundraising started.

April: Evacuees from Ukraine arrived in Kashiwa.

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 January 22 (Wed), 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. **P** Palette Kashiwa MTR A **R** the KCC Office

January Events

Japanese Shonan Classes (1/5 -)		
Online Classes		
Sun	10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.	Minna no Nihongo, Primary II; Chukyu kara Manabu Nihongo (Intermediate)
Sun	7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.	Minna no Nihongo, Primary II
In-person Classes (Shonan Community Center)		
Thu	10:00 a.m. - noon	Minna no Nihongo, Primary I (2 classes)
Sun	10:00 a.m. - noon	Minna no Nihongo, Primary I (3 classes)
Japanese Kashiwa/Kashiwanoha Classes (1/7 -)		
Online Classes		
Tue	7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.	Minna no Nihongo, Primary I (Unit 30 -)
Wed	10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.	Conversation Elementary
Wed	7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.	Minna no Nihongo, Primary II (Unit 48 -)
Thu	1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.	Conversation Elementary
Fri	7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.	Minna no Nihongo, Primary II (Unit 28 -)
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; Minna no Nihongo, Primary I
Tue	10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.	Minna no Nihongo, Primary 1 (Unit 7, 12 -)
Tue	10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.	Minna no Nihongo, Primary II (Unit 26 -)
Sat	10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.	Hiragana, Katakana; Minna no Nihongo, Primary I
Sat	10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.	Minna no Nihongo, Primary I (Unit 4, 16 -)
In-person Classes (Kashiwanoha Service Corner)		
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
Sat	10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.	Conversation Intermediate

<Announcements from Other Organizations>

Indonesian Language Salon **D** Jan.18 12 : 00~ 1 : 00p.m. **P** Palette Kashiwa MTR E
 French Language Salon **D** Jan.21 10 : 00~ 11 : 00a.m. **P** Palette Kashiwa MTR D
 Eligibility: People who live, work or study in Kashiwa city. **F** Free
A Email us at <gaikokugo@kira-kira.jp> with following information: "Foreign Language Salon Application"

<Workshop for KIRA Members> Use your smartphone smartly!

D January 20 (Mon) 3:20 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. **P** Pallet Kashiwa Room G
 Bring your smartphone on the day. If there is anything in particular you would like to know, let us know in advance by email. A Email us at <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.

NHK World-JAPAN's website has been renewed. Available in multiple languages.

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